

# WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly, Vol. 3 No. 6a

We are Westmount

June 2-3, 2009

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## Healthy City dives into arena/pool review

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A year-round pool, a second full-size rink and provision for future needs are among the recommendations made last week to city council by the Community Life Committee of Westmount's Healthy City Project.

In looking ahead, the committee suggests reconfiguring the current plan on the site to allow for the housing of community groups and also underlines the need for the facility to adhere to provincial guidelines for accessibility.

"None of us are architects or engineers; we just know what would make sense from a health standpoint," states the committee in a letter dated May 26.

It calls on council to free up additional space for expanding the new facility by incorporating the dog run and junior tennis courts into other areas of Westmount Park, as is the case in Murray Park (King George *continued on p. 5*)

## Family Day in Westmount



The three musketeers (from left): Mia-Sarah Drummond, 10, Charlotte Hubner, 11, and Justine "JJ" Miller, 11.

## Candidate charges lack of transparency

# Two vie to head WMA

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A most unusual brouhaha broke out at the annual general meeting of the Westmount Municipal Association (WMA) May 25 over what shaped up to be a two-way contest for the vacant presidency.

Amid charges of a lack of transparency and consultation in the nominating process, and insinuations of backroom dealings, board member Stan Grossman, a member of the nominating committee,

told those assembled he had announced a while ago to all board members his intention to run for the top position. But he had discovered only that afternoon his intention was not reflected in the proposed slate of officers.

Henry Olders, WMA past president and chair of the nominating committee, had not made the slate known until 1:23 pm, Grossman said. It was ..... at that time that he saw the *continued on p. 10*

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# Dramatis Personae brings bizarre Georgian love triangle to Westmount

BY KRISTIN MCNEILL

Westmount-based community theatre troupe Dramatis Personae is performing the Montreal première of *The Ballad of the Sad Café* from June 12 and 14.

The group, which was created in 1985, currently counts just over 10 members. In their upcoming production, the youngest cast member is 13-year-old Emma Elbourne-Weinstock, a student at École Internationale in Westmount. She is an aspiring jazz singer who has a “lovely voice,” according to her grandmother, Ann Elbourne, a member of Dramatis Personae since 1998 and who also will be performing in this production. There is a 60-year difference between the youngest and the oldest Dramatis Personae members. Norma Johnston, who plays Mrs. Peterson, is in her 70s.

Director Jacqueline van de Geer selected the play because it is so well-written and has a large number of parts, according to Elbourne. “It’s not easy to find a modern play with enough parts for a large number of people,” she said.

The play is described as a humorous and sad tale of a poor town in the boon-docks. Cast member Mera Chatman described the town as one “where rumours begin easily and where one singular event can change the lives of all its inhabitants forever.” It’s about a café where locals gather, the arrival of a hunchback with strange mannerisms, and a tragic love triangle.

When asked if there were any similarities to this fictional small town in Georgia and Westmount, Elbourne answered she didn’t see much in common.

Making up the cast of Dramatis Personae are several Westmount residents including Ann Elbourne, Ellen Rubin, Malcolm McRae, Pauline Beauchamp, Amy Shulman, Lauren Tatner, Diane Liberio, Judith Philpott, Norma Johnston, Shawn Osgood and Mera Chatman.

*The Ballad of the Sad Café* runs Friday, June 12 at 8 pm; Saturday, June 13 at 2 pm and 8 pm; and Sunday, June 14 at 2 pm and 8 pm. Performances take place at Westmount Park Church (4695 de Maisonneuve). Entry is free, and donations are welcomed.



Members of Dramatis Personae taken at their May 26 rehearsal. Back row from left: Shawn Osgood, Malcolm McRae, Ellen Rubin, Marko Hubert, Lauren Tatner. Middle row from left: Mera Chatman, Ann Elbourne, director Jacqueline van der Geer, Norma Johnston, Diane Liberio. Foreground: Zana Corbett and Emma Elbourne-Weinstock.

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## Drury to run for council?

Veteran political organizer Victor Drury appears poised to run for city council during the November Westmount elections. “I’m definitely giving it serious consideration,” he told the *Independent* last week.

After so many years of managing others’ campaigns from behind the scenes, he said that if he ran for elected office it would be because it was “time to contribute.” In what district would he run? “I’m not there yet,” he replied.

His father, the late Charles (Bud) Drury, served in several senior federal cabinet positions in the Pearson and Trudeau governments as Westmont MP from 1962 to 1978. Victor’s uncle, Chipman Drury, was mayor of Westmount in 1963-1964.

Members of Westmount’s present council who have already said they would seek re-election are Kathleen Duncan, Nicole Forbes, Cynthia Lulham and Patrick Martin.

## Street festival runs June 12 to 14

The Westmount Village street festival and sidewalk sale runs June 12, 13, and 14 on Sherbrooke St. (between Grosvenor and Claremont) and Victoria Ave., rain or shine. Among the activities will be a bagpiper, jazz band, Dixieland music, face painting and a slide for kids. The festival is from 10 am to 6 pm on Friday; 10 am to 5 pm on Saturday; and 12 to 5 pm on Sunday.



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# The Indie is now two!

Living and working in the same town, as I do in this beautiful town of Westmount, sometimes doesn't necessarily translate into being all that current and caught up on community events and affairs, despite the intuitive conclusion that more time spent in the same area results in greater familiarity.

Luckily, I find the time to regularly read the *Westmount Independent* where I learn about all the interesting happenings of this active and proud community. As a Westmount citizen that is dependent on the *Independent* I would simply like to share my gratitude towards the advertisers and their support that contributes to making this publication a constant reality.

I would also like to express a special thank you to the staff at the *Westmount Independent* who have surely worked tirelessly over the past two years to make what this local paper is today.

And so, to the *Westmount Independent*, I wish you a happy second birthday.

DANIEL MCSHARRY,  
ELM AVE.

May I join your other readers with con-

gratulations on the success of the *Indie*.

I would have bet against you, but obviously I don't know you!

The *Indie* captures the spirit of Westmount, and while I believe "if it ain't broke, don't fix it," perhaps you could consider "The Spirit of Westmount" on your masthead, instead of "We are Westmount."

With best wishes for continued success.

RICK ESBER,  
ST. CATHERINE ST.

A good read. Informative, nice paper (meaning what you print on). Well done. Please keep on printing.

BEVERLEY HUTCHISON,  
KITCHENER AVE.

I would like to add my name to the well wishers! Your paper is read from front to back each time with great pleasure.

AMI BARD, MONTROSE AVE.

Bravo! You've got us looking forward to reading our local newspaper again. Your coverage of matters affecting Westmount by Lauren Sweeney and Don Wedge is terrific, managing to be both thoughtful

and succinct, robust and respectful. Long may it last!

MARY PAT & GEORGES HÉBERT

Best Wishes & Congratulations.

EDITH DRUMMOND, KENSINGTON AVE.

The *Westmount Independent* is the little paper that could.

From a quaint monthly 4-page document to today's weekly 24-page newspaper, the *Indie* has come a long way.

As we toast its second birthday, let's hope it continues to inform and entertain Westmounters for many more years!

## Totem's unveiling marks aboriginal day at library

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount's totem pole will be unveiled in its newly mounted location on the main floor of the Westmount Public Library on Wednesday, June 10, at 7 pm. The event is being held to celebrate the upcoming Aboriginal Day June 21.

The event will start with storytelling by representatives of the Naskapi and Abé-naki nations, either in the story garden or the Westmount Room depending on the weather. The stories are aimed at those aged 6 and over.

A plaque commemorating the event will be unveiled in the presence of city councillors George Bowser, Kathleen Duncan and Cynthia Lulham as well as representatives of the city's Horticultural Advisory Committee (HAC), the Westmount Horticultural Society and the West-

Job well done Mr. Price and the whole team at the *Indie*!

PATRICIA DUMAIS & ANDREW BURLONE,  
GREENE AVE.

*Ed.'s note: For the record, we've never been as small as four pages or as rare as monthly, but we have grown in page count and frequency. Thanks for noticing!*

I'm so happy to see the *Independent* going from strength to strength. It's becoming a real community paper.

ANN ELBOURNE, SOMERVILLE AVE.

See our complete Best Wishes, p. 17

mount Historical Association.

A number of community events spearheaded by HAC raised funds dedicated to the rehabilitation of the totem, and Bowser has been instrumental in having it mounted in a public venue.

"We're excited to have it in the library where it can be enjoyed by the public," said Donna Lach, programming and outreach librarian. "It should be striking to see it at the far end as you walk in."

A display of books and native artifacts will also be on view to mark National Aboriginal Day, June 21.

The totem was originally acquired by the city from the Campbell family garden on Edgemoor Rd. whose original owners were reported to have brought it back from a visit to the west coast. (See *Independent* issues of August 21, 2007 and December 9, 2008 for the totem pole's history.)

## WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

*We are Westmount.*

Published weekly  
Presstime: Monday at 10:30 am

EDITOR:  
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## June at the Art Galleries

**Galerie de Bellefeuille** – John Barkley: Exhibit June 4 to June 15. Art 2009: Exhibit June 18 to June 29. Darlene Cole: Exhibit July 2 to July 13. 1367 Greene, 514.933.4406.

**Galerie D'Este** – Paul Bourgault: Exhibit continues to June 14. Rita Cohen: Vernissage June 17 at 5 pm. Exhibit continues to July 5. 1329 Greene, 514.846.1515.

**Galerie Sandra Goldie** – Organizer of Art Parties. 4898 de Maisonneuve, #100, 514.670.8327.

**Galerie V Trimont** – Mario Merola: Exhibit continues to June 4. 4259 St. Catherine, 514.658.7214.

**Gallery at Victoria Hall** – Youth Exhibit continues to June 13. 4626 Sherbrooke,

514.989.5226.

**Han Art** – Dealer for Louis Jaque. 4209 St. Catherine W., 514.876.9278.

**McClure Gallery / Visual Arts Centre** – Thérèse Joyce Gagnon: "Witness – a Mini-retrospective. Exhibit continues to June 20. 350 Victoria, 514.488.9558.

**Parisian Laundry** – Kalup Linzy: "Recessed, Depressed... Child, Just Tell Me". Exhibit continues to June 13. 3550 St Antoine, 514.989.1056.

**The Emporium Gallery** – Doug Brown: Opening: June 11 at 7 pm. 3035 St. Antoine, #74, 514.510.1547.

**West End Gallery** – Susan Hudson: New landscapes. 1358 Greene Ave., 514.933.4314.

*Letters to the Editor, p. 16 and 17*

## Civic Alert

## Trent keeping 'powder dry,' but has concerns about Harel

BY DON WEDGE



Regular readers of Civic Alert will not be surprised to know that Louise Harel, the PQ minister who was responsible for the forced municipal mergers, is now lining up a bid to become mayor of Big Montreal.

Last week, Harel, 63 and retired after 27 years as an MNA, took centre stage again. She was "seriously reflecting" on the feasibility of a mayoral candidacy, she told the Radio Canada programme *Bons baisers de France*.

Few who saw it will forget the disappointment that wracked her whole body when she had to acknowledge that Gérald Tremblay had taken the prize as mayor in 2001 from her candidate, Pierre Bourque. It was just a matter of time before she tried to retrieve the situation.

Might the re-entry onto the Montreal municipal scene of such a controversial figure stir the other giant from the merger battles, Peter Trent?

Westmount's longest serving mayor left municipal office with the merger leaving the field clear for Karin Marks to become mayor of the demerged city in January 2006.

Since then, he has said nothing publicly of a serious political nature. But his eyes and ears remain tuned to the municipal world. Could success for Harel mean that Trent would take her on again? He wasn't saying when I spoke to him following the former municipal affairs minister's announcement.

"I have to keep my powder dry for now!" he replied. "Of course, I have some very definite feelings about the leadership – or lack of leadership – in the city of Montreal. If Harel were successful, there would also be real concerns about the possibility

of a merger.

"I know all the players very well, including, to some extent, Benoit Labonté, currently the main Tremblay opponent. I'm keeping a very, very close eye on the situation."

### Dysfunctional Montreal

That much clear, Trent said he was not about to break his media silence.

The former municipal affairs minister's platform centres on the "dysfunctional" relationship of Big Montreal with its 19 boroughs. She wants to reduce that number and increase centralization. Can it be long before she campaigns to absorb Westmount and the other demerged cities into "one island, one city" again?

As Trent was clearly aware, at the very least the suburbs have to be alert to the possibility. Any re-merger would be dependent on whether she had support of a PQ or a Liberal government in Quebec City.

Surprisingly, Harel's platform announcement – published on an East End community blog – begins with the statement that she does not intend to campaign for restoring "one island, one city." But her previous arguments for the forced mergers constantly misled the public.

This time, she targets the changes Tremblay requested be made during the demerger process, and wants the suburbs to lose some of the power they have through the agglomeration council. Harel still objects to the borough presidents being given the title "mayor." At least she and I can agree on that!

### Public support

We can hardly be ambivalent about the eventuality of a Harel candidacy. Even if Tremblay is the victor, it is likely she will push his position towards the more extreme one of the Parti Québécois. And the

language debate could be renewed.

Looking through the blogs and comments in *Le Devoir*, there was considerable enthusiasm for a Mayor Harel. But I was surprised to find some concerns expressed.

Yvon Roy wrote that Harel's forced mergers "without mandate, without warning, while improvising each step" had harmed Quebec's municipal structure. It was a dream that "Westmount and Hochelaga-Maisonneuve could vibrate in unison" and such ideas should not return to Montreal city hall.

Reader Guy Lemieux called on Harel to "stay in your kitchen, unless you are going to merge it with your living room and cellar."

There was a serious warning from blog-

gist Jean Martinez: Harel's indépendantiste and péquiste past meant that she would not receive support from non-francophones who are now the majority.

This is not the only hurdle Harel faces. The biggest is probably Labonté, who quit Tremblay's executive committee to lead Vision Montreal – now a pale shadow of Pierre Bourque's old party.

A three-way race would not suit either of the rivals, so expect Harel and Labonté to make a deal. After all, political differences can be put on one side: getting elected is all that matters in Big Montreal!

Citizen activist Don Wedge's  
email address is  
dwedge@sympatico.ca.

## Moore: 'Time to intervene' on arena

.....  
continued from p. 1

Park).

"We felt this was the time to intervene with our recommendations while the initial plan is under revision," explained Barbara Moore, who chairs the committee. Moore, a former city councillor, is also a winner of Quebec's Mérite Municipal for community service.

### Building for the future

"Bearing in mind that whatever is done now is not going to be redone in the foreseeable future," she said, reiterating the wording in the letter, "the Community Life Committee was unanimous in recommending that both rinks should be regulation size (200 by 85 feet)."

The committee suggests relocating the underground parking entrance from the current location of the arena parking lot to the sloping area of Lansdowne Ave. and

building the two rinks east-west over the site of the existing dog run. "Could their roofs be constructed in such a way that at some future time something [could be] built over them?" it asks.

On the need for a year-round pool, the letter explains that swimming and water exercise is "extremely important" but Westmount residents' free access to the Y pool is only on Sunday afternoons. A year-round municipal pool could offer lessons, water safety and life-saving classes for all ages – even water polo. Attention is drawn to a letter on the subject by Rosalind Davis, one of its members, in the *Independent* (May 5, p. 7).

It also calls for the preservation of two handicap parking spaces used by Contactivity Centre on de Maisonneuve near the front door of Westmount Park Church where the 800-member seniors' organization is currently housed.

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## Westmount hockey player's death stuns colleagues

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The sudden death of Westmount Senior A hockey player Michael Terni on April 26 has left many in the extended Westmount family saddened and in shock. He sustained a rupture to the aorta during a friendly hockey tournament in Las Vegas while on a business trip. He was 40.

Father of a 3-year-old daughter and a child expected in October, Terni had collided with another player during the event held for Canadian ex-pats and travellers. He was rushed to hospital, where he succumbed to the injuries.

"Our reaction was one of disbelief," said Westmount Sports and Recreation director Michael Deegan. "Mike was a good athlete, a picture of good health and a positive person who was always smiling."

He had played in the city's league for at least 10 years and had finished this year's season as a member of the Senior A Bruins.

Terni, who lived on Chesterfield, is survived by his wife, Cullen, who grew up in Westmount, and is the daughter of Gabrielle and Wakeham Pilot of Willow Ave., and granddaughter of Rosalind Moquette of St. George's Place. He also leaves his daughter, Tatiana, his parents, Paul and Andrea, and sister Jennifer.

Co-founder in 2005 of iGotcha, a digital signage advertising company, Terni had been in Las Vegas with his business partner and co-founder Greg Adelstein of Windsor Ave.

"Michael died playing the game he loved," said his father.

"He and Greg had been going to a trade show in Las Vegas and one of his hockey

buddies told him about the tournament there so he decided to enter." Describing him as "a big man" at 6-foot-4 and weighing 230 pounds, he said his son collided during the game with "another big guy." Both were sent to the penalty box where



Michael Terni with daughter Tatiana, 2007.

Terni presented symptoms of a heart attack. He was seen quickly by a doctor and sent to hospital.

"A team was assembled to operate but the aortic valve had a catastrophic failure," the older Terni said. "There was no suggestion from the doctors of any pre-existing condition, but there may have been a weakness there."

A memorial service May 2 was attended by hundreds of friends and colleagues with standing room only at St. George's Anglican Church downtown. "I go around with heavy heart and leaden knees," the older Terni said. Friends and relatives have established a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) for his children at [www.terni.ca](http://www.terni.ca).

## Bridge tourney at the Shaar

The 18th Annual Open Gate Bridge Gala will take place at Congregation Shaar Hashomayim on Thursday, June 11 at 6 pm.

Proceeds support the congregation's "Open Gate" Seniors Program. Ticket costs are: \$60 (regular); \$100 (patron); \$500 (benefactor) and include buffet dinner, door prizes, winners' trophies and valet parking.

For tickets or information, contact Barbara Bronstein at 514.938.1405 or Beverly Salomon at 514.482.2433.



The organizing committee for the Annual Open Gate Bridge Gala are pictured seated from left: Pearl Cooper, Peggy Fixman and Anne Kugler. Standing: Barbara Bronstein, Rosalind Rosenbaum, Myrna Abbey, Naomi Kassie and Evelyn Shrier.

## Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

# Denim & Diamonds does it again

BY VERONICA REDGRAVE



Superstars descended on Montreal for the 8th annual Denim & Diamonds party, hosted by the Young Adult Division of Hope & Cope. Canada's premier R&B singer, **Deborah Cox**, joined former INXS front man **JD Fortune** to wow the dancing-all-night crowd. Montreal radio personality **Sonia Benezra** emceed.

Westmounters were very much in evidence. **Linda Smith** hosted a dinner for the celebrities and **Cristelle Basmaji** handled PR for the gala, which attracted 600 guests to the Just for Laughs Museum. And yes, guests wore denim – and lots of bling!

**Diane Proulx Guerrero**, director of the CURE Foundation, and **Dr. Petr Kavan**, director of the Adolescent and Young Adult Oncology Program at McGill, received the Hope Award. Guerrero founded the Cure Foundation to raise funds for breast can-

cer research, education and equipment across Canada. Dr. Kavan works with young adults with cancer, at the McGill Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) Cancer Clinics.

"The Hope Award was created to recognize, applaud and celebrate people who have devoted their time, energy and resources to making life better for those with cancer," explained Denim & Diamonds co-chairs **Christal Agostino** and **Deborah Bridgman**.

"Cancer does not discriminate, striking people of all ages and from all walks of life," said Hope & Cope founder and chairman **Sheila Kussner**. "That's why we have programs geared to help people cope at all stages of the cancer experience, and that's why it is so gratifying to see so many young people come out in support of our cause."

Major sponsors were Diesel, Parasuco, 7 FOR ALL MANKIND, Steve Madden and TD Bank. Montreal's top restaurants and chefs served fabulous food all night, keeping spirits in a dancing mood.



Westmounters Joey and Odette Basmaji.

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## At Second Glance

## Local broadcast: up in the air!

BY HEATHER BLACK

Al Jazeera - English edition - may soon appear on Canada's television screens. But at the same time, jobs are slashed at CBC, and CTV's local news coverage is threatened. The CRTC is currently examining both issues and have called for public comment.

No one disputes the importance of local programming. News and events broadcasts increase a sense of community, and introduce local personalities and artists, while telethons support local institutions. More importantly, local television increases citizenship.

Providing debate on local issues, election reporting and council decisions, journalists are the fourth estate that keeps governments transparent - and politicians honest! Just look at the recent conflict of interest allegations at Montreal city hall. Or the many campaign grins and grimaces caught by TV cameras.

Moreover, a call to the newsroom can be an effective pressure tool for ordinary citizens. From personal experience, one call - and TV coverage - forced officials to order an environmental cleanup. Another

- on voting irregularities during the 1995 referendum - led to a political inquiry. The networks welcome input!

Many networks like CTV now provide an online link. Who can forget the cell-phone coverage of the Dawson shooting! But producing local news is costly. While it is inconceivable that CTV Montreal would close - the evening news reaches a 60 "share" of local viewers - cuts have been made. And this spring, the network sold stations in Windsor, Wingham and Brantford for \$1 a piece.

**A level playing field**

CTV and other networks want carriage fees for local programming. While cable and satellite carriers must pay channels like Al Jazeera, the CRTC has prohibited fees for local content. CTV's previous requests for carriage fees were refused by the CRTC in 2007 and 2008 on the basis that financial need was not proven. But negotiated fees are the global norm - with Canada the sole exception.

And they are an important source of revenue for the networks. In the US, for instance, each carrier must negotiate with each station a fee for local broadcasts. According to Don Bastien, senior VP and general manager for CTV Quebec, local news programming relies 100 percent on advertising. So with the decline in ad revenues, CTV has taken their cause public ([savelocal.ctv.ca](http://savelocal.ctv.ca)).

Cable and satellite companies vehemently oppose fees for carriage. They calculate the fees - a benefit to all local broadcasters, French or English, private or public - would add \$6 to monthly subscription rates. CTV says it's less. But the carriers argue that as local news is "available free-of-charge to anyone with an antenna," carriage fees are a "tax on consumers."

In response, the CRTC released a document on May 14 termed "Compensation for Value of Signal" and called for a working group. However the commission warned this was not a change in position, but rather was meant to "ensure a common knowledge basis in any future discussions of this issue." Clearly the debate is not over. CTV officials anticipate a public hearing in the fall, at which time citizen support will be considered.

Canadians may pay for Al Jazeera and no doubt find it interesting. But if CTV's public support is an indication, many want, and perhaps are willing to pay extra for, local broadcasts. Even at \$72 a year, it just might be the best bargain in town.

Because democracy - is priceless!

## Comin' Up...

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3

The Westmount pool is scheduled to open.

THURSDAY, JUNE 4

"Le Québec par cœur / Quebec by Heart", a selection of images taken between 1954 and 1996 by Gabor Szilasi, will be displayed from June 4 to September 6, 2009, at Le Méridien Versailles Hotel (1808, Sherbrooke St. W.). Szilasi will be present on June 4 at 5:30 pm.

SATURDAY, JUNE 6

• Soirée de Danse 2009 at Victoria Hall, 7:30 pm. \$10 for adults; \$5 for children. Proceeds go to Montreal Children's Hospital. Tickets are sold at the door.

• The Share the Warmth truck will be at Art-enfant (4968 Sherbrooke St.) all day June 6 and 7 to receive donations of food, toys and school supplies. For more information about what is most needed: [www.Art-enfant.ca](http://www.Art-enfant.ca) or 514.488.1022.

• The annual Roslyn Ave. charity street fair and sale from 9 am to 2 pm. Takes place between de Maisonneuve and Sherbrooke. Benefits Kids Help Phone and the Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation.

TUESDAY, JUNE 9

Westmount Horticultural Society presents a talk by Patrick Asch on "Parc des rapides", the LaSalle park overlooking the river. 7 pm at the Westmount Public Library. \$5 for non-members.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10

• Martin Baenninger, co-author of *In the Eye of the Wind*, tells the story of his parents' life as foreigners in Japan leading up to World War II and their evacuation to Canada. Part of the Thomas More Institute's Spring Interview Series (3405 Atwater Ave.) from 7 to 9 pm. \$10. To reserve: 514.935.9585.

• Aboriginal storytelling by Marie Céline & Sylvain Rivard and the unveiling of the Westmount totem at 7 pm at the Westmount Public Library. Refreshments, free event. Reserve: 514.989.5386.

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

*The Ballad of the Sad Café*, performed by Dramatis Personae, opens at Westmount Park Church Hall (4695 de Maisonneuve) at 8 pm. The show also runs June 13 at 2 pm and 8 pm, and June 14 at 2 pm and 8 pm. Admission free, donations welcomed. Info: 514.486.7423 or 514.484.2016.

## Underdog: Paralyzed orphan

BY FERN BRESLAW



The best thing about being a pocket-sized chihuahua is that if you don't really walk, well, it won't really matter! Being teeny tiny is what gives oversized purses and big-hearted ladies their raison d'être. But we aren't talking about a spoiled celebrity dog here.

Chiquita was dumped in a shoebox outside the SPCA - no note, nothing. When they brought her inside it was discovered that she was unable to move her back legs. Something had fallen on her and her delightful owners clearly hadn't bothered taking her to the vet.

She was brought to the Côte St. Luc Hospital for Animals where she is currently staying, and they did their best to try to get her little legs going. But it just isn't ever going to happen. Her back legs are paralyzed. Kaput. Finished.



Chiquita

On the upside; she has learned to pull herself along quite well with just her front legs and, with the help of a wheelchair/doggy cart, will be able to get along fine outside as well.

So let's be honest: many of us would prefer the cute, fashion-friendly lapdog who can travel with us everywhere and pop out for quick little walks or the mas-

sive 90-pounders, who want two-hour runs three times a day and steal 85 percent of your bed. If that's the case, then this is a chance to prove that you aren't just responding to fickle trends.

Chiquita needs lots of love and someone who can bring her with them as much as possible. She is not a toy and is still quite young - maybe one or two years old and curious and open to the world. So think about this as a 10- to 15-year relationship. If you'd like to find out more about Chiquita or sponsor her wheelchair which costs \$250, please call John at 514.484.4445.

**Special Event at Place Kensington**

On Thursday June 11, 2009 at 3:00 pm, the Watercolor Art Class of Place Kensington Seniors Residence is proud to present their Annual Vernissage & Sale of paintings. This is a culmination of the work by our senior residents over the year of 2009. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Batshaw Youth and Family Centres. In addition, enjoy the wine and cheese that will be served throughout. Seniors are most welcome.

**Thursday June 11, 2009, 3:00 pm**

**Auditorium, Place Kensington Seniors Residence  
4430 Ste. Catherine St. W. - 514 935-1212**

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact recreation coordinator Doreen at 514 935-1212, fax: 514 989-1009 or email: [recreationpk@hotmail.com](mailto:recreationpk@hotmail.com)

# *Joe King's latest book is out!*



## *Two and a Half Centuries of Jewish Life in Montreal* By award-winning journalist and historian Joe King

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– Eiran Harris, archivist emeritus, Jewish Public Library

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# Rare event: two candidates for WMA prez

*continued from p. 1*

name of Charles Bierbrier proposed for president, "and my name was left out."

"I want to tell you Henry Olders has been the champion of transparency but didn't want revisions sent out," he continued.

Grossman said he had been nominated earlier by Stanley Baker, who subsequently "was pressured" to withdraw the nomination.

As Grossman had planned earlier that afternoon, he was nominated from the floor. He wanted an election to be held, for which he had even brought along ballots. An election would be a rare event. The official slate is generally rubber stamped.

Olders rose to refute Grossman's comments. "I've been unfairly maligned," he said, suggesting Grossman had not consulted the nominating committee beforehand. "It's clear he came ready to upset the meeting," he added: "I think we're in crisis."

Longtime WMA director John Johnston also rose to ask how many board meetings Bierbrier had attended last year. "I don't think he attended one meeting," Olders replied. On the board for five years, Bier-



MP Marc Garneau flanked by candidates Charles Bierbrier (left) and Stan Grossman.

brier had accepted to have his name on the board list, Olders explained.

Bierbrier sat at the back of the room and was silent.

The vote was postponed to a date yet to be announced. The mood in the room, including some heckles and cat-calling, suggested most people wanted to get on with what had started as a social event.

Many had attended for the presentation to Mary Anne McNally of the WMA's Derek Walker Award for Volunteer of the Year as well as hear the guest speaker, MP

Marc Garneau.

"I personally didn't realize how exciting it would be," Garneau declared, to much laughter.

Canada's first man in space proceeded to outline his first few months as the Liberal MP for Westmount-Ville Marie. (For an in-depth interview with Garneau, see the *Independent*, May 19, p. 6).

The presentation to McNally honoured her as "the unsung hero and the heart and soul of Centre Greene" (see the *Independent*, May 12, p. 1).

## Proposed WMA slate for coming year

The nominating committee of the WMA put forward the following returning board members, and officers (except for president, which is currently vacant), for the 2009-2010 year:

Charles Bierbrier (president), Rosalind Davis (vice president), Helen Rainville (treasurer), Pat Dumais (corresponding secretary), Henry Olders (memberships secretary), Stanley Baker,

Paul Billette, Kathleen Cousens, Michael Ellwood, Marilynn Gillies, Stan Grossman\*, John Johnston and Don Wedge.

The following new candidates were also proposed: Jewel Lowenstein, Paul Marriott, Jean-Pierre Picard, Marilynn Vanderstaay and Peter Weldon.

\*In addition to being on the slate, Grossman was nominated from the floor for president.

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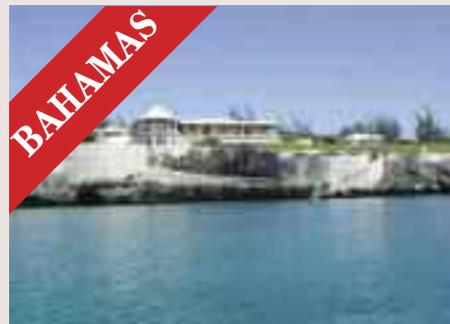
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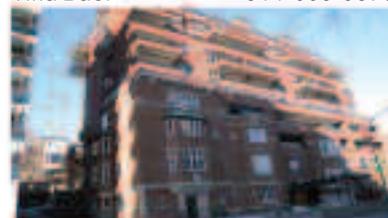
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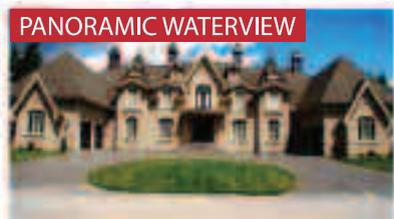
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# Selly old boys golf for alma mater, Canadiens Foundation



From left: Selwyn House parent Stan Jablonski, along with guests Gord Hanna (who wears the plaid jacket as the low gross of male guest golfers), Mark Wallace and Vee Kachroo.

From left: Old Boys' board member Geoff Moore ('83) presenting the low gross staff award to English teacher Pat Shannon.

From left: Jeff Barkun ('03 and last year's Old Boy winner), William Daly ('52, tournament chairman and founder) and Tim Fitzpatrick ('77, who recorded the low gross among alumni).

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Selwyn House held its 11th annual alumni and friends golf tournament on May 25 at the Kanawaki Golf Club.

This year's tournament raised \$50,558 for the Selwyn House Old Boys' Endowment Fund, which works to ensure that Selwyn House is open to deserving stu-

dents, regardless of financial constraints. The tournament also donated \$5,000 to the Montreal Canadiens Children's Foundation.

## Atwater foursome squashes opposition



From left: Ritchie Bell, Susan Bell, Judy Martin and Scotty Fraser.

Four Atwater Club squash players - all from Westmount - won their doubles age categories at the United States championships in Denver, Colorado March 27 to 29. Sisters Susan Bell and Judy Martin won in the 50+ category. In the 80+ category, Scotty Fraser won with a partner from Maine. In the 70+ category, Ritchie Bell won with a partner from Cincinnati, as he had already done at the Canadian championship in Vancouver with the same partner March 13 to 15.



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Vol. 3/11

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## BIBLIOTHÈQUE

### Cercle de lecture

Aucune liste de lecture imposée et aucune date limite, seulement des discussions au sujet des livres que vous avez lus ! Notre prochaine rencontre est le mardi **9 juin à 10 h 15**. Info : 514 989-5386

### Journée nationale des Autochtones

Célébrez la journée nationale des Autochtones en compagnie des conteurs Marie Céline et Sylvain Rivard au Jardin du conte le mercredi **10 juin, 19 h**. Venez voir de la danse et entendre des chants et des contes amériindiens en anglais, en français et en langues autochtones ! Assistez aussi au dévoilement du totem de Westmount ! Un léger goûter sera servi. Ouvert au public, 6 ans et +. Réservation : 514 989-5386.

### Club de lecture anglaise

Joignez-vous au club de lecture anglaise le mardi **16 juin de 19 h à 21 h** pour discuter du livre *Late Nights on Air*, d'Elizabeth Hay. Info : 514 989-5386

### Conférences culturelles – The Sexual Paradox

Joignez-vous à nous pour une soirée en compagnie de l'écrivaine **Susan Pinker**, le mercredi **17 juin à 19 h**. Madame Pinker discutera de son nouveau livre *The Sexual Paradox : Men, Women and the Real Gender Gap*. Info : 514 989-5386

### Club d'échecs et de Scrabble

Aimez-vous jouer aux échecs et/ou au Scrabble? La prochaine rencontre du club aura lieu le vendredi **19 juin à 14 h** dans une ambiance amicale. Nous sommes toujours à la recherche de nouveaux joueurs. Info : 514 989-5386.



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### La galerie du Victoria Hall

La galerie du Victoria Hall est fière de présenter un projet artistique créé par des jeunes de Westmount. L'exposition se poursuit **jusqu'au 13 juin**. Info : 514 989-5226.



## DATES À RETENIR

### Horaire d'été à partir du 1<sup>er</sup> juin

Soyez avisés que les heures d'affaires à la Ville de Westmount ont été modifiées pour l'été. Veuillez vous référer à notre site web pour les détails: [www.westmount.org](http://www.westmount.org)

### Le samedi, 6 juin, 19 h 30

Soirée de danse 2009 au Victoria Hall.  
514 989-5393.

### Le mercredi, 17 juin

Séance spéciale du conseil.

### Le mardi, 23 juin, 16 h

La Fête de la Saint-Jean au Parc Westmount.



## TRAVAUX PUBLICS

### Pesticides

Veillez noter que l'application de pesticides est interdite **entre le 15 juin et le 1<sup>er</sup> septembre** à l'exception de situations dangereuses pour la santé publique. En tout temps, la délivrance d'un permis est nécessaire avant de procéder à une application de pesticides. Info : 514 989-5268.



## SÉCURITÉ PUBLIQUE

### Parc Summit - période migratoire

Rappel aux propriétaires de chiens : durant la période migratoire des oiseaux, soit **du 15 avril au 15 juin**, les propriétaires promenant leurs chiens au parc Summit doivent les tenir en laisse en tout temps. Les officiers du Service de la sécurité publique patrouilleront le secteur et délivreront des constats d'infraction dont l'amende prévue est de 75 \$ aux personnes qui ne respecteront pas ce règlement.



## LIBRARY

### Readers to Readers Book Club

Join our morning book club with a twist. Our next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, June 9** at **10:15 a.m.** to talk about great books recently read. Info: 514 989-5386.

### National Aboriginal Day

Celebrate National Aboriginal Day on **Wednesday, June 10** at **7 pm** in the Library's Storytelling Garden with storytellers Marie Céline and Sylvain Rivard, who will sing, dance and tell tales in French, English and Native languages! Witness the unveiling of the Westmount Totem Pole too! Refreshments will be served. Free to the public, age 6+. Reservations: 514 989-5386.

### English Book Club

Join the English Book Club from **7 to 9 p.m.** on **Tuesday, June 16** as they discuss *Late Nights on Air* by Elizabeth Hay. Info: 514 989-5386.

### Cultural Lecture Series – The Sexual Paradox

Join us for an evening with author **Susan Pinker** on **Wednesday, June 17** at **7 p.m.** as she discusses her new book, *The Sexual Paradox: Men, Women and the Real Gender Gap*. Info: 514 989-5386.

### Chess and Scrabble Club

Do you enjoy playing chess and/or Scrabble? Our games club will meet on **Friday, June 19** at **2 p.m.** Drop by for a friendly game as we look forward to meeting new players. Info: 514 989-5386.



## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### The Gallery at Victoria Hall

The Gallery at Victoria Hall is pleased to present a Westmount community youth art project. The exhibition will run **until June 13**. Information: 514 989-5226.



## DATEBOOK

### Summer hours as of June 1<sup>st</sup>

Please be advised that operating hours at the Westmount City offices have been changed for the summer season. Please refer to our website for details: [www.westmount.org](http://www.westmount.org)

### Saturday, June 6, 7:30

Dance Recital 2009 at Victoria Hall.  
514 989-5393.

### Wednesday, June 17

Special Council Meeting.

### Tuesday, June 23, 4 p.m.

Saint-Jean Celebrations at Westmount Park.



## PUBLIC WORKS

### Pesticides

Public Works would like to remind all residents that the application of pesticides is prohibited **between June 15 and September 1**, except in cases of infestation that present a threat to public health. Please note that even in cases of infestation, a valid permit is always required before using pesticides. Info: 514 989-5268.



## PUBLIC SECURITY

### Summit Park Migratory Period

Dog owners should take note that during the bird migratory period - **April 15 to June 15** - dogs in Summit Park must be kept on leashes at all times. To ensure that this regulation is respected, Public Security Officers will be carrying out random patrols and issuing \$75 fines to any violators.

Westmount, à votre portée. Pour toute question ou commentaire, veuillez nous contacter :  
Westmount at your fingertips. Contact us with any comment or question:

www.westmount.org  
assistance@westmount.org

# Letters to the Editor

## CAVEAT EMPTOR GIFT CARDS

I am embarking on a campaign of *Caveat emptor* - let the buyer beware. I'm talking about the greatest scam of modern times, foisted on citizens by sneaky retail business. Yes, it's the Gift Certificate.

I would love to know what percentage of certificates, duly purchased and gifted, is actually redeemed. My guess would be perhaps 30 percent. Billions of dollars of these things are floating around. Some are lost, some washed and dried, and many simply go out of date.

Other provinces have a law that prohibits the practice, but here in Quebec a store can place a time limit on their gift cards and blithely refuse to honour a customer's attempt to redeem them. This is exactly what happened to my daughter recently at a well-known Westmount bou-

tique.

Despite the fact that she had been in several times over the course of a year or so, and made it known to the staff that she had a gift card to spend, she was never warned that there was a 6-month expiry, but no actual date on the card. When she tried to spend the \$70 card, plus additional cash of \$44, she was given a flat "no," even though her card was in hand, and on record in their files as being unspent.

When my daughter wrote the owner, twice, to appeal this unfair policy, she was not even offered the courtesy of a response. We will never shop there again.

And woe betide you if you send a gift card to someone in another province. Two chain stores in Alexis Nihon affirmed to me, erroneously, that they had branches in Toronto: another \$150 thrown away.

So citizens, let us revolt against this blatant theft of our hard-earned cash. I suggest everyone spend their unused gift cards before stores go out of business or refuse to honour them. This will move some inventory without costing us much in new funds, and will tidy up our wallets as well.

NANCY NELSON, ABBOTT AVE.

## FENCED OUT

Postscript to city hall: Don't fence me out of Westmount Park.

STEPHEN CHIN, SHERBROOKE ST.

## WYO SHOULD BE HEARD

### BY MORE

My husband and I attended a superb concert of the Westmount Youth Orchestra on May 23. It was repeated at Pollak Hall on May 30.

I've never heard Dvorak, Beethoven and Chostakovich played so beautifully and so energetically. It was wonderful to listen to.

The conductor and artistic director Scott Gabriel gave genuine thanks to the city for the use of Victoria Hall on Saturdays since 1995. Sadly, there were few people there to hear the music and the thank-you.

There are so many stories to be written about the success of the Westmount Youth Orchestra. Its growth (to almost 100 musicians between the ages of 5 and 20 playing in three separate ensembles), its tours, the conductor, the volunteers and the musicians.

I wish this group had existed when my children were young. I hope that Westmounters will encourage all young families to attend future concerts.

SALLY AITKEN, ST. CATHERINE ST.

## WESTMOUNT HAS SEEN BETTER DAYS

This is in response to the letter in the May 26 issue of the *Independent*, "Westmount's Problem is Problems."

As you have been living here less than five years, I am sure you are not seeing Westmount at its best. For the past three years, many citizens have been "complaining" due to proposals made by city hall that would have been, or are, detrimental to the quality of life in Westmount, e.g. the proposal of artificial turf and the expansion of the arena.

Everyone living in Westmount is, I am sure, pleased to be living in a city that is as close to suburban living as you can get while still being situated in a major metropolitan area. Westmount is known for its green spaces and beautiful parks. It was a city where you did not feel threatened walking around at night. At least it used to be...

A walk through the park now is a very risky thing to do. There are few Public Security officers seen in the park anymore. Bicycles abound, and not just ridden by children. I see whole families from Dad down to Junior riding their bicycles on the footpaths. It is an exercise in agility to get from one side to the other without getting ploughed into by someone on wheels.

There used to be many signs of "No riding bikes/Walk your bike" but they have mysteriously disappeared.

Now the once lovely paths are crowded with bicycles, roller-bladers, skateboards and scooters. Morning walks show empty bottles, condoms, tampons and other lovely trash lying about. There is garbage floating in the pond. What were once lovely green spaces are surrounded by snow fences. The workers who clean the parks do a wonderful job, but it is a never-ending one.

Westmount's problems may seem petty when compared to wars, hunger and disease, but many of its citizens take being a resident here seriously. It is the duty of a good citizen to hold the elected officials accountable and ensure there is no abuse of the power they have been given. It is the citizens who pay their salaries, and it is our duty to ensure that decisions made are in the best interest of everyone, not just those who play soccer or hockey.

As to the erroneous conclusion that those making all the noise are not users of the current facility, I know several of those who have written letters of protest and I can assure you, they are frequent users.

The citizens of Westmount have not forgotten about the more serious troubles in the world. Many times there have been stories of someone in Westmount who has done incredible deeds to help people in need. That doesn't mean they should ignore what is going on in their own backyard. Benevolence can be done anywhere, anytime. However, if a person is not happy in their home, it becomes a little more difficult to feel generous towards others.

Those who have lived here a long time remember how beautiful the city was and despair at how it is now.

I don't refute that there are some letters that complain about what seem to be petty things, but these things are important to the person who wrote them. To belittle that is to demean that person's right to demand better from the city they have chosen to live in. After all, isn't it a democracy we live in? Everyone has the right to an opinion. If they didn't, we might as well be living in one of those countries where everyone is afraid to raise their voice.

BELINDA BOWES, ACADEMY RD.

## CAR-FRIENDLY DEVELOPMENTS THREATEN WESTMOUNT

The *Independent's* front-page article on the proposed project at the former Marianopolis site promoted by Développement CATO Inc. ("City: Former Marianopolis site could have spelled 'disaster'", May 19, p. 1) gives readers a falsely reassuring picture.

For a clearer idea of this *continued on p. 17*

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# Letters cont'd

continued from p. 16

project's true impact, it is interesting to visit the petition of Les amis de la montagne ([www.thepetitionsite.com/1/finis-les-compromis-mont-royal](http://www.thepetitionsite.com/1/finis-les-compromis-mont-royal)), which a number of Westmounters have signed, including former mayor Peter Trent.

The petition indicates that “the residential project proposed for the site goes against the City of Montreal’s urban plan and by-laws of the mountain’s protection, specifically in terms of use, density, height, volume, installation and protection of the vegetation.” The project, with its space for “more than 650 cars” (2 per condo) is a gross example of massification. And the cul-de-sac at the western side, off Ramezay, will not prevent a degradation of the quality of life for neighbouring Westmount residents — even though they fear possible dereliction if no project actually does go through.

Planning in Montreal is backward and car-centred. Within a short time, Westmount will be negatively impacted from all directions by increased vehicular traffic: at the summit, near the new arena, at the former Marianopolis site, and up from the Turcot/Superhospital area.

Signing the petition of Les amis de la montagne is one clear way to protest this terrible planning and to seek redress rather than lulling reassurance.

PATRICK BARNARD, MELVILLE AVE.

## WHO'S A COMPLAINER?

With all due respect to letter-writer Anoosh Loertscher (“Westmount’s problem is problems”, May 26), he’s got it backwards. By some distortion of logic he characterizes as complainers that group of residents who most appreciate and are content with what we *already have* and oppose plans to spend upwards of \$30 million on the arena project.

Consider who the *real* complainers are: those incessantly complaining about the lack of a second full-size rink; those whose complaints resulted in council hatching a plan to replace natural grass with plastic fake grass; the people who inspired the hacking of Sunnyside Park in order to improve the view for tourists.

The opposition could be characterized as the “status quo” folks — citizens who are happy with the park the way it is, the facilities, the scale, the greenery, the character, the views. Improvement and maintenance are one thing; extravagance another. What we oppose is the spending of vast amounts of tax money to shoe-horn an inappropriate sportsplex into an already hard-pressed

# 2nd anniversary Best Wishes to the

# WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

**Sally Aitken & Allan Aitken,**  
St. Catherine St.

**Jane Allan,** Victoria Ave.

**Marty Algire & Lindsay Holmgren,**  
Burton Ave.

**Stewart Arbuckle,** Metcalfe Ave.

**Henry Aubin**

**Nada Backovic,** Dorchester Blvd.

**Ami Bard,** Montrose Ave.

**Marilynn Gillies & Patrick Barnard,**  
Melville Ave.

**Deanna Barwick Wall**

**Ned & Honor Barrett,** Kensington Ave.

**Ritchie Bell,** Lansdowne Ave.

**Herb Bercovitz,** Sherbrooke St.

**Charles Bierbrier,** Aberdeen Ave.

**Paul A. Billette & Rajpattie Persaud,**  
Columbia Ave.

**Joe & Marilyn Blankfort,** Lansdowne Ave.

**Orest Blaschuk,** De Maisonneuve Blvd.

**Julie Bourne,** Victoria Ave.

**John Bridgman,** Bruce Ave.

**Thane Calder,** Argyle Ave.

**Thea & Bill Calder,** Clarke Ave.

**Chloé Chapoulie,** Pom’Canelle,  
Sherbrooke St.

**Jake Chadwick & Mary Brierley,**  
Roslyn Ave.

**Sara & Ed Colby**

**Pat Donnelly,** York St.

**Peter Duffield,** Clandeboye Ave.

**Patricia Dumais & Andrew Burlone,**  
Greene Ave.

**Kathleen Duncan,** Lansdowne Ave.

**Edith Drummond,** Kensington Ave.

**Paul & Judy Echenberg,** Sydenham Ave.

**Ann Elbourne**

**Rick Esber,** St. Catherine St.

**Terry Evans,** Ramezay Rd.

**Mila Felcarek, Katherine Hope and  
Gabriel, Kaelan, Janik & Adelka**

**Felcarek-Hope,** Grosvenor Ave.

**Mary Anne Ferguson,** Church Hill

**Barry Friedberg,** 310 Victoria Inc.,  
Victoria Ave.

neighbourhood park in order to satisfy those who *do* complain!

Newcomers, like the writer, have no experience of Westmount before recent attempts by lobby groups and a compliant council to make drastic changes to the park environs; changes that will introduce even more people, traffic, and noise as well as destroy sight-lines, none of which, I might add, are tolerated or even contemplated in the writer’s own neighbourhood.

**Brian O’N. Gallery**

**E. A. Gilday,** Olivier Ave.

**Gerald Glass,** Metcalfe Ave.

**Peter Govan,** Victoria Ave.

**Joan & Geoff Graham,** Olivier Ave.

**Stan Grossman & Anne Dixon-**  
Grossman, de Maisonneuve Blvd.

**Gibran Hakim,** Laval

**John & Karma Hallward,** Carleton Ave.

**Michael St. B. Harrison,** Mountain Ave.

**Richard & Susan Hart,** Belmont Ave.

**Mary Pat & George Hébert**

**Anne Holloway,** Lansdowne Ave.

**Suni Hope-Johnston,** York St.

**Beverly Hutchison,** Kitchener Ave.

**Gary Ikeman,** St. Catherine St.

**Amanda Jelowicki**

**John Johnston,** de Maisonneuve

**Gerry Hionis,** Clarke Ave.

**Tania Kalecheff,** RE/MAX Westmount

**Larry Klepper,** St. Catherine St.

**Shelley Kerman,** Church Hill

**Marilyn & Michael Lally,** Windsor Ave.

**Richard Lord,** Clarke Ave.

**Paul Marriott & Cynthia Grahame,**  
Grosvenor Ave.

**Jack Martin,** de Maisonneuve Blvd.

**Margaret Martin,** de Maisonneuve Blvd.

**Jane & Patrick Martin**

**Bruce McBean,** Sherbrooke St.

**Susan McGuire,** Montrose Ave.

**Deirdre McIlwraith,**  
de Maisonneuve Blvd.

**Neil & Catharine McKenty,**  
Somerville Ave.

**Sue & Bob McKenzie**

**Diana & Duncan McNeill,**

Prince Albert Ave.

**Daniel McSharry,** Elm Ave.

**Henry Mietkiewicz & Dorothy Lipovenko  
Ali Mindel**

**Brian Mitchell,** Mount Pleasant Ave.

**Francie Montgomery,** Douglas Ave.

**Ian H. Moodie,** We Care Home Health  
Services, Victoria Ave.

**Barbara Moore,** Lansdowne Ave.

**Leah Moss,** Carleton Ave.

**My-Trang Nguyen & Michael Ballantyne,**  
Somerville Ave.

**Diana & David Nicholson,**  
Rosemount Ave.

**Allen Nutik,** Redfern Ave.

**Colin & June Paterson,** Melville Ave.

**Michael Polak,** Prospect Ave.

**Sara Provencher,** Clarke Ave.

**Pam Price,** Sherbrooke St.

**Michael & Jennifer Price,**  
de Maisonneuve Blvd.

**Tim & Denise Price,** Murray Hill

**Richard L. Rochester,** St. Catherine St.

**Bob & Margie Ross,** Grove Park

**Don Sancton,** Beaconsfield

**Mary Sancton,** Sherbrooke St.

**Sharyn Scott on Consignment,**  
Sherbrooke St.

**Duncan & Maggie Shaddick,** Clarke Ave.

**Patrick Shea, Sara Pedersen and Hugo &  
Liam Shea,** Clandeboye Ave.

**John Shingler,** Burton Ave.

**Marla Stovin,** NOVA Montreal,  
Victoria Ave.

**Gill & Dan Sullivan,** Rosemount Ave.

**Peter F. Trent**

**Justin & Samantha Vineberg,** de  
Casson Rd.

**Rhoda Vineberg & Robert Vineberg,**  
Forden Crescent

**Joan Winsor & Peter Heybroek,**  
de Maisonneuve Blvd.

**Christina Vroom,** Stanton St.

**Peter Weldon,** Academy Rd

**Boyd Whittall**

**Robert and Maura Wilkins,** Clarke Ave.

**Mavis Young,** Melville Ave.

**Anthony J. Zitzmann,** Anwoth Rd.



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He suggests that many Westmounters fail to recognize how good we really have it and asks whether we have forgotten “what a great privilege it is to live in Westmount...let’s love Westmount and all it offers.” If he truly believes that, then please, accept its limitations, leave it alone and refrain from trying to turn it into Dollard des Ormeaux with costly, inappropriate schemes.

MAVIS YOUNG, MELVILLE AVE.

## Bought & Sold: Real estate transferred since February 20, 2009

Address	Price	Evaluation	Buyer	Seller	Date
2 Vacant Lots	\$1,815,162	Not available	Menagerie Holdings Ltd.	L'Oratoire Saint-Joseph du Mont-Royal	8-May
55 Belvedere Circle	\$1,650,000	\$1,778,500	Michel Bissonnette	John Molson & Susan Molson	4-May
499 Elm Ave.	\$1,537,500	\$991,300	Thomas Condie & Blaire Warner	David Kalaydjian & John Kalaydjian	4-May
521 Clarke Ave.	\$1,475,000	\$1,180,800	Rachel Goldman	Craig Shannon & Kristin Foss	30-Apr
3284 Cedar Ave.	\$1,450,000	\$1,367,000	Marcel Behr & Nadia Giannetti	Monica McIntyre	22-May
22 Arlington Ave.	\$1,237,000	\$614,400	Jérôme Bonduelle	Jean Vernet & Deborah Peters Vernet	1-May
26 Thornhill Ave.	\$1,040,000	\$743,000	Gary Dvorkin	Brian Dutch	15-May
426 Elm Ave.	\$978,000	\$850,000	Alain Zakher & J.C. Dupont	Alice Daghararian & Vrej Markarian	20-May
479 & 481 Lansdowne Ave.	\$975,000	\$649,800	Guy Lord & Monique Dagenais	Ronald Pickering	12-May
716 Upper Roslyn Ave.	\$970,000	\$790,200	Aubrey Rosenhek & Gabriella Kogan	David Toledo & Susan Ashley	1-May
623 Belmont Ave.	\$915,000	\$869,900	Heather Martin & Daniel Gauthier	Christopher, Margot, and Douglas Naudie	1-May
644 Grosvenor Ave.	\$905,000	\$698,100	Robert Flood & Julia Dearing	Pierre Goyette & Lisa Laing	28-Apr
105 Sunnyside Ave.	\$859,138	\$950,000	Jimmy Bean & Karen Toyé	Toufic Tabbara & Lamis Abulkhair	30-Apr
470 Mount Stephen	\$855,000	\$675,700	Brian Karol & Brigid Scullion	Kerry McSweeney & Susanne Westkirk	27-Apr
239 & 239A Clarke Ave.	\$800,000	\$514,600	William Trihey	Nader Hanna & Antonietta Di Staulo	11-May
434 Metcalfe	\$790,000	\$1,017,600	Andrew Kerklaan & Jennifer Miller	Anthony Wilson	15-May
Vacant Lot	\$774,110	Not available	Construction Jean Houde Inc.	L'Oratoire Saint-Joseph du Mont-Royal	8-May
328 & 330 Grosvenor Ave.	\$753,000	\$412,200	S. Bitensky & J. Bitensky-Roy	Roger Yeghyayan	11-May
200 Lansdowne Ave. # 307 et al.	\$750,000	\$544,300	Richard Rosenberg & Jean Bethel	Betty Latimer	11-May
4697 Westmount Ave.	\$740,000	\$1,035,400	Manon Venne	Audrey Hyams & Bernard Hyams	14-May
4633 & 4633A Sherbrooke St.	\$600,000	\$504,700	Joseph Kholam & Abdolmajid Tandel	Henry Cholewicki	1-May
3235, 3237, 3239 & 3241 St. Antoine	Unavailable	\$483,000	9208-9721 Quebec Inc.	Jason Rudland & Thu Tran	22-May
399 Clarke Ave. # 4A	\$585,000	Not available	Andrew Grove	John McArthur & Nicole Senyard	20-May
343 Clarke Ave. # 4 & parking space	\$409,000	\$381,400	Sharon Harvie	Alison Cobban & Bruno Chatillon	14-May
4380-4382 Côte des Neiges, Montreal	\$325,000	\$505,300	Isabelle Therrien	Marguerite Critchley	20-Feb
100 Abbott Ave.	\$250,000	\$331,700	6631681 Canada Inc.	Gavin Realty Corp. Inc.	20-May
50% of 45 Summit Crescent	\$20,000	\$1,434,400	Kimberly Cheong	Druker & Ass. (trustees, assets of P. Cheong)	21-May
73 Holton Ave.	\$1	\$628,900	Alison Jarvis	John Broome	30-Apr
508 & 510 Lansdowne Ave.	\$1	\$635,900	Amanda Eaman	Maxwell Castle	8-May

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DOWNTOWN

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WESTMOUNT

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## The Westmount Gardener

# Feed bulbs, mow lawn, look for plant sales



BY STUART ROBERTSON

There's a lot of activity going on in Westmount gardens these days, as there should be, because this is the time of year where everything starts to

burst with growth.

In fact, wouldn't it be nice if we could freeze our gardens in place right now, with the spring shrubs in bloom, the perennials at their most vigorous and everything looking so fresh and green?

However, there is always work to be done.

Spring bulbs should be deadheaded as soon as their blooms fade, and they should be fed right away. Use a water-soluble fertilizer in a watering can.

Spring-flowering shrubs (such as lilac, spirea and weigela) should have their

spent blooms deadheaded, cutting off the whole flowering branch to encourage new branch growth for next year's blossoms.

Tall plants such as *paconia* (peony) and floppy plants like *geranium* (cranesbill) should be given some support, either with metal rings or a simple string-and-stake system. The rains and winds of the late spring can knock them about all too easily.

Mow the lawn, perhaps for the first time this season, but remember to keep it as long as possible. Your mower should be set to cut the grass no *lower* than 5 cm (2 inches) tall, so that the weeds are shaded and the roots are not exposed to the drying sun and wind. This can be difficult if you have someone cutting your lawn for you, but it's worth "discussing" it with them because it does not mean less cutting, just higher cutting. And anyway, it's your lawn!

Speaking of lawns, if yours has bald spots or bare patches, now is the time to be fixing them.

Use a garden rake to scratch the soil surface, spread a thin layer of a half-and-half mix of soil and peat, spread some grass seed, tamp it into place with the back of the rake, and then make sure you *gently* water the area every day (if it doesn't rain) for two weeks.

And lastly, you can do a lot of planting at this time of the year, while the weather is still cool and the plants won't be stressed. There are lots of shrubs, perennials and annuals on sale, and this is when they need to be planted.

Just make sure you dig a much wider and deeper hole than each plant needs, refill the hole with a mix of topsoil and compost (either home-made or purchased) and then put the plant in this mixture. Water it well once it's planted.

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## Art for sale, and a house too



From left: Ellie Silver and Brigitte Burdman of Royal LePage Heritage, Sandra Goldie (homeowner), with Christina Miller and Carl R. Fontaine of Profusion Realty, stand in front of Goldie's house and Robert Wiseman's painting "Pool Garden" (at right).

Westmount art gallery owner Sandra Goldie and her real estate agent, Profusion's Christina Miller, had a new take May 26 on the traditional agents' "caravan" to look at newly listed houses. Goldie took down the art that normally graces her walls and brought in pieces from her

gallery. She also invited artists to the lunch buffet put on for the agents. Her house is on Highland Ave. in the Trafalgar/Daulac "TraDau" area, residents of which have access to some Westmount facilities and services.

## McEntyre essay winners '09

From a record-breaking 1,409 entries in the McEntyre Creative Writing Competition, the following winners were to receive their awards June 1 at Victoria Hall.

### Grade 1

- 1 Sasha Varvarigos (Selwyn)
- 2 Simon Sheppard (Selwyn)
- 3 Joyce Li (The Study)

### Grade 2

- 1 Elijah Nuez (Akiva)
- 2 Sarah Suzanna Moghrabi (Akiva)
- 3 Daniela Wunsh (Akiva)

### Grade 3

- 1 Wisaal Jahangir (The Study)
  - 2 Lauryn Oberman (Roslyn)
  - 3 Vincent J. Rizzolo (Selwyn)
- HM Julia Ain (Roslyn)

### Grade 4

- 1 Stepheny Marchl (ECS)
  - 2 Camille Joli-Coeur (ECS)
  - 3 Lana Bourbonnais (St. Leo's)
- HM Rosie Flood (ECS)

### Grade 5

- 1 Tamar Sifri (The Study)
  - 2 Nadine Abou-Khalil (St. Leo's)
  - 3 Isaac Harris (Akiva)
- HM Martina Erdstein (The Study)

### Grade 6

- 1 Paul Sypnowich (Marie de France)
  - 2 Caitlin Heiligmann (Roslyn)
  - 3 Madison Meehan (The Study)
- HM Crystal Theoharis (ECS)

### Grade 7

- 1 Jeremy Herman (Selwyn)
  - 2 Andee Goldstein (ECS)
  - 3 Émilie Cook-Desmarreau (Westmount High)
- HM Enas Jahangir (ECS)

### Grade 8

- 1 Ksenia Sysolyatina (Villa Ste. Marcelline)
  - 2 Andrew Lowther (Selwyn)
  - 3 Samantha Backman (The Study)
- HM Ian Jones-Mackling (Westmount High)

### Grade 9

- 1 Maria Agustina Lopez Laporte (École internationale de Montréal)
  - 2 Kira Gasco-Gilmour (Westmount High)
  - 3 Suzanne Zaccour (Villa Ste. Marcelline)
- HM Kyrystal-Marie Andrews (Westmount High)

### Grade 10

- 1 Julianne Brock (The Study)
- 1 Ashley Vincent (Westmount High)
- 2 Merrick D'Amato (Westmount High)
- 3 Simone Nichols (The Study)

### Grade 11

- 1 Molly Callaghan (Westmount High)
  - 2 Jay Mordeno (Westmount High)
  - 3 Leilani Blaustein-Daniel (Westmount High)
- HM Priscilla Familiar da Silva (Westmount High)



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## Westmount Profile: Nigel Penney

# Awakening the spirit of inquiry

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

He was 10 when he chose to learn a musical instrument to get out of a second math course at a British boarding school. But much to Nigel Penney's dismay, the "cool" instruments – drums, trumpet and guitar – were already taken. He was left with the violin.

It turned out to be harder than math, he says, "and so began the adventure."

Out of his effort grew a passion for music that drove his school days, shadowed his 25-year career in information technology and project management, and now enables him to play and teach violin to those aged 6 to 96.

Even more significant, perhaps, is his firsthand understanding of the need to inspire children and make learning a fun experience. This is his mission as director of the first Marianopolis science camp. It will be held in July and targets ages 11 to 15.

"The goal is to wake up the spirit of inquiry," he says.

Without the violin, he might have

dropped out, he says. "I took it up for all the worst reasons. But it's given me such a wonderful time – even though I never turned it into a career." Music generated a love of learning that was heightened by a couple of teachers who had a profound influence on him in physics and chemistry.

While Penney's Marianopolis appointment last January to "design, develop and run" the science camp draws on all his skill sets and passions, he says, it is the excitement of the project and the prospect of turning kids on to science that fuels his energies.

### An incredible journey

"It's been an incredible journey so far," he says. "People have been falling over themselves to provide input. The team at Marianopolis, which includes Alex Polkki as the camp coordinator, has been very supportive." McGill's endorsement, he adds, has opened the door to many resources.

"When I look at kids these days and the high dropout rates," Penney says, "I see



Nigel Penney outside Marianopolis, counting down the days until the start of the science camp.

this camp as an opportunity to demonstrate how much fun we can have with science and hopefully make an impact on them one by one. We're going to build robots, a train that floats on air by magnetic levitation, and a windmill to generate wind energy."

Penney knows the age group well. He has a 15-year-old son, George, who attends Westmount High. He also has two grown daughters: Lauren, 30, who works at McGill in graduate recruitment; and Meagan, 27, who just graduated with honours in nursing in Toronto.

### Moved to Geneva

Born in London, Penney moved to Geneva as a young child when his father, Richard, became director of administration for the newly-formed European Centre for Nuclear Research (CERN) in 1953. "I was shipped off to boarding school at Highgate in London because apparently I was somewhat unruly."

Just as he was completing his "A" level exams at high school, his father and mother (Lea) came to Canada, where they lived in Westmount for many years before moving downtown.

Penney visited back and forth to Westmount while studying science at the University of Sussex. But with too much time spent on music and launching a chamber orchestra at the university, he was asked to leave.

Reinstated after a couple of years at unsatisfying jobs, he graduated with honours in 1973 and began working in chemistry at textile companies.

Coming to Canada in 1975, Penney quickly migrated to IBM in computer work, and marketing and sales, and then moved into executive positions at several

other IT companies.

"When I turned 50 – I'm 58 now – I began to reassess the value of what I had been doing," he says. "I realized I didn't want my tombstone to read born and died in such and such a year with nothing in between. I had had all the privileges in the world and decided it was time to start giving back.

"Since then, I've been focusing on the education of children and furthering their love of music. I don't do anything now that I don't love."

Penney founded a registered charitable foundation called Cycle for Children to raise funds that would enable children to learn music. An avid cyclist, he originally intended to cycle around the world, a plan he eventually replaced by encouraging small groups of musicians to hold individual fundraising events.

Along with his violin teaching, Penney also works as a computer and project management consultant – recently on a CIDA-funded technology infrastructure project for Guyana. He is also a translator and high school tutor.

But with the start of the Marianopolis camp fast approaching on July 6, his energies are dedicated to the finer details of the program and registration, which can be done online at [www.marianopolis.edu/sciencecamp](http://www.marianopolis.edu/sciencecamp).

Next year – yes, he's already thinking about that – "we're also going to provide a junior science camp for children aged 8 to 11."

And as more ideas race through his mind, Penney suddenly looks at his watch. In a flash, he's out the door, onto his bike and wheeling off to where a child is waiting to be tutored. He can't keep her waiting.

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