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Reading to young readers

Constable Jean Jeremy reads to the campers at Westmount Park's Bouncing Boys Back to Books camp. See p. 22 for story.

Likely run for Bowser's vacant District 5 seat Ikeman announces candidacy

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Management consultant Gary Ikeman, an advocate of transparency and accountability, has tossed his hat into the electoral ring.

A 30-year resident of Westmount and regular attendee of city council meetings, he announced August 27 his decision to run in the November 1 election. He will most likely seek the seat being vacated by George Bowser in District 5.

Ikeman, who describes himself as a moderate, has consistently pressed for the release of arena project documents, and the need for related traffic and impact studies. While he lives one street east of District 5 in the ward where Cynthia Lulham is seeking re-election, he believes

both constituencies share common attitudes and needs.

"I'm interested in running because the city needs help," he told the *Independent*.

"It needs to turn the page, adopt a new approach. Taxpayers want value for their money, with fiscal control and quality of life. For some that means green space; for others, bike paths – a diverse set of interests that make for good social fabric."

A former senior executive in the pharmaceutical industry and an entrepreneur with deep roots in business, Ikeman said his specialty is diagnosing problems in small to medium-size companies and finding efficient ways to overcome them.

"I believe I can bring value to the city as a councillor. I understand the discipline and rigour *continued on p. 3*

Sustainability priorities unveiled

See story and cut-out to bring with you to the public meeting, p. 8

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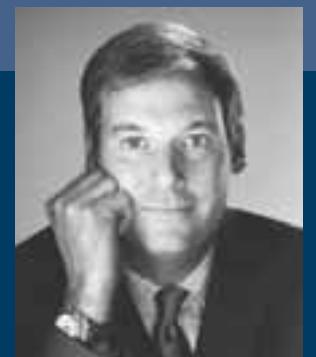
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Ikeman espouses moderation

continued from p. 1

required in planning and decision-making – skills transferable from my business background to prioritizing issues and dealing with resource constraints.”

Ikeman founded the Westmount Arena Moderation Campaign a year ago, creating the website wamcam.org as a communications forum for posting information on the arena-pool project. This focused on documents he fought to obtain when they were not published by the city.

While the arena-pool project was a catalyst for his regular attendance at city council meetings, and involvement in traffic and other issues, he said, he believes there is a very diverse set of issues of importance.

He said he decided to run after speaking with possible mayoral candidate Peter Trent and reading what he had to say in the *Independent*. “Many of the things he

said were congruent to my way of thinking. I assume he will be mayor and I feel comfortable with him in that position. I don’t see any conflict in our approaches.”

Ikeman, who lived for many years on Sunnyside, now resides in the condo building at 4700 St. Catherine St., known to many as POM bakery. “I’ve seen the city from the north looking south and the south looking north.” His two children were raised and educated in Westmount at ECS and Selwyn House.

In relation to the arena project, he said he felt the council had made a strategic mistake in planning: “I’ve always been in favour of moderation, and being fiscally prudent.

My philosophy is to under-promise and over-deliver rather than over-promise and under-deliver, which is what has happened.”



Gary Ikeman

Trent ‘surprised’ by de Castell’s denial after two meetings

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Among current councillors whom former mayor Peter Trent has been meeting with to find election candidates is John de Castell, who declared late last week he would again run in District 8.

Trent, however, told the *Independent* August 28 he was “very surprised” to read in another newspaper that de Castell denied the two men had discussed de Castell’s candidacy, “which was the whole object of our meeting.”

In fact, Trent said, “we met twice at my house for specifically that reason. One

meeting lasted more than two hours.” Trent declined to say whether or not he believed de Castell should run for a fourth term. The *Independent* was unable to reach de Castell by press time.

Trent has also met with councillors Patrick Martin, Kathleen Duncan, Cynthia Lulham and Tom Thompson, and said he intends to meet with Nicole Forbes. Guy Charette and George Bowser are not seeking re-election. He is also meeting with other potential candidates. Trent, himself, has not formally announced a run at the mayoralty, which he is “seriously considering.”

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DON'T SPEND TAX \$ TO INCREASE TRAFFIC, UNHEALTHINESS

For more than three years, residents of Westmount near St. Catherine St. have been continuously reminding city council of the negative impact of increasing traffic, especially near the Lansdowne/St. Catherine intersection. Now the August 20 *Le Devoir* has publicized a groundbreaking McGill study that reveals certain Westmount neighbourhoods, along vehicular corridors, have some of the most polluted and unhealthy air in Montreal. The page-one headline in last week's story by Amélie Daoust-Boisvert was dramatic and informative: "La pollution ne connaît pas de quartier: Une étude révèle que la qualité de l'air sur l'île de Montréal est meilleure à Montréal Nord qu'à Westmount ou sur le Plateau-Mont-Royal."

For US\$31.50 you can buy on-line the vitally important paper now published in *Social Science & Medicine* and produced by McGill's Dan Crouse, Nancy Ross and Dr. Mark Goldberg.

The researchers use levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) as an indicator of ambient air pollution, which is "associated with a wide variety of negative health outcomes." "Vehicular traffic is a primary local contributor," and although Montreal has air that is less polluted than Toronto's, it is shocking to know that there are an esti-

mated 1,500 annual premature deaths from air pollution in Montreal alone. Not surprisingly, "the highest concentrations of NO₂ were along highway corridors and in the downtown of the city." Three of those corridors affect Westmount: Sherbrooke St., St. Catherine St. and Highway 20.

The crucial part of this scientific paper is on p. 9. Parts of Westmount in the "brown" traffic corridor are places where "mean average levels of NO₂ exceeded 23 parts per billion, which is double the Montreal average and in excess of the WHO air quality guidelines for annual exposure (WHO 2006)."

As a long-time resident of the arena-Westmount Park-WAG area I think that the science indicates that our health has already been compromised by bad air caused by vehicular traffic. And the science also points to obvious planning considerations regarding the arena renewal project.

I deeply believe that council must now realize that we cannot have two large hockey rinks in this area, with the resultant 150 percent increase (60 existing parking spaces expanded to 150) in visitor vehicular traffic. Such a voluntary, chosen increment would mean that we would be paying with our own tax dollars to make ourselves more unhealthy than we already are. In the face of the hard science, such blindness would be the height of irre-

sponsibility and irrationality.

PATRICK BARNARD, MELVILLE AVE.

Barnard sent this letter to city council. Cllr. Patrick Martin replies: Mr. Barnard's concerns about air pollution caused by additional cars accessing the renewed arena rinks near the Glen are unfounded and unnecessarily alarmist.

- There would be a net increase of only 41 parking spaces at the arena, not 90 as implied by Mr. Barnard. Though the project would involve underground parking for 90 cars, the construction of rinks and pool on currently paved areas would eliminate 49 existing surface parking spots in front of the arena and on Academy Rd. near the pool.

- Parked cars do not cause pollution. A second rink may generate 15 to 20 cars of additional hourly traffic in each direction, usually in off-peak hours. This is miniscule in comparison to the 163,000 vehicles per day travelling nearby on Highway 20, the 9,500 per day on St. Catherine and the 2,900 cars daily on Lansdowne, and the 60 diesel locomotives transiting south of the arena every day. (Sources: MTQ 2004; Westmount Public Works, Oct. 2008; AMT, July 2009.)

- I would expect that within 10 years, the cars and trains passing through Westmount near the arena will be electrically powered.

- The "ground-breaking study" to which Mr. Barnard refers is an academic analysis of the correlation between air pollution and social deprivation, and its findings indicate that surprisingly there is no such correlation in Westmount. It also states "...correlations cannot be used to infer causality," and "...we acknowledge that our analysis does not estimate personal exposure to pollution." This study is an inappropriate vehicle to reach sweeping conclusions about the potential impact of an ice rink on air pollution.

POOL CLOSING TOO EARLY

For many years, the swimming pool has closed for the season on Labour Day. It is therefore disappointing for regular pool users to find that this year the pool will close on September 1, a week early, apparently so that the arena may be prepared for the hockey season. Why the rush? It seems as though once again hockey takes priority over swimming.

JUNE PATERSON, MELVILLE AVE.

NO PRICE TAG FOR GREEN SPACE

The four horsemen of my apocalypse are called Efficiency, Convenience, Profitability and Security, and in their names, crimes against poetry, pleasure, sociability, and the very largeness of the world are

CAN INDIE COUNT? CAN THE CITY?

I wrote you a brief note last week ("New arena must be handled by pro", p. 4) suggesting the arena project should not be handled as the library reconstruction was, and I mentioned that the new library building has 20 percent less space than the old one. You added an Editor's Note, quoting the city's 1995 annual report, which claimed the reconstructed library building has 64 percent more space than the old one. Considerable variance.

Municipal libraries send annual statistics to the cultural affairs ministry in Quebec City, reporting, among many other things, their floor space. In 1990 the old library had 2,420 square meters (26,000 sq. ft.) of space; in 1998 the reconstructed library had 1,890 square meters (20,000 sq. ft.): 21.9 percent less space than the old building (I was being gentle, settling for 20 percent last week). The library surely had no reason to misrepresent its straitened condition. Why would the city have reported to the taxpayers what it did? Was someone attempting to put lipstick on a turkey?

D.O. NEWNHAM, METCALFE AVE.

EDITOR'S NOTE: What can I say? I now wish I'd spent my younger years measuring the area of the old library while it still existed, instead of drinking beer and misbehaving. I now have to admit: I do not know which source is correct. Perhaps some farsighted soul kept plans that we can use to measure the area of the old building?

daily, hourly, constantly carried out. These marauding horsemen are deployed by technophiles, advertisers and profiteers to assault the nameless pleasures and meanings that knit together our lives and expand our horizons.

St. Francis of Assisi calls on us to slow down, see the beauty in the world around us and live more simply, with less things. [Regarding your openness to an arena at the Westmount Athletic Grounds,] Councillor Martin, Lulham and Duncan: We need to preserve green space in our busy urban environment for our very survival. Green space allows for rest and renewal. Renewal is a profound tonic. With sanctuary and rest we can recharge, be sustained and go forth again. Today's temporary convenience of *continued on p. 7*

Correction

In a monthly table of crime statistics that appeared in last week's paper, the number of sexual assaults in Westmount for the month of May should have appeared as 0. The *Independent* regrets the error.

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

We are Westmount.

Weekly

Presstime: Monday at 10:30 am

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CHIEF REPORTER: Laureen Sweeney

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At Second Glance

In defence of dissension

BY HEATHER BLACK



Recently, much has been made of the split in city council over the arena-pool project. Why? Isn't democracy better served by debate on issues and options?

We elect representatives from all walks of life. As a result, we expect various viewpoints. With regard to the arena-pool project, one may be concerned with trees, another with cost.

As each brings interests and expertise to the table, this diversity serves citizens well. Encouraging a broad debate on the issue at hand, options are generated and solutions found.

In many councils, the debate and the vote are recorded. But in Westmount much of the debate and decision-making – however rigorous – is done behind closed doors. Citizens are in the dark as to what is or what is not considered.

And city communiqués fail to enlighten. One issued in May states that the Westmount Athletic Grounds (WAG) and Tupper St. lot were considered as sites and rejected. But with no explanation as to why, citizens and councillors alike suggest site alternatives. Others continue to question traffic flow, impact on the park and appearance.

But these suggestions and questions are not necessarily negative to the project. If the arena and teen centre are built on the WAG, increased student use might alter the perception that the project benefits too few citizens.

Town-hall meeting

What is needed in Westmount is more dissent – and more options – not less.

As municipal elections approach, citizens want to know where representatives stand on the arena-pool project. An open assembly like a town-hall meeting would

allow all councillors to make a case for or against various proposals.

In some municipalities, citizens enjoy open systems of decision-making. In Vermont, one day a year is set aside for all to attend council meetings to discuss local issues, vote on the annual budget and elect representatives. Schools are closed to allow students to attend, listen and learn.

That is not to suggest that Westmount should adopt this model. But on occasion, an open citizens' forum – where both councillors and citizens are free to debate options – promotes openness and inclusiveness.

The fact is most Westmounters would welcome another public meeting on the proposed arena-pool site. An acceptable solution can still be found. In the process, foster community spirit and democratic renewal in time for the November vote.

For those interested in discussing Westmount issues, a new website (www.westmountforum.org) offers an open forum. Another (www.wamcam.org) provides an online petition on the arena-pool project as well as a discussion board.

Heather Black is a Westmount communications designer. Contact her at: blackheajea@gmail.com

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Councillor's Column

Celebration of the Gallery's 10th anniversary

BY NICOLE FORBES, CITY COUNCILLOR
(DISTRICT 6)

Believe it or not, it isn't always about hockey in Westmount. Or soccer fields and swimming pools. There is a rich cultural calendar provided by the city, and it is getting better all the time.

As commissioner of Sports, Recreation and Community Events for Westmount city council for the last four years, I have worked hard to support our athletic programs. However, music, drama and art events have also featured a wealth of talented Westmounters and the programs they love to have.

From Daniel Taylor to Repercussion Theatre; from the artists showing in the Gallery to carnival events organized by city staff and volunteers – all speak volumes about the diversity of our city. This is an important part of my mandate as a city councillor, and it covers a lot of ground, so to speak.

Unique atrium

One of the highlights this year will be the 10th Anniversary of The Gallery at Victoria Hall. In 1999 an exhibition featuring several Westmount artists inaugurated the newly renovated space linking the library to the city's community centre, Victoria Hall. Since then, hundreds of painters, photographers, sculptors and quilters have proudly displayed their work in this unique atrium.

To celebrate the 10 years of talent, 57 of the original artists will be showing examples of their work from September 10 to October 3. Several workshops will be offered to the public free of charge during those weeks.

Talented Westmounters

Westmount displays the talents of its residents, but I would like to expand our cultural program to include ways of bringing people closer to the various aspects of the art world. Understanding music, theatre and art is the road to appreciating the wonderful parts of life in our community.

Nicole Forbes, Commissioner of Sports, Recreation and Community Events.

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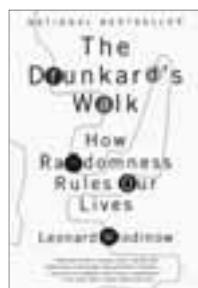
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Back to school at Marianopolis... even for profs



Joining Marianopolis CEGEP for the semester that began August 20 are, from left, front row: Spanish professor Monica Izaguirre; director general Len Even; support staffers Denise Miller, Marisa Spagnuolo and Cathy Ferrara; and HR staffer Ioanna Barkoulas; back row: math professor Cïlanne Boulet; economics professor Eugene Kompaniyets; physics professor Cïline Lebel; math professor Etienne Rassart; and recruitment and admissions associate Olivier Bastien.

Photo: Marianopolis College

Student awarded for active citizenship



Jean-Philippe Gauthier

Photo: Marianopolis College

Jean-Philippe Gauthier, a Summit Circle resident and student at Marianopolis College, was named a 2009 Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation In-Course Excellence Award Laureate. The college recommended him to the foundation as “a way to acknowledge his active citizenship, engaged leadership and academic achievement.”

Gauthier was involved in the Model UN, the tennis club and the Marianopolis Young Leaders Organization DECA club. According to the college’s press release, he plans to help finance his studies in international business at an Ivy League university with the \$4,500 award he received.

**LE DÉVELOPPEMENT DURABLE
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**METTEZ LA MAIN
À LA PÂTE**

**ASSEMBLÉE PUBLIQUE
JEUDI 10 SEPTEMBRE 2009
VICTORIA HALL, 4626 SHERBROOKE O. 19 H**

Le conseil municipal invite tous les Westmountais à prendre part à l’établissement des gestes qui devront permettre à la ville d’atteindre ses objectifs en matière de développement durable.

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City Council invites all Westmounters to participate in choosing the priorities for actions in order to attain Westmount’s Sustainable Development Goals.

YOUR CHANCE TO ACT!

Letters to the Editor...

.....
continued from p. 4

selling green space in the name of efficiency, and wanting too much destroys us all and diminishes our whole community in Westmount.

NANCY DRUMMOND, HALLOWELL ST.

ON NOISE POLLUTION, WESTMOUNT 0, NDG 1

During these past two summers, I've enjoyed weekly strolls through the residential heartlands of Westmount and NDG visiting my grandson and his family.

The walks, either mid-morning or mid-afternoon, have produced an unvarying pattern: a quiet serenity through the two-and-a-half miles of NDG, as opposed to a regular nerve-wracking din along the mile-and-a-half in Westmount.

Besides being in a seemingly endless siege of repairs, the peace of the so-called "garden suburb" has been overrun by the infernal modernization of garden tools. No matter what route one takes, one is bound to confront a swarm of ear-plugged landscapers doing their damndest to shear off the ends of your nervous system.

In NDG, meanwhile, where homeowners do their own gardening, one is frequently rewarded with the pleasant sensation of a summer stillness, a delight that vanished from Westmount a long time ago.

With autumn on the horizon, the contrast between the two communities will only deepen – thanks to the addition of the leaf-blower, the most useless and annoying implement ever devised by humankind. While Westmount has become totally addicted to it, NDG has stuck with that friendly, centuries-old standby, the rake.

So spare me the unseemly spectacle of Westmounters preening about saving the planet for their great-grandchildren. We can't hear them through all the noise anyway.

TIM BURKE, ST. CATHERINE ST.

ACADEMY LOOKING FOR COOPERATION

One of Mayor Marks' comments in her opinion piece (July 14, p. 5) before the construction holiday was that people moving into the area around the arena knew what they were getting into, "Those who purchased their residences or chose to rent in close proximity to the arena did so with the full knowledge that swimming, camps, hockey and skating would go on at their doorstep."

I, and a few others, took exception to

these remarks. We found them quite insulting.

Well, I moved onto Academy Rd. in 1976, and I can assure you I could not have foreseen what would come in the future. I had a child who was not into hockey so I did not see the progression of the hockey programs over the years until I was pretty much hit over the head with the results. There were no inter-city leagues when I moved in!

There were no swim meets or day camps until much later. Who could have foreseen 15 years down the road, or even 10, that it would turn into what it has?

Now we all suffer the loss of the south playing field where pick-up games of soccer and baseball used to occur often during the summer. The field sits empty and useless for much of the year. Quite frankly, I love my home and cannot really afford to move. I love to see the kids playing in the pool and in the park. I love to walk in the park and see the changes throughout the seasons. I have had raccoons at my living room window. I get the best of both city and country living. Why would I want to live elsewhere? But a little cooperation from the users of the arena, pool and soccer fields would be greatly appreciated by everyone.

BELINDA BOWES, ACADEMY RD.

HOW MANY CHILDREN ARE IN WESTMOUNT?

I commend new Westmount Municipal Association president Mr. Picard (August 25, p. 4) for wanting to know the demographics and future needs of Westmount citizens 20 years from now. I really think Westmounters should know what the real needs are as they are paying for it.

Given the controversy over the expansion of arena project and its cost, I looked up the Canadian census statistics for Westmount residents. In 1931, the population increased to 24,235 from 17,593 in 1921. It was the highest in 1941 at 26,047 and had declined in 1976 to 22,153, continuing a downward spiral in 1981 to 20,480.

In the next 25 years (1981 to 2006) the population went from 20,480 in 1981 to 20,474 in 2006 with a very small variation in between.

I could not find the number of children living in Westmount for those years, but certainly it has gone down along with the general population, with a recent small bump in the baby boomers' kids having kids.

Does anybody have the numbers for all the years? Please let me know.

MERYLYN WILK, SHERBROOKE ST.

Quilico now takes Think First message to triathlon

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Think first: Before you bike without a helmet, ride without a seatbelt, dive into a pool, take drugs or act recklessly at a party.

It's a message that Enrico Quilico has been taking into classrooms to tell how a motorcycle accident three years ago caused serious brain and physical injuries that changed his life and that of his family.

And how the long rehabilitation fight has provided him with an opportunity to make the most of his recovery by helping others and prove his capabilities by doing the full Montreal Triathlon Saturday, September 12.

"I was wearing a helmet, and it absolutely saved my life," he says.

"I just hope my own story can be an example of how fragile life is and how quickly it can suddenly change with huge consequences for you and your family. Absolutely everything I had taken for granted was taken away from me.

Pushed the limit

"I'm not the same person I was before the accident. I lived a different lifestyle. I never wore a helmet while bicycling or fastened a seatbelt. I partied excessively and pushed the limit in everything I did. All that changed."

Quilico, 26, who lived all his life in Westmount until a year ago, will also be swimming, cycling and running in the triathlon to raise funds for Think First Quebec. The non-profit organization for which he volunteers educates young people about brain and spinal cord injuries.

He'll sport the Think First logo on his triathlon outfit along with those of his sponsors: CIBC Wood Gundy and Verona, an importer of Italian products.

Long fight back

The Concordia student has experienced a long fight back from a coma resulting from a motorcycle accident May 21, 2006. His brain injury was so severe that his family was told he would likely never recover. If he did, he would be seriously disabled.

When struck by a car that failed to yield on Highway 20 through Île Perrot, he said, he was dragged, struck his head on the car and broke many bones. His intellectual and physical rehabilitation consumed many months of emotional and time-filled effort by his family.

"I still have certain difficulties and limitations but I'm trying to make the best of

it," he said. "One is that I lack energy, which is why I'm so drawn to the triathlon."

Quilico, who returned to university gradually last year, is now starting a full year at Concordia in second-year education to specialize in teaching English as a second language. He also works part time as a personal trainer.



Enrico Quilico training at Summit Lookout.

As one of Think First's 12 prevention speakers with the Quebec chapter, Quilico's dedication has led his mother to join the board: Kathryn Stephenson – wife of former mayor Peter Trent – is also spearheading Enrico's fundraising effort in the triathlon supported by his father, Gino Quilico.

"Last year when I did the sprint (half-triathlon) it was a way for me to show myself that I had achieved recovery," Enrico said.

"This year, doing the full triathlon is a testament to the opportunity that life offers. I never realized that until after the accident. It was constant work learning to walk and reason again. I don't want to stop challenging myself physically or mentally. And I'm deriving a lot of pleasure that I never did before."

The next challenge? "My goal is to do the full Iron Man. It's the ultimate in triathlon endurance."

Donations may be made by cheque to Think First Quebec, c/o 333 Côte St. Antoine Rd., Westmount, H3Y 2J5.

Public can comment on plan Sept. 10

Sustainability development details unveiled

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount's draft plan for sustainable development identifies more than 30 priorities for municipal and community action in 2010, covering a wide range of subjects from commercial recycling to bike paths.

The priorities were short-listed by city council from among 220 proposals in a comprehensive report. Those selected will be submitted to public review at a meeting at Victoria Hall on Thursday, September 10 at 7 pm. Some additional ones may also be presented.

"The public will be able to help clarify which of the priorities will be included in the 2010 budget deliberations," said Joshua Wolfe, the city's sustainable development coordinator, who developed the

overall blueprint.

With preparation of the budget now underway, the sustainability action plan is expected to be adopted by the council before the end of its mandate October 2. While some measures can be implemented at little or no cost, others will require specific budgeting.

Further information is expected to be posted on www.westmount.org this week along with a survey for citizen input. Background information from the full report will also be available at the Westmount Public Library.

The report for on-going action was compiled by Wolfe following meetings with the public and consultation with city officials, other municipalities and community organizations.

It is divided into six categories: energy

and greenhouse gas reduction; the three-waters (water, waste water and precipitation); nature and biodiversity; public health; wasted resources (garbage, recycling, hazardous waste); and transportation and access.

Each category contains suggested "actions" to be taken by either the city administration or as outreach community initiatives. Examples of the former would be developing guidelines for the installation of solar panels or removing the paved portion of Summit Circle where houses are not built.

Items requiring community buy-in would include programs to en-

courage residents to install programmable thermostats, insulation or green roofs, or to encourage schools to promote physical activity.

While council identified some five "actions" in each category, some of the actions not prioritized include measures citizens have been calling for at council meetings. One such case is the provision for ample bicycle parking.

"This is only the first year of what I hope will be a living document," Wolfe explained.

"If people are concerned about their planet, they may have to stop and say 'I may I have to do things differently.'"

See below for details.



Joshua Wolfe

Exploring sustainability priorities

The following is a list of priorities selected by city council for discussion at the public meeting September 10. Included are some of the other proposals considered but not prioritized for 2010.

Energy and Greenhouse Gas Reduction

Priorities

- Implement a self-financing program to retrofit city buildings for energy efficiency.
- Try energy efficiency pilot projects such as solar panels, geothermal heating or green roofs on public buildings.
- Change Hydro Westmount's mandate to also include conservation and sustainability.
- Promote energy efficiency in the community.
- Adopt architectural guidelines for installing and using solar panels and other alternative energy units.

Among other considerations

- Discourage use of diesel and gas-powered equipment
- Conduct energy-conservation workshops for residents
- Look into reducing cost of on-street parking for small cars.

The Three Waters

Priorities

- Try innovative means to keep rainwater on-site so it does not flow into sewer system.

- Look into replacing asphalt with rain-absorbing paving on low-traffic streets.

- Modify municipal regulations to encourage water conservation and reduce pollution.

- Explore ways to encourage Westmounters to conserve water.

- Develop ways to reduce the discarding of grass clippings and leaves on streets.

Among other considerations

- Explore the possibility of reducing stormwater run-off by planting vegetation along streets and lanes.

Nature and Biodiversity

Priorities

- Remove asphalted portions of Summit Circle within Summit Park where there are no houses.
- Look into installing beehives and/or vegetation on roofs of public buildings.
- Use city property to test more natural landscaping.
- Work with the community to protect major trees.
- Improve information on reasons not to feed wildlife.

Among other considerations

- Introduce young people to nature through park activities.
- Protect trampled areas in Summit Park from excessive dog walking.
- Distribute local tree species to residents.

Public Health

Priorities

- Make sure parks and streets are safe for pedestrians.
- Work with responsible agencies to install a sound barrier along expressway and rail line.
- Evaluate long-term recreation and health-promotion needs.
- Look into holding a seasonal market to offer organic products from the region.
- Encourage active transportation, especially for children.

Among other considerations

- Get local stores and restaurants to promote regional farm products.
- Work with responsible agencies to reduce noise and vibration from trains.
- Include additional daytime recreational activities geared to the self-employed, part-timers, evening workers and others.

Wasted Resources

Priorities

- Explore the idea of charging for excessive garbage, using revenues to offset recycling and composting costs.
- Collect recyclables from parks, commercial and other public areas.
- Get businesses and stores to recycle as soon as is feasible.
- Look into expanding organic waste collection to restaurants, schools and day-cares when composting sites become

available.

- Explore advantages of prohibiting the disposal of hazardous waste in regular garbage.

Among other considerations

- Try kitchen waste pilot projects in apartment buildings.
- Consider requiring the sorting of construction and demolition debris for recycling.
- Distribute "no junk mail" stickers to residents annually.

Transportation and Access

Priorities

- Ensure that main walking streets are inviting, attractive and comfortable for pedestrians.
- Review traffic calming measures to ensure they are safe and effective.
- Expand bike route network to connect to regional bike paths.
- Look into redesigning certain streets so children can play safely.
- Provide features for bus users (priority snow clearance, more seating and shelters at bus stops).
- Increase safety along bike paths.

Among other considerations

- Provide ample bicycle parking.
- Look into a shuttle to connect upper Westmount with Sherbrooke.
- Advertise job vacancies in nearby communities to encourage applicants more likely to commute by public transit.

Colourfully Yours

Loving the new patterns

BY GRETA VON SCHMEDLAPP,
MUSE TO AURÉLIEN GUILLORY



As usual, my dears, your flakey Greta must apologize for the delay. I have been touring the Eastern Townships, soaking up some of the local culture and delicious local foods (though I still haven't found the best place for a martini...any

ideas?)

I am now remembering the special visit we made to the charming Ontario area west of Toronto that I am calling "Kitcherloo." (I'm certain that you can figure that one out, my dears.) Aurel was invited to a veritable convocation of all of the "out-laws" including ones from Vancouver, the UK, and Abu Dhabi; so he agreed that the trip warranted interrupting the idyllic life in the country. He thought that your dear Greta would get a few design ideas during the trip, so he agreed to haul me along.

We were beautifully wine and dined at Langdon Hall, and the families did a super barbecue, with some scrumptious Pacific red salmon and Angus steaks. But my point (and I do have one) is that while enjoying the company of the Kitcherloo connection, we were given a tour of the house since the family did some renovations. The talented chef and mother of three, now young adults, had planned meticulously the redesign of the kitchen and dining room, and the results were both practical and elegant.

Her youngest, Anabell, 16, has an eye for colour and pattern that her Great Uncle Aurel noticed in her early years. We were treated to a visit to her newly redecorated bedroom, where all of the best examples of "The New Baroque Style" were

combined to create a remarkable reflection of her style. The well-travelled design sleuth that I am with Aurel, I really loved her room, and Aurel's analytic eye confirmed that the basic principles were intuitively understood by his niece.

First, he said, keep to a simple colour scheme, using one major colour, with a tint and tone of it. In this case, with purple, her favourite, she used a medium grape purple for accents, with a deep tone of aubergine for the small armchair near a chrome floor lamp with a steel 16-inch round table. The ceiling is not the usual white (that Aurel is always calling a cop-out!) but a lovely pale lilac.

Second, the general neutral for the carpet and walls is a silvery grey, with the shaggy rug a charcoal 50 percent darker than the wallpaper. Yes, my dear design fiends, both shag and wallpaper are having a grand resurgence...just ask my favorite Anais at her shop Empire on Park Ave. Aurel swears that she has saved several marriages with her keen understanding, and her vast choice, of wallpapers.

And, third, but not least, Anabell understood that the mix of patterns is well controlled when the scale of different patterns is either half or double the others used in the same room. She had selected a large 24-inch high silver-on-steel damask print foil wallpaper for all the walls, and had painted the door, baseboards and crown moulding a very similar silver that Empire's paint department whipped up. The bedspread was flocked (yes, flocking is back too!) in a 10- to 12-inch deep char-

coal, mauve on silver grey poly taffeta, and the pair of tall windows was hung with a deep aubergine and black thin stripe on the same silvery taffeta that she hung from a pair of rods with silver ball finials at the ends – found at Winners!

Aurel and I have seen several top designers incognito at the Montreal branches, and Anabell's mum was thrilled to find not only the curtain rods but the table and floor lamp there at the Kitcherloo outlet... Please remember your dear Greta when she says that good design hasn't got to be expensive...it's all in the plan and the mix.

I must go now and scoot back to the Townships to visit the vineyards of our beloved Westmouter Henrietta Antony. Aurel and I are planning to taste her son John's new white wine at their Chapelle Sainte Agnes near the hamlet of Sutton.

Yours in design, Greta von Schmedlapp.

PS: Aurelien's email is aurelien@colorsbyaurelien.com

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Ville de Westmount
City of Westmount

Heures d'affaires et services municipaux Fête du travail / Fin de l'horaire d'été

Veillez noter que tous les bureaux administratifs de la Ville de Westmount, soit l'hôtel de ville, le Victoria Hall, Hydro Westmount, et les Services de la sécurité publique, des sports et loisirs et des travaux publics seront fermés **le lundi 7 septembre** en raison de la Fête du travail. De plus, la Bibliothèque publique de Westmount sera fermée **les dimanche 6 septembre et lundi 7 septembre**.

Les heures normales d'ouverture dans les édifices municipaux, soit du lundi au vendredi de 8 h 30 à 16 h 30, reprendront **le mardi 8 septembre**. Veuillez noter que l'horaire estivale reste en vigueur jusqu'à cette date.

Prenez également note qu'il n'y a aucun changement quant à la collecte des résidus alimentaires et de jardinage qui s'effectuera à l'horaire normal.

Business Hours and Municipal Services Labour Day / End of Summer Hours

Please be advised that all administrative offices of the City of Westmount (City Hall, Victoria Hall, Hydro Westmount, Public Works, Public Security and Recreation) will be closed on **Monday, September 7** for the Labour Day holiday. Westmount Public Library will also be closed on both **Sunday, September 6** and **Monday, September 7**.

Regular office hours resume on **Tuesday, September 8** according to our regular schedule (Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.). Please note that summer hours are still in effect until that date.

Please note that kitchen and garden collection is unaffected, and will take place according to the regular schedule.



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Social Notes from Westmount and beyond Fondation Jeunesses Musicales



BY VERONICA REDGRAVE

The Fondation Jeunesses Musicales' 16th annual *dîner concert* was held on a splendid evening at the magnificent Eastern Townships home of **André Bourbeau**, president of the

Fondation, who hosted the event with president of honour **Tony Loffreda** of RBC Banque Royale.

RBC sponsored the event August 8 along with TELUS, the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec, Canimex and Pratt & Whitney, as well as Jarislowsky Fraser Ltd., Copap Inc. and Lavery, de Billy.

Guests sipped rosé wine served in elegant champagne flutes, as they admired a brown doberman puppy, a mare and her friendly foal, the little lake and the glorious gardens.

Quebec politicians present included **Pierre Duchesne**, lieutenant-governor of Quebec, former Quebec premiers **Bernard Landry**, **Lucien Bouchard** and **Jacques Parizeau**. Also present were **Denis Coderre**, **Monique Gagnon-Tremblay**,

Monique Jérôme-Forget, **Claude Forget**, **Gil Rémillard** and **Normand Jutras**.

Noted enjoying the concert were Caisse board president **Robert Tessier**, **Lisette La-**



Denis Coderre, Chantale Renaud, Westmounter Richard Gervais.

pointe, **Huguette** and **Roger Dubois**, **Louise Roy**, **Daniel Lambert**, **Luc Plamondon** and the mayor of Dunham, **Marcel Poirier**.

A sit-down dinner was served on tables inside the spacious indoor riding arena. Music from Italy was featured, in honour of renowned performer **Joseph Rouleau**, who has sung at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden for 30 years, and who sings this fall as the king of Egypt in *Aida*, presented by the Opéra de Québec.

Brava!



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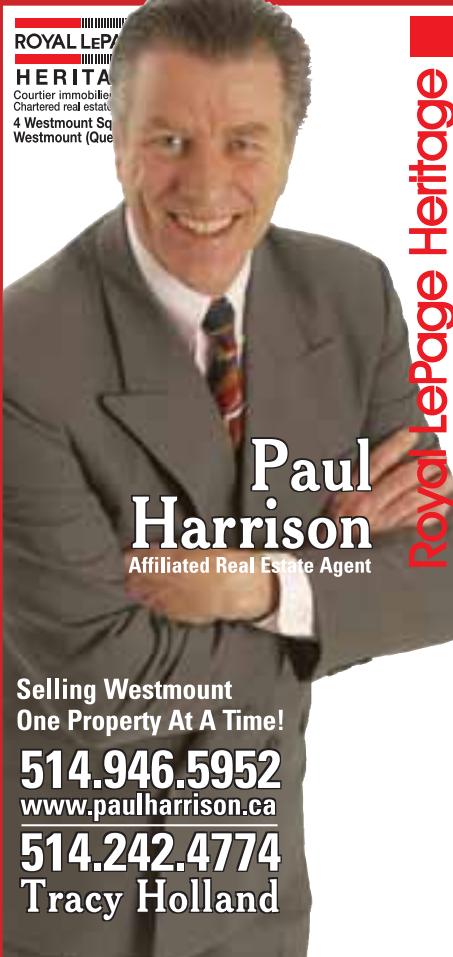
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Bought & Sold: Real estate transferred since May 25, 2009

Address	Price	Evaluation	Buyer	Seller	Date
3235 to 3241 St. Antoine St. (undivided 15.90% of)	\$183,000	\$483,000	Maja Radovic & Mitar Radovic	9208-9721 Quebec Inc.	1-Jun
1 Wood Ave. Apt. 104 & parking space	\$310,000	\$346,200	James Raymond	Jane Arnot	2-Jun
382 & 382A Metcalfe Ave. (47% indivis)	\$365,000	\$529,600	Marie-Josée Hénault	Laurence Drouin	30-Jun
205 Victoria Ave. # 103	\$385,000	\$395,300	Devon Ajram & Megan McCraig	104149 Canada Inc.	4-Jun
428 Claremont Ave.	\$393,000	\$329,900	Yong Tao Wang	Peter Zablocki	2-Jul
537 & 539 Lansdowne Ave. (undivided 46%)	\$403,500	\$527,300	Jennifer McGinn	Shuk Yee Law	29-Jun
112 Abbott Ave.	\$430,000	\$344,300		Phyllis Munday	18-Jun
537 & 539 Lansdowne Ave. (undivided 54%)	\$435,000	\$527,300	Trevor Ham	Susan Campbell & Shuk Yee Law	29-Jun
4700 St. Catherine St. # 407	\$479,000	\$430,900	Ron Pickering	Stella Piousos	25-May
435, 437 & 439 Grosvenor Ave.	\$510,000	\$4,785,000	David Woolfson	Development Villa Grosvenor Inc.	22-Jun
399 Clarke Ave. # 504 (5a)	\$560,000	\$432,800	Mustapha El Alaoui	Alec Anderson & Laura Rhoades	19-Jun
482 Wood Ave.	\$585,000	\$325,000	Michel Murdock & Susan Boskwick	Victor Rodriguez	22-Jun
4612 St. Catherine St.	\$600,000	\$477,400	Responsa Corporation	John Sampalis	30-Jun
373 Prince Albert Ave.	\$615,000	\$552,900	Aren Prupas & Alana Geller	Patricia Micks & Sylvia Micks (liquidators)	2-Jul
12 Springfield Ave.	\$652,000	\$558,500	Joanne Miller	Andrew Kerklaan & Jennifer Miller	15-Jun
571 Claremont Ave.	\$675,000	\$527,000	Tracy-Ann Toye & Debby Toye	Heather Solomon	16-Jun
431 Wood Ave.	\$740,000	\$653,400	Scott Pritchard & Jodi Lafreniere	Margaret Hughes & Charles Hughes	19-Jun
458 Claremont Ave.	\$745,000	\$519,200	Elizabeth Currie	Claude Simard & Katia Renaud	28-May
760 Upper Lansdowne Ave.	\$795,000	\$758,800	Ali Izadpanah	Ralph Wilkinson	15-Jun
500 Prince Albert Ave.	\$810,000	\$615,000	Frank Heidemann	Joanne Miller & Douglas Leahey	22-Jun
100 Sunnyside	\$823,000	\$785,000	Daniel Florian & Marissa Teolis	Michaela Sheaf	12-Jun
59 Chesterfield Ave.	\$870,000	\$692,000	L-M. Richer & G.Bich	Marc Bouchard & Geneviève Dechene	3-Jun
574 Grosvenor Ave.	\$890,000	\$850,000	Paul Beauchamp & Sylvie Godin	Thierry Metro & Adeline Talamon	15-Jun
25 Renfrew Ave.	\$900,000	\$1,037,300	Alan Kavanagh & Jennifer Sheridan	Christopher Dawson & Elizabeth Shelton	29-Jun
Lot – Summit Crescent/Lexington	\$937,300	N/A	Paul Simard	L'Oratoire Saint-Joseph du Mont-Royal	3-Jun
121 Arlington Ave.	\$965,000	\$825,000	Danielle Raphael	Mehran Asgary & Barbara Dressier	1-Jun
70 Summit Crescent	\$1,025,000	\$1,211,800	Joseph Fattal	The Federal Republic of Austria	23-Jun

continued on p. 16



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More bought and sold

continued from p. 14

Address	Price	Evaluation	Buyer	Seller	Date
29 de Casson Road	\$1,080,000	\$745,700	J. Ball & J. Murphy-Lavallée	Joseph Clément & Lisa Elkin	30-Jun
485 Elm Ave.	\$1,092,500	\$809,400	Brian Stein & Gayle Rubin	George Rentein	9-Jul
528 Mount Pleasant Ave.	\$1,100,000	\$851,900	Alexander Porritt & Gillian Ritchie	Felicia McMullen	29-May
40 Roxborough Ave.	\$1,100,000	\$1,394,300	Max Abadian & Marney Sobel	Bishara El Khoury & Paul Lutfy	3-Jun
379 Roslyn Ave.	\$1,100,000	\$681,000	M. Griffith & William Black	Alicia Hugessen	23-Jun
800 Lexington Ave.	\$1,108,485	\$972,800	6309348 Canada Inc.	Heidi Small	2-Jun
481 Strathcona Ave.	\$1,140,000	\$882,000	F. Blom & Marta Mamen (Blom)	Joel Segal & Eileen Ramos	19-Jun
786 Upper Belmont Ave.	\$1,150,000	\$1,012,100	Jonathan Wilner & Lisa Vatch	Solomon Scharf	2-Jul
4335 de Maisonneuve Blvd.	\$1,155,000	\$888,700	G. Sant'Anna & A. Guilhon de Araujo	Marie Tremblay	4-Jun
1 Wood Ave. Apt. 701 & 2 parking spaces	\$1,250,000	\$1,179,000	Bonnie Hamilton	Jane Wright	30-Jun
26 Melbourne Ave.	\$1,260,000	\$945,300	Alicia Hugessen & Dajan O'Donnell	Raymond Coulombe & Wendy Chancey	25-May
729 Upper Lansdowne Ave.	\$1,283,750	\$1,413,800	Curtis Raiche	Deborah Peel	30-Jun
629 Murray Hill Ave.	\$1,355,000	\$1,100,000	Catherine D'Amour	Stephanie Brenhouse	16-Jun
531 Grosvenor Ave.	\$1,450,000	\$1,400,000	Guy Casgrain	Christoph Schmitz & Susanne Rauter	2-Jun
68 Aberdeen Ave.	\$1,532,500	\$1,310,800	Randall Birks & Jeniene Birks	Gary Mintz	29-May
Lots – Surrey Gardens	\$1,550,213	N/A	Marie-France Pleau	L'Oratoire Saint-Joseph du Mont-Royal	3-Jun
9 Lansdowne Ridge	\$1,600,000	\$1,596,100	Yvon Michel	Société en Commandie Melbourne VI	9-Jul
401 Côte St. Antoine Rd.	\$1,650,000	\$799,900	François Magny & Petra Reichert	Tony Del Copro	3-Jun
593 Argyle Ave.	\$1,700,000	\$1,717,700	Edwina Bidner	Roberto Sinai	25-Jun
38 Belvedere Rd.	\$2,300,000	\$2,200,000	Marina Goussalova	Ann Wallace	30-Jun
526 Clarke Ave.	\$2,315,000	\$1,998,000	Heidi Drymer & Peter Graham	Sara Jill Price	30-Jun
Lots – Summit Crescent	\$3,502,511	N/A	Carole Guyamier & Geoffrey Robillard	L'Oratoire Saint-Joseph du Mont-Royal	2-Jul

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BUILDING PERMITS What's permitted

The following permits for exterior construction, alterations and renovation were approved at city council meetings of August 3.

19 Stayner: to rebuild rear balconies and stairs;

60 Oakland: to build a new addition on the south side, make some changes to the existing building and add a new front dormer to match the existing one;

53 Oakland: to rebuild the front entry, stairs and walkway and build a new canopy;

15 Park Place: to replace windows at Westmount Park School;

463 Mount Stephen: to replace all windows and doors except the front door and make an opening on the second floor of the rear;

27 Bellevue: to install a generator in the east side yard;

15 Oakland: landscaping front and rear to include repaving the driveway and building new terraces at rear; installation of a new hot tub;

789 Lexington: to replace the front and garage doors;

400 Lansdowne: to replace windows;
392 Victoria: to erect two signs for "Pretty Ballerinas";

390-392 Victoria: to do some storefront renovations including new wood paneling below windows and molding above;

3236 The Boulevard: to replace storm windows on the front bay;

4458 Sherbrooke: to replace the front door, windows and roof, and build a new rear balcony;

457 Lansdowne: to build a new rear deck and balcony;

470 Strathcona: front landscaping to include new pavers for the walkway and parking apron;

4325 Montrose: to modify façade and landscape at front;

35 Windsor: to replace back basement door in an enlarged area and rebuild steps;

368 Victoria: to install an A/C unit in back yard;

4290 Montrose: to replace the windows and ground floor back door;

25 Renfrew: to replace most windows;

3754 The Boulevard: renovations including a new front canopy;

657 Roslyn: to replace basement windows;

7 Winchester: to erect a fence along side and rear property lines;

635 Grosvenor: front and side landscaping to include a new fence on side and rear property lines, new planting areas and unit pavers for the walkway and parking apron;

461 Elm: to rebuild rear ground floor deck;

202 Côte St. Antoine: to replace storm windows for the side stairway and kitchen;

120 Abbott: to replace rear door;

3284 Cedar: to replace rear second storey sunroom windows and a ground floor door;

55 Belvedere Circle: to build a new garage addition with roof terrace on the south side accessible from Malcolm Rd. in Montreal;

484 Mount Pleasant: to enclose balconies and modify facades on the south and west walls;

310 Côte St. Antoine: to carry out required landscaping at the side of the new house;

306 Grosvenor: to replace some front windows;

53 de Lavigne: to replace front door.

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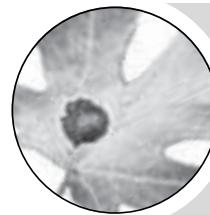
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Plusieurs érables à Westmount sont affectés depuis le printemps par la tache goudronneuse de l'érable.

Comme lutte préventive, les résidents sont priés de se débarrasser des feuilles contaminées UNIQUEMENT lors de la collecte hebdomadaire des résidus alimentaires et de jardinage de la Ville.

Surtout, il faut éviter de les mettre dans votre compostage domestique car la température maximale atteinte lors du processus de compostage ne détruit pas les spores du champignon.



Les dommages sont surtout d'ordre esthétique mais une infection sévère peut causer une chute prématurée des feuilles.

Pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter notre site Web.

While damages due to this fungus are generally esthetic in nature, severe cases may result in premature loss of leaves.

For more information, please consult our Web site.



Westmount

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Since the spring, many maple trees in Westmount have been afflicted with tar spot fungus.

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ON THE SHELVES

Among the new arrivals at the Westmount Public Library:

Adults – Reading the mind...

Intelligence and How to Get It by Richard E. Nisbett – This world-class social psychologist takes on the idea of intelligence as something that is biologically determined and impervious to culture – with vast implications for the role of education as it relates to social and economic development.

Embracing the Wide Sky by Daniel Tammet – One of the world's top living geniuses, Tammet takes us on a tour of brain science and the latest revelations about the mysterious, boundless frontiers of the human mind.

DVDs

The Class – Winner of the Palme d'Or best picture award at the 2008 Cannes Film Festival, *The Class* tells the story of François Martin, a teacher in a rowdy, inner-city middle school in Paris, which represents a microcosm of the conflicting cultures and attitudes in contemporary France.

One Week – When confronted with his mortality, Ben Tyler impulsively buys a vintage motorcycle and sets off on a road trip that starts in Toronto and ends on Vancouver Island. Humorous as well as poignant, *One Week* uses the great Canadian landscape as the backdrop to the story

of a man in the search for himself.

Adult French – White collar crime

L'affaire Madoff by Amir Weitmann – Bernard Madoff is by now a familiar figure, but who can really explain how he managed to fool hundreds of investors over a period of 15 years and not get caught? Weitmann, an investment manager himself, answers this question and presents a readable account of one of the worst cases of fraud of all times.

Le loup de Wall Street by Jordan Belfort – Belfort started and ran a brokerage firm and went to jail after being involved in fraudulent manoeuvres and insider trading. According to reviewers, his autobiography reads like a work of fiction.

Magazines

"Minority death match: Jews, blacks and the 'post-racial' presidency" by Naomi Klein in *Harper's*, Sept. 2009, p. 53.

"SOS monde sauvage: si aucune mesure n'est prise rapidement, de nombreuses espèces animales et végétales vont encore disparaître" by Cyril Hofstein in *Le Figaro*, August 14, 2009, p. 20.

Reference

A Leafy Legacy: The Trees of McGill University by Bronwyn Chester.

The Oxford Encyclopedia of Women in World History.

September at the Art Galleries

Galerie de Bellefeuille – Jim Dine: Vernissage, Sept. 10 (artist will be present 5:30 - 7:30 pm) Exhibit continues to Oct. 7. Jennifer Hornyak, Michael Harrington: Vernissage, Sept. 24 at 5:30 pm. Exhibit continues to Oct 5. 1367 Greene, 514.933.4406.

Galerie D'Este – Women artists: Vernissage, Sept. 9 at 5 pm. Exhibit continues to Oct 11. 1329 Greene, 514.846.1515.

Galerie V Trimont – Dominic Besner: ongoing. 4259 St Catherine, 514.658.7214.

Gallery at Victoria Hall – 10th anniversary exhibit of 57 artists: "The Gallery Celebrates". Exhibit: Sept. 10 to Oct 3. 4626 Sherbrooke, 514.989.5226.

Han Art – Alice Burton: Vernissage, Sept. 17 at 6 pm. Exhibit continues to Oct. 17. 4209 St. Catherine, 514.876.9278.

McClure Gallery / Visual Arts Centre – McGill Institute for Learning in Retirement (MILR) artists group show: Vernissage, Sept. 3 at 6 pm. Exhibit continues to Sept. 5. Don Brault: Vernissage, Sept. 17 at 6 pm. Exhibit continues to Oct. 3. 350 Victoria, 514.488.9558.

Parisian Laundry – Group exhibit: "Summertime in Paris". Exhibit continues to Sept. 5. 3550 St Antoine, 514.989.1056.

West End Gallery – Susan Hudson, Ingrid Harrison: New works. 1358 Greene, 514.933.4314.

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Westmount Memories

School days – Part 3 (of 3)

BY GAVIN ROSS

In the 1940s, we used to ride on the ancient POM bakery trucks delivering bread, cinnamon buns and doughnuts all over Westmount.

I remember walking home at lunch from junior high on Academy Rd. to our house on Sherbrooke and finding a police car in front of the house. My poor mother was a bit distraught as I was being accused of firing my Roy Rogers BB gun across the backyard, hitting Mrs. McClair's window as she sat alone reading a mystery story. My BB gun was quickly consigned to the country and I took some verbal abuse from both my mother and Sergeant Baker, whom later I got to know quite well – in a positive way!

My father was a good disciplinarian who was very conscious of money. I used to tell him what some of my friends had and why couldn't I have a new bicycle, etc.? He said, "Sure, get out and earn the money!"

Gazette carrier

So that's when I became a *Gazette* carrier. A *Gazette* route in those days was considered very special and I had to wait until a current "boy" in the area decided to call it quits. I remember paying him \$5 and the route was mine. It was Argyle Ave and Thornhill. I loved it and enjoyed collecting the 30 cents a week from my customers who didn't pay at the office. It was my first experience with the concept of "service."

My last paper had to be on the doorstep or in the letterbox by 7 am and the circulation manager, Mr. Lewis, seemed to love firing paperboys who didn't get it right. Maybe he got \$5 per route? Next, I got the route in which I lived and came to know most of the people who were my customers.

In those days, the *Gazette* was between 16 and 22 pages, easy to fold in advance and throw to the doorsteps or stuff in the letterboxes for those jerks who insisted it be so!

Our dog used to come with me and got a great workout, especially in winter with the huge snow banks. No leash or "poop & scoop" laws in those days! One of my favourite places to deliver was the Ambassador apartments at the corner of Sherbrooke and Strathcona where I could get in from the cold and just drop the papers at each door.

We were paid a cent per paper per day. I had about 100 papers and so made \$6 a week, but the Christmas tips were great

and one year allowed me to buy a three-speed Raleigh bike, then the "Cadillac" of bicycles. I bought it new for \$75 while my parents were at a medical conference somewhere. Dad wasn't too pleased when he got home and found it. Thought it was too extravagant!

What the hell, it was my money!

We lived on Sherbrooke St. during the World War II years, and some of my friends' fathers were overseas. I had never met them and my friends didn't really know them well. My father had been a pilot in World War I in the RFC, later to be the RAF. He was a lieutenant colonel in the reserve; first attached to the 17th Hussars, then CO of the RCAMC 6th Field Ambulance right beside the Hillside Tennis Club.

Ian Black's father was with the Engineers, a major as I recall. When he was promoted to lieutenant colonel the Blacks had a dog, a mutt, which they called Colonel but Ian's father was in such heavy action that he jumped two ranks to be a brigadier in about a week. The dog stayed a colonel!

For some reason, we used to pull him around the streets in a wagon. Ian's father used to send home German helmets and occasionally German officers' uniforms. His mother baked the helmets in the oven, I guess to kill the germs, and I can still smell the scent of hot leather headbands. At Halloween, we used to dress up like German soldiers and scare the hell out of the old ladies on Springfield and Mt. Stephen! We were pretty nasty kids!

How well I remember my friend Carter Powis' father coming home from the war. He was a "gunner," a lieutenant colonel in the artillery – part of the Canadian force that liberated the Netherlands. I remember they lived at 389 Metcalfe, just below Sherbrooke; the house was torn down years ago to make way for an apartment building on that corner. Over the front door of the house was a large sign saying "Welcome Home Daddy." What nice people his parents were! Mrs. Powis (Sally) played the piano and the colonel, now Mr. Powis, sang some pretty "lively" songs.

Our family moved away from Sherbrooke St. to 657 Lansdowne at the corner of The Boulevard when I was in grade 8.

Gavin Ross is a former Westmounter. For Part I of "Schools days", see our July 14 issue, p. 20, and for Part II see our August 18 issue, p. 20, both available online at www.westmountindependent.com.

Comin Up'

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

ArtNow speakers: artist Roxanne Dyer, photographer Linda Rutenberg, and Aurelien Guillory on colour psychology. Westmount Public Library at 7 pm. Free admission.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

Art historian **Sandra Paikowsky** gives an illustrated presentation on "James Wilson Morrice (1865-1924): A Canadian Painter in Venice" at Atwater Library (1200 Atwater), 12:30 pm. Coffee served, free admission, donations welcomed.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

The **Westmount Lawn Bowling Club** (401 Kensington) hosts the Governor General's Tournament. Opening ceremony 10 am. Lunch \$10. All welcome. Info: 514.483.1752 or rmeneat@sympatico.ca.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Sundays at the Shaar presents soprano **Sharon Azrieli** in a mini concert of Broadway and opera. Lunch at 12 noon followed by performance. Cost: \$5 for lunch and lecture. Reserve by calling the Congregation Shaar Hashomayim (425 Metcalfe) at 514.937.9471.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Public meeting on "A Sustainable Westmount" at 7 pm, Victoria Hall, to discuss **sustainable development** objectives and priorities. Info: www.westmount.org/sustainable. See story, p. 8.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Opening reception for **The Underdog Club Gallery** from 6 to 9 pm. All welcome. A collection of dogs both in pictures and in person-on display to adopt, buy, learn from, and cry over, from September 11 to 27 at 4922 Sherbrooke St. (between Prince

Albert and Claremont) Info: 514.969.3376 or fern@underdogclub.org

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

• **Indoor rinks** for hockey and general skating will be open to the public at Westmount arena.

• "Chocolate Tasting and Beyond", a tasting and lecture by nutritionist **Yves Filion**, 7 pm at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom (395 Elm Ave.) Fee: \$15. Sign up in advance: 514.342.1234, ext. 7201.

• **Dyslexiability**, a Westmount-based not-for-profit charitable organization (4999 St. Catherine St. #231) helping people with **learning difficulties**, is hosting a lecture by Ronald Davis, author of "The Gift of Dyslexia" and "The Gift of Learning", 6 pm at Côte St. Luc city hall. Donations welcomed. Register: www.dyslexiability.com.

• The **Montreal Camera Club's** opening meeting, 7:30 pm at Westmount Park Church (4695 de Maisonneuve Blvd., corner Lansdowne, rear entrance). Info: johnzimmerman@videotron.ca or visit www.montrealcameraclub.com.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

"**Introduction to Judaism**", a 13-week course open to community. Begins at 5:45 pm at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom (395 Elm Ave.) Fee for materials. Register: 514.937.3575.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Westmount Historical Association presents "**The Turcot Interchange** in Westmount: Then and Now" with speakers Brian Merrett, photographer; David Caruthers, activist; Jason Prince urban planner. Westmount Library from 7 to 9 pm. Free for members, \$5 for non-members at door. Info: 514.989.5510.

Always On

Choirs

Harmonia Westmount, a local women's ensemble that performs in a variety of musical styles and languages, is starting rehearsals Tuesday, September 22 at Victoria Hall from 7 to 9.30 pm. Ongoing from September to June. Previous choral experience and sight-reading ability are recommended but not required. Qualities sought are a strong musical sense, ability to sing in tune and possess a pleasant voice. To schedule an audition or for more information: email harmoniawestmount@gmail.com or call 514.932.2026.

The **Yellow Door Choir** uses the gift of

song to support charitable organizations and performs free concerts at seniors' residences such as Manoir Westmount. It rehearses locally and is directed by Westmount resident, Eleanor Stubleby. Auditions for men and women for the 2009-2010 season is on Wednesday, September 2. To schedule an audition: 514.488.1107 or email urhd@videotron.ca. Info: www.yellowdoorchoir.com

Community centres

Centre Greene is accepting registrations for its after-school program. Registration is ongoing, Monday to Friday. Pro- continued on p. 20

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Always On...

continued from p. 19

gram includes gym and park time, home-work hour and a snack. Ages 5-12. \$195 per month (sliding scale and family discounts available). Info: 514.931.6202 or www.centregreene.org.

Contactivity Centre for Seniors' registration for fall courses is Thursday, September 24, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm at 4695 de Maisonneuve W. Courses include: Bridge (three levels), Stretch to Music, line dancing, Tai Chi, a history course "Canada's Prime Ministers", and a philosophy course "Reflecting on the Worlds We Inherit". Also offering inter-generational choir, twice weekly community lunches, trips and outings and volunteering. For ages 60 and over. Info: 514.932.2326.

Drama

Dramatis Personae, Westmount's community theatre, will hold the first meeting of the season in the Lodge Room of Victoria Hall on Monday, Sept. 14 at 8 pm. The session starts with drama exercises, and rehearsals begin in early December. New members welcome; experience not necessary. Fee for fall session: \$120. To register or info: 514.486.7423 or 514.484.2016, or email dramatis.personae07@gmail.com

Fitness

The **Westmount Running Room** offers a free run/walk club every Wednesday at 6 pm and Sunday at 8:30 am. The groups leave from the store located at 4873 Sherbrooke St. Info: 514.483.4495 or westmount@runningroom.com.

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Underdog Holy Trinitie

BY FERN BRESLAW



It's interesting how some people with physical challenges tend to be more positive and make more of their lives than the rest of us. Perhaps they value themselves more because it wasn't all handed to them. This is as true for dogs (if not more) as it is for people. Whether they are blind, deaf or crippled – the disabled dogs I have seen all manage to bring a Helen Keller attitude to the table.

Trinitie is one such dog. She was dropped at the SPCA a couple of months

ago and hopped inside quite happily on her three little legs. No one knows what happened to the fourth; only that it was amputated some time ago.

On top of a missing leg, Trinitie is middle aged (eight or so), and a pitt. She has absolutely no reason, given all of this, to love the world and everyone in it as much as she does – but somehow she manages to anyway.

The kids at the shelter are in mad, crazy love with her and with good reason. She adores everyone, is great with dogs and will probably love cats. She is calm and gentle and everything one could hope for in a three-legged senior reject.

She doesn't get nearly enough snuggling in her cage and really deserves a home. Now, given her situation, it is clear that people who live up a long flights of stairs or who are long distance runners may not be the best suitors for her. Ditto for very young kids or other dogs in the home – not for them but for her since she could fall on her face if she were pushed.

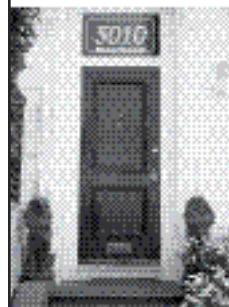
She has been spayed, is as cute as they come and is ready to go as soon as somebody comes for her. The bottom line is this dog is heaven. Please call 514.969.3376 or visit the Montreal SPCA to see for yourself just how good she is.



Trinitie

Photo: Marko Kulik

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Westmount Profile: Barbara Covington

Preserving Westmount's heritage

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

As a child in China during the Sino-Japanese War, she experienced the life of a refugee. As a pre-teen, she swam in a piranha-infested river in the jungles of British Guyana.

And with stints in Toronto and high school years in Arvida, Quebec, Barbara Covington was well-adapted to moving around. So she did, every two or three years, first as the daughter of a Canadian physician in rural areas and later as the wife of a hotel manager.

"It was a very unusual childhood," she admits. "It sounds very exotic, but to me it was what everyone did. It seemed perfectly normal. But I think I was given a different perspective. I was always the new girl at school – like families in the military or the foreign service."

After careers in nursing and library science, the mother of three grown sons has now found a niche in retirement that draws on much of her life experience.

Volunteer archivist

As the volunteer archivist for the Westmount Historical Association, she has become well versed in local heritage while appreciating the period of Chinese history she lived through during the 1930s.

Born in Peking (Beijing), she was the daughter of Dr. H. H. Gilbert, a Canadian physician who ran an Anglican Church of Canada hospital in rural Shang Qiu where Barbara spent her early years. When the Japanese invaded from the north in 1937, it was decided that she and her mother should live in the safer coastal town of Tsingtao (Quingdao).

"Communication with my father was cut off. We were basically refugees with nothing to live on but what the church could send us." Eventually reunited, the family left for Toronto on Boxing Day, 1939. Her father was two years over his mandate and Barbara was nearly 10.

With World War II under way, he took a job with Alcan as the medical officer for its hospital in (then British) Guyana where the company was mining bauxite for the wartime production of aluminum. "We went there by passenger ship in 1941," she recalls. Barbara became one of seven children in a one-room school.

"We were in the middle of the jungle at a company town called Mackenzie up the Demerara, a tidal river. We swam in it regularly, but only at the change of tide be-

cause of the piranha. I remember our instructions well. We also had to be home and inside when the sun went down. That's when the malaria mosquito came out. And the sun goes down in a very short period of time."

Nevertheless, "I got malaria at the most severe level. So, to prevent me getting it again, I was sent to boarding school at Havergal in Toronto for two years."

After the war, she was off to high school in Arvida where her father was sent to run Alcan's hospital there. It was the same one in which she worked as a registered nurse after graduating in 1953 with a degree from the University of Toronto.

It was also in Arvida where Barbara met and married Stuart Covington, the manager of "the grand" Alcan hotel where many dignitaries stayed while visiting the world-renowned smelter. "Two of our three sons were born in Arvida," she says. Bruce, Graham and Derek were all later raised in Westmount, graduates of Roslyn and LCC.

Barbara and family moved around as Stuart managed the Queen's Hotel in Montreal – where they all lived during Expo '67, and the Four Seasons in Toronto and Montreal, where they returned for the Olympics in 1976. "We decided stay here and live in Westmount."

Always fascinated with books, Barbara pursued a library diploma at Concordia University. In 1980, she began a new 20-year career running the nurses' library at the Montreal General Hospital. She introduced computers and trained nurses in the new technology. "It was a very good combination of my professions, and I thoroughly enjoyed it."

Just before retiring in 2000, she took on a volunteer role as archivist for the Westmount Historical Association, where she continues to build the collection. "It allows me to keep up my library skills and to learn so much about Westmount. Our website and email address generate a lot of questions. The Turcot interchange is a hot topic right now, and I was deluged with questions about Westmount Park over the soccer field issue."

Covington tries to limit her time to once a week so she can keep up with other activities, including visits to her five grandchildren in Ottawa and in London, England. She's also an avid knitter of children's clothing and toys for her booth at the Westmount Artisans' Fair. "I knit every day," she says.



Barbara Covington displays some of the WHA memorabilia at its offices in the Westmount Library.

One of her favourite stories is a long one she starts with: "You won't believe it!" On a trip to China before the 2008 Olympics, her son Derek, who works for the Canadian Olympic Committee, visited the street where she had lived as a child. He then discovered at a pre-Games dinner that the person beside him was the grandson of the doctor who immediately preceded his own grandfather at the rural

hospital.

The other "grandson" was Mark Rowswell, a prominent Canadian actor in China known as "Dashun" and the Canadian commissioner general for the 2010 Shanghai World Expo.

To Covington, the chance meeting of the two men underlined the significance of her roots – just as she is helping preserve Westmount's own heritage.

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Things that make you go hmmm....

When: Saturday, August 29, 4:17 pm

Where: On the edge of Summit Park at a stop sign

What: A woman is standing just outside Summit Park, waiting to cross Summit Circle with her dog. A man is driving along Summit Circle. When he fails to stop at the stop sign, the woman yells "Hey, you didn't stop!" The man backs up and says "There was no one there, and anyway I slowed down." She says "You don't stop at stop signs?" To which he replies "Sometimes we don't stop at stop signs in Westmount."

If you witness something interesting, bizarre, humourous, sad, maddening or outrageous, send us your story. All persons involved will remain anonymous, but places and times should be clearly stated.

Camp 'bounces' boys to read



Adults, from left, Miss Drouin, Abakasanya Etang, Dwayne Harris, Jamal Spence and Pamela Price.

Kids are going back to school this month, but a different kind of education has just ended for students of Westmount Park School.

Twenty boys showed up in August for the two-week Bouncing Boys Back to Books camp. The idea is to get boys reading, using a variety of techniques, including inviting male role models to read to the class.

Basketball sessions have also been a big part of the camp.

Guest readers included Montreal police officer Jean Jeremy and author Paul Kropp. Among the staff were Westmount Park teacher Miss Drouin, Westmount High coach and teacher Dwayne Harris, and former students Abakasanya Etang and Jamal Spence.

The camp's head teacher, Pamela Price, explained to the *Independent* that it was created with the support of Westmount Park School principal Christina Delaney, the Supporting Montreal Schools Program and the Strachan Hartley Legacy Foundation.

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Weekend to End Breast Cancer raises \$5.7 million



The Weekend to End Breast Cancer walk did not go through Westmount this year, but Westmounters were active in the event, including Perry Brit-

ton and Elaine Dubrovsky, who co-chaired the event with Michael Corber. There were 2,195 participants in the two-day, 60-kilometre trek, which raised \$5.7 million for the Jewish General Hospital. New this year – its fifth anniversary – was an expanded mandate to combat all types of women's cancer. Indeed, in 2010, the event is changing its name to the Weekend to End Women's Cancers.

From left: Perry Britton, Elaine Dubrovsky and Michael Corber.

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