

City delays arena/pool information package to April

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Residents will wait a week or so longer than expected for the city's promised information package revealing what proponents are describing as an imaginative concept for the arena/pool project.

The mailing is now expected to reach

all households and other addresses on Hydro Westmount's billing list in the days following the council meeting of April 6, Mayor Peter Trent said. It had been planned for the end of March.

"We decided to postpone the mailing a week because of Passover and Easter during the last week of March," he explained.

"We have done a lot of homework and innovative thinking in a short period of time and are very anxious for all the information to reach citizens as soon as possible so we can receive their feedback and proceed if they provide general approval."

Trent would not reveal details in advance, saying it was important that a full rationale and explanation accompany the design proposal so that everything could be considered in context. This would include cost projections, tax implications, other calculations and the results of traffic, user needs and operating cost studies.

Spring flower show in full bloom



Preparing for the opening of the city's spring flower show Wednesday, March 24, are, from left, city gardeners Hélène Bazinet, Marie-Anne Lemieux and Christophe Côté. The exhibit, complete with rabbit family and the city's traditional windmill, is open to the public weekdays 10 am to 9 pm, and weekends and holidays 10 am to 5 pm. This year's show features a greater variety of flowers.



Mars through a telescope. At the Earth Hour event at the Summit Lookout, viewers will be able to see the red planet as well as Saturn, weather permitting.

Don't Miss It

Earth Hour and related events take place on Saturday, March 27 between 8:30 and 9:30 pm. See p. 13.

SAQ: Limit of 1 local paper, Westmount 'allowed' English one

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

The Société des Alcools du Québec (SAQ) says it has not banned English-language publications from the entranceway of its Victoria and Sherbrooke outlet, even though the provincially run liquor corporation's regulations effectively limit the number of English-language community newspapers allowed at the Westmount SAQ store.

Following last week's report in the *Independent* ("Anglo papers banned from local SAQ," March 16, p. 1) on the SAQ's

policy that currently restricts to one the number of English-language community papers from Westmount available at the store, SAQ corporate spokesperson Linda Bouchard outlined some of the guidelines established so that store managers could decide for themselves which publications to allow.

Bouchard noted that an array of SAQ promotional material is available in English at many of its stores. In addition, she said, the managers were told they could choose one publication that is widely-read in the *continued on p. 10*



Westmount Page p. 15

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Bike path now open

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Given the early spring weather this year, Westmount's bike path is opening ahead of the usual April 1 target.

"We had to order a number of the delineating green poles that were damaged last year, and the path will open as soon as they can be installed," said city director Duncan Campbell. This had been by March 19.

"We've cleaned up most of the streets around the bike path with the sweeper and

flusher but couldn't open it until we had the proper equipment in place," he said, adding that to do otherwise would be "negligent" given the two-way traffic on a one-way street.

While the bike path usually starts up in April, "we felt that with the meltdown we could open early. Everyone's calling for the Bixi bikes to be made available in Montreal [given the good weather] so we're all scrambling."

And if more snow is received, Campbell said, hopefully it will melt quickly.



A man cycles west on March 19. The bike path is open and parking is illegal again on this stretch of de Maisonneuve – until winter (at least).

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Black Lab attacks terrier on Grosvenor

Grosvenor Ave. resident Catherine Kierans was getting ready to walk her Kerry blue terrier, Maggie, on the evening of March 3 when her dog was attacked outside her house by a black Lab (or larger-than-Lab mix). The attacking dog bit hers in the back and knocked Kierans down in the mêlée, leaving her with a bruised

ankle.

Maggie required emergency veterinarian care. It was dark outside, but the woman walking the Lab is described as tall, slim, white, English-speaking, in her 30s or 40s and wearing a black hooded jacket. She ran away after the incident.

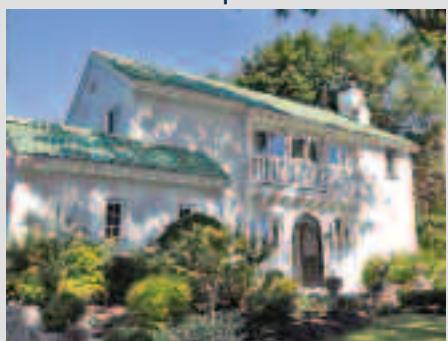
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Posting unveiled at Station 12

Police enshrine services to citizens

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Police services to citizens and the community have been enshrined in a framed document posted March 16 at the entrance to Westmount's Station 12 on Stanton St.

Unveiled by station commander Stéphane Plourde and Mayor Peter Trent, the "Declaration of Services to Citizens"



Unveiling the police department's "Declaration of Services to Citizens" are, from left: Station 12 commander Stéphane Plourde, Lieutenant Pierre Liboiron and Mayor Peter Trent.

formally describes the role of police based on three stated fundamental values of respect, integrity and commitment.

"The services we are committed to are the same ones we have been providing," Plourde said. "They are now being posted so that everyone coming to the station will see them."

While the initial mounting is in French, an English version will be forthcoming, Plourde explained. Both English and French pamphlets are available on the station counter. It is especially important that newcomers and tourists be well acquainted with the police role, he added.

The Montreal police service, the declaration states, "has placed a priority on the quality of service it offers to citizens" in accordance with the principles set out by the Canadian and Quebec charters of rights and freedoms and the Montreal Charter on Rights and Responsibilities.

The seven principles to which the SPVM (Service de police de la Ville de Montréal) is committed are outlined as follows:

- We commit to constantly improve our services to the diverse Montreal community through innovation and professionalism, and to offer services adapted to the needs and realities of local communities.
- To fulfill its mission, the SPVM team is at your disposal to listen and will engage intervention approaches together with

those involved.

- The SPVM's qualities are based on continuous training and constantly displaying polite, responsive and courteous behaviour.
- SPVM personnel take the time necessary to treat your request according to organizational priorities. They bring the most complete answer possible to you and, if

need be, you will be directed towards the proper resource.

- The SPVM receives citizen-filed complaints from everywhere on the territory where it serves.
- In respect to the right to privacy, the SPVM ensures informing victims of the steps taken from the moment the complaint is filed through to its results, within a reasonable delay.
- Priority is given to any citizen in physical danger.

Comments or questions regarding local services may be made to Station 12 at 514.280.0112. General comments should be emailed to commentaries @ spvm.qc.ca.

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Volunteer appreciation at Centre Greene



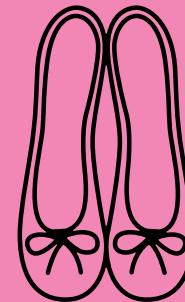
Development coordinator and volunteer, Wesley McCoy, with other young volunteers during the appreciation evening, March 18.

BY RALPH THOMPSON

The annual Centre Greene VIP and volunteer evening took place March 18 at the centre's facility on Greene.

The evening demonstrated the cross section of community support. More than 30 people, young and old, enjoyed a light snack and drinks. Peter Marcovitz, a lawyer with Baron Abrams, has worked with Centre Greene for 20 years and has been its president for the past three years. He gave a short speech thanking the volunteers for their generous support, and

Jackie Neville announced the winner of the Volunteer of the Year award, which went to Erica Bloom (not present) for her long list of contributions. The Centre provides a wide range of activities and programs for the community, including young offenders' community work, a Chinese Sunday school, Meals on Wheels, summer camps and tai chi. It has a budget of about \$250,000 and is a not-for-profit group that operates on government grants, donations and volunteer support. For more information, visit www.centre-greene.org or call 514.931.6202.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CAN SAQ BE MORE BROAD-MINDED?

How narrow-minded! Are there not two official languages in Canada? I was recently in Hawkesbury at the LCBO buying Famous Grouse Scotch and Pelee Island wines. Neither is available in Quebec.

I picked up a copy of *Food & Drink* in English, but there were also copies of the magazine available in French. An employee carried my purchases to the car for me. When was the last time an employee of the SAQ helped you to the car? It is such a pity that the Quebec government, and in particular the SAQ, cannot be more broad-minded and polite in this language issue.

BEVERLEY HUTCHISON, KITCHENER AVE.

SAQ WANTS THE BUSINESS

With regard to your article “Anglo papers banned from local SAQ” (March 16, p. 1), I have a feeling that this branch is becoming more and more militant. On my recent visit, I was told by a female clerk that she did not speak English. She said this in French. This was the same woman who, some months ago, served me in perfect English and even assisted me in finding certain items – all in English.

It is going to be interesting to see how the staff will deal with the Westmount clientele once the new and improved store is opened. At least we still receive the promotional material of the SAQ in English.

So they do want our business.

BRIGITTA BRITAIN, GROSVENOR AVE.

SAQ VS. FREEDOM, EQUALITY

The *Independent* reported in its March 16 issue that the SAQ has banned all English-language community publications from its stores throughout Quebec, while allowing French-language community publications to be promoted. That policy has since been confirmed through several calls to the SAQ directly.

This policy is an affront to the freedom of the press, freedom of speech and equality. It is both abhorrent and frightening that a government-run institution, such as the SAQ, can discriminate between publications based on language alone. Not only is it petty, unnecessary and mean spirited, it is arbitrary and dangerous.

The SAQ has neither the legal right, business case nor the moral grounds to justify such a discriminatory policy – quite the inverse. As a government-run institution, it raises serious questions with respect to Quebec’s complicity and accountability in the matter, and the danger such governmental encroachment presents to our freedoms. It also resurfaces questions regarding the calculated marginalization of the English community.

If there is a rationale for the SAQ decision to bar English community papers

from its stores, I would greatly appreciate an explanation.

All members of the press ought to be concerned when any member of their community is threatened. This blatant affront cannot be met with silence. Lest any member of the press believe this is not their battle, remember that it may not be you today, but it could be tomorrow.

That said, until such time as the SAQ decides to articulate a policy that treats members of the Quebec community equally, I would encourage all constituents to investigate the matter until it is resolved in a way that restores fairness and equality.

MARC FELGAR, GROSVENOR AVE.

DOUBTS SAQ WANTS TO OFFEND

Regarding “Anglo papers banned from local SAQ” (March 16, p. 1), I do hope this is a misunderstanding.

After years of indifferent service at that outlet, it has become a pleasure to shop there. Not only are the employees knowledgeable and seem pleased to share and advise; but it does not appear to bother them in which language they do so.

If it is just one employee, perhaps she would be happier working in a different part of town. If it is store policy, then there are several other outlets not too far away where, I for one, will be happier. Remember their flyers are sent to us in English.

I cannot imagine that this store, about to make a costly move, would want to offend anyone.

HONOR BARRETT, KENSINGTON AVE.

MODERN NOT UNNOTICED

With reference to Gavin Affleck’s piece “Modern architecture is a historic Westmount style” (March 16, p. 7), I would like to make the following comment.

Modern architecture has not gone unnoticed in Westmount. In the early 1990s, the Architectural and Planning Commission, whose members were Mark London, Derek Drummond and myself, recognized the importance of the best modern buildings in Westmount by assigning them with a Category I status so that they would be preserved and appreciated by future generations.

Included were 16 St. Georges Pl. by Ray Affleck, 603 Clarke by Joseph Baker, 461 Clarke by Demetri Dimakopoulos, 67 Forde Cres. by Fred Lebensold, 36 Surrey Gardens by Max Roth and Stuart Wilson, 78 Summit Cres. by Richard Weinstein, Greenspoon, Friedlander & Dunne, 95 Summit Cres. by Victor Prus.

Also there are two Category I modern

houses on Lansdowne Ave., near the site on which Affleck and de la Riva want to build a modern work: 501 by Jacques Guilion and 520 by John Schreiber.

Westmount’s city council should endorse the work of talented architects like Gavin Affleck and Richard de la Riva. Good architectural design, no matter what the style, is preferable than much of the pastiche of uninformed traditionalism that we are seeing promoted in the city. Good modern architecture can co-exist within traditional streetscapes.

Sadly, Mies van der Rohe’s Westmount Square would not be approved today.

BRUCE ANDERSON, EMERITUS PROFESSOR OF ARCHITECTURE, MCGILL UNIVERSITY

CONTEMPORARY CAN RESPECT TRADITIONAL

I applaud Gavin Affleck for his eloquent discussion of contemporary design and urban planning in the March 16 issue (“Modern architecture is a historic Westmount style”, p. 7). As the addition to the Westmount library demonstrates, good things can happen when contemporary architecture is allowed to be an authentic expression of its own period while being respectful of its neighbours. Westmount needs more of that kind of cultural vitality.

GEORGE VAITKUNAS, SPRINGFIELD AVE.

PROTECT OR BUILD?

Indie’s recent editions highlight mutually exclusive views of Westmount’s land assets. News of the 25-year protection of St. Joseph Oratory woodlands (March 2, p. 1) came as a relief after your real estate transaction reports of Oratory lots already sold or developed. These rare wooded lots are among the last distinguishing features of Westmount’s mountain.

On the other hand, “Building litigants look back” (March 16, p. 9) quotes owners building to the maximum on their sites – bigger and higher than their neighbours, whose views they block. The resident quoted on p. 12 forgets that “the better cities in this country” are not endowed with mountains in their midst and with a history of fine residential architecture that respects them.

And the best cities, like Paris, are those that legislate the rights to the protection of light and of open views for the benefit of all citizens.

We can try to have it both ways – overbuilding in finite space – but not for long. Westmount may already have lost its balance.

LUCY FELLOWES, WOOD AVE.

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Would 'tram-train' idea help Westmount?



Civic Alert

DON WEDGE

For nearly 70 years, travellers using Dorval airport have pined for a better public transport link with downtown. For the first time, next Monday, March 29, there will be direct city bus service – the Société de transport de Montréal (STM)'s 747 shuttle.

What's more, it has renewed the debate about the best method of transport to the airport. A train service has been proposed from one of the downtown terminals. Now, inspired by the new bus service, an alternative has been suggested: streetcars using the Canadian Pacific (CP) tracks. It deserves a close look.

So far, it has seemed to be a choice between using the CP line through Westmount or the Canadian National (CN) right of way through St. Henri.

The CP route is the local preference.

It is assumed the airport shuttle would mean electrification of the line and the installation of long-welded rails, so that for all traffic, there would be a much quieter operation, and pollution problems would be reduced. The idea of a fast trip to the airport from Vendôme intermodal station is another plus.

Train noise

Even if the CN airport route is chosen, there will still be a lot of train noise as commuter diesel-hauled traffic will continue to pass through on its way to and from Blainville, St. Jérôme, Candiac – and quite possibly the West Island. So the plague of the heavy locomotives' noise and air pollution will not abate.

The idea using "tram-trains" instead of

full-length trains has been put forward by Peter McQueen, the Montreal city councillor for the NDG district. In a letter to the *Gazette* last week, he proposed the adaptation of the present bus plan to substitute streetcars on the CP route.

The 747 shuttle

The 747 bus will stop six times on René Lévesque Blvd. as well as at Lionel Groulx Metro station and then run as an express to Dorval.

McQueen proposes that the streetcars would follow the same path on René Lévesque until near the Canadian Centre for Architecture (CCA), where they would join the CP tracks.

Though a first-term councillor, McQueen has long been interested in increasing CP line use. In the past he has called for more stations in Lachine and NDG. But, if the latest idea is pursued, would Westmount want a stop, too?

Would it provide a new burst of glory for the old station, presently unused and mothballed at the foot of Victoria Ave.? Its proximity to Vendôme makes that unlikely. Would there be enough passengers to support a stop to the east – perhaps at Greene Ave.?

Would the supposed "advantages" of the line upgrade, particularly the track, be justified for a tram service? The diesels would still be required for the Blainville and Candiac lines.

The biggest objectors might be the mayors and commuters of the West Island. Their wish to have an electrified route would be in jeopardy. It would mean the continuation of the present diesel-hauled service to Vaudreuil – a big part of Westmount's "train noise" problem.

Frequent trams

McQueen argues that a tram service with a 10-minute frequency is more convenient than a train every half hour. "The

latter means an average wait of 15 minutes instead of five for the tram," he said. "That would permit a few extra stops."

As a resident of St. Raymond, just west of the proposed MUHC superhospital site, McQueen has been a fierce defender of his neighbourhood. He is among the leaders pushing the hospital to use the Glen as an access to the new hospital, transferring some of the inconveniences to Westmount.

That doesn't mean that his tram-train idea should be dismissed if it would be a viable solution. The imminent arrival of a ride is a powerful message regarding convenience. There is often that same feeling with Toronto's streetcars.

Tijuana Trolley

The idea of merging old rail tracks with streetcars is not new. This is what has happened in many places, most famously with San Diego's Tijuana Trolley. Old train tracks, with station stops through the suburbs, form the basic network. Once in downtown, city streets are used.

In the UK, similar operations have been built in Croydon, Birmingham and Manchester. There is even a view of one in the latter city when it is seen fleetingly during the opening credits of *Coronation Street*.

Worldwide, there is plenty of experience and, often, Bombardier has been involved.

Are trams for the airport shuttle the right way to go? It could be in Westmount's interest. The better the service, the fewer cars on the autoroute, a bit less through-traffic on Sherbrooke St. and a

healthier city. The tram-train concept should be part of the debate.

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

Rule-breaking cyclists filmed for council

An unidentified resident of the de Maisonneuve/Kensington area was standing on that corner the morning of March 18, making a video of cyclists going through the stop sign and asking them to change their behaviour.

When questioned by 4300 de Maisonneuve resident Michael Price, the man explained he was making the short film to show city council because young children were endangered by errant cyclists.

The filmmaker managed to halt one woman to talk to her, but received a drive-by, middle-digit communication from a male cyclist.

Price told the *Independent*, "The real danger is the groups of fast cyclists, some racing in groups. If they ever hit someone, there could be some real damage."

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Oak, ironwood and lilac featured in city's tree give-away

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The city's annual tree distribution is underway featuring three species considered to be conducive to growing in Westmount. These are the standby "Ivory Silk" Japanese lilac as well as English oak and ironwood, a tree native to Quebec.

"They must be planted in Westmount but not on city land, the area between the property line and the sidewalk," said city horticulturist Claudette Savaria. Property lines begin at different distances from the sidewalk, depending on the street. All three are recommended for the back yard.

The 200-cm trees are available free of charge, one per household, for planting this spring. They are slated for delivery in early May.

Order forms are now available at city

hall and the Westmount Public Library, and must be returned by Thursday, April 22, she said. They are also available on the city's website at www.westmount.org. Because only a limited supply is available on a city budget of \$5,000, orders will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

The program has been in place since 1990 to help with the greening of the city, Savaria explained. "It's a way to support the environment and participate in the fight against climate change."

The English oak (*Quercus robur*) requires full sun and is a slow grower but can reach 25 meters (80 feet) in height. The other two are smaller trees.

The Japanese lilac (*Syringa reticulata*) reaches some 8 meters (25 feet), needs full sun or light shade and produces fragrant creamy white flowers in July.

The ironwood (*Ostrya virginiana*) grows slowly in full sun or deep shade to 10 meters (32 feet) producing a greenish white flower and fruits that turn red and remain on the tree all summer.

Photos and descriptions of the trees may be seen at the city hall and library as well as on the city website.

'Horseracing' con artist targets Indie publisher, fails

A con artist and his female accomplice visited the *Independent's* offices on March 12 as part of a scam to place fraudulent bets on horse racing.

The suspect presented himself as real-life horseman "Yves Filion." (The actual Filion was contacted by the *Independent* and confirmed the scam had been tried more than once, sometimes successfully.)

"I came back to the office after lunch," said *Independent* publisher David Price, "and found a couple in conversation with one of my team. They claimed to be interested in self-publishing a book through my book publishing operation, Price-Patterson. They wanted it to be about their horse farm and also showed an interest in buying ads in the *Independent* and *NDG Free Press* for a new horseracing facility."

Price listened to the story and even showed the duo book samples. Then came the scam.

"He said he knew how to bet on the horses and offered to place a bet for me to 'seal the deal' on a new relationship. I was focused on my own sales pitch and figured 'What's \$60?' - until my brain engaged. I immediately asked for the money back and got it."

The man wore a dockworker's style toque, had missing bottom teeth and smelled like a barn. He spoke English, but was a francophone. The couple was probably in their 50s.

"He was believable because he seemed so unpolished. He explained how he had inherited a horse farm fortune. I saw him as a version of *The Millionaire Next Door* - wealthy, but frugal. It's the kind of story that you want to believe. And I have had unlikely people come in off the street and buy all sorts of publishing products.

"In retrospect, he must have gone through a con-man's checklist: misdirect, be complimentary, take your time, don't ask for money upfront, don't act like you need it, stay in character.

"I feel like an idiot - but hats off to him. He was really good. If he weren't stealing from innocent people, he'd be a great salesman."

David Price would like to applaud the civic mindedness of fraud victims John Mason and his wife, who shared their scam story in the March 2 issue ("RCMP says the nationwide phone scam is on the rise", p. 21). As a near-victim himself, he now knows how hard it is to admit it.

RONDA BLY
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Napoleon, Cohen command high prices at Antiquarian Book Fair

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

It's understandable that a book Napoleon Bonaparte once leafed through would be worth a lot of money today. However, who but an avid book collector could know that Leonard Cohen's first published work of poetry would be priced at 60 per cent less?

Both were up for sale on March 14, as book buyers and sellers gathered at Selwyn House School for the 18th annual Westmount Antiquarian Book Fair. Long welcomed by Montreal bibliophiles as a springtime rite, this year's fair featured 16 dealers from Quebec and Ontario with all manner of used and rare books, as well as prints and maps.

The volume, once owned by Napoleon during his final exile, on the island of St. Helena, is now the property of Jean Daoust, an art dealer from Longueuil, who was one of the sellers at the fair. The book, *Traité du Croup* by S. J. Double, is a medical treatise. However, with a cracked binding, it's in less than perfect shape. It's so

delicate, in fact, that it must be handled with cotton gloves.

Daoust was able to verify that the book was indeed Napoleon's because it is imprinted with the ink stamp of the French emperor's personal library. The library's books became the property of the government of England when Napoleon died. They were then acquired by a London book dealer. Daoust wants \$25,000 for the volume he owns.

Leonard Cohen's first book of poetry, *Let Us Compare Mythologies*, was published in 1956, 135 years after the death of Napoleon. Adrian King-Edwards, co-owner of The Word Bookstore, has a signed copy, which he recently acquired from a collector in Toronto. At the fair, he

was ready to part with it for \$10,000. In comparison, a copy he has of *Jerusalem Windows*, containing two original lithographs by modernist artist Marc Chagall, was selling for \$1,000.

King-Edwards explained why Cohen's work commands such a high price. "When 20,000 fans appear at his concerts in Bulgaria, you know he has an international following," he said. "His first book came out when he was a student at McGill in an edition of 300 or 400 copies. So to get it in a really nice jacket and signed is relatively rare." The demand by fans for Cohen memorabilia drives the price up, he added.

The books have not yet been reported as sold.



Jean Daoust with a book once owned by Napoleon Bonaparte, priced at \$25,000.

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10:30am Palm Sunday Liturgy and Choral Eucharist
6:00pm Le Chemin de la Croix (en français) – Stations of the Cross (14 Meditations for Organ by Marcel Dupre, poetry by Paul Claudel)

Maundy Thursday April 1

7:30pm Pedilavium, Commemoration of the Last Supper & Choral Eucharist with Chamber Choir

Good Friday April 2

12pm (Noon) Good Friday Liturgy with reading of the Passion & Chamber Choir
7:30pm Tenebrae (Service of Shadows) with full Choir

Easter Day

8:00am Holy Eucharist, Book of Common Prayer
10:30am Festive Choral Eucharist with Chamber Orchestra

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Bringing solar cooking from Westmount to Haiti

By MARTIN C. BARRY

An Argyle Ave. woman with a keen interest in social activism hopes to encourage the people of earthquake-stricken Haiti to make more use of solar-powered ovens for their cooking.

Commercially-produced solar cookers already enjoy a degree of popularity in Haiti where sunlight is abundant, says Geneviève Delmas-Patterson, a semi-retired professor of chemistry. But this will be one of the first times a major effort is launched to teach Haitians how to produce their own low-cost solar ovens.

Solar ovens, which use highly reflective mirrors to cook food with the rays of the sun, come in many shapes and sizes. One currently popular model retails for around \$300. However, what Delmas-Patterson has in mind is a homemade version that would be easy to assemble, using aluminum foil and cardboard as its primary components.

She is working in conjunction with Vive la relève, a Montreal-based charitable organization that provides relief to the tens of thousands of Haitians displaced by the earthquake. As the cookers have proven themselves especially useful for baking bread, Delmas-Patterson envisions the birth of a small baking industry, using homemade solar cookers. "Haitians could [generate] a small income," she said.

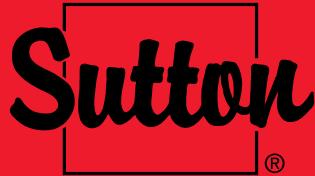
"We want to teach the technology to the community so that they can start learning it and install it for organizations, businesses and more wealthy individuals in Haiti," said David Patterson, her nephew from Toronto, who is also involved. "Our goal is to give them a demonstration system, which they can use as a learning tool. As the price of the technology comes down, they'll be able to create a business out of it."

Geneviève, David and Jean Batrville, a Haitian citizen who is providing assistance, plan to go to Haiti in April to promote the project. Earlier this month on an afternoon when the sun was out at full force, the Delmas-Patterson contingent decided to experiment with the homemade solar cooker outside on Argyle Ave. They tried baking a loaf of bread, and it turned out nicely.

"While it was less than 10 degrees out, we had 130 degrees in the solar oven, and we were able to bake our bread in about two hours," said Patterson. One of the reasons for encouraging solar power in Haiti is that other sources of energy there are far less abundant. Haiti has a shortage of charcoal (one of the only other fuels for cooking) as a result of widespread deforestation. "The thing about Haiti is that they can operate solar cookers year around," said Batrville.



Jean Batrville, left, and David Patterson with a commercial model of solar oven. Their hope is to spread the message of solar cooking in Haiti with a homemade type of solar oven.



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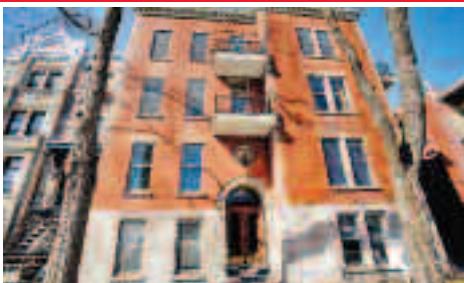
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SAQ: Publications must be 'francophone' or 'representative of the community'

continued from p. 1

area to place at the entrance of their SAQ store.

"A publication must be francophone or representative of the community or the neighbourhood," she said, adding that an exception is sometimes made if there are two publications that represent the local community. "The community in Westmount we know is anglophone, so it is allowed to have an anglophone publication," she said.

In an emailed response to a Westmount resident who had inquired about the SAQ's policy on the placement of publications, Isabelle Merizzi, the corporation's manager for public affairs, said the Westmount outlet "has allowed the Westmount *Examiner*, an English-language weekly well-known to locals, to be distributed on its premises."

Bouchard could not explain why a decision was made to allow only the *Examiner*, while not allowing copies of the *Independent* to be left at the store. She suggested that a manager no longer working at the store may have been responsible.

While insisting the SAQ's guidelines

allow exceptions and that the *Independent* could eventually be allowed, Bouchard couldn't say when that might happen. "I am telling you it is not impossible, but I am not saying yes," she said.

Chagnon weighs in

Commenting on the situation, Westmount-St. Louis Liberal MNA Jacques Chagnon said he was satisfied with the explanations Merizzi furnished. "We asked the SAQ to say what exactly was their policy, and we found it was all right," he said.

As reported in last week's *Independent*, a contractor who operates a service that delivers this newspaper, Michael Doucet, recounted that when he tried to leave copies at the SAQ, a store employee told him not to bother if they were in English.

Doucet said he noticed that francophone publications were available at the Westmount SAQ, but that he hadn't seen any English-language ones. "She said she didn't want any anglophone papers," he recalled the SAQ employee telling him. He said he wasn't sure if she was speaking for herself or implementing SAQ policy.

Public Security skis for Leucan



Westmount's Public Security ski team is cheered on by Public Security dispatcher Shannon Laurie (second from left) who snowboarded for part of Leucan's 12-hour ski challenge. Team members, from left, are Sgt. Kim Colquhoun, PSO Tim Beaupré, PSO Jenn Chabot and Sgt. Robert Forbes.

A team of four Westmount public safety officers completed a 12-hour ski challenge March 13 at Ski Chantecler to raise funds for Leucan, an association dedicated to helping children living with cancer and their families.

The Westmount team considered themselves winners by contributing \$800 for their effort, said organizer Kim

Colquhoun. But just as they were leaving, they received word they had won the draw for a trip to Banff for each member, and a companion, donated by a travel agency.

Only 17 of the 60 teams that started out managed to complete the 12-hour event, skiing from noon to midnight and becoming eligible to win the trip. The event raised a total of \$52,000.

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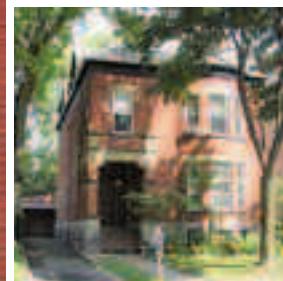


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Westmount's Shaar Hashomayim hosts Technion gala



Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

The 25th Canadian Technion Society Gala was held in late November at Congregation Shaar Hashomayim. The focus of the fundraiser was the New Energy Program at Technion, the Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa. Honouree of the evening was **Donald Johnston**. In his name, three masters fellowships and one doctoral fellowship were awarded to four graduate students in Technion's New Energy Program.

Johnston, a founder of the law firm Heenan Blaikie, now serves as counsel. He is a former MP for Westmount, among other ministerial positions. He was the first non-European to occupy the position of secretary general of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Johnston was introduced by co-founder of Heenan Blaikie, **Roy Heenan**. The guest speaker was Supreme Court justice **Morris Fish**.

Attendees included MP for Mount Royal **Irwin Cotler** and his wife **Ariela Cotler**; **Marlene Jennings**, MP for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce-Lachine and her husband **Luciano Del Negro**; **Lawrence Bergman**, MNA for D'Arcy-McGee; **Joseph Nuss**; **Susan Raymer** and **Ben Wygodny**; **Naomi Azrieli** and her husband **François Blanc**, **Sharon Azrieli**, **Monette Malewski** and **Norman Bacal**, co-managing partner for the Toronto office of Heenan Blaikie and an honorary chair of the event.

From the Canadian Technion Society were **Gary Goldberg**, president (with his wife **Linda** and children **Adam** and **Edin**),

and **Doreen Green**, chair, with her husband **Gerald**.

Attendees from Westmount included event chair and Technion Montreal Council president **Pearl Sperber Gameroff**; her sons and their wives – **Simon** and **Jordana**

Gameroff and **David Gameroff** and **Brenda Rosenzweig**; **Marc Garneau**, Canadian astronaut and MP for Westmount-Ville Marie; **Jeremy Reitman** and **Penny Rudnikoff**; **Sara** and **Eugene Riesman**; **Jacqueline** and **Herb Siblin**, and **Gordon**

and **Penny Echenberg**.

If you are interested in advertising exclusivity for this page, kindly contact Arleen Candiotti at 514.223.3567.



Westmounters Roy Heenan, Ronnie Gandell, Leo Kolber with Donald Johnston.



David Berger and Morris Fish.



John Rae with Westmounters Penny and Gordon Echenberg.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 25

• Spring **flower show** opens in the conservatory at 10 am.

• **Anthony Hobb's** exhibition "Ciel et terre" at The Gallery at Victoria Hall, until April 21.

• Michael Harrison speaks about the book he co-authored with the late James Ferrabee, *Staying Connected: How MacDougall Family Traditions Built a Business over 160 years*, a history of Montreal's investment service firm, **MacDougall, MacDougall & MacTier**. Atwater Library, 12:30 pm. Free, donations invited. Info: 514.935.7344.

FRIDAY, MARCH 26

TGIF dinner and games, 6 pm to 8:30 pm at Centre Greene for children aged 5 to 12. Cost: \$12 per child or \$90 for season. Info: www.centregreene.org call 514.931.6202.

SATURDAY, MARCH 27

• Westmounters are being asked by organizers to turn off their lights and other uses of electricity between 8:30 and 9:30 pm on **Earth Hour**.

• **Stargazing** at Summit lookout, 8:30 to 9:30 pm. Free shuttle bus leaves from city hall at 7:30 pm. Contrary to last year, the incandescent-fluorescent bulb exchange is limited to one per family.

SUNDAY, MARCH 28

"Meet Spot the Dog!" storytime with characters for children two years and older, 2 to 3 pm at Westmount Library. Register: 514.989.5229.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31

Author **Catharine Fleming McKenty** discusses her new book *Polly of Bridgewater Farm: An Unknown Irish Story* and fiddler **Sarah Burnell** plays Irish music at the Atwater Library, 12:30 pm. Coffee, free admission, donations invited. Info: tmayhew@atwaterlibrary.ca or 514.935.7344.

TUESDAY, APRIL 6

• Special council meeting: Appeal of a decision of the demolition committee re: **20 Aberdeen Ave.**, 7 pm, city hall.

• Regular council meeting at city hall, 8 pm.

FRIDAY, APRIL 9

• **Mayor's Blood Donor Clinic** at Victoria Hall from 2 pm to 8 pm.

• **Quality used book sale** at Centre Greene (1090 Greene), 10 am to 6:30 pm, and Saturday April 10, 10 am to 3:00pm. Books of all types and for all ages. Proceeds are contributed to the centre's summer camp fund. Info: 514.931.6202, or www.centregreene.org.

• Contactivity (4695 de Maisonneuve) offers workshops for seniors on **safety, self-defense and self-confidence**, 9:30 am to 12 pm, April 9, 16 and 23. Free. Register: 514.932.2326.

Lola & Emily opens up shop on Sherbrooke

BY ERIN STROPE

Popular Plateau women's fashion shop Lola & Emily has expanded into Westmount (4920 Sherbrooke St.), and that means a return to their roots for owners Marnie Blanshay and Amanda Eaman.

Blanshay, who grew up in Westmount, founded the store after learning the retail ropes at La Cache. She wanted to create a store that was "as comfortable as going over to a friend's house and trying on clothes."

The Westmount shop does have a roomy, apartment-like feel, accentuated by a couch, one-of-a-kind chandelier, and country-cottage style antique furniture.

Amanda Eaman, a former student at The Study who graduated from LaSalle College with a degree in fashion marketing, started out as a Lola & Emily employee and worked her way up to become a partner in the business.

The boutique focuses on women's clothing, with a mix of conserva-

tive and trendy styles. Candles, soaps, and antiques are also for sale, and a small selection of menswear will be available soon – "Things we'd like to see our husbands wearing," Eaman said.

"We want the experience of shopping to be great for our customers," said Blanshay, who cites the store's roomy, well-lit changing rooms and no-pressure sales approach as part of what has made Lola & Emily a success in the Plateau's finicky fashion



Marnie Blanshay, left, and Amanda Eaman.

market, where the original store has been open for more than eight years.

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4855 Sherbrooke St. W. (corner Victoria, old SAQ location)

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

Adult reading – Home and design

Eco House Book by Terence Conran – Is it possible to mix style and a smaller ecological footprint? Terence Conran thinks so. His latest book explains how small, inexpensive changes can lead to greener homes and includes lots of ideas backed up by easy-to-understand technical information.

Interiors by Design by Ros Byam Shaw – A room-by-room approach to interior design with advice from professional designers. This idea-filled book has sections on finding inspiration, creating a mood board and trade secrets on everything from colour and fabrics to lighting.

Adult French – Great lives

Winston Churchill: le pouvoir de l'imagination by François Kersaudy – Comments like “reads like a novel” and “entertaining” have been attached to this new book about the legendary British prime minister, which is based on extensive research and numerous interviews with his contemporaries.

Wittgenstein, le devoir de génie by Ray Monk – Ludwig Wittgenstein was one of the great philosophers of all time and this book, drawing extensively from his diaries and letters, aims to portray the man as well as his thought.

Books for children – Let's learn about...

13 Paintings Children Should Know by Angela Wenzel – Children will learn about

13 of the world's most famous paintings, from Jan van Eyck's “The Arnolfini Portrait” painted in 1434 to Jackson Pollock's “Number 32” painted in 1950.

Comment écrire des histoires by Celia Warren – This guide provides fun ways for children to turn their creative ideas into well-written stories.

DVDs

Cairo Time – Juliette is a magazine editor who arrives in Cairo to meet her husband Mark, a UN official in Gaza. When he is unavoidably delayed, Mark sends his friend and former security officer Tareq to show her around the city. As she gets used to the customs and rhythm of life in Cairo, she finds herself falling not only for the city's charms but for Tareq as well. Winner of Best Canadian Film, 2009 Toronto Film Festival.

Knut & Friends – Follow the young life of an adorable polar bear cub who beats the odds to not only thrive but becomes one of the most famous bears in the world. Learn how a caring Berlin zookeeper looks after him, and of how a trio of polar bear newborns and two orphaned brown bears get into all sorts of mischief.

Magazines – Career moves...

“Mama wants a brand-new job: Mothers in the recession” by Katy Read in *Brain Child*, winter 2010, p. 28.

“The 2010 list: Employees from 343 companies helped pick this year's winners. The 100 companies on the list are looking to hire more than 96,270 people in 2010” by Milton Moskowitz, Robert Levering and Christopher Tkaczyk in *Fortune*, February 8, 2010, p. 75.

“Emplois 2010: la revanche des régions. Finie l'époque où l'économie d'une région reposait sur un seul secteur d'activité. L'emploi s'y diversifie, ce qui incite les jeunes à y revenir. Mais la main-d'oeuvre qualifiée fait encore cruellement défaut” by Isabelle Grégoire in *L'Actualité*, March 15, 2010, p. 20.

Reference

Netter's Sports Medicine.

Salem Health: Psychology & Mental Health (access also available from the library's website www.westlib.org under Research & Reference-Databases-Salem Press Health).

Les 100 meilleurs fonds 2010.

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ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

La galerie du Victoria Hall

La galerie du Victoria Hall est fière de présenter les œuvres du peintre Anthony Hobbs jusqu'au 21 avril. Info : 514 989-5521.

Galerie: appel de propositions

Rappel aux artistes : la date limite pour soumettre votre candidature pour la saison d'exposition 2010-2011 de la galerie du Victoria Hall est le 15 avril 2010. Pour de plus amples renseignements, consultez le site Web de la ville ou procurez-vous le dépliant au Victoria Hall. Info : 514 989-5521.

L'Heure pour la Terre

Rejoignez-vous à nous au belvédère Summit le samedi 27 mars de 20 h 30 à 21 h 30 pour observer les étoiles et prendre part à une initiative conjointe de la Ville de Westmount et du Projet Ville en santé. Les lampadaires du parc Sunnyside seront éteints pour amplifier l'expérience de l'obscurité. De plus, les résidents pourront échanger gratuitement une ampoule incandescente contre une ampoule fluocompacte. Étant donné qu'il y a très peu d'espace de stationnement proche du belvédère, les participants sont encouragés à marcher, organiser du covoiturage ou utiliser le service de navette gratuit qui partira de l'hôtel de ville à compter de 19 h 30. N'oubliez pas d'éteindre vos lumières! Info : 514 989-5226.

Collecte de sang du maire

La collecte annuelle de sang du maire se tiendra le vendredi 9 avril de 14 h à 20 h au Victoria Hall. Donnez du sang, donnez la vie ! Info : 514 989-5265. 🌱



SPORTS ET LOISIRS

Nouveau en 2010

La démarche d'inscription aux activités a changé!

Dans le but de vous offrir une démarche souple et sans complications, la Ville de Westmount prolonge la période d'inscription, vous garantissant ainsi une place aux programmes de votre choix. Finies les files d'attente au Victoria Hall. Consultez notre site Web pour les nouvelles modalités d'inscription. Info : 514 989-5353. 🌱

DATES À RETENIR

Le 6 avril – 20 h

Séance du conseil
Hôtel de ville de Westmount

Le 15 avril – 19 h

Concert: Quatuor Franz Joseph
Info: 514 989-5226
Victoria Hall



TRAVAUX PUBLICS

Distribution spéciale d'arbres

Les résidents peuvent obtenir un arbre parmi les suivants : le chêne anglais, le lilas Ivory Silk ou l'ostryer de Virginie. Les arbres sont distribués gratuitement dans le cadre du programme de verdissement de la ville. Veuillez noter que les arbres doivent être plantés à Westmount. Toutefois ils ne peuvent l'être dans la portion du terrain appartenant à la Ville situé le long des trottoirs. Les bons de commande à cet effet doivent être retournés avant le 22 avril 2010 au soin de Claudette Savaria, Division des travaux publics, 1, rue Béthune ou acheminés par télécopieur au 514 989-5488. Info : 514 989-5213 ou consulter notre site Web au www.westmount.org.

Floralies du printemps

Venez visiter l'exposition de fleurs printanières à compter du 25 mars. Heures d'ouverture des serres : 10 h à 21 h du lundi au vendredi, 10 h à 17 h la fin de semaine et les jours fériés. 🌱



BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Conférences culturelles – Dossier mode : La maison Dior

Rejoignez-vous à l'historienne Pamela Grimaud le mercredi 24 mars à 19 h pour un diaporama sur le couturier français Christian Dior. Info : 514 989-5386. 🌱



COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Gallery at Victoria Hall

The Gallery at Victoria Hall is pleased to show the works of painter Anthony Hobbs until April 21. Info: 514 989-5521.

Gallery call for submissions

Reminder to artists: the deadline for applications for the 2010-2011 exhibition season of the Gallery at Victoria Hall is April 15, 2010. Visit our Web site for details or pick up a brochure at Victoria Hall. Info: 514 989-5521.

Earth Hour

Join us at the Summit Circle Lookout Saturday, March 27 from 8:30 to 9:30 pm to observe the stars and take part in this initiative organized by the City of Westmount and the Westmount Healthy City Project. Lampposts in Sunnyside Park will be turned off to heighten the experience. Please note that residents will be able to exchange one old incandescent light bulb for a new compact fluorescent. Since parking is extremely limited, participants are encouraged to walk, carpool or take the free shuttle bus leaving from City Hall as of 7:30 pm. Don't forget to turn off your lights! Info: 514 989-5226.

Mayor's Blood Donor Clinic

The annual Westmount Mayor's Blood Donor clinic will take place on Friday, April 9, between 2 pm and 8 pm at Victoria Hall. Give blood. Give life. Info: 514 989-5226. 🌱



SPORTS & RECREATION

NEW FOR 2010 – Activity registration is changing!

The City of Westmount is extending the Sports and Recreation registration period to provide you with a flexible, hassle-free process with guaranteed access to your favourite programme. No more line-ups at Victoria Hall. Consult our Web site for details on how to register. Info: 514 989-5353. 🌱

DATEBOOK

April 6 – 8 pm

Council Meeting
City Hall

April 15 – 7 pm

Concert: Quatuor Franz Joseph
Info: 514 989-5226
Victoria Hall



PUBLIC WORKS

Special Tree Distribution

The City of Westmount is offering residents one tree from the following selection: English Oak, Ivory Silk Lilac or Ironwood. These trees are available free of charge to help enhance the natural environment of Westmount. Please note that the trees must be planted in Westmount but not on City land, that is, in the area between the property line and the sidewalk. Order forms must be returned before April 22, 2010 to the attention of Claudette Savaria, Public Works, 1 Bethune Street or sent by fax to 514 989-5488. Info: 514 989-5213 or visit our website at www.westmount.org.

Spring Flower Show

The Annual Spring Flower Show will open on March 25. Conservatory hours are 10 am to 9 pm on weekdays, 10 am to 5 pm on weekends and holidays. 🌱



LIBRARY

Cultural Lecture Series – Fashion Files: The House of Dior

Join Pamela Grimaud for this visual presentation on iconic French fashion designer Christian Dior on Wednesday, March 24 at 7 pm. Info: 514 989-5386. 🌱

Bur recounts history of CPR's former Westmount station

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

For much of the 20th century, the train station at the foot of Victoria Ave. was a gateway to points all over Canada and North America. Even though the Canadian Pacific Railway's Westmount station was just a suburban stop halfway between Windsor station downtown and Montreal West, trains made regular stops, whether filled with commuters or long-distance travellers taking the transcontinental.

On March 18 as part of the Westmount Historical Association's Spring Lecture Series, Justin Bur, an urban planner with a keen interest in the history of railways in the Montreal region, gave a presentation on Westmount station. The city of Westmount now owns the former CPR building, which is designated by Westmount as a future exhibition and heritage interpretation centre.

From 1890 to 1894 when Westmount wasn't yet incorporated as a city, it was known as the Village of Côte St. Antoine. In 1893, CPR trains started stopping at the bottom of Abbott Ave. The stop, 1.7 miles west of Windsor station, was called St. An-

toine station because it served the Westmount district of that name. However, there was no station building where passengers could wait for trains.

In 1895, Westmount was incorporated as a town and the stop was renamed "Westmount" the following year. In 1898, the general passenger agent with CPR, David McNicoll, wrote to T. G. Shaughnessy, the vice-president of CPR, telling him the Westmount stop was growing, with an importance comparable to what North Toronto was to Toronto. As a result, the stop at Abbott Ave. was finally given a platform and a station on the south side of the tracks.

Current building leads to Glen Yard

In December 1907, CPR decided to construct a new Westmount station — the one we know today — a little further west from the original stop. Located on the north side of the tracks, it was designed by the railway's chief architect, Walter S. Painter. It remained in operation as a railway station until 1985, when its purpose, largely as a commuter stop by this time, was superseded when the Agence Métro-



Railway history expert Justin Bur addresses Westmount Historical Association, March 18.

Westmount Station as seen in 1909.

politaine de Transport's Vendôme station opened.

According to Bur, Windsor station was handling so much passenger traffic during the heyday of railway travel that it became necessary to create a large facility near Westmount station, the Glen Yard, to service and store the rolling stock. Because Windsor station was a dead end, trains had to be reversed when departing. The Glen Yard proved to be especially useful for

turning around trains.

A number of undated photos Bur showed from the CPR archives, which appear to be from the 1920s, documented some of the service and maintenance work carried out at the yard. There was a fully stocked grocery store to supply dining cars, a special machine for beating and airing out hundreds of mattresses, and sleeping cars required up to 10,000 pieces of linen daily.



The Parish of the Ascension of Our Lord

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Welcomes all to our Easter Celebrations!

Passion Sunday Weekend:

Saturday, March 27 at 5 p.m., Sunday, March 28 at 10:30 a.m.

Holy Thursday, April 1: Mass of the Lord's Supper at 8 p.m.

Good Friday, April 2: Celebration of the Lord's Passion at 3 p.m.

Holy Saturday, April 3: Sacrament of Reconciliation from 3 to 4 p.m.
Easter Vigil at 8 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 4: Celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord 10:30 a.m.

We invite all parishioners, former parishioners and visitors to join in celebrating with us this Holy Season.

Msgr. Sean Harty, Parochial Administrator

Rev. Patrick Donnelly, Associate Pastor

Dizzy Izzie

BY FERN BRESLAW



When we heard about Izzie – this teeny, tiny little Yorkie, not tragic at all – we were like, wait a minute! We thought to ourselves, she's like pure pet shop perfection in every sense: Throw a blue bow on her, and Norman Rockwell will come flying down from heaven to adopt her himself.

You get the gist. Izzie should never have made it into the Club. She's too good for us: all hypoallergenic, purebred, mini and all. Plus, she's only a baby. And she gets along with cats ... and people. Plus. Plus. Plus.

So we start looking over her form and get ready to strike it with a big red marker (only the bad, the ugly and the unpopular dogs in our Club, thank you very much) when we read the part about her being hypoglycemic. Yes, that condition where you have crazy low blood sugar and faint.

We then tried to get a handle on what this means for a dog. It isn't like most dogs fill up on Twinkies and fruit roll ups all day long. They mostly eat kibble, sometimes a crust of a sandwich. Most dogs do just fine on this stable diet. But not Izzie.

She will die if she doesn't get the

proper attention for her condition. Finally here was the catch: Most people want the cute dog but not the annoying blood sugar condition that requires extra care. Add to this inconvenience, her condition doesn't come free. Free things tend to be more popular with people, even dog-loving people – which doesn't give us much hope for Izzie.

So we put down the big red marker and included her in the Club. And we asked the paper to run the photo extra, extra big



Izzie

Photo: Nicole Leger

to try to sway the vote her way based on looks (pause here to be sucked in by the insane puppy cuteness please).

Because the truth is, most of you won't be fooled. Most will want the perfect pet-shop puppy mill Yorkie we talked about at the beginning – the one who doesn't get to be in the paper or and isn't allowed into our Club for losers to begin with.

We are hoping that one of you will ac-

Holden play takes audience from Westmount to Iraq

BY ERIN STROPES

When most people think of the 2003 shootout at an Iraqi home that led to the deaths of Saddam Hussein's two sons and a 14-year-old grandson, they don't see a lot of similarities to their own lives. And they certainly don't see a clear correlation with Westmount. But for Arthur Holden, the actor and screenwriter last seen in the Infinitièmeâtre production of *The Daily Miracle*, the connections were there.

Holden's play *Father Land* is set in Westmount and Mosul, Iraq; an unlikely pair of cities connected by a narrative that was strong enough to top some forty other scripts to win Infinitièmeâtre's first "Write-On-Q!" competition, which recognizes unproduced, original English or bilingual plays by Quebec playwrights.

The play weaves together two stories, both interpreted by the same three actors (Dylan Gouze, Neil Napier and Howard Rosenstein). In a present-day Westmount home, 15-year-old Eric is writing an essay

cept that good things and good dogs are worth a little work and a bit of money. Izzie is way too cute and young to give up on. If she were a person, this would be a given, but as a dog, it's a good enough reason to get the axe.

To find out more about Izzie and win some serious karma, call at 514.969.3376 or visit underdogclub.org.

on Saddam Hussein's sons, the extravagant and unstable Uday and the lower-profile Qusay, when he is pulled into a family drama of his own. His wayward uncle Victor gets into a struggle with Eric's father Joe over a gambling debt that a local mobster is coming to the family home to collect.

"The play explores what happens when the desire for control and responsibility collides with the desire for freedom," said Holden in an interview in the Westmount home that he shares with his wife, Claire Holden Rothman, and their two sons. "We feel a sense of control in our own house, but there are always outside forces, some of them destructive, that we can't control. And fac-

continued on p. 18



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Holden new to playwright role

continued from p. 17



Arthur Holden at home.

ing those forces is what makes us grow stronger.”

As someone who has worked in many facets of the Montreal arts scene, from translation to voice work to acting and now playwrighting, Holden says that the strangest part of working on *Father Land* after

The Daily Miracle was the switch from actor to playwright. He praised his cast, director Guy Sprung and his technical team for making the experience “highly rewarding,” but admitted it was strange to see other actors interpreting his words.

Holden describes the piece as a “parlour drama, with mythic overtones,” but says that he’s included elements of dark humour as well.

The *Gazette* review of *Father Land* praises Holden’s work and calls him a “playwright to watch.” And indeed, Holden admits to having a “couple of plays” and a screenplay up his sleeve.

Father Land plays at the Bain St. Michel, 5300 St. Dominique, until March 28. Visit www.infinitheatre.com.

Having tea with the Mad Hatter



Among library staff members, from left: Antonella Ferraro (*the March Hare*), Jessica Kelly-Rheaume (*Alice*) and Nick Shulman (*the Mad Hatter*) with Téa, 10, (*the Dormouse*), daughter of Wendy Waying, children’s librarian.

Young visitors to the Westmount Public Library were treated to its *Alice in Wonderland* Tea Party March 13 that included the *Mad Hatter*, *March Hare*, *Queen of Hearts* and *Alice* herself.

“It was quite magical,” said children’s librarian Wendy Waying. “The whole room was turned into a wonderland.”

Waying, who has been generating interest among all age groups in reading the Lewis Carroll classics, said the theme was driven by the March 5 release of the Tim Burton film on *Alice’s* adventures.

“People have come in asking for the books, and we added them to the book

club for our 9 to 12-year-olds. The library has versions for different ages.”

The *Alice in Wonderland* event attracted some 35 boys and girls aged 4 to 10, many in costume. Another 25 parents also attended. They were treated to skits, crown-making and the tea party of lemonade and cupcakes.

The next children’s event at the library – for those aged 2 to 6 – features readings and songs related to the *Spot the Dog* series of books by Eric Hill. It takes place Sunday, March 28 at 2 pm, providing an opportunity to meet the *Spot the Dog* mascot.

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St. Patrick's at Place K



From left, seated at front: Christina, and Esmay Lennard; standing at front: Evangelina and Sho-Hwa; seated at back: Mrs. Nayar and Isabelle Shuster; standing at back: recreation coordinator Doreen Friedman.

The Place Kensington seniors' residence celebrated St. Patrick's Day on March 17 with Irish coffee and a visit from students at the Trafalgar School for Girls.

A mix-up about the timing of the event left the audience waiting for the performers for 20 to 25 minutes. Referring to the hero of the school's namesake battle, one resident was heard to exclaim, "I'm glad we didn't have to wait this long for Nelson."

As the girls arrived in small groups, they reacted to events with aplomb, putting on an unscripted piano recital and an impromptu Irish dance. Eventually, the whole group led the residents in a sing-along of Irish songs, including "Black Velvet Band".

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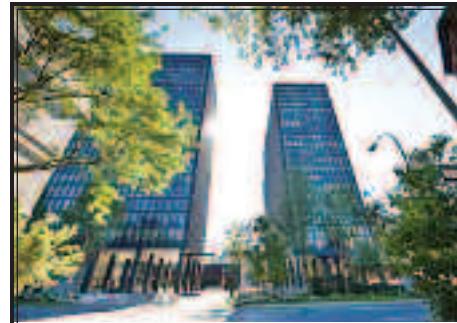
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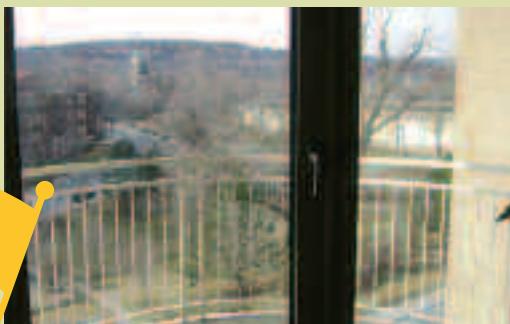


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