

Council quizzed on progress of traffic master plan

Two pedestrians hit on Sherbrooke only days apart

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A 30-year-old woman was struck by a car September 7 as she tried to cross Sherbrooke St. between parked cars, according to police and Public Security. A 45-foot tractor trailer had stopped or double-parked west of Claremont at the same time.

A parking inspector, who witnessed the accident close to the western city limits at 9:10 am, called for an ambulance, while a doctor already on the scene provided

emergency care.

The woman had been crossing from the south side when struck in the outer lane by an eastbound car driven by a 46-year-old man. She was hurled about 20 feet and shattered the car's windshield. She was taken to the Montreal General Hospital suffering head pains and possible fractures.

The victim had recently arrived from Alberta and was unable to provide a local address. No charges or fines were laid.

The accident came only four days after another woman was hit at 9:15 am while running across Sherbrooke at Greene in rush-hour traffic, according to a public safety officer monitoring construction there. An ambulance took her to hospital for examination.

"This is why we keep saying that jay-walking is so dangerous," said local Station 12 police *continued on p. 7*

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Summer reading club comes to a close: 180 readers completed 2,300 reading hours



Photo: Martin C. Barry

The children's section at the Westmount Public Library held a closing party for its summer reading club September 11. The entertainment included a music and puppet performance by animators Philippe and Lise. According to children's librarian Wendy Wayling, 180 children participated and read books for more than 2,300 hours over the summer. Half the participants ended up finishing a game that began at the beginning of the summer, in which they had to solve a case involving a stolen painting.

DON'T MISS THEM

Westmount Y Open House, Saturday, September 18.

Celebration of the life of Don Wedge, Tuesday, September 21.

See Comin' Up, p. 20.

Cops trying to get Dawson massacre online game removed

BY DAVID GOLDBERG

Station 12 police are doing what they can to get a US-based website to remove a game that recreates the Dawson College shooting that took place on Sept. 13, 2006.

"We had a complaint recently about the game and when I read the report, I thought it was a big shame and totally unacceptable," said Station 12's Commander

Stéphane Plourde. "I have passed on this information to our intelligence service and they will be in contact with the website's owner."

Getting the game removed, however, is no certainty.

"They are protected by their constitution, so there is no law requiring them to remove the game. We can only make a request," said *continued on p. 3*

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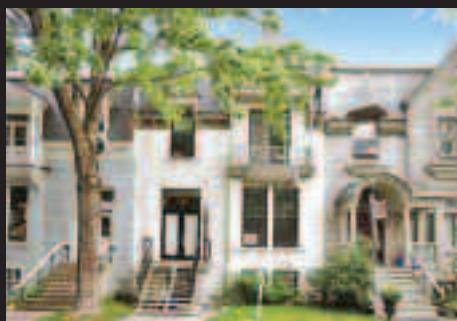
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Nothing new in naming signatories

It's not the first time that certain Westmount citizens signing a public referendum registry have been named in news reports of the results.

The *Independent* has been criticized in recent weeks for allegedly "outing" 10 residents who signed the arena/pool loan by-law registry on August 17. But the tradition to report on the signatories of public registries went on without much ado at the time of two important loan by-law registries, long before the *Indie's* founding three years ago.

These were loan by-laws for the library refurbishment in 1993 and a proposal for an enlarged protective services building on Stanton in 1996 that was subsequently withdrawn after the register's strong opposition results.

A regular *Indie* reader and local history buff resurrected news reports of both these events in which names were published – by the *Examiner*, the same newspaper that claimed in an editorial of September 2 that the *Independent* had "vilified" and "singled out" the individuals named in its August 24 article.

Massacre game developer: Sorry if you're offended

continued from p. 1

Plourde. "It's like that man in Florida who wants to burn copies of the Koran. Even President Obama can't do anything under the law to stop it."

According to the website newgrounds.com, the game was submitted September 8, 2010 and is called "Dawson College Massacre." The author, who goes by the screen name "Virtuaman" describes the game:

"Take the role of Kimveer Gill and storm Dawson College with your favorite rifle! Kill those students and kill any cops you can! Be careful, those cops are quick on the scene and see you, get in that school and kill everyone before the cops have the chance to ruin your plan!"

He then adds, "Sorry if you are offended in some way."

Primitive compared to Grand Theft Auto

The game features both photos of and quotes from Gill, and is rather primitively produced compared to other violent games, such as Grand Theft Auto.

Just over 1,000 people have viewed the game so far, according to the site. Com-

ments can be left for the author, and one person wrote, "I just wanna say, I go to Dawson College. This is one of the most caring, diverse, and friendly schools I've ever seen. The events of Sept. 13 are not something to joke about or try to turn into a form of entertainment. A number of my friends had to lock themselves up in a room while a man with a gun was outside the door shooting at people. Have you ever had to go through that? I really hope you'll just come to understand this one day."

Complaints came from students

Donna Varrica, Dawson's director of communications, told the *Independent* that the complaints made to the police came directly from Dawson students.

"This strikes us personally right to our core," she said. "Anything that glorifies violence is abhorrent, and anything that take advantage of a tragedy is doubly abhorrent."

Varrica said if she could speak directly to the game's author, she would tell him, "Spend some time in a place that was the target of violence. Experience the damage done to the bodies and minds (of those affected). What gratification do you get from

that?"

Varrica said she is hopeful the game will be taken down, but added she's also realistic that this game is one of many violent games that are being played by today's youth.

"Until society steps up and there is some sort of outcry, we will continue to have these violent games that are so widespread."

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CITY COUNCIL NEWS, SEPTEMBER 7

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Dog fences to remain as is

The city does not plan to increase the height of fences around dog runs though it is looking at ways to improve gates, Councillor Cynthia Lulham told the council meeting September 7.

The city's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) has held many discussions on the fencing and does not want to increase fencing, she told questioner Cynthia Graham.

"We don't have fences around tot lots," Lulham said. Just as parents watch out for their children, she added, it becomes the dog owners' responsibility to look after their dogs.

"Some dogs are very big and jump very high. We can't be putting up fences for that one dog."

Integration plan for the handicapped adopted

The city's 2010 action plan for integrating handicapped persons into the social fabric of Westmount was adopted by city council at its meeting September 7. Provincial law requires a plan to be submitted annually aimed at identifying and removing obstacles to integration.

In moving its adoption, Councillor Victor Drury also announced that former councillor Sally Aitken had "offered to sit with us to ensure that the arena/pool is handicapped accessible, and we are pleased to accept her offer."

Aitken, who uses a scooter for mobility, has long been involved in the issue and helped spearhead the city's own accessibility study of public buildings undertaken by the Healthy City Project long before the Quebec law was in place.

2010 action plan

The 2010 action plan calls for setting up a working committee of representatives from Sports and Recreation, Public Works, Human Resources, Community Events and the Communications office. It would

work with interested community groups.

The plan also outlines measures to be taken in identifying and improving accessibility of services, programs, activities and buildings, and the priorities for 2011.

Safe Walk volunteers may expect changes

When more than 130 volunteers complete their Safe Walk audit of all streets in Westmount, they will expect to see early action on some of their recommendations, city council was told September 7.

"Now you'll have 130 pairs of eyes looking for the changes," said Maureen Kiely, one of the volunteers. According to her, they will be watching for concrete evidence their recommendations were being taken seriously.

While more costly changes obviously would require longer term budgeting, she acknowledged, there are some quick fixes, such as cutting back foliage from signage.

The concern over implementation of a final report was raised earlier by Francie Montgomery, the project's coordinator, who asked what would happen to the volunteers' findings.

Mayor Peter Trent said it was the same question he was being asked in the "Trent household," because his wife has been one of the volunteers auditing Côte St. Antoine.

Councillor Theodora Samiotis said she hoped the recommendations for Public Works would be considered in the budget process and reflect the pedestrian point of view. She would do her best to move the report forward.

Both she and Trent thanked Montgomery for her efforts in recruiting and organizing the large team to cover the entire city. Safe Walk is an initiative of the Community Life committee of the Healthy City Project.

Parks master plan adopted

The city's master plan for parks and green spaces was finally adopted by city council September 7. It had been tabled almost a year ago by the outgoing council for review and implementation by its successors.

The next step is to combine all the studies that have been done on Summit Park (which was excluded from the new study) and incorporate them into the master plan, said Councillor Cynthia Lulham, commissioner of Urban Planning.

The year-long study by Marc Fauteux and Associates provides a framework for recommendations estimated to cost \$2,248,200 (see October 5, 2009, p. 8).

.....
continued on p. 5

City won't collect from nature reserve

With plans by St. Joseph's Oratory to turn 11 wooded lots into a nature reserve in Westmount north of Devon Ave., city council voted unanimously September 7 not to impose annual compensation in lieu of taxes on the land.

The loss represents some \$40,000 the religious institution pays to the city every year, according to Councillor Tim Price.

While a nature reserve is exempt from tax, the city may impose compensation for services, he explained in moving the resolution. The oratory had asked the city to waive the stipend. The city provides few services to the lots in question.

The agreement not to build on the land follows many years of discussion between the oratory and the city, which wanted to preserve the green space. It represents some of the last unbuilt areas in Westmount and creates a green belt behind the oratory.

Council also approved the building of a new house on one of the properties recently sold by the oratory that is not included in the "green belt" (see Permits, p. 16.)

The oratory's request to Quebec to create a nature reserve was approved by city council March 1 (see story March 2, p. 1). At that time, loss of revenue to the city was estimated at \$13,000 per year.

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Mayor's Column

Now, as I was saying...



BY MAYOR PETER F. TRENT

Prelapsarian.

It's a lovely word, but hard to slip into cocktail conversations. It means "pertaining to the condition before the Fall of Man. Innocent and carefree." Well, in the prelapsarian days before Westmount was forcibly merged into the megacity, I usually managed to crank out a weekly column in the Westmount *Examiner*.

The column was rather unimaginatively called "Our Mayor Says." I actually wrote a total of 244 of these columns, something I do not recommend you try. They petered out (if you will excuse the verb) by 2000, as I was fighting mergers full-time by then: writing speeches, editorials, op-ed pieces, and a whole series of letters mailed to all Westmounters that I pompously entitled: "The battle against annexation: a report from the front."

After the megacity, in spite of our heroic efforts, was imposed in January 2002, I went from anti-merger to de-merger mode. Finally, once we demerged, I was casting about for something to do, and decided to write a book about the mergers, a monastic exercise I began in 2006. Unfortunately, when I got elected mayor last October, I had not finished this magnum opus; and so, for the last year or so, I have been mayoring and beavering away as author at the same time.

This is why – and it took me many paragraphs to get to my point, something, dear

reader, you will have to bear with if you persist in reading this stuff – I did not immediately resume my column after a hiatus of ten years.

While my book has now been written and peer-reviewed (I challenged my publisher, McGill-Queen's University Press, to find my peer), it has yet to be copy-edited and translated. Once published, it will be a bit of a doorstopper at 200,000 words. Dorothy Parker no doubt had my book in mind when she wrote, "This is not a book to be tossed aside lightly. It should be thrown with great force."

Since I still have up to a year to go before the book birthing, it'll be a while before I'm completely free to write a regular column. However, I'll produce at least one a month until then.

What do I hope to accomplish with this column? You may well ask. Well, I hope to be able to give some background to council decisions, to reach out to those of you who don't come to council meetings or write letters to the editor. A column can also be reflective, as the act of writing helps one test and develop policies; as, if they don't make sense on paper, they generally don't make sense, period.

Politicians are, by a long chalk, plying the least respected profession in our society. While I think that party politics and partisanship is part of the problem, being dependent on the 30-second TV clip or rapid-fire email exchanges doesn't help. A column can at least be a quiet attempt to engage citizens in a one-to-one relationship. And you can always turn the page.

Parks plan recommends repairing pathways

continued from p. 4

The plan will be used in the allocation of the capital works budget, starting with the removal of as much hard surfacing as possible, especially in Westmount Park, according to Lulham.

One recommendation, to repair all handrails, has already been carried out this year. Another is to repair and refurbish park pathways.

"I'm very impressed with the report," said Mayor Peter Trent.

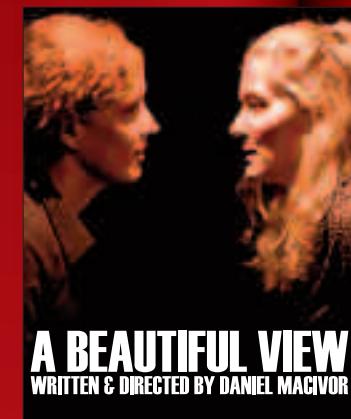
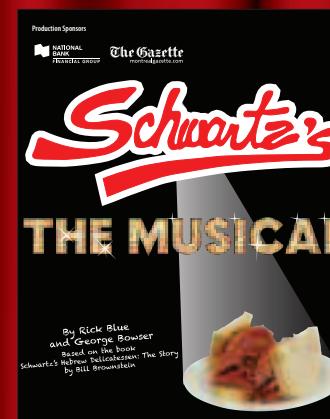
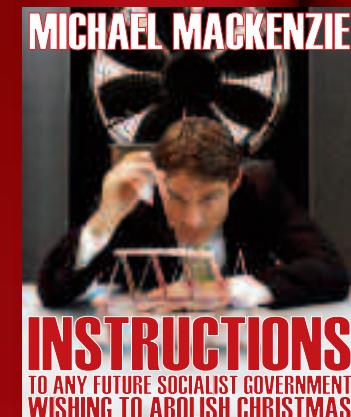
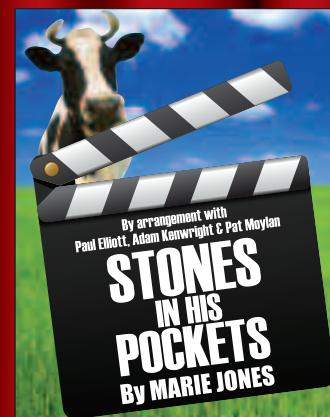
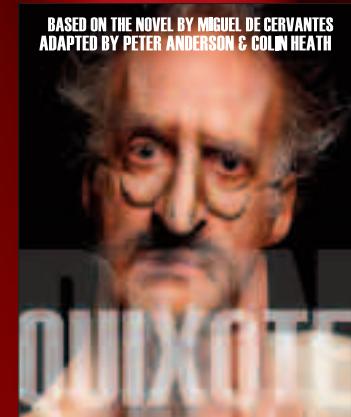
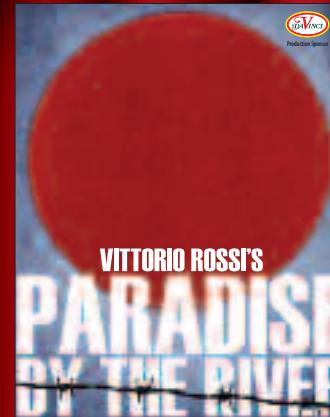
The proposed burying of the two new rinks underground and recuperating an acre of parkland in Westmount Park re-

spects the plan, according to arena project advocates. One of the study's observations is that most of the parks had reached the saturation point "so that new facilities cannot be added without seriously harming the integrity of the parks and the character of their landscape."

"I think most of us knew intuitively that Westmount Park had reached the saturation point and that drove the underground solution for the project," Trent later told the *Independent*. It not only reduces the pressure on the park, he said, but also the visual impact a 500-foot-long building would have had above ground.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

COMPOST ELEPHANTS, LOSE THE STYROFOAM

Well done! Westmount diverted the equivalent of “the weight of 120 African elephants” from landfill in the first year of curbside kitchen waste pickup. I am sure that my husband and I could have contributed at least a baby elephant, but we are not given the chance because we live in an apartment building.

When Peter Trent became mayor again, I thought it would be only a matter of time until he expanded the program to include larger apartment buildings. He did this for recycling on his last watch.

Having just disposed of a heavy bag of food waste, destined for the landfill – and that was just the start of our total weekly groceries (trimmings from pineapple, broccoli, cauliflower, corn, lettuce, to name a few) – I was very saddened to read online in the *Independent* that the program is on hold for larger buildings until the Montreal agglomeration builds new treatment centres. That does not sound promising. I hope great pressure will be put on them.

Being an advocate of recycling, I agree with the article that we must not get complacent. Why then is at least one of our local supermarkets now packaging most of its vegetables on styrofoam plates? (The packages rarely say where these vegetables come from, so one has to assume China; but that is another letter!)

These are the same merchants who told us they were charging for plastic bags to help the environment. Remove the styrofoam plates, and I might try to believe them.

HONOR BARRETT,
KENSINGTON AVE.

PRIVATE POOLS SHOULD BE SAFER, NOW

I refer to the article in the September 1 *Independent*, p. 3, regarding the change in

regulations covering private pools. I feel that it would have been more appropriate for the city to encourage those who are in the process of installing pools to incorporate the new regulations into their plans, that is to have them fenced off from the house thus avoiding direct access. The prime object of regulations is the safety of those using the pool. From my recollection, several children have drowned as a result of running out into an unprotected pool.

E.J. ADYE,
PRINCE ALBERT AVE..

CELEBRATING THE BIKE PATH

As the end of summer approaches, it is good to reflect on accomplishments. One of the sparkling gems of Westmount for nearly 20 years has been the cycling path along de Maisonneuve, the first protected urban cycling path on the island of Montreal. Initiated by our present mayor, it has



New concept for Westmount Park bike path.

urban cyclists be impeded by the work.

Let us hope that those councillors involved in the design of a safe passage down Lansdowne – so as to connect Westmount cyclists to the green linear park of the Lachine canal – will have even more perspicacity than our present mayor had in designing the first cross-town cycling path.

ROGER JOCHYM,
LEWIS AVE.

INDIE NOT IMMUNE FROM ETHICAL REQUIREMENTS

Frankly, you have succeeded in spoiling the pleasure I once derived from reading a paper with a truly local flavour. Editorial attempts at self-vindication through lengthy and defensive responses to certain members of the paper's readership are, in the best case, unseemly.

At the risk of adding to those numbers who have already incurred your ire, I must

tell you that I, too, was shocked by the selective public naming of a small group of residents exercising their democratic right to dissent.

Please note that I did not sign the registry, nor do I have any objection to the arena/pool project as presented in April. (I mention this only to ensure that no NIMBY intimations are drawn from my observations). Rather, my concern is with the upholding of sound, ethical practices – a small local paper is not immune from this requirement.

MARIE CAMPBELL,
ACADEMY RD.

Publisher's reply: Let me get this straight: people can criticize editorial decisions, attack the team and impugn our “ethical practices” – via letters in our newspaper (all of which we have published up to last week) – and I shouldn't reply? Explain our process? Answer questions? In my own paper? That is one scary paradigm.

– DP

83% OF 28% CARRIES MORAL, MATHEMATICAL FORCE

Those arguing an 83 percent “yes” vote carries no moral authority because because it only comprises 28 percent of those eligible to vote, and not over 50 percent, as suggested by Willem Westenberg (Sep-

tember 7, p. 7), had better be consistent when the shoe is on the other foot.

In many municipalities in 2004, over half of those who actually cast votes in the demerger referendums voted to leave the city of Montreal, in some cases by margins of 2- or 3-to-1, but the demerger law required 35 percent of those eligible to vote to vote “yes,” so five cities were forced to stay in Montreal. Most suburbanites and Westmounters, myself included, called such a high standard undemocratic and well out of line for a reasonable turnout at the municipal level. Apparently this participation rate was undemocratic not because it was too high, but too low: Applying the standard suggested by Westenberg, eight more wouldn't have demerged.

Further, applying Westenberg's standard to the most recent federal, provincial and municipal elections, not a single MP, MNA or Westmount city councillor would have been elected.

Fortunately, we can still estimate opinion using surveys, even calculating the margin of error. Westenberg's straw man suggesting that 10 households would not constitute a reasonable basis for ascertaining support is completely correct, as the margin of error would be an astounding 31 percent; the actual 2,218 households leads to an acceptable 1.77 percent.

Saying a survey showing 83 plus or minus 2 percent of actual voters supporting a position constitutes a majority is not only not “bad math,” it's the only reasonable position one can take if we ever hope to get anything done as a society. It's unfortunate when people don't participate in the democratic process, but those who don't vote have no right to complain about the results.

NICHOLAS SMITH,
BURTON AVE.

Bon voyage, Erin!

Freelancer Erin Stropes is moving to Toronto to complete a one-year book and magazine graduate program. The Milwaukee native first wrote for the *Independent* in October 2008 and has since covered a variety of beats including retail stories, schools, seniors and fundraisers – as well as Swedish boxers and mystery construction trailers. We wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

– KM

Tipline

Rewards of \$250 will be awarded for tips regarding crime, mischief or intended crimes in Westmount that lead to arrests, until the fund is exhausted.

Please contact the *Independent* with your information.

See story “\$1,000 donated for crime-fighting fund,” March 30, p. 6, for details.

Tipline will run any reward-for-information notices being offered by residents, whether as part of the fund mentioned above or directly.

Police beat

Police still searching for armed assault suspects

BY DAVID GOLDBERG

Station 12 police are still on the hunt for three suspects who robbed and beat up a 35-year-old man in mid June.

The victim, who, at the time was staying in Westmount but now resides in Ville St. Laurent, was out having a smoke at 4:30 am on June 19 at the corner of Dorchester and Atwater. He was approached by three men who spoke to him in French.



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“The victim didn’t understand what they were saying, so one of the suspects lifted his shirt to reveal the handle of a gun tucked into his pants,” said Constable Adalbert Pimentel. “The suspects then asked for the victim’s money, grabbed him and threw him to the ground.”

The victim was beaten about the upper body, and the suspects left after stealing his keys, cigarettes and \$200. The victim returned home and didn’t call the police.

“He went back to the scene later that morning hoping to find his keys,” said Pimentel. “Instead, he found a bullet on the ground, and that’s when he decided to call 911.”

The police canvassed the area and found another bullet. Both bullets are .22 calibre, but police say extracting prints from them proved difficult as they were left out in the rain. Officers also checked security video cameras in the area but found no images of the crime.

“The victim was treated for his injuries, which also included marks on his face that he may have suffered when he was pushed to the ground,” said Pimentel.

The first suspect is described as a man

of mixed race, 30, 5’6” and 180 lbs. He had short black hair, a muscular build and wore a white t-shirt and beige pants. The second suspect is a white male, 30, 5’11” and 185 lbs. He wore a blue shirt. The third suspect is also a white male, 5’4”, who wore a black t-shirt and black pants.

“When someone asks for your money, don’t resist. Your personal safety is always far more important than your possessions,” said Pimentel. “And if you are the victim of a crime, call 911 as soon as you’re safe and give the police a description right away. We always have officers patrolling, and with a good description, we have a decent chance of making an arrest.”

Anyone having any information about this crime is asked to call Station 12 at 514.280.0412.

Dying to catch him

Despite some quick thinking by a bank teller, the police have not been able to make an arrest after a lone gunman held up the Scotia Bank at 1326 Greene Ave.

Diagonal crossings follow up

continued from p. 1

chief commander Stéphane Plourde. “People must learn to cross at intersections and on the correct lights.

“It’s also why we don’t allow diagonal crossings even where lights stop traffic in all directions.”

Traffic plan to come

His comments came after the city council meeting September 7 at which citizens again raised the issue of allowing four-way diagonal crossing at Sherbrooke and Victoria with accompanying signage. They also asked how soon the city would start work on its proposed traffic master plan.

Police have consistently maintained that allowing pedestrians to cross diagonally on pedestrian lights creates a mindset, especially among children, that jaywalking is acceptable.

City director general Duncan Campbell said he had received no reply from the Quebec ministry of Transport concerning a letter he wrote asking for clarification of diagonal crossings when pedestrian lights allow a safe crossing.

Regarding a traffic master plan, he said the city had yet to put together terms of reference for an initial study “which could be large or narrow in scope.” City council

The suspect entered the bank at 10:15 am on July 14 and went directly to one of the tellers. He pointed a small black gun at her and said, “Bonjour, give me all your \$100s.”

After she started handing over the money, he said, “More, more, more.”

“One of the packets of money she handed over had a dye pack in it,” said Pimentel. “When a suspect tries to open such a packet, the dye explodes, going all over him and rendering the money useless. In this case, the dye was either yellow or blue.”

The suspect left the bank on a silver bike with racing handles. He is described as a white male, 40, 5’9”, with short brown hair. He wore a blue baseball cap and a blue jacket.

“We searched the area and found his cap. He was also captured on the bank’s video camera,” said Pimentel. “The bank staff told us they believe the suspect was the same man who robbed their branch earlier this *continued on p. 22*

also needed to address what elements to include. Various consulting offers also will be sought, he said.

Traffic on Sherbrooke and other through streets is expected to accelerate with construction of the MUHC hospital and changes to the Turcot interchange that will affect the Ville Marie Expressway.

Pedestrian tips for safe crossing

In the wake of two recent accidents on Sherbrooke St., police said statistics show that most pedestrians involved in accidents typically are either jaywalking, crossing between parked cars, or failing to look both ways before stepping off the curb at intersections.

Pedestrians should remember that umbrellas can obscure their vision and drivers may be blinded by sun, headlights, rain or snow.

Since seniors over age 55 are in an age group most often involved in pedestrian accidents and most seriously affected by their injuries. Station 12 constable Adalbert Pimentel recommends they wait through a cycle of lights before crossing on the green to ensure they have sufficient time to cross safely.

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Water, sewer rehab project boosted by government subsidies

City aims to reinforce 21 sewer locations

BY ISAAC OLSON

By taking advantage of a government subsidy program aimed at upgrading water and sewer lines, Westmount has been able to increase ongoing efforts to rehabilitate the city's underground infrastructure through cost-effective, environmentally friendly methods, according to public works officials.

While this year's contracts total about \$2.4 million, public works director Marianne Zalzal said approximately 70 percent of the cost will be covered by a joint Quebec-Canada program for the renewal of potable and waste water pipes (PRECO).

"This will be our biggest year ever for sewer rehabilitation because of the subsidies," said assistant director Andrew Duffield, noting Westmount has been rehabilitating sewers since 1994 and water mains since 2006.

Water mains under five streets and sewer lines under 21 streets will be reinforced with a supple, resin-impregnated fibre glass liner, he explained. This method breathes a minimum of 50 years of life into networks that can already be more than a century old. The liner is inserted with air or water pressure and then cured in place, he said.

The first such liner was installed in London, England in 1972 and has passed its annual checkup ever since, said

Duffield. While its design life expectancy is 50 years, he contended today's liners, which can be installed in a day, will probably last at least 70 years – the same expectancy of traditional, reinforced concrete sewer pipes, which potentially require a three-week service interruption to install.

In comparison to trench-digging methods that demand much more time and road repair, Duffield said the liners are installed at a third of the cost. Beyond the cost, there is far less waste, trucking and dust that both disturb residents and harm the environment, he continued.

"It's a more sustainable way of renewing the sewer system," said Zalzal.

The sewer liner, which stops leaks and would take the existing pipe's place if it fails, can be inserted via manhole access points.

The water main, however, requires some excavation to gain access. In accordance to the city's lead water service replacement program, Zalzal said lead service lines on city property are, at the same time, being replaced with copper. Residents are also being invited to take advantage of the excavation and replace lead lines on their property.

New sidewalks

Weather permitting, Westmount aims to install new sidewalks and roadways on Murray (entire street), Winchester (entire

street), Aberdeen (between The Boulevard and Westmount Ave.), Prince Albert (between de Maisonneuve and St. Catherine) and Elm (between Sherbrooke and Holton).

This project will cost about \$1.8 million and, because three streets meet requirements, an estimated 16 percent will be covered by PRECO, she said.

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An Insituform Technologies worker power washes the water main under Prince Albert in preparation for the installation of a cured-in-place pipe liner.

TRENDSSETTER

LEONARD SCHLEMM

BY VERONICA REDGRAVE

Montreal boasts beautiful bike paths. Cyclists, both Bixi users and commuters with their own wheels, can be seen wearing skirts, flip flops, sometimes suits, as they zip with abandon through idling traffic. And then there are the “pros” – those you see streaking along with

STYLE

I always see the pro cyclists wearing amazing gear. Tell me about it.

Well, the clothing is always very tight, so it is aerodynamic. There are no flapping pieces on the sleek tops and shorts! The material is high tech, so it breathes and wicks away moisture. Shorts and tops are usually spandex, with nylon or polyester to help moisture transference and breathability. And of course, comfort is essential! There are panels on the shorts that allow

Star Wars helmets and aerodynamic (and sexy!) clothing. Westmounter Leonard Schlemm is one of those pros. He is so keen (and so good) that that he rides with Lance Armstrong. Well, not exactly in the Tour de France, but he was there during that amazing race, cycling along with 18 Canadians, one of

them to fit the contours of the body in the cycling position. There are specially constructed back pockets to hold water and carbohydrate bars, as well as an electrolyte mix.

When you are not cycling, what is your favourite way of dressing?

That’s easy! Jeans and a t-shirt.

LIVING

If you had a choice, where would you live in the world – money being no object?

I have lived in San Francisco, London and Amsterdam, but I love Montreal.

LIFE

I know you are involved with fundraising for the Cedars Cancer Institute. Is Lance Armstrong returning for this again this fall?

Yes! The Tour de Lance [took] place on September 11, and this will be its third year. This year we have added 24-hour cycling, where teams cycle around the Lawrence Stroll Race Track. It will be great fun. We have bands playing in the centre of the track, and of course, lots of supporters. The Lance Ride itself starts with an inaugural run around this track, then we leave to ride 100 kilometres around

whom was Steve Bauer, who came in fourth in the 1988 Tour. They rode portions of the Tour in the Pyrenees. And yes, “it was grueling.”

He and his team at the Mansfield Club know how important it is to keep hydrated. The Mansfield Athletics Club team of 63 people re-

cently completed The Ride to Conquer Cancer from Montreal to Quebec City on July 10 and 11 – a “short” two-day bike hike!

I chatted with Leonard on a perfect summer day just before he left for France.



Leonard Schlemm riding through Westmount Park, September 7, four days before the Cedars Tour de Lance ride in Mont Tremblant.

Photo: Ralph Thompson

Mont Tremblant as we did last year. Each participant commits to raising a donation of \$25,000. There are only 50 cyclists in the tour, which raises money for the Care Mission of the MUHC and the Cancer and

Heart Wellness programs at CHUM.

For more information or to make a donation, visit www.tourdelance.ca.

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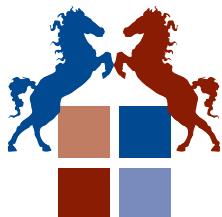
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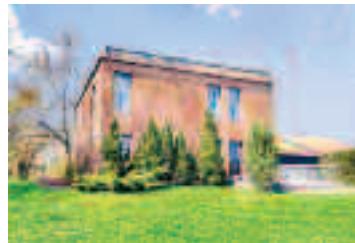
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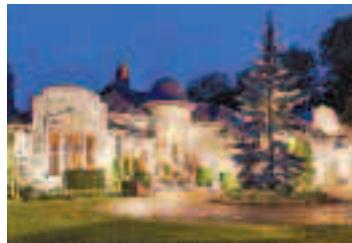
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Rufus, a teenager through and through



Underdog

MARY LAMEY



Rufus

Rufus was surrendered to the SPCA by a drunk and abusive woman in May when he was 10 months old. She admitted to kicking the pitbull pup, which might have had something to do with why he bit her.

His friends at the shelter quickly discovered that far from being vicious, Rufus is a typical adolescent male. He's playful and eager to please but also headstrong and determined to test limits. At least he'll never borrow your car without asking.

He found a temporary foster home with a young couple who brought in a dog trainer to work on smoothing out Rufus's rough edges. Unfortunately, our pitty pal was returned to the SPCA once the month-long fostering contract expired.

Rufus soon sank into a slough of despondency, stopped eating and quickly lost weight. His trainer friend was so alarmed that she brought Rufus home. She can't say enough good things about this "lovable goof." He's been neutered, which had a calming effect. He's working on being less of a pitbull in a china shop.

This is a temporary so- lution. His trainer has *continued on p. 16*

A multi-talented Westmouter: Alice Becker Lehrer



A Personal View

BY MARYLIN SMITH CARSLY

Unsung female heroes have always surrounded us. In Old Testament times, women were more subdued in the predominantly male world, but they did perform exceptional deeds. Their efforts to follow tradition and their commitment to Judaism were absolute priorities.

They evolved into the backbone of the family while paving their husband's path so that he would be able to embark on meaningful endeavours. Tracing back to some women who were major contributors of Jewish history, long-time Westmouter Alice Lehrer Becker has eloquently revealed their valiant stories in her recent book *If We Could Hear Them Now*.

In bookstores since October 2009, this unique narrative has been received very positively. "I have had favourable feedback

from all types of people and all age groups," said Lehrer Becker. It is organized into chapters titled with the name of each heroine. In order to make each story more relatable, the book has a question/answer format with the interviewer and the heroine subject.

Each woman reveals personal life lessons, which are still so relevant today. "These heroines were all doers. Some acted on a creative impulse, which sprung from within themselves, while others were pushed by circumstance into the roles that they assumed." For instance in one chapter, the reader encounters the story of an incredible female force from a modest background, who emerged as the founder of the Hadassah International Organization. Henrietta Szold's existence changed the face of Israel after she toured the area in 1909 at the age of 49, accompanied by her mother. She witnessed disease, poverty and a general lack of all necessary services.

After that trip, she helped end suffering and disease through medical and social reforms. Her story joins a very esteemed group of other special women who in their own way made significant contributions to Jewish history.

Trained as an occupational therapist, Lehrer Becker also became involved in her own business when she opened Orthosport in 1988, which she eventually sold in 1991. Besides her numerous professional endeavours, community work was another priority. She served as president of the Sisterhood for the Shaar Hashomayim Synagogue for more than two terms.

Place Jewish learning on the shelves

But her insatiable appetite to comprehend the spirituality of her Jewish culture directed her towards writing this anthology. "The more I learned, the more I was enthralled, and I wanted to share the lives of these Jewish heroines in a modern way. I wanted to place Jewish learning on the shelves for modern readers."

She believed that that if she could put these women into a more modern context, they would connect with today's generation as role models of integrity. She gave them a voice in the present world as their legacy of truth and commitment should survive.

You can hear Lehrer Becker discuss her novel on Monday, September 27 at the Shaar Hashomayim Synagogue Succoth luncheon. For reservations, call 514.937.9474.

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Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

It was a dark and stormy night at the end of June when **Herbert Black** invited guests to his house on the hill. The reception was held after a golf tournament to raise funds for the Miriam Foundation. Hosted at Hillsdale Golf & Country Club, the all-day event featured hardy golfers playing through wet grass.

By the time the cocktail party started, huge dark clouds scudded across the sky, obscuring the far-ranging views from Black's beautiful balustraded balcony. Guests gathered inside and enjoyed his carefully chosen art and antiques with their patrician patine.

The invitation read "*casual chic*," so ladies were lovely in long gowns and charming summer-short frocks. Men were equally suave in jackets.

Sipping champagne, the tired golfers enjoyed delicious delights from Mikado, whilst **Bob Perras'** valet crew efficiently

found parking close by for the Mercedes, Porsches and Audis.

Noted at the cocktail were **Warren Greenstone**, executive director, Miriam Foundation; the Miriam Home's president **Esther Benezra**, and executive director of services, **Daniel Amar**.

Westmounters included Herbert Black's brother, **Ronnie Black** with his wife **Cheryl**, and his son **Ricky**, who, standing beside a graceful sculpture by Rodin, greeted guests at the front door. Ricky's wife **Evelyn**, circulated in the living rooms. Noted in the crowd were Westmounters **David Culver** and **Linda Smith**, as well as **Jamie Heward** and hockey celebs **Yvan Cournoyer**, **Vincent Damphousse**, **Glen Metropolit** and **Guy Carbonneau**. Also seen were **Lyn Boivin**; **Marlene Castonguay**; **Barbara Gold**, executive director of Maimonides, and **Nancy Rosenfeld**, president, Claudine and Stephen Bronfman Family Foundation.

The Miriam Foundation runs annual fundraising events to support rehabilitative, socio-professional and residential services to more than 600 people with intellectual disabilities, regardless of their financial or family situation. The golf event raised \$325,000.



Warren Greenstone, Esther Benezra, Daniel Amar, Barbara Gold and Nancy Rosenfeld.



Guy Carbonneau and Westmounter Linda Smith



Véronique Saint-Pierre and Westmounter Herbert Black – and a Rodin behind.

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BUILDING PERMITS What's permitted

The following permits for exterior construction, alterations and renovation were approved at the September 7 meeting of city council.

- Surrey Gardens:** to build a new house on lot 1 583 302;
72 Summit Cresc.: following approval of a demolition permit, to build a second storey addition with major exterior modifications;
555 Argyle: to build a balcony on condition that the stone be of a warm tone to match that on the existing façade;
37-39 Bruce: to replace front windows;
395-397 Victoria: to replace three signs;

- 628 Roslyn:** to pave driveway and walkway;
4333 St. Catherine: to modify exterior façades of office building with aluminum as per sample;
4 Grenville: to remove planters and rebuild retaining wall;
31 Willow: to install swimming pool and landscape;
492 Argyle: to modify rear staircase from balcony and landscape rear yard;
473 Argyle: at a Category 1 house, to erect a fence and carry out landscaping related to the patio, parking apron and walkway;
54 Bruce: to erect a fence;
641 Grosvenor: to repair balconies;

- 766 Upper Lansdowne:** to extend a deck;
171 Edgehill: to erect a fence;
420 Côte St. Antoine: at a Category 1 house, to erect a fence;
51 York: at a Category 1 house, to replace some windows and a door;
4340 Montrose: to replace some storm windows;
524 Mount Pleasant: at a Category 1 house, to install three A/C units provided the side unit is shielded for visual and sound quality;
4028 Dorchester: at a Category 1 building, to restore upper section of masonry on all facades;
361 Melville: to replace some windows.

More on Rufus

continued from p. 14

agreed to foster Rufus but he needs a forever home where he can devote himself to his owner. He would do best with an experienced and confident dog owner able to set firm limits, and for now, a home without small children.

Is bumptious Rufus the boy for you? You can find out more by visiting www.underdogclub.org, emailing info@underdogclub.org or by calling 1.877.43.DOGGY.

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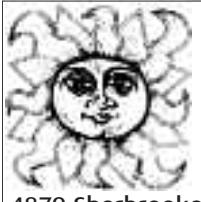
Centre Ballroom Dance Sport, where many Westmounters are going just to enjoy themselves while also learning how to dance, offers a private half-hour introductory dance lesson, free of charge.

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ON THE SHELVES

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

Adult books – pain

Headaches that Persist: 14+ Years of Research on Headaches, Migraines & Rare Headaches by Brent Lucas – This book contains descriptions of and treatment for primary headaches such as migraine, tension-type headaches or cluster headaches, as well as secondary headaches caused by trauma, neck problems and stroke.

Pain Chronicles: Cures, Myths, Mysteries, Prayers, Diaries, Brain Scans, Healing, and the Science of Suffering by Melanie Thernstrom – Arguing that the American medical industry adheres to outdated pain-management practices that fail to bring effective relief to millions of patients, a history of pain management describes some approaches of past cultures while outlining available treatments.

DVDs

The Incredible Human Journey – This documentary undertakes five epic journeys across the globe, tracing the ancient routes of our early ancestors to reveal the extraordinary and brutal challenges they faced. Using the latest genetic and archaeological evidence, it shows how humans gradually adapted, culturally and physiologically, in response to their environment.

How the Earth Changed History – This groundbreaking series reveals the epic tale of how the forces of the Earth have shaped human civilization. With passionate storytelling and extraordinary HD camerawork, this engaging and visually stunning series combines bold ideas with new science to form an original version of human history.

Picture books for children – autumn

City Dog, Country Frog by Mo Willems, whose latest book is another classic! Throughout the seasons, whenever City

Dog visits the country, he runs to the pond to play with Country Frog. In winter, things change when he can't find his little friend on the icy pond.

La pomme rouge by Kazuo Iwamura – When Natchan's beautiful red apple falls out of her hand and begins to roll down a hill, a number of animals come to her aid. All of them would like to have one small bite of the delicious smelling fruit!

Magazines

"The incredible shrinking brain: humans have been losing gray matter since the Stone Age, and nobody knows why. Are we getting dumber, or are we learning to do more with less?" by Kathleen McAuliffe in *Discover*, Sept. 2010, p. 54.

"The point of no return: The Iranian nuclear threat will soon come to a head. A preemptive attack by Israel could be disastrous. It might happen anyway" by Jeffrey Goldberg in *The Atlantic*, Sept. 2010, p. 56.

"Êtes-vous apte à émigrer au Québec? Pour vivre au pays du caribou et de Céline Dion, il faut réussir ce test. Vous êtes prêt?" by J. Chavanes and C. Péneau in *Ça m'intéresse*, August 2010, p. 44.

Adult French – Let's go to the movies

Godard by Antoine de Baecque – Whether you like his radical films or not, Jean-Luc Godard, who will turn 80 this year, is a major figure of 20th century cinema. This is the first biography in French of this leader of the Nouvelle Vague movement of the sixties.

L'école des films by David Gilmour – Gilmour is an ex-movie critic whose teenage son drops out of school. He decides that while the boy figures out what he wants to do with his life, he will not press him to find a full-time occupation. However, the adolescent will have to watch three movies a week with his father and discuss them afterwards.

A beautiful mother, daughter pair



9 Lives

LYZANNE

I dropped by the Montreal Veterinary Hospital on Victoria Ave. to speak to the wonderful veterinarian, who took care of my doberman Emma Rose for bite marks, after she was grabbed by the neck by a large dog on the Summit. As we were discussing the treatment for the puppy's neck, I couldn't help but notice that there were homemade posters in the reception area for two cat adoptions. So, one good thing could lead to another:



Bella

Let me tell you a bit about Bella and Grace, two beloved family cats, who are in boarding at the vet clinic while awaiting adoption.

Bella is a fun-loving, energetic, calico beauty, born in March 2010. Her mum Grace, approximately 2 years old, is a lovely, gentle sweetheart. They are both in perfect health, spayed and vaccinated. It would be wonderful if they could be adopted together. We are looking for a loving home in the neighbourhood, and they remain available for visits at the Montreal Veterinary Hospital, 324 Victoria Ave. Please don't hesitate to call for more information at 514.489.8217.

Your neighbour, Lyzanne



Grace



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Birthday boy's gifts are for the dogs



Henry Gaultier, who was celebrating his 10th birthday with friends at the Rose Bowl bowling alley in NDG on September 11, asked for donations to the Underdog Club in place of birthday gifts. Westmounter Gael Fraser-Tyler, far right, who volunteers for the dog adoption marketing agency for hard-to-place dogs, accepts a donation from the birthday boy, after having given him a polo shirt bearing the Underdog logo.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

Hollywood director stops by St. George's



Shawn Levy, an alumnus of St. George's School in Westmount, who went on to direct blockbuster Hollywood comedies like "Night at the Museum", "Date Night" and "What Happens in Vegas", returned to the school on September 11 for a reunion 25 years after he graduated. During an on-stage interview conducted by St. George's principal James Officer, Levy spoke of the challenges young filmmakers face in Hollywood. He also revealed some of his secrets for coaxing humour out of sometimes-sullen actors.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

Justin Bieber fan's dance cut short

A man who plugged in his ghetto blaster to an outside outlet at 4175 St. Catherine St. was found dancing to Justin Bieber music when public safety officers were called to the scene September 6 at 1 pm.

He was asked to leave and was reported as being cooperative. A dish of money was seen on the sidewalk. The man had been tapping into the condo building's electricity at the northeast corner of St. Catherine and Greene.

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Coming from Calgary to sneak a swim

Westmount's aging pool seems to still hold an attraction for late night swimmers. The most recent intruder was a Calgarian who risked the climb over the 10-foot fence to sneak a plunge at 1:30 am on September 2, the second such incident in the last month.

Public Security officials said the young man was one of five swimmers found soaking wet at the time. While two tried to escape, they thought better of it, and returned to cooperate. No tickets were issued in this instance and none of the group lived in Westmount. All were described as just "barely" adults.

As previously reported, on August 23, another adult received a \$628 ticket.

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Unravelling the apron strings over summer holidays



Parenthood Uncensored

SOPHIE TARNOWSKA

My daughter, "A.," has had the most schizophrenic summer possible: from a week on the New Jersey shore with her dad, to 10 days in Croatia with me and my geographically scattered family. This is one of the perks (I hope) of being the child of divorced parents, and of having a mother who appears to be trying to reach the limits of her credit with the good people at Visa.

A. has covered more miles this summer than most people I know, in more ways than one. She's so good about it that I sometimes forget she's only 6 years old and treat her like a little adult: "A. can you pull your own suitcase through 8 kilometres of airport hallways please?" Which explains why I packed more suitcases than we have arms for our trip to Croatia. And why it seemed reasonable to book flights that involved flying into one London airport and out of another on the same day. It

seems the more I travel, the worse I am at it.

We spent our Croatian holiday drenched in sunshine and family, away from our "us-ness." A. and I live in a little bubble of our own, and suddenly we were in a big fat blissful one, surrounded by aunts, uncles, cousins and a granddad. Nine adults and three kids meant that we had to find a balance between the needs and demands of the adult and the kiddie worlds.

So the little ones adapted to our jet-lagged sleep schedules and raucous dinners, going to bed late and waking late-ish, and demanded that we adapt to their needs: "I'm on holiday, I want chocolate cereal *and* Nutella for breakfast!" No planning, no scheduling, no slicing the days into specifically adult or kid-oriented events.

Bliss

It was bliss once I made peace with the idea of not being entirely in control, and with trusting my child's judgment enough to give her more freedom than usual. She took it to play and explore and boss her cousins around, unraveling herself further from my apron strings.

More and more, I find myself observing my daughter as she changes. Gone are the rolls of baby fat that had my grandmother convinced she was in a permanent state of allergic reaction and on the verge of blowing up. Gone are the curls in her hair and the lisp I've loved so much. She reminds me to lock the front door; she asks to borrow my clothes ("for when I'm big, Mama"); she notices if I'm sad/happy/tired. She's becoming a strong person with her own sense of self, able to justify her actions, explain her reasoning, and yes, point out the many gaps in my own.

Balance

And as it was on our Croatian adventure, she simply doesn't need me as much as she used to – a situation I've helped create even though I sometimes grieve its re-

ality. We've entered a new stage, one where there's a balance to be found between ensuring that she feels I'm still in charge and will take care of her when she needs me, *continued on p. 21*

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Public Security catches drinkers in Stayner Park

Two adults were fined for drinking in Stayner Park at 10:20 am September 6, Public Security officials report.

Both lived in Montreal. The fine was \$150 plus \$64 fee for a total of \$214.

Comin' Up

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

• **Grandmothers to Grandmothers** Campaign groups are participating in a speaking tour hosted by the Stephen Lewis Foundation, Thomson House at McGill University, 5 pm. Westmounters Nina Minde and Sheila Denton helped organize this event. All welcome.

• Author **Sheila McLeod Arnopoulos** gives a presentation of her book *Saris on Scooters: How Microcredit is Changing Village*

India, Atwater Library, 12:30 pm. Free, donations. Info: 514.935.7344.

• The Westmount Historical Association presents **Ruth Shine**, who will speak about her 35 years as owner of the Bead Emporium, 7 to 9 pm at the Westmount Public Library. Admission free for members; non-members \$5 at the door. Info: 514.989.5510.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

• Centre Greene's **TGIF youth dinner** and activities for children 5-12 years old. Different meals and activities are offered each evening. Please consult schedule online at <http://www.centregreene.org/pdf/tgif.pdf>. Cost: \$12 drop in or \$70 for fall season.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

Westmount Y open house, 7 am to 7 pm. Regular classes offered, and additional group fitness classes for adults and activities for kids. 4585 Sherbrooke St. Info: 514.931.8046.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

• The **Montreal Camera Club** holds its regular meeting with a presentation by Jeff

Fuchs on his Himalayan adventure, at the Westmount Park United Church, 4695 de Maisonneuve, rear entrance, 7:30 pm. All welcome. Info: johnzimmerman@videotron.ca or www.montrealcameraclub.com.

• **Louise Bradley**, speaks on "MentalStigmallness – Why Taking the Stigma out of Mental Illness Matters – How Women Can Help" as part of the Women's Canadian Club of Montreal's lecture series. Unitarian Church, 5035 de Maisonneuve, 12:30 pm. Info: Carolyn Roper 514.932.4005.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Celebration of the life of Don Wedge, 5 pm at Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke St. An informal two-hour commemoration of his life with short presentations, followed by a wine and cheese reception. Written or verbal anecdotes of memories can be recorded at Victoria Hall. To contribute memorabilia, email: j_wedge@hotmail.com or roberta.wedge@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Senior's luncheon at Centre Greene – three-course, home-cooked meal served at 12:15 pm. Cost: \$5. RSVP: 514.931.6202.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

Sara Hayward, a McGill graduate student, speaks on "Economic and Environmental Solutions: The Potential of World Federalism," 7 pm at the Unitarian Church, 5035 de Maisonneuve W. Open to the public, free. Info: Carol Greene, 514.426.4170.

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Parenting mixes showering them with attention and ‘setting them free’

continued from p. 19

and giving her enough space to push me away without feeling bad about it.

So what of those early years I spent trying to anticipate my child's needs, trying to shed my independence so as to be at

peace with her dependence? I guess parenthood means never knowing what comes next. Growing a child forces us to try out every form of loving, like a microcosm of all the loves we'll have in our lives: from the most intense love that means never letting the other person out of our

sight; to that same love in reverse, the one that Sting sang so well: “Free free, set them free -- if you love somebody, (start to) set them free...”

For more deep thoughts: countessdiaries.com.

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Language instruction 101 – more is better



At Second Glance

HEATHER BLACK

As a new school year begins, English education is once again in the news. A private French school is threatened for teaching too much English; politicians debate Bill 103's restricted access to English schools, while the PQ considers extending Bill 101 to include CEGEPs.

What is missing from the discussion is an understanding of language acquisition

and Quebec's role in a knowledge economy.

A time for languages

Recently l'Académie Lavalloise was criticized for teaching preschoolers English. At the same time, a study on preschool language acquisition commissioned by the EU was released. UK researcher Christina Schelleter found that "the natural learning abilities of young children as well as their enthusiasm promise rapid and successful acquisition of the second language."

Moreover, the study concluded that immersion at this age "is the best and most successful method of foreign language learning." Other studies also support the early acquisition of languages. Most recently, a UK study found that those who learn a language after age 12 tend to directly translate words from their first language.

L'Académie Lavalloise's policy of providing 30 percent English curriculum, from kindergarten through grade 6, is then well founded. So why is there such a reaction? A University of Waterloo study published on August 18 provides insight into the human psyche.

For this study, two groups of women were asked to first read a statement on emigration from Canada and then one that

stated starting salaries for Canadian women were 20 percent less than men's. The first group was told that emigration was easy, the second, that it was restricted. The results were surprising. In comparison with the first group, those who thought emigration was restricted, responded by defending the status quo.

Researcher Kristin Laurin extrapolated that "When you're stuck with something, one tendency is to make peace with it and try to see it in as much of a positive light as you can." But this attitude is not helpful when increasingly the "haves" in our society are defined by degrees in science and technology.

And in this age of education inflation – a PhD is needed for a job where once a bachelor's degree was sufficient – multiple degrees are the norm. But advanced degrees require superb research skills. While research here is often bilingual, most published elsewhere is in English only. Not surprisingly, parents want more language instruction.

The health connection

Perhaps what is needed is to add costs

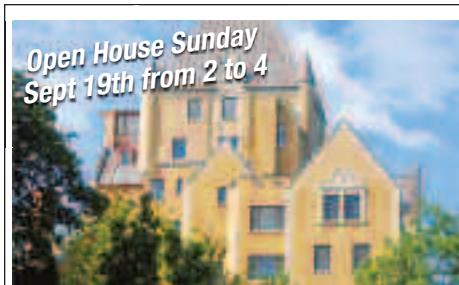
– in particular health care costs – to the discussion on language acquisition.

A 2008 study from Tel Aviv University found that seniors who spoke more languages test better on cognitive functioning. Moreover, a 2007 York University study found that those who routinely spoke two languages delayed dementia symptoms by four years compared with monolingual subjects.

With over 103,000 Canadians diagnosed with dementia annually, the disease costs Canadian taxpayers \$15 billion a year. And as the Alzheimer Society of Canada anticipates a tenfold cost increase to \$153 billion by 2038, a second language might be good medicine.

The fact is language training enables all Quebecers – not just those who learned several at their parents' knees – to play a role in the new economy as leaders, networkers or innovators. It is time to stop wrapping language instruction in the flag and consider it a benefit for both individuals and the community.

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



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"People are born to succeed, not fail."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Police to hold child ID day

continued from p. 7

year in March."

In this case, no one covered in dye was seen in the area after the robbery was reported.

Child ID Day

Station 12 police will be holding a Child ID Day on October 3, from 10 am to 3 pm at the Jean Coutu store, 1222 Greene Ave.

"Parents can bring in their children so we can make a child ID booklet for each child," said Pimentel. "We get all their information and put the child's fingerprints and their photo in each booklet. These booklets are very important if your child goes missing, because it gives us all the information we need to start investigating

right away. And when a child goes missing, time is always of the essence."

The police will also be offering advice for parents, including:

- Your child should always know his or her complete name, address and phone number.
- Children should only leave their homes when they have parental permission.
- Have a board on your fridge where everyone can write down where they are when they're not at home.
- There is less chance of your child being accosted if he or she is accompanied by friends or an adult.
- Children don't need to talk with adults if they are approached. If they feel threatened, they should run and scream for help.



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WMA honours Wedge, Johnston

The executive of the Westmount Municipal Association (WMA) recently released tributes to Don Wedge and John Johnston (see insets).

Both men were longtime board members who died over the summer, see “Memories of John Johnston” and “Indie columnist driven by love for Westmount” (August 10, p. 2 and p. 7). The *Independent* also devoted its entire August 3 (web-

Tribute to Don Wedge by Henry Olders (excerpt)

A democracy ... works when individual citizens do what is necessary to ensure that government decisions reflect the will of the people. Don worked relentlessly to be well informed about Westmount civic affairs, and to share that knowledge with other citizens. That alone would qualify him as a model citizen.

But he chose to take it much further. He attended municipal council meetings all over the island of Montreal as well as on the South Shore...

He paid particular attention to how “citizen-friendly” other administrations were: how welcoming they were to questions, how open with information, how transparent ..., and the degree to which they made use of technology ... to keep citizens “in the loop”. ...

Finally, as the soul and spirit of the WMA, Don never failed to be present at board meetings...

Many current and former officers and board members owe their participation in the WMA to Don’s charm and skills of persuasion, and some of those people went on to run for city council, helping to make Westmount the wonderful city that it is.

Don, you will be sorely missed. Your contributions to the quality of life in Westmount will be long cherished. Farewell, dear friend!

only) edition to Wedge, who was a columnist for the paper at the time of his death.

The Wedge family has organized a memorial service on what would have been Wedge’s 80th birthday. It will take place at Victoria Hall on Tuesday, September 21 at 5 pm.

Johnston was the WMA board’s longest serving board member, having served since 1983.

Tribute to John Johnston by Maureen Kiely (excerpt)

John Johnston was well known for his regular attendance at Westmount city council meetings. Always quietly charming, unfailingly polite and with a soft-spoken British accent, he has queried city councillors and senior city administrators, on a wide range of issues, since the early 1970s. If a hapless city official tried to skirt an issue, Johnston could be persistent in pursuit of the answer, oftentimes much to the amusement of the audience and our local newspapers!

Frequently, John was the first to provide city council with reliable reports of a particular occurrence or problem. It was he who alerted municipal officials to the “hotel” that was operating at the Alexis Nihon apartments. A long-time resident of the Plaza Tower building, John was especially concerned with rental issues. He kept a watchful eye on the CND Motherhouse during its conversion to Dawson College thereby ensuring residents of a better night’s sleep during construction...

As a lover of books, John was drawn to the Westmount library. From its inception, he was an active member of the Friends of the Library Committee. Carolyn O’Neill, current President of the Friends of the Library Committee, noted that John “was a valued Past President of the Friends. He was a long-term supporter of the library and was a great lover of books and their place in the world.”



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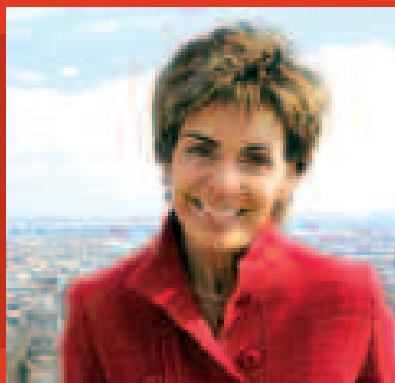
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