This is our 200th issue. Enjoy.

Arena/pool project moves ahead, p. 8 and 9

March 20-21, 2012

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly. Vol. 6 No. 3c

We are Westmount

Wholesale business to stay open

Nicholas Hoare shutting down on Greene by July 1

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

After four decades, the closing of a landmark book shop on Greene Ave. at the end of June stems in part from the street becoming "a cultural wasteland," said Nicholas Hoare, who owns the store bearing his name.

"It was a painful decision," he told the Independent March 16, but timed to the July 31 expiry of his lease at 1366 Greene just south of Sherbrooke. Some 10 longserving full-time and part-time employees will be let go.

The closure, he said, was based on the combined effect of rising rent and taxes, an aging population, "electronica," and the changing character of the street, "where



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small retail is being replaced by banks, trust companies, real estate offices and fashion."

"It's like my little world is crumbing," said frequent customer Jane Martin on hearing the news. She described the store as a part of her life and "a mainstay of the street that adds to the texture of the community.

"Now that we've already lost The Double Hook, the street is losing a lot of its character and substance."

Since 1971, Hoare has carved out a niche market in British and specialty books as a supplier of public libraries throughout Canada, a business he will continue to operate as usual.

News that his wholesale operation would remain intact along with its warehouse in NDG was greeted with relief by Julie-Anne Cardella, director of the Westmount Public Library.

"It's a partnership we've had with them over many years," she explained. "They carry what our readers are looking for quality books. The library, she said, spends 30 percent of its adult English book budget with Hoare.

It was the late Norah Bryant, a longserving former chief librarian, whom Hoare credits with getting him into the library supply business by identifying a hole in the market. And the city of Westmount became his first customer in Quebec.

In 1974, when he opened his first retail

Boots found – far from home



Boots the cat makes a "high five" from the arms of his owner Phyllis Legatos, following an adventure that somehow took him to Verdun. See p. 24.

venture, it was as a small section of the Kastel art gallery in its basement at 1368 Greene. "It was a way of getting around Quebec law," that required book wholesalers continued on p. 3

INSIDE

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Nicholas Hoare bookstore

continued from p. 1

to operate through a retail operation, he explained.

The Avenue Bookshop, as he called it, grew over the next 10 years. It assumed the Hoare name and expanded into the current premises next door at 1366 Greene that also was owned by the Kastel brothers, Tony and Paul.

Hoare opened other outlets: at Ogilvy's for a while, as well as in Ottawa, where the store is also being shut down shortly. The Toronto store is the last to survive and Hoare is putting his attention to increasing its importance.

"In Toronto, we're benefitting from a reactionary curve," he explained. "People are coming to us by default as other booksellers close. We're the last one standing in specialty books."

Despite the general decline in the book business in Canada, Hoare said, "we've been insulated by our British books, but we're competing against electronica and clearly we are the dinosaurs - though there is always room for dinosaurs and survivors." But sadly, it's not so in Westmount, he explained.

"The older well-heeled generation has leapt to the tablet, which they can take on holiday without lugging heavy books. It's understandable. If you're 70 and you've downsized, why would you buy a novel?"

But to stop stocking novels would be to have a shop that was "half baked." So downsizing is out of the question.

As for Greene, he said, "The fabric of the street is changing, and for the worse." He worries that the condo development at the corner of de Maisonneuve will concentrate activity to the south end of the street.

He also points to the closure of The Double Hook by owner Judy Mappin, "who got out when she should have," some four years ago and of the Kastels'

gallery and the subsequent sale a year ago of their two buildings, including the Hoare location.

"Because of our partnership, we had a sweetheart deal on the lease for 30 years," he said. And now with its expiry, "the timing for me might be a blessing in disguise." He expects the rent to rise 50- to 60-percent.

As well, Hoare turns 70 this year and doesn't want to be locked into another fiveyear lease. He hopes to spend more time at his home outside Westmount: a large house he is restoring on his estate in Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia (see profile, November 25, 2008, p. 15).

Despite reports citing different closing dates for the store, Hoare said he is targetting June 30 after the end of the school year. This will allow time for dismantling the cabinetry and moving out the stock before the construction holiday near the end of July.

"It ends an era," he said. "We enjoyed the golden years when Greene Ave. was a very sociable place. Now it's time to go."





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Westmount joins St. Patrick's fun

Photos: Robert J. Galbraith



Close to 100 Westmounters turned out to march in the 189th St Patrick's parade in downtown Montreal, March 18. A record-breaking temperature of 22 degrees broke the previous record by 8 degrees and drew hundreds of thousands of Montrealers and visitors to St. Catherine St. to witness North America's oldest running St Pat's Parade. The event for Westmounters was organized by the Community Events Division.



Westmount Public Security officers, Sergeant Kim Colquhoun, assistant director Greg McBain and Sergeant Steve Payne wore green shamrocks on their hats, as did their Public Security van.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DOG RUNS FOR THE DOGS

As a dog owner and parent, I was disturbed by your small article about a 10year-old girl, who was nipped while playing in the Murray Hill dog park.

The mother called Public Security to file a report – presumably against the dog who nipped her.

I think that there is a lesson here.

Signage at all parks in Westmount prohibit dogs from playing in or near them, as children are present.

The same should hold true for the city's dog runs. I am not suggesting children be restricted from going into the park. I have three children who love going to the park and have been going since they were born.

Children do, however, need to be taught the rules – the runs are for dogs to run and play in.

As smart as we think our dogs are, they do not differentiate between the fourlegged and two-legged "playmates"!

If children run, jump and play in the dog park, they will be chased, jumped on and played with by the dogs who are there.

Instead of calling security to report the dog, the parent and security officer perhaps should have outlined the rules of being in the dog park.

JENNIFER CROLL WOLFE, ARGYLE AVE.

EVEN OUT THE DISTRICTS

Considering the ridiculous gerrymandering currently going on in the US, I applaud Westmount's attempt to equalize its electoral districts. But we shouldn't rush to praise our city's history in this respect: in our last election not 30 months ago, the four smallest districts (1, 2, 3 and 8) had a combined 6,228 electors, while the three largest (4, 6 and 7) totalled 6,051. One extra district for 177 voters!

Was it a large change between when that map was passed (April 2008) and the election 18 months later? The difference between the top 3 and bottom 4 was still just 492, and District 2 had 13 percent fewer voters than the average while District 4 had 14.9 percent more, barely under the 15 percent maximum.

What are the numbers now? District 2 is still 11 percent under, while districts 4 and 5 are each nearly 7 percent over. Combined, 4 and 5 have 584 more voters than 1 and 2. You'd have to add and subtract 852 people (over half a district) to even out all disparities. Westmount can do better!

We can push some of 5 into 6 or 7, then push part on into 8. And move a corner of 4 into 2 and then part of it to 1. There are enough tiny streets that even small changes, like one block northeast of Montrose and Mount Pleasant going from 3 to 1, will help.

We have nine more months to pass a map; let's get it right! Write a letter to the city clerk before March 28 requesting changes, before Sir Joseph Porter wails (apologies to Gilbert and Sullivan): "I grew so rich that I was sent / by pocket district not constituent."

NICHOLAS SMITH, BURTON AVE.

ONE WAY TO GO: MAKE LANSDOWNE ONE-WAY NORTH, RELUCTANTLY

I am against Lansdowne being a oneway street going north. I live at 312 Lansdowne, a townhouse just north of de Maisonneuve. I often head south to go down the Glen to Home Depot, etc. and regularly to the Nuns' Island tennis club. Also, I go west on de Maisonneuve to shop at Metro or to go to the Mount Royal Tennis Club on Grey Ave., a one-way street going north.

Lansdowne is a narrow two-lane street. which is obviously why it was designated a one-way street many years ago, from Westmount Ave. south to Sherbrooke.

For reasons unknown to me, the city chose not to continue [the one-way] down further. I'm glad they didn't.

I find this lovely narrow residential street to be just fine as a two-way street. Is this a selfish attitude? Yes!

But it seems Lansdowne going north one-way is the sensible solution. We must take into account the future. We cannot ignore the fact that every day now hundreds of cars head south through the Glen, and that when the MUHC opens its [Glen site] doors there will be many hundreds more. Simply, this is a recipe for disaster – not just traffic congestion but accidents.

A while back, Lansdowne was a bus route. That didn't last long. A serious bus accident on this very narrow street quickly put an end to it.

What's the answer? Hard as I have tried. I see no alternative but to make it a one-way street, going north from St. Catherine to Sherbrooke. So, to go to either of the tennis clubs where I play, etc., I would have to first head the wrong way.

Correction

In the March 13 column of Living in Westmount by Jo Simonetti, a sentence was incorrectly edited. It should have read "I discovered ... that cooking anything can turn strangers into friends, and substituting portobello mushrooms for porterhouse steak won't necessarily leave you feeling cold and empty inside."

Woe is me!

In order to access the Glen, we could go down Roslyn (equally narrow Grosvenor is already sensibly one-way north) to Victoria, the only wide commercial street west of Lansdowne, south to St. Catherine and east to the Glen. Central Westmounters wanting to go to the Glen can use Melville or any other street east of Westmount Park to St. Catherine. and west.

Rocket science is not needed to see the problem...or to solve it. Every Lansdowne neighbour I have talked to is ready to inconvenience themselves, because, like me, they can see no alternative.

If anyone here has a better one, let's open the floor to consider it.

BOB ASCH, LANSDOWNE AVE.

DE MAISONNEUVE-ERS KNOW BEST

Funny how living on the bike path can only mean not wanting it in our back yard. Could it be possible that we are the best observers of its dangers?

The cyclists treat it as a thoroughfare for transportation, most without respecting any of the rules of the road. If they would stop at the stop signs to give the necessary right of way to either pedestrians or cars when it is called for, obey traffic lights and be just as mindful of drivers backing out of driveways as they are of them, then the sheer volume would be of little concern.

As residents along this path, we know that most of these safety precautions are ignored.

Audrey Juhasz, de Maisonneuve Blvd.

WCSC IS ALL ABOUT **'INCLUSIVE SAFETY'**

Westmount Citizens for Safe Cycling (WCSC) takes exception to the allegations in Mr. Sauvé's letter ("WCSC should be honest about aspirations," March 13, p. 6) that it is dishonest and misrepresents the facts.

WCSC has stated from day 1 that safe cycling is our major concern; inclusive safety, which takes into consideration cyclists, pedestrians, drivers of vehicles and residents. In addition, the WCSC has consistently grounded its presentations to council and its letters to the editor on evidence-based research and industry standards. (Mr. Sauvé's "facts" concerning Rachel St. conveniently fail to scale the rate of injury to the length of the path and its volume of traffic, entre autres (see La *Presse* April 20, 2011).

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Letters & Comments:

We welcome your letters but reserve the right to choose and edit them. Please limit to 300 words and submit before Friday 10 am to be considered for publication the following week. Please check your letter carefully as we may be unable to make subsequently submitted changes. If you do make amendments, please "redline" them instead of resending the whole letter. Email any letter or comments to indie@westmountindependent.com.



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continued on p. 22

Inter-city soccer and wine course to be featured in new Sports and Rec booklet

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

With the start of Sports and Recreation's registration March 19 for spring and summer activities, new programs being offered include family karate, intercity soccer for adults and wine appreciation.

Family karate is being introduced Saturdays to youth age nine and over along with family members by the Japan Karate Association, a volunteer-run group based in Westmount.

For adults – both men and women – inter-city soccer is also making a debut. While Westmount has never played youth inter-city, "many of our younger players have now grown up and are able to play at this level," said Claude Danis, program and community services coordinator.

D

Owners, Tiger and Bear Dog owners go legal as arrangement falters

By Laureen Sweeney

An understanding worked out by the city for the owners of two Westmount dogs lasted only two weeks and four days, apparently due to the change in Daylight Saving Time, the *Independent* has learned.

The two un-neutered males, Bear and Tiger, have scrapped on at least one documented occasion in Summit Woods and the truce was that the owners of Tiger would not take him there between 11 am and noon.

Under the plan negotiated by Councillor Cynthia Lulham February 27, Bear and his owner, Valerie Morin, would have at least one hour a day to use the park without meeting Tiger and his owner.

Chance encounter

But all that changed March 16 when at 11:45 am they had a chance encounter.

"I'm upset and terrified anew," Morin said soon after. "Now I have no safe time."

"It was a mistake," explained Mansur Zadeh, who owns Tiger. "We forgot to change the clock in the living room, and my wife looked at it and took Tiger out an hour early."

Morin subsequently wrote in an email to Lulham that "I will advise my lawyers of the situation, and if Tiger hurts Bear I reiterate my will to sue not only Tiger's owners, but the city as well, for failing to protect us ... despite precedents in Quebec law."

Morin alleges that Tiger is aggressive toward her dog, attacks it and is "dangerous."

Asked for protection

She asked the city council at its meeting February 6 to do something to protect Bear from Tiger and sent a lawyer's letter over the matter to Tiger's owner after the city maintained there was no evidence that Tiger was dangerous (see February 28, p. 1).

After the chance encounter and Morin's reaction, however, Zadeh said he plans to seek legal action against her. "It is amazing. We have been taking Tiger to Summit Woods for five years without any problems or complaints until she started taking her

dog there." Bear is aged 2. "Tiger is neither aggressive or dangerous."

He had told the *Independent* before the chance meeting that he would like to be able to reconcile the matter with Morin and find a way for the two dogs to get together and become friends.



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On-site coordinator, reserved parking in the works Plans revealed to manage construction of new rec centre

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

To reduce the impact on daily life from construction of the new Westmount recreation centre, parking on all or parts of nearby streets will be reserved for neighbourhood residents only, and an on-site city representative is to be assigned to mitigate disruption, ensure safety, coordinate city services and anticipate problems.

These are two of several measures



being implemented for the pending start of construction said Councillor Cynthia Lulham March 15 in holding the first of five District 7 meetings.

"How you do something is just as important as what you are planning to build," she said.

One of the big plusses of building to LEED gold standards is that certification by Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design involves a "whole building" approach, Lulham explained.

"This is the city's biggest work project ever, and we want to cover all areas of safety and quality of daily life."

Other measures include installing security fencing around the site, enforcing hours of operation, maintaining pedestrian and cycling access along de Maisonneuve past the worksite and informing residents of updates through email notices and the posting of notice boards at four locations on site.

With closure of the existing arena April 15 at 11 pm, work will follow quickly to melt down the ice and begin dismantling the refrigeration system, she said. "Whatever can be reused by us or others will be

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As well, "special care will be taken in disposal, and decontamination will be done in a sustainable way and according to provincial regulations."

Traffic management

Arena Drive is to become the main worksite access with ample parking on the site for construction workers, according to Public Security officials. Academy Rd. will be closed off at Arena Drive and a turnaround created.

Addressing concerns by the Contactivity seniors' centre about vehicle access for members at the only accessible door to Westmount Park Church immediately north of the worksite on de Maisonneuve, Lulham said "our Administrative Traffic Committee is working on that." Accessibility also is required for fire trucks (see p. 9).

Reserved parking

Parking on Academy Rd. and Park Place will be reserved entirely for residents of the enclave. One side of Irvine, Lewis and Blenheim Place will also be reserved for residents only. The Public Security Unit is working on a signage and sticker system and is working on plans for particular situations such as the street maintenance period.

Adjustments in parking may have to be made for the winter and as the project evolves, Lulham said.

Work hours and noise

While it's not yet known whether some pile driving will be needed initially in building retaining walls to hold back earth

Did clocks go haywire? Blame the squirrel

Some 800 households in Westmount probably awoke Sunday morning March 11 truly confused over the change in time.

Just before Daylight Saving Time kicked in at 2 am, Hydro Quebec cut power to one of the 10 lines it supplies to Westmount for distribution, according to Hydro Westmount director Pierre Dubé. The reason was believed to be a short circuit caused by a squirrel hopping between wires.

The outage lasted about two hours from 1:30 am to 3:15 am, said Public Security officials, whose patrollers opened the folding stop signs at various intersections where traffic lights were out. around the excavation, she said, "this will not involve pounding into rock."

Hours of permitted construction activity are weekdays from 7 am to 9 pm and Saturdays 8 am to 8 pm, though work with heavy equipment is not allowed after 6 pm or on the weekends. No activity is permitted on Sunday or legal holidays.

Heavy equipment is defined in the city's by-law as including large delivery trucks, motorized excavation machinery, loading equipment, cranes, pumps and generators.

The city plans to enforce its own by-law, Lulham said. The only possible exception is in the pouring of concrete, which, once started has to be completed, she explained.

Informing residents

In such an event, the city plans to notify residents directly and via its website. Four information boards are to be installed on Academy, Park Place, St. Catherine (near Arena Drive) and Lansdowne. "I'm also collecting email addresses from people at our district meetings."

Lulham has been hand delivering invitations to residents in all sectors of the district to reach some 450 households, including apartments, she said.

As someone who will once again experience infrastructure work this summer in front of her own house on St. Catherine St., she said, "I'm well aware of the magnitude of disruption to daily life and the grief that construction can cause. It's important that we, as a city, do everything we can to contain, manage and minimize it."

Enough is enough – city searches for leak

It must be that time of year again. Water was reported to be seeping into the basement of Westmount Public Library March 8 – a regular happening at the end of winter when rain or melting snow comes in at the base of the wall near the area used by the Westmount Historical Association.

Library director Julie-Anne Cardella said the infiltration was not as extensive as last year, and no damage was reported to the WHA archives. Bookcases were moved out from the walls, however, and city contractors were in the throes of trying to find the source of the leak in an attempt to remedy the problem.



Arena demo, new rec centre unopposed at hearing

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Not a single voice was raised against destroying the existing arena or replacing it with the proposed new Westmount recreation centre during a demolition hearing March 14. Nor did two letters received in advance oppose the plan.

As a result, a decision to grant the required demolition permit seemed all but a foregone conclusion, as indicated at the end of the hearing by Demolition committee chairman Patrick Martin.

All that remained for the committee, he said, was to impose conditions to mitigate disruption during construction.

Despite a widely publicized protest petition circulated over many months, as well as the questioning of critics and skeptics at city council meetings, only three members of the general public showed up.

One, Patrick Barnard of the Save the Park group, left part way through the presentation leaving only two residents to ask questions.

Mary Stark, executive director of Contactivity, reiterated concerns she had expressed in writing over the need to ensure vehicle access, during and after construction, to the front door of Westmount Park Church. This is the only accessible entrance to the building, where the seniors' group meets.

She also asked about possible construction material that might be left on the sidewalk.

City director general Duncan Campbell stated the city was committed to retaining the access off de Maisonneuve that is also required for fire trucks. It had yet to work out with the contractor some of the logistics involved with a turn-around. Material would be placed elsewhere.

Stark also asked about the removal of possible asbestos from the arena. Martin explained that this material had only been identified in pipes and, said Campbell, whatever there was would not be removed "willy-nilly" but carefully with "no effect on the public."

Car broken into at lookout

After walking her dogs in Summit Woods between 9:25 and 9:40 am on March 11, an NDG woman returned to her car parked at the lookout to discover someone had smashed the left rear window. Public Security officials said the woman checked through her purse that had been left in the Volvo and found nothing missing. The second questioner, Joyce Faughnan, who lives in the condo building at 200 Lansdowne, asked if the small park across the street at the northeast corner of Lansdowne and St. Catherine would remain intact during construction. And what would become of the adjacent dog run?

Campbell replied that the park would be untouched and that the dog run would be moved to a central location in Westmount Park (see story March 13, p. 12).

He also replied to a question raised in the second letter received by the committee before the hearing in which two residents of St. Antoine St. asked if construction could be scheduled to keep the pool open this summer even as construction begins.

"I think we have to say this is not a feasible suggestion," Campbell stated. Not only would power be shut off, but it was not possible to operate a construction site "within a foot of a pool."

He pointed out that the pool had already been kept open last summer, a year later than planned.

Prior to the questions, Paul Grenier presented the reasons why the city's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC), on which he sits, was recommending the demolition of the arena, which was opened in 1958.

It did not qualify, he said, as an exceptional building under any of Parks Canada's criteria as having architectural, historical or environmental significance.

The replacement program for the new underground rinks, the above-ground pools and entrance pavilion, was presented by architect Martin Troy. He was accompanied by colleague Erik Marosi. Both had created the approved design as part of the Pomerleau design-build consortium.

It was the first time that two new slides of the project – the main entrance and the new pool area – had been shown, even to city officials and members of council who attended.



A Good Samaritan drove an intoxicated man to the Public Security station at 21 Stanton March 9 at 5 am after finding him lying on the ground with a minor cut on the head, officials said. Urgences Santé personnel were called, arrived at 5:20 am and took over. It was not known where the man had fallen.



At the demolition hearing March 14, from left, committee chairman Patrick Martin speaks to arena/pool project architects Erik Marosi and Martin Troy of the Pomerleau consortium.



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Café Crème wants outdoor terrace restriction eased

By Martin C. Barry

The manager of a Victoria Ave. coffee shop wants the city of Westmount to lengthen the period of the year when outdoor terraces are allowed, taking into account Montreal's recently milder winters and the benefits such a move would have on the local economy.

"A lot of Westmounters enjoy being outdoors when enjoying their coffee, even if it's a little cool outside, but we can't do that because of the by-law," said Nastasia De Paoli, manager of the Victoria Ave. outlet of Café Crème, in an interview with the Independent.

"What we're hoping is that this can be altered so that it's better for us and the clients and the community. What we want is for the by-law to be changed so that our

terrace can be open earlier and close later, because it would make a huge difference."

According to the city's current regulations, outdoor terraces in Westmount are allowed from April 1 to October 31. De Paoli would like to see the period begin as early as March and end some time in November. In the meantime, she plans to make her point by placing tables and chairs out in front of Café Crème weeks ahead of schedule, weather permitting.

"There should be some sort of understanding between the merchants and the city that we need the terrace in order to satisfy our customers, or else the customers are going to go somewhere else," she said. While Café Crème has been served with warnings in past years, De Paoli could not recall being fined.

As she was being interviewed on March



John Abecassis, left, and Joey Sellem enjoy their java on the Café Crème terrace.

McGuire recounts Atwater Library's history to WHA



Susan McGuire displays a list of lectures the Atwater Library once hosted, including "Causes and Cures of Cahots" (potholes) during her March 15 presentation for the Westmount Historical Association.

By Joanne Penhale

As part of their spring lecture series, the Westmount Historical Association (WHA) welcomed Susan McGuire, historian and past executive director of the Atwater Library to share her knowledge of the library's history. It has its roots in the Mechanics' Institute of Montreal, which began in 1828, and several Westmounters participated in its development, she recounted.

McGuire's March 15 presentation at the Westmount Public Library included a list lectures the library once hosted, including "Causes and Cures of Cahots." The audience of nearly 40 laughed when McGuire reminded them "cahot" was a word for "pothole."

The Atwater Library has been in its present location at the eastern edge of

Westmount since 1920.

The WHA's following two Thursday night lectures will cover Summit Woods (April 19) and the Decarie "Pink" House (May 17).

Man found alive and well

A woman living in California called Public Security March 8 concerned she hadn't been able to reach her 82-year-old brother living in Westmount. The man's apartment was checked out, and he was not found inside. Alerted to the concerns, the building superintendent informed officers the next day that he had seen the resident and relayed the concerns to him.

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Top-seeded Bantam A Wings sent home early

By Michael Moore

Their near-perfect regular season behind them, the Bantam A Wings' lofty post-season ambitions came to a screeching halt on March 17 as they suffered a 2-1 shootout loss to the Diables de Mont-Royal/Outremont in the second round of the playoffs.

"Obviously I'm a bit disappointed right now," said Wings forward Jean Westenberg, "but we still had a great season."



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514.937.2480 RE/MAX ACTION (1992) INC. Real Estate Avency. 8280 Champlain Blvd. Coming off a 21-1 regular season, the heavily favoured Wings stumbled in the first round of the playoffs, losing 3-1 to the bottom-ranked LaSalle Lions and setting up the matchup with the second-seeded Diables.

"[The players] were overconfident," said head coach Sean Maislin. "You have to bring your 'A' game, regardless of whether you're facing the second-place team or the twelfth-placed team."

With Westmount's first-round scoring troubles again surfacing in opening period, the Wings turned their defence to break the deadlock in the second. With the Westmount forecheck creating havoc deep in the Diables' zone, Liam Marcil's slap shot from the blue line weaved its way through a host of bodies and into the net.

"[Westenberg] passed me the puck from the corner," said Marcil, "and my slap shot managed to go into the bottom corner."

The Diables would capitalize on a power play to finally pierce the Wings' stout defence early in the third period. Racing down the right wing, Diables forward Philippe Drolet's hard wristshot from the left circle sailed past Wings' netminder Robert Renzi's blocker and into the top corner to level the score at one.

Neither team was able to pierce the other's defence in the waning minutes of the third period or the ensuing fiveminute, four-on-four overtime, sending the league's top-seeded teams to a shootout.

After both goaltenders stood their ground against the opening shooters, Westenberg's top-corner snipe was answered by Diables forward George Labos, who slid home a backhand to level the shootout at one goal apiece heading into the final shooters.

In a microcosm of the Wings' playoff, Emmanuel Elie managed to deke the Diables goaltender only to see the puck roll off of his stick at the last moment before Laurent Lissoir ended the game with a perfectly-placed wristshot, sending the Diables into the next round and the Wings out of the competition.

Despite their playoff disappointment, the Wings' season isn't over, as the team will be competing in the Bantam A regionals later this month by virtue of their first-place regular season finish.

Sports & Rec

continued from p. 7

out if you're just a beginner, she noted.

One new course that requires no particular expertise, however, is Wine Appreciation. It's a historical and cultural overview designed to create an understanding of what makes a good wine. Separate courses in English and French will be presented by Nathalie Purchio of the Canadian Association of Professional Sommeliers.

Also listed as "new" in the program brochure delivered last week to all households in Westmount is the Saturday Science in Westmount program for three age groups ranging from 3 to 9. While these are being offered for the first time at this time of year, they were presented in the fall and winter program, explained Claude Danis.

During the initial registration period running until March 30, Westmount residents are guaranteed space in most of the programs with the exception of a few listed in the brochure, generally where class sizes are limited and outside instructors have limited availability. After March 30, activities are opened up to non-residents where spaces are available.



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Inuit art on exhibit at McCord, features



Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond Veronica Redgrave

Montrealers arrived at the McCord Museum February 22 for "Inuit Modern," an exhibition featuring the Esther and Samuel Sarick collection of Inuit art from the Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO).

The McCord presentation is the only other institution in the country to present this exhibition that reveals the art of a changing society while illustrating its amazing modernity.

The exhibit was co-curated by Gerald McMaster, curator of Canadian Art at the AGO, and Ingo Hessel, Inuit art specialist, both of whom spoke at the opening cocktail, along with Matthew Teitelbaum, AGO director and CEO.

They were introduced by McCord CEO Suzanne Sauvage, host of the event with Line Rivard, president of the McCord board of trustees.

Admiring art lovers - young and old were spellbound in front of each beautifully lit piece.

Noted in the packed room were UMA founder André Cornellier; artist Guy Glorieux; François Duffar; Bertrand Licart; photographer Marisa Portolese; art aficionados and supporters Elisa Labelle-Trudeau and Gaétan Trudeau; and Anne and Fred Sneider.

Westmounters noted included Nathalie Simard and Pierre Raymond, Nancy Cleman, John Leopold, Stanley Shapiro, Gabrielle Pilot, and artist Laura Santini, whose sculptural polar bear "rug" XTINCT greeted guests at the entrance to the exhibit. Collecting empty oyster shells from Montreal restaurants, Santini wove them into chicken wire to create the bear with its uneven beige, white and ivory coat.

Exhibits in the McCord show depict Inuit respect for and honour of the land. But, as Santini suggests through her powerful piece, due to climate change, today much is at risk – from the powerful polar bear to the miniature mollusk.

continued on p. 17



Pierre Raymond, Nathalie Simard and John Leopold.



Laura Santini with her work "XTINCT," which will be on display at the McCord Museum until Sunday, April 29.

Café Crème terrace

continued from p. 10

16, two customers sat at a table sipping coffee outside Café Crème's front window, even though the temperature was coolish and the sun was hidden behind clouds.

"It's supposed to be 18 degrees this weekend," said John Abecassis, a regular customer. "On a nice warm day after a long winter there's nothing like having a coffee outside," added his table companion, Joey Sellem.

Joanne Poirier, director of Urban Plan-

ning for the city, said the need to clear snow, should it fall during the early or late winter, makes it unlikely the terrace by-law will change. "We can't predict what Mère Nature will decide," she told the Independent.

"Obviously, when the weather is nice in the first week of November we tolerate it and we don't issue tickets. But it's better for us to have it written in the by-law than to start extending it, and then be stuck with a snow storm in mid-March and we can't clear up the sidewalk."





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Santini's XTINCT

continued from p. 16



Nancy Cleman and Stanley Shapiro.

Dogs boost cost of manicure

outside 4 Westmount Square March 10 were left alone for almost an hour, Public Notre Dame St. was issued a \$75 ticket for Security officials. When the owner re- leaving them unattended in a public place.

Two dogs tied up to a parking meter turned to retrieve them, she stated she had been having a manicure. The resident of



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Matte credits the institutional strength of his firm, Macquarie Private Wealth, for providing an extensive range of investments to choose from. The global resources of Macquarie enable him to select stocks and bonds that most other firms simply don't have access to. As a result, Matte and his clients go beyond the standard off-the-shelf products to invest in securities that can provide better yields at a lower cost.

"My clients place a great deal of trust in my counsel, which is why I conduct regular portfolio updates with each of them on a monthly basis," Matte says. "This presents an opportunity to review the investment strategy and make any necessary adjustments. Ultimately, my clients value peace of mind, and that's what my professional counsel provides."

To arrange a private appointment with Denny Matte, visit his website at **dennymatte.com** for contact information. Marketing feature



St. Michael 'loves' her new Vic Village location



Nina St. Michael, left, who recently moved her Nee Nah clothing, jewellery and accessories boutique from Greene to Victoria, says she loves her new location. "It feels like a real neighbourhood," she told the Independent during a store-warming held on March 2, when clients were invited to come in and join her for a glass of wine. Among those who accepted the invitation was Amara Gelinas of Metcalfe Photo: Martin C. Barry

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Locke seeks repatriation for Canadian facing death penalty in US

By Joanne Penhale

The clock is ticking for an Albertan man who has been on death row in Montana for 30 years, and Westmounter Jack Locke insists the government of Canada should repatriate him.

"It's not about agreeing with what he did – it's about the sanctity of life," said Locke, a poet and freelance writer.

Ronald Smith plead guilty in a Montana court to the 1982 murders of two men. He also requested the death penalty.

"He did not make his plea voluntarily," Locke says. "It must not be under the threat of death that you make a plea."

According to Locke, Smith's life had been threatened by other inmates, and he asked for the death penalty out of fear.

Locke first heard of Smith's case in 1982, at the same time as he was beginning his writing career. The two men had never met, although Locke grew up in Calgary, and Smith, the same age, had a troubled childhood in the nearby town of Red Deer.

"I wanted to get the story," Locke said. He felt the trial was unfair, he said, in part because nobody with a good legal defence would ask for the death penalty. Locke exchanged letters with Smith around 1983, and in 1984 he travelled to Montana and met with the trial judge who sentenced Smith to death.

Locke has paid some attention to Smith's case over the years, he said, but a recent development now has him trying to raise public support for Smith's life.

In January, Smith's lawyers filed a petition for clemency to the Montana Board of Pardons and Parole. The board's hearing is scheduled for May, but following that, the decision to grant a more lenient sentence rests with the governor of Montana.

Locke said the best way to ensure Smith remains alive is for the Canadian government to repatriate him, even if it means Smith would live his days out in a Canadian jail.

Westmounters may have more political influence than others, Locke said, adding that he keeps a blog of his efforts, such as letter-writing, at jjlocke.wordpress.com

The *Independent* contacted Public Safety Canada for comment. Michael Patton, director of communications, said the ministry does not speak to individual cases.



Westmounter Jack Locke and Montana death row inmate Ron Smith were both born in September of 1957, in Alberta. Locke has followed Smith's case since 1982, when Smith was first in the news for murdering two native men in Montana.

Turning shoe gazers into star gazers



For those of us who spend our time staring at a computer screen, a smart phone or our feet (if we can still see them), Earth Hour in Westmount is an opportunity to have a different perspective. The purpose of this hour, globally, is to draw attention to humanity's profligate use of energy, such as the energy we use to create artificial light.

If we look up at the stars and we don't see them very well, that's because our cities – and citizens – generate a lot of artificial light, effectively obliterating much of the light from the stars at night. So, you need a telescope to see many of the celestial wonders that used to be visible to the naked eye – and still are outside the city.

During Earth Hour, members of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (which has nothing to do with the price of houses in Westmount) will bring their telescopes to Victoria Hall and invite people to look at the stars. One of the stars out this year will be our MP Marc Garneau, who has actually been shot into space three times – but that was before he was elected. If he wants to go again, he'll have to wait. There are dozens of other politicians that voters would like to send off ahead of him.

I know very little about astronomy or astrophysics, so when I asked Tony Moffat what we could expect to see in the night sky over Westmount at Earth Hour I was a little overwhelmed. Moffat is chair of the volunteer committee organizing the event, and professor emeritus of astrophysics at the Université de Montréal. With apologies to him for any errors or misunderstandings, I believe he said that there will be a gibbous moon, that it will be the worst of the best times to see Mars, and that Venus is approaching a transit point between the Earth and the sun that will not re-occur for 100 years. If you want to see that, Earth Hour is your chance to get to know someone with a good telescope. Astronomers are delighted to share the joy of stargazing. Saturn is a very popular sighting, too.

The theme for Earth Hour this year is Energy Westmount. The Healthy City Project's Environment committee has been lobbying Westmount to reduce light pollution for several years, with some success.

Proud to be alive

It's not all sweetness and light. Recently a problem arose over the translation of an amusing slogan – "Proud to be dim." This was initially rendered as "fière d'être éteint," until someone pointed out that it could mean "proud to be dead." We may be an aging population, but we're not there yet.

At Earth Hour, we are invited to look up at the stars and understand our place in the universe a little better. We are many things to many people, but sometimes we forget that we are earthlings, too.

Earth Hour 2012 activities take place in and around Victoria Hall from 6 pm to 10 pm on Saturday, March 31. Find out more at westmount.org or gowestmount.ca (and in a news article published in the February 21 *Independent*, p. 18).

George Bowser is an entertainer and former city councillor.



Westmount classifieds



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Volleyballer Pelletier finally gets her happy landing

By David Goldberg

Sometimes, the higher you soar, the harder the landing. But this past year, Westmounter Victoria Pelletier managed to work through all kinds of adversity to land on her feet, with a bronze medal around her neck.

Pelletier was a key member of the McGill Martlets volleyball team, which went to the national championship for the first time. At only 5'9" - short by volleyball standards - Pelletier helped power McGill to the bronze by playing a powerful position.

"Victoria is a power hitter, who plays at the net, and also plays back on defence and to return serve," said Martlets' head coach Rachèle Béliveau. "She's not that tall at the net, but she hits very hard and she's developed hitting the ball off the blockers' hands. It's called a 'wipe-off' where the ball deflects out of bounds to give us a point."

It's one of Pelletier's many positive aspects, said Béliveau.

"Victoria is very aggressive, and she fights for every ball. She plays with a lot of heart and always makes the big play for us. She's got a good personality, and she's easy to coach."

Pelletier, a third-year management student, is a life-long Westmounter. She didn't start playing volleyball until her first year of high school at Collège Notre Dame.

"They didn't have a soccer or basketball team, so I tried volleyball," she said. "I was only so-so at first, but by my second year, I was a pretty strong player."

Strong enough that she went on to play for the powerful Collège Bois du Boulogne CEGEP team, the feeder program for the University of Montreal.

"But we lost two straight years in the finals to the same team," said the 21-yearold. "I went to McGill because I wanted to study in English and Concordia doesn't have a women's volleyball team."

desk now (4574 Sherbrooke W.).

Year one at McGill saw Pelletier spending much of her time on the bench. She got into the game more in her second year, a season that ended in personal tragedy.

"It was the semi-finals. If we won, we were going to nationals, but my father was on his deathbed, so I didn't play the first game on a Friday night. My dad passed away early on Saturday morning," she said.

Her father, René Pelletier, was a candidate for city council in the 2009 municipal election (see "René Pelletier mourned," March 1, 2011, p. 4).

The team was eliminated on Sunday, without Pelletier. But she was determined to have a big season in her final year.

"I trained really hard, but in October during a pre-season game, I sprained my right ankle. I told the team, don't worry, I'll be back within two weeks, and I was," she said.

Shortly after returning, Pelletier seriously sprained her left ankle, and this time she wasn't back to her old self until the playoffs in February. "At that point, I thought it was going to be a crappy year," said Pelletier. Crappy turned to happy when, down two games to none against the University of Laval in the semis, Pelletier got into the game and never left. McGill won the next three and booked its ticket to the nationals in Hamilton, where it beat the University of Montreal for the bronze.

So what will Pelletier take away from her time with the Martlets, overcoming all measures of adversity?

"I'm a person of faith, and I know some things are out of our control," she said. "There is a greater reason for some of the bad things that happen to you, and you just have to fight through them. They've made me appreciate this season so much more."

How much more, she was asked. "About 300 percent more," she replied.

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March 2. Pelletier, seen here in McGill's Love Competition Hall on February 24 prior to a game there

that night, helped the McGill team advance to the women's volleyball semi-finals for the first time in the



Agincourt brings out the Irish at Manoir Westmount



The seniors who live at Manoir Westmount got a pre-St. Patrick's Day treat on March 15. Prior to the evening meal, they were entertained by Agincourt, a traditional Irish band, made up of (from left): Joanne St-Laurent on harp, fiddler Ralph Thompson and Alan Jones on pipes, whistle, guitar and vocals. Thompson, who is a Westmounter, is also a photographer for the Independent.

Sitting target for burglars

Public safety officers discovered a garage door open on Belvedere Rd. just after 1 am March 9. The garage provided direct access to the house, and when no one appeared to be home, police were called to check it out. All was found in order.

For one person's view of why Westmount is the most fun place to live

Check out: http://westmountlookout.blogspot.com

Letters

continued from p. 6

For two years now, WCSC has exhorted to city of Westmount to accommodate active transportation by assuring proper education, engineering (infrastructure) and enforcement for the best interests of all users.

It is heartening to see that the report and recommendations for active transportation released by the city of Montreal this week are grounded in these same fundamental principles that the WCSC has espoused over the last two years. Among

Photo: Martin C. Barry

Ex-Habs coach Perron takes arthritis message to Westmount High



Former Montreal Canadiens head coach Jean Perron, who led the Habs to the Stanley Cup in 1986, gave students at Westmount High School some pointers on the early detection of arthritis. Speaking on behalf of the Arthritis Society at the school on March 15, Perron said he saw several of the injury-prone players he coached become seriously afflicted with the disease because they didn't seek early treatment. His advice to student athletes is don't ignore the symptoms. Photo: Martin C. Barry

Looking for business

pm March 9 on Stayner turned out to be someone offering to do odd jobs in the neighbourhood. Public Security officials said "he has been around for years." After

the excellent recommendations contained in this report (i.e. bike path compliance with norms and industry standards, responsible civic behavior on the part of cyclists, drivers and pedestrians), the report also recommends that current bicycle paths be taken out of and bypass city parks in the city of Montreal and that reserved bus and taxi lanes be made accessible to cyclists for active transportation purposes.

A man arousing suspicions around 6 ringing a doorbell on Prospect, where he was known to residents, he left and was last seen heading south on Greene on a bicycle.

> All of which goes to show that when the homework is done properly and the discussion of the active transportation issue is guided by a political will that is focused on the common good, far from being "tricky," positive results that garner public support are indeed achievable.

Don Taddeo, de Maisonneuve Blvd. AND MEMBER OF THE WCSC



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Comin' Up

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21

Meeting to inform residents of Westmount Park Towers about the city's plans around construction of the arena/pool project, 7 pm at 4700 St. Catherine.

Thursday, March 22

· Meeting to inform Contactivity members about the city's plans around construction of the arena/pool project at Contactivity Centre, 1 pm.

• Meeting to inform residents of Irvine, Lewis, Blenheim Place and 4556-4634 St. Catherine about the city's plans around construction of the arena/pool project at the lawn bowling clubhouse, 7 pm.

• "Shadows and Songs," an exhibition of watercolours and drawings by Elisabeth Galante at The Gallery at Victoria Hall, until April 14. Galante will be at the gallery on Saturday, March 24 from 1 to 4 pm; and Sunday, March 25 from 11 am to 2 pm. Info: Community Events 514.989.5521.

• To celebrate World Storvtelling Day," the Montreal Storytellers' Guild presents "Around the World through Stories," 12:30 pm at the Atwater Library. Free. 1200 Atwater Ave.

• "The art of renovation and restoration,"

by Heritage Montreal runs Thursday nights until May 10, from 6:30 to 9 pm at Dawson College, 4001 de Maisonneuve Blvd. For cost: 514.286.2662, ext. 26 or ren-Info: ovation@heritagemontreal.org. www.heritagemontreal.org.

FRIDAY, MARCH 23

Two-session "seniors for seniors" workshop on the Nintendo Wii and creating Mii character, 1 to 3 pm at Atwater Library. Also, Wii bowling on Friday, March 30 from 1 to 3 pm. Free. Register for both: Beth Symansky 514.935.7344, ext. 206 or beth@atwaterlibrary.ca.

SUNDAY, MARCH 25

"Honour: and the shadows of feminine idealization," with speaker Patricia Kirkpatrick, a doctoral student in Hebrew scripture and feminist studies. In the lower hall of St. Matthias' Church from 9:10 to 10:20 am. Info: 514.933.4295.

Wednesday, March 28

Public consultation meeting on zoning amendment to allow a restaurant at a Category I heritage building at 4192 St. Catherine St., 7 pm at city hall (see story March 13, p. 9).

• "Platero et moi," 7 pm at Victoria Hall. Part theatre, storytelling and music. Based on the story by Juan Ramon Jiménez. Free passes available at the Community Events office in Victoria Hall.

· Poetry workshop with Ann Lloyd, 2 pm at the Westmount Public Library. Info: Donna Lach 514.989.5386.

Thursday, March 29

City invites residents of Melville (north of de Maisonneuve), Abbott and 4500-4550 St. Catherine to hear about plans to reduce construction impact from the arena/pool project, 7 pm at the lawn bowling clubhouse.

Friday, March 30

Quality used book sale at Centre Greene, 10 am to 7 pm. Also, Saturday March 31, from 10 am to 3 pm. Sale proceeds to go to the centre's summer camp fund. Donations accepted. Info: 514.931.6202.

Saturday, March 31

• Earth Hour information exhibits, music, movie and stargazing presented by city of Westmount and Westmount Healthy City Project at Victoria Hall, 6 pm to 10 pm. Refreshments by Westmount-based Simply

Wonderful. Residents can also participate in Earth Hour by turning off lights from 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm. For full schedule, visit www.westmount.org and click on calendar.

· City of Westmount's Earth Hour committee presents musical entertainment, 7:45 pm to 8:30 pm at Victoria Hall. Performers include Westmounters Peter Weldon, Ralph Thompson and Wanda Potrykus, Jane McGarrigle, Wayne Larsen and Alan Jones. Audience participation for sing-along. Cash bar. Info: Stan Grossman 514.485.3339.

• Earth hour, shopping party at Lolë Westmount, 4868 Sherbrooke St. 7 to 8 pm; free yoga class by candlelight by Westmounter Lauren Rudick, 8 to 9 pm; and meditation 9 to 9:30 pm. Info: 514.419.1798.

• Vernissage of annual student exhibition at McClure Gallery, 350 Victoria Ave., 12 pm. Exhibition runs from Friday, March 30 to Saturday, April 21.

Monday, April 2

City council meeting, 8 pm, city hall.



(Sherbrooke St. at the corner of Clarke Ave.)

Welcomes all to our Easter Celebrations!

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Wednesday, March 28 at 7:00 p.m.

Passion Sunday Weekend: Saturday, March 31 at 5 p.m. — Sunday, April 1 at 10:30 a.m.

Holy Thursday, April 5: Mass of the Lord's Supper at 8 p.m.

Good Friday, April 6: Celebration of the Lord's Passion at 3 p.m.

Holy Saturday, April 7: Sacrament of Reconciliation from 3 to 4 p.m. — Easter Vigil at 8 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 8:

Celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord at 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

The Parish of Ascension of Our Lord

In conversation with Dr. Dan Chiche on pharma innovation

By Heather Black

With over 20 international companies and many more local startups, Montreal is home to an active pharmaceutical industry. Recently I spoke to Westmounter Dr. Dan Chiche on innovation within this economic sector.

Personalized medicine

Trained in both medicine and administration, Chiche has spent over 20 years as an executive in clinical research. At Glaxo Wellcome and Bristol-Myers Squibb, he was involved in developing therapies for HIV, hepatitis, influenza, rheumatoid



Dr. Dan Chiche

arthritis, hypertension and diabetes.

For Chiche, research into personalized medicine – and the effect of individual genes, proteins, and metabolic pathways on disease susceptibility – is particularly fertile. He is currently the medical director at Medpharmgene Inc., and does research under the guidance of Dr. Pavel Hamet, Canada Research Chair on predictive genomics, which has advanced our knowledge of diabetes.

Medpharmgene conducts Canadian research on the impact of the drug Preterax on type 2 diabetics at risk for cardiovascular disease. As part of a continuing, 20country study, over 11,000 participants are monitored for longevity, and coronary and renal illness. For Chiche, an increased understanding of disease susceptibility suggests both individualized therapy and new approaches to diagnosis and drug development.

Chiche explains that "there is increased increased interest in diagnostic tests within the pharmaceutical industry." Prognomix – Medpharmgene's sister company – has developed a first-generation prototype of a molecular diagnostic kit for type 2 diabetes. The company is also the recent recipient of a \$3-million Canadian Institute of Health Research grant to research telomeres on chromosomes. An individual telomere length is influenced by both genetic and environmental factors and is considered a marker of both cardiovascular disease and chronological age.

But Chiche is also CEO at Kompas Medical Services, formed in 2007 with pharmacist Kazimerz Babinski. Using his knowledge of both medicine and biostatistics, he assists companies with clinical trials. As a consultant, Chiche's role is to maximize a product's commercial value. "We intervene at many levels including strategic planning, positioning and interpretation of results."

And, as many within the industry have reduced their research role, Chiche also advises venture capitalists on prospective projects and biotech start-ups. A member of BioQuebec and Montréal InVivo, he understands the impact of current economic conditions and the resulting lower levels of financing for innovation. And while government grants are welcomed, these funds do not cover employee or other business costs.

Industry trend

Genetic testing and personalized medicine are the future of the industry. But while companies like Medpharmgene and Prognomix are doing well, many small Montreal pharmaceutical companies have recently closed. As these included small but innovative start-ups, Chiche believes that new models of drug development are needed.

His suggestion – more public-private partnerships to expand promising university research into patented therapies – would encourage innovation and ensure that Quebec remains a leader in the field.

Boots is back

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Never known to venture more than a block or two from his home on de Maisonneuve Blvd., Boots the cat, 16, went missing on February 26. Phyllis Legatos launched a campaign to find him with posters and word of mouth, but the website Petluck.ca proved to be the saving grace. Francine Guertin, who volunteers for Refuge pour chats de Verdun, saw the post and photo for Boots and recognized him as a cat she'd taken in. Boots and Legatos were reunited after nine days.

Find out some tips of what to do if your cat goes missing. See story same page.

Electronic Independents available Enjoy the Indie at supper time on Tuesdays! Sign up by writing us: office@westmountindependent.com.

Tips on finding a cat gone missing

• Act right away if your cat does not appear within his normal schedule.

• Check neighbours' basements, garages, sheds, as naturally curious cats often get trapped.

• Explore your whole neighbourhood with his favourite treat early in the morning, so that you can hear him.

• Store a recent photo of your cat so you can quickly print it and post it on light posts, alleys, veterinaries, stores, pet shops; or on websites, such as Petluck; or as an ad in newspapers.

• Leave a description with the vets in your area.

• Report a missing cat with your municipality.

• Get in touch with Refuge pour chats de Verdun (refugechatsverdun@hotmail.com) and the SPCA (spcamontrealpf.blogspot.ca) with a brief description and photo.

• Call every day. If your cat is found, he may have up to five days in a shelter before he is put down.

Source: Refuge pour chats de Verdun (www.refugechatsverdun.com.)

Say hi to 5-year-old Whiskey



She is so stunning, our Whiskey. A pure white domestic short-haired beauty, with a black cape and hat, with a little body art on her face and front leg. She could have attended a child's party for a face painting session!

Whiskey is not only gorgeous, she is very smart. She saved her own life through resourcefulness: a house door opened one bitterly cold morning and she ran in to get warm. The inhabitants noticed that she had a torn ear and a bad abscess on her front leg. They got her the veterinary care she needed.

Whiskey was then brought to Gerdy's Rescues and Adoptions for fostering, and now, in this column, we are ready to help her find a home in our neighbourhood.

She is healthy, about five years old and has been fully vetted and spayed. Dear Whiskey has charmed her foster family with her dignity and grace, purring like a kitten when she is being petted.



Whiskey

For more information, please contact Gerdy's Rescues and Adoptions at the pager number 514.203.9180 or email info@gerdysrescue.org.

Rafman to tour internationally with Google images exhibit



Jon Rafman

Wandering dog taken to local clinic

Public safety officers took a spaniel to the Westmount Animal Hospital February 29 after it was found running loose at Montrose and Mountain at 4:44 pm. The city has an agreement with the clinic to take Westmount-licenced dogs found during its opening hours.

Efforts to reach the owner through the dog's licence proved unsuccessful and the spaniel, well-known to Public Security, was eventually taken to the clinic and a message left with the owner.

By Veronica Redgrave

Westmount artist Jon Rafman has sprung to fame in the past two years with his images taken from Google Street View – a site where Google cameras around the world capture panoramic views of streets. A self-proclaimed "internet artist," Rafman downloaded these images, "adjusted the colour slightly," printed them and then made a final selection of pictures that he exhibited at Art 45 in the Belgo building downtown.

His chosen works sold out during the month-long exhibit a year ago.

Now, funded by a Canada Council grant, Rafman is about to travel internationally to exhibit his work. His first stop is New York, where his work will be presented at the Armoury Show. Next is Paris and a lecture at Gaité Lyrique, a digital arts and modern music centre. Rafman gives another lecture in the north of France before leaving for Moscow and the Photo Biennale Show there.

Later this year, he goes to Toronto, where his work will be displayed at Angell Gallery, with which he participated in Art Basel Miami Beach last December. Then he goes on to Hong Kong and his gallery there.

But "his real love is film," he said. By 2013 he plans to premiere "a mystery using Google Street View."

The quiet young Westmounter in the Raiders' baseball cap (he loves early 90s hip hop) attended Herziliah high school, and then McGill before his post graduate studies at the School of Art Institute in Chicago.

To view his work, visit http://brandnewpaintjob.com.

Caught smoking

Three teenage girls smoking behind the comfort station in Westmount Park February 29 at 8:51 am were captured on a city surveillance camera, Public Security officials said. They were seen passing something back and forth that appeared to be a joint though no marajuana was found when officers questioned them. The girls' parents were informed what their daughters, aged 14 and 15, were doing on their way to school, officials said. One lives in Westmount, the others in Verdun.



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Tatoo removal



You may have heard that removing tattoos isn't fun. A trip to a specialist, painful lasers, coupled with weeks of healing to get rid of something you wanted ... at one time. Sounds about as much fun as a having a root canal or a getting a colonoscopy.

But now, imagine how it feels to be that tattoo, or someone named Tattoo, in this case a rascal of a Jack Russell terrier. This dog was removed, or was asked to be removed, from the home of someone who once cared for him. So, here he is searching for another home.

This 5-year-old, high-energy guy has been surrended for the second time in his short life. Previously, he was living with a young man who suffered from mental health issues. Tattoo was excellent therapy for him at the beginning, and the two got along just fine – until one day, his human's condition worsened, and Tattoo was no longer useful to him.

Announcement



The Westmount Animal Hospital is pleased to announce that Dr. Leskiewicz has joined our staff. His experience and dedication makes him a most welcome addition. We look forward to working with him.

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Though the new situation of looking for a home is a challenge, there is some silver lining in the cloud for this Jack Russell. He is a manageable size and happens to be a lover of cats. He can live with them and downright digs them!

On the flip side, Tattoo has some issues around food. He likes to get his fill and when he doesn't, he can get grumpy. Someone who would closely monitor his food intake with the amount of exercise he gets would be ideal, because he gains



Tatoo

weight like Oprah during Sweeps.

Add to this some leash aggression and the way he likes to guard his toys – and you have all of Tattoo's quirks down.

His rescuers feel his issues could be resolved with some basic training. Think tats are cool? Ever consider getting one yourself? Why don't you? Contact Sophie's Dog Adoptions at info@sophiesdog-adoption.com or 514.523.5052.

The Underdog Club helps rescues in the Montreal area find homes for their hardestto-place dogs. Not everyone is looking for the kinds of dog we publicize. Why not think bigger and visit www.underdogclub.org?

Two squirrel calls

Public Security received two calls concerning squirrels March 7. One had been found injured on Grosvenor Ave. and was taken by officers to the SPCA. The other was a squirrel that had managed to get into the basement of a house on Oakland Ave. It was cornered and chased out a door.

Priory students explore heritage



Fifteen Priory students were medal winners at the school's recent Heritage Fair February 29. The students conducted research and created a presentation on a historical theme. Projects on the 12 Olympians, hydro electricity and L. M. Montgomery were among the winners. Gold medals were presented to 16 students. Photo courtesy of The Priory



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