

Arena meetings wind up in Ward 7, more set for 6

Full-size second rink still an option, 'Shakespeare' goes to original dog run

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

There's still a chance the "second" underground rink in the new arena/pool project may be extended to the full 200-foot length, Councillor Cynthia Lulham disclosed March 29 at the fifth and last of her neighbourhood meetings on reducing construction impact.

INSIDE

Bought & Sold p. 15

Social Notes BY V. REDGRAVE p. 16

The Underdog Club BY J. WILMANN p. 17

Comin' Up p. 18

Letters p. 6

The rink had been downsized to 185 feet following the submission of the Pomerleau design in order to save \$2 million in costs related to the proximity of infrastructure under Academy Rd.

This infrastructure is now being further studied as one of several items of the project still in flux, Lulham told the meeting at the lawn bowling clubhouse for residents of Abbott Ave. and Melville south of de Maisonneuve.

She also revealed that the annual Shakespeare performances in Westmount Park would move to the raised area between the *continued on p. 7*

'Exotic' snake captured on Victoria Ave., unclaimed

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Was it a grass snake, or a garter snake or a rock snake? No, none of the three varieties commonly found in this area, the Public Security sergeant quickly discerned.

A little less than two feet in length, the snake's red eyes were looking at Sgt. Robert Forbes, who was dispatched March 25 to deal with a snake on the steps of a house at 517 Victoria following a call from a neighbour at 2:30 pm.

It was described as having translucent scales, red-banded on white. While Forbes

Paging Premier Charest, Part 2



About 50 students protesting tuition fee hikes were at Premier Jean Charest's house on Victoria late afternoon of March 30, for the second time in the week. The group was calm, but made remarks to police and played pretend riot games, running down Victoria and shouting. See p. 4. Photo: Ralph Thompson

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admits he doesn't particularly like snakes, "it was just hanging out there," he said.

After a few minutes of internet research on the iPad in his supervisor's car, he determined it to be an albino ruthven's king snake or of the ruthveni species, and because of the white colouring, likely not venomous.

Assuming it to be an exotic variety and probably someone's pet that had escaped, he bagged it and took it to the SPCA in the hopes the owner would claim it.

Since no one did, the snake was reported to have been taken to the Magazoo facility *continued on p. 19*

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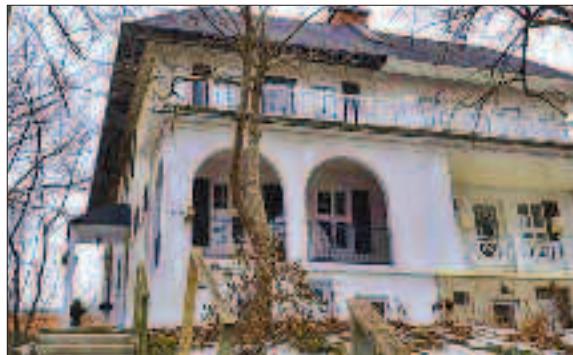


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Public meeting plays to near empty house

Proposed resto rezoning a plus for Greene, city says

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The rezoning of a heritage building at Greene and St. Catherine to include restaurants in the permitted usage could lead to a “very positive” addition to the neighbourhood, a public consultation meeting was told March 28.

Its use as a restaurant would not only promote more pedestrian activity but also “bring some excitement to the area,” said city Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier.

The building at 4192 St. Catherine commands the southeast corner and currently houses an antique business owned, as is the building, by Henrietta Antony. It is now up for sale. Originally built by the Royal Bank, it has a Category I heritage

rating and is zoned “commercial,” which, at the moment, does not include use as a restaurant.

The building is located in a stand-alone zone, C5-24-11, which was likely the reason it was accidentally omitted from last year’s rezoning of Greene that allowed for the addition of some small restaurants, Poirier explained. The oversight, she said, had been brought to the city’s attention by the building’s owner.

No size restriction

Because of its location and architectural interest, the city does not feel there should be a size restriction imposed on the restaurant occupancy of this building, she added in presenting the rezoning case to a virtually empty council chamber.

Not one member of the general public, or anyone directly concerned by the change, attended the session other than city officials – Councillor Cynthia Lulham as Urban Planning commissioner, and city clerk Mario Gerbeau.

Lulham pointed out that the building has access to parking. A municipal lot is at the rear, and Westmount Square has interior parking just across the street.

The first draft by-law to amend the zoning was adopted by a resolution of council

March 5 with the second draft expected to be adopted April 2. According to a legal referendum process, people in the concerned zone or contiguous zones will have until April 18 to apply for the opening of a register, the city clerk said.

Should a restaurant ever open in this building, it would have to meet the city’s criteria for outdoor terrasses if one were desired. This does not automatically follow with a restaurant occupancy provision.



The building at 4192 St. Catherine. Inset: Conferring at the rezoning meeting March 28 were, from left: city Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier, city clerk Mario Gerbeau and Councillor Cynthia Lulham.

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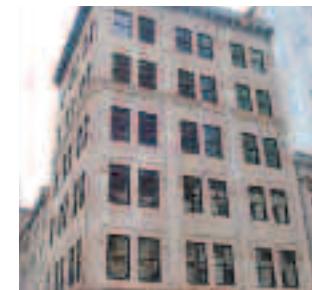
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Earth Hour prep



Members of the Montreal branch of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada had their telescopes set up outside the Westmount Library the evening of March 31 as part of Westmount's Earth Day celebrations. This one was looking at the sun, waiting for it to go down. After dark, an enthusiastic crowd lined up at the varied telescopes trained on the moon, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Venus and the Orion nebula.

Photo: Westmount Independent

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FEDERATION CJA
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Tuition hike protests hit Westmount

About a hundred people protesting student fee increases arrived at Premier Jean Charest's house on Victoria Ave. March 28 at about 8:30 pm. The protest was noisy but peaceful. Police remained in the background. About 15 minutes into the demonstration, police lined up in front of Charest's residence, although none of the protesters made attempts to enter his property. Police closed Victoria to traffic but many neighbours gathered around to observe the demonstration, one commenting "the students are more law abiding than most of the drivers who exceed the speed limit on the hill." Protesters dispersed after about 30 minutes.

Protestors were back on the afternoon of March 30, forming a small crowd that stretched across the street in front of Charest's house.

Police blocked Victoria at The Boulevard and Westmount Ave., with at least fifteen police vehicles and fifteen helmeted policemen in evidence.

See photo, p. 1.

- with files from Ralph Thompson

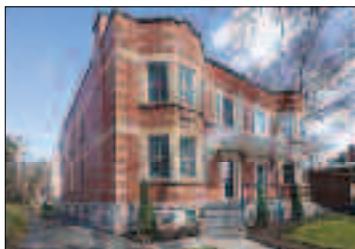
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April 1 also brings street cleaning hours

Leaf blowers 'in,' plastic leaf bags 'out' for clean-up

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Let the spring clean-up begin – officially. With April 1 comes “open season” in Westmount for leaf blowers, but only until May 1.

And with the coming into force April 1 of the city’s new waste management by-

law, plastic leaf bags are now outlawed, meaning that all small garden debris will only be collected in paper yard-waste bags or from uncovered rigid garbage containers. Branches must be bundled with natural twine and not exceed one meter in length.

Also with April 1, street maintenance parking restrictions went into force until next fall, a reminder to people to check street signage, Public Security officials said.

During an early heat wave two weeks ago when many residents and contractors got a head start at yard cleaning, at least three people were warned against jumping the gun on leaf blowers.

One contractor was issued a ticket for \$146 on March 24 when he was found using one on Westmount Ave. near Victoria after being warned against it an hour earlier. Two other users stopped immediately as requested and were not fined: one March 21 on Clarke and another March 24 on de Casson.

Internationale students join protest

High school students from École Internationale were reported to have congregated outside the door of the school on Côte St. Antoine Rd. March 22 before leaving for downtown to join a large protest against university tuition hikes.

Public Security officials said they were called at 8:55 am by the school director. It was not believed the students were actually blocking entry to the school but officers stayed on the site for a while. No incidents were reported.



Marcy Katz

Galerie M has become a favourite shop of Westmounters, who cannot wait to discover what will be on the floor at “M” (as it is affectionately referred to by the “REGULARS”). This is not your typical retail environment where the same suppliers and merchandise stay on the floor for the season. At Galerie M, inventory changes daily as clients wait with great anticipation to open their weekly e-letters for the BIG REVEAL that shows photos of the “Galerie’s” latest arrivals. True to its name “Galerie”, Marcy Katz of Westmount acts as a “Curator”, specifically choosing only the finest furniture, decorative accessories, and

lighting. In fact, she refuses almost 70% of what is offered by consignors. The “Galerie” regularly receives ends of lines, overstock, and showroom samples from Canada and the United States. Thanks to Katz’s background working as a buyer for a major retailer, her selection is amazing! Designers and decorators routinely enter the shop with their clients who marvel at the unique items that are displayed in a “loft like” showroom that is airy and bright with items presented in fabulous displays. The store is, simply put, a clever eclectic mix of antique, modern, transitional, art deco, and contemporary products. As for the type of people who shop at “M”, regulars revealed that they have shopped alongside the CEO’s of Quebec’s largest companies, actors and singers, designers and decorators, Politicians and famous American designers; but ask Katz and she’ll never tell as both the consignors and buyers are held to the strictest of confidence. This shop is addictive for those who love beautiful one-of-a-kind things at remarkable prices!

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

KEEP SHAKESPEARE SITE DOG-FREE

I was dismayed to read (March 13, p. 12) that the city plans to temporarily relocate the Lansdowne dog run to the Shakespeare site in Westmount Park by May 1. This is a terrible idea. What was council thinking?

The sound of barking dogs is a nuisance (except to dog owners it seems). Barking is essentially noise pollution, and this obnoxious sound will permeate a large area, or possibly all, of the park, including the neighbouring lagoon area.

What about the needs of other visitors to Westmount Park to relax and enjoy the general tranquility of the park without being subject to, and requiring to tolerate, the inevitable loud and annoying barking noise that a dog run will inevitably bring?

If the city is looking for a compromise, I suggest they make this temporary dog run site conditional on all owners muzzling their dogs while they are there. And the city would have to ensure adequate enforcement by Public Security.

Otherwise, a dog run should not be situated anywhere in, or near, Westmount Park.

SUSAN KAZENEL,
KENSINGTON AVE.

WESTMOUNT PARK BEING GHETTOIZED?

Shifting the dog run to that natural amphitheatre space is a foolish idea, a view shared in your paper by several residents.

Moreover, it will contribute to the further ghettoization of Westmount Park.

I remember a dear friend, who left us a few years ago. Were she still with us she would no longer be able to admire the majestic tree facing her window on Academy Rd., nor walk barefoot through the lawn of what is now a soccer field for hire nor waltz in that lovely space, as she did, on her 90th birthday party.

Moreover, dogs being dogs, there is always the danger of one of them sneaking out and causing a child or an elderly person to fall, or worse.

MAYA KHANKHOJE,
KENSINGTON AVE.

Editor's note: For clarity, we understand that this is a temporary re-location of the dog run. – KM

LEGALIZING EUTHANASIA PARADOXICAL

In Canada we spare the life of mass murderers, and now a Quebec government committee has recommended that it should be legal to execute innocent citizens just because they have lived past their

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“best before” date.

To paraphrase Gilbert & Sullivan, “What a most peculiar paradox!”

JOHN DOREY, VICTORIA AVE.

THINKING OF A WAY TO REDUCE DECARIE BACKLOG

There is a simple way of reducing the traffic that backs up from the Decarie Expressway entrance back along Sherbrooke towards Westmount.

There should be a green turn-right arrow at the expressway entrance during the green for cars coming off the 15 north. Since exiting cars must turn right or left on Sherbrooke, any traffic turning right onto the Decarie north entrance ramp could proceed safely during that time. This would eliminate a large part of the back-up along Sherbrooke.

Also, not allowing parking along the block just before the entrance would also improve traffic flow for those heading west on Sherbrooke.

DAVID BENJAMIN,
CHESTERFIELD AVE.

YAY TO THE TRAFFIC QUESTIONNAIRE

Our association [Westmount Walking and Cycling Association] welcomes Mayor Peter Trent's Master Traffic Plan letter to residents in which he asks for their comments. We agree that the city needs to take steps to reduce the high volume of traffic.

Unfortunately, Westmount is currently encouraging people to drive by offering two key incentives, which must be reduced if the city hopes to reduce traffic.

First, Westmount provides free-flowing traffic routes through our city, which en-

courage drivers from outside Westmount to cut across on their way downtown. Currently, it only takes about seven minutes to cross Westmount on any of our main east-west streets.

If the city wants to reduce through traffic, it must reduce this incentive by reducing vehicle capacity and not by facilitating it. This can be accomplished in various ways, such as replacing a few strategic car lanes with bike paths or public transit lanes. Only by making it less convenient and longer to cut through Westmount will drivers adopt alternative routes (like Ville-Marie) or alternative means of transport (like public transit).

Second, Westmount provides abundant free or low cost parking, which encourages people to drive to Westmount rather than using public transit, walking or cycling. Westmount should, like many other progressive urban centres, gradually reduce the availability of parking spots and gradually increase the cost of parking to encourage drivers to gradually adopt alternative means of transport to and from Westmount.

The quality of life in our community is being eroded by the overwhelming presence of motor vehicles, so the city needs to reverse this trend by establishing a healthier balance between motor vehicles and other forms of transportation.

We encourage residents to support Mayor Trent by responding favourably to his questionnaire and by voicing their views during the public consultations that will follow.

DAN LAMBERT, LANSDOWNE AVE.
RESIDENT AND MEMBER OF WESTMOUNT
WALKING AND CYCLING ASSOCIATION

Trio of iPhone thieves found

BY DAVID GOLDBERG

Some fast work by Station 12's Sgt. Marc-André Perreault led to the arrest of three suspects who allegedly stole an iPhone from a local youth.

The call came in at 8:20 pm on March 23 for a theft on the corner of Sherbrooke and Lansdowne. A 15-year-old Westmouter and his two friends were approached by three youths.

“One of them asked the victim for the time, so he pulled out his iPhone,” said Constable Adalbert Pimentel. “One of the suspects then approached him and told him to hand over the phone, which he

did.”

As the suspects fled, the victim called 911 and Sgt. Perreault responded to the scene.

“He told the victim to get into his vehicle, and they began driving around the sector,” said Pimentel. “When they got to Côte St. Antoine near Lansdowne, the victim spotted the suspects.”

Perreault called for back-up and arrested the three suspects, who were taken to the operational centre.

Arrested were three males, aged 14, 16 and 18. All are from east-end Montreal. They have been charged with armed robbery and possession of a stolen item.

Arena meeting for District 7 residents

continued from p. 1

comfort station and playground. This is to make way for their longstanding venue to be used during the construction period for relocation of the Lansdowne dog run, as



Jacques Delorme, a resident of Abbott Ave. since 1970, has a firsthand opportunity to discuss the arena/pool project with Councillor Cynthia Lulham during her March 29 neighbourhood meeting at the lawn bowling clubhouse.

previously announced (see March 13, p. 12).

Though it was not mentioned, the new Shakespeare site, which is sometimes used for city campout activities, had served as the original park dog run for 10 years before a decision was made in 1986 to eliminate it from the park and move it to Lansdowne and St. Catherine St.

Other concerns raised

These were among items discussed at the neighbourhood meeting, which evolved into an informal discussion of many localized concerns that included traffic congestion on Hillside Ave. outside St. Andrew's school, the brief timing of the traffic light at Abbott and St. Catherine, work on the railway track and sound-reducing measures along the Ville Marie Expressway.

Lulham, who is Urban Planning and Parks commissioner as well as the District 7 representative, began the session with a full presentation of the design plans for the new recreation facility and plans to reduce construction disruption, as reported in the *Independent* March 20, p. 8.

Just as many questions, if not more, however, were asked about design details of the actual arena/pool project and parking regulations after the new facility

opened.

"At every meeting, it's been the parking that we've heard about," Lulham said, adding that "there are more on-street permits issued than there are spaces."

While special reserved parking zones

pool area would be decoratively fenced, hedged and protected by a berm.

She also said the city was working on a system to ensure that cars using the facility parking areas, including the lot behind the Montreal Oral School for the Deaf during designated arena hours, were truly those involved in recreation activities.

What about the Zamboni?

People also wanted to know where the Zamboni would be kept (two would be housed between the two rinks, Lulham replied), if there would be a lifeguards' room (yes), enough bathrooms ("a whole lot"), an elevator (yes) and about the food to be served (healthy food, no vending machines).

Lulham also assured one questioner that there were indeed "enough" exits from the underground facility, pointing out that "we have to follow all the codes."

It was noted that none of the project's high-profile critics from the Save the Park group, many of whom live on Melville, were present at the session.

Other District 7 meetings were held at follows: for people on Academy Rd. and Park Place on March 15; for 4700 St. Catherine on continued on p. 8

for residents only are not currently being proposed for Melville and Abbott during construction as they are on other nearby streets where residents are more dependent on street parking, Lulham explained this could be changed if needed.

Residents wanted to know how the city would monitor and enforce parking before and after construction. They also asked how the enlarged parking area off Arena Drive – as well as the pool area – would be camouflaged from St. Catherine.

Lulham said the parking would be treated in similar fashion to the library lot, which is slightly lowered and hedged. The

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Friends of Westmount Library still collecting

Spring book sale looks to set another record

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

As cartons of donated books pile up to be sorted and priced, organizers of the spring book sale held by Friends of the Library are hoping it will once again generate record proceeds to help the Westmount Public Library.

"We've got the books, and they're generally of a higher quality," said Lee Taylor, who coordinates the sale with Carolyn O'Neill, the group's president.

The semi-annual event takes place on the weekend April 14 and 15 from 10 am to 6 pm at Victoria Hall.

It features the sale of quality used books ranging in price from 50 cents for children's titles and \$1 to \$3 for most adult ones, though some special art or coffee-table type selections could cost as much as \$10. Textbooks are not accepted as donations. Neither are books that are either marked up, smelly, moldy or not in good condition.

Proceeds from the fall sale fully funded the library's \$15,000 eBook service launched in December, which has been "enormously popular," according to library director Julie-Anne Cardella. "We're very



Among Friends of the Library volunteers sorting and pricing the contents of numerous cartons of books donated to the group's upcoming book sale for Westmount Public Library are, from left: Judy Outerbridge, Carolyn O'Neill, Joan Samuels and Lee Taylor.

excited about the spring sale."

"I think one of the reasons for our growing success has been the quality of selection," O'Neill explained. "People keep coming back and bringing their friends. Without question, it gets bigger and better."

A dozen volunteers - members of the Friends of the Library - have been sorting through and pricing books in cartons piled high in the basement of the library, with more coming in right up until the sale.

Pick-up available

Anyone unable to drop off donations of books may enquire about arranging for a pick-up by calling 514.483.5604. Otherwise books can be dropped off at the library at 4574 Sherbrooke St.

The sale, which depends solely on volunteers, has the help of high school and CEGEP students in setting up at Victoria Hall, assisting during the sale, and cleaning up afterward.

It also provides them with a sense of community service, explained Taylor, who brings some of her students to help from the class she teaches in English as a second language to immigrants attending the High School of Montreal Adult Education Centre. "It's exciting for them to experience our community effort."

Arena

.....
continued from p. 7

March 21; for Contactivity Centre (March 22); and for Irvine, Lewis and Blenheim Place (also March 22). Various addresses on St. Catherine were integrated into the sessions.

Two similar neighborhood sessions are now being planned by Councillor Gary Ikeman for his District 6 residents, who live adjacent to the building site.

Those on Lansdowne south of de Maisonneuve (excluding 200 Lansdowne) are being invited to a meeting April 11 at 7 pm in the Lodge Room of Victoria Hall. A date has yet to be announced for residents of 200 Lansdowne - the large condo building at the corner of St. Catherine.

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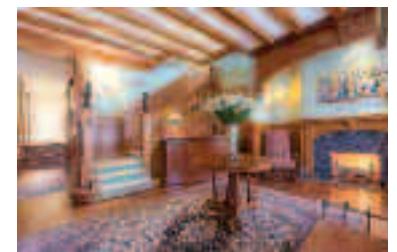


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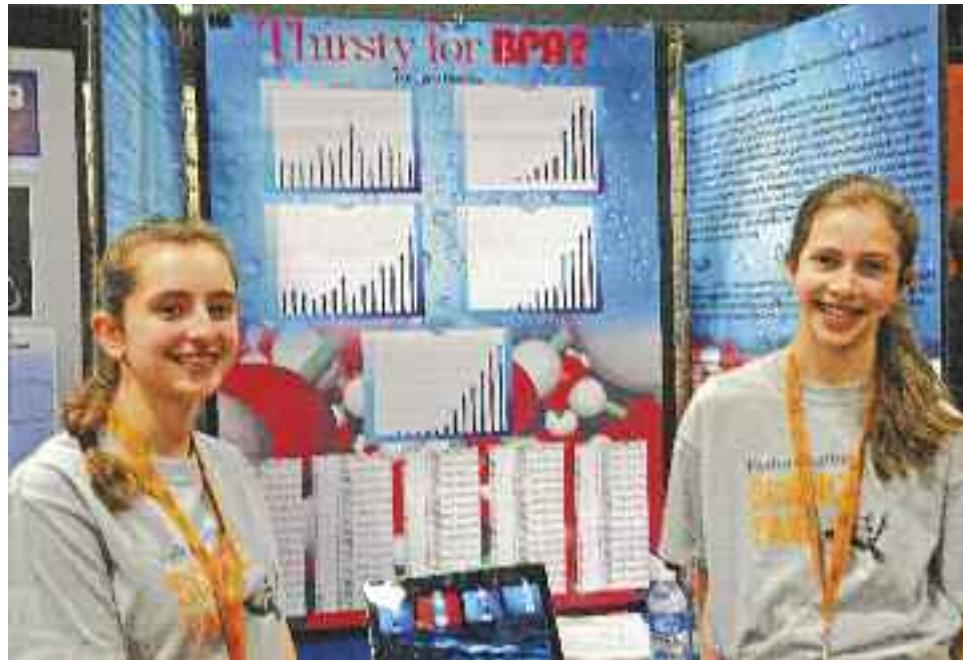
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BPA project from ECS wins gold



ECS grade 8 students Sarah Milton and Alice Lemay were gold medallists at the Montreal Regional Science and Technology Fair that took place at Laval Regional High School between March 18 and 20. Their project was entitled “Thirsty for BPA?” (BPA is an organic compound used to make polymers, resins and other materials used to make plastics.) Eight other teams from the school medalled at the competition, which brings together the best projects presented by young anglophones from the Montreal area. Milton and Lemay will head to the provincials this month.

Photo courtesy of ECS

Dubroca and Jiralerspong dictée winners



Two out of the 10 winners of the La Dictée P.G.L. announced March 22 were from Westmount schools: Emma Dubroca (left), grade 6 student at The Study won in the French as a second language category; and Thomas Jiralerspong (right), grade 5 at École internationale de Montréal in the francophone category. Participants had to correctly spell words within the theme of sustainability. La Dictée P.G.L. is a 21-year-old education project designed for students from kindergarten to grade 8 in French and French as second language classes throughout Canada. Its goal is to raise awareness of international issues by learning new words relating to specific themes and to increase mastery of written French. Some of the money raised by the students goes to help children in Africa and Haiti.

Photos courtesy of the Fondation Paul Gérin-Lajoie

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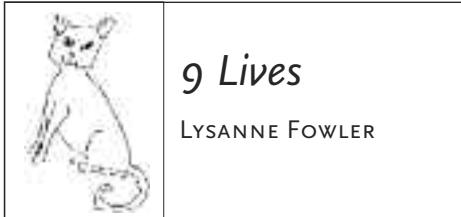
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Dear Siamese cat lovers: there is an urgent appeal for adoption. A breeder was forced to surrender his purebred Siamese cats to the SPCA further to a notice from a municipality that only allows two cats per household.

There are so many purebred Siamese cats on the adoption list that it is heart-breaking. Volunteers have stepped in to support the rescue operation and a number of exquisite purebred Siamese cats of all ages and colours are in need of adoption now.

For more information, please contact Michelle Campeau at campeau.cachou.-michelle@gmail.com.

Your neighbour, Lysanne

Flower show opens this week



Preparing for the city's spring flower show in the conservatory, gardener Christine Dupuis (left) and head gardener Mélanie Banninger add finishing touches to the display that opens to the public Thursday, April 5. A rabbit family will be included over the Easter period until April 10. Many blooms have already been fully open due to the warm spell in March and have had to be moved outside and back in depending on the weather.

Photo: Laureen Sweeney

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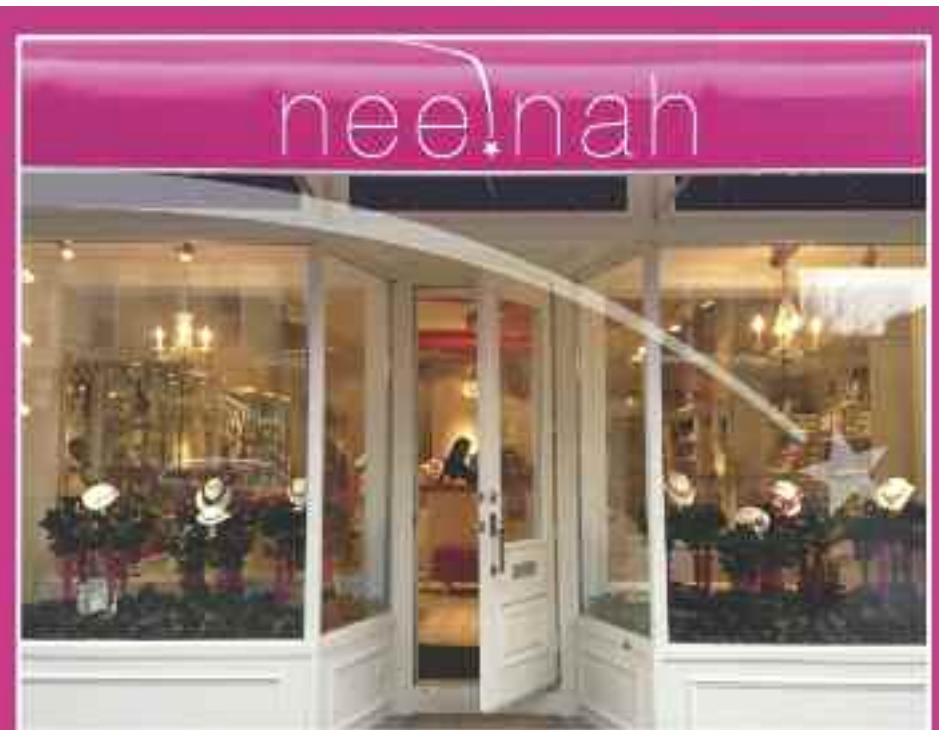
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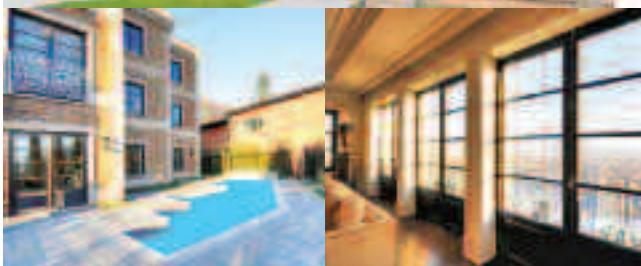
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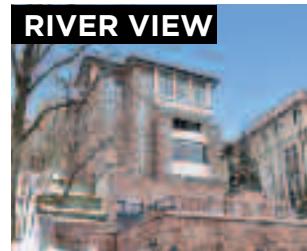


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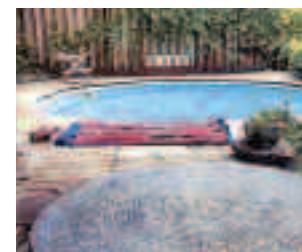
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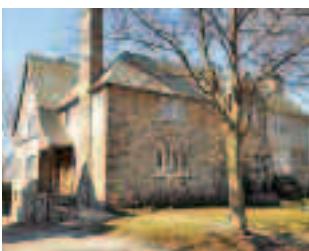
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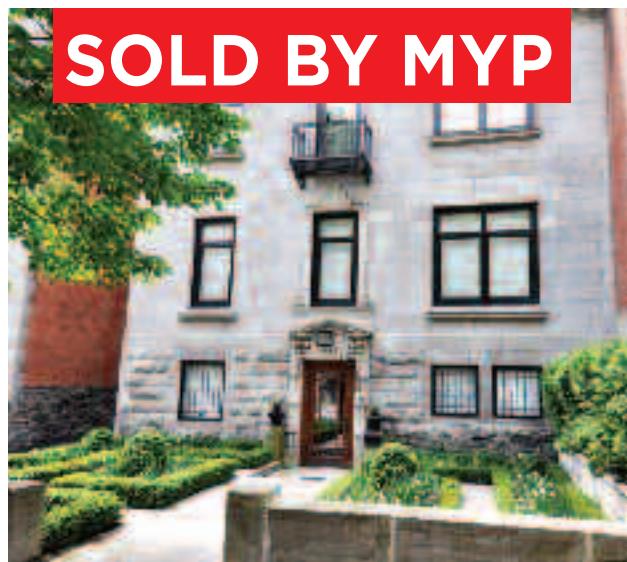
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Man hears garage door open at 2 am, flags down patrol

A resident of Upper Belmont flagged down a Public Security patrol at 1:55 am March 22 as he waited outside his home for police to arrive. The man, who was described by officials as “in a panic,” stated he had heard his garage door open and called 911. It turned out someone had taken the door opener from his car that was parked outside unlocked. There were no signs of damage or forced entry.

City presents solution to residents at recent meeting

Movable arm proposed to limit use of Clandeboye lane

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

A new solution to a longstanding traffic problem on Clandeboye lane was presented March 29 to residents using the lane for access to their backyard garages or parking spaces.

It's a moveable arm – similar to levers at parking lots – that could be operated only by those residents and other authorized persons, thereby reducing access to most of the lane by users of a 60-car parking lot behind the Bathshaw Youth and Family Centres building on Weredale Park.

Residents on the east side of Clandeboye Ave. and the west side of Weredale Park who depend on the lane cite escalating problems of volume and speed of through traffic to the parking lot. This makes it difficult to back out of garages.

Three years ago, when repaving Weredale Park, the city added a link from the street into the lane so that users of the parking lot could access it directly from Weredale Park without having to use the entire lane as a street.

But since then, it seems that old ways weren't so easy to break, and Public Works officials have been looking at new options

to limit most of the lane to residents only while maintaining access at its south end to the parking lot used mainly by Bathshaw workers and visitors.

Blocking off the lane at the Weredale link would prevent use by service and emergency vehicles and was therefore ruled out.

“Despite the best efforts of the city, there are still safety issues,” according to the District 8 representative Councillor Theodora Samiotis, who invited affected residents to the meeting at city hall.

In presenting the case for the movable arm, director general Duncan Campbell explained that the advantage of a lever is that it offers the flexibility required to provide access to authorized vehicles.

The question that remains now, as Public Works personnel go back to the drawing board, is exactly where to position the proposed arm, Samiotis explained.

She told the meeting that the lane issue is another testament to the amount of traffic being encountered in Westmount as recently indicated in data collected as part of the city's master traffic plan study.

More discussions with Bathshaw officials also may be required, she noted.

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Chagnon to participate in Earth Hour at provincial legislature

All non-essential lights in the provincial

legislature buildings in Quebec City were to be turned off for one hour from 8:30 to 9:30 pm during Earth Hour March 31, stated a government press release dated March 30. This is in line with “the sustainable development action plan unveiled by the National Assembly in 2009,” stated Jacques Chagnon, provincial legislator for Westmount-St. Louis and president of the National Assembly.

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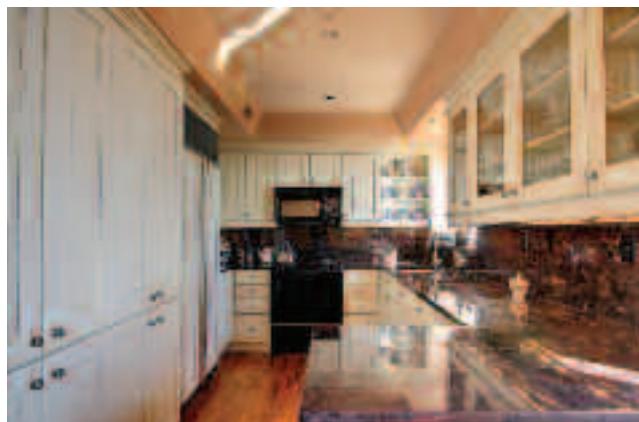


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Fans enjoy tennis pre-summer at Rendez-vous event



*Social Notes
from Westmount
and Beyond*

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Fans gathered at the Bell Centre on March 2 not for hockey but for tennis! Legends **Andre Agassi**, **Pat Cash**, **Michael Chang** and **Ivan Lendl** were in town for the Montreal Rendez-vous exhibition tennis event.

Tickets ranged from \$55 to \$293, and the centre was packed. Those guys can still play, granted not with the huge power and heavy spin of today's game, but with great finesse – and a sense of humour.

Cash stopped playing in the middle of his match, gave one of the ball boys his iconic bandana, and let him hit a few balls with Lendl. An Andy Warhol second of fame for the ball boy (who actually hit quite well!).

After the Cash-Lendl match (Cash won), Andre Agassi played Michael Chang. With bandaged knees, Chang raced around the court as Agassi whipped



Alain and Marie-Dominique Trimont.

the ball into corners. Chang also moved Agassi around as well, who finally won 7-6, 6-2.

However, hockey was not completely forgotten. The players were presented with Canadiens' hockey sweaters. The Habs are also fans.

Seated in the VIP section were players

Peter Budaj, **Josh Gorges**, **Petteri Nokolainen** and **Yannick Weber**.

The event was co-produced by Evenko and Star Games, whose president **Jerry**

Andre Agassi and Jerry Solomon.

Solomon was noted at the standing room-only 5-à-7 cocktail.

Westmounters enjoying the games included **Alain** and **Marie-Dominique Trimont**, Parisian chic in cashmere and a silk scarf, and **Mark Smith** and his mother **Joan Smith**, wearing a lovely jade pendant – maybe to give her favourite player good luck?



Joan Smith and son Mark Smith.

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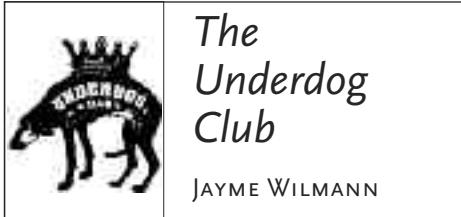
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The littlest hobo



The Underdog Club

JAYME WILMANN

You may remember the old Canadian television series “The Littlest Hobo,” featuring a well-intentioned vagabond German shepherd, who wandered from town to town lending a hand – a paw, rather, to distressed humans he met on his travels.

Remi is the West End’s own littlest hobo, a petite 25-pound, two-year-old Labrador/beagle mix, who was found running along the train tracks in St. Henri in the fall.

Unlike the picture-perfect world of television, in reality it was this little drifter who needed humans to save his life.

While Remi’s history remains a mystery, his body tells a ghastly tale. This gaunt ghost of a dog had paw pads that were raw and abraded, and toenails that were either worn down to nubs or had fallen off. His back legs had open red sores.

Luckily Remi was turned over to a rescue organization and is receiving the love and medical attention he so desperately needed. The healing process over the last couple of months has been difficult. In pain and in a state of constant state of itchy-ness, our guy wanders around with bandages on all four legs that have had to be changed and monitored constantly. He has extreme allergies, which are thought to be food-related.

Yet none of these hardships have dampened this littlest hobo’s spirit. While Remi is a little nervous outside of the house and tends to bark at anything from others dogs to leaves fluttering by, up close he is a friendly, happy boy who gets along well with everyone. He loves to romp around



Remi

with his foster mates and cuddle up with his foster mum.

The perfect apartment-sized dog, Remi’s ideal home is with a patient and proactive owner who can continue to administer his medication as he heals, and monitor him closely as a preventative measure to ensure that he doesn’t constantly re-open his wounds.

Remi is a very special boy who deserves a second chance at a healthy life and a loving family. The Littlest Hobo theme song goes, “Maybe tomorrow, I’ll find what I call home.” Can we find Remi a home too?

Find out more by calling Eleven Eleven Animal Rescue at 514.845.0001.

The Underdog Club helps rescues promote Montreal’s abandoned dogs – the ones no one wants. Visit us at www.underdogclub.org.



To our dearest Theodore:

Thank you for 12 years of love, laughter, happiness and devoted companionship. We will miss you deeply and we will never forget you and all that you have given us to enrich our lives.

Love, your family:

Lesley, George, Katia, Tomas & Samson. XOXOXO

Car theft at Summit Woods

There were two more victims of thefts from within cars in Westmount last week, report police.

A 51-year-old TMR man had his Mercedes broken into while he was walking his dog at Summit Woods.

The incident took place between 3:30 and 4 pm on March 24. The victim told police that when he arrived back at his car after walking his dog, he noticed glass on the ground next to his vehicle.

“The driver’s window was shattered, and the suspect took an iPad and an Apple laptop computer,” said Constable Adalbert Pimentel.

On March 26, a 57-year-old Westmounter returned to his GMC truck parked on Victoria near Sherbrooke to find someone had smashed his passenger-side window.

This incident happened between 4:40 and 6:51 pm on March 26. Taken from his vehicle was a briefcase containing binders and a school textbook.

“Once again, we are advising all motorists to never leave any items in plain sight in their vehicles,” said Pimentel.

– DG



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Comin' Up

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4

- Westmounter **Richard Pound** speaks at the Rotary Club of Westmount meeting on "What can we do about drug abuse?" 12 pm at Victoria Hall. Lunch at 12:30 pm, lecture at 1 pm. Cost: \$20. Open to all. Reserve: 514.935.3344.
- "**Torah and Tonics**" young adult discussion series with Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom's Rabbi Julia Appel, 7 pm at Café Santropol, 3990 St. Urbain.
- "**The Titanic: The Centennial Anniversary**," with Alan Hustak, 2 pm in the Westmount Room of the Westmount Public Library.
- "Words and Music" presents "**The Music of Japan**" with Bruno Deschênes, 7 pm in the Westmount Room of the Westmount Public Library.
- Larry Weller reviews **Solar** by Ian McEwan, 9:30 am for coffee and pastry; 10 am for review at Temple Emanu-El-Beth. Info: 514.937.3575, ext. 217. Cost: \$8.
- Ghada Begdache, **feng shui** consultant, gives a talk on "Change your home, change your life," 12:30 pm at the Atwater Library. Free. 1200 Atwater Ave.

THURSDAY, APRIL 5

Spring flower show opens to the public at the conservatory in Westmount Park during regular hours. See p. 11.

TUESDAY, APRIL 10

Westmount Horticultural Society presents "**Ikebana Demonstration**" with Adrienne Doedel according to the tradition of the Ohara School of Ikebana, 7 pm at the Westmount Public Library. Cost: \$5 for guests.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11

- City of Westmount **blood donor clinic**, 2 to 8 pm at Victoria Hall. Info: Community Events 514.989.5226.
- **District 6 neighbourhood meeting** to mitigate arena/pool construction impact for residents of Lansdowne (excluding 200 Lansdowne) and of de Maisonneuve (including 4800) east of Roslyn, 7 pm, Lodge Room, Victoria Hall.
- Healthy City presents **William Marsden**, investigative journalist and author to speak about his book *Fools Rule: Inside the Failed Politics of Climate Change*, 7 pm at the Westmount Public Library.
- As part of "Conversations on Health" se-

ries with naturopathic doctors Ilana Block and Orna Villazan ND, "**Regaining your Energy**," 7 pm to 8 pm at Harmony Health Centre, 4937A Sherbrooke St. Free. Info: 514.342.0123.

THURSDAY, APRIL 12

Atwater Library Lunchtime Series presents chef and baker **James MacGuire**, who will speak on the history of the croissant, 12:30 pm at the Atwater Library.

FRIDAY, APRIL 13

Deadline for the **McEntyre Writing Competition**. Open to students in elementary or secondary grades who go to school in Westmount, live in Westmount or are members of a library in Westmount. Info: www.westlib.org/JeunesKids or contact children's librarian Wendy Wayling at 514.989.5357 or wwayling@westmount.org.

SATURDAY, APRIL 14

Friends of the Westmount Library used book sale, 10 am to 6 pm at Victoria Hall. Also Sunday, April 15. Books in good condition on all topics can be dropped off at the library at 4574 Sherbrooke St. Info: Carolyn O'Neill 514.483.5604. See p. 8.

SUNDAY, APRIL 15

Shaar Hashomayim presents **Fred Krantz**, creator of the Canadian Institute for Jewish Research on "The Problem of Israel Delegation on Campuses: Ensuring Future Jewish Leadership." Lunch at 12 noon, lecture at 12:30. Cost: \$5, includes both.

MONDAY, APRIL 16

- **Westmount Municipal Association** meeting, 7 pm at the Westmount Public Library. City councillor Cynthia Lulham, commissioner Parks and Urban Planning, is guest speaker.
- Photographer Guy Boily will show im-

ages taken on a sailboat expedition in the North Atlantic to the **Montreal Camera Club**, 7:30 pm at Westmount Park Church 4695 de Maisonneuve Blvd. Enter by rear entrance. Info: b.deans@sympatico.ca.

TUESDAY, APRIL 17

- *Alone in the Classroom* by **Elizabeth Hay** discussed in the Westmount Public Library's English Book Club meeting, 7 pm. Coffee and discussion. Info: Donna Lach 514.989.5386 or dlach@westmount.org.
- **Poetry workshop** with Ann Lloyd, 2 pm in the boardroom of the Westmount Public Library.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18

- The University Women's Club of Montreal presents architect **Julia Gersovitz** on "Pelimpsest Redux," 6 pm at the Atwater Club, 3505 Atwater Ave. Cost \$30.76, includes dinner. Reserve: 514.932.3922 by April 13.
- "**Challenges of caregiving** – caring for the whole person mind, body and spirit" with Sue Britton, Joan Foster and Zeldia Freitas, 6 pm to 8 pm at Temple Emanu-el Beth Shalom. Free. Info: The Council on Palliative Care fmpa202@aol.com or 514.499.0345.

St. Matthias' Church welcomes you to worship



Palm Sunday April 1

8am – Palm Sunday Liturgy
10:30am – Palm Sunday Liturgy / Passion Reading

Maundy Thursday April 5

7:30pm – Pedilavium, The Commemoration of the Last Supper, Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday April 6

12pm (Noon) – Good Friday Liturgy with the Reading of the Passion
7:30pm – Choral Evensong for Good Friday

Easter Day April 8

8am – Holy Eucharist
10:30am – Easter Choral Eucharist

St. Matthias' Anglican Church
The Revd Kenneth M. Near, Rector
131 Cote St. Antoine Rd.
(corner Metcalfe in Westmount)
514-933-4295

Blackbird, the inaugural play produced by Shadowbox Productions, a company founded by Westmounter Raphael Grosz-Harvey and Mikaela Davies, plays at 8 pm from Wednesday, April 11 to Sunday, April 15 and from Wednesday, April 18 to Sunday, April 22 at Les Ateliers Jean Brillant, 3550 St. Jacques St. W. Tickets cost \$17; \$15 for students and seniors. On Wednesday, April 18, tickets cost \$23 to raise money for the Canadian Liver Foundation. Reserve at 514.262.7309 or online at <http://shadowboxblackbird.eventbrite.ca>.

GoWestmount.ca

Our on line calendar has it all!

Weekly updates on all senior hockey playoffs stats.

Concerts, exhibitions, launches, events, public meetings, community links, sports and hockey schedules

Y launches Get Fit week on April 15 to raise money for Strong Kids campaign

The Westmount Y is offering a week of fundraiser fitness challenges for members, staff and volunteers between Sunday, April 15 and Saturday, April 21. Money raised goes to the Strong Kids campaign, and is part of several events the Y is holding to celebrate its centennial.

Participants pay \$20, and the Y suggests a pledge of \$25 for one hour of work-out. Advance registration is required.

The activities include:

- Sunday, April 15, from 9 am to 12 noon: Spin-a-thon.
- Wednesday, April 18, from 9 to 11 am: Dance-inspired work-out.
- Saturday, April 21, from 12 pm to 3 pm: Yoga-a-thon.

To register or to obtain pledge forms, visit the member service desk. For more information, contact Vanessa Valente, coordinator, community initiatives, at 514.931.6770, ext. 230.

Snake found

continued from p. 1

“that could better care for it,” said assistant Public Security director Greg McBain

March 29. This is Magazoo.com, l'Univers des Reptiles that operates a rescue service for abandoned or found reptiles.

The snake incident, McBain said,

“shows what a useful piece of equipment the iPad is for our sergeants.

“It provides them with on-the-spot research ability, which is particularly impor-

tant in checking identification and addresses through 411 without having to go through central dispatch. We hope eventually to have iPads in all our cars.”



photo: Ron Harris
GALERIE DU VICTORIA HALL
GALLERY AT VICTORIA HALL



Appel aux artistes

Les artistes de Westmount sont invités à soumettre leurs dossiers pour la 13^e saison d'exposition de la galerie du Victoria Hall qui se tiendra de septembre 2012 à août 2013.

Ce concours s'adresse aux artistes émergents et professionnels résidant à Westmount. Les candidatures sont acceptées pour des expositions solo ou partagées.

PÉRIODE D'INSCRIPTION ANNUELLE
du 15 février au 15 avril

Invitation to Artists

The Gallery at Victoria Hall welcomes proposals from Westmount artists for its thirteenth exhibition season, which will take place from September 2012 to August 2013.

This competition is open to emerging and professional artists residing in Westmount. Applications are considered for solo and group exhibitions.

ANNUAL REGISTRATION PERIOD
February 15 to April 15

Info : 514 989-5521
victoriahall@westmount.org
www.westmount.org



Ville de Westmount
City of Westmount

Heures d'affaires et services municipaux : Pâques

Veillez noter que tous les bureaux administratifs de la Ville de Westmount, soit l'Hôtel de ville, le Victoria Hall, Hydro Westmount, et les Services de la sécurité publique, des sports et loisirs et des travaux publics seront fermés le vendredi 6 avril et le lundi 9 avril en raison de Pâques.

De plus, la Bibliothèque publique de Westmount sera fermée les vendredi 6 avril, dimanche 8 avril et lundi 9 avril.

Prenez note également qu'il n'y a aucun changement quant aux collectes des ordures et des résidus alimentaires qui s'effectueront selon l'horaire normal.

Business Hours and Municipal Services: Easter

Please be advised that all administrative offices of the City of Westmount (City Hall, Victoria Hall, Hydro Westmount, Public Works, Public Security and Recreation) will be closed on Friday, April 6 and Monday, April 9 for the Easter holiday.

Westmount Public Library will also be closed on Friday, April 6, Sunday, April 8 and Monday, April 9 for the Easter holiday.

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

Quebec classifieds

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Coming Events

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Westmount classifieds

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We need useful, quality, working items: furniture, antiques, paintings, lamps, housewares, toys, etc...

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In conversation with Elisabeth Galante on shadows and songs

BY HEATHER BLACK

Works by Westmount watercolourist Elisabeth Galante are currently on display at the Gallery at Victoria Hall. It is a collection of lively and colourful compositions. I spoke to the artist about her art and her role as instructor at the Visual Arts Centre.

Watercolour artist

In the current exhibit entitled “Shadows and Songs,” Galante combines a mix of abstract and representational styles. Some images consist of circles and squares, while others suggest foliage within multicolour blocks. Many, like “From Here to the River,” are inspired by nature and the *rive nord*, where she often



Elisabeth Galante “From Here to the River“

paints.

Galante first studied at the Art Academy of Cincinnati in Ohio before pursuing her studies at Concordia. There, instructor Russell Gordon introduced her to watercolour, and she took immediately to “its fluidity, transparency and purity of colour.” Describing watercolour as “the right medium for her,” she was also influenced by another Concordia instructor, Judy Garfin.

Likening her work to visual poetry, she “follows the flow of the medium” and fre-

quently changes her working process. Having “no fixed style,” her work has evolved over the years. However, rather than radical change, each piece relates to the previous work.

For Galante, the naming of her work is integral to understanding her art. Often emotionally evocative, some reflect poetry or lyrics like Leonard Cohen’s “The Moon has a Sister.” The exhibit title “Shadows and Songs” is taken from the writings of Rabindranath Tagore.

As Visual Arts Centre instructor

A drawing and watercolour instructor at the Visual Arts Centre since 1987, Galante finds the teaching process allows her to remain fresh. For her, there is a need “to bring together the sense of mood

and light,” but the “the medium drives the work.” Constantly setting challenges for herself, she works “in the moment.”

The artist also “learns from her students” and “loves the dialogue.” In turn, she shares an openness to process and exploration – and a nonjudgemental viewpoint – to encourage students to develop their own voice. But Galante is quick to point out that “finding self in work” is the school’s philosophy, and she is proud of her association with the Visual Art Centre.

As the department

continued on p. 22

Wealth management advice based on security and stability

In an uncertain economy that has created challenges for many investment advisors and their clients, Denny Matte, Senior Vice President and Investment Advisor with Macquarie Private Wealth in Montreal, has delivered a steady investment approach that draws a dedicated following among the city’s top entrepreneurs, business leaders and medical professionals. During the course of 25 years serving Montreal’s high-net worth individuals and families, he has become one of Canada’s leading experts in crafting customized investment portfolios that are built to last.

“The fundamental rule is that each portfolio must be constructed for the specific client,” Mr. Matte explains. “You don’t let the market environment decide what should be in the portfolio.

You take control and carefully select investments that work for each individual situation.”

What works for affluent investors in the current environment tends to be yield-producing investments, whether dividend-paying stocks or investment-grade corporate bonds. Balanced portfolios of this nature are able to deliver predictable returns and income regardless of how markets are behaving. Moreover, this strategy is more sophisticated than it would appear on the surface – Mr. Matte has a unique ability to source quality securities that go beyond what a standard broker can do. In addition, he manages these portfolios himself.

“Years ago, I discovered that third-party managers and mutual funds weren’t matching the investment results that I was able to generate using my own skills and professional judgment,” he says. “Clients began requesting that I dispense with that layer of fees and complexity – and I’ve been directing all portfolios ever since.”

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



Galante on Visual Arts

continued from p. 21

head for Fine and Applied Arts since 1990, Galante has seen tremendous growth in terms of course selection and enrollment at the Visual Arts Centre, now, the largest bilingual art school in Canada. Her role there has led to many positive associations. In particular she mentions that hanging the exhibit was “a truly collaborative effort” with centre director and gallery

curator Victoria LeBlanc.

Exhibiting at The Gallery at Victoria Hall

Galante’s watercolour style can be described as spontaneous yet exploratory, poetic yet playful. The exhibit “Shadow and Songs” continue until Saturday, April 14 at The Gallery at Victoria Hall. (The gallery will be closed over the Easter long weekend.)

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Food Depot introduces 3 film nights, coming soon

The NDG Food Depot will be hosting three films on subjects of food production. The free screenings start at 7 pm at the depot, located at 2121 Oxford Ave. in NDG, just north of de Maisonneuve. Tea and popcorn will be served.

The first film, *Mad City Chickens*, will play Thursday, April 12. Westmounter and *Independent* gardening columnist Marci Babineau will introduce the film and answer questions about her experience of keeping hens.

A film about the current state of bee populations, *Queen of the Sun: What are the bees telling us* plays Thursday, May 3 and will also be introduced by Babineau.

A film on soil, *Dirt! The Movie*, is screened on Wednesday, June 13, introduced by Sonya Girard of Action Communiterre, an urban agriculture group in NDG.

Boy caught igniting math papers

A contractor contacted Public Security March 20 to report that upon arriving at a construction site where he was working at 4292 Dorchester, he found the remains of burned math papers on a wooden pallet. The burning had occurred close to two propane tanks, which he considered had posed a potentially hazardous situation.

On closer investigation, it was found out from firefighters that a 14-year-old boy had been caught setting the fire late the previous afternoon in a case of “minor mischief.”

Electronic Independents available

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



Marci Babineau and her hen Daisy.

Injured pigeon

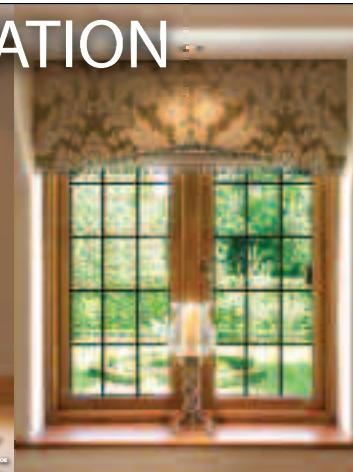
An injured pigeon was taken to the SPCA March 24 by public safety officers. Found near 470 Victoria, it did not resist when picked up.

Caregiver locked out, helped by PSOs, firefighters

Public safety officers and firefighters went to the aid of caregiver who had accidentally locked herself out of a house on Wood Ave. March 22 leaving an elderly disabled person alone inside.

The caregiver called Public Security at 10 am but officers could not find a way inside, officials said. They called a locksmith, who also was unable to gain entry. Finally, firefighters climbed up to open a window. Public safety officers accompanied the caregiver inside to ensure the resident was all right, which she was.

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Place K's March birthdays include a 100th



March birthday celebrants have a special tea party at Place Kensington on March 28, including Sophie Davis (seated) who turned 100 that day. From left, standing: Francoise Flahiff, Helen Hanna, Gwen Harris and George Erhman.

Photo courtesy of Place Kensington

Cabbie goes berserk

A cab driver who was upset after feeling he was cut off from making a U-turn on St. Catherine took out his frustration on the face of another driver.

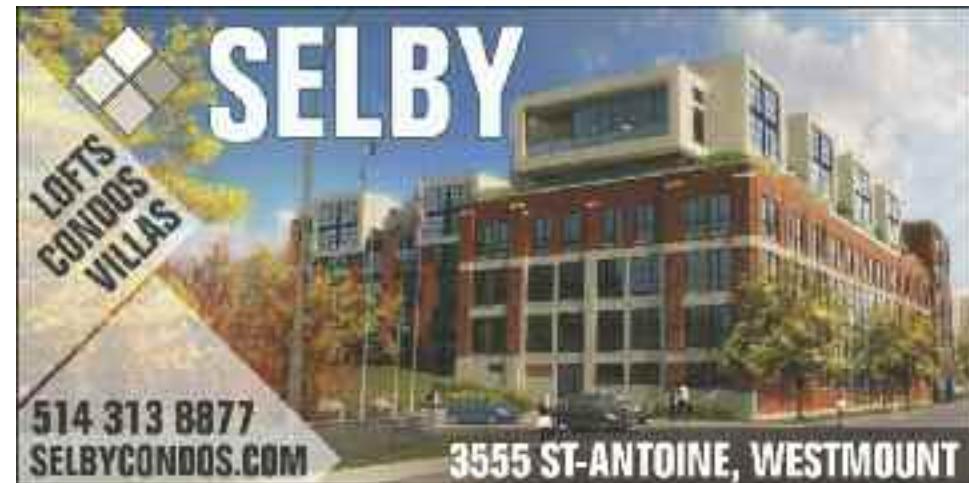
The victim, a 59-year-old South Shore man, was driving east on St. Catherine St. As he approached Kensington, the cabbie tried to make a U-turn.

"But the taxi driver was blocked by the victim's car," said Station 12 Constable Adalbert Pimentel. "The taxi driver, who had a customer in his cab, got out and approached the victim's car. The victim

rolled down his window, and there was a verbal exchange that culminated in the taxi driver punching the victim in the face."

The cabbie got back into his car and drove off. The victim went to Station 12 to file a report.

The taxi driver is described as a white male, 50, with blond hair. He wore a white shirt. "The driver got the taxi's license plate number and the case has been handed over to our investigators," said Pimentel. "They will get in contact with the Bureau des taxis." – DG



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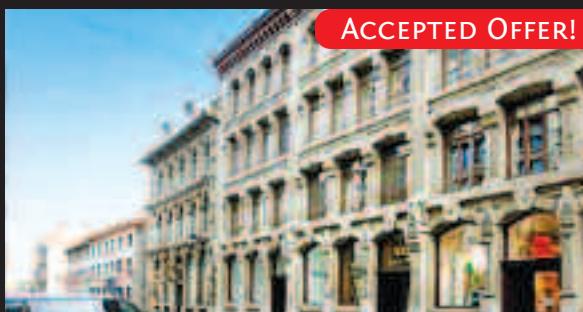
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