

Montreal gives back but will take away again

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount last week received a temporary refund of \$112,000 from Montreal in a dispute over its share of debt costs related to work on arterial roads between 2006 and 2008. But some of the amount will have to be returned once "more appropriate" calculations are obtained, Mayor Karin Marks said.

The dispute relates to the financing by Montreal of work on the arterial roads before they were given back to the 15 reconstituted cities in their respective territories as part of Bill 22 last year.

"We felt the way Montreal was calculating the share of debt costs was not fair to us," said Mayor Marks, who heads the Association of Suburban Municipalities.

While very little work had been done in Westmount, the city was charged for a share of the collective debt costs based on a complicated formula that had little rele-

vance to the work performed.

Montreal West and Kirkland filed complaints to the Quebec Municipal Commission on behalf of the demerged cities and the province has mandated a representative to re-examine the calculations, Marks explained.

The issue of debt-cost allocation highlights the tangled web that exists between the entities of the agglomeration, she said. "We have to spend most of our time at the agglomeration ensuring we're being charged appropriately. It's a matter of following every dollar."

- Westmount has presented at the public BAPE meeting on the Turcot interchange project, p. 7
- Westmounters help Red Cross celebrate its 100th by Veronica Redgrave, p. 11

Liberals and lovers of architecture



Westmount was well represented at the 10th edition of the Soirée CCA (Canadian Centre for Architecture) on June 11. Federal Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff (left) shakes hands with former Westmounter Charles Bronfman as current Westmounter, premier of Quebec and provincial Liberal leader Jean Charest (right) and his wife, Michèle Dionne (second from left) look on. Bronfman's sister, Phyllis Lambert, stands to his right and his wife, Bonnie Roche, to his left. Lambert was the CCA's founding director and is the current chair of its board of trustees.

Photo: Robert J. Galbraith

WMA left rudderless in election year

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

In a somewhat stormy twist of fate, the Westmount Municipal Association (WMA) faces the next year rudderless after one of two presidential candidates withdrew his nomination, the other failed to obtain enough votes from the board to take office and the vice-president resigned.

In a series of votes and procedural wrangling, the board became deadlocked over the election of longtime board member Stan Grossman as president, even

though he had been acclaimed president the previous week by the corresponding secretary when Charles Bierbrier withdrew from the race.

"I think we have to deal with a serious matter," Grossman said in opening the meeting at the Gallery at Victoria Hall that he had come prepared to chair.

But when all was said and done, it was agreed he would serve as the meeting's temporary chair, and he turned attention to the evening's agenda.

City councillor Tom Thompson, a for-

mer WMA president, who stepped in to guide the board through the voting process, said he felt comfortable allowing the initial acclamation of Grossman to stand even though it might not technically adhere to the by-laws (see in-depth story, p. 5).

Later, he told the *Independent* it was ironic that after two years without a president, the WMA still had none though two persons had been willing to serve. However, he was satisfied that at least a temporary chairman seemed to be in place.

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City greening up for evaluation

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount residents and merchants are being called on to spruce up their buildings and beautify their properties to help the city improve its rating in the evaluation of municipalities participating in *Les Fleurons du Québec*.

The triennial contest covers a wide gamut of environmental, landscaping and community initiatives that depict a municipality's beauty as being far more than skin deep.

"Because this is a special year, we're asking people to make a particular effort to fix up their properties and put out planters," said city horticulturist Claudette Savaria. "So now is the time to do it."

The city has just learned that judges will visit Westmount during the third week of August, she said.

The commercial sector was one area singled out as needing improvement in the 2006 assessment. The rating gave Westmount a total of four "blooms" out of a possible five – a perfect score obtained by none. While Westmount ranked among the best, the city has been working on its weaker areas, she said.

These included churches and schools, structural elements in the parks such as garbage cans and benches, and points of entry. "We've been fixing up the entrance to the Public Works yard," Savaria said. "We've also been working with Westmount High School to help them water and care for their planters during the school break."

Savaria, who is one of the original members of Les Fleurons and sits on the general assembly in her own right, also represents Westmount.



City horticulturist Claudette Savaria at Westmount and NDG avenues where one of Les Fleurons du Québec signs is posted.

Zuckerman/Armstrong to cycle (again!)

Debbie Zuckerman with Lance Armstrong at the 2008 Tour de Lance. Again this year, she will ride the 100-km course with Armstrong at Mont Tremblant on September 11. Proceeds from this year's event will go to the MUHC Comprehensive Cancer Centre. Zuckerman's dedication to the cause stems from her husband's recent fight against cancer, and having lost her father to the disease when she was in her twenties. Zuckerman volunteers at a young adult hospital clinic. Participants commit to raise \$25,000. To support her fundraising or to learn more, visit www.tourdelance.ca.



Westmount's past on display

The Westmount Historical Association is taking a rest for the summer, but for those history enthusiasts who need fodder until the group starts up again in the fall, there is a small historical exhibition in the glass cases in the architectural department on the lower level of Westmount city hall.

On display summer long is a photograph of the city's namesake house "West Mount", which became the city's name in 1895. It was demolished in 1935.

Also on display is a photo of the Hurbtise family house built in 1739 and which is still standing; the Glen bridge constructed of stone in 1892 and which continues to carry the CP tracks over the Glen; and three views of one of the Metcalfe Terrace houses built from 1840 to 1944.

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Letters to the Editor

FANCY FENCE DOESN'T HELP

After "forbidding" residents the healthy pleasure of stepping on, strolling, playing or just lying on the grass of Westmount Park's playing fields for three quarters of the year, Westmount's administration "thanks" them for their "understanding."

What's the latest trick up the administration's sleeve? It is beyond "understanding" that for nearly a year, residents and school children have been denied play space and the use of a fifth of their park. This so that the grass on the playing fields may "have a chance to take proper root" for the exclusive use of Westmount's future soccer stars during their brief summer practice session.

I see no improvement in the grass so preciously protected by a million-dollar fence. The grass looks worn and "tired" compared to the vibrant green shoots in the more heavily used but neglected field at Westmount Athletic Grounds.

In the not too distant future, when the \$30 million swimming pool and hockey rink materializes, and bicycles and car parks develop along with Montreal's su-

perhospital, I can clearly see, with sadness, Westmount Park, resplendent as the main "jewel in the crown" of the incumbent mayor's legacy, a glorified sports complex where residents will find it impossible to find peace, relaxation or breathe relatively unpolluted air.

STEPHEN CHIN, SHERBROOKE ST.

Pipe, part 2

A new pipe appeared behind a Victoria Ave. commercial building the week of June 15, in the same place as the one previously photographed by the *Independent* ("Evidence?", June 9, p. 2).

Either this is a regular smoking hang-out or someone is playing the media.



Retiring director driven to integration with community Moffat to be 'good library patron'

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

In retirement, Ann Moffat plans to become a good patron of the Westmount Public Library. She has worked to make the city's popular resource a welcoming place for community groups and a hallmark of new services.

Concluding a 25-year career on June 30, Moffat has focussed on community integration during her 10 years at the helm of the library. It is here in Westmount she raised her family where she and her husband, Tony, continue to live.

"I know the community and its needs," she said. "You see the nannies pushing strollers and you know they need a place to put them when they come into the library."

In fact, over the last two years since the founding of the *Westmount Independent*, Moffat has taken a personal interest in ensuring that "On the Shelves" appears as a regular feature.

"We've tried to bring the library into the community, targeting groups, helping them with resources and building up the collection around their interests," she explained. "In return, the library benefits because they use it and make it their home."

City councillor Kathleen Duncan, who chairs the library board, called Moffat "a master communicator and phenomenal leader in such an understated manner." Her successor has yet to be named.

Providing creative energy

Reluctant to claim credit for many of the changes in the library, Moffat described her role as providing "some sort of creative energy that made things happen." The last decade has also been a very exciting period in the evolution of libraries into information centres based on the explosion of technology, she said.

Since taking over as director in 1999, the library's centennial year, on the sudden departure of Caroline Thibodeau, Moffat has initiated or facilitated many programs and innovations.

Among them, she spearheaded the start of the Friends of the Library, developed the story garden, created awareness of the need for new staff positions, encouraged outreach programs and promoted use of the internet. "Once you open up, all these things come together and it's exciting. Right now, the big area we're going into is developing teen services."

A close rapport with the library board has helped its members have a better idea of how much the library has changed, she said. "The response has been wonderful,

and they have become a sounding board for many of our ideas and even brought forward their own ideas for change."

Ann came to work at the library almost by accident. She had obtained her master's degree in library science at McGill and was



Ann Moffat outside her office.

working as a researcher at the Montreal Children's Hospital in 1988 when she happened to be at the library one day. The reference librarian, Brenda Smith, said in passing she was leaving and might Moffat be interested in applying? She was.

"I loved being a reference librarian and still do because every day you're learning something new," Moffat explained. It's often at the reference desk where she can be found replacing someone on break or over lunch.

Moffat's subsequent appointment as director opened more new doors as it plunged her into the broader operation of the city and its other services, she said.

Despite working long hours and many evenings, she still makes a point of belonging to two book clubs herself. "You can make time for anything you really want to do," she says. But within limits, she adds. In retirement, she already has two goals: to do more cooking and see more of her friends.

And travel, of course. Her two grown children - Bryce and Lesley - and two grandchildren live in Europe. Family aside: what is the first thing she does in another city? "Go to the bookstores, libraries, museums and restaurants," she said. "It all ties together."

Correction

In "Running against Cancer" (June 16, p. 21), we wrongly identified Jérôme, in whose honour Chloé Chapoulie is running. He was in fact her half-brother. The *Independent* regrets the error.

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'Chairman Stan'?

Grossman not WMA president, but chairs first meeting

BY DAVID PRICE

The Westmount Municipal Association (WMA) has a new board and an acting chairman, but no president.

That was the upshot of a freewheeling June 16 board meeting at the Gallery at Victoria Hall, the first since the municipal lobby group's surprising May 25 annual general meeting (AGM).

For the first time in recent memory, two candidates for president were nominated at the AGM: Charles Bierbrier by the group's nominating committee and Stan Grossman from the floor. The vote to choose between them was quickly postponed in order to make time for the presentation of the Derek Walker Volunteer of the Year Award to Mary Anne McNally and a speech by Westmount-Ville Marie MP Marc Garneau.

Between the AGM and this first board meeting, Bierbrier pulled out of the race. It appeared that Grossman had been acclaimed, along with a 2009-10 board of returning and new members.

Things have turned out not to be so simple.

At the board meeting, critics of the election process presented an array of concerns worthy of a law school exam. Among the arguments impugning the correctness of Grossman's presidency were:

- Was the nomination of Grossman from the floor allowed by the group's internal rules?

- Was the AGM correctly called and constituted?

- Given procedurally lax past AGMs, were the group's written by-laws in effect or the *de facto* procedures of past elections?

- Which board – new or old – was currently in office?

- Was the old board itself properly elected?

A confusing but civil series of arguments, motions and amendments followed. At one point someone said that the presidency issue had not yet been resolved by the meeting and Grossman was heard

to say, "We haven't unresolved it [either]."

City councillor Tom Thompson, a former member of the WMA board, was on hand to talk about past practices and offer



Stan Grossman opens meeting with secretary Patricia Dumais.

Thompson proposed that the old board add the proposed new members to its roster and then recognize Grossman as president. Other board members – including Rosalind Davis and Marilyn Gillies – considered redoing the AGM.

Past president Henry Olders proposed a motion to set aside Grossman's nomination, which was defeated 5-5. (It was agreed that motions with tied results would fail.)

A second motion to add the proposed new members to the old board passed, to general applause.

Olders then proposed a resolution that the board be empowered to choose its own officers. This resolution was passed by the new board, which then managed to re-elect its cor-

continued on p. 7

compromise solutions. When it was agreed that Grossman was not the president, Thompson even chaired the first half of the meeting. In a good natured tone, he summed up the conundrum, "Stupid actions led to this mess and stupid people will have to fix it. That may be why I'm here."

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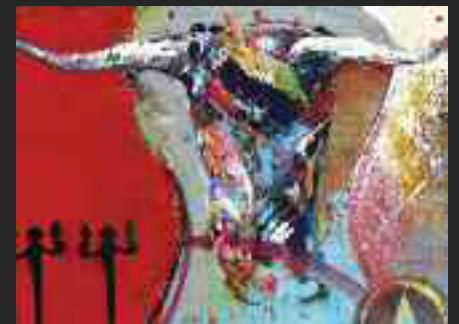
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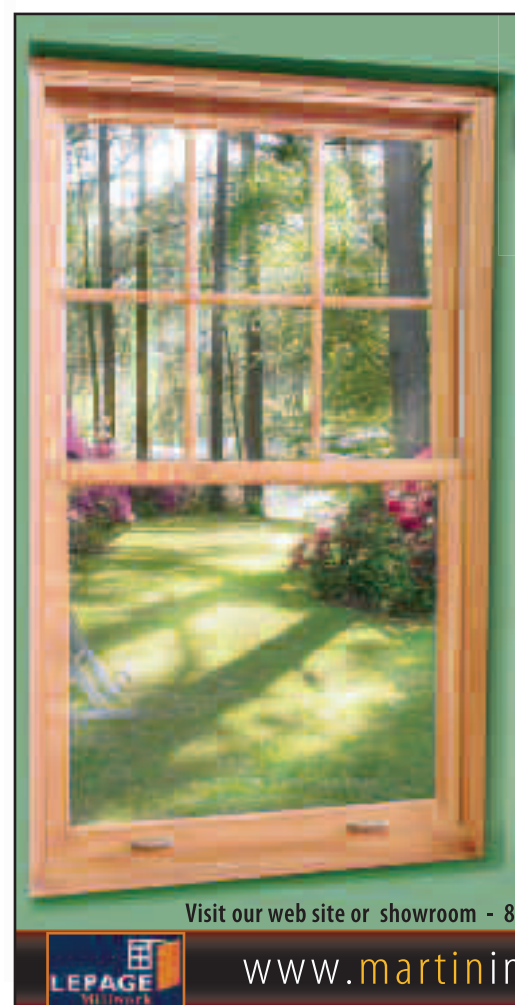
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Mayor Marks goes to St. Henri City presents Ville Marie/Turcot concerns to BAPE

Westmount suffered when the Ville Marie expressway was built in the early 1970s, and stands to be harmed again now that major new work is being considered. That was the message that Westmount mayor Karin Marks delivered at a Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement (BAPE) hearing on the proposed rebuilding of the Ville Marie expressway and Turcot interchange by the ministère des Transports du Québec (MTQ).

The meeting took place June 16 as part of BAPE's weeks-long session at the Centre récréatif, culturel et sportif de St. Zotique in St. Henri, just a few blocks away from the Westmount portion of the proposed work. The MTQ has estimated that the project will cost \$1.5 billion and take seven years to complete, starting in 2009.

Marks' comments echoed some of those by citizens' groups, the borough of

LaSalle and the town of Montreal West, who immediately preceded her.

Marks was accompanied by Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier while presenting. Also attending were city councillors Cynthia Lulham and John de Castell, city director general Duncan Campbell and Communications head Brigitte Stock.

After her specific remarks (see sidebar), BAPE chairman Michel Germain asked how Westmount would work to enforce its work-period regulations. Marks confirmed his suspicion that contractors would have to promise to obey the regulations when they came to apply for permits, just as municipal and private contractors do. Germain pointed out that limits on work times would prolong the estimated two-year period to be spent on the Westmount section of the highway. Marks explained that Westmount's rules would be the starting point for any discussion of trade-offs.

BAPE commissioner Anne-Marie Parent asked how Marks proposed promoting the natural topography of the St. Jacques escarpment. Marks replied that the details had not been planned or discussed.

WMA: No VP, no prez, one acting president

continued from p. 5

responding secretary Patricia Dumais to her post, but lost its vice-president, Rosalind Davis, along the way. She resigned mid-meeting. It was unclear whether any other officers were elected.

A final proposal to elect Grossman as president was defeated 6-6, with Grossman himself not voting and indeed absent from the room at the request of Olders.

Strangely enough, Grossman then

went on to chair the meeting without any material protest from his erstwhile opponents. When contacted later by the *Independent*, he said he considered himself "the acting president."

Under Grossman's chairmanship, a normal meeting ensued, with board and private members talking about a variety of more usual municipal issues: the Ville Marie/Turcot reconstruction project, the proposed new arena, tenants' rights, the MUHC superhospital and Summit Park.

What Marks said

At the June 16th BAPE meeting, Mayor Marks raised the following points:

- The project should be done in the context of sustainable development, especially given Westmount's Sustainability Vision Statement of February 2009.
- The correct question to be answered by a plan ought to be how to "provide for the movement of people and goods" and not how to provide for the movement of cars.
- The MTQ should place a greater emphasis (including the allocation of reserved lanes) on buses, carpooling and trains – especially newer, quieter ones.
- The construction should respect Westmount's rules regarding permissible hours and days of work.
- Measures, including photo radar, should be put in place to protect residential roads from becoming "expressways" during the construction period.
- A sound barrier should be installed beginning west of Greene Ave. where noise exceeds acceptable levels and extending eastwards. This is an area where the highway will not be lowered under the proposed plan and that is already noisy, according to Westmount's sound measurements. In addition, under the proposed MTQ plan, an incline will be created as the highway ascends from the newly lowered section of highway (between Lansdowne/Glen and Greene) to

the current height at Greene (which the proposal does not change). This incline may lead to more noise than now as cars accelerate to get up the slope.

- New overpasses and their lighting should fit with the aesthetic of the rail bridge where Lansdowne and the Glen lead down to de Courcelle in St. Henri.
- Construction should be coordinated with the McGill superhospital scheduled to be built at the Glen Yards.
- Westmount "deplores" the destruction of two residential buildings on Selby St. and the proximity of the proposed highway route to houses on St. Antoine St.*
- The loss of space at Westmount's Corporation Yard and of land used by Hydro Westmount would cause "substantial impairment" given that Westmount has no other place for these activities.
- Westmount city council believes that "special attention" should be paid to the part of the St. Jacques escarpment that extends east into Westmount and its natural topography should be "promoted."

* The two buildings slated for expropriation and demolition happen to be owned by city councillor John de Castell.

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At the table from left, Mayor Karin Marks and Joanne Poirier at the BAPE meeting June 16, as director general Duncan Campbell (far left) looks on.

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Underdog: Georgiaporgia

BY FERN BRESLAW



Georgia is our new favourite. She was one of the puppy mill rescues we featured a few weeks ago: a little basset-beagle mix who went totally blind in one eye because of the fumes produced from the urine in her cage.

Like all the other dogs who came with her, Georgia was damaged, scared and unprepared for the world. When no one adopted her we couldn't just leave her at the shelter, so she has been in foster care at the Underdog headquarters (also known as my very messy home) ever since.

After close to a month living with her, here is the Georgia update: She is a wiggle-wagglor (this is a technical term). She wants love but is still scared, and so she will only let you pet her providing you move towards her as slow as a sloth.

The world outside is a new thing she has only just discovered. Much squealing and bouncing about occurs at the

slightest move towards the leashes. Ditto when it's dinner time. Ditto when we wake up in the morning. She is so good, so excited and so happy that one can't help marvel at her attitude given where she has come from and what she has survived. Everything normal to us is over-the-top wonderful to this little dog.

Georgia doesn't need much to be happy, but we hope she finds a home that will treat her like a princess anyway.

Call the Underdog club at 514.969.3376 to find out more about adopting Georgia.



Georgia

Photo: Marilyn Gelfand

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BUILDING PERMITS What's permitted

The following are a selection of construction permits approved at city council May 20.

32 Devon: for landscaping in rear yard;
49 de Lavigne: to build a retaining wall and erect a fence along the property line;
4451-4453 St. Catherine: to modify the storefront by replacing windows, doors and roofing material;
782 Upper Belmont: to build a terrace;
14 Ramezay: to build a side extension;
376 Lansdowne: to build a rear extension adding a master bathroom and study;
466 Mount Pleasant: to replace windows;

30 York: to replace windows;
464 Strathcona: to extend existing rear deck;
110 Upper Bellevue: to create new window openings on rear façade;
484 Mount Pleasant: to replace side windows and one front one;
574 Côte St. Antoine: to replace front galleries;
507 Victoria: to add a two-storey extension replacing an existing one;
15 Belvedere: to carry out landscaping;
717 Upper Lansdowne: to rebuild front walkway, stairs and balustrade in lime-

stone;
608 Argyle: to relocate front door to enclose the alcove;
3401 St. Antoine: to replace a window;
50 Belvedere Pl.: to rebuild retaining wall, repave driveway and landscape;
60 Somerville: to replace windows and front door;
777 Upper Belmont: to replace storm windows;
789 Upper Belmont: to replace storm windows;
18 Willow: to replace back fence, and add a fence along the southwest portion;
31 Ramezay: landscaping front and rear;
354 Olivier: to install a new skylight in the master bedroom and replace the rear kitchen door;

333 Côte St. Antoine: to replace fence in backyard;
83 Chesterfield: to build a fence along the perimeter of the back yard;
350 Kitchener: to modify the rear deck;
623 Belmont: to replace windows and doors;
49 de Lavigne: to landscape front, side and rear yards;
557 Lansdowne: new basement windows;
129 Arlington: to replace side windows;
84 Belvedere Rd.: new window above the front door;
42 Belvedere Rd.: to build an extension on the west side;
194 Côte St. Antoine: to replace a rear window.

Quebec Classifieds

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Local Classifieds

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The art of charity

Place Kensington Seniors' Residence opened its doors to the public on June 11 for its 20th annual Watercolour Vernissage and Sale.

The exhibit was of artwork produced by residents during their weekly class with Marcia Roszler.

The paintings were on display for \$35 each, with a portion of the proceeds to benefit the Batshaw Youth and Family Centres.

Lucile Brisebois (at right) in front of her artwork.

Photo: Ashley Karp



Local filmmaker receives Order of Canada

Westmounter John N. Smith recently received the honour of officer of the Order of Canada. Smith's 35-year career in film included his work at the National Film Board of Canada and as an independent filmmaker.

He has produced, written and directed Canadian documentary and fiction films, including *Sitting in Limbo*, *The Boys of St. Vincent*, *Dieppe* and *The Englishman's Boy*.

The honour recognizes "a lifetime of achievement and merit of a high degree,

especially in service to Canada or to humanity at large."

Smith just completed a Quebec/Newfoundland co-production feature film called *Love and Savagery*.

Photo: Lois Seigel



Best Wishes from Marc Garneau

Member of Parliament - Westmount-Ville-Marie



Happy St. Jean Baptiste Day!

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Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

Westmouter co-chairs Red Cross fundraiser at the Mount Royal Chalet

BY VERONICA REDGRAVE



Co-chaired by Westmouter Michèle Dionne and Robert Brown, president and CEO of CAE, the fifth annual Quebec Division Canadian Red Cross benefit was held at the Mount Royal Chalet on a windswept night May 14. This year the gala was particularly special because the Canadian Red Cross is celebrating its centennial.

Costumes created by Denis Caron showed the different uniforms of the Red Cross through the years, and beautiful tableaux recreated memorable historical moments. Tribute was paid to Dionne and Pierre Shedleur for their numerous years of volunteering with the organization.

Chef Franco Parreira prepared an amazing menu – his meals already known to many from his restaurants Parreira and Le Dîner. Guests included Westmouters Premier Jean Charest and Dionne, Gwen



Montreal mayor Gérald Tremblay and Premier Jean Charest.

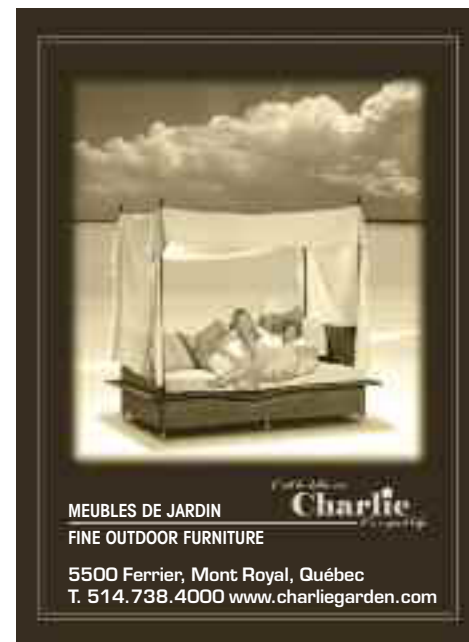
and Tom Nacos, and Robert Charest attending with his wife Louise Lareau. Noted amidst the glamour were Suzanne Tailleur and Montreal mayor Gérald Tremblay; Hélène Robitaille and Pierre Beaudoin, president and CEO, Bombardier Aerospace; Hilary Pearson and Michael Sabia, president and CEO, Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec; and Chantal Carrier and Louis Vachon, president and CEO, Banque Nationale Groupe financier. The event helped raise \$1,050,000 to support the Red Cross preparation and response mission in Quebec.



From left: Conrad Sawé, Michel Léveillé, co-chairs Michèle Dionne and Robert Brown.



Michèle Dionne accepting her gift by artist Anouk Lessard.



Happy
Saint-Jean-Baptiste
Day!

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ROSLYN AVE.

Detached brick COACH HOUSE set amongst the grand residences on Roslyn ave. 3 bedrooms plus, 3 full bathrooms, great living room plus fireplace. Parking, garden & potential! Very unique property. **Asking \$785,000**

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DE MAISONNEUVE W.

Just listed: Charming turn-of-the-century townhouse on quiet Boul. de Maisonneuve. 3 bedrooms, open den, granite kitchen with adjoining solarium overlooking lovely perennial garden. A block from Westmount Park and arena. **Asking \$779,000**

DOWNTOWN



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LE SUD OUEST



DU CANAL ST.

Loft studio, in the Corticelli, close to Downtown & Old Montreal, next to canal and bicycle path. Perfect pied à terre – wood floors, big windows, renovated bath, large kitchen overlooking interior garden, open living/dining/bedroom area and Murphy bed, soundproof. Easy parking. Below municipal evaluation. **Asking \$199,000**