

# WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

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We are Westmount

July 14-15, 2009

## Mayor: Council won't consider any other site Arena/pool decision unlikely by current council

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

It now appears that Westmount will not have a shovel-ready plan for the arena/pool renewal project before municipal elections November 1, Mayor Karin Marks confirmed following the city council meeting July 6.

### We'll be back!

The Indie is taking a construction-holiday break and this is our last issue for July. Thank you to all our readers, advertisers, supporters and suppliers. We'll be back in the office the week of August 3 to prepare for an issue the next week.

As well, despite three councillors calling for a closer look at the Westmount Athletic Grounds (see story on p. 3), council will not be considering other sites, she said.

With the dissolution of this council after its October 1 meeting, further decisions on the plan will pass to the newly elected council, Marks said. "We'll keep working on it as long as we're legally allowed to," she said. Meanwhile, "we might have some idea of possible grant money."

#### WAG site voted down

Marks also told the *Independent* council had voted down (in camera) the proposal

by Councillor Patrick Martin to build some of the proposed new facilities at the Westmount Athletic Grounds. This option, he maintains, could shave \$8 million off the now \$35 million project, lessen the impact at the existing site and provide space for a future indoor pool (see June 30, p. 1).

Marks said the city, on principle, would not build on parkland and did not want to shift the impact to another neighbourhood that uses the athletic grounds as a park just as "we wouldn't build it in the middle of Westmount Park or King George [Murray] Park."

The large tract of sports field behind Westmount *continued on p. 3*

## Web audio coming for question period



You won't have to come to council meetings to hear questions from Stan Grossman (above) and others, as well as answers. See new process, p. 4.

## Westmount facing several major traffic concerns

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A traffic study, whose findings were to be included in an information package on the arena/pool renewal project, has been delayed by uncertainty regarding the Turcot project.

The update was revealed at the city council meeting July 6 amid mounting concerns over a series of existing and potential traffic issues raised by citizens and city officials alike.

These include speeding on hills, unsightly and hazardous calming devices (cement road blocks) and the impact of the

arena/pool expansion, the MUHC super hospital and the rebuilding of the Ville Marie Expressway as part of the Turcot project.

"Traffic is such a concern that we're considering hiring a traffic engineer," said director general Duncan Campbell in reply to questions from resident Gary Ikeman.

#### Critical intersection

"Traffic patterns at the intersection of Lansdowne and St. Catherine, and streets that feed it, are critical," said Ikeman, who has been *continued on p. 10*

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# No arena revisions by Labour Day

*continued from p. 1*

High was the original site of the city's recreation department after its purchase from the Montreal Amateur Athletic Association in 1936. Bordering the railway, it includes a running track, baseball diamond, football field, community gardens, dog run, playground and tennis courts.

As former city councillor Nicolas Matossian and others pressed her for updates during the July council meeting, she said that "hopefully by the fall we may have something to present to the public and a clear indication from the government what we might have [as a grant] to go on."

## 'Mum' on timing

She said, however, she could not make a commitment as to timing of a revised plan, but it would not be by Labour Day (September 7). A "lull" in presenting new information has resulted from architectural repositioning of the pool, and access to parking and traffic flow on the site, she explained.

Melville resident Patrick Barnard asked if Lemay architects were undertaking revisions as part of their \$400,000 contract, to which the mayor responded they were. He also asked about relocation of the pool.

Marks replied, "I think they're looking at the east side [of the site]... but there's no consideration to putting it at another site."

When asked by David Parsons of Academy Rd. if the pool would be relocated to the current area of the junior tennis courts, Marks said only to another part of the "recreational perimeter," though it is believed that council is considering building on the courts and moving them elsewhere in the park.

Council also voted to set up a committee to establish the criteria for the hiring of an eventual project manager of the arena/pool project.



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# Lulham: WAG merits closer look, let citizens decide

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Councillor Cynthia Lulham, who represents the district where both the Westmount Athletic Grounds (WAG) and the current arena are located, said last week she was "very upset" council had voted down the idea of looking at the WAG site as an option.

"It's our responsibility to do our due diligence and explore its potential," she said. "I haven't heard a reason for not investigating it further that has convinced me not to."

She supports Councillor Patrick Martin's proposal to build the two proposed rinks at that location. "He's the one on council with the most experience in this area." Martin is an engineer and project planner. Councillor Kathleen Duncan, an urban planning student, also told the *Independent* she supports the proposal.

And Lulham, who is commissioner of Urban Planning and served 10 years as Sports and Recreation commissioner, attacked the argument that the WAG is parkland and shouldn't have an athletic facility built on it.

## Not an athletic field

"It's an athletic field, not a park!" she exclaimed. "While you don't like to use any

green space, the cost savings to citizens could be an important component. It doesn't contain big trees, and it's such a large space that the rinks would take up only a percentage of it. We could still keep our community gardens, tennis courts and other facilities." She also said the rinks could be built along the back at the tracks and serve as a sound barrier.

Because of current lights at Hillside Lane, traffic flow would not have to change, Westmount High's parking lot for well over 100 cars could be used at night, and the Lane could be used as an arena drive that would not disrupt residents on Hillside Ave.

If the site turns out to be a feasible option, Lulham said, "we should present it to citizens and let them decide. I don't think it will affect our chance at obtaining a grant." In fact, she said, the current projected cost of \$35 million "to shoehorn everything into the existing site – which can be done – worries me."

She said that pursuing further investigation is not a backward step and the process should not be rushed. "We should be looking at every option – backwards, sideways and forwards."

She expects to hear from constituents and will bring the matter back to the table as she continues her own investigation.

## Travaux de réfection

### Remplacement de la conduite d'eau principale

Rue Sherbrooke, entre les avenues Victoria et Claremont

Veillez noter que les travaux de remplacement de la conduite d'eau principale sous la rue Sherbrooke se poursuivront jusqu'à la mi-août, dans le cadre du programme municipal visant à renouveler le réseau d'aqueduc de la Ville de Westmount.

La rue reste ouverte à la circulation, cependant une partie du stationnement sur le côté nord de la rue Sherbrooke est présentement non disponible. En contrepartie, les périodes de stationnement permises sur les rues contigües sont exceptionnellement prolongées de 1 à 4 heures.

Les trottoirs des deux côtés de la rue Sherbrooke restent accessibles aux piétons en tout temps.



## Infrastructure Renewal

### Remplacement of the Water Main

Sherbrooke Street, from Victoria Avenue to Claremont Avenue

As part of the City's ongoing effort to renew the municipal water distribution network, work is currently underway to replace the water main on Sherbrooke Street, and will continue until mid-August.

While the street remains open to traffic, some parking spaces on the North side of Sherbrooke Street are currently unavailable. Allowed parking times on adjoining streets have been temporarily extended from 1 to 4 hours to compensate for this disruption.

Sidewalks on both sides of Sherbrooke Street remain accessible to pedestrians at all times.



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## Civic Alert

## Cllr. Charette: \$18-million debt ceiling means 'hell of a balancing act'

BY DON WEDGE



So, after more than a year's work on the arena/pool project, council has answered the question: what will it add to the debt load? The limit, adopted in private at their last meeting with one dissenting vote, is \$18 million, plus or minus 10 percent. That makes between \$16.2 million and \$19.8 million as the limits, with nearly \$4 million wiggle room for negotiations on government grants or for contingencies.

Recently, the financial question is the one I've heard most frequently. It superseded the indoor pool, although, in the last few days, the amazing decision not to investigate the Westmount Athletic Grounds (WAG) alternative topped the list as word spread of council's rejection of it.

The \$18-million debt limit will translate to \$238 per year in additional tax for the average house. That will increase or decrease by about \$13 for each \$1 million

difference in the final amount, Mayor Karin Marks told me.

"It has taken a lot of council's time," she added. "It would have been ideal to begin by knowing what grants we will receive. The delay in those announcements is very disappointing. Council had to not only consider the existing debt but other projects that may need contributions - the water renewals and roads program, for instance, for which we expect some other grants will become available."

**Minister postpones**

Funds for the arena renewal project are due to come from a \$300-million allocation which the former Municipal Affairs minister Nathalie Normandeau was hoping to increase. Marks has yet to meet the new minister, Laurent Lessard, although she is in contact weekly with his staff. They scheduled an appointment last week, but he postponed it.

"We are victims of previous governments," the mayor reminded me. "We went into the forced merger with almost

no debt and came out with an enormous burden. The government has to help."

We all have to hope that they will. One can't see Louise Harel, if she rejoins the decision-makers, finding any reason whatsoever to help Westmount.

What if the available government funds plus the \$18 million from our own resources are insufficient for the total \$35-million project - or whatever the final cost will be? "Then we'll go back to the drawing board," Marks replied.

If you think we are going to get the missing \$17 million in grants, go ahead and enjoy the summer. On the other hand, if you agree with me that we are being over-optimistic, still enjoy the summer but think how you would like the arena-pool project to be scaled back.

Should underground parking be eliminated? Both rinks 185-foot? One-and-half rinks again?

The revelation that a limit has been set came while discussing the debt issues with Guy Charette, the council finance commissioner. A lawyer specialising in corporate finance and securities, his business involves him in many huge deals. On council, he has been concerned with equivalent matters, particularly with managing the mega debt inherited from Mega Montreal.

**Cheque on the table**

"Ideally, with the arena, we are creating a project that the citizens want. There is

no guarantee, though, they we will get an adequate grant. Until the cheque is on the table, there is no closing," Charette said, explaining his position.

"I'm cautious about things and, with city treasurer Claude Lachance, set out to find what was a reasonable amount of debt we could live with. The building is not for a Kirkland field - it will have an urban setting and people's needs have to be considered.

"We want to be shovel-ready, but should not make concessions that we will regret just for the sake of getting the grant through."

He admits that the financial aspect is his prime concern. His own children - 12-year-old twin sons - do not play hockey and have a pool at the Westmount apartment building where they live and at their Laurentians summer house. "I have no expertise in urban planning, for instance, so I leave it to those who have."

Charette is also flexible enough to appreciate that people have their own needs and ideas. "Even if it were to cost, say \$45 million, provided residents understood the implications, then it is their money, and we should give it to them," he told me.

"Ultimately, we may have to cut back and we will need to know what citizens' priorities are. It's a hell of a balancing act, quite frankly."

*Citizen activist Don Wedge's email address is [dwedge@sympatico.ca](mailto:dwedge@sympatico.ca).*

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## Question periods to be posted on web

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Question periods at Westmount city council will now be recorded and posted on the city website along with the audio version of the business proceedings, Mayor Karin Marks announced at the July 6 meeting.

Saying council still had some concerns over the comfort level some questioners might experience, she explained that legalities and precedents had been researched, and that the new procedure would go into effect with the August 3 meeting.

She attributed the decision to follow-up by Councillor Patrick Martin who had argued in favour of the process for some time and had recently supported a request from resident Paul Marriott.

She also said she hoped people would respect the rules of question period and

not use the opportunity to "wax eloquent."

**Provide further transparency**

Pleased with the decision, Marriott later said it would "continue to help provide a further sense of transparency."

Marks said the council had previously been reluctant to implement the process in the belief it might deter residents from bringing forward their concerns. On the other hand, it would lead to accuracy in noting their comments.

A recent decision by the Quebec Press Council and its legal team in another matter, however, noted that city council meetings are considered as public space and, therefore, no person or complainant who participates at such an assembly can have a reasonable expectation of privacy.

By extension, electors had a right to the information as if they were there.

## Opinion

# WAG site for arena not appropriate

BY MAYOR KARIN MARKS

What a shock it was to see a front page article about a potential \$8 million savings if we built our arena in the Westmount Athletic Grounds. It was particularly astonishing for three reasons. First of all, council had, the night before, in caucus, had a long discussion and had reaffirmed by majority vote our earlier commitment that we would not consider building in the WAG. A clear majority of us supported an immutable principal of not building on green spaces nor dramatically changing their vocation.

Never during that discussion were my colleagues or I informed by Councillor Martin that his declaration of purported savings and new proposal was to hit the papers the next day. Secondly, no studies had been done which would support the claims made nor would they now be done because we had decided over a year ago that the WAG would not be an appropriate site for reasons stated above. Thirdly, council has, for over a year, been working with architects, meeting with residents and planning the rebuilding of our arena in its current location. This has been done with substantial financial investment and significant time and energy leading to a site plan that resolves many of the issues raised by citizens. This revised plan should be brought before residents in the fall.

### **Green spaces not subject to development**

But what of the actual idea itself? Over the 18 years that I have sat on Westmount city council, we have always maintained our clear position that green spaces and parks are not subject to development. It might come as a surprise to many to learn that many years ago, all of Westmount Park was cadastred for building lots but they would certainly never be sold. Institutional properties on large green sites, such as Marianopolis cannot be rezoned for lucrative condo constructions.

While small adaptations to new needs have been made, we simply do not completely change the vocation of green spaces in Westmount for financial or other reasons. City council has, for a very long time, maintained that as an immutable principle with the conviction that such values contribute significantly to the quality of life that our residents enjoy in Westmount.

The amount of green space in our community is probably adequate, but it is not evenly distributed throughout our city. The

top of the mountain has the 57 acre Summit Park and from Sherbrooke St. to Academy Rd., in the south western part, is Westmount Park and playing fields which is over 20 acres. However, the eastern portion of our community does not have the same quantity of parkland and, in fact, the Westmount Athletic Grounds are the only community green space for many blocks for those living in this sector. They are all the more important because those living on the periphery of the WAG also have the highway and the railway directly adjacent to their streets. These people purchased their homes or moved into the local residence secure in the knowledge that this oasis was there for them and that Westmount would not sell it to developers nor construct a major facility on it. Some even lament that we have, over the years, added new activity in the community gardens, the dog run and the tennis courts, but these are fairly consistent with the kinds of uses the WAG has known.

And what of the use of this space? Besides serving as a park space for residents and a community garden, it also provides a venue for our baseball and softball programs, our soccer camp, the cinder running track and for all of the outdoor physical education programs of Westmount High School, as well as those of other schools situated in Westmount. In speaking with the vice principal of WHS after this article came out, he expressed dismay and concern that this would have a devastating impact on their activities and on their environment. The school, with its own daytime parking needs and possibility of night classes, is not able to cede their parking lot long term to an arena, thereby necessitating either surface parking or expensive underground parking to serve an arena on the WAG site.

When it came to constructing our recreational and cultural facilities, beginning some 110 years ago, a major corridor was established as part of Westmount Park, the library, Victoria Hall, the tennis courts and, later, the pool and arena were all built in that corridor still leaving a huge park surrounding them.

### **Appropriate to fit it into current area**

And so, now, when we are looking to rebuild our arena and outdoor pool, it is appropriate to try and fit it into the area where it was situated for all these years. It will expand somewhat and the use of space may be rearranged to meet today's needs, but it will not ..... change the vocation and *continued on p. 10*

## Opinion

# WAG arena – FAQs and facts

BY PATRICK MARTIN, COUNCILLOR,  
DISTRICT 1

In last week's *Independent*, an article outlined my proposal to council to split the arena and pool project between the current site and the fields behind Westmount High. A two-rink ice arena would be built at the southwest corner of the Westmount Athletic Grounds (WAG), while pools would remain at the current site.

This would provide better facilities at a significantly reduced cost, would be less disruptive to neighbours, would allow additional facilities such as an indoor pool next to the outdoor swimming facility, and would prevent losing a full season of hockey and swimming during construction.

I have received numerous supportive phone calls and emails, and have been stopped on the street by residents generally favourable to the concept. Some expressed concerns and questions, to which I reply as follows:

**Would we lose green space or parkland?** – No; it will in fact increase green space in the park, while transferring athletic facilities to the Athletic Grounds where they are better situated. The net effect overall is zero.

**Would it adversely affect Hallowell residents?** – Not at all. There are no residents to the north and south of the WAG, as it is bounded by a high school and the railway tracks. To the east, Hallowell is over 500 feet away (equivalent to the length of Hallowell itself), while to the west, there is an armoury and an apartment building on Hillside. In comparison, the current site is in a densely populated residential area.

**Would it reduce access to sports for Westmount High?** – Baseball, junior soccer, tennis, and other field sports can remain. Football may need to be transferred to

Westmount Park. But for at least five winter months, the school could greatly benefit from an adjacent indoor hockey and skating facility.

**What about the cinder running track?** – It would need to be reduced in length by 30%. But it may be possible to incorporate an indoor track in the new arena.

**Would parking be provided?** – Yes, the site lends itself to parking on the west side of a new arena. In addition, there are 25 adjacent parking spaces on Hillside Lane. On evenings and weekends and during summer, it should be possible to negotiate use of the 116 parking spaces at the school.

**What would be the impact on the neighbourhood during construction?** – With a reduction of \$7 million to \$8 million of construction, the combined overall impact at both sites will be greatly reduced. The remaining burden of impact would be split between two sites.

**Would using the WAG site slow down the project?** – On the contrary, a twin-rink arena design is fairly standard and can proceed quickly, while the construction period would shorten by at least four months.

**Why bring it up now?** – The tight Westmount Park site compromises the quality of the facilities that can be built, and the budget estimate creeping towards \$35 million leads naturally to the consideration of alternatives.

**What is council's reaction?** – While some councillors have expressed support, council has not as yet agreed to study its feasibility. I am confident that it will become clear that the study of the arena/pool project must include analysis of this option. I encourage residents to discuss it with their local councillor. As always, I welcome comments by email at [pmartin@westmount.org](mailto:pmartin@westmount.org).



Westmount Athletic Grounds with Hallowell in the distance, looking east.

# Comments pour in on proposed

## LOWER WESTMOUNT WEIGHS IN ON WAG SITE

At last, something that feels like a breakthrough in the arena-pool discussion.

I like the simplicity and the cost savings of Councillor Martin's proposal. What a good idea to separate the functions and build the rinks on a flatter and more open terrain, at the same time easing the congestion at the present site and preserving the junior tennis courts.

It shows sensitivity to the need in a community to share the burdens associated with civic projects - in this case, in a corner of Westmount that is already under great pressure from the MUHC development and the plans to replace the Turcot interchange.

Selfishly, I love the thought that savings might see an indoor pool built before I enter my dotage. No doubt there will be many objections raised to the Martin plan, but to this lower Westmount resident, its broad outlines and intent are very appealing indeed.

AUDREY BEAN, SOMERVILLE AVE.

## A SENSIBLE PLAN

I am just writing to say "kudos" to Councillor Patrick Martin. The plan in "Save \$8 million, build new rinks at the WAG" is the most sensible that I have seen come out of city hall in a long time. When you read this article in conjunction with the letter from Gary Perlman, you begin to see that this plan is something that might meet the needs and concerns of everyone.

I understand that Councillor Martin has a lot of experience in this type of project and believe his suggestions should be given serious consideration.

If I could ask for just a little clarification: What is meant by "looking into the legality of building on the WAG site." Is this site not Westmount property? Or is it a zoning thing?

BELINDA BOWES, ACADEMY RD.

*Patrick Martin responds: "The site is indeed Westmount property, and research has shown there to be no servitudes with adjoining properties or clauses in the original deeds that would preclude construction on the site."*

## Two former councillors weigh in

### WAG PLAN LESS DISRUPTIVE

Your recent article ("Cllr. Martin: Save \$8 million, build new rinks at the WAG", July 7, p. 1) about Patrick Martin's idea for the upgrading of the rinks and swimming pool was brilliant.

Moving an enlarged arena with two rinks to the Westmount Athletic Grounds (WAG) would avoid upsetting Westmount Park's landscape, not to mention the reputed savings and potential for another use of the present arena. Thank you, Laureen Sweeney, for bringing this to the attention of those who don't attend city council meetings, and Patrick for what appears to be an excellent plan.

SALLY AITKEN, ST. CATHERINE ST.

### WAG A WIN-WIN

I enjoy every issue of the *Westmount Independent*, and the July 7 issue is no exception!

I was particularly taken with the article by Laureen Sweeney outlining Patrick Martin's idea of placing two full sized rinks on the WAG property behind Westmount High School.

It appears to me this would be a win-win situation, enabling hockey to continue during the building of the new rinks, providing two full-size rinks instead of one short by 15 feet, ample parking near the WAG which would eliminate the need for an expensive and possibly troublesome underground garage, and I could go on.

Speaking for myself, I hope it is not too late to consider this imaginative idea.

BARBARA MOORE, LANSDOWNE AVE.

## BRIGHT IDEA

After reading the article about building the new arena on the site of the Westmount Athletic Grounds, I was delighted to see that someone at the city has a bright idea. Let's hope this idea has some teeth, and it continues in the right direction.

Bravo Councillor Martin!

MATTHEW GATY, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

## OUT-OF-THE-BOX THINKING FROM MARTIN

Bravo to Councillor Patrick Martin!

Finally a residents' representative is thinking "outside the box" - and with a concern for the taxpayers' pocketbook.

I am so sick and tired of governments behaving irrationally with other people's money - ours.

It is refreshing to hear Councillor Martin's common-sense logic and financial concern on our behalf.

Let's hear more details. I, for one, shall stay tuned.

ANTHONY MANN, GROSVENOR AVE.

## WHY NOT SAVE \$8 MILLION?

The proposal made by Councillor Martin with reference to building the new skating facilities in the WAG is, in this taxpayer's opinion, inspiring and should be given a full and fair hearing.

If, as Mr. Martin claims, the savings will be in the vicinity of \$8 million, why on earth would city council want to build the facility anywhere else?

City council, in these depressed economic times, must show leadership and thrift; if Westmount can benefit from a better facility at less expense, Councillor Martin's suggestion must be acted on.

ALLEN RUBIN, LEXINGTON AVE.

## DON'T FORCE RINKS INTO CURRENT 'HUMBLE SITE'

Councillor Patrick Martin has put forward a plan to situate two full-sized ice rinks at the Westmount Athletic Grounds (WAG) that will save the city \$8 million.

Others have also called for the athletic grounds to host the new ice skating complex. The WAG is spacious and under-utilized.

On the other hand, the present arena and swimming pool are already crowded into what was once a tiny, sloping, quirkily-shaped city park. It seems absurd to try to force this small and humble site to support twice the current clients, and double or triple the building load, not to speak of assorted underground parking, elevators, neighbourhood traffic congestion and ero-

sion of Westmount Park's original mandate, which was to be an outdoor fresh air park, not a sports palace.

It is difficult for any organization to stop in mid-planning and consider that perhaps a radically different approach might be best in the long run. However I am hoping that Councillor Martin's plan will be studied in detail.

I, for one, believe that situating some of the new athletic facilities at the athletic grounds will provide breathing space for both locations.

CARA MACNAUGHTON, BURTON AVE.

## WHAT'S NOT TO LIKE ABOUT MARTIN'S PROPOSAL?

Councillor Martin has launched an exciting alternative to the existing and costly discussion for Westmount's new arena. His outstanding professional credentials imply credibility to his proposal, which as we understand it, is conceivably \$8 million less than the present option, includes two full rinks, is less disruptive and less intrusive of the existing usage of the area including the rinks, the pool, the tennis courts, dog run, and local traffic (both now and when the MUHC hospital is built southwest of Lansdowne) and leaves potential for future construction of an indoor pool on the original site.

What is not to like?!

We encourage our responsible political leadership to put this option on the front burner and, assuming it is all feasible and at the cost savings projected, move forward without further delay.

CRAIG, HELEN AND ALAN KLINKHOFF, METCALFE AVE.

## FRESH ARENA AIR FROM MARTIN

A breath of fresh air in the current arena plan comes from Councillor Patrick Martin's recent proposal, reported in the *Indie*, to create two full-sized rinks at the Westmount Athletic Grounds, in contrast to the now envisioned plan with one rink shorter than the other.

The city's current design proposes all functions (community centre, pool and rinks) be housed on a small footprint of land, and will necessitate costly indoor parking, a top-heavy 500-foot combined building length, congestion of traffic on Lansdowne and St. Catherine, and a resulting building design reminiscent of a 1960s CEGEP. Nothing can breathe freely as all elements are squished unnaturally together as in the proverbial square peg in a round hole.

Council needs to *continued on next page*



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# WAG site, other issues

recognize this dilemma and its own lack of imagination, and that a phased-in project could better entice citizens and government for financial backing. It could allow an architectural team to do a whole lot better than this current dismal design, which amoebically spills out, unwelcome, onto un-breathing land and citizens' wrath. Let a two-site proposal herald an architectural heritage of which we are proud and be another Westmount landmark.

MARY ANNE FERGUSON, CHURCH HILL

## TAKE MARTIN PLAN SERIOUSLY

I was shocked to read the article about Councillor Patrick Martin's proposal that indicated major shortcomings with the current arena project. Being a professional engineer and project planner, his comments must be taken very seriously.

Mr. Martin points out that there could be real and beneficial alternatives, which up until now have not been presented to the community.

The original idea of having an *expanded* arena/pool project on the current site was always a major challenge due to the land and traffic limitations, and most of the recent design problems that we have witnessed occurred for those reasons.

Mr. Martin shows us that we can do a lot better and satisfy the skaters, the swimmers, the local community and taxpayers by splitting the project.

GARY IKEMAN, WESTMOUNT ARENA MODERATION CAMPAIGN

## LET'S LOOK AT OTHER SITES

I agree with Gary Perlman's suggestion for the proposed arena ("New arena outside of Westmount?", July 7, p. 6): look at other possible sites for the skating rinks. De Courcelle, for example, is two minutes – by bike – from our current arena. Many people who saw the architect's drawing displayed in the library recently will be happy to learn that alternatives are being considered.

DAVID FIELDING, ACADEMY RD.

## NEW BULB AT CITY HALL

The article about Patrick Martin's arena proposal in the July 7 edition of the *Independent* was an eye opener. That there may be a new bulb burning at city hall is at once depressing and encouraging.

How many other members of council will challenge the prevailing wisdoms? We have been fed a considerable dose of nonsense and disinformation by our elected ones and their cheerleaders for too long.

Despite the fact that even though the

most vocal critics of this project have submitted to the hockey lobby, council has never proven its case for a second full-size rink. We are being asked to spend upwards of \$35 million (from an initial \$19 million or so) so that every last individual (many not even Westmount residents) who wants to play hockey can be accommodated. We have an obligation as Canadians and Quebecers to see to it that our kids can play our national sport, but ensuring that all adults, who have many commercial-rink options, are accommodated is not Westmount's mandate. The city's static population of about 20,000 can be well served by a single, modern, and well-run 12-month-a-year rink.

The swimmers in our community have been given short shrift. Why is their desire for an enlarged outdoor pool and a modern indoor facility any less compelling than that of the hockey players? I would propose that it is because the hockey lobby has the ear and the support of many in the Westmount Recreation department – support that the swimming lobby (if there even is a swimming lobby) does not enjoy.

Finally, we have the location, which has always been considered non-negotiable. Yes, other sites may have been considered ... but how seriously? Mr. Martin has spent a considerable amount of effort on an alternate plan that has merit. I would even concede to him the second rink (perhaps now; perhaps as a pre-planned expansion) in an effort to bring sense to what it seems council is trying to accomplish on the grossly undersized current site. I suggest that all Westmount taxpayers log on to Google Earth and take a bird's eye view of other arena facilities on the island of Montreal and then compare them with the site that we have fixated on.

The current city plan is the wrong project in the wrong space at the wrong price. The only thing most of us agree on is that it is overdue. Mr. Martin's proposal deserves serious study.

DAVID SCHACHTER, VICTORIA AVE.

## MANY ADVANTAGES TO MARTIN PLAN

I read with great interest Councillor Martin's proposal (July 7, p. 1) for the arena/pool project and was very impressed by his analysis of the problems of construction on the existing site and the alternatives he presented. I would like to submit the following comments.

The city's latest proposal would have two rinks aligned along the space currently occupied by the existing arena and

the outdoor pool. It would situate the outdoor pool in the area now occupied by the heavily used junior tennis courts, which would be lost or located elsewhere. Presumably this re-arrangement would involve the construction of yet another building to service the pool, i.e. changing and shower rooms, and possibly the heating and filtering plant.

Martin's proposal would greatly reduce the cost of building the rinks and would make the construction of a year-round indoor pool financially feasible. As has been pointed out repeatedly, such a facility would serve the entire community. The many programs currently offered, e.g. lap swimming, family swim, aquafitness, swimming lessons and the very successful Dolphins swim team, could all continue on a year-round basis. An indoor pool would be of particular benefit to citizens who don't skate and whose opportunities for outdoor physical activities are severely limited by winter weather. There is no question that the huge expenditure (at least \$30 million) for the city's current proposal would indefinitely preclude the construction of an indoor pool.

Simultaneously running an outdoor pool, soccer programs and a hockey rink at the current site during the summer, spring and fall would certainly exacerbate the already considerable traffic and parking problems in this immediate neighbourhood.

Councillor Martin's proposal offers an innovative, and practical approach to dealing with the problems associated with expanding the present facilities and merits serious consideration by the community.

PETER WELDON, ACADEMY RD.

## SUPPORT FOR MARTIN PLAN

Just to let you know how pleased I was today to see in the *Westmount Independent* Patrick Martin's alternative proposal for the pool/arena project. I think the proposal is excellent and I hope it will be very seriously considered by the council. I shall certainly give it my support, as I'm sure will many others.

JUNE PATERSON, MELVILLE AVE.

## FISCAL PROPRIETY BY MARTIN

For his proposal to cost reduce the rink/arena renewal project by relocating it to the Westmount Athletic Grounds, Councillor Patrick Martin is to be congratulated for injecting a necessary element of fiscal propriety into the discussion.

If substantial government grants are not forthcoming from Ottawa and Quebec to subsidize the project, it will probably

still impose an excessively heavy financial burden on Westmount taxpayers even if relocated as proposed by Councillor Martin. Therefore, any redesign to accommodate such a relocation should be configured so that if necessary the project can be implemented economically over time in pre-planned phases starting with one full-sized hockey rink and adding another rink and any other contemplated facilities when such additions can be fiscally justified. In the meantime, the existing arena/pool facilities can no doubt be coaxed to continue in service for a while longer.

JOHN DOREY, VICTORIA AVE.

## MIND THE GAPS

In his column of June 29 ("\$30-million arena questions do not go away", p 5), Don Wedge analyzed the stalled arena project, in particular the still-unresolved financial aspects and the apparent lack of any contingency planning if federal and provincial government funds are not forthcoming. In addition he noted that despite two "consultations," according to the mayor there was to be essentially no change from the initial council plan. Mr. Wedge has provided his usual thorough review of the constraints faced by council and residents.

Nonetheless, it is hard to support the contention that, during the coming municipal election, potential challengers will be handicapped by a "knowledge gap" vis-à-vis the incumbents and that this might "create a different outcome or change of appearance to the project." This would be a bad thing? Do all of the present incumbents bring such expertise to the process that they are irreplaceable?

Perhaps we could compare the "knowledge gap" with some other gaps Westmounters have become familiar with: 1) the "credibility gap," in which councillors cheerfully acknowl-  
.....  
edged that they voted

More letters on p. 8

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## Police release Westmount crime statistics for June

# Burglaries way down, graffiti still a concern

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

While only three incidents of break and enter were reported in Westmount during June, the 17 incidents of graffiti pose an ongoing concern, police officials said.

"Graffiti is a matter of everyone - citi-

## June 2009 - Westmount

Type of criminal infraction	No.
Break and enter	3
Robbery (theft with violence)	4
Theft from vehicles	26
Theft of vehicles	5
Sexual assault	0
Graffiti	17

zens, the city and police - working together to report it and have it removed," said local station 12 commander Michel Wilson.

While 12 people were arrested in May for this type of vandalism, he said, none were apprehended in June. Since most of the culprits are "young people" he explained, "We all do our best to occupy them with sports and other activities, but I know it's very hard to follow what your children are doing all the time."

The three burglaries in June compares with some 30 a month that historically have been recorded in Westmount. Wilson attributes the single-



Commander Michel Wilson

digit result to important arrests in May that broke up two gangs operating in Westmount targeting condos, in particular. One series of arrests closed 73 files as reported in the *Independent* of May 12, p. 1.

The 26 thefts of items from cars is an ongoing crime easily preventable by motorists paying special attention to leave nothing in view and locking their cars, he explained.

"Theft from cars has been a problem we've been targeting since the beginning of the year," he said. "We have made 10 to 15 arrests since then. We know our troublemakers and keep an eye on them. That has helped reduce it considerably."

At least 20 related files were closed with two arrests police made in collaboration with Westmount's Public Security Unit overnight June 30 - July 1, he said.

"We've developed a very good partnership with public safety officers who provide more 'eyes' on the road. We call each other when needed."

While a total of 19 arrests were made in June, a variety of criminal code infractions such as shoplifting, were not included in the monthly incidents tracked by police. The accompanying table shows those generally targeted at the community level.

*At the request of the Independent, local community police station 12 will be providing us with a monthly sampling and update of criminality in Westmount.*

# Fast-tracking bike path safety in park

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Measures are being fast-tracked to improve safety on the Westmount Park bike path, where a toddler was recently knocked down.

Announced at the city council meeting July 6, these include the purchase and mounting of 107 meters of steel fencing on the north side of the junior soccer fields along one side of the bike path. Also to be installed are devices on the bike path to slow cyclists or force them to halt at pedestrian crossings and stop signs.

"The fencing will keep people from dashing out from within the perimeter of the soccer fields," explained Councillor George Bowser in moving the purchase of the fencing for some \$23,000.

Avid cyclist Stan Grossman asked if the city had a plan in place for the path. He has repeatedly asked the council about bicycle safety. "I hoped you would call on a few of us cyclists" to help with a plan, he said.

City director general Duncan Campbell said Westmount was putting the temporary plan of obstacles in place to slow down traffic "in the next day or two." He said that during a recent visit to the park he had witnessed 23 cyclists speeding through the stop signs at the path's intersection with Academy Rd. by the pool.

## Delineate bike path with fence

In the longer term, councillor and cyclist Kathleen Duncan told the *Independent*, it is hoped to further delineate the bike path on the northern side by adding a fence combined with thorny bushes "so it's not so permeable." She had met onsite with Public Works personnel to explore options (see story June 29, p. 1).

Another improvement would be changing the paving surface at pedestrian crossing points, Duncan said. She also wants the city to educate cyclists and publicize proper use of the bike path.

Local police commander Michel Wilson told the meeting police had given out 40 tickets this summer on the de Maison-neuve bike path. Two were reportedly issued during a blitz of the stretch through the park.

Mayor Karin Marks asked police to also tackle the problem of cyclists riding on the sidewalks on Sherbrooke St.

# Quieter train rails coming soon

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

After years of waiting for improvements to the commuter rail line through Westmount, residents may have received some heartening news.

Mayor Karin Marks and city councillor John de Castell met June 22 at city hall, with Quebec and commuter train officials to press for the improvements and the installation of a sound barrier.

Reporting on the meeting at the city council session July 6, Marks said it had been arranged by local MNA Jacques Chagnon who attended along with Joël Gauthier, president of Agence Métropolitain de Transport (AMT) and a senior offi-

cial from Transport Quebec.

She said the city had reinforced the need for electrifying the line and putting into service "early on in the process" the newer, lighter trains that AMT will be introducing on its territory - all measures aimed at reducing noise and vibration.

Westmount also asked that installation of the long-proposed sound barrier "be brought to the fore" along the portion of the Ville Marie Expressway that won't be lowered by the proposed Turcot project that will be "a messy job."

The city had been awaiting confirmation of the highway construction plans before pressing for the sound barrier, she explained.

# More arena letters

*continued from p. 7*

for recommendations of the Architectural Planning Commission without ever having read the underlying documentation and didn't know what changes they were approving; or 2) the "common sense" gap, whereby council approved a design for Westmount Park that funnels pedestrians, including young children, directly into the path of speeding cyclists; or 3) the always popular "consultation gap", an exercise in which a sham consultation is substituted for the real thing. While earnest residents present their ideas for improvement, members of council and the administration listen attentively, nod encouragingly

and promise to consider all proposals really, really carefully. Then sadly but predictably, all suggestions are rejected. Everyone has lots of fun.

All of this to say that Mr. Wedge is being too kind in attributing a special advantage to sitting councillors regardless of performance. Those who have been active and responsive to citizens' needs deserve support; others do not warrant a blanket free pass in an election just because they showed up. In fact, many in this community are of the opinion that some new blood on council is precisely what we do need, particularly given the fiscal and environmental challenges we are facing.

MAVIS YOUNG, MELVILLE AVE.

# New permits chief named

City council has appointed a new division chief for permits and inspections as the Urban Planning department prepares to concentrate on the technical aspect of permits and the upcoming introduction of Quebec's 2005 building code. The currently used one is the 1995 version.

Domna Niflis, an architect with more than 10 years of experience with expertise in technical matters, was hired on a three-year contract to fill the vacancy in a recent shifting of positions within the department, according to Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier. Niflis also will follow up with the intricacies of court proceedings.

To all my clients & friends,  
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for a delightful and relaxing summer.  
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Not a Court Reporter by Bruce Roberts

# What are you doing this summer?



## Mayor: stay the course

.....  
continued from p. 5

the character of an entire area.

Those who purchased their residences or chose to rent in close proximity to the arena did so with the full knowledge that swimming, camps, hockey and skating would go on at their doorstep. For some, this may even have been the reason they chose to live there.

Change is never easy, and we are endeavoring to respect the area where the construction will take place by minimizing the changes and their impact to the extent possible. In the new design, we have tried to maintain a similar height to the current facility, created an expensive underground parking facility to accommodate those arriving by car so that they would not impinge on adjacent streets, kept most of the existing dog run, maintained a substantial view corridor and green space between the pool and the arena, and provided an open pool space where both community and competitive

swimming can be accommodated.

There are still many elements of the design which have to be completed and reviewed by our Planning Advisory Committee. This can and will be a very good project and an important addition to our community. We will also make it significantly more "green" than our current facility. We continue to work on possible government and private sources of funding to make our community investment in it a reasonable one.

What also concerns me about this proposed detour is that not only could it delay and put in jeopardy all of the work done but it would also likely pit one segment of our community against the other unnecessarily. Council's role should always include trying to build and reinforce our sense of community.

That is why we must stay the course and proceed with the current proposal to rebuild in the current location so that we can continue to work on obtaining funding and take this project to the community in the fall.

## Slowing devices to be reviewed

.....  
continued from p. 1

calling on council for months to provide traffic data as a precursor to arena decisions.

"We've been told a traffic study has been done," he stated. "Has the study been done? Will the findings be included with the [arena] information package?"

After being told the study was on hold until more is known about Turcot, he was informed by Mayor Karin Marks that its inclusion with other arena information depended on timing. "You're saying possibly 'no,'" Ikeman stated. "That means we won't have complete information."

Ed Vickery, a resident of Argyle Ave., repeated a previous plea to council to install a speed bump on his street near Selwyn House. He said a boy had recently been injured there in a serious accident. "We're studying it," Campbell replied, adding again: "We have a lot of traffic issues."

This location was immediately referred to police commander Michel Wilson who was in attendance and had been explain-

ing how police were conducting radar enforcement on Sherbrooke and The Boulevard.

Stanley Baker, of de Maisonneuve, told council the cement road blocks being used as slowing devices on some streets were "a menace at night and not to easy to see."

Mayor Marks agreed that they posed a problem while councillor Cynthia Lulham said that PAC (the city's planning advisory committee) was "very concerned about their aesthetics. They're unsafe and unattractive and the whole issue has to be reviewed."

Outremont was building in slowing devices and planters that could serve as an interesting model, she added.

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# The Green Patrol

BY KRISTIN MCNEILL

A new Green Patrol has been roaming the streets of Westmount this summer.

University students Catherine Ianovskaia and Philippe Joly were hired for the 2009 season as green patrollers. They go to door to door to answer questions about green bins and composting, recycling, gardening, water conservation and energy efficiency.

Ianovskaia said they are asked a wide range of questions from residents and encourage more, as they “like to be challenged.”

The most frequently-asked question? “The odour,” stated Joly. There are several methods of containing the odour, he explained. One is to keep non-vegetative waste, such as bones and dairy, in a sealed container in the fridge or freezer and add it to the green bin as close to collection as possible. They are distributing a pamphlet that provides more tips on the subject of odour and scavengers.

The patrollers don’t verify the contents of green bins but do check recycling bins on Wednesdays and leave courtesy notes or contact residents directly if something is not disposed of correctly.

The two summer students have their base at Centre Greene.

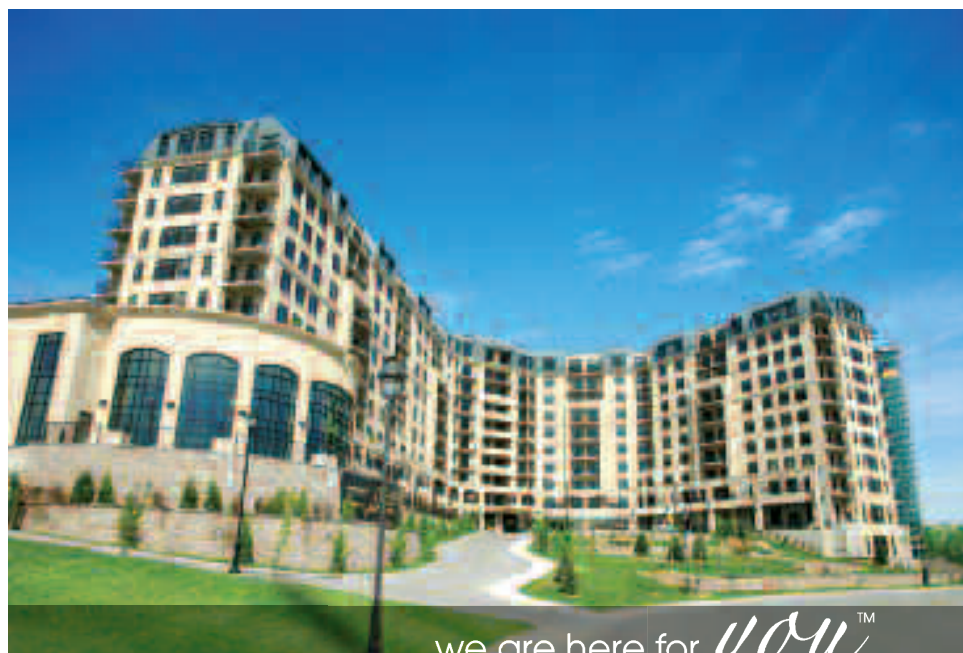
They will work for nine weeks, starting June 8 through to August 7. Besides their on-the-road information sessions, they also organize kiosks at fixed locations where they talk about topics such as vermicomposting and rainwater collection. (See p. 19 for scheduled kiosks.)

The Green Patrol was initiated by the Conseil régional de l’environnement de Montréal, which works in conjunction with other cities and boroughs in Montreal.

Westmount’s Green Patrol can be reached at their email address: westmountgreenpatrol@gmail.com.



The Westmount Green Patrol, Catherine Ianovskaia and Philippe Joly, on their rounds July 6.



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## TRAVAUX PUBLICS

### Renseignements sur l'état des routes : composez le 5-1-1

Offert 24 heures sur 24, 7 jours sur 7, le service téléphonique Québec 5-1-1 vous donne facilement accès à toute l'information dont vous avez besoin pour planifier des déplacements efficaces et en toute sécurité sur l'ensemble du réseau routier du Québec. Conçu par le ministère des Transports du Québec, ce service gratuit est également disponible en ligne sur le site : [www.quebec511.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.quebec511.gouv.qc.ca).

### Travaux de réfection du réseau d'aqueduc sur la rue Sherbrooke

Veillez noter que les travaux de remplacement de la conduite d'eau principale se poursuivront jusqu'à la mi-août. La rue reste ouverte à la circulation, cependant une partie du stationnement sur le côté nord de la rue Sherbrooke est présentement non disponible. Veuillez consulter notre site Web pour des informations plus détaillées à ce sujet. Info : 514 989-5257.

### Patrouille verte

Pour la troisième année consécutive, une équipe formée de deux étudiants patrouillera Westmount afin de promouvoir nos initiatives environnementales, et accroître la visibilité de la multitude des services environnementaux offerts par la Ville. Vous les reconnaîtrez à leur tee-shirt vert vif. N'hésitez surtout pas à leur poser des questions ! 🌿



## ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

### Concerts d'été au parc Westmount

Venez assister à des concerts gratuits professionnels près de l'étang les dimanches à 14 h. En cas de pluie, les concerts auront lieu au Victoria Hall.

Le 19 juillet	Quartette Mary Ann Lacey
Le 26 juillet	L'Esprit de la musique
Le 2 août	Louise Thibault, John Gearey & Aron Doyle
Le 9 août	Quartette Robert Burman

### La galerie du Victoria Hall

#### Exposition de groupe

Pour le cinquième été de suite, la galerie du Victoria Hall est fière de présenter une attrayante exposition collective. Huit artistes participent à cette exposition intitulée *Une question de détail* : Mona Agia, Ann Cecil, Marina Etingin, Douglas Allan Fales, Lindsey Fryett, Christine Henderson, Pierre Lessard et Beth McAdams. L'exposition se poursuit jusqu'au 15 août. Info : 514 925-1403. 🌿



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## BIBLIOTHÈQUE

### Club de lecture vacances 2009

Cet été, venez découvrir le monde des animaux en participant au club de lecture vacances. Le thème de cette année est *Lire, c'est pas bête* ! Inscriptions : comptoir des enfants. Info : 514 989-5229.

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Joignez-vous au conteur de réputation internationale Harald Juengst qui vous fera découvrir les légendes et contes de fées d'Irlande le 15 juillet à 16 h dans le Jardin du conte. Veuillez préalablement vous inscrire au comptoir de prêt. Info : 514 989-5229.

### Guitar Hero® pour les ados

Viens jouer à *Guitar Hero® (Complete Band Game)* avec d'autres ados à la Bibliothèque le 17 juillet à 16 h. Pour les ados de 13 à 17 ans. Tu dois préalablement t'inscrire au comptoir de prêt. Info : 514 989-5229.

### Club d'échecs et de Scrabble

Aimez-vous jouer aux échecs et/ou au Scrabble? Les prochaines rencontres du club auront lieu les 17 juillet et 7 août à 14 h dans une ambiance amicale. Nous sommes toujours à la recherche de nouveaux joueurs. Info : 514 989-5386.

### Club de lecture anglaise

Joignez-vous au club de lecture anglaise le mardi 21 juillet de 19 h à 21 h pour discuter du livre *My Dog Tulip* de J.R. Ackerley Info : 514 989-5386. 🌿



## PUBLIC WORKS

### Call 5-1-1 for Highway Construction Info

The Quebec 5-1-1 telephone service, available 24/7, gives you easy access to all the information you need to plan safe and efficient trips on the entire Quebec highway network. Designed by the *ministère des Transports du Québec*, this free service is also available online at [www.quebec511.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.quebec511.gouv.qc.ca).

### Water Infrastructure Renewal on Sherbrooke Street

Work is currently underway to replace the water main on Sherbrooke Street, and will continue until mid-August. While the street remains open to traffic, some parking spaces on the North side of Sherbrooke Street are currently unavailable. More information on this project is available on our Web site. Info: 514 989-5257.

### Green Patrol

For the third consecutive year, a two-person student team will patrol Westmount to promote City environmental initiatives, giving better visibility to the multitude of environmental services the City has to offer. Look for their bright green shirts this summer, and don't hesitate to ask them questions! 🌿



## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Summer Concerts in the Park

Join us on Sundays at 2 p.m. at the lagoon in Westmount Park for free concerts by professional musicians. Rain location: Victoria Hall.

July 19	Mary Ann Lacey Quartet
July 26	L'Esprit de la musique
August 2	Louise Thibault, John Gearey & Aron Doyle
August 9	Robert Burman Quartet

### The Gallery at Victoria Hall

#### Group Exhibition

For the fifth consecutive summer, the Gallery at Victoria Hall is proud to present an exciting group exhibition. Eight artists are participating in this year's exhibition entitled *Details, details*: Mona Agia, Ann Cecil, Marina Etingin, Douglas Allan Fales, Lindsey Fryett, Christine Henderson, Pierre Lessard and Beth McAdams. The exhibition runs until August 15. Info: 514 925-1403. 🌿



## PUBLIC SECURITY

### Overnight Parking Permissions

Need permission for temporary overnight parking? Now you can register with Public Security through our Web site, and avoid a parking ticket. Use the E-Services button at [www.westmount.org](http://www.westmount.org) and take advantage of this new service today. 🌿



## LIBRARY

### Summer Reading Club 2009

Explore the world of animals by joining our summer reading club. The theme this year is *Go wild, read!* You can register for this activity in the children's section of the Library. Info: 514 989-5229.

### AdosTeens online summer reading club

Visit our blog to participate and win prizes. [www.westlib.org/adosteens](http://www.westlib.org/adosteens). For teens ages 13-17. Win a Flip@ camera! Info: 514 989-1622.

### Irish Legends and Fairy Tales

International storyteller, Harald Juengst, shares Irish legends and fairy tales in the Storytelling Garden on July 15 at 4 p.m. Please register for this event at the circulation desk. Info: 514 989-5229.

### Guitar Hero® for teens

Come play *Guitar Hero® (Complete Band Game)* with other teens at the Library on July 17 at 4 p.m. For teens ages 13-17. Please register for this event at the circulation desk. Info: 514 989-5229.

### Chess and Scrabble Club

Do you enjoy playing chess and/or Scrabble? Our games club will meet on July 17 and August 7 at 2 p.m. New players welcome! Info: 514 989-5386.

### English Book Club

Join the English Book Club at 7 p.m. on July 21 as they discuss the book *My Dog Tulip* by J.R. Ackerley. Info: 514 989-5386. 🌿

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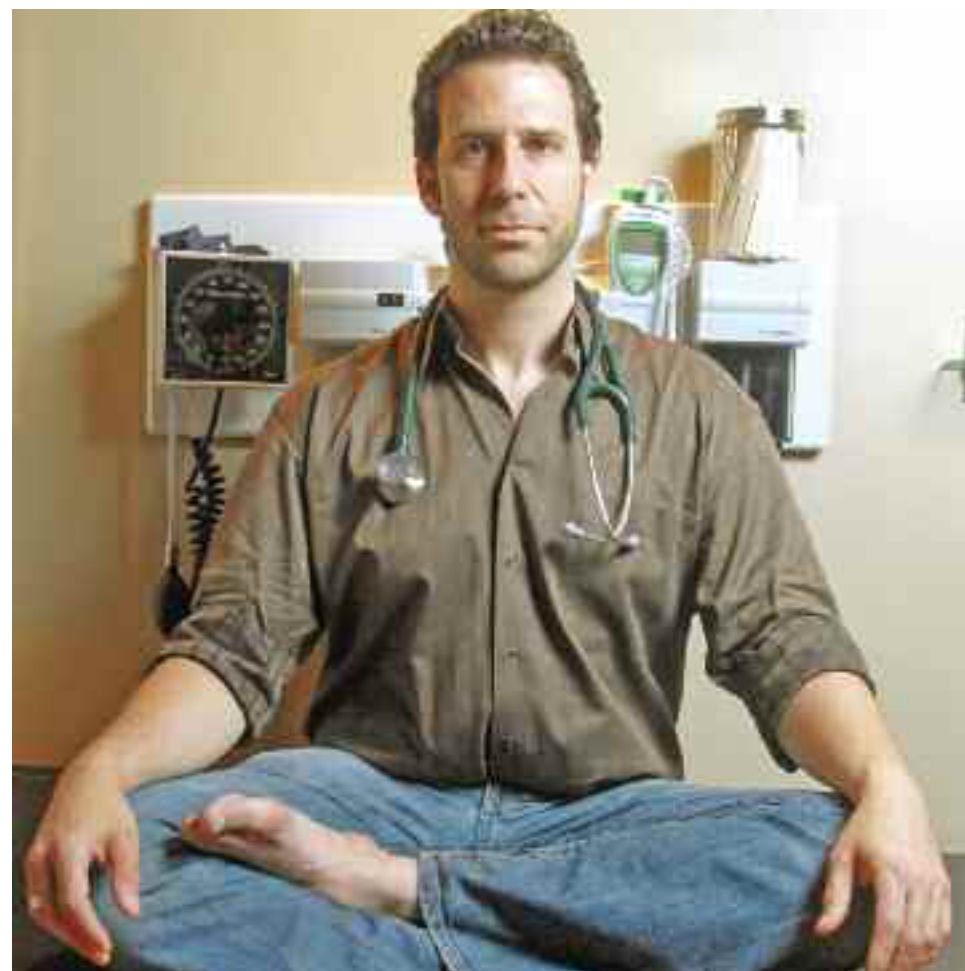
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# Hello, Westmount

## MONTREAL CENTRE FOR INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE



Dr. Adam Gavsie

PHOTO & STORY BY ROBERT J. GALBRAITH

“Integrative medicine is a healing-oriented medicine that takes into account the whole person – body, mind and spirit – including all aspects of lifestyle,” explained Dr. Adam Gavsie.

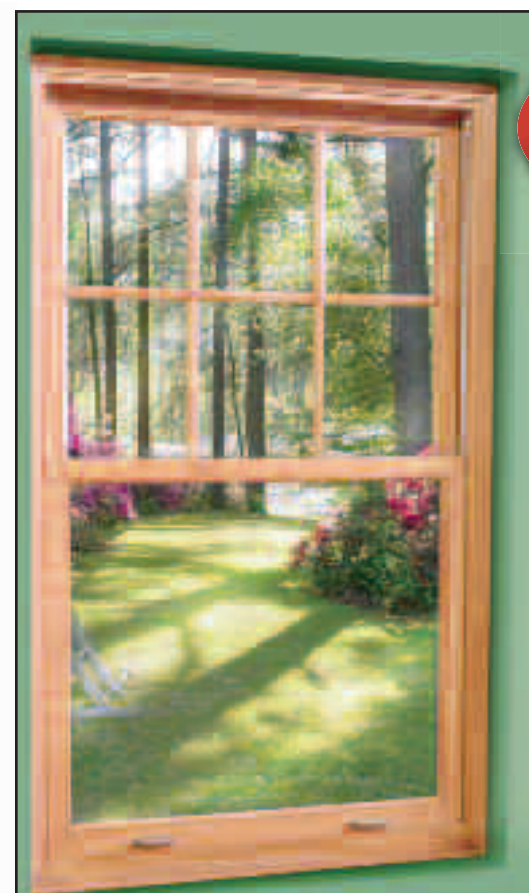
His practice, the Montreal Centre for Integrative Medicine, is located on the second floor of a Sherbrooke St. greystone across from Westmount Park.

“We are a holistic family clinic dedicated to integrative medicine. We take the best of both worlds of conventional and al-

ternative medicine.”

Dr. Gavsie had been studying integrative medicine for 10 years and practising for eight. He opened in Westmount two months ago and loves the location. “I thought Westmount would be ideal. Its proximity to the core of the city and green spaces make it ideal. More importantly, I was looking for a space that didn’t feel clinical, a more relaxed feel, and this greystone in Westmount was perfect,” says the 36-year-old, who grew up in central Montreal but now lives in .....  
Westmount.

continued on p. 16



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## Retail Watch

BY ERIN STROPES

### New food store on Victoria

Vic Market, a “gourmet health food” store affiliated with the Victoria Park health complex, opened its doors to the public on June 22. The market offers dine-in and carry-out meals made fresh daily, as



Vic Market's co-founders, Rob Stutman (left) and Philip Chang.

well as a coffee bar featuring locally-blended fair trade coffee. Customer favourites to date include the house-cured salmon, vegetarian sandwiches and chimichurri chicken.

In addition to a range of organic dry goods, many of them locally produced, fresh fruits and vegetables will be carried in season. Homemade soups and locally made frozen yogurt will be available soon, and a smoothie bar is in the works.

Located at 378 Victoria Ave., opening hours are 8 am to 8 pm Monday to Friday and 10 am to 5 pm on weekends.

### Decor store celebrates anniversary

Décor Marie Paule is celebrating its



Co-owner Paula Pedicelli, who has been with Décor Marie Paule since its inception.

35th anniversary at its Westmount location. The store is known for its European linens and custom draperies, as well as its staff of decorators. The store's private label of bed linens is on sale in honour of the occasion, and customers will be eligible to win a set of these linens in a draw to be held on Monday, August 3.

### Renovating

Baby clothing store Pom'Canelle Bébé is undergoing renovations. All of its stock is available just down the block at the Pom'Canelle store at 4060 Sherbrooke.

Copoli Restaurant (4458 St. Catherine), known for its oversized hamburgers, has closed for renovations until further notice. A building permit specifying “interior repairs” is on display at the site.



Copoli is undergoing “interior repairs”.

## Underdog: Nobody thinks Lloyd is worth saving

BY FERN BRESLAW



Lloyd came from a couple of boxers – the fighting kind. They appeared to be getting a little “help” in the body building department but who knows? In any case, they were built and so was Lloyd. He was huge. They dumped him and he began to lose muscle mass faster than a fat man on the Atkins diet.

Lloyd was brought to the vet, and they discovered the world's most shrunken tes-



Lloyd

ticles and a liver damaged beyond belief. By this time, the dog had lost half his body weight in muscle and the unthinkable was put on the table: Whatever Lloyd's owners were using, they were most likely giving it to the dog as well.

That's right. Lloyd appears to have been pumped full of human steroids. So what does this mean? It means his liver is in critical condition. It means he needs specialized medical attention, costing in the \$2,000 range. This is money that needs to be found.

And nobody wants to pay because Lloyd isn't even a “good” dog. He was raised by a pair of irresponsible, macho showpieces, and it shows. He can't live with kids, and isn't the best with other dogs. He is strong and needs training.

The problem is that his owners made

him this way. He didn't come out like this. They made him sick and made him bad, and he may die because of it.

If you want to help Lloyd, please call 514.969.3376.

He is the ultimate underdog – here's hoping somebody can help him come out on top.

### Georgia: All is well that ends well.

Jade Scully of Westmount read Georgia's story a couple of weeks ago and, after a little negotiation with her cats, is the proud new Mummy of this very deserving dog.

We are so so proud of Jade and all of you who have called in, adopted, volunteered and donated to the Underdogs we run here week after week.

There are no words for the way you have changed their lives. Thank you.



Georgia

## Specialized volunteers needed for Sophie's Dog Adoption

Sophie's Dog Adoption is in desperate need of volunteers who can give one day a week of their time. Currently this rockstar refuge is operated by Sophie, a small handful of fosters and one driver. She works around the clock and is in desperate need of help in managing her organization.

Areas most in need of volunteers are: bookkeeping, administration (answering calls, following up), fundraisers and drivers.

If you would like to help, call Sophie's Dog Adoptions at 514.523.5052.

## Electronic Independents available

Enjoy the Indie at supper time on Tuesdays!

Sign up by writing us:

indie@westmountindependent.com.

## Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

# Alzheimer Groupe holds annual gala at Museum of Fine Arts

BY VERONICA REDGRAVE

Among the chic cocktail party-goers at the annual fundraiser of the Alzheimer Groupe Inc. (AGI) were Westmounters **Micki Morton, Evelyn Shrier, and Bernice and Morty Brownstein** of Brown's Shoes fashionista fame. The event took place at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, May 12. The theme was "Imagine – a



Bernice & Morty Brownstein and Shirley Goldfarb.



Beverly Solomon, Micki Morton and Evelyn Shrier.



Thérèse and Ghislaine Brownstein.

World without Alzheimer Disease."

Guests toured "Imagine", the celebration of the 40th anniversary of John and Yoko Ono's 1969 bed-in. AGI president and gala chair **Miriam Friedman**, attending with her husband **Morty**, worked hard with her supportive committee to ensure an elegant and successful evening.

Committee members included **Elaine Kotler** (there with her husband **Julian**) and

**Carole Arbess** (with **Bernard**), **Esther Landsman** (with **André**), **Marilyn Rosenbloom** (with **Harvey**) and **Lynne Broderick Cochrane**.

Other noted guests included **Sara and Irwin Tauben**, **Suzanne and Michael Litwin** and **Sid Shapiro**.

Guests received beach towels by Ugg,

donated by SeCe Apparel Co. Ltd. The money raised goes to AGI support services for individuals with Alzheimer's Disease. The non-profit AGI hosts daily programs in its activity centre, and educational conferences and outreach programs in the community to create awareness of the disease. [www.alzheimergroupe.org](http://www.alzheimergroupe.org).



Eli and Norm Latsky.



Cheryl & Benjamin Cohen.

## The Inquisitive Westmounter One less quirk?



Westmount may have lost one of its quirkier examples of traffic signage. As recently as June, the lights that east-bound pedestrians saw on the north side of de Maisonneuve at Metcalfe used to have a rightward-pointing arrow as the green light (see photo on the left).

Was this a leftover from some period



when de Maisonneuve was two ways or did it go back to Western Ave. days (as the street used to be called)? Or was it just a mistake? In any event, it looks like the arrow has been replaced by a regular green light (see photo on the right). We'll get back to you once they light the new post up.

## Hello, Westmount continued

.....  
*continued from p. 14*

Dr. Gavsie says his clinic attracts a whole range of clientele including "those who have no family doctor, those who are disappointed with the whole provincial medical system or those who are looking for alternative methods of healing. I am private, off the provincial medical system, and can spend much more time with my

patients."

Dr. Gavsie's clinic is located at 4571 Sherbrooke St. The office can be reached at 514.908.6246, and his website is [www.mcim.ca](http://www.mcim.ca).

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# WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

## Happy 60th, Ralph!



## Lulham branches out to Townships

Cynthia Lulham, best known to Westmounters as a city councillor, is a part of the team organizing "Celebration Knowlton," which takes place in the Eastern Townships town from Friday, August 7 to Sunday, August 16.

The event (see [www.knowltonfestival.com](http://www.knowltonfestival.com) for a full schedule) mixes classical music, food and Knowlton's history. There are a variety of free and ticket-required musical events, including performances by the Montreal Symphony Orchestra. Stores, restaurants and hotels are also planning special offerings and events.

The new role came about because of Lulham's experience with retailer La Cache, her Knowlton house and having friends on the committee. Knowlton has also been working with Rues Principales - a non-profit organization that partners with municipalities to rejuvenate their towns. This also coincides with her Westmount city council role as head of the planning committee.

"The goal was to bring people together for a music festival and to visit the shops," said Lulham. "Visitors should expect a musical theme - and a note of gaiety."

Westmounter Ralph Leavitt (above), the minister of St. George's Anglican Church, marked his 60th birthday on July 2. A group of over 100 well-wishers attended the celebration at his downtown church. Leavitt is a former president of Westmount's Atwater Library and a cancer survivor. He is participating in the Jewish General Hospital's Ride to Conquer Cancer. To find his personal page, search under "Ralph Leavitt cancer montreal ride."

## BUILDING PERMITS What's permitted

The following permits for exterior construction, alterations and renovation were approved at the city council meeting July 6:

**310 Côte St. Antoine:** to build a new house;

**74 Gordon Cresc.:** to build a second storey addition;

**4691 Westmount:** to replace roof shingles;

**4374 de Maisonneuve:** to replace two storm windows at the side and two rear doors;

**480 Roslyn:** to replace garage door;

**4839 Westmount:** to replace some front windows;

**10 Ramezay:** to replace most windows and doors;

**372 Olivier:** to install two heat pumps on roof;

**485 Elm:** to replace windows, one front balcony door and one rear door;

**53 de Lavigne:** to replace front windows;

**619 Roslyn:** to rebuild front balcony as per original design;

**12 Park Place/44-46 Academy:** to replace windows;

**70 Rosemount Cresc.:** to landscape;

**480 Mount Pleasant:** to erect fence at side and rear;

**682 Roslyn:** to enclose lower rear balcony;

**370 Roslyn:** to replace front door;

**63 Belvedere Rd.:** to replace garage door; alter front portico and replace front door;

**728 Upper Lansdowne:** to replace rear patio door;

**9 Burton:** to replace front windows;

**419 Mount Pleasant:** to replace front windows;

**56 de Lavigne:** to replace kitchen and powder room windows and a rear door;

**227 Clarke, #1:** to enlarge rear to make a door and build a balcony;

**565 Argyle:** to landscape.

## Colourfully Yours:

# Watch out: Pattern is back!

BY GRETA VON SCHMEDLAPP,  
MUSE TO AURÉLIEN GUILLORY



Oh dear, I'm having a pang of Slavic guilt again because I feel I have been neglecting my readers lately. To tell the truth, this chapter in my musings and my collaborations with that intrepid designer Aurelien have been brewing for several weeks, and the title was really determined by a lively and totally serendipitous encounter in Toronto.

I was packed into Aurel's carpet bag for the voyage to visit the "out-laws" and to see the new additions to two of the most important museums there: first the Royal Ontario Museum and the crystal excrecence metastasising out of the elegant brickwork of the ROM, and second, the Art Gallery of Ontario and the warm curves of Douglas fir beams that soften the severity of the museum. Can you tell which one Aurel and I prefer?

On the second day, we were exploring the rapidly gentrifying Leslieville area, when we encountered a lady walking a large multi-spotted bulldog. The dog was very genial in spite of his name (Shredder!), and his owner was introduced by Aurel's brother-in-law as Joanne Purchase. Our subsequent conversation focused in on interior design when we discovered

that she was a publicist and writer-researcher for one of the wallpaper councils of North America. As you can imagine, when she showed us her back garden outdoor living room pavilion created by her husband, which was entirely in black, white, green and magenta, Aurel started taking photos for an article in *Les Idées de ma maison*, to be published in coming months.

Aurel set a date for the following afternoon, and over some lovely martinis and delicious melon-prosciutto wraps, we were shown the very latest in wallpaper patterns and new printing techniques.

So, my dear design fiends, here's the lowdown on a subject that has been niggling in the lower part of my cerebellum for several months now: Pattern is back with a vengeance!

The new collections that we were shown confirmed my suspicions. The twist on all of the 60s and 70s styles are referenced with new colour schemes, the modern technology of computer-aided printing and marvelous mixing of scale sizes that were never seen in eras past. I have heard several names for these new trends, and the one that fits for Aurel and me is The New Baroque.

Hugs, and kisses, your Greta.

*Do keep me up to date with your questions and commentaire.*  
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## Comin Up': Summer in Westmount

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

"Irish Legends and Fairy Tales" by Harald Juengst, Westmount Public Library, Storytelling Garden, 4 pm.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

Green Patrol's kiosk on "One drop at a time day! (water)" at the the corner of Maisonneuve and Greene, 12 pm to 4 pm.

FRIDAY, JULY 17

The game "Guitar Hero" will be available for teens (13 to 17) at the Westmount Public Library, 4 pm. Register at the circulation desk or call 514.989.5229.

MONDAY, JULY 20

Westmount Municipal Association (WMA) meeting in the Lodge Room, Victoria Hall, 7:00 pm. Open to all.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22

Green Patrol's kiosk on **composting** and **vermicomposting** at the corner of Maisonneuve and Greene, 12 pm to 4 pm.

THURSDAY, JULY 30

Green Patrol's kiosk on "Recovering rain-water" with Geneviève Groleau (Réseau Environnement)", next to Victoria Hall, 1 pm to 4:30 pm.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2

Congregation Shaar Hashomayim (425 Metcalfe) presents **William Weintraub** on "When Bullets Flew on Election Day: The Corrupt and Violent Politics in Montreal." Lunch at 12 pm, followed by lecture. Cost: \$5. Reserve: 514.937.9471.

MONDAY, AUGUST 3

**City council meeting**, Westmount city hall, 8 pm.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5

Green Patrol's kiosk on the **4 Rs** (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recover) at the corner of de Maisonneuve and Greene, 1 pm to 4:30 pm.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6

The local **Sherlock Holmes Society** (aka The Bimetallic Question) meets at 6:30 pm in the Westmount Room of the Westmount Public Library. Optional quiz on "The Adventure of the Abbey Grange." Info: 514.931.8690.

SHAKESPEARE-IN-THE-PARK

Shakespeare's "As You Like It" is performed by Repercussion Theatre in Westmount Park, 7:30 pm: August 1, 2, 15 and 16.

For the theatre's complete schedule: [www.repercussiontheatre.com](http://www.repercussiontheatre.com)

SUMMER CONCERTS IN THE PARK

These outdoor musical performances are held at the lagoon in Westmount Park, Sundays at 2 pm. In case of rain, they are held in Victoria Hall:

- Sunday, July 19: Mary-Ann Lacey & Friends Swinging on Sunday
- Sunday, July 26: l'Esprit de la musique
- Sunday, August 2: Louise Thibault & Jon Geary with Aron Doyle
- Sunday, August 9: Robert Burman Quartet.

WESTMOUNT PUBLIC LIBRARY'S ENGLISH BOOK CLUB

The book club meets once a month in the Westmount Room. Open to all for coffee and lively discussion. Info: 514.989.5386.

• Tuesday, July 21: *My Dog Tulip* by J.R. Ackerley, 7 pm.

• Tuesday, August 18: *The Uncommon Reader* by Alan Bennett, 7 pm.

WESTMOUNT PUBLIC LIBRARY'S CHESS AND SCRABBLE CLUB

Offering friendly games for new and regular players, the club meets at 2 pm in the Westmount Room: July 17, August 7 and August 21. Info: 514.989.5386.

## Sherbrooke St. construction update



Replacement of the water main and reconstruction on the north side of Sherbrooke between Victoria and Claremont is "going well" according to Westmount director general Duncan Campbell. On July 10, five days into the project, the estimate for completion date remained the original one: Friday, August 14.

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## ON THE SHELVES

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

### Discovery

*Manhattan: A Natural History of New York City* by Eric W. Sanderson – After seeing a historical map of New York City, the author wondered what Manhattan was like before the skyscrapers and asphalt – before the day Henry Hudson arrived in September 1609. Discover a fascinating and rich history of New York City with a focus on its flora and fauna in this beautifully illustrated and well-researched work.

*Wood-Fired Cooking* by Mary Karlin – A collection of more than 100 recipes for you to discover on your grill, backyard oven or campfire!

### Magazines

"The New Pink," p. 29 in *Tidings* – Summer is upon us and what better way to spend a warm evening on your patio than with a perfect glass of rosé? This article recommends bottles ranging from

\$11 to \$100.

"Un pique-nique réussi," p. 82 in *Tout Simplement Clodine* – If you want to enjoy as much of the outdoors as possible during our short summer season, try one of these three sample menus designed especially for picnics.

### Adult French – The dead zone

*Le réurrectionniste* by James Bradley – Acclaimed in England, this novel is about a young man who comes to London in 1826 to study with an eminent surgeon and researcher. However, the society of the times disapproves of the use of cadavers in research and the only way to procure them is to deal with "resurrectionists" who pillage cemeteries. A book in the spirit of the gothic classics such as *Frankenstein*.

*La revenante* by Vénus Khoury-Ghata – The corpses of three French officers that were buried under rubble since their death in 1941 are being exhumed fifty years later. One of these officers was a woman whose spirit seems to have been reincarnated in a young woman.

### DVDs

*Happy-go-lucky* – This delightfully fresh and cheerful comedy follows the life of free-spirited and effervescent Poppy, a schoolteacher whose unstoppable optimism guides her life.

*The Necessities of Life* – This powerful film uses the 1950s-era tuberculosis epidemic in the Far North as the starting point in its attempt to answer this complex question.

### Picture books

*Rosélicieux* par Victoria Kann et Elizabeth Kann – A little girl who is obsessed with the color pink eats so many pink cupcakes that she herself turns the colour!

*Pounce de Leon* by Tim Wynne-Jones – One rainy night the cat Pounce de Leon adopts the lonely Mrs. Florida Brown as his companion. Despite his best efforts, Mrs. Brown is still sad until Pounce leads her out of her jumbly house and into her garden to re-discover her love of life.



Notaries

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## Westmount Memories

### School days – Part I: It's elementary

By GAVIN ROSS

My parents and I moved to Westmount when I was about 2 1/2 years old, late 1936, I guess. We lived at 4485 Sherbrooke St., a detached house between Metcalfe and Mount Stephen.

My father, a doctor, used the front of the ground floor for his office and examining room and the next room was his waiting room. Behind that was an empty room until we rented a piano, then our den, dining room and kitchen. Our bedrooms and our living room were upstairs. It seemed like a huge house. For some reason, I think my father paid \$25,000 for it, probably a large sum in those days.

In April 1937, my brother Alan was born. I think my father was having a bit of trouble coping while Mum was in the hospital because when I rode my kiddie car down the stairs, he did not seem amused!

#### Peter Pan Nursery

My first school was Peter Pan Nursery School on Strathcona Ave., Number 457 I think. (Why do I remember all this trivia when I can't remember why I'm standing looking into the fridge?)

The school was owned by Miss Elizabeth Veitch (later Elizabeth MacDonald). I was 4 years old and my mother took me by the hand a block and a half on the first day of school. I was later reminded there were all of three pupils enrolled and that first day, neither of them showed up. Thus I had the honour of being the first pupil in what became a well-known nursery school!

I learned to make plasticine baskets and other fun things like how to draw with crayons and play games. As time went by, others came to the school and some became acquaintances for many years to come. I kept up my contact with Miss Veitch. We had a Peter Pan reunion in her seniors' residence on lower Metcalfe Ave. to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the school.

#### Argyle School

From there, it was Argyle School, which later housed Westmount (Senior) High and now is the site of Selwyn House. Our teacher in kindergarten was Miss Scroggie, soon to be Mrs. Hugh Gall. (She invited the whole class to her wedding – I think it was at St. Stephen's on Dorchester Blvd.)

Mr. Gall was also a teacher in the Westmount system and was one of four Westmount teachers killed during the war.

Mrs. Gall had two children, and I kept up with her and her family. I remember going to her funeral and her son asked me if I'd say a few words during the service. I spoke for about three minutes about "Miss Scroggie" without a note or preparation. It was easy: she was a great lady. To think I attended her wedding and her funeral.

#### Roslyn

Maybe we were a naughty class because Argyle School closed after my graduation from kindergarten and I had to continue at Roslyn, which was a longer walk. Roslyn was and still is a great school. I remember it well and made some lifelong friends there.

Our teachers were good and we all got along well. Grade 1 was taught by Miss Dewey, whom I remember as a sweet lady. Grades 2 and 3 were taught by Miss Kingsland, who was really special person whom everybody loved. We were all so happy that she was "promoted" to grade 3 with us! (See "Classmate sees Leonard Cohen from a different angle" on p. 20 of the May 26 *Independent* for her story.)

Grade 4 was Miss Lee, a very prim, attractive, well-dressed person whom I think we all liked. Miss Lee was the only teacher at Roslyn who had a car.

I remember that year the brother of a classmate killed his mother with a baseball bat, and Miss Lee explained very carefully why he wasn't in class. For many of us, it was our first contact with such a tragedy.

Next was grade 5 – our teacher was Miss Smith and all I remember about her was she wore her dress in a funny way such that we could see up her skirt when she sat at the desk at the head of the class. There were a few giggles!

Finally, in grade 6, there was Miss McKenzie (later Mrs. Jake Snyder) who I don't think liked me too much at the time, but who became one of my friends and teachers at high school. She kept sending me down to the principal's office (Mr. Penrose) to be strapped or detained.

But Mr. Penrose liked me – if only because I lived near the other two Westmount elementary schools, Queen's and King's\*. Mr Penrose always had a message for the other principals and he would give them to me, pat me on the head and tell me to deliver them.

I suspect Miss McKenzie was furious. \*Queen's was on the west side of Olivier just above St. Catherine and King's was at the foot of Roslyn.

Gavin Ross is a former Westmounter.



## 9 Lives Jenny: the three-legged wonder kitten

BY LYZANNE



I could not help but notice my neighbour's cat in her exquisite front garden. A wonderful friendly fellow, hopping around on three legs.

He lost a leg in an accident and has been getting around as if nothing happened ever since.

I spoke about the lovely kitten Jenny to my neighbour and asked if it made a difference to have a cat with three legs. She said that her cat has wonderful life and is taking it easy now that he is a little older.

So, my wish today is that a caring Westmount family could give Jenny the same opportunity, to hop around in youthful exuberance in the garden and snooze in her cat bed when she gets old.

Jenny has not had an easy start in life:

she was found outside, fending for herself. She is still a skinny 7-pound kitten at 11 months of age.

A long-haired grey tortoiseshell, Jenny is so pretty that you want to pet her right away. She gets around amazingly well, and is a perfect cat for an affectionate family.

She is ready for adoption now, as a compassionate placement. She has been spayed, has had all her shots and has been completely vetted.

To find out more about Jenny, please don't hesitate to call Gerdy of Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions on her pager at 514. 203.9180 or email her at [info@gerdysrescue.org](mailto:info@gerdysrescue.org). Her website is [www.gerdysrescue.org](http://www.gerdysrescue.org).



Jenny

[cue.org](http://cue.org).

Let's work together to give this beautiful and sweet kitten a home.

Your neighbour,  
Lyzanne

Artwork by *Laura S. Cohendet*

## Summer art scene

*continued from p. 21*

nearby fan. They depict various makes from various time periods over the past century including Vietnam, each with a red bull's-eye target attached to the gun barrel.

As moving targets – constantly twisting and turning – gun and target pose questions: "Does war create guns or do guns create war?" A powerful display, the New York artist ultimately leaves the interpretation to the viewer.

Similarly, a vinyl ram with octopus arms holds countless bongo drums. Another riddle, this work was conceived with the assistance of disadvantaged youths. Drawings by these teens are also on display.

Downstairs in the bunker, two mounted deer heads – with extended 30-foot antlers – adorn opposite walls. Created with his partner Salas, "Trophies" implies that nature's balance is destroyed by man's excess. Thought provoking, the exhibit continues until July 25.

### Out of the ordinary

In these exhibits, the artist is master of the element of surprise.

Whether to further a political statement, or to create innovative images, this is the quality that keeps art interesting and viewers returning. Go see!

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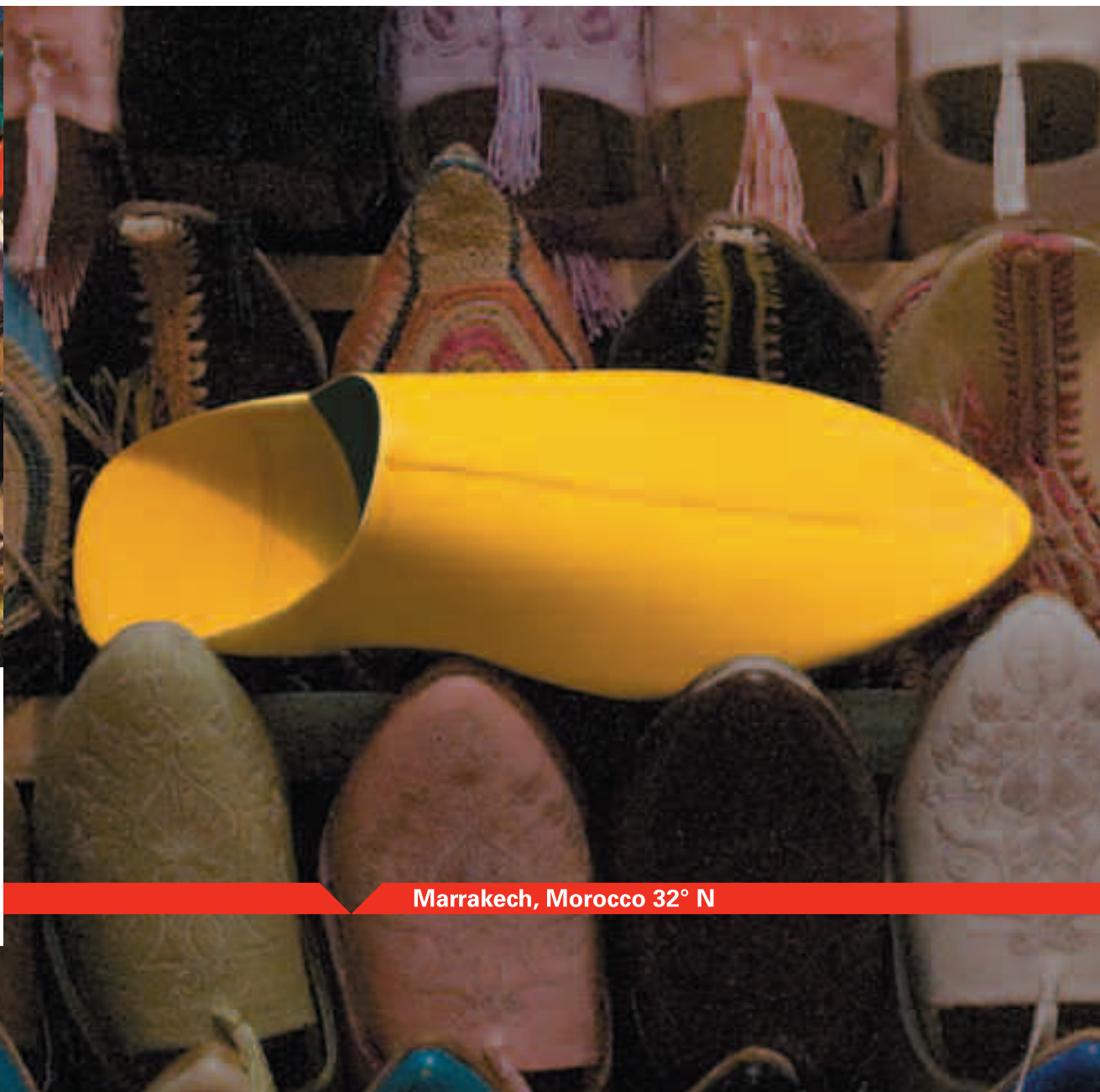
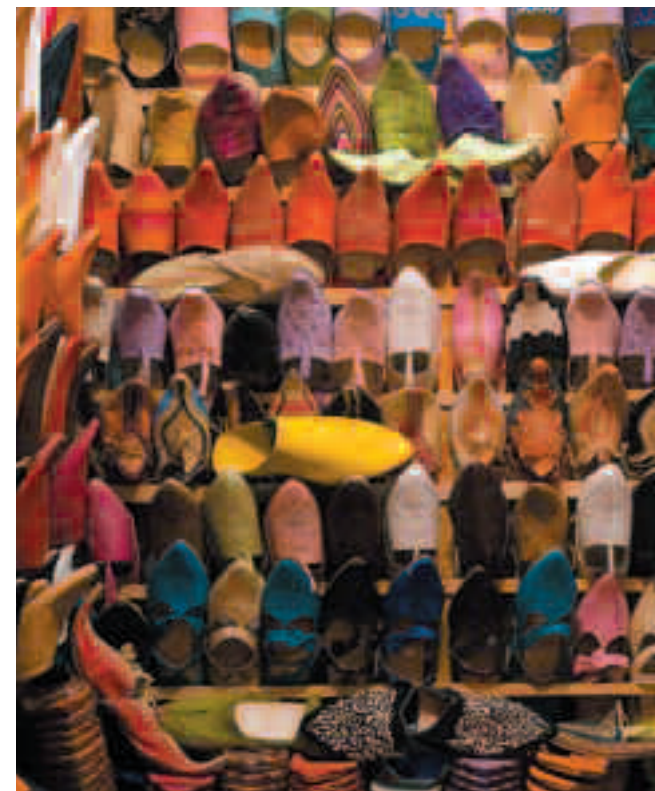
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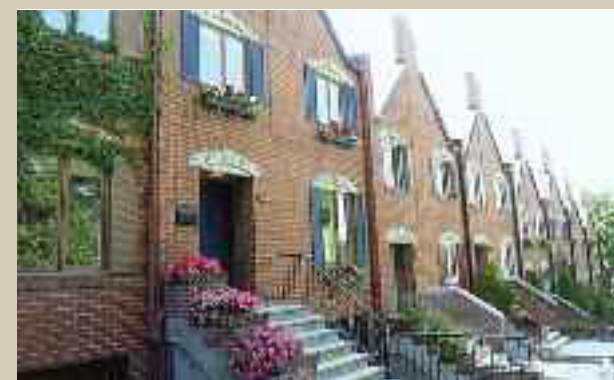
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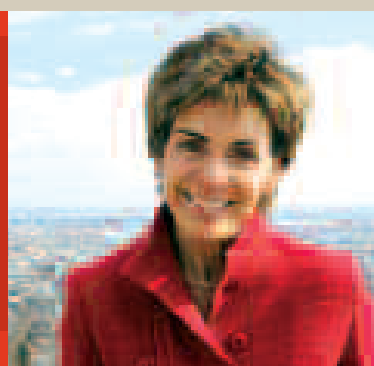


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