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Roslyn prepares for its 100th anniversary  
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Sauv -Frankel seeks another term as commissioner  
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**A flock's farewell**

John Fretz of Lansdowne Avenue took this shot of children from the Narnia daycare centre watching a flock of ducks that had just been evicted from the pond in Westmount Park after a City crew drained it for the coming winter.

**QEHC revamps walk-in clinic**

Martin C. Barry

The Queen Elizabeth Complex's Priority One walk-in medical clinic, which many residents of Westmount and other areas of the west end have depended on for years, is preparing for a transformation that will improve service.

Starting on Nov. 4, Priority One will be replaced by a new entity called Queen Elizabeth Urgent Care. And whereas Priority One has been operating on shortened hours and is closed on Sundays, the new clinic will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week.

According to Dr. Mark Roper, a Westmount physician who is also the director of primary care at the McGill University Health Centre, the Montreal Health Agency, which manages health services across the island, is implementing a new concept called a clinique r seau.

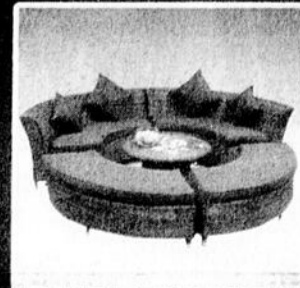
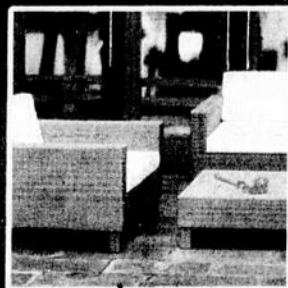
"A clinique r seau is a clinic that's open 365 days a year, has rapid access to radiology and blood tests, and access also to more urgent consultations," he said. "It's a bit like the front-end, walk-in area of an emergency department."

Continued on page 2



Urgent Care starts Nov. 4 at the Queen Elizabeth Complex. Photo: Martin C. Barry

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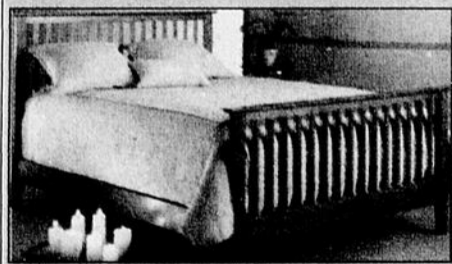
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## Roslyn School marks 100th anniversary with cornerstone re-enactment

Martin C. Barry

**A**ccording to an historical account, a "great group of people" had gathered on Oct. 12, 1907 for a ceremony that would mark the beginnings of one of Westmount's most beloved educational institutions.

Exactly a century ago, the laying of the cornerstone, marking the start of construction for Roslyn Avenue School, as it was then known, took place. One of the many dignitaries there was former Westmount mayor W.D. Lighthall, who had also been chairman of the school board.

In Roslyn, the Story of a Canadian School, the authors say that John Stewart, a Westmount contractor, was to build the school, which was designed by G.A. Ross, a Westmount architect. "He always wore a top hat, striped pants and a dark grey coat to cornerstone layings," the account says of Ross, adding that "Ladies and gentlemen were there, too."

The ladies wore cut-away jackets with matching skirts and velvet hats with a veil pinned at the back. The men wore tweed morning suits and bowler hats. Babies were wearing frilly bonnets.

A century later, children at Roslyn School gathered in the same spot earlier this week to re-enact the corner stone's laying. Principal James McMorran had planned for a horse-drawn cart to deliver the stone to the front of the school.

The festivities were officially launched on Oct. 11 with the inauguration of a symbolic gateway on stage in the school's gymnasium, leading along a path made of stones engraved with the names of parents, friends and families who donated to the Roslyn School Playground Improvement Fund.

Mayor Karin Marks, a Roslyn School alumnus, was on hand last week for the unveiling of the stone walkway. She marveled at how little things have changed over the years at Roslyn. "The benches are the same, the desks are the same with the hole for the inkwell," she said.

"We haven't used inkwells in a long time. It's wonderful. I think what has changed, obviously, is the curriculum. They've updated where they need to, but not unnecessarily. It's a real community school, which is very nice."

Lily MacDonald, a grade four teacher, said her students were very excited about the events, which included the depositing of a time capsule, similar to one embedded in the corner stone a century ago. While the 1907 time capsule is said to contain coins and newspapers of the period, the 2007 version will also contain the signatures of students and staff and the new playground plans.

MacDonald mused on how so much has changed over a century. "A hundred years ago when they looked down from this area,



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Admission to the event is free, and coffee will be served. Participants are invited to bring their own lunches. For more information, visit the Atwater Library's website at [www.atwaterlibrary.ca](http://www.atwaterlibrary.ca), or Mike Nickerson's homepage at [www.SustainWellBeing.net/LMI/Welcome.htm](http://www.SustainWellBeing.net/LMI/Welcome.htm).

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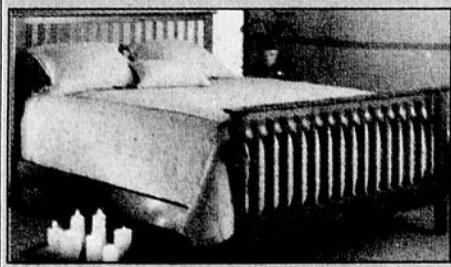
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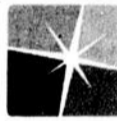
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# Incumbent Sauvé-Frankel hopes to hold onto Westmount seat

Martin C. Barry

**G**inette Sauvé-Frankel, who is seeking a second term as the English Montreal School Board's commissioner for Ward 7 in Westmount, says she is running with a team of "like-minded" candidates whose stated goal is to promote English education and serve children with pride and dedication.

Sauvé-Frankel, a marketing and communications specialist, prides herself on having helped implement a pilot project in several EMSB schools — including Roslyn School in Westmount — designed to encourage empathy in young students. "It's a very good program because it builds empathy within the classroom," she said told the *Examiner*.

"It's built on the kids observing a baby growing through the school year and relating to that baby, but also relating to what they went through when they grew up. It starts to give them a commonality inside the classroom. So the dynamics change and the kids' capacity to learn actually increases."

Although the empathy program has exist-

ed in schools outside Quebec for the past decade, Sauvé-Frankel said it has only recently been available here. "Last year, the first year, we had three classrooms at Roslyn School and three classrooms at Westmount Park School," she said.

While pointing out that the 2007 school board elections have drawn more interest than there has been in years, Frankel-Sauvé also noted that the election has prompted many first-time aspirants as well as incumbents to form candidates' slates. "There's a lot of candidates running," she said, adding that her rival for the Ward 7 seat, Nick Primiano, is running on an "unofficial" slate.

"It's not a declared slate. He's running with a whole group of them who are running across the board." She said Dominic Spiridigliozzi, who was the EMSB's chairman for the past four years, is leading that slate. She decided not to join them, having had some differences with the Spiridigliozzi group during the last term.

"I'm part of a group that wants very much to have transparency and timely information and wants to be able to do things according to policies," she added. "Unfortunately, I can't say the same for the other group. Because one of the first things that they did when they had the very slim majority of one was to hire someone without following board policy and that did not sit well."

Although Sauvé-Frankel's campaign leaflet suggests that she, too, is running with a slate, she maintained that "we're not running a slate ... Sometimes we all come together on some issues and sometimes we don't come together on issues. It depends on what the issues are and how we see things. We try to do things by consensus and by not imposing the will of one person."



Incumbent Commissioner Ginette Sauvé-Frankel. Photo: Martin C. Barry

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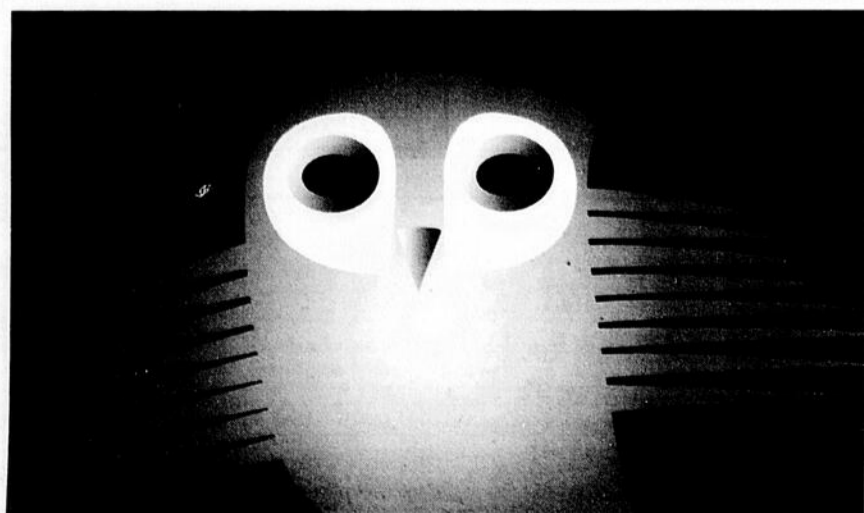
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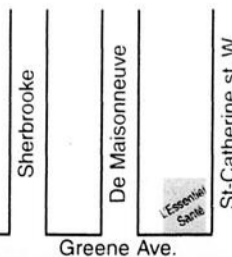
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# Former FACE School principal Primiano seeks Westmount's EMSB seat

Martin C. Barry

**N**ick Primiano, a former FACE School principal around whom students rallied when he resigned from his position last year, is seeking the English Montreal School Board's Division 7 seat for Westmount and part of NDG.

Primiano is running against incumbent Ginette Sauvé-Frankel, who won the seat in the last election four years ago. She replaced longtime commissioner Joan Rothman, who had represented Westmount on the school board for many years.

Primiano had been a teacher at FACE (Fine Arts Core Education) since 1982 and the school's principal since 1991. He resigned after signing a confidentiality agreement. At least one insider maintains the CSDM simply wanted to replace him with someone from their own organization. Primiano has since become the principal of Lake of Two Mountains High School in the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board.

In an interview with the *Examiner*, Primiano said he is running on the basis of his beliefs about education. "I really truly believe in public education, in the sense of offering quality programs, re-energizing public education, facilitating innovation of partnerships, schools out to become more community-oriented in the sense of offering partnerships with the city, with business. If you take a look at, for example, McGill music and arts, where there are huge partnerships."

Primiano is proposing that public schools could remain open throughout the year, rather than shutting down during the summer, and that their role can be broadened in the community. "Who says a school has to close at the end of June and that's it?" he asks.

"A school can be available to the community for other activities... We can create partnerships

with all kinds of people... The main responsibility is to make sure that money is well-spent and service is provided to the students."

Primiano believes that public schools have an image problem which needs correcting. "A great number of people are going to the private. Why? We can offer value-education at all times as a nice option for parents to come back to. Society is what it is because of the strength of its public education. That's very important."

"In societies where public education is weak, that society is weak. So we have a mandate. When you look at who's who in society, most of the people that graduate came from the public system. Most of the people who do organize society for its needs and public services come from the public system. So the majority's there."



EMSB commissioner candidate Nick Primiano

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## Sniping from the pages



### Commentary

Wayne  
LARSEN  
larsenw@transcontinental.ca

Canada's two most recent longest-serving prime ministers, Brian Mulroney and Jean Chrétien, are certainly no strangers to Westmount — one as a long-time resident and the other through frequent visits to family and friends.

And the similarities certainly don't end there.

Despite their allegiances to opposing parties, there is no question that these two Quebec-born political mavericks have much in common. Both rose from humble beginnings in the small working-class towns of Baie Comeau and Shawinigan, respectively, to serve their country through what could best be described as colourful mandates fraught with controversy and nasty business.

After retreating back into the relatively safe shelter of private life, these two former heads of state have both recently jumped back into the public eye as authors of books that focus on their years on Parliament Hill.

Mr. Mulroney has gone through the publicity mill twice, first two years ago as the unwitting subject of 'The Secret Mulroney Tapes', Peter C. Newman's warts-and-all biography, and more recently as the author of the massive 'Memoirs', an official autobiography that took full advantage of the opportunity to settle old political scores — particularly with Lucien Bouchard and Pierre Trudeau.

Now it is Mr. Chrétien's turn, and he too lashes out from the pages of 'My Years as Prime Minister' to serve up a nicely chilled plate of revenge to those who locked horns with him — his successor, Paul Martin, foremost among them.

This form of literary revenge is certainly nothing new, but it works well. People love to read about the real-life conflicts that develop and are carried out behind the heavy closed doors of Parliament. And with such colourful protagonists as Mulroney and Chrétien as narrators, the premise is irresistible. All the publishers have to do is sign the contract and rub their hands together in gleeful anticipation, knowing they have an instant bestseller on the way.

Does this mean that the shelves of our local bookstores might soon be graced with even more tell-all political autobiographies written by retired, often disgruntled politicians who still have an axe to grind? Let's hope so.

Who knows? Perhaps André Boicclair is preparing to sit down at his computer and tap out his ultimate revenge on former PQ colleagues — once all the knife wounds have healed, that is.



## LETTERS to the editor

### A Clarification on the Clarification

To the editor:

In last week's column written by Don Wedge, I mentioned that I did not understand where Councillor Patrick Martin had come up with the figures he had cited regarding the value of the Tupper Street lot, a piece of land belonging to Westmount, which was the subject of some debate in the public consultation on our urban plan. Apparently it was Councillor Martin who noticed that the size of the property was erroneously stated as over 400,000 square feet rather than 52,000 which is in fact the case. Therefore his analysis of the value of the property reflected the mistaken information in our own plan. I appreciate that he identified this mistake and it has now been corrected. There were many comments on the urban plan but now it will be up to council to decide whether or not we agree with the ideas in the plan but we will be discussing them based on accurate data.

When it comes to the development of this lot however, council has agreed that we will not be moving forward on this during this mandate since there are many other priorities which are currently being addressed.

Mayor Karin Marks  
Westmount City Hall

### Soccer complex won't do

To the editor:

In November 2006, chainsaws slaughtered a grove of oak and hard-

woods that took a century to grow at Sunnyside Park. The reason? To 'improve' the view for tourists.

Last winter, a sleight-of-the-mayoral-hand plonked the hockey practice rink right in the middle of Westmount Park — complete with a \$10,000 ice-resurfacing machine, glaring florescent lights on trees, a crude staircase leading to the restroom (so the unused restroom may be used: Councillor Lulham), noise pollution from pucks hitting the wooden boards (audible blocks away) and the possibility of stray pucks braining evening park strollers.

Were residents consulted? What?! Residents... consulted..?!

Spring 'project' 2007: replace natural with unnatural grass in Westmount Park fields. Why? To provide a couple of extra weeks of 'urgently needed' practice to meet the 'unprecedented' rise in soccer registrations.

Cost? Seven rising figures.

And now the latest — but not least — from the MKM Horror Show: An eyesore fenced-protected soccer complex in Westmount Park..!

I wish to remind city council and our honourable mayor that the purpose of a city park is to provide quiet, repose and fresh air amid trees in as tranquil surroundings as possible.

And trying to stuff a soccer complex into a pillow-case sized park like our beloved Westmount Park will destroy the reason for which it was created. And residents will fight the proposal with more than the purpose and energy which defeated our honourable mayor's AstroTurf project.

Stephen Chin  
Sherbrooke Street

Continued on page 16

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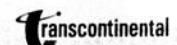
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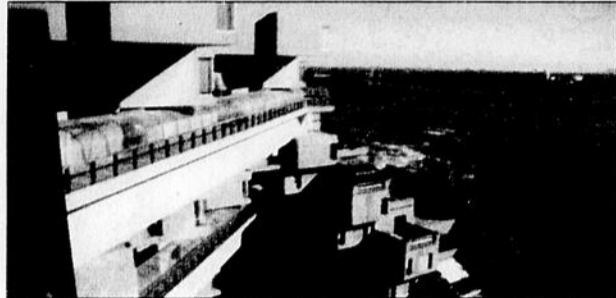
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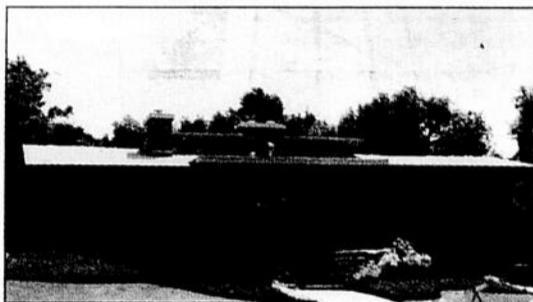
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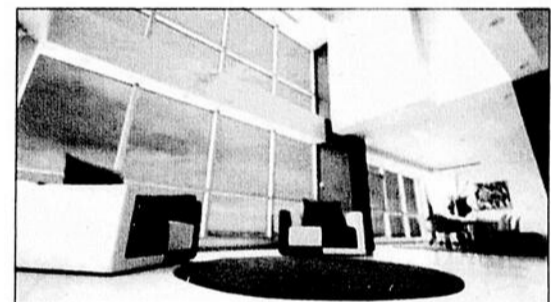
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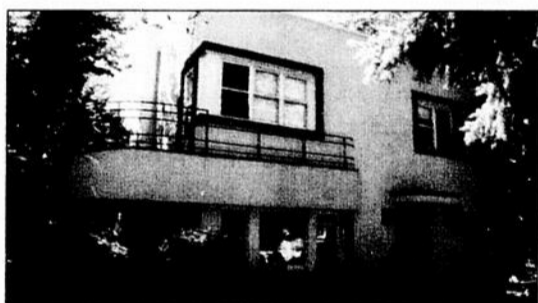
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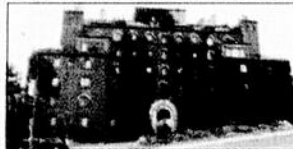
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**WESTMOUNT**



20 Arlington  
Asking \$1,445,000

**WESTMOUNT**



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4877 Wilson  
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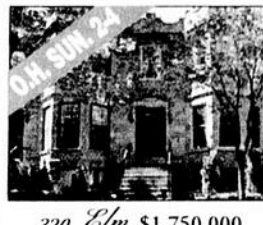
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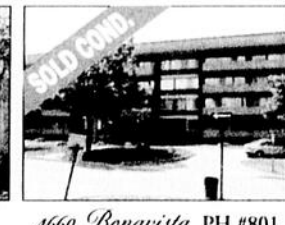
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Participez à des événements spéciaux et des concours organisés dans le cadre de la semaine des bibliothèques publiques qui se tiendra du 20 au 27 octobre prochain. Lors de nos matinées portes ouvertes, venez siroter un café et découvrir les nombreuses ressources que la Bibliothèque à vous offrir. Pour de plus amples détails, procurez-vous notre brochure. 🍷



### SPORTS ET LOISIRS

#### Entraîneurs recherchés

Westmount est à la recherche d'entraîneurs pour ses cours de patinage régulier et patinage intensif offerts aux jeunes de 4 à 15 ans. Les candidats intéressés à ces postes rémunérés doivent être énergiques et posséder de solides compétences en patinage. Les entraîneurs de patinage intensif doivent également avoir une excellente connaissance du hockey. Les cours se tiendront tous les lundi, mercredi et vendredi de 15 h 30 à 19 h 30; l'horaire des entraîneurs est à déterminer. Info : Anitra Bostock au 514 989-5212. 🍷



### TRAVAUX PUBLICS

#### Collecte de feuilles mortes

Veillez noter que le personnel des Travaux publics ne ramassera QUE les feuilles et autres résidus de jardin qui auront été mis dans des sacs en PLASTIQUE TRANSPARENT ou des sacs en PAPIER destinés à cette fin. Les feuilles entassées en vrac derrière le trottoir NE SERONT PLUS ramassées. Info : 514 989-5390.

### DATES À RETENIR

À compter du 18 octobre

Œuvres de Bonnie Shemie  
La galerie du Victoria Hall

Le 21 octobre - 14 h

Heure de contes spéciale  
*Stories from Wales and Beyond* avec David Ambrose  
Bibliothèque

Le 22 octobre - 20 h

Séance générale du conseil  
Hôtel de ville

Le 23 octobre - 19 h

Un patrimoine à conserver  
*Faites des recherches sur votre maison*  
Hôtel de ville

Le 14 novembre - 19 h 30

Concert : *Autour de Marin Marais*  
Victoria Hall

#### Collecte des résidus domestiques dangereux

Veillez inscrire dans votre agenda la journée de la prochaine collecte des résidus domestiques dangereux à Westmount qui se tiendra le samedi 20 octobre. Disposez en toute sécurité de vos restes de peinture et de solvants, des piles usagées, des pesticides et autres en les déposant dans le stationnement de la Bibliothèque de Westmount entre 9 h et 17 h. Une collecte de vêtements usagés et de vieux équipements électroniques sera également effectuée à cette occasion. Info : 514 989-5390.

#### Fermeture du Conservatoire

Le conservatoire et les serres municipales seront fermés du 22 octobre au 7 novembre en prévision des Florales d'automne. La réouverture est prévue pour le jeudi 8 novembre. Les heures d'affaires sont disponibles sur notre site Web. 🍷



### LIBRARY

#### Public Library Week

Open House: during Public Library Week. (October 20-27) come and see what we're all about! Join us for coffee in the mornings, and discover the many resources the Library has to offer you and your family. Join us for special events and contests. Pick up our brochure for details. 🍷



### SPORTS & RECREATION

#### Skating instructors Wanted!

Westmount is looking for instructors for the City's skating and powerskating classes for children between 4-15 years old. Candidates for these paid positions must be energetic with strong skating skills. Powerskating instructors must also possess superior hockey knowledge. Classes take place Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m.; instructors' schedules to be determined. Info: Anitra Bostock at 514 989-5212. 🍷



### PUBLIC WORKS

#### Autumn Leaf Collection

Please note that all leaves and other similar yard waste must be bagged in either CLEAR PLASTIC or PAPER yard waste bags for collection by Public Works crews. Leaves piled loose behind the sidewalk WILL NOT be picked up. Residents or their contractors may also dispose of their leaves in the special container located at the Public Works yard, 1 Bethune. Info: 514 989-5390.

#### Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Mark your calendar - Saturday, October 20 is Household Hazardous Waste Collection

### DATEBOOK

Beginning October 18

Works of Bonnie Shemie  
Gallery at Victoria Hall

October 21 - 2 p.m.

Storytelling Event  
*Stories from Wales and Beyond* with David Ambrose  
Library

October 22 - 8 p.m.

General Council Meeting  
City Hall

October 23 - 7 p.m.

A Heritage to Build on  
*Researching your house*  
City Hall

November 14 - 7:30 p.m.

Concert: *Autour de Marin Marais*  
Victoria Hall

day in Westmount. Safely dispose of your leftover paints, solvents, used batteries, pesticides, old and broken computer equipment, etc. in the parking lot of Westmount Library between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Used clothing and electronic items will be collected the same day. Info: 514 989-5390.

#### Closing of Conservatory

The Conservatory and Greenhouses will be closed from October 22 to November 7 to prepare for the Fall Flower Show. They will re-open to the public on Thursday, November 8. Visiting hours are available on our Web site. 🍷

Westmount, à votre portée. Pour toute question ou commentaire, veuillez nous contacter :  
Westmount at your fingertips. Contact us with any comment or question:

www.westmount.org  
assistance@westmount.org

### MAISON HANTÉE (NOUVEAUTÉ)

Dans les profondeurs du terrain de bowling de Westmount, tout est bien étrange. On entend dire que les esprits maléfiques n'attendent que l'occasion d'être libérés. À l'Halloween, surveillez bien les esprits revenir à la vie... et envahir le pavillon de bowling pour une nuit terrifiante.

401, avenue Kensington - le 31 octobre de 17 h à 20 h  
Génial pour les jeunes de tous âges. Venez déguisé !

### CONCOURS DE DÉCORATIONS D'HALLOWEEN

Vous pensez pouvoir mettre en scène le meilleur spectacle d'Halloween cette année ? Démontrez votre imagination et mettez en scène votre propre maison hantée en participant au concours annuel de Westmount.

### HAUNTED HOUSE (NEW THIS YEAR)

Deep below the Westmount's bowling green, a strangeness lurks. Some say it is ghouls and goblins, waiting for the chance to be free. On Halloween, watch the spirits come alive as they take possession of the Lawn Bowling Clubhouse for one bone-chilling night.

401 Kensington Avenue - October 31 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.  
Great for kids of all ages. Costumes a must!

### HALLOWEEN HOUSE DECORATING CONTEST

Think you can put on the best show this Halloween? Show your imagination and enter your own haunted house in Westmount's annual contest.

Info : 514 989-5468  
www.westmount.org



# Martin responds to Mayor on Urban Plan

Patrick Martin

I was pleased to note in last week's Opinion column by Don Wedge that Mayor Karin Marks has drastically revised downward the land being considered for eventual revitalization around Tupper Avenue, from 10 acres to less than 1.5 acres. This will be a relief for citizens and businesses in the area, should this aspect of the proposed Westmount Urban Plan, currently under consideration, ever be realized.

I remain opposed, however, to the concept of dedicating this land to favour specifically and only an influx of young families, and I object strongly to using our tax dollars, whether directly or indirectly, to subsidize such an objective. Remember, the Mayor is proposing the more traditional form of "low income" housing, an option of any city; she states she would like to see more academi-

cs, artists and film producers.

As shown through the controversy regarding the soccer fields, there is a shortage of recreational facilities for young families currently, and no shortage of kids. Indeed the Urban Plan document itself shows an increase in the number of children, and census figures show that Westmount's population of age 24 and under has increased at over three times the rate of the increase in the Greater Montreal area over the last 10 years (i.e. 8.3 per cent vs 2.5 per cent). There are today 450 more young Westmount citizens than 10 years ago, and financial incentives certainly are not required to encourage an even more rapid growth in this age group.

The Mayor states that the percentage of "the elderly group was growing even faster".

This is incorrect. In fact, city statistics show that the population of Westmounters aged 65 and over has increased by only 6.7 per cent over the last 10 years, while those 24 and under increased by 8.3 per cent. Meanwhile in the Greater Montreal area, the population over 65 increased by an astounding 23 per cent during the same period, which is more than three times the rate of increase in Westmount.

In any case, I do not share her alarm in this regard, as I hope to join this local age group myself one day.

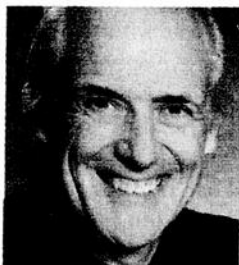
The average age of the population of Canada is increasing, due to smaller families, and to better health care leading to increased longevity. As a country, Canada can counter this trend through immigration policies. But

such policies cannot be applied at the municipal level for a city of only 20,000 inhabitants surrounded by an urban agglomeration of over 3 million. The encouragement of young people to move from one community to another simply artificially displaces the problem.

In short, I look forward to a lively debate at Council on these issues, and personally hope that the urban planning efforts can be steered away from the concept of subsidizing housing for those who are currently non-residents at the expense of residents, and that we can focus our attention on other issues, including the improvement of our antiquated sports facilities for the adults and kids who are here now.

• Patrick Martin is City Councillor for District 1 and Commissioner of Utilities.

## Shedding some light on Sunnyside Park



City Councillor

George BOWSER

The renewal of Sunnyside Park is a project I am interested in following very closely, and I go up there every week, if possible, as does the councillor for the area, Patrick Martin. We are also kept up to date through progress reports, and would like to share with you the status of the project.

Avid gardeners know that when you rearrange a garden, it takes a year or two

before the new layout feels natural. This also is the case with Sunnyside Park, and the end result will indeed be spectacular. We must all have the patience of gardeners, and watch in wonder as the beauty of the garden reveals itself over time.

Visitors to the belvedere will have noticed that the basics of the new design are now in

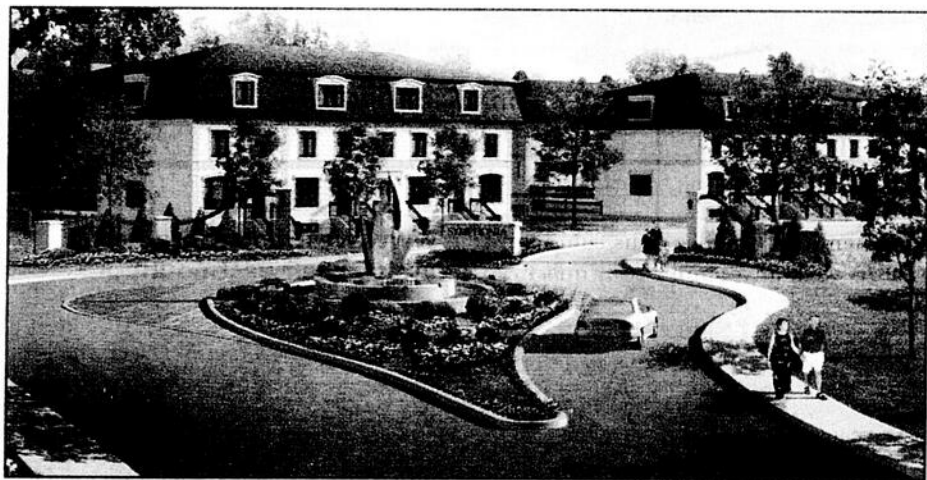
place, including the pathways, electrical conduits, grass and some shrubs. However the new trees and remaining shrubs will only be planted next spring. The newly planted shrubs, and those still to be planted, will quickly grow to hide the sight of the pathways from the belvedere, giving the park a fuller look.

Continued on page 15

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The Westmount Examiner

Thursday, October 18, 2007

13

# Actively reviewing waste — but mercury is new threat



## Civic Alert

Don  
WEDGE

The Nobel Peace Prize awarded this week to Al Gore and the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change confirms global warming as the world's biggest environmental issue.

Few people on a global scale have addressed what that means in their daily lives, but in the developed world, many people are slowly changing some customs.

Eating, for instance; some have become vegetarian or even vegan. Many more eat less fatty meats, and buy more organically grown products. Smoking is yesteryear's pastime.

People can adapt — they have yet to do so en masse in response to the challenges of climate change.

In tackling the CFC problem, the world has shown that man-made damage can be reversed. The environmental issue that most people — in the industrial world, at least — find easiest to address is garbage.

There is a lot of planning going on behind closed City Hall doors to step-up the city's services in this area. "Active review" was this week's buzz words for the efforts. More details later. "Garbage is on the table," quipped Cllr

George Bowser, the Commissioner responsible. "It will stay there 'til we have a comprehensive plan."

### Mayor's tip

He has become deeply involved in the issues that come with his Public Works' portfolio. So has Mayor Karin Marks, who admits to discovering the complexity and fascination of solid waste issues.

She's normally an upbeat and cheerful person, but this week she was even more ebullient. "I would never have thought it, but it is exciting and stimulating being at these meetings," she told me.

"It has become fun, because this is an area where each of us — in our own way — has the potential to do something."

She even produced a mayoral environment tip! The Marks' kitchen has a small compost collector bin, but the mayor admits that it is sometimes not emptied as frequently as necessary. I am sure she is not alone!

"Consequently, it attracts too many fruit flies and I hate that," she said. "A friend gave me the solution this week: keep it in the freezer! It works, too — and, because the container is sealed, it doesn't affect the food stored nearby."

### Less garbage

In both Westmount and Quebec there is good garbage news. For the first time since records were kept in the City, we produced less

garbage — throwing out 8,927 tonnes in 2005, but only 8,725 t in 2006.

It can probably be accounted for by door-to-door recycling collections, which increased by 160 t to 2,127 t. Another 52 t was collected from the containers in the Public Works Yard. There was also the introduction of a weekly green waste pick-up.

There are other notable successes. More than 3t of clothes were contributed in the City's two Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collections. A lot more went into the bell outside the Arena and the container in the Yard, but they were not weighed.

The e-waste (computers, TV, phones, etc) collection that Westmount pioneered three years ago has been a great success. There is a 23/7 drop-off in the Yard as well as the HHW collections.

The collection last spring was so successful that the truck used by the recycler had to make three loaded trips to the plant with all the techno-waste discarded by Westmounters.

Our pioneering effort has been taken up by Big Montreal, and e-waste is now a feature of all the HHW collections on the island.

While this is one of Westmount's success stories, all is not well with the collection of hazardous waste itself. Last year, this dropped 12 per cent to 16.35 t compared to 2005.

The biggest hazardous item collected is paint, but there was less last year than previously. Could it be that the boom of do-it-yourself decorating is over? Does the surplus

go back to the stores that sold it? Or maybe we've already turned in all those rusting cans of toxic glop that used to clutter our basements and garages!

Marina Peter, the city Environment Coordinator, thinks the growing number of residents who use Montreal's Eco-Centres may be a factor.

The nearest such facilities are on Eadie Street and on Côte-des-Neiges; they are open year-round with convenient business hours. Operated by Big Montreal, they are charged to the Agglom budget and so suburbanites have free usage.

The final HHW collection of the season takes place in the Library parking lot this Saturday, but the itinerant crews will resume touring the island again in the spring.

### Province-wide

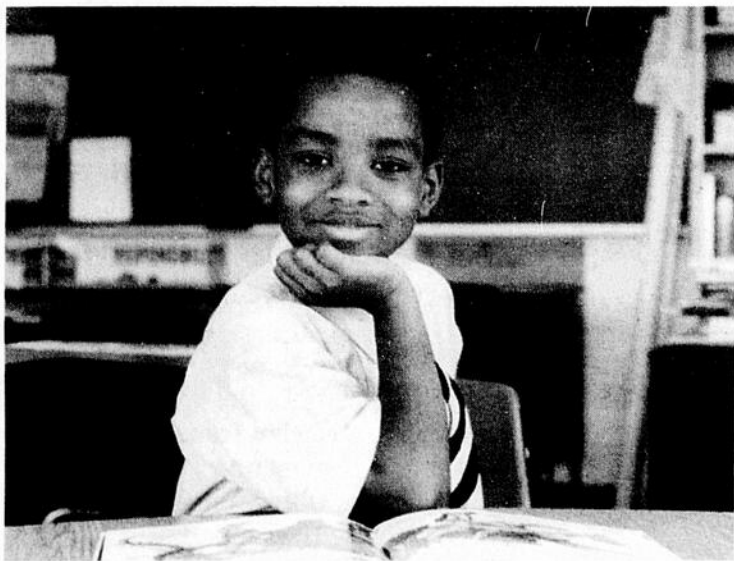
Across Canada, it is Waste Reduction Week. It is marked by the publication, sponsored by the Quebec government agency responsible, of a rather optimistic survey of improved recycling habits across the province.

The survey, of 10,000 homes in 49 communities, compared last year with two years earlier, and found that the average amount of garbage produced had fallen 13 per cent to 404 kg. The drop was created by increased recycling.

It found that almost half of packaging and printed paper found its way to blue boxes.

Continued on page 18

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Presentation at 9 am Presentation at 8 pm

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# Everyone owns Westmount Park

Mavis Young

**In response to a groundswell of opposition to the scheme to install artificial turf in Westmount Park, manifested at the public meeting in May, City Council appeared, albeit reluctantly, to abandon the plan. Moreover, the mayor indicated that all natural turf options would be explored and that the City would "consult" in order to find an optimal solution. There was cautious optimism that the park would be spared.**

Perhaps the administration failed at that time to comprehend that the community found the notion of fencing off sections of the park for the exclusive use of soccer players just as unpalatable as polyvinyl grass.

How otherwise to explain the re-emergence, on the City's web-site, of a plan to privatize the park for the exclusive use of soccer players whose season lasts all of six to eight weeks a year? Permanent fencing of three quarters of the lower field will ensure that no one else, children or adults, will have access to that green space at any time. According to the proposal, all other users, including the children of Westmount Park School and the Narnia Daycare, will be crammed into the remaining one quarter and it will be covered in "grass or other type of ground cover." Ironically, one of the stated goals of the proponents of artificial turf, while not credible,

was to combat obesity. How does drastically reducing the space for free play improve children's health?

Paradoxically, while ostensibly seeking to maximize the use of playing space, the larger and pre-eminent field on upper Melville Avenue, used by a number of senior teams and scores of adult casual players, will be permanently closed to all but the smallest children. Barriers between the 'mini' playing surfaces will discourage and inhibit their combined use by adolescents and adults. This effectively removes the best playing surface from the inventory of sports fields for most of the community. Is this an administratively sound response to a shortage of playing space?

What motivates the Mayor and Council to relentlessly pursue a policy of permanently enclosing more than 75 per cent of the open green space on the lower park to the detriment of the 95 per cent of Westmount taxpayers who do not play organized soccer?

If soccer is the true priority — and I speak as a former coach — why can't the soccer season be split between spring and fall, as in years past? In fact, the fall program has lapsed for lack of interest. So concentration of the schedule in the spring, and resulting wear and tear, has nothing to do with the fields, but is

rather the choice of participants. The City could easily meet the demand by redistributing games between two seasons.

Because no graphic representation accompanies the web-site proposal, one is forced to envisage the configuration of the lower fields based on the dimensions given in the plan. Nonetheless it is obvious that the design, as proposed, will radically alter the layout of the park. Because both a senior (100m x 60m) and a junior (60 x 40) field are planned, the northern perimeter will have to be extended and the bike-path moved. Nowhere is it acknowledged that this will require the felling of a number of mature trees. Given the recent history of this Council, would anyone in Westmount trust the same group responsible for the chain-saw massacre in Sunnyside Park to carry out a radical redesign of the park without a great deal of oversight?

According to the Mayor, there will be no oversight, consultation or citizen input. In fact she has stated that the Council will entertain no more community consultation on the subject of the park and that the Council alone will decide and act. Fortunately, Westmount demerged, otherwise we might now be dealing with an autocratic and inflexible council.

Where does the obsession with restructuring the park originate? Who are those in the

community asking for an exclusive sportsplex to replace what is, and has been for decades, a beautiful green pastoral area, open to all for spontaneous play and sports or a mere stroll? On the contrary, citizens overwhelmingly love their park and want to keep it as it is. In the 21st century we should be seeking an expansion of such resources, particularly in high-density urban settings. If the objection to the playing fields as currently constituted is their sometimes worn appearance due to their popularity, this can be managed. Indeed, the City's own consultant characterized the drainage system as badly-maintained and of inappropriate design and a direct contributor to the state of the grass. Despite this, the grass is still in remarkably good shape and better care can only improve it. No one will object to temporary fencing during the spring, when the ground is wet.

Reference was made in the Westmount Examiner (Civic Alert, Sept. 27) to a 'Parks and Green Space Master Plan' at a meeting of the Safety, Utilities and Environment Committee. What is the status of this document that will indicate the long-term vision for Westmount's parks? Should not all citizens have a role in defining that vision, in order to promote and protect our heritage?

Everyone has the right to use a public park.

Continued from page 13

Visitors can see the lovely vines, already showing their fall colours, growing up the face of the lookout parapet. Absolutely delightful. In coming years, they will mature to cover large portions of the wall. Below, a mixture of serviceberry, hawthorns and cherry trees, all native to the region, will be planted next spring. These species bear fruit, and will attract birds. They will not grow taller than the lookout parapet, in keeping with the purpose of the project to recover the view and the park's original look. The proposed location of these additional trees is staked out, and we counted 11 stakes on our last visit. We invite you to stop by and visualize the final look for yourselves.

A large tree that stood on the west side of the park, and that originally was supposed to have been kept, unfortunately had to be removed because of disease. The City will plant three fast-growing sugar maples in that location.

We aren't very happy with the appearance of the electrical cables strung along the west side of the park on some rather decrepit poles, some of them probably 60 or 70 years old. Together with my colleague Cllr Martin, who is also commissioner responsible for Hydro Westmount, we have determined that, independently of the Park project, these poles are due for replacement over the next few months. We will examine the possibility of making them much less visible, though the shallow depth of soil above bedrock in that area may limit the alternatives.

Undoubtedly the view is spectacular, as it was 50 years ago, and we will continue to monitor the project, with a view to preserving the view and making the park an attractive place for wildlife. The City will continue to keep the summit closed to tour buses, and may further restrict motor traffic if necessary.

• *George Bowser is City Councillor for District 5 and Commissioner of Public Works & Parks.*

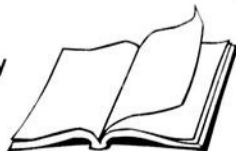
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The Westmount Examiner

Thursday, October 18, 2007

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Continued from page 6

## Act before damage is inflicted

To the editor:

The City has now filed a new proposal for the southern fields in Westmount Park, although they chose not to present it at Council. After reading it, it is unsurprising that they would seek to bury this poorly reasoned report. Although we were promised an outside consultation on the best approach to a natural grass solution, all we are given is an internal reworking of the original, highly unpopular proposal with the twist that more objectionable components have been added.

The title of the original plan was "Finding a Solution for our Soccer Players." The new plan goes some way to defining the problem – primarily by showing that all the fields in Westmount currently used for sports are overlooked so access to soccer is somewhat limited and wear on the field is higher than what one might desire. However, critically, the plan Council advances does nothing to solve either problem.

Instead Council proposes a completely unrelated plan to 1) Close the upper Melville field, one of the two best soccer fields in Westmount, to soccer for anyone older than five years (by planting flowers throughout the field!), and 2) to expand and enclose with large metal fences the lower fields in Westmount Park.

The expansion and fencing will not increase the available field space for soccer; rather the Council's plan results in a net decrease in available field space for soccer since the upper field will be closed, and a net increase in wear on the remaining fields since the 40 hours per week of sports use on the upper Melville field must be shifted elsewhere. Thus Council's proposal does nothing to solve the problem defined in its own document.

The plan creates a number of new and expensive problems that are not addressed in the document. For example, the proposal to expand the lower field to 60m width plus a mandatory border of 5m on each side between the field and the metal fence means that the northern boundary of the lower fields will abut the gazebo and the fence will run where

the bike path is now. This will have a number of serious negative consequences including:

- The necessity to fell all of the large trees that currently border the south side of the bike path.

- The necessity to move the grade that currently separates the lower fields from the upper park to north of the current bike path, a move that will necessitate the felling all of the large trees that currently border the north side of the bike path.

- The confinement of all 350 Westmount Park School children and 50 Narnia daycare children into a separate zone at the east quarter of the current field on a surface that is unlikely to be grass since the concentration of all the children into this small space will ensure that grass won't grow.

- The closure of the field to recreational use by members of the community.

The destruction of what is currently a beautiful, natural and treed setting that draws people from all over Westmount for casual recreation, picnics, and strolls, and which provides an idyllic and natural setting for such popular summer activities as the Shakespeare in the Park program, the Sunday Jazz program, etc.

The proposal conflicts directly with the Council's own recently released Urban Planning Document. In that document, the Council states a desire to increase the density of children in lower Westmount. Many families in lower Westmount do not have access to a backyard. Thus they use the park for their recreation. The City's plan to both close the fields to Westmount families and to reduce access to soccer by closing the upper field is unlikely to attract families with children.

The new document says that its initial estimate of \$660,000 to renew the southern playing fields must now be considered a "soft" estimate. Experienced readers can translate "soft" to "low" since the initial estimate did not include the cost of re-grading the field, felling the trees, and shifting the entire bike path to some new location since there will be no room for it in the current plan. It also does not include the more difficult to quantify cost to the community of the loss of a beautiful, treed open space to be replaced by a bald, fenced sports complex for the exclusive use of the six-week soccer program and paying clients. Should we support Council in replacing a beautiful open view with one of six-foot-high black metal bars, replace beautiful mature trees with the tiny stumps of replacement trees that they have already planted in Sunnyside Park (although they're hard to see). We have already seen what Council can do to a park if they're left to their own devices.

This time, let's act before the damage is inflicted.

Gillian O'Driscoll, PhD  
Redfern Avenue

## OLD NEWS from the archives

1935-2007

Ten Years Ago  
October 9, 1997

GLEN PROJECT: "Proponents of a housing development for the Montreal side of the Glen Yards are hoping the City of Westmount will like what it sees, eventually paving the way for the development of the Westmount side of the property. 'We're hoping the development here will be a bit of a motor toward getting Westmount on side,' Canadian Pacific spokesman Michel Spénard said at an open house Saturday, where the company unveiled plans to develop the old rail yards as a primary residential area. Spénard said the eventual plan is to build an underpass at the foot of Claremont on the scale of the nearly century-old underpass at the Glen. York Street and St. Catherine would also be slightly modified to allow for the underpass, running under the tracks which are still used by commuter trains. Talks broke off three years ago between CP and the City in a dispute over the density of construction within Westmount, which accounts for about 17 acres of the 50-acre site."

Fifteen Years Ago  
October 8, 1992

COVERT OPERATIONS: "Under pressure at council Monday night, Mayor Peter Trent said he did not know the City hired private investigators to spy on its own parking inspectors. The investigation was undertaken during July and August after a drop in parking tickets was noted this year, according to city officials. Westmount Municipal Association president Stanley Baker said he found it disturbing the city would resort to such low tactics."

Twenty-Five Years Ago  
October 7, 1982

TWO HATS: "Westmount's position in the MUC came under fire Monday night in an attack by one citizen which resulted in disclosure of the mayor's MUC salary and the acknowledgement by one alderman that Westmount had been 'ripped off' in the island-wide body. Mayor Donald MacCallum revealed reluctantly that he was paid \$16,000 a year by the MUC after being accused by Allen Nutik of having greater allegiance to that network than the City of Westmount, which pays him \$13,633 annually. Mr. Nutik asked how much Westmount had suffered from its mayor 'wearing two hats at the same time.'"

Thirty-Five Years Ago  
October 12, 1972

COMMUNIST CANDIDATE: "A fourth candidate in the Oct. 30 federal election in Westmount came in on the scene this week when 24-year-old Peter Foster, a driver resident in NDG, filed his nomination papers. Mr. Foster identified himself as a candidate of the Communist Party of Quebec. When asked what he thought his prospects were, he said it was 'not my intention to be elected, sit around Parliament and sell out the country.'"



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### Deadline Reminder

The due date for the second instalment of the 2007-2008 school tax is **October 29, 2007.**

Please use the second payment stub attached to your 2007-2008 school tax bill to make the payment.

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Continued from page 14

Plus 74 per cent of wine bottles and 57 per cent of water bottles are recycled.

These are welcome trends and reflect the wide acceptance of the need everywhere for enhanced waste management — except in the Greater Montreal region, which is woefully behind in attempting to meet the provincial objectives for diverting 65 percent of waste from landfills by next year.

However, Westmount's planning for the 15 steps necessary to meet this diversion goal is receiving City Hall's attention (and probably filling the Bowser table!)

## Scientists' warning

The Nobel Peace Prize attracted massive attention, but some other recent announcements deserve notice. On October 4, 1,000 Canadian scientists, including many Montrealers, wrote to federal Prime Minister

Stephen Harper reiterating the threats to human health of neglected pollution issues.

"Significant scientific evidence is drawing links between toxic chemicals and conditions such as cancer, asthma, autism, learning disabilities, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, birth defects and low birth weights," they wrote.

"Of particular concern are a host of persistent and bioaccumulative substances often found in consumer products....Increasingly [products] bought and sold on the market contain substances that are potentially harmful."

The signatories, who include 70 research chairs — some from Montreal's four universities — single out lead, which was banned from gasoline 15 years ago. It is also regulated in children's jewelry, but not in widely available costume jewelry, key chain fobs and lapel pins. They want the government to better regulate such substances.

They advocate a major policy change to a precautionary approach, so that the onus is put on industry to show that new products are safe; at present, the government must prove there is harm before taking action.

Consumers can also regulate such things by their knowledgeable purchases. They can also avoid, or limit, the damage done by the way they dispose of such things at the end of their useful life.

## Ban mercury

Last fall the Environment Committee of the Healthy City Project called on Council to ban e-waste from garbage collection. There were many safer ways to be rid of it and, a year later, there are even more.

Such e-waste involves many polluting materials, besides being wasteful of resources.

Now the time has come to take seriously a lot of other things that have no business in a landfill — the largest volume coming from kitchen and garden waste which should be composted.

Some researchers want to see all light bulbs excluded from the garbage collection. This includes the traditional incandescent bulb, which contains a minuscule amount of lead.

Uncontrolled mercury is even more serious.

The Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs), which are being heavily promoted by Hydro-Quebec as well as manufacturers and some big box retailers, are a new concern.

### CFLs dilemma

Standard fluorescent tubes are a serious problem. Compared to them, the new CFLs have minimal mercury content, but in the volume these lamps are now being marketed — and will one day be thrown out — they are a major threat. This presents an environmental dilemma.

Their energy saving is immense. What is missing is a safe collection system to cover the end of their lives.

As the 1,000 scientists observed in their letter to Ottawa, the precautionary approach was missing. The manufacturers have not provided for the end-of-life recovery of their new product.

Like e-waste a year ago, there are some limited local facilities. All fluorescent lamps can be taken for safe disposal to the HHW collection; the last one of the season is on Saturday. After that, they can be taken to one of the Eco-Centers, which are staffed to handle them.

605 Miscellaneous employment 605 Miscellaneous employment

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# Bulletin Board

## Thursday, Oct. 18

Meet Mountainside United Church: An Open House will be held at Mountainside United Church, 687 Roslyn Ave., from 7 to 9 p.m. The focus of the evening will be on the various activities which take place at the church, some of which are church-sponsored and others which are generated by outside groups. Interest tables and demonstrations will showcase these programs and activities. Light refreshments will be served. Come and meet the Mountainside family and see how it interacts with the community. Info: 514-486-1165.

The Atwater Branch of the Montreal Children's Library, 1200 Atwater Ave., presents Les Contes d'Halloween with Claudette Leureux and Lucy Bisson at 10 :30 a.m. in French for ages 3 to 5. Info: 514-931-2304.

The World Federalist Movement of Canada, Montreal Branch, holds its annual general meeting at 7 p.m. at the Unitarian Church, 5035 de Maisonneuve W. Guest speaker is Peggy Mason, chair of the Canadian Peacebuilding Coordinating Committee, who will speak at 8 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Free-will donation. Info: Carol Greene at 514-426-4170.

The Visual Arts Centre, 350 Victoria Ave., presents a Poetry and Prose Reading, featuring Stephen Morrissey, Sharon H. Nelson, Ian Ferrier, Tali Goodfriend, George Balas, Sandra Stephenson and Ilona Martonfi. Doors open 7 p.m., reading at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$5 at the door. Info: 514-488-9558.

## Friday, Oct. 19

Chess Club at the Westmount Public Library, 4574 Sherbrooke St. W. Do you enjoy playing chess? Our new chess club will meet at 2 p.m. Drop by for a friendly game as we look forward to meeting new players. Info: 514-989-5386.

Film Fridays at the Westmount Public Library, 4574 Sherbrooke St. W. Join us as we meet at 7 p.m. to view a film and then discuss it afterward. Please register for this event at the circulation desk. Info: 514-989-5386.

TGIF at Centre Greene, 1090 Greene Ave. Meal Followed by weekly activity for ages 5-11, \$10 per drop-in. 6 to 8:30 p.m. RSVP/Info: 514-931-6202 or [www.centregreene.org](http://www.centregreene.org)

## Saturday, Oct. 20

Games Night at the Westmount Public Library, 4574 Sherbrooke St. W. Do you like to play games? Join other game enthusiasts for a special night of board and video games at 7 p.m. Info: 514-989-5386.

## Sunday, Oct. 21

Stories from Wales and Abroad with David Ambrose at the Westmount Public Library, 4574 Sherbrooke St. W. Join Welsh storyteller David Ambrose at 2 p.m. for this action-packed programme guaranteed to entertain and entrance both young and old. Ages 9 and up. 514-989-5229.

## Tuesday, Oct. 23

Readers to Readers Book Club at the West-

mount Public Library, 4574 Sherbrooke St. W. Join our morning book club with a twist. The English group will meet at 10 a.m. to talk about great books recently read. Info: 514-989-5386.

## Wednesday, Oct. 24

Fall Author Series at the Westmount Public Library, 4574 Sherbrooke St. W. Montreal author Heather O'Neill will speak about her award-winning book, Lullabies for Little Criminals at 7 p.m. Info: 514-989-5386.

The Atwater Lunchtime Series presents Anita Rau Badami, who will read from her latest novel, 'Can You Hear the Nightbird Call?' at 12:30 p.m. in the Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater Ave. Free admission, everyone welcome. Coffee will be served and people are welcome to bring their own lunch. Info: Tanya Mayhew at [tmayhew@atwaterlibrary.ca](mailto:tmayhew@atwaterlibrary.ca) or 514-935-7344 ext. 203.

Senior's Luncheon at Centre Greene, 1090 Greene Ave., from 12:15 to 2 p.m. \$5 per meal. RSVP/Info: 514-931-6202 or [www.centregreene.org](http://www.centregreene.org)

## Thursday, Oct. 25

The Atwater Library & Computer Centre holds its Fall Book Sale from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Quality used books and magazines on sale at great prices. 1200 Atwater Ave. Info: Tanya at 514-935-7344.

## Friday, Oct. 26

The Atwater Library & Computer Centre holds its Fall Book Sale from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Quality used books and magazines on sale at great prices. 1200 Atwater Ave. Info: Tanya at 514-935-7344.

TGIF at Centre Greene, 1090 Greene Ave. Meal Followed by weekly activity for ages 5-11, \$10 per drop-in. 6 to 8:30 p.m. RSVP/Info: 514-931-6202 or [www.centregreene.org](http://www.centregreene.org)

## Saturday, Oct. 27

The Atwater Library & Computer Centre holds its Fall Book Sale from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quality used books and magazines on sale at great prices. 1200 Atwater Ave. Info: Tanya at 514-935-7344.

## Sunday, Oct. 28

Mendelsohn Music Foundation's 25th anniversary gala concert at Congregation Shaar Hashomayim, 120 Cote St. Antoine, at 7:30 p.m. Highlighting 25 years of great music, this concert will feature Cantor Jacob Mendelson and Cantor Fredda Rakusin Mendelson, Sharon Azrieli, Judith Lechter, Cantor Gideon Zelermyer, Cantor Sidney Dworkin, the Shaar Hashomayim Synagogue Choir, the Shaar Hashomayim Singers and Music Director Stephen Glass. Info: 514-937-9471.

## Monday, Oct. 29

Fall Author Series at the Westmount Public Library, 4574 Sherbrooke St. W. Join us for an evening with writer and poet Gary Geddes as he reads from his new book Falsework at 7 p.m. Info: 514-989-5386.

## DON'T FENCE US OUT!



A new plan for Westmount Park is before City Council:  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the Park's southern playing fields would be fenced. Only  $\frac{1}{4}$  would remain as a "separate solution" for the children of Westmount Park School and the general public - the very people who use the fields most. Have City officials carefully read this plan? Do they really want a public space that might look like this?

What the City calls "the separate area" outside the fence might not even be grass! Sub-dividing Westmount Park would destroy its character. We urge Westmounters to contact their City councillors and tell them to preserve this open space loved by all.

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