

Agglo tax hikes hit taxpayers

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

An almost 4-percent increase in Westmount's share of agglomeration costs for 2011 means the city will pay out \$1.8 million more for island-wide services. This far exceeds promised guidelines, Mayor Peter Trent said last week.

Added to some \$1.2 million that Westmount must find to top up its own employee pension plan, the city is now faced with almost \$3 million more in "uncontrollable" expenses for 2011.

Expecting to explain the developments at the city council meeting December 6, Trent told the *Independent* he would spend much of the next two weeks working as a member of the Montreal/agglo budget

committee to make changes in the agglo budget tabled December 2. "But I don't hold out much hope," he said.

"The fact is we're \$3 million in the hole" in Westmount.

It was too early, he said, to know how Westmount might be able to offset some of the increases or distribute them among various categories of residential and commercial property owners.

Westmount budget set for Dec. 20

City council members were to hold a budget meeting December 7 before Westmount's budget is presented at a special meeting December 20. The city's new tax rates will be unveiled at this time based on the *continued on p. 18*

Attack of the giant rock



A 30-pound rock was launched through the glass front door of Vic Market in the early hours of November 30. Police say security cameras did not pick up the suspect and there were no witnesses. A co-owner says there is no police presence at night. See p. 7 for story.

Photos: Vic Market and the Independent

INSIDE

Letters to the Editor p. 4

Social Notes by V. REDGRAVE p. 11

Underdog by M. LAMEY p. 21

Comin' Up p. 24

Lone voice at meeting lauds new restos for Greene

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Not one opposing voice was heard to the city's proposed zoning changes that would allow six new small restaurants to open on Greene Ave.

In fact, only one member of the general public turned up at city hall for the public consultation meeting on the issue November 30, a very rainy evening. And Stan Grossman, a resident of 4800 de Maison-neuve, welcomed the change as he had when a similar restaurant freeze was lifted for Victoria village.

"I think Westmount needs a little more life in it," he said. Night life on Greene "is even worse [quieter] than Victoria," he added.

"We don't want too much action," cautioned Councillor Cynthia Lulham, who chaired the meeting as commissioner of Urban Planning. "We're aiming for small village-type restaurants."

The change had been requested by merchants based on the Victoria example, and the changes for Greene are based on that model.

While all existing food-serving establishments would retain acquired rights, said Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier, the proposed rezoning limits the size of new ones to less than 140 square meters (about 1,506 square feet) and imposes a cap of six for old and new establishments in each of the two affected zones on *continued on p. 9*

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City to review truck routes after Lansdowne complaints

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Complaints by Lansdowne residents have led the city to work toward synchronizing its designation of truck routes with those of Montreal, the *Independent* learned last week.

City director general Duncan Campbell said the need was brought to the city's attention during attempts by police to enforce the city's no-trucking regulation on Lansdowne. It seems that Westmount, he explained, had never completed work to set up truck routes under the now defunct Montreal Urban Community's master plan.

Under this *réseau de cammionage*, Montreal basically prohibits trucking from all its streets unless local work or delivery is required – with the exception of designated truck routes.

Meanwhile, Westmount does the reverse by allowing trucking on all streets unless signed otherwise.

"This is very confusing to truckers," he explained.

As a result, the city will be examining modifications and re-wording its by-law.

"More importantly, it must tie in with our traffic master plan," Campbell explained. This is now in the early stages of preparation.

Meanwhile enforcement of no-trucking on Lansdowne south of Sherbrooke appears to be in limbo, though Campbell said traffic counts this fall showed only a small number of trucks using the route.

Traffic counts by the city's Public Works department for Lansdowne were taken recently on three weekdays at the intersection of de Maisonneuve from 8:30 am to 5:45 pm with an hour out for lunch from 1 to 2 pm or 2 to 3 pm. These were reported as:

- Nov. 17: 31 trucks out of 1,772 vehicles;
- Nov. 18: 38 trucks of 1,865 vehicles;
- Nov. 25: 41 trucks of 2,044 vehicles.

Campbell said he and Councillor Gary Ikeman, council's Public Security commissioner, had met the previous week with local police commander Stéphane Plourde on the issue. They also discussed the question of Westmount's own municipal trucks using Lansdowne to access the Public Works yard and Hydro Westmount.

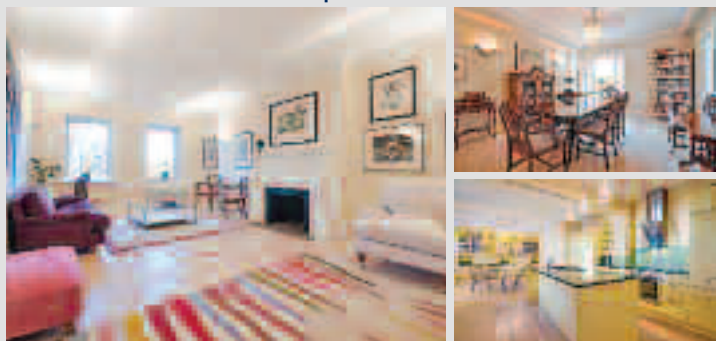
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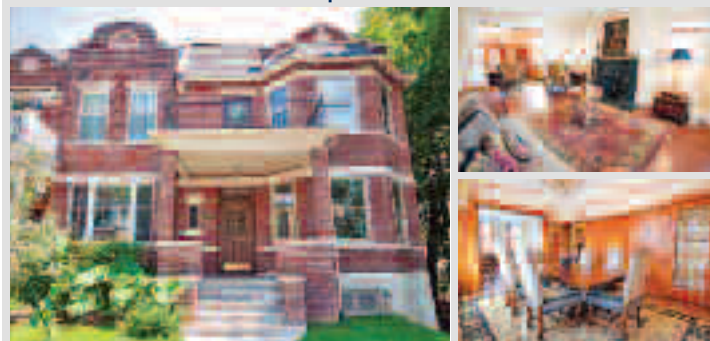


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Community Hanukkah party at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom



A community Hanukkah party took place at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, following an afternoon community candle lighting ceremony at city hall, where the first candle of the Festival of Lights was lit, December 1.

Photo: Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom

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Manoir raises over \$5K for local charities

Members of Manoir Westmount's handicraft group and volunteers gathered November 30 for their year-end meeting and to share a toast. It marked another "another profitable year of activities," according to Lily Lam, from their annual bazaar that took place the week before.

A total of \$5,100 was raised and will be given to 13 local charity organizations, including Chez Doris, Dans la rue, Fondation Mira, Generations Foundation, MBA-MacKay Center, MM Diet Dispensary, Manoir Westmount Foundation, Old Brewery Mission, Parkinson Society

Canada, Salvation Army, Share the Warmth and Sun Youth.

A new recipient this year will be the Alzheimer Society of Canada.

Lam also mentioned that thanks to support and donations from friends and local merchants, the group was able to "keep expenses low and maximize profitability."

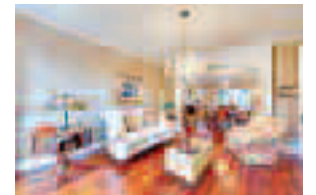
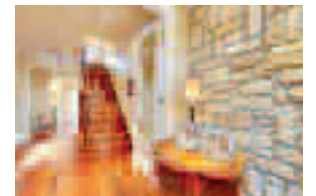
With an average age of 88.5, the seniors meet on Tuesday afternoons and also work independently to produce a variety of needlework and handicraft items.

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Opinion

WTAG works for all Westmounters

The Westmount Train Action Group (WTAG) has for some time been acting to encourage the use of modern rail technology on the commuter lines that pass through lower Westmount.

The 1960s and 1970s technology in use today does not satisfy the users' needs, and generates excessive vibration, noise and pollution.

WTAG is not opposed to commuter rail systems, nor is WTAG a NIMBY group. The landscape of lower Westmount already includes situations that have serious environmental and quality of life impact such as the Ville Marie Expressway, the seven-year Turcot yards reconstruction, the MUHC and a plan that will increase commuter rail traffic perhaps fourfold - metres from residences along the Westmount rail corridor.

There is only so much traffic noise, commuter rail noise, vibration and pollution that can be absorbed, and lower Westmount has reached its limit. The residents of lower Westmount should not be asked to deal with more.

Furthermore, all Westmounters share in the cost of running the city, and the lower valuations that will result in lower Westmount due to these environmental conditions will eventually reverberate "up the hill."

Lower Westmount is in danger of be-

coming a "transportation sewer" to quote Mayor Trent speaking at a recent agglomeration council meeting. Every time a person living west of Westmount travels downtown, he must travel through or near Westmount. Almost all auto, bus, train and even bike routes traverse our mostly residential city.

West Islanders have the right to enjoy modern reliable commuter transport, but not at the expense of "in town" neighbourhoods such as NDG, Montreal West and Westmount.

All Westmounters should join the WTAG and help us work towards our goals: responsible levels of traffic, using state-of-the-art technology.

To join WTAG, email me at david@aca-collect.com and ask to be registered.

David Schachter of St. Catherine St., and director of WTAG

Addendum

In the recent issue of Business Watch (December 1, p. 19), we reported on Transitions Management, a service to help with downsizing and organizing. Diana Martin can be reached at 514.443.3083 or diana.martin@gmail.com.

Mayor's Column

Same tax burden, shared better



BY MAYOR PETER F. TREMBLAY

(Warning: the following contains a graphic description of a new tax. It could induce somnolence in some, virulence in others.)

It was December 1990. Your faithful scribe was Westmount's commissioner of Finance; Mayor Gérald Tremblay was then a Liberal cabinet minister; and Tremblay's colleague Claude Ryan was minister of Municipal Affairs.

Ryan suddenly announced that the Quebec government, in a savage measure unique in North America, was wiping out all operating subsidies for mass transit. Up until then, the cost of running buses and the Metro had been shared roughly equally among Quebec, the riders and property taxpayers.

Ryan gave cities options

Not to worry, said Ryan to the island of Montreal cities left to carry the empty can: we'll increase the ceiling on the welcome tax, we'll let you charge a commercial surtax, and we'll give you a \$30-per-car registration to help pay for busses and the Metro.

Today, one-half of that \$30 subsidizes suburban trains, which also gobble up one half of a 3 cents-per-litre gas tax. (Far-flung suburban train services, such as the new one to Mascouche, cost a fortune and actually encourage urban sprawl.)

Today, the riders of the STM (the island of Montreal bus and Metro system) pay one half of its costs. A monthly pass, \$32.75 in 1990, costs \$72.75 today: a 50 percent growth *after inflation*.

You think that's bad? Well, island of Montreal property taxpayers fork over roughly \$400 million to the STM, *double*

what they paid in 1990 after inflation.

Property taxes, which started off life as a way to pay for local municipal services, have been turned into a cash cow for mass transit, a strictly regional service.

And, while improved public transit increases property values (and therefore taxes!), it also de-clogs roads for drivers, yet they contribute a small fraction of what property owners pay. And the amount of property tax you pay has absolutely nothing to do with your use of public transit.

Currently, the city of Montreal has the power to institute a car registration tax, but the rest of the region hasn't. Mayor Tremblay and I have been working to get the government to allow the island of Montreal (and, ultimately, the whole metropolitan region) the same power, in order to reduce the property tax burden.

This would be a tax earmarked for public transit exclusively.

All cities agree

Two weeks ago, I managed to get all the cities on the island to rally to this idea: a very difficult job, as there are more cars per household on the West Island than, say, in Westmount.

Still, while the demerged cities pay 19 percent of the agglomeration shared costs via property taxes, they have 16 percent of the island's cars.

With a \$45 car tax, Westmounters would contribute about \$425,000 a year, yet save a lot more in property taxes going to the agglomeration.

So the goal is *not* more tax revenue, but to spread the tax burden by reducing our dependency on property taxes.

And if you don't like the idea, just try and get Quebec to restore mass transit subsidies. Just try.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MY DOG WAS ATTACKED

In response to [the November 23 letter “Leash your dog – and pick up”], I am the woman whose dog was savagely attacked by a matched pair (male and female) of pit-bull-like dogs on November 17 at the corner of Kensington and de Maisonneuve during lunch hour.

My beautiful three-year-old female shepherd was bitten so badly – millimetres from her carotid and jugular veins from the male’s bite, and along her ribs from the female’s bite, also piercing the skin.

Both wounds, despite going to the vet, became infected. Now she is shaved with tubes both on her neck and flank. She’s been on antibiotics and painkillers since November 17.

As for me, this attack has left me traumatized. I am on tranquilizers, can’t go outside alone and can’t walk my dog.

Can anyone help me find the owner of these dogs? Please help. Call me at 514.937.4783. Special thanks to those who have supported us at this terrible time.

DONNA MORENCY-BERTRAND,
CLARKE AVE.

JOIN OTHER COMMUNITIES IN BANNING PIT BULLS

I am a tenant in the same building as the owner of the dog attacked by two pit-bulls* as witnessed by Ann McWhinnie in her letter of November 23, p. 4 (“Leash your dog – and pick up”).

The dog has undergone several surgeries as a result of the attack, and its owner has been so traumatized that she is unable to walk her dog or speak of the event.

As the 100-pound owner of a 6-pound dog, I am always vigilant in crossing the street when I see a pitbull on the horizon.

There is definitely an increase in the amount of pitbulls walking on St. Catherine St., west of Clarke.

I am aware that many municipalities have banned the breed and feel that Westmount should join them.

We should feel safe while walking our dogs in our neighbourhood. Alas, this is no longer so.

DONNA SPECTOR, CLARKE AVE.

* Editor’s note: The dogs were “pitbull-like dogs,” according to the owner of the attacked dog, as per her letter above. – KM

TRADE INJURY FOR GREENE PARKING ABEYANCE?

I must say that after all the fanfare about the Greene Ave. opening, I was truly hoping that it would be “un petit bijou.”

The ice sculptures are lovely and the cedars are a nice touch but not enough to distract me from noticing that the work is still not finished. And the work that is “finished” is defective at places: some of the granite pavers are uneven and may catch the blade of the snowplough. And this construction has been going on for so long that my old brain does not really remember when it started...

I also hear that Bell will be digging again (small holes) as their work was not completed.

To add insult to injury, I’m presently sporting a very dashing swollen eye thanks to the tree next to Lululemon. At 5’5” (okay, I added 1/2 inch), I don’t consider myself very tall, but it seems to me that our horticultural geniuses could have made sure that the branches would not gouge anyone’s eyes. I promptly reported this to Public Security and they assured me that they would be there with shears the next morning.

I could be a Scrooge and claim millions from the city for its negligence and contribution to my new look. This being the holiday season and all, I won’t; and after all, this is Canada.

I would, however, appreciate a gesture on its part and that is to abolish parking meters on Greene and apply a two-hour limit during the holidays to encourage shopping. The never-ending construction has been very harmful to the merchants.

So Mayor Trent, what do you say we trade my injuries for some help for our street?

TANIA KALECHEFF, RESIDENT OF
UPPER LANSDOWNE AND
REAL ESTATE BROKER – RE/MAX
WESTMOUNT INC.

PROVINCE NOT RESPECTING ORIGINAL TURCOT PRINCIPLE

The Westmount Walking and Cycling Association feels that the latest Quebec government proposal for the Turcot interchange would have a negative impact on the liveability of our community and region.

Our association agreed with the fundamental principle expressed by Mayor Peter Trent and Mayor Gérald Tremblay last April – that the new Turcot should reduce vehicle capacity significantly and, in parallel, boost mass public transit capacity. This combination is the only way to limit the number of vehicles on the roads near our community and thereby limit the damage they cause to our health and environment.

However, the provincial government appears to have largely ignored this prin-

ciple so rather than reducing capacity, the new Turcot proposal would increase traffic capacity from the current 290,000 vehicles/day to 304,000 vehicles/day. *

This latest concept appears diametrically opposed to Mayor Trent’s and Mayor Tremblay’s April position and to the efforts already initiated by boroughs [and cities], like the Plateau and Westmount, to limit traffic.

Furthermore, the latest Turcot proposal would see Highways 2 and 20 moved to the base of the St. Jacques escarpment, which would seriously compromise any future development of that green space into the falaise parkland that has been advocated by numerous citizen and ecological groups. The permanent loss of the park potential would be a serious blow to linked green space development in the Montreal region.

It would appear that leading municipal authorities, who are possibly more in tune with the population, are taking steps to limit traffic and protect green spaces while the provincial government is doing exactly the opposite. Island of Montreal residents should demand more of our elected provincial officials.

DANIEL LAMBERT, LANSDOWNE RESIDENT
AND PRESIDENT OF WESTMOUNT
WALKING AND CYCLING ASSOCIATION

* Ed’s note: In an October 2010 report by the *Ministère du Développement durable, de l’Environnement et des Parcs*, the *Ministère des Transports du Québec* predicts that without the Turcot project, the increase of vehicles will be around 296,000, by the same year, 2016. – KM

LEAVE PARKING METERS

Governments (e.g. Greece, Ireland, UK, USA, Quebec and Westmount) need money desperately. Westmount has announced that we’ll be included in the extra tax grab on automobile ownership – to be added to our already high provincial licensing and auto insurance tariffs, as well as exorbitant prices we pay at the gas pump.

Furthermore, it has been announced that hiking parking meter fees are in the offing. Let us be careful for what we wish.

Our local merchants and restaurateurs are already going through rough times and do not need to have clients discouraged from coming here.

We know that times are tough, and we are willing, as good citizens, to shell out more as our civic obligations and seek methods for spending restraints.

Why, oh why, has Westmount agreed to forego \$75,000 (and possibly harm local

businesses) by shutting down parking meters on de Maisonneuve between Atwater and Greene this winter? Is this to placate a very small group of lobbying cyclists? Cyclists, including yours truly, have the option of detouring to other streets, walking or using public transportation for the winter.

STAN GROSSMAN, DE MAISONNEUVE
RESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN,
WESTMOUNTERS ADVOCATING CYCLING
KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION (WACKO)



Resident Stan Grossman wants to keep parking meters on de Maisonneuve east of Greene.

Photo: Independent

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October crime stats spill into December action

Rash of upper Westmount break-ins a major concern

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

While only five break-ins were reported during October, a rash of nine in upper Westmount between October 17 and November 16 has caused police to concentrate on the problem, local Station 12 commander Stéphane Plourde said last Thursday. All the incidents involved major thefts.

“It’s a concern for us,” he said, “so we have set up a special team dedicated to the problem.” All the burglaries, including two on the lower level of Westmount, are believed related. They shared similar *modus operandi*, throwing heavy items through windows to gain entry, he said.

During October, thefts from cars continued unabated, with 25 reported. No ar-

rests were made despite a targeting of certain suspects. “We hope people will hide what they buy for Christmas in their car trunk,” Plourde added.

The continued number of graffiti reports in the 20s is expected to drop with the onset of winter weather.

Park surveillance

The recent installation of surveillance cameras by the city to prevent vandalism at comfort stations in Westmount and Murray parks and behind the Protective Services building will be a good tool for police, he said. The cameras are to be monitored around the clock by Public Security and will add to park safety, he said.

Being on municipal property, he explained, the cameras are the same as those installed on private property or in private buildings and do not raise the issue of invasion of privacy as those on a public street.

Winter bike patrol

With winter and Westmount’s opening of the de Maisonneuve bike path for the first time, comes the start of Station 12’s winter bike patrol, Plourde announced.

Police bicycles were outfitted with studded winter tires last Friday and patrollers were given special training in winter cycling on a hockey rink. In accordance with the police department’s office of workplace safety, the bike patrollers will wear highly visible yellow vests at all times and won’t ride in high wind or during snowfalls exceeding 5 cm.

Lansdowne trucking

In response to citizen complaints at the city council meeting November 1 that trucks, including city vehicles, were using Lansdowne despite no-trucking signage, Plourde said he has asked the city to look



Outfitted for winter cycling, local Station 12’s bike patrol shows off new studded tires and outdoor attire, December 3. From left are Constables Stephan Laperriere and Michel Laramée and Sgt. Marie-Claude Dandenault. Station 12 is one of three with a winter bike patrol on the island.

into its trucking regulations including signage (see story, p. 2).

Don’t drink and drive campaign

Plourde said police launched their annual holiday don’t-drink-and-drive cam-

paigned December 4 and cautioned Westmount residents to adhere to the advice. They carried out an initial road block beforehand at St. Catherine and Lansdowne, “but it was so quiet we left and went into Montreal around St. Marc St.”

Selected crime stats from Station 12

May to October '10 – Westmount

Type of crime reported	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
Break and enter	12	5	3	9	10	5
Robbery (theft with violence)	6	1	2	0	0	0
Theft from vehicles	10	14	20	19	28	25
Theft of vehicles	5	2	1	5	3	1
Graffiti	12	16	26	35	22	26
Hit and run	23	19	2	10	20	28

To highlight the importance of the issue, a number of officers from the Westmount station will donate their time to serve as Nez Rouge drivers on December 10. The service drives home motorists who think they may be over the legal alcohol limit.

Gifts for MCH patients

Plourde will join officers from the Westmount station when they visit the Montreal Children’s Hospital on December 19 along with others to distribute gifts purchased with proceeds from the sale of police agendas for 2011.



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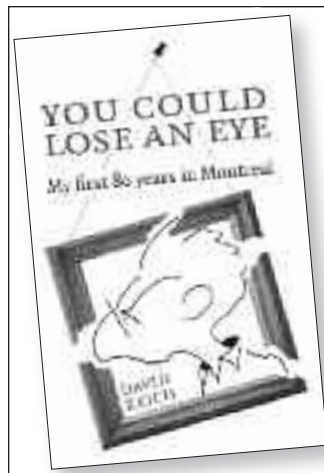
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Cops stumped over rock thrown into Vic Market

By DAVID GOLDBERG

Station 12 police are looking for a suspect strong enough to hurl a 30-pound rock through the front glass door of the Vic Market last week.

Police say the store's alarm system was activated at 4:05 am on November 30. One of the owners, Phil Chang, went to the store, located at 378 Victoria, at 4:15, responding to what he was told was a break-in.

"I was only 10 minutes away when I got the call, and when I got there, I saw no window and a big giant rock sitting on the floor," said Chang. Asked what his reaction was at that sight, he replied, "A lot of four-letter words. I was shocked that someone would take the opportunity to do something like that on a well-lit street in Westmount."

Constable Adalbert Pimentel said the suspect entered the store after throwing the rock through the door and stole some money from both cash registers. He left no fingerprints behind.

"Police officers verified the rest of the building and canvassed the area, but there were no witnesses," he said. "The building does have a security camera, but the sus-

pect's image was not captured by [it]."

Chang said a small amount of change was stolen from his store, but that he will be changing his policy and will no longer leave any money in the registers overnight.

"They did about \$500 worth of damage to the door and \$2,000 of damage to my two registers," said Chang. "The rock weighs about 30 pounds and feels like granite. It was perfectly clean, and it doesn't look like it came from anywhere around here. There's no way anyone carried it here — they had to drive it over."

Pimentel said he'd be stopping by to visit the market very soon.

"I will be going to the store in the near future to do a security visit," he said. "I'll see if their security set-up is adequate or if there are improvements that can be made. Sometimes the improvements mean better hardware, and sometimes they're just changing habits."

For his part, Chang, who has owned the market for 18 months, said he has his own concerns about security.

"We do have concerns in the neighbourhood, especially because the cops aren't patrolling at night," he said. "That's a huge concern of ours, because the merchants have enough problems in West-

mount. There is extreme turnover, and the lack of security is one reason."

As far as the rock, Chang says his chunk of granite has found a new home.

"We have it on display in the store, and he's become our mascot," he said. "We've named him Rocky."

Anyone having information about this crime is asked to call Info-crime at 514.393.1133. See photos, p. 1.

Tipline

Rewards of \$250 will be awarded for tips regarding crime, mischief or intended crimes in Westmount that lead to arrests, until the fund is exhausted.

Please contact the *Independent* with your information.

See story "\$1,000 donated for crime-fighting fund," March 30, p. 6, for details.

Tipline will run any reward-for-information notices being offered by residents, whether as part of the fund mentioned above or directly.



Christmas at St. Matthias' Anglican Church

★ Sunday December 12

5:00 pm Christmas Lessons & Carols to Honour the Christ Child, followed by the parish party

★ Friday December 24
Christmas Eve

5:00 pm Children's Pageant
10:00 pm Candle-light Service

★ Saturday December 25
Christmas Day

10:30 am Choral Eucharist

St. Matthias' Anglican Church

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Christmas Eve – Friday, December 24th

Family Eucharist: 7:30 p.m.

Choral Service – Ascension Choir under the direction of Dr. David Szanto: 9:30 p.m.

Solemn Eucharist: 10 p.m.

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD – CHRISTMAS – Saturday, December 25th: 10:30 a.m.

The Feast of the Holy Family – Sunday, December 26th: 10:30 a.m.

New Year's Eve – Friday, December 31st – 5:00 p.m.

New Year's Day – Feast of Mary, Mother of God – 10:30 a.m.

We invite all parishioners, former parishioners and visitors to join in celebrating with us this Holy Season.

Mgr. Sean Harty, Parochial Administrator

Rev. Patrick Donnelly, Associate Pastor

Mountainside United holds Christmas community dinner for 35th time

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

For the 35th year, members of Mountainside United Church opened their hearts November 28 by inviting more than

125 needy people to sit down and enjoy a Christmas community dinner with turkey and all the trimmings.

Mountainside United has been serving its annual Christmas meal since the mid-1970s, when the tradition was initiated by a young people's group at the church.

Each year, the guests are persons whose names are provided by officials from the local CLSC and other community organizations. Before the meal is served, there is carol singing, live band music and a visit from Santa Claus.

While more than 100 Mountainside United members participate, they do so as volunteers, driving guests to the church, supplying and preparing food, serving meals and sitting at tables as hosts. "If our own members come, they have to work," said Betty Zukow, an active member of the church and a longtime volunteer for the dinner. Scouts Canada members also provide assistance.

"We cook about 12 turkeys," she added. "I think the people who put it on get just about as much out of it as those we do it for."

At some point during the dinner, Santa Claus makes an appearance, although Zukow didn't conceal the fact that her hus-



From left, Alan Grey on piano, Isabel Belina, Kay Johnson, Caroline Walsh-Dawson, Richard Neufeld and Don Smith performed carols at Mountainside United Church's 35th annual Christmas community dinner held on November 28.

band loves playing the part. He makes the rounds, asking who is new, who has at-

tended the dinner before, and livening things up as only Santa Claus can.

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- Hogg Hardware, 4855 Sherbrooke St. W.
- Manoir Westmount, 4646 Sherbrooke St. W.
- Scotia Bank, 1326 Greene Avenue
- Westmount Independent, 310 Victoria Ave., #105
- Westmount Stationery, 4887 Sherbrooke St. W.
- Westmount Y, 4585 Sherbrooke St. W.

Zoning allows for 6 new restos

continued from p. 1

Greene.

These zones are located north and south of a central “carrefour” zone (C5-24-13) at the intersection of Greene and de Maisonneuve. This zone has no restaurant restrictions and was created to allow for the redevelopment of the 5 Saisons site.

As a result, the proposed changes would allow for two new small restaurants to open in the north zone (C5-24-12), which currently has four food-serving establishments: Vago, Second Cup, Chez Nick and Bistro on the Avenue.

In the south zone of C5-24-14, four new eateries could be added to the existing Kashima and Au Pain Doré for a total of six.

The required zoning by-law amendments are now slated to advance through the usual complex referendum process. This will follow city council’s adoption of the second draft by-law expected at its December 6 meeting. The first was adopted on November 1.

The city plans to advertise the schedule and details in the *Independent* December 14, explained city clerk Mario Gerbeau.



City zoning map shows the two zones affected by the proposed changes to allow for some new small restaurants.

Source: city of Westmount

BUILDING PERMITS What's permitted

The following permits for exterior construction, alterations and renovation were approved at the November 15 meeting of city council.

- 557 Grosvenor: to replace the front and garage doors;
- 55 Columbia: at a Category I house, to enlarge a side window opening and build a new rear balcony and door;
- 664 Grosvenor: to build a garage under an existing balcony at the back, to replace the balcony railing and windows and doors;
- 3200 The Boulevard: to replace some windows;
- 35 Church Hill: to build a new detached garage in rear yard;
- 659 Grosvenor: to remove arched windows and enlarge openings to accommodate new French doors and double hung windows;
- 294-296 Grosvenor: to replace some basement windows;
- 4353 Westmount: at a Category I house, to replace some windows;
- 222 Melville: to install a sign for rental of apartments;
- 477 Victoria: to replace some windows and doors;

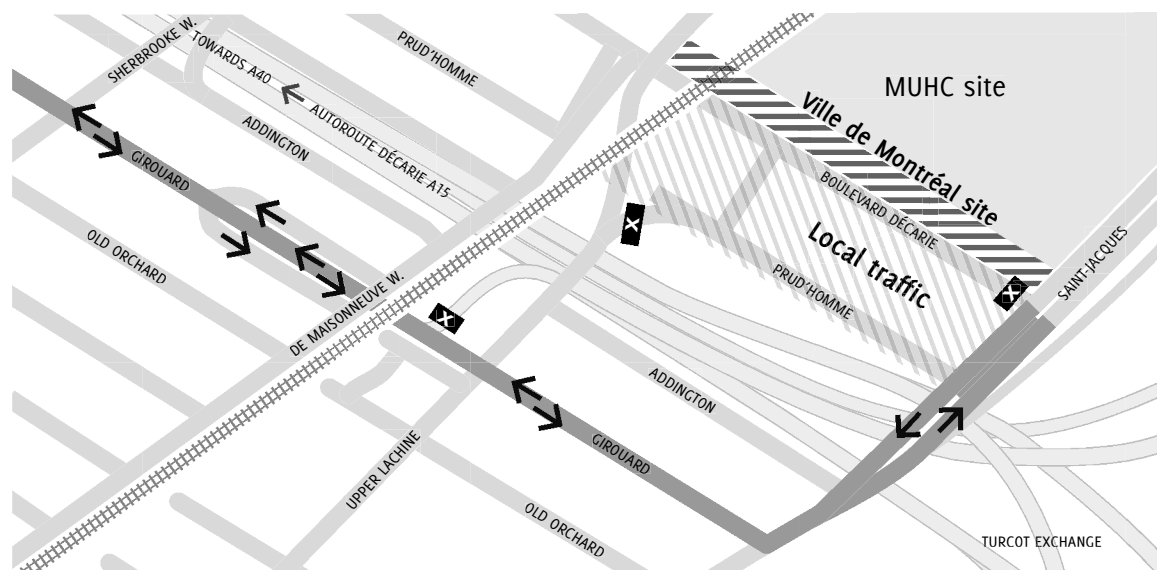
- 62 Somerville: to create a parking space in the back yard;
- 331 Lansdowne: at a Category I house, to install a swimming pool and fence;
- 4925 de Maisonneuve: to replace some windows;
- 431 Mount Stephen: to build a new portico over the front door and replace French door with a new double-hung window on the second storey;
- 343 Clarke, apt 1: at a Category I building, to replace a front window;
- 343 Clarke, apt 2: at a Category I building, to replace a front window;
- 53 Prospect: at a Category I house, to build new stone retaining walls in front yard;
- 501 Mount Pleasant: to replace some windows;
- 479-481 Grosvenor: to replace some windows and doors;
- 75 Holton: to replace some windows;
- 322 Victoria: at a Category I house, to replace front door and some windows;
- 415 Mount Pleasant: to replace some windows.

Travaux municipaux



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Notre-Dame-de-Grâce – Traffic changes start on December 7th, 2010



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 Road closure

Making allowances



Parenthood Uncensored

SOPHIE TARNOWSKA

I've started giving my daughter an allowance for a number of reasons. To stop her asking me to buy her something every time we go within 10 feet of a store. To teach her financial responsibility. And then get her to teach it to me too.

\$3 a week

I read somewhere that you should give kids half their age in allowance to start with. So my daughter gets a whopping \$3 a week. We decorated jam jars to store her coins in, and made labels for each one: Give, Spend, Save. Two dollars goes into the "Spend" jar, and the rest is split between the other two. I love the idea that she's learning to recognize coins, and to pay attention to how much things cost.

She can buy whatever she chooses as long as it doesn't rhyme with "mugs" or look like anything Shakira would wear. And based on an article I have read, her allowance is not linked to her chores – she's expected to help out simply because she lives here, and until our cat learns to make beds and set the table, she's stuck with these tasks.

What I don't love is that she can barely afford a roll of Scotch tape with what I give her. The sensible Sophie in my head says

that's fine, she'll learn to save up (which hasn't worked so far: she's made it clear she'd rather eat the money than save it).

The spendy Sophie says I'm ruining her childhood by not giving her the joy of overpriced Hello Kitty t-shirts, pencils and jewelry. (We spent one disastrous hour at the Holt Renfrew of toy stores known as Oink Oink, looking for something that she could buy with her first allowance, and eventually she got two packs of stickers.

But her joy at being able to spend her own money was overshadowed by the fact that they were the only thing she could afford. Rather than feeling grown-up, she felt let down. She has since forgotten where she put the stickers, but can recall in excruciating detail every item she wanted but couldn't afford.

Welcome to consumerism, my child.

The only place she can afford to buy anything is Dollarama, and even their in-store ad campaign proudly boasts that they now sell items that cost \$1.99. The first thing she learned there was that "Mummy, everything is made in China!" after which she pounced on a display of purple plastic puppies.

Smart little girl. Silly little mum. I now get dragged to various Dollaramas around the city, which are sometimes located in seedy mall basements that smell like old deep-fryer oil, where we troll the aisles under fluorescent lighting and where my daughter spends her allowance on plastic toys that make the junk that comes with McDonald's Happy Meals seem high quality.

Save, resist consumerism, appreciate

How did my lofty goals of teaching my child to save money, of not giving into the consumer impulse and of appreciating the items she spends her money on morph into teaching her the joy of buying a cheap and cheerful plastic toy that will self-destruct as soon as we leave the store, after which it will end up in a landfill, where it will refuse to decompose for decades, and will poison the groundwater for generations to come? How?

I'll let you know when I figure it out, but first we need to go buy another plastic puppy.

Here are some websites I found helpful in navigating the waters of first allowances:

- <http://life.familyeducation.com/allowance/money-and-kids/48026.html>
- www.kidsmoney.org/allart.htm

You can read more on my blog at <http://countessdiaries.tumblr.com>

Jonathan Goldbloom 4th in family to receive Selwyn's Speirs Medal

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Westmount resident Jonathan Goldbloom has become the fourth person in his family to receive the Speirs Medal, the highest honour that is bestowed on members of the Selwyn House community.

His parents, Victor and Sheila Goldbloom, have both previously won the award, as has Jonathan's brother, Michael. Victor and Michael are both Selwyn House graduates.

"The last time I received an award at

Selwyn House was in grade 4 when I won the Royal Bank prize for application in personality," Jonathan said jokingly after being presented the medal on November 25, Founder's Day at the school.

"I never would have suspected that one day I would be honoured in this manner."

Starting in 1960, Goldbloom attended Selwyn House for a decade. Since 2001, he has been on the school's board.

A public relations specialist, in recent years Goldbloom helped steer Selwyn House *continued on p. 12*



Jonathan Goldbloom, left, is presented with the Speirs Medal by Selwyn House board chairman Ted Claxton, November 25 at the school.

Samantha Cutler kicks off jewelry company



From left, Craig Klinkhoff, Samantha Cutler, Kira Ludmer-Kott, Sebastien Davies, Brent Zalezniak, Noala Beattie-Dagenais, Jean-Sebastien Elie and Annie Phillips.

Photo: courtesy of Marina Cutler

The SKmtl Jewelry launch party and fundraiser for the Montreal Canadiens Children's Foundation took place December 1 at Avenue Art Gallery owned by Westmounter Marina Cutler.

The jewelry company was created by her daughter, Samantha Cutler, whose grandmother is former Westmount mayor May Cutler, and by Kira Ludmer-Kott, whose grandmother also lives in Westmount.

Only one of each piece of jewelry was for sale. According to Marina Cutler, "one piece sold right of the neck of Samantha

Cutler herself!"

The jewelry is available for purchase or viewing at [Avenue Art.ca](http://AvenueArt.ca).

Samantha Cutler won an award last spring for emerging designers at the Wearable Art Fashion Show Competition, judged by Montreal designers Katrin Leblond and Nadya Toto. Westmount's JoshuaDavid boutique and Stéphane LeDuc from *Dress To Kill Magazine*. Cutler was accepted into New York's Fashion Institute of Technology and plans to attend starting September 2011.

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Mulroneys host book launch at Mount Royal Club



Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Westmounters **Mila and Brian Mulroney** hosted an elegant cocktail party at the Mount Royal Club, November 3, to launch **Camilla Gibb's** latest book, *The Beauty of Humanity Movement*.

Born in London, Gibb has a PhD in so-



Westmounters Bruce Kent and Michael Vineberg

cial anthropology from Oxford University and has spent time in Ethiopia for field research on her thesis.

Gibb's novels – this is her fourth – have been translated into 14 languages. *The Beauty of Humanity Movement* was gra-

ciously offered to guests by Brian Mulroney, who said, "I hope that, in return,



Westmounters Brenda Norris and
Jacqueline Desmarais

you might purchase a few as holiday gifts" – which they did, lining up for autographed copies. (One prominent senator bought four!)

Ladies were stylishly chic. Most wore beautifully-tailored to-the-knee couture skirts or dresses, a welcome relief from higher-than-thigh polyester garb one notes on the streets. And of course, the jewels were discreet – and real. Pretty pearls were worn by most.

Mila Mulroney was Milan-chic in palest pink and grey, accented by a grouping of sensational silver bracelets.

Noted were Westmounters **Jacqueline Desmarais, Brenda and John Norris, Carole and Yves Fortier, Michael Vineberg, Bruce Kent, Bette Lou and Ross Reade, Sondra Polanghio, Constance Médalsy**, ("just back from London"), **Ronnie Gandell** and **Leo Kolber** ("just leaving for Palm Beach").

Also seen amidst the smoked salmon and delicious hors d'oeuvres were former Westmount mayor **Brian Gallery** and his wife **Nancy, Maxime Bernier, Vivian and Francis Fox, Ian MacDonald, Hélène Holden** and **David Cape**.



Author Camilla Gibb with Westmounters Brian and Mila Mulroney



Judge Keith Ham and Ross Reade

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Goldbloom wins the Speirs

continued from p. 10

through some of its most challenging times, including allegations of sexual abuse by former teachers.

Regarding his role in the school's "crisis management," Goldbloom acknowledged helping guide the school leadership in "the most trying circumstances, and you couldn't ask for a more dedicated, talented and professional group of people."

Over the course of his career, Goldbloom has served as a special assistant to a federal cabinet minister, a senior advisor

to the president of Canada Post, and president of Phone Market, which is a subsidiary of the Quebec supermarket chain Provigo. In 2006, he managed the campaign of federal Liberal Party leadership hopeful Bob Rae.

Goldbloom is also given credit for leading the successful 2005 campaign to keep the Shriners' Hospital in Montreal. Before launching his own public relations firm, Jonathan Goldbloom & Associates Strategic Relations, three years ago, Goldbloom was vice president and general manager of Optimum Public Relations.



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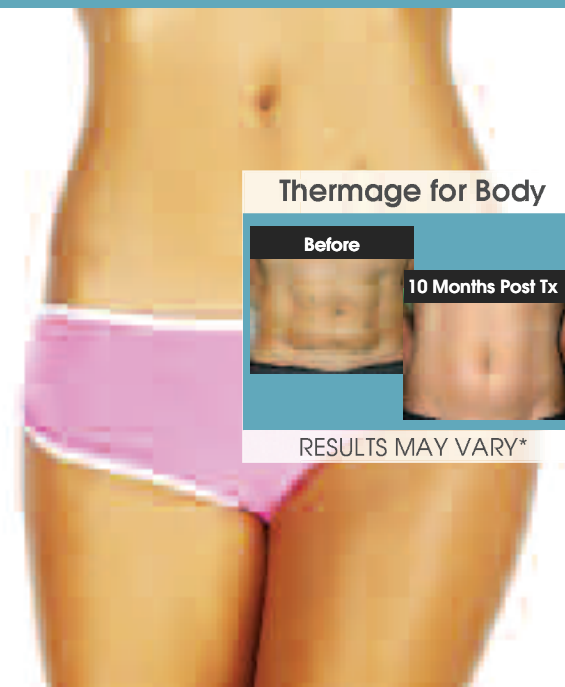
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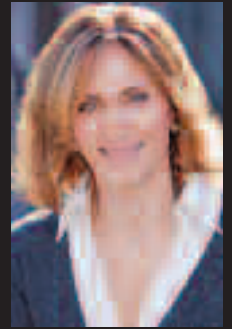
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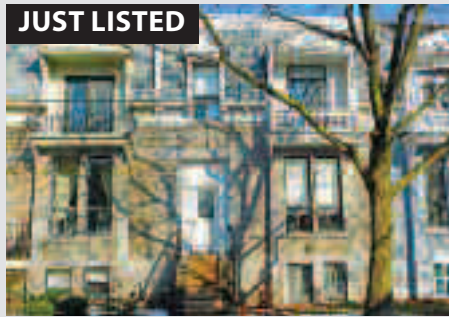
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Westmount 4308 Montrose Avenue..... Asked \$1,299,000
Westmount 50 Chesterfield Avenue..... Asked \$875,000
Westmount 486 Argyle Avenue Asked \$5,300 mo

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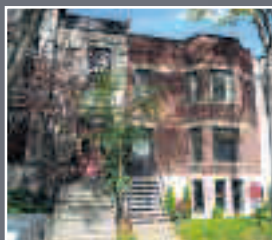
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Shaar Hashomayim and MADA team up for babies



The Foundation School, part of Congregation Shaar Hashomayim and located on Kensington Ave., teamed up with the MADA Community Centre on November 30 for a collection of gently used baby items for young Jewish Montreal families in need. MADA does a yearly toy drive with several schools, however this was the first joint drive for baby supplies. Seen here from left are the event's coordinator and Renee Baltuch, Shaar Hashomayim associate rabbi Yonah Berman, and congregation ritual director David Woolfson. Foundation School Day Care Centre is a trilingual Jewish pre-school. MADA Community Centre is a kosher soup kitchen and food bank.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

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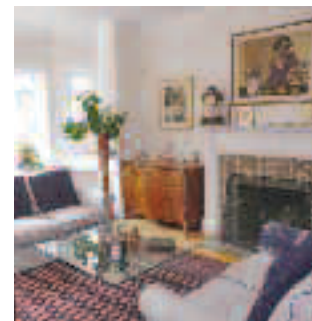
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Leith launches 'in the time of nationalism'



Linda Leith (green blouse) launched her most recent book *Writing in the Time of Nationalism*, from *Two Solitudes* to *Blue Metropolis* at Nicolas Hoare Books on Greene Ave. the evening of December 2. Nicolas Hoare (right) welcomed almost 50 fans of Leith, who recently adopted Westmount as her home.

Photo: Ralph Thompson

Morton takes Pierre Berton award for history teaching

Last month, a Strathcona Ave. resident was recognized by the Governor General of Canada with an award for excellence in teaching Canadian history.



Desmond Morton, a retired McGill history professor and author of more than 40 books on military, political and labour history in Canada, won the Pierre Berton Award. The award recognizes excellence in popularizing history in the public media.

These annual awards, which acknowledge teachers across the nation, were established in 1996 by Canada's National History Society.

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Westmount's share of aggro costs jumps 3.89 percent

continued from p. 1

new property assessment roll.

Despite the aggro hikes, Trent said, "We have to keep in mind if it weren't for the new car tax, Westmount property owners would be paying even more."

This new tax of \$45 per car will add \$18.5 million to aggro revenues calculated over half a year for 2011, he added. The aggro budget assumes Quebec will give the demerged suburbs the same powers as Montreal to levy the car tax.

The 2011 aggro budget of \$2.46 billion rose 7 percent. This was more than double the 2.5 percent inflation rate.

"Furious" with the amount of aggro increases Trent said he reminded Montreal

mayor Gérald Tremblay at the tabling of the budget how its expenses had exceeded the guidelines recommended by the Association of Suburban Municipalities (ASM).

These had been adopted by Montreal in June to limit increases at 1 percent above the 2.5 percent cost of living. His work to prepare the guidelines and achieve their adoption as part of the Montreal/agglo budget committee had consumed hours of time, he said. "And guess what?"

Agglo expenses double

Tremblay's reply, Trent said, was that his hands were tied by the pension fund deficit. "Well, he knew that in June," Trent explained.

Employee costs are key to the aggro in-

creases that are largely driven by salaries and benefits associated with police and firefighters, he said. Both these forces are island-wide services shared by Montreal and the 15 demerged island suburbs.

He calculated the cost of the average salary with benefits of Montreal employees at \$103,000, or 30 percent higher than other public service workers.

"I formally asked Tremblay to go to Quebec City with me out of concern for the level of employee salaries and benefits. He said he would. Someone has to do something."

Figures released with the tabling of 2011 aggro budget, Trent said, list Westmount's overall share for next year at \$48.1 million based on some \$46.3 in

2010 (an increase of 3.89 percent). These include the cost of water.

Down from 2010

Nevertheless, this increase represents a considerable drop from last year's 7.5-percent hike. It is also less than the overall aggro increase for the demerged suburbs of 4.83 percent. Montreal West has the lowest increase at 2.83 percent. Dorval has the highest at 9.80 percent.

Trent said that considering the new three-year island-wide assessment roll deposited in September, he expected Westmount's aggro share to be even lower. The ASM has written to Quebec to try to demystify the way individual shared costs are now apportioned under Bill 22.

"We simply don't understand the formula," he said.



Ville de Westmount
City of Westmount



BUDGET 2011

PROGRAMME TRIENNAL D'IMMOBILISATIONS 2011/2012/2013

AVIS PUBLIC est par les présentes donné par le soussigné, greffier de la Ville de Westmount :

QUE le budget de la Ville de Westmount pour l'exercice financier 2011, ainsi que le programme triennal d'immobilisations pour les exercices financiers 2011, 2012 et 2013 seront déposés pour adoption à une séance extraordinaire du conseil municipal de la Ville de Westmount qui se tiendra le lundi 20 décembre 2010 à 20h05 dans la salle du conseil de l'hôtel de ville, situé au 4333, rue Sherbrooke Ouest, Westmount; et

QUE, lors de cette séance spéciale, les délibérations du conseil et la période de questions porteront exclusivement sur le budget et le programme triennal d'immobilisations.

DONNÉ à Westmount, ce 7^e jour de décembre 2010.

BUDGET 2011

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAMME 2011/2012/2013

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given by the undersigned, City Clerk of the City of Westmount:

THAT the budget of the City of Westmount for the fiscal year 2011, and the three-year capital expenditure programme for the fiscal years 2011, 2012 and 2013 will be tabled for adoption at a special sitting of the Municipal Council of the City of Westmount to be held on Monday, December 20, 2010, at 8:05 p.m., in the Council Chamber of the City Hall, located at 4333 Sherbrooke Street West, Westmount, and

THAT, at said special sitting, the deliberations of the Council and the question period shall deal exclusively with the budget and the three-year capital expenditure programme.

GIVEN at Westmount this 7th day of December 2010.

Mario GERBEAU
Greffier de la Ville / City Clerk

Impact of aggro budget at a glance

	2010	2011
Westmount	\$40.0M*	TBD
Total aggro share **	\$46.3M	\$48.1M
Total	\$86.3M	TBD

* Includes Westmount's costs to provide local services plus \$.9 million share to Montreal Metropolitan Community (MMC).

** For island-wide shared services, such as police, fire and public transit plus water.

Resident's quick action helps PSO find graffiti trio

A vigilant resident called the Public Security Unit on Sunday afternoon, November 21, to report someone defacing a mail box at Academy Rd. and Park Place.

Officials said the witness was able to provide a good description of the youth and two others with him. This included clothing and the direction in which they left. A public safety officer managed to track down, intercept and keep the trio on the scene until police arrived.

One was found in possession of a black paint marker used to tag the mail box.

"It shows how important it is for people to report graffiti and provide a good description," said Sgt. Kim Colquhoun. This is one of the city's key points in its campaign against graffiti.

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Mazon raises funds for the hungry through indoor food 'marché'



From left, Kathy Cohen, Sara Heppner-Waldston (co-chair), Dalia Waldston, Adele Marshall-Shapiro, Marjorie Kirsch-Heft (co-chair) and Jayne Schneider-Lisak.

Photo: Independent

Local volunteers for Mazon Canada held a fundraising event "Marché Mazon" on November 23 at the Congregation Shaar Hashomayim synagogue. A reproduction of a small food market, guests could stroll along "streets," sampling food from several Montreal kosher caterers and witness demonstrations on carving, flower arranging, decorative food or participate in a silent auction.

About \$175,000 had been raised as of November 26, according to co-chair Sara Heppner-Waldston, who said the amount would cover meals for close to 100,000 people.

Mazon Canada is a national non-profit organization that raises money to help alleviate hunger. Mazon helps feed hungry people, including the impoverished, the aged, those living in shelters and hungry children who rely on school breakfast or lunch programs.

Volunteering in and around Westmount

CHSLD St. Andrew's, Father Dowd & St. Margaret's is looking for volunteers for evening activities (5:45 pm to 6:45 pm) on Tuesdays to lead knitting/crochet activities or Thursdays for "spa evenings" (manicures/massages). Please contact Tania Hayduk at 514.932.3630, ext 3018.

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Bon Appétit

Hummus

Hummus is one of the more popular Middle Eastern dips. Served with fresh or toasted pita bread, hummus makes for a great snack or appetizer.

Tahini is an essential part of the hummus recipe. It adds flavour and requisite smooth texture.

Preparation time is 10 minutes.

Ingredients

One 16 oz. can of chick peas or garbanzo beans
 ¼ cup liquid from can of chickpeas
 1 garlic clove
 ½ tsp. salt
 5 tbsp. tahini paste
 3 – 5 tbsp. fresh lemon juice, or to taste.

Preparation

Drain chickpeas and set aside liquid from can.

Combine remaining ingredients in blender or food processor.

Add 1/4 cup of liquid from chickpeas.

Blend for 3 to 5 minutes on low until thoroughly mixed and smooth.

Place in serving bowl and create a shallow well in the center of the hummus.

Add a small amount (1-2 tbsp.) of olive oil in the well.

Garnish with parsley (optional).

Serve immediately with fresh, warm or toasted pita bread, or cover and refrigerate.

Variation

For a spicier hummus, add a sliced red chile or a dash of cayenne pepper.

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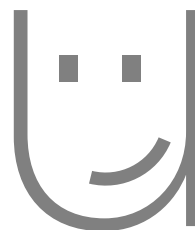
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Appeal court finds tree death of Rossy not a car accident

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The Quebec Court of Appeal has cleared the way for a possible claim against Westmount by the family of a man killed when the car he was driving was struck by a city tree more than four years ago on Côte des Neiges Rd.

The appeals court ruling November 22 overturned one two years ago by Quebec Superior Court that dismissed a \$1.3-million claim against the city by the family of Gabriel Anthony Rossy on grounds it had involved an automobile accident. This would limit liability to that available through Quebec's no-fault system of automobile insurance.

The family alleged the city had not properly maintained the tree, described in court papers as an "imposing" 25 meters high and 71 centimeters in diameter.

In the recent appeal, however, the court upheld the arguments of lawyer Julius Grey (a Westmount resident) that the incident did not qualify as an auto accident.

Rather, it concluded, the 27-year-old victim could have been hit by the tree had he been a pedestrian, cyclist or rollerblader.

Assistant city clerk Nancy Gagnon said the city's insurance covers this type of claim, and it is the insurer's lawyer who was handling the matter. "Right now they're deciding whether or not to appeal it to the Supreme Court," she said.

Rossy had been driving alongside Westmount mountain on August 1, 2006 during a severe storm when the tree fell. A resident of Town of Mount Royal, he was a graduate of LCC (see story October 8, 2008, p. 3).

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Chico thinks he's the man



Underdog

MARY LAMEY

The woman surrendering the miniature pinscher to Sophie's Dog Adoption mentioned a funny thing in passing. The little guy must think he was human because he liked to walk on two legs.

It didn't take long for Sophie to see what she meant. Chico walked upright as he strained at the end of his leash all the way to her car.

"He was going to walk me," Sophie said. "Typical min-pin, he thought he was the boss."

Chico, 18 months, is a looking for a home where he will be reminded that he isn't the boss. He needs structure and limits. No pulling, no lunging and no acting like the big alpha male by baring his teeth.

Some might say Chico is overcompensating for his small size, but the truth is, he's developed an unruly character because he's been passed around too often. His first family got him from an online ad from a backyard breeder. They didn't have time to raise him up right. At the age of one he ended up with Sophie.

He's great with kids and plays well with

other dogs. He simply needs to work on his manners. He's as bright as a penny and was coming along fine in a foster home, but the foster owner was hospitalized and couldn't keep him anymore. Sophie continues to tame his bossy nature.

Chico is crate-trained, house-trained and has had all his vaccinations. Could this handsome little big man be the dog for you? Contact Sophie directly at 514.523.5052. If you would like to find out about other good dogs needing homes, visit www.underdogclub.org, send an email to contact@underdogclub.org or



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Happy and re-homed in Westmount – a tale of mother/son shi-tzus

By LAUREN O'LOUGHLIN

In the September 28 issue of the Independent (p. 13) the Underdog column featured the touching story of two shi-tzu-bichons, Clementine and son Toxon, who had been brought to the SPCA emergency shelter after their elderly owner passed away. One month after they lost their home, the dogs have been happily re-homed – together – in Westmount.

Johanne and Randy Yates have lived on Strathcona Ave. for the past nine years. They have opened their home to Clementine and Toxon, now also known as Tucker.

The couple first spotted the dogs in the Independent and got in touch with Marilyn Gelfand at the emergency shelter. After visiting the dogs, both Johanne and Randy were smitten. "They're great little dogs and very well trained," said Johanne.

The Yates had been dog owners for over 14 years; after their last dog passed away they waited six years to finally get a new dog – in this case two new dogs. "After the kids left home, I missed not having a dog around," said Johanne.

Clementine and Tucker (Toxon) are an ideal match for the Yates; "my husband and I both work, the two of them are smaller dogs and they keep each other company while we are away."

When asked about the health of the two dogs in relation to their age (Clementine is 10 years old and Tucker is 8) Johanne replied; "we weren't quite sure what to expect...but they are quite energetic and healthy."

They were initially a little nervous of their new surroundings. "It took them about a month to get used to the new house," Johanne said.

The rescue shelter had wanted to keep them together, which would normally have made it more difficult to find an adopter



Living it up in their new home in Westmount, the once underdogs Clementine and Toxon take a nap on the couch.

Photo courtesy of the Yates family

willing to take two dogs at once, however the Yates stepped up, and the two furry additions to the family have settled in well.



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Castro and Tigrou waiting for a place by the hearth this winter



9 Lives

LYZANNE

Castro

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everyone. He is also a big fellow – nice and cuddly!

Castro is three years old and perfectly healthy. He has had all his shots, sterilized, declawed on his front paws, which makes him an indoor-only cat.

He is being fostered now and it would be perfect if he could have a home this winter, so he can fall into a family routine.

For more information on Castro, please contact Cindy at the SPCA Montérégie at 514. 386.5960 or to info@spcamonteregie.com.



Castro

Tigrou

Tigrou is an adorable 3-year old black and white short-haired fellow that has lucky extra toes.



Tigrou

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Tigrou was left at the SPCA Montérégie when his owners separated. Shelter workers say he is more than ready for a new family. He is very healthy, has all his shots and has been sterilized.

The SPCA Montérégie cattery is open every day from 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm. They are located at 178 chemin du Vide in St. Angèle de *continued on p. 23*

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Other

Prenez avis que la compagnie 9139-1235 Quebec Inc. Ayant son siège au 5015 Des Cageux, Pierrefonds, Quebec, H9J 3C2 a l'intention de demander sa dissolution au registraire des entreprises et, à cet effet, produit la présente déclaration.

ON THE SHELVES

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

Magazines

“The best business schools 2010: Working through the post-crash hangover, B-schools put new emphasis on job placement – and some hard lessons learned,” by Geoff Gloeckler in *Bloomberg Businessweek*, November 15-21, 2010, p. 77.

“Master of the brand: Bernard Arnault: LVMH is betting big on the developing world. Will Dior and Vuitton play in Mongolia and Vietnam?” by Susan Adams and Hannah Elliott in *Forbes*, November 22, 2010, p. 62.

“Adieu chèques, cartes, billets de banque...Des géants de la finance, du sans-fils, des technos et du Web s'apprentent à transformer votre téléphone portable en un portefeuille électronique. Est-ce la fin d'une époque?” by Annick Poitras in *L'actualité*, November 1, 2010, p. 24.

Adult English – Italy inspired...

Caravaggio: a life sacred and profane by Andrew Graham-Dixon – A dramatic portrayal of the turbulent world of late 16th century Italy and the life and art of Caravaggio, the most tormented of the great painters.

Venice: pure city by Peter Ackroyd – The author takes us on a glorious journey of the history of Venice, and its people, from its origins to the present day to its future.

Adult French – Crimes and misdemeanors

Alain Lacoursière, le Columbo de l'art by Sylvain Larocque – Lacoursière was a police officer for 25 years. Early in his career, he started to use unconventional methods to capture criminals and was not above manipulating the media to augment his fame. He eventually studied art and became one of the few law enforcement officials specialized in art theft and forgery.

Mafia inc.: grandeur et misère du clan si-

9 Lives

continued from p. 22

Monnoir (exit 37 on autoroute 10). For information, contact 514.386.5960 or info@spcamonteregie.com.

As part of their fundraising activities, the shelter is having a pet photo-op for \$5, and a pet nail clipping service for \$3, as well as raffle tickets (one has a free grooming session). They are also accepting do-

cilien au Québec by André Cédilot and André Noël – The authors describe how the Rizzuto clan toppled their rivals in the '70s and went on to build from their Montreal base one of the most powerful criminal empires in North America. However, with a recent series of high-profile murders happening within their ranks, the future of this organization is up in the air.

Picture books for children

Wonder Horse: The True Story of the World's Smartest Horse by Emily Arnold McCully – Bill “Doc” Key, a former slave who became a successful businessman and a veterinarian, believes that all animals must be treated with kindness. When the young foal Jim tries to do everything his owner does, Doc decides to teach him how to spell, recognize colours and even count!

La chanson de Petit Loup by Britta Teckentrup – Petit Loup is like every other wolf except for one thing: he cannot howl. When his siblings make fun of him, he wanders away from home and gets lost in the forest. How will he let his family know where he is?

Books on CD

Earth: A Visitor's Guide to the Human Race by Jon Stewart – The anchor of The Daily Show presents a hilarious guide to the human race.

Fall of Giants by Ken Follett – This historical epic follows the fates of five inter-related families – American, German, Russian, English, and Welsh – as they move through the world-shaking dramas of the First World War, the Russian Revolution and the struggle for women's suffrage.

Reference

Canadian Art Sales Index 2010
Tax Planning For You and Your Family 2011

nations of canned goods for animals, cleaning supplies, etc.

A 2011 calendar, full of photographs of cats and dogs, can be bought for \$10 at local shops, including Little Bear, Copie Resolutions, Pawtisserie, and just west of Westmount at Animal Health Clinic, K9, Pet Spa and Monkland Animal Hospital.

Your neighbour, Lyzanne

Drawing by Laura S. Cohendet

Victoria Park launches new women's health program

BY LAUREN O'LOUGHLIN

A new women's health program started by Victoria Park this November offers patients a customised medical exam that includes a Pap test, blood and urine analysis, electrocardiogram, thyroid screening and a follow-up consultation to discuss the results.

The medispa, spa and health, as described by its website, offers additional health services that can be added to this program according to the patient's requirements. The aim of the program is to help healthy women “to assess where they are and make improvements,” explained marketing coordinator Kimberley Marx. Marx and Dr. Eva Pordan, a dermatologist and GP, who has focussed on women's health issues, conceived and piloted the new program together.

At the follow-up consultation two weeks after the initial exam, patients are given a four-page report outlining results and the doctor's recommendations. Support ranging from referrals, to prescriptions to

lifestyle changes are provided by the staff at Victoria Park, located at 376 Victoria. The cost of the program is \$595, excluding tax for Medicare card holders.

ReMax brokers asking for gifts for kids

Tania Kalecheff, a Westmount resident and real estate broker with REMAX Westmount, and Chelsea Lax, also a REMAX Westmount broker, are asking the community to donate money or toys.

With the cash donations they receive, the two plan to go shopping and buy and wrap new toys. They then plan on delivering the gifts to Sun Youth or another charity that serves needy children. They suggest a donation of \$20 or more. The office is located at 1314 Greene Ave.

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School lesson in the Turcot Exchange?



At Second Glance

HEATHER BLACK

Innovation is the word of the day – in engineering and in business. Yet despite government efforts, women – by not entering the engineering fields – are missing an opportunity to affect our communities and the future.

Numbers tell the story

On November 15, Rona Ambrose, minister of Public Works and Government Services, and minister for the Status of Women, announced a grant of \$180,000 to WinSETT (Women in Science, Engineering, Trades and Technology). It is an important initiative to promote women in leadership roles, and the federal government has in recent years doubled funding in this area to \$19 million.

Yet the number of Canadian women studying engineering is declining from 21 percent in 2001 to 17 percent in 2009. According to the Ottawa-based Engineers Canada, today only 10 percent of licensed engineers are women. So why don't more young women study engineering?

A 2009 Engineers Canada survey of high school students found that many girls equate engineering with construction and working in a cubicle with computers and machines rather than with people. University of British Columbia dean Ty-

seer Aboulnasr states in a recent *Globe and Mail* article: "Collectively, we (the profession) have focused too much on the technology side, on building things... Somehow we lost the message that engineering can improve people's lives."

To entice more young women into engineering, a public service component where students designed orthopedic shoes for a disabled woman was added to UBC's curriculum. Engineering schools have also increased the number of female faculty members to serve as role models.

Mentorship will also attract more young women to the profession. This year "Go ENG Girl" supported by Ontario's engineering faculties and the Ontario Network of Women attracted over 1,000 7th to 10th graders.

With public and private initiatives, young women are more frequently studying biosystems, environmental and chemical engineering – fields where they can clearly see how their work makes a difference.

In my backyard!

Take the Turcot interchange project for example. This is a project that impacts all Westmounters, young and old. A new video of the proposed project shows areas of new development, more public transport and improved car circulation. But there are questions if not lessons here.

What about public transit or green space? Does the location of the two transit lanes between the main east-west roadways affect safety? And what is the impact

Comin' Up

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8

• **The Montreal Children's Library** celebrates 30 years at the Atwater Library and 40 years at Richmond Square. Admission is free; guests are encouraged to bring a new or gently used children's book. Raffle prizes, food and drink, live music. 5080-A St. Ambroise, 5 to 7 pm.

• RBC Westmount Square employees will be **gift wrapping** at Place Alexis Nihon to raise funds for the Montreal Children's Foundation, 10 am to 2 pm. Also on Friday, November 10 from 2 pm to 5 pm.

• Centre de Musique FortePiano's **student concert** at Westmount Park United Church, 4695 de Maisonneuve, 5:30 pm. Featuring mainly children between 3 and 10 years old. Free. Info: 514.504.7899.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9

• **Centre Greene's annual general meeting**, 7 pm. All welcome. Info: 514.931.6202 or www.centregreene.org.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10

Dramatis Personae performs "Playthings at the Library" – five short light-hearted plays, Westmount Library, 7 pm and December 11 at 3 pm. Admission by donation. Info: 514.486.7423.

of the green park along the escarpment? Do you think you will use it?

Moreover, some aspects like the Atwater corridor between René Lévesque and St. Patrick are still under study. As this decision impacts Westmount directly, what are the projected rates of car circulation and how much will the proposed sound barrier help?

New lesson plans

So do your part to interest both your sons and daughters. How? Pull up a chair and have a chat, watch the new four-minute video or download the plans (www.turcot.gouv.qc.ca). It just may affect all of our futures!

Heather Black is a Westmount communications designer. If you have an innovative science program at your school that you'd like to share, contact her at: blackheajea@gmail.com.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11

• Launch of *Into the Mist: The Story of the Empress of Ireland* by **Anne Renaud**, 2 pm at Babar en Ville, 1235 Greene Ave. For readers aged 9 and over.

• Women's choir **Vox Lumina** presents "The Great White North" at St. Stephen's Church, 4006 Dorchester Ave., 7:30 pm. Cost: \$10 Info: sing.with.the.vox@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15

• **Seniors' Christmas lunch** at Centre Greene. Three-course, home-cooked meal, 12:15 pm. Cost: \$5. Reserve: 514.931.6202.

• Author Mary Soderstrom leads the Atwater Library Book Club in a discussion of *The Bishop's Man* by Linden McIntyre, 7:30 pm, Atwater Library. Info: 514.935.7344.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16

• The Westmount Historical Association presents Caroline Breslaw on "Victoria & Sherbrooke: Three Banks and a Liquor Store," 7 to 9 pm at the Westmount Public Library. Free for members; guests \$5 at door. Info: 514.989.5510.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17

• **Human rights Shabbat** at Temple Emanu-El Beth Sholom, 8:15 pm, with speaker Tarek Fatah, author of *The Jew Is Not My Enemy* and founder of the Canadian Muslim Congress. All welcome. Info: 514.937.3575.

• Peter Duffield, Bill Brownstein, William Weintraub and Charles Foran "Celebrate *Barney's Version*" at the Westmount Public Library, 7 pm, in anticipation of the film on Mordecai Richler's novel. Info: Donna Lach, 514.989.5386. Free tickets available at the circulation desk.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18

• The **Orpheus Singers** present "Natale!" an Italian Renaissance Christmas at St. Matthias' Church, 131 Côte St. Antoine, 8 pm. Cost: \$18 adults (\$20 at door); Seniors and students \$10 (\$12 at door). Info: 514.846.8464.

• The **McGill Suzuki Group** presents its Christmas/Hannukah concert at the Westmount Baptist Church, 411 Roslyn Ave., 4 pm. Children aged 3 and up. Free.



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Opinion

Rothman's 33 years as school board commissioner a true contribution

BY GINETTE SAUVÉ-FRANKEL

It was my privilege and honour to introduce Joan Rothman at the 2010 Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) awards ceremony. And I would like to set the record straight on why Mrs. Rothman has received the QESBA Award of Merit. (See "Rothman receives award of merit from Quebec school board association," November 16, p. 19).

Yes, she was an EMSB commissioner when she retired, but her 33 years as a commissioner spanned three schools boards: the Westmount School Board, the PSBGM and the EMSB. And although 33 years of service is a remarkable accomplishment in itself, that is not part of the criteria for this award.

As stated in the QESBA constitution, the Award of Merit may be awarded to "any person who has served on a member school board, because of his extraordinary contribution to the educational system over any period."

Joan's contribution started before she ever got elected as a school commissioner,

when she was a parent with children attending Roslyn Elementary. In the early 1960s, she led a group of Westmount parents to develop an extracurricular French immersion program at Roslyn.

She fought hard and became a Westmount School Board Commissioner to get this program accepted as an official curriculum and continued the fight with the PSBGM. She had a mission to bring French immersion not only to Montreal schools but also to other areas. Through her work with Canadian Parents for French, this program became a model of immersion for schools across Canada.

That alone is a contribution worthy of QESBA's attention. But Joan's involvement with education did not stop there. At the Island Council, precursor to the Comité de gestion de la taxe scolaire de l'Île de Montréal, she led the Rothman Committee in a study of poverty that brought the council to establish the poverty map for the island of Montreal and to address the learning ability of children from the poorest areas with an array of meas-

continued on p. 26



Joan Rothman, November 6, when she received her QESBA award of merit.

Photo: Robert J. Galbraith

Grandmothers' cookbook to benefit Stephen Lewis Foundation



From left, Nina Minde, Louise Hegenbarth, Margaret Kamester and Sheila Denton – all Westmount members of the Westhill Grandmothers group – pose with their Our Favourite African Recipes cookbook at Hogg Hardware on December 3. The book is being sold at the Victoria and Sherbrooke store for \$20 to benefit the Stephen Lewis Foundation's Grandmothers to Grandmothers campaign in Africa.

Photo: Independent

Swedish king, governor general and Westmounters toast Scouting

King Carl XVI of Sweden was in Ottawa for a large Scouting event held over the October 16 weekend – and Westmount was well represented there too.

The king is the honorary president of the World Scout Foundation and among his duties over the four-day event were presenting awards and recognizing Canada's 121 new Baden-Powell fellows who have each contributed \$10,000 to the Scouting foundation.

(The \$1,000 for the 40 youth fellows was paid by World Scout Foundation board member David Huestis. They have the option to pay the \$9,000 balance at age 35 to become full fellows.)

Among the attendees of special interest to Westmounters were former Westmounter John Peacock, president of Westmount district from 1980 to 1985; Westmounter Richard Hart, former Beaver and Cub Leader at 1st Westmount and Westmounter Bill Eakin, former Cub leader at 1st Westmount.

According to attendee and Westmounter Maggie Shaddick, the king dressed in blue jeans, a Scout shirt and a neckerchief as he gave the left-handed Scout handshake to award recipients. He

dressed more formally at the gala enrolling the new fellows.

She told the *Independent*, "The event raised \$3 million for the World Scout Foundation and was the largest event yet, with the most new fellows. The American fellows attending were amazed and challenged."



Adrienne and John Peacock at the October 16 Scouting gala in Ottawa.

The king was aided in his duties by Governor General David Johnston, patron of Scouts Canada, also a former Westmounter.

Shaddick honoured



Quebec Scouting commissioner Glen Bradley, Quebec youth commissioner Charlie Brenchley, Maggie Shaddick and Scouts Canada governor Christopher von Roretz. Shaddick was being honoured for 45 years in Scouting November 13 at Scout Centre in Dorval.

Photo: Maggie Shaddick

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Unusual collectibles are Roz Sager's stock in trade at RCA

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Anyone out there have an interest in quack medical devices? Roz Sager has a deal for you.

During a recent visit to the de Maison-neuve Blvd. resident's retail outlet at the old RCA Victor complex in St. Henri, an especially interesting item, nestled amidst the esoterica that are her stock in trade, caught the attention of the *Independent*.

The Apollo Medical Apparatus, according to an instruction sheet pasted under the wooden lid of this archaic-looking de-

vice, was apparently very popular with some people during the 1920s, 30s and 40s.

It was used for treating a range of physical complaints with small bursts of electricity as prescribed by a quack doctor, or even self-administered. Sager will part with it for \$100.

Sager's reputation for spotting the unusual and eye-catching collectibles is such that she's become the one to whom many dealers and flea market vendors in the Montreal region go to when they're shopping for stock.

"It has to be interesting to me," she said. Her collection includes all kinds of children's toys, old store signs, musical instruments, commercial displays, as well as medical and dental instruments that have become obsolete.

A former flea market vendor herself, Sager's been throwing her energy into her collectibles business since putting aside her other pursuit as an artist about a dozen years ago. "I sell mostly to dealers because my prices are very good, and everything is negotiable."

In addition to her collectibles shop located at 1001 Lenoir St., suite 232, Sager reads palms and Tarot cards, although she never accepts money for it. "I'm a witch," she said during the interview, adding that she was approached by the producers of a TV show about 30 years ago to appear as



Roz Sager and her unusual collection of collectibles, which she sells from her retail outlet at the old RCA Victor complex in St. Henri.

the "white witch of Westmount," although she refused. "I don't want to be labeled,

but I guess I am," she said.

Rothman

continued from p. 25

ures: food programs, smaller classes, different learning approaches, nutritionists, et cetera.

Joan Rothman's contributions are at the heart of two of the most important changes in Quebec schools of the past decades. These are the main reasons why Joan Rothman received the QESBA Award of Merit. Her peers and her colleagues re-

member her for her dedication, her commitment to education and children's rights, her innovative ideas, her compassion.

What a legacy! Joan, for the thousands of children you have touched with your initiatives, we thank you.

Ginette Sauvé-Frankel is a school commissioner on the English Montreal School Board for Westmount.

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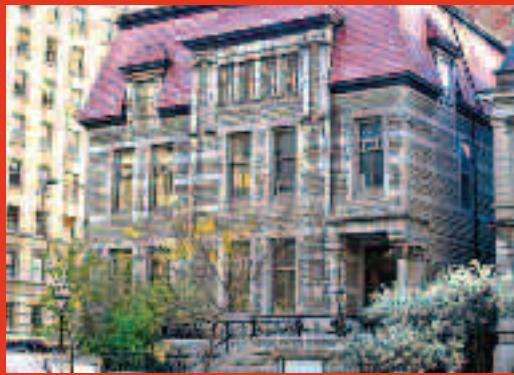
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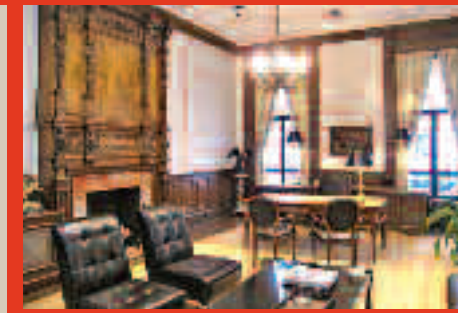
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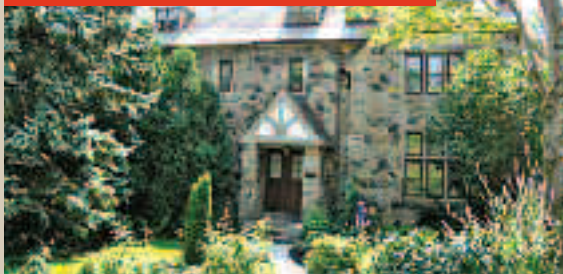


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This holiday season, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all my clients and colleagues who contributed to my success in 2010. Happy Holidays and Happy New Year.

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