

New 'compromise' found over evening swim time, pool opens May 30

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount's pool schedule has been tweaked again this year to try to satisfy longstanding requests by two user groups – adults as well as families with young children – vying for the coveted time slot around 6 pm and 7 pm, the *Independent* learned last week.

The pool opens Monday, May 30.

Based on a survey of users at the end of last season in which the numbers were evenly split between the groups, a "com-

promise" solution is being introduced, said Sports and Recreation director Dave La-pointe.

The new schedule gives adults exclusive use of the pool and deck between 6:30 pm and 7:15 pm on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Families will be able to swim at that time on Monday and Wednesday when three lanes are to be roped off for lap-swimmers. The times take effect June 27 at the start of the regular summer season.

"We're trying to be fair to everyone," La-pointe said May 16, as the pool was starting to be filled.

Unchanged, however, *continued on p. 7*



Director Ian Lebofsky leads the Interlink choir through a number during its annual concert held in the Westmount Park School auditorium on May 19. See p. 3.

Photo: Martin C. Barry



Westmount Page p. 8

Letters p. 4

Social Notes BY V. REDGRAVE p. 10

Undercover PSO's sent to Summit Woods after indecent exposure

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Additional public safety officers – some in unmarked cars and out of uniform – began patrolling the area of Summit Woods last week after the report May 12 of a man exposing himself indecently on two occasions that morning, Public Security officials said.

The suspect was described as aged about 35, having dark skin, shoulder-length dreadlocks and wearing a black jacket, black cap, white shirt and jeans.

"Unfortunately, the incident wasn't reported until later that afternoon," said Public Security director Greg McBain. "In such

a situation, a report should be filed with police immediately. In this case, when the man was seen twice, we might have been able to intervene if we'd known."

He said the complainant subsequently filed a police report. She was a bird-watching resident of Ridgewood.

The woman stated she had first seen the man on a path at about 7:30 am. She immediately went to the lookout. She returned to the woods later and saw him a second time talking on a phone. She told the *Independent* there were dog walkers and workers picking up branches at that time.

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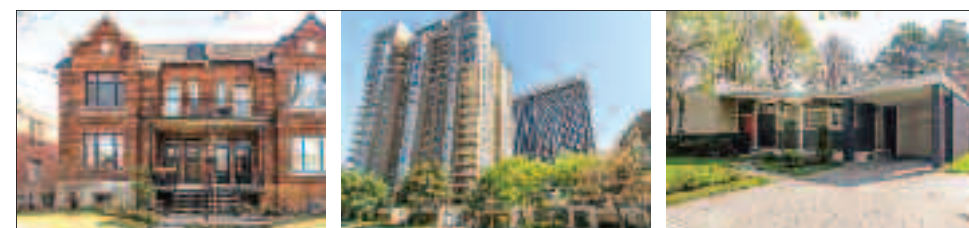
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Dramatis plays Vidal, Stoppard works May 27 through 30



Members of Dramatis Personae rehearse their upcoming play *Visit to a Small Planet* on May 16 at Victoria Hall. From left: Malcolm McRae, Karen Sauder and Ann Elbourne.

BY JOANNE PENHALE

Politics meet extra-terrestrial life at Victoria Hall at the end of this month when Westmount's community theatre group performs *Visit to a Small Planet* by Gore Vidal.

"The extra-terrestrial wants to stir up wars on Earth because she thinks it would be fun," said Ann Elbourne, a Dramatis Personae coordinator, producer and actor. She described how the human characters in the play try to ensure peace. "Gore Vidal was a very political person."

The troupe will open each performance with Tom Stoppard's *The Fifteen Minute Hamlet*. "It really is 15 minutes," Elbourne said, adding the concise version of the best known parts of Shakespeare's *Hamlet* is very funny.

Directed by Christopher Moore, mem-

bers of Dramatis Personae will perform Friday, May 27 and Saturday, May 28 at 7:30 pm, Sunday, May 29 at 2 pm and 5 pm, and Monday, May 30 at 8 pm at Victoria Hall. For more information: 514.989.5226 and theatrewestmount.com.

Homeless woman helped by patroller

During a patrol May 17 at 1:41 am, a public safety officer noticed a homeless woman lying on the street at St. Catherine and Atwater, screaming. Public Security officials said she was complaining of having been hit in the head in a previous event and had a pain in the stomach. When Urgences Santé arrived and examined her, she pulled up her sweater to reveal a damaged colostomy bag and tubing.

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Traditions to be upheld at Family Day this Saturday

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Saturday's annual Family Day in Westmount Park promises to follow an age-old adage: "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

And with that in mind, Sports and Recreation director Dave Lapointe said this 41st rendition will maintain the same format and attractions as it has the past few years – with an exception being the likely introduction of some different inflatable games.

"We're just hoping for good weather," he said.

Melville, he noted, will be closed to traffic from Melbourne to de Maisonneuve.

Considered a harbinger of summer, the event takes place from 10 am to 4 pm when activities will be positioned around the Melville playing field. Among them are the Euro-bungee, the Scouts' climbing wall, pony rides for kids 10 and under, the petting zoo and carnival games.

Face painting at the gazebo

Face painting will return to the gazebo while the aerial runway and boat rides provided by the 34 Combat Engineer Regiment will be centred at the lagoon near Westmount Park Church. A bake sale by Contactivity and exhibits from community organizations will line the park pathway to

the west of Melville field.

This year, Westmount Public Library will provide information on its new seed lending library.

As well, Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier said her department would be running a children's activity to sensitize them to the concept of planning by having them cut out pictures of buildings they can stick on a map, an idea from employee Melanie Duffin.

From 9 am to 10 am, before the start of activities, the city's auction of unclaimed

bicycles and other objects will take place on the junior field at Academy Rd.

Bicycle inspections and checks of child seat installations in cars will be available onsite. They can be arranged by calling Public Security at 514.989.5367.

Food will be available from Girl Guides, Scouts and the Café Mouton Noir, located at the Westmount recreation centre.

Intergenerational choir performs its 21st concert

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Members of the Interlink choir, which brings together grade 4 students from Westmount Park School with senior citizens from Contactivity Centre, performed in the group's 21st annual concert in the Westmount Park School auditorium on May 19.

Led by choir director Ian Lebofsky with accompaniment on the piano by Steve Corber, the choir is sponsored by the school and the community seniors' centre.

Each year beginning in October, the students meet with Lebofsky to learn songs they'll be performing at the spring concert. At the same time, they exchange letters and cards with seniors who also take part in song practice sessions with Lebofsky.

Over time, the students and seniors get to know one another through their messages. In March, they meet and practise together for the first time, and in May they perform together during the Interlink choir's annual concert.

See photo, p. 1.

Westmount engineers stay on the job

Road construction sites in Westmount remained open last week when some in Montreal were reported to have been shut down over a walkout by municipal engineers who supervise the work, city officials said.

According to Westmount HR director Jocelyne Dragon, Westmount has its own

collective agreement, which is in effect until December 31 this year.

If the Montreal walkout evolves into a long one, it could have a favourable impact on work in Westmount, Public Works director Patrick Raggo suggested. Contractors would have more people to deploy to sites here.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THERE WAS A BETTER WAY

Following Mrs. Constantine's interview ("4300 lays off whole staff suddenly," May 3, p. 10) and Mrs. Whitzman's letter ("Dear 4300," May 10, p. 6), one might assume that the unjust dismissal of longstanding, highly appreciated 4300 employees was a glitch. Yet Realstar, the Toronto manager since 2000, when the building was purchased by 3630015 Canada Inc. (the BC Teachers Pension Board), has had extensive turnover here.

To cite just one category, there have been no fewer than 10 property managers in 15 years - an abysmal situation. It's my 30th year here, and it remains no small curiosity to me that the skills of the single manager who preceded Realstar were sufficient so as to remain at the helm for my first 15 years.

Regarding the 12 dismissed (door-men/woman, garage attendants and valets, excluding cleaners/office staff), if inadequate or derelict in their duties, should they not have been terminated years before? Had Realstar required their skill sets be improved, would it not have been kinder to provide training while they kept their jobs? Instead, their lives and those of

their families were shattered. The conclusion is that management did not care. However, there was a deluge of residents who complained and the current manager is off for several weeks of "personal time."

As a former co-president of the 4300 Tenants' Association (a once vital organization that launched two large, successful lawsuits against the owner), angry residents contacted me, asking what the Tenants' Association was doing.

The answer? Nothing, beyond writing "it's sad" - a typical response for the current weak, dysfunctional board, shepherded by a fearful, always ready-to-appease president.

It's regrettable that management is unresponsive and that the 4300 Tenants' Association board has its head so firmly in the sand. Faced with the board's smug complacency, a single feisty lady, Mrs. Whitzman, has taken it upon herself to try to right things. And there is much to be righted.

Last, there can be no circumstance that justifies the *Independent* publishing the views of someone who refuses to be identified, as occurred in the 4300 story. It's unacceptable and disappointing.

STEPHEN COHEN, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

LAST SNOW IS OURS!

On p. 6 of the May 10 issue (Letters), there is a picture of the last snow in Westmount.

I have always told our family that our front lawn has the last remaining snow visible in Westmount each year. Cary Kitner's photo of our garden certainly verifies this statement. Thanks for the confirmation. Hurray, the snow has finally melted and spring has arrived!

RHODA VINEBERG, FORDEN CRES.

TAKE OUT THE POSTS

Re: Roger Jochym's letter "What about the 8 and 80-year olds?" (May 10, p. 6), unlike Mr. Jochym, *I am* worried about the people who frequently use the half-kilometre connection between St. Henri and Westmount. Those people know from experience that putting posts/obstacles on that stretch of road is not a safety feature but a real danger.

In a display of a wild imagination, Mr. Jochym writes about the possibility of dooring while riding down the west side of the road, except that there is no parking from St. Catherine to St. Antoine, and in four years, I have never seen a car parked on the bicycle path. Dooring?

I suggest that if people drive to the Lachine canal, it is more a question of distance than anything else.

Again, Mr. Jochym writes about heavy vehicles - almost all of which are, in fact, STM buses, which disappear on weekends - which is about the only time that you might actually see someone aged either "8 or 80." And only when the temperature is 15°C or warmer with little chance of rain.

He then goes off on wild tangents that are irrelevant to my concerns with regard to safe riding between St. Henri and Westmount; however, I cannot let go unchallenged his advocacy for the Côte St. Catherine Rd. bike path. When I was younger and more vigorous, I often rode from Westmount via Côte St. Catherine and up Camillion Houde and back to Westmount, before and after the concrete barrier was built. There is no question that the ride after the installation of the barrier was far less pleasant than before, and whoever designed the eastern end of the path was either a complete idiot or a sadist or both.

Lastly, a few years ago on CBC radio, the famous bicycle advocate, Mikael Colville-Andersen, referred to the de Maisonneuve bike route as the type of infrastructure that had not been built in Europe for at least 15 years. Enough said.

RON DIAMOND, ST. HENRI.

CITY SHOULD SHARE DATA ON NEW BIKE LANES

The recently painted bike corridor Côte St. Antoine is a shocking testament to poor judgment. This ill-conceived exercise actually forces bikers into a path that butts up against scores of car doors without protection or buffer. I see many cyclists rightfully avoiding the path.

Upon questioning a young cyclist who was riding on the opposite side of Côte St. Antoine why he was not using the designated path, he laughed and noted that no one in their right mind would use such a dangerous route.

I have reviewed the transcripts of recent council meetings to better understand how intelligent people come to such poor decisions and was unsurprised to find that many residents have already expressed keen opposition to this venture.

In the face of such opposition, the only proffered defence from the city is that the new bike lane is only a test. Yet, the city officials have refused to provide any parameters by which they will gauge the success or failure of this "test" and have avoided providing any baseline data against which the new installation can be compared.

The shortcomings of the new bike lane are apparent to any layperson. Traffic on Côte St. Antoine is now intolerable on a daily basis, and the lane is sparsely utilized by only the most daring of cyclists due to its inherently dangerous placement.

It is all the more important that the city share its data and test criteria in a transparent manner. An unwillingness to be open about such information implies that decisions are being made in an arbitrary and discretionary manner without regard to the safety of users and the liveability of our fine neighbourhood.

Continuing to withhold such information plays the residents for fools and treats an informed opposition as a nuisance to be ignored. Nothing good can result from such a disrespectful attitude.

MARK WILTZER, FORDEN AVE.

BILINGUAL SIGNAGE NOT FAST ENOUGH

With respect to the article "City to phase in bilingual parking signs, de-clutter" (May 10, p. 1), I find Laureen Sweeney's article to be one sided, totally in favour of Mayor Peter Trent and not totally accurate. For the most part, the article dealt with parking signs but somehow Ms. Sweeney included a traffic sign from Beaconsfield.

Why not have mentioned that Hampstead, Côte St. Luc, Mont-real West, TMR and

continued on p. 5

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

We are Westmount.

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City approves tender for quality control

Quantity of construction boosts other costs

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Council approved a contract May 2 for professional services pertaining to the quality control of construction projects, environmental assessment and a range of other related Public Works projects.

Le Groupe Solroc was hired at an amount of \$43,552, taxes included, as the service provider based on an evaluation grid that assessed performance and quality as well as price.

This type of “quality control” from a service provider is not new to Westmount, according to Public Works director Patrick Raggio. But its cost has increased based on the amount of work to be undertaken this year.

Previously, at a cost under \$25,000, the city did not need to go to tender.

The increase in reconstruction and other

infrastructure work has also pushed up other costs, he explained.

The more work that is done “magnifies everything,” from personnel to the number of cars the city had to buy for supervisors visiting the sites (four new cars at the end of 2015).

Using a service provider for quality control, he said, can play an important role in the city’s preparation of tender documents. “In my opinion, their biggest impact is at the planning stage to avoid huge cost overruns.”

One recent example he said, was analyzing the amount of soil contamination existing under Westmount Ave. that would have to be treated for the current reconstruction project. This is “a fair amount,” he said, which can dramatically change the budget. You don’t want to have an unexpected surprise when you start to dig.”

Letters cont'd. from p. 6

DDO, which are also municipalities having bilingual status, have had their parking and traffic signs in both French and English for quite some time?

Mayor Trent’s sole reasoning for not having bilingual parking signs was that the legal opinions he obtained were to the effect that traffic signs and parking signs were one and the same. Seeing that the OQLF indicated that “Les affiches de stationnement ne constituent pas de la signalisation routière. Ces affiches pourraient donc être à la fois en français et dans une autre langue, avec prédominance du français,” I would have thought that Mayor Trent would have been thrilled and overjoyed with the response, and that he would have moved forward to install bilingual park-

ing signage to show respect to not only the English-speaking majority of Westmount residents but to all anglophones and allophones.

What a shame that an anglophone mayor from a municipality having bilingual status would not want to have English as visible as possible. So with all due respect to Mayor Trent, his commitment to change the parking signage when the current ones need replacement is not really a commitment at all; what in essence he is saying is: “Leave me alone.”

Mayor Trent, the time to replace the unilingual French parking signs for bilingual ones is now; it is just a matter of respect.

HAROLD STAVISS, HAMPSTEAD

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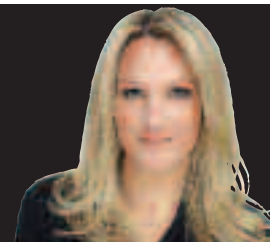
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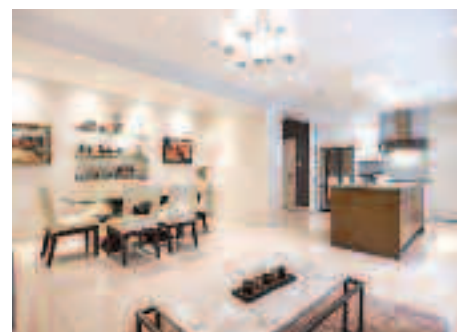
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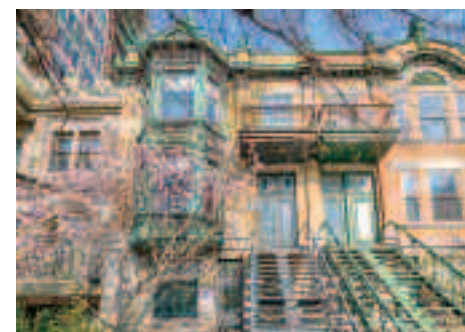
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Bids for Prince Albert, Westmount Ave. projects revealed

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The same two low bidders for Westmount's two major road reconstruction projects this year each won one of the contracts in a wide gap between these lower bidders and the higher ones. Comparative results between the bids were revealed May 2 when the contracts were awarded by council.

The contract for Prince Albert (Sherbrooke to Côte St. Antoine) was won by TGA Montreal at \$1,437,061, taxes included. For this one, the runner-up was Canbec Construction, which had quoted some six percent more at \$1,529,060.

The third and high bid of Bau-Val Inc., however, was \$1,868,740 or fully 30 percent higher than the winner.

A similar pattern regarding reconstruction of Westmount Ave. (Belmont to Victoria) also emerged, this time with Canbec tendering the low bid at \$2,864,389 and TGA the runner-up with less than a one-percent difference.

The gulf between these two and the higher bids was repeated with Bau-Val,

again in third place, bidding 12 percent more than the winner and the fourth and highest quote from Gérald Théoret Inc. at 24 percent more than the lowest.

Since all were described as conforming bids for their respective projects, the city was required to choose the low bidder. Both projects are currently under way (see stories May 17, p. 1 and p. 7).

Asked to account for the spread between the low and high bids, Mayor Peter Trent declined to comment.

He had recently announced the city was preparing to open up the details of all bids to public review, a policy the city had followed before the merger with Montreal. In

Outdoor speakers turned off

A complaint of loud music from a backyard on Upper Belmont May 15 was quickly resolved when it was discovered that outside speakers had been turned on accidentally, Public Security officials said. The complaint was recorded at 3:33 am.

the past several years, it has made only the winning one public.

Trent told the *Independent* he had already obtained a legal opinion on the issue and had discussed this with the general committee of council. A policy regarding the "transparency" of bids was being prepared.

Missing boy found by patroller

A 12-year-old boy missing May 14 from the Westmount Public Library was found by public safety officers playing basketball outside Westmount Park School at Park Place, Public Security officials said. He had been at the library with an older sister who left for a while and returned to find him gone just before 4 pm. Police and Public Security were searching the area when a public safety officer recognized the boy from his description. He was returned to his sister at 4:18 pm.



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WESTMOUNT



HORAIRE ESTIVAL À COMPTER DU 30 MAI Heures d'affaires et services municipaux

Les bureaux administratifs de la Ville de Westmount, soit l'hôtel de ville, le Victoria Hall, Hydro Westmount, et les Services de la sécurité publique, des sports et loisirs et des travaux publics seront ouverts :

**du lundi au jeudi de 8 h à 16 h 30 et
le vendredi de 8 h à 13 h.**

Cet horaire est en vigueur du lundi 30 mai au vendredi 2 septembre 2016.

La Bibliothèque publique de Westmount sera fermée le dimanche entre le mi-juin et le mi-septembre.

SUMMER SCHEDULE BEGINS MAY 30TH Business Hours and Municipal Services

The administrative offices of the City of Westmount, including City Hall, Victoria Hall, Hydro Westmount, Public Works, Public Security and Sports & Recreation, will be open:

**Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and
Friday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

This schedule is in effect from Monday, May 30th to Friday, September 2nd, 2016.

Westmount Public Library will be closed Sundays from mid-June to mid-September.

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Pool schedule changed again

cont'd. from p. 1

adults will continue to have exclusivity daily during early morning and noontime slots, as well as from 6 to 7 pm on weekends. During heat warnings, however, the pool will be open to everyone at all times.

Various scenarios and combinations for pool use have been tried since the new pool opened three summers ago, Lapointe explained.

Historically, the period from 6 to 7 pm was limited to “adult swim.” But recent trials to share this time slot with kids made some adults uncomfortable. When their exclusive use was switched to later in the evening last year, many found that time of day tended to be too cold. As well, it deprived older children from using the pool on weeknights until it closes at 8:45 pm.

Registration for the four sessions of swimming lessons has also increased this year, according to Bruce Stacey, division head for facilities.

While this has risen among younger

kids, it has dropped off for older children as more are opting to join the Dolphins swim team once they have learned to swim. This is now at capacity, he said.

There has also been such a rise in Aquafit classes that more lanes have been set aside for that session, which shares the shallow end with beginner swim classes. There are 35 registered for the first session and 25 for the second.

“We have only the one pool,” where use of the shallow end is limited, Stacey explained.

This year an official lifeguard chair has been purchased for those supervising the “Splash Pad” for kids aged 6 and under. Previously the lifeguard used a regular chair, which was not considered visible enough.

Lifeguards are being given special training in Westmount protocols for emergency situations, he said. These can vary at different pools, where some may have worked previously.

The pool's pre-season lasts from May 30

to June 26. Mid-season goes from June 27, when lessons start, to August 21. This is followed by post-season from August 22 until pool closure.” This can be as late as staff are available, Stacey explained. Many are students returning to class.

“We're usually the first pool to open and the last to close,” he said, noting the water is typically heated to about 80-degrees Fahrenheit.

In other pool news, work to shield the spotlights from “annoyance” to neighbours was under way May 17. As well, a question of water pooling up on the deck at the shower end is now being assessed by the city's Public Works department.

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Photo: Ralph Thompson

The swimming pool at the Westmount Recreation Centre was being filled on May 16.

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HÔTEL DE VILLE

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Du 30 mai au 2 septembre. Les bureaux administratifs de la Ville de Westmount seront ouverts **du lundi au jeudi de 8 h à 16 h 30 et le vendredi de 8 h à 13 h.**

Stationnement : système paiement par plaque en vigueur

Le stationnement à Westmount est désormais tarifé selon la plaque d'immatriculation de voiture plutôt que la place de stationnement. Les nouvelles bornes acceptent les paiements en monnaie, par carte de crédit ou via une application mobile. Info : westmount.org/paiementparplaque.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Bibliothèque de semences

Dès le jeudi 19 mai. La Bibliothèque publique de Westmount lance une nouvelle initiative en partenariat avec le Comité consultatif d'horticulture. Des semences de plus de 50 variétés de plantes, incluant fines herbes, fleurs, légumes et plusieurs variétés patrimoniales seront offertes aux membres. Les semences seront conservées dans les tiroirs des anciens meubles du catalogue sur fiches de la Bibliothèque. Info : 514 989-5409.

Club de lecture en anglais

Le mardi 24 mai, 19 h. *Us Conductors* par Sean Michaels. Animation : Claire Holden Rothman. Info : 514 989-5299.

Conférences de 14 heures : Dr. Louis Touyz

Le mercredi 25 mai, 14 h. *South Africa Today: 26 Years Post-Apartheid*. Billets requis. Info : 514 989-5299.

Club de lecture en français

Le lundi 30 mai, 13 h. L'œuvre de Timothy Findley. Animation : Gisèle Magny. Info : 514 989-5299.

Rencontres d'auteurs : Guy Gavriel Kay

Le mercredi 1^{er} juin, 19 h. Guy Gavriel Kay, auteur de *Children of Earth and Sky*. Billets requis. Info : 514-989-5299.



Club de lecture d'été TD

Tout au long de l'été, la Section des enfants proposera une série d'activités conçues pour inciter les enfants à la lecture. Le thème cet été est *fou de nature!* **Les inscriptions pour le Club de lecture d'été TD commencent le 6 juin.**

Frisson l'écureuil à la Bibliothèque (4 ans et +)

Le mercredi 25 mai, 16 h-16 h 45, Jardin du conte.

Prochaine séance du conseil le lundi 6 juin

Club de lecture en anglais – *The Sixty-Eight Rooms* de Marianne Malone (9 à 13 ans)
Le jeudi 26 mai, 16 h-17 h.

Lancement de l'édition 2016 du Club de lecture d'été TD

Le samedi 28 mai (Journée familiale), 10 h-16 h, Parc Westmount.

Club de lecture en français – *Verte de Marie Desplechin* (9 à 13 ans)
Le lundi 30 mai, 16 h-17 h.

ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

Flûte Alors! *Bach'n Jazz*

Le mercredi 25 mai, 19 h, Victoria Hall. Le concert *Bach'n Jazz* propose un judicieux alliage entre plusieurs chefs-d'œuvre du grand maître Johann Sebastian Bach et des sélections jazz bien connues et tant aimées. En collaboration avec le Conseil des arts de Montréal en tournée. Gratuit. Info : 514 989-5226.

Theatre Dramatis Personae

Le vendredi 27 mai et le samedi 28 mai à 19 h 30; le dimanche 29 mai à 14 h et 17 h; et le lundi 30 mai à 20 h, Victoria Hall. Dramatis Personae présente *The Fifteen Minute Hamlet* de Tom Stoppard et *Visit to a Small Planet* de Gore Vidal sous la direction de Christopher Moore. Admission : un don de 10 \$ est suggéré. Info : www.theatrewestmount.com ou 514 989-5226.

41^e Journée familiale au Parc Westmount

Le samedi 28 mai de 10 h à 16 h, Parc Westmount. Amusez-vous au parc avec vos voisins et amis lors de cette fête annuelle. Courses, jeux gonflables, animaux et kiosques communautaires sont au programme. Info : 514 989-5353.

iLove Baroque de l'Ensemble Caprice

Le dimanche 29 mai, 15 h 30, Victoria Hall. La Ville de Westmount est fière de présenter pour la première fois sur l'île de Montréal, un concert du Festival Classica. Admission : 25 \$. Achat des billets : festivalclassica.com

Art Westmount 2016 : appel aux artistes

Date limite pour s'inscrire : le mardi 31 mai. Les artistes et les auteurs de Westmount sont invités à participer à la 6^e édition du weekend Art Westmount, ayant pour but de faire connaître les arts visuels, les artistes et les auteurs de notre communauté. L'événement aura lieu les 1^{er} et 2 octobre 2016. Contactez-nous pour recevoir le formulaire de participation. Info : 514 989-5521 ou victoriahall@westmount.org.

CITY HALL

Summer schedule

From May 30 to September 2, the administrative offices of the City of Westmount will be open Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Parking: Pay-by-Plate system in effect

Parking in Westmount is now charged by vehicle license plate number instead of by parking space. Pay stations accept payment by coin, credit card or mobile application. Info: westmount.org/paybyplate

LIBRARY

Seed Lending Library

Starting Thursday, May 19, the Seed Lending Library is a new initiative by the Westmount Public Library and the Westmount Horticultural Advisory Committee. Seeds from more than 50 varieties of plants, including herbs, flowers, vegetables, and heirloom varieties, will be available to members in the revised drawers of the Library's card catalogues. Info: 514 989-5409.

English Book Club

Tuesday, April 24, 7 p.m. Sean Michaels: *Us Conductors*. Led by Claire Holden Rothman. Info: 514 989-5299.

2 O'Clock Lecture Series: Dr. Louis Touyz

Wednesday, May 25, 2 p.m. *South Africa Today: 26 Years Post-Apartheid*. Tickets required. Info: 514 989-5299.

French Book Club

Monday, May 30 at 1 p.m. The work of Timothy Findley led by Gisèle Magny. Info: 514 989-5299.

Author Lecture Series: Guy Gavriel Kay

Wednesday, June 1 at 7 p.m. Meet Guy Gavriel Kay, author of *Children of Earth and Sky*. Free tickets available at the Library. Info: 514-989-5299.



TD Summer Reading Club

Throughout the summer months, the Library's Children's Department will host a number of events designed to inspire kids to read. The theme this year is Wild! Registration begins on June 6.

Scaredy Squirrel Visits the Library (4 yrs +)

Wednesday, May 25, 4-4:45 p.m. Storytelling Garden.

English Book Club – *The Sixty-Eight Rooms* by Marianne Malone (9 to 13 yrs old)

Thursday, May 26, 4-5 p.m.

Launch of the 2016 TD Summer Reading Club

Saturday, May 28 (Family Day), 10-4 p.m., Westmount Park.

Next Council Meeting Monday, June 6

French Book Club – *Verte* by Marie Desplechin (9 to 13 yrs old)
Monday, May 30, 4-5 p.m.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Flûte Alors! *Bach'n Jazz*

Wednesday, May 25, 7 p.m. Victoria Hall. Montreal-based ensemble Flûte Alors! presents a concert combining J.S. Bach's masterpieces with jazz standards. In collaboration with the Conseil des arts de Montréal en tournée. Free. Info: 514 989-5226.

Theatre Dramatis Personae

Friday, May 27 and Sunday, May 28 at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, May 29 at 2 p.m. and 5 p.m.; and Monday, May 30 at 8 p.m. Dramatis Personae presents *The Fifteen Minute Hamlet* by Tom Stoppard and *Visit to a Small Planet* by Gore Vidal, directed by Christopher Moore. Info: 514 989-5226 and theatrewestmount.com.

Journée familiale de WESTMOUNT Family Day

41st Annual Family Day in Westmount Park
Saturday, May 28, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Westmount Park. Have fun in the park with neighbours and friends at this annual event, with races, inflatable games, petting zoo, community kiosks and more. Info: 514 989-5353.

iLove Baroque by Ensemble Caprice

Sunday, May 29, 3:30 p.m., Victoria Hall. The City of Westmount is proud to present for the first time on the island of Montreal, a concert with Festival Classica. Admission: \$25. Purchase at: festivalclassica.com

Art Westmount 2016: call to artists

Deadline to apply: Tuesday, May 31. Westmount artists and authors are invited to participate in the 6th edition of Art Westmount, created to showcase the visual arts, artists and authors of our community. The event will take place on October 1st & 2nd. Please contact the Community Events office to obtain the participation form. Info: victoriahall@westmount.org or 514 989-5521.



Roper says Westmounters may find family doctors nearby, touts new provincial website

BY ISAAC OLSON

By registering on a provincial website's "territory waiting list," Quebec residents can, if all goes as planned, expect to find a family doctor in close proximity of their home, and now Westmount-based Dr. Mark Roper would like residents throughout the area to take advantage of this new service.

"Probably 55 percent of Westmounters have a family doctor, and the government is aiming for about 80 percent," began Roper, who runs the Roper Clinic located at 4500 Sherbrooke St., corner of Melville Ave. "There is a website where you can register if you don't have a family doctor. Then doctors can go on the website and they can pick patients who live in a five-kilometre radius. That's how Westmounters will be able to get a family doctor."

How to find a doctor

According to the website (gamf.gouv.qc.ca), those looking to register to find a family doctor must not already have one, have a valid health insurance card, live in Quebec and be 14 or older. The website, which is available in English, notes, "The wait time varies depending on family doctor availability and the number of persons in your region without a family doctor. As soon as you are assigned one, he or she will contact you."

Roper wears many hats as, along with his Westmount-based clinic, he is head of family medicine at the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC), head of the department of family medicine for the Montreal region, head of the Quebec Medical Association's Montreal chapter and more.

"I just want to see this work," said Roper. "I do not need more patients. My clinic is very busy. But I think it's a great shame

that we have to take patients from other regions when I know Westmounters have such poor access."

This service, he said, has not been well publicized by the English media, and that is why he contacted the *Independent* with hopes of informing more Westmounters about the website. Roper pointed out that he thinks people should be able to get a family doctor wherever they want, but the Quebec government wants people to get one near their home rather than near their work. The most important thing, he said, is that people get a family doctor.

"We have two million Quebecers without a family doctor, and the worst area is Montreal," he said.

According to an article published by CBC last month, Health minister Gaétan Barrette, under Bill 20, has promised that 85 percent of Quebecers will have a family doctor by December 31, 2017. That promise was made, the article states, in a May 2015 signed agreement with the Fédération des médecins omnipraticiens du Québec.



Dr. Mark Roper in his clinic, corner of Sherbrooke St. and Melville Ave., on May 13.


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Local restaurants' support contributes to \$1M fundraiser

Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

The sold-out gala for Crohn's and Colitis Canada was held on April 4 at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts (MMFA). It was held in honour of Jackie Jaclyn Lea Fisher, who passed away at just 25 years of age. Diagnosed with Crohn's disease just before her 10th birthday, she was a committed academic student on the dean's list at McGill University after earning many awards at Herzliah high school.

Fourteen years ago, Jackie's mother and father, **Rina** and **Larry Fisher**, launched the first Montreal gala fundraiser for the organization, now known as Crohn's and Colitis Canada. Last year \$250,000 was raised for research into inflammatory bowel disease. This year, \$1 million was raised through a private donation secured by



From left: Rina, Larry and Rachel Fisher.

Larry Fisher and the proceeds from the event. The money will support research, the "Make it stop. For Life" campaign and the establishment of the Crohn's and Co-

After the speeches, the atrium of the museum held an appetizing array of food from supporting sponsors such as Joe Beef, Taverne on the Square, Schwartz', Burger Bar, Nora Gray, Hof Kelsten, Grumman 78, Loic and Bagels on Greene.

A special "kosher corner" was offered, and Java U had an outstanding display of cheeses including one touched with redolent rosemary from Spain. Most fun was the candy! Brightly coloured gumdrops from Squish – the candy company owned by Westmounter **Sarah Segal** – were enjoyed by all.

Amidst the guests in the packed rooms were Israeli consul general **Ziv Nevo Kullman**; **Lucie and Pierre Boivin**, president Claridge Investments; D'Arcy McGee MNA **David Birnbaum**; **Adelia Bensoussan**; Jackie's sister **Rachel Fisher**; and Côte St. Luc mayor **Mitchell Brownstein**.

Westmounters noted included **Susan and Peter Varadi**, **Linda Smith**, **Michael**

Vineberg, **Susan Alper** and **Charles Jacobs**, doctors **Meryl and Sheldon Elman**, **Gale and Lorne Wiseman**, **Alta Leveson**, **Terry and Sam Minzberg**, **Dr. Albert Cohen** and his wife **Karen**, and **Kathy Grosvenor**.



From left: Marian Sniatowsky, Erin Battat and Adelia Bensoussan.

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Caregiver



From left: Dr. Albert Cohen, Leo and Roni Kolber, and Karen Cohen.

litis Canada Jackie Fisher Fund.

A bitter wind drove guests speedily into the MMFA. Honorary chairs were **Leo Kolber** and his wife **Roni**, elegant in a spring-ready patterned jacket, and **Claudine and Stephen Bronfman**, who could not attend.

Event chairs were **Erin Battat** (there with her husband **Joe**) and **Marian Sniatowsky** (with **Andrew**).

Westmounter **Mose Persico**, who knew Jackie, was the MC at the moving presentation, at which Jackie's parents **Rachel and Larry** spoke along with **Dr. Alain Bitton**, director of the division of gastroenterology at McGill University and one of Jackie's doctors.



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Police Report

Supermarket wine thief charged with armed robbery

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

The following news story is based on information from police reports provided by a Station 12 constable in an interview with the reporter.

An attempt by a shoplifter to steal 10 bottles of wine from a supermarket on Sherbrooke St. at Victoria Ave. on May 10 ended with charges of armed robbery being laid against the would-be thief who assaulted a security guard who tried to stop him.

Officers from Station 12 were summoned around 9 am to what was initially described as an altercation between two men.

“The perpetrator had committed shoplifting and while doing that he threw a punch at the security guard while he was doing his intervention,” said Station 12 community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel. He said a charge of theft under \$5,000 escalated to armed robbery because of the use of physical force.

After arriving at the scene, the police took custody of the suspect, who had been detained by the security guard. Although the guard was struck in the upper body by the suspect, it wasn't deemed necessary to transport him to hospital.

Olivier-area apartment burgled

A tenant in a building at the corner of Sherbrooke St. and Olivier Ave. discovered after returning from work in the early evening of May 11 that his apartment had been entered forcibly and some of his belongings were stolen.

“The plaintiff left his home that morning around 8:30 am, and when he came back in the evening around 6:30 pm he noticed that a theft had taken place,” said Pimentel.

A neighbouring tenant confirmed to police investigators that she didn't hear any noise coming from the apartment during the time the break-in is believed to have taken place.

All the same, according to the police report, the suspects forced open a double-door from the outside to gain access to the apartment and left by the same route.

From the living room, they stole a number of electronic appliances, including a laptop computer, computer tablet and an iPod Touch. There was no alarm system and the police investigators were unable to find suspects' fingerprints.

While admitting there is relatively little that can be done to stop burglars when they're determined to break in, Pimentel said an alarm would at least have slowed them down pending the arrival of police, while good locks and stowing valuables out of sight might also have helped.

Teens learn lesson

Two teens walking along de Maisonneuve Blvd. in the early hours of May 7 after a night of partying at a Westmount home learned a lesson in how to deal with intimidation and were lucky enough to get away unscathed.

According to Pimentel, the teens were walking west on de Maisonneuve sometime between midnight and 1:30 am when they were approached by three suspects, one of whom asked whether the party the teens had just left would be a good place to go and commit a robbery.

“The victims just continued walking,” said Pimentel, adding that the suspects started following them nonetheless. Walking south onto Kensington Ave, the two teens decided to enter the lobby of an apartment building in order to seek help, although none could be found.

Walking north to Sherbrooke St., they could see the suspects were still following them. At the same time, the teens could hear the suspects talking menacingly about their personal belongings, including a watch, shoes and a cell phone.

While the two teens ended up shaking off their intimidators and eventually made their way safely back to their respective homes, Pimentel said they ought to remember should they ever find themselves

in similar circumstances that the best thing to do is to call 911.

“If you feel that your life is in danger or you might be a victim or a witness to a crime or that a crime is about to be committed, the best thing is to call before it happens,” he said.

Cyclist falls at Redfern and de Maisonneuve

A 29-year-old cyclist from NDG was taken to hospital May 12 after falling from his bicycle at de Maisonneuve and Redfern at 4:55 pm, Public Security officials said. The accident occurred when a flip-flop he was reportedly wearing slipped off the pedal. A public safety officer who was the first responder on the scene reported the man had a cut over the left eye, scraped hands and a sore shoulder. His shirt was ripped. He was not wearing a helmet. The officer stayed with the man until Urgences Santé arrived at 5:40 pm and transported him to the Montreal General.

Water leaks from pool

Water was found seeping from a retaining wall on Summit Circle through a neighbour's property and onto Sunnyside May 13 at 8:09 am, Public Security officials said. The problem was initially reported as being a recurring issue when the pool was being drained but that process was not found to be in progress. Instead the pool was starting to overflow. City crews turned off water to the property to assess the situation and the problem was attributed to the pool's piping system.

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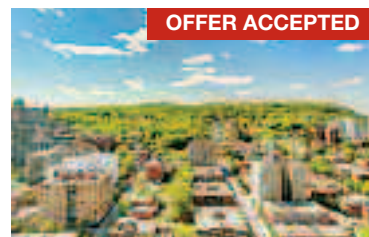
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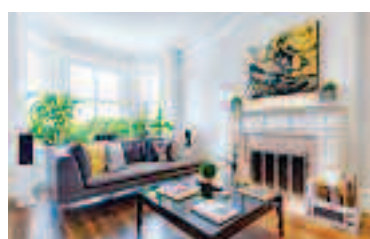
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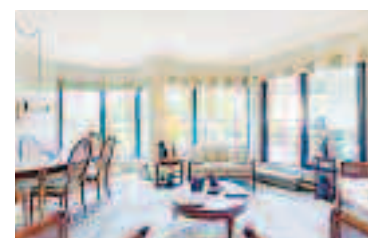
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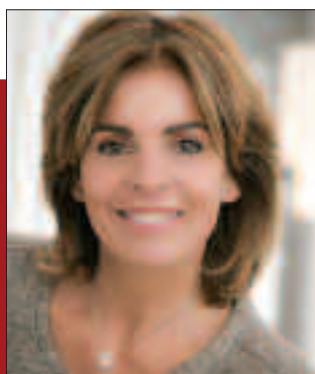
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