

■ Rogue cyclists are a menace... page 4

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Westmount's colourful bazaar

Four-year-old Lhasa Lenin was one of many children enchanted by the colours and selection at last weekend's sidewalk sale, 'August Madness,' organized by the Sherbrooke/Victoria Merchants Association. See page 8. Photo: Carmen Marie Fabio

See inside
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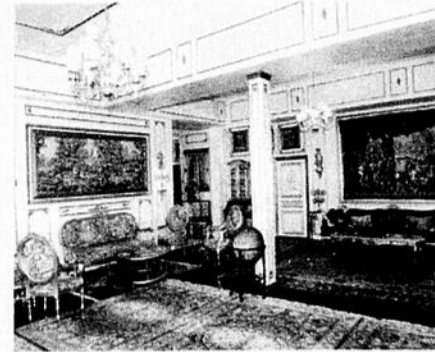
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7845 CR. DU BEAU-BOIS | BOIS DE SARAGUAY \$1,349,000
Prestigious 4-bedroom home on cul-de-sac in Domaine Forêt Saraguay, backing onto the forest. Renovated kitchen with black rock counters. Immense master bedroom suite features walk-in and luxurious marble ensuite bathroom. Enjoy the sights and sounds of nature from your patio or heated salt-water pool! MLS 8539397



136 CH. DU FLEUVE | COTEAU-DU-LAC \$1,295,000
Magnificent waterfront! This 70,139 square foot property offers over 300 feet of shoreline on navigable Lac Saint-François. Beautifully renovated interior, 2 solariums, swim SPA, panoramic views. Possible inter-generational use. Boat house with mechanical lift and electric garage door will allow you to safely store your boat. MLS 8571220



20 RUE DUCKETT | LES COTEAUX \$1,350,000
This former 1915 convent has been lovingly transformed into a magnificent Second Empire style mansion. Sumptuous materials, high ceilings, beautiful mouldings and frescoes. This residence features a private chapel, numerous living rooms and bedroom suites, marble bathrooms, grand library, music and game room, cloister and much more. MLS 8555427



10 RUE ANDERSON \$1,399,000
SALABERRY DE VALLEYFIELD
Spectacular waterfront property combines historic charm with modern conveniences thanks to extensive updates. Close to the heart of downtown. Enjoy the breathtaking water views and sunsets from any of the balconies or from the 4-season solarium. Large private yard features a heated pool and boasts 165 feet of shoreline along Lac Saint-François. MLS 8447660



15 RUE DES PINS #109 \$211,000
STE-MARGUERITE-DU-LAC-MASSON
3 bedroom condo bordering the Doncaster River steps away from Lake Masson and the marina, the village of Sainte-Marguerite-du-Lac-Masson and the renowned Bistro à Champlain (specializing in fine wines). Many large windows make this condo bright and airy. MLS 8427599



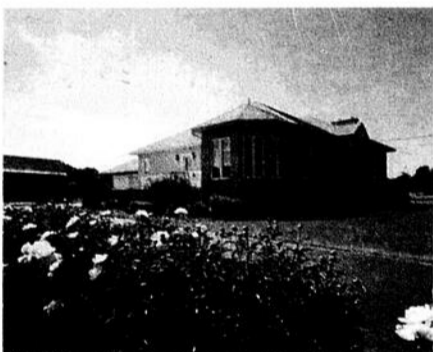
15 RUE DES PINS #106 \$208,000
STE-MARGUERITE-DU-LAC-MASSON
2 bedroom condo located less than one hour from Montreal. Bordering the Doncaster River, steps away from Lake Masson and the marina, the village of Sainte-Marguerite-du-Lac-Masson and from the renowned Bistro à Champlain. Enjoy the sounds of the river from your balcony! MLS 8427617



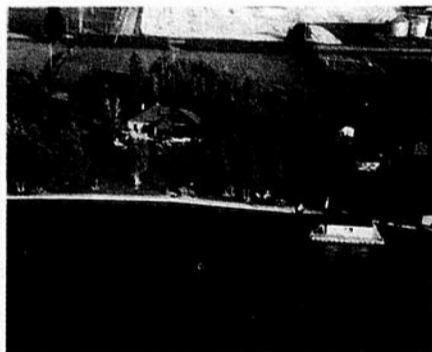
297 28E AVENUE | SAINT-ANICET \$495,000
Beautifully renovated waterfront property with a triple detached garage and a 3-season solarium. 125 feet of shoreline located in a protected bay on Lac Saint-François. Dock, sandy bottom and navigable lake -- ideal for sports enthusiasts and nature lovers. Close to Saint-Anicet Golf Club. MLS 8748796



LAND | SAINTE-ADÈLE \$249,000
Exceptional riverfront lot of 145,000 sq. ft. with 794 ft of shoreline on the stunning Rivière aux Mulets! Featuring large mature trees, southern exposure and a network of manicured trails that tour the property. The site is very unique, private and boasts a level landscape for easy construction! Very close proximity to Chanteclerc ski resort. MLS 8444447



1438 ROUTE 202 | HINCHINBROOKE \$749,000
200 acre estate including luxurious residence, 2 barns, maple bush (2000, 50-75 years old), red pine plantation (25,000, 20 years old), wooded area with various types of trees and 50 acres of cropland. Situated approximately 60 km from Montreal and 7 km from the U.S. border. MLS 8447854



1310 ROUTE 132 | SAINT-ANICET \$1,350,000
Magnificent 200,000 square foot waterfront estate with over 300 feet of shoreline on Lake St-François. Large 3 bedroom home with solarium and patio, one bedroom guest house, 3 bedroom cottage, detached garage, boat house and more. Exceptional gardens with cascading ponds. Entertainer's delight! MLS 8407204



108 CH. DU VIEUX MOULIN \$1,358,000
NOTRE-DAME-DE-L'ILE-PERROT
A full service home with a panoramic view of the Lake St-Louis. Everything is there to enjoy! Swimming pool, water fountain, pond and many flowers (the watering system is pumped from the lake). Offers private boat access. A solarium and a multi media room with bar and wine cellar complete this magnificent house. MLS 8482008

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Patricia Dumais training for this year's RONA MS Bike Tour.

Back on her bike

Patricia Dumais prepares for her fifth MS fundraiser

CHRISTINE JEYARAJAH

The 21st annual RONA MS Bike Tour, a pledge-based fundraising event involving an expected 10,000 cyclists, is currently taking place across Canada, and once again, one of them is Patricia Dumais of Greene Avenue.

"This will be my fifth RONA MS Bike Tour," Dumais said of her cycling event, which will take place this weekend. "The tour is a way for me to combine my love of cycling while helping a good cause."

She added how her team, the Spirit Riders, is made up of members of Randonnée Aventure, the outdoors club she belongs to. "It's been a success for the past 21 years," Dumais of the MS Bike Tour. Last year, the two Quebec events — the regional and

provincial MS Bike Tours — raised a record total of more than \$1.5 million. Organizers hope to surpass that objective for 2011.

The Spirit Riders team also raised a record total of \$33,000.

The provincial MS Bike Tour has around 1,250 participants, who have the option of completing a one- or two-day tour, said Dumais. Food and accommodations are provided on the two-day bike tours, while entertainment, road support crews and awards for fundraising are available.

"We start in Buckingham, do a loop over to Thurso, and then ride to Gatineau," said Dumais, who admits to never cycling in this area before, but looks forward to discovering some new cycling territory. "On day two, our 72-kilometre ride takes us over to Ottawa,

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along the river and into the Ontario countryside."

The cyclists then take a ferry at Masson back to Buckingham.

Dumais raised \$1749.69 last year and is more than halfway to reaching this year's goal of \$2,011.

Multiple Sclerosis is a progressive nervous system disease affecting the brain and spinal cord. The Bike Tour began in 1990 and is regarded as one of the most important events of the MS Society of Canada. The proceeds raised fund research to find a cure for people living with MS. Cyclists can sign up as an individual or as part of a team. To register for the RONA MS Bike Tour, visit www.mssociety.ca

Man down on Sherbrooke!



Anyone passing the Globe 4141 office building at Sherbrooke Street and Mount Pleasant Avenue last weekend may have noticed something odd — part of the familiar sculpture "Catching Up" had been knocked over by vandals. The life-size statue of a businessman reading The Gazette has been standing at the building's entrance since 1985. Photo: Matthew Faigan

CIBC Bike Challenge raises over \$200,000

LEITA BOUCICAUT

There was plenty of cheering in the Montreal Children's Hospital parking lot on Friday, Aug. 12, when the CIBC 401 Bike Challenge cyclists returned after a two-and-a-half day ride from Toronto to Montreal.

Westmounter Dr. Gerald Wiviott and 25 other riders were greeted with applause, laughter and many loud noisemakers in what was a festive end to the seventh annual cycling event that raises money for Sarah's Ward at the hospital.

Speeches were made by Sarah Cook, a survivor of childhood cancer and inspiration for the fund in her name, Roger Skira, fellow cyclist and father of a son who was treated on Sarah's Ward, Gene Picolli, founder of the bike challenge, and Jeff Shamie, Director General of Cedars Cancer Institute at the MUHC. More than \$205,000 was raised by this year's bike ride alone.

"This group just exceeded all expectations," said Shamie. "All the funds will benefit the children on 8D, here at the Children's, called Sarah's Ward. We're so proud of what

they did today."

At age 70, Dr. Wiviott was the oldest cyclist on the bike challenge this year. He was an inspiration for all the cyclists. Wiviott himself was inspired.

"It was very gratifying to come back and to have a welcome the way we had today," he said. "I knew why I was doing it, but to hear the speech from a father that has gone through it, it's so much more meaningful. It's not a disease that only affects one person, it affects the whole family and Sarah's Ward is able to provide the comfort and the resources that make life for those families that much better."

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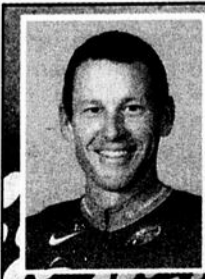
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Editorial

Rogue cyclists are a serious menace

WAYNE LARSEN

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Have you ever stepped off the sidewalk, only to leap back as a bike sped past, missing you by inches? If you have, chances are the cyclist ignored you completely and kept going, or at best made a gesture that implied you were an idiot for daring to challenge them on their territory.

Anyone who has yet to experience a gut-wrenching, heart-pounding close call at a local intersection or bike path might be led to believe that this is not an everyday occurrence — but it is.

One of the things you'll never hear after one of these incidents is, "Oh, I'm terribly sorry. I didn't see you there. My bad... Please forgive me!"

No, it's always the other person's fault.

Of course it goes without saying that the vast majority of cyclists are decent, law-abiding people who don't think it's particularly cool to run red lights or buzz unsuspecting seniors stepping off sidewalks. But there are more than enough careless, reckless, stupid people out there to create a very real menace for both pedestrians and motorists. All you have to do is park yourself at a corner where a bike path crosses a major intersection, sit back and watch the chaos. Chances are you will be startled by the number of morons who breeze straight through a red light with no regard for oncoming traffic — all as if this was standard, acceptable behaviour.

What makes this situation all the more frustrating is that there is no shortage of valuable resources to help educate cyclists in basic safety rules. In this community alone there are the Westmount Citizens for Safe Cycling and the Westmount Walking and Cycling Association, both of which are dedicated to

promoting cycling as a healthy — and above all, safe — activity for all ages. Even the City of Westmount seems squarely behind the bicycle, having gone to considerable lengths last year to introduce the Bixi network to its streets, as well as keeping the de Maisonneuve bike path open through the winter as a means of encouraging year-round cycling. Westmount even leads the local pack in safety measures with its mandatory helmet bylaw — although that is admittedly very difficult to enforce on its portion of a major bike path that serves as a thoroughway between two Montreal boroughs where no such law exists. Posting Public Security officers at both the Claremont and Atwater borders is hardly a practical solution — after all, this is not Stalinist Russia — although any resultant ticket revenue might be used to further promote safer cycling.

There are no easy solutions to the complex problem of dangerous cyclists any more than there are solutions to the problem of motorists who make life a living hell for cyclists in the urban environment. No matter how much information is put out there, not everyone will take notice. But we have to keep trying and — most importantly of all — never forget to look both ways before stepping off the sidewalk.

Letters to the Editor

A close call

To the editor:

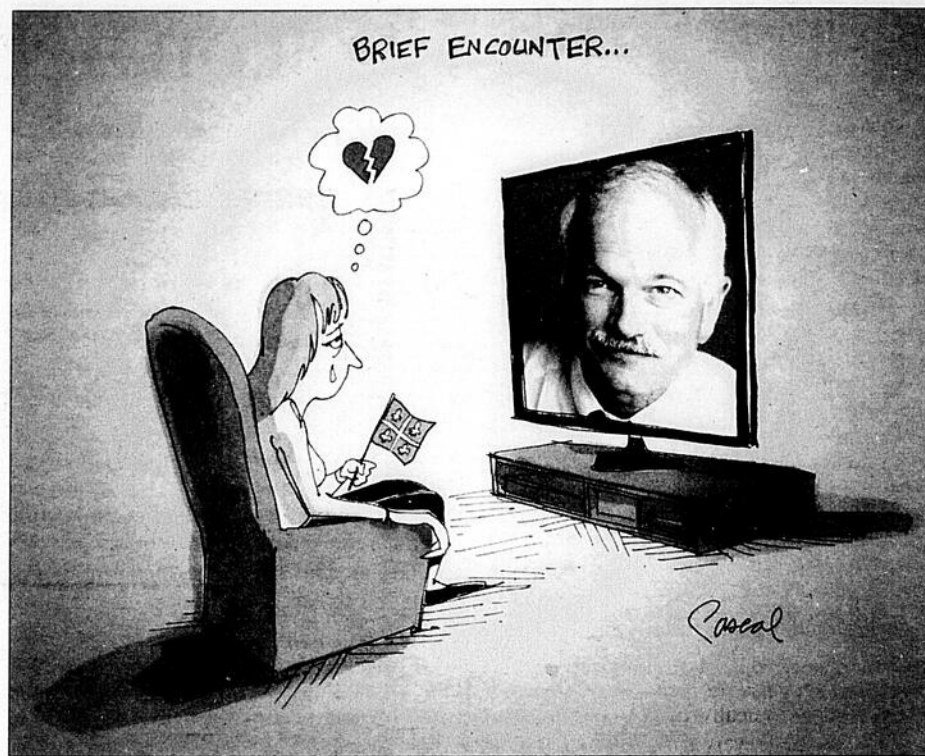
When will cyclists learn that the rules of the road apply to them as well as to cars?

This past Saturday, I was driving on Dorchester Boulevard, waiting to make a left-hand turn onto Ste. Catherine Street. The light turned green, and as I started to go, a cyclist going very fast went through the red light, forcing me to slam on my brakes. I honked at her, and in return received the finger. If I had started to increase my speed a couple of seconds earlier, the cyclist would have hit my car on the driver's side and suffered a serious injury.

Also, she was not wearing a helmet.

I strongly believe that Public Security, along with the police, should get much tougher with these cyclists who appear to feel that stop signs and red lights are only for cars. How many more cyclists have to be injured — or even killed — before they get the message and act responsibly?

Harvey Aisenthal,
De Maisonneuve Boulevard



Editorial served as a rallying cry for the community

To the editor:

Thank you for your thoughtful editorial, which I have taken as a rallying cry to save a unique and generational opportunity presented to Westmount.

So hold me back. Never since the days of plagues on both your houses through to the modern day knuckle rap downgrade of the USA by S&P for not getting its political house in order have I seen a déjà vu all over again such as the debacle now tearing our genteel Westmount fabric asunder.

I refer of course to our \$37-million community project, which has managed to polarize just about everyone from everyone. Calling it the arena project I suspect was the first error, in that it focused attention on the two hockey rinks thus alienating anyone who was not involved in the hockey scene, about 90 per cent of the population by my reckoning. My point is simply that having reached the point after many months of admittedly imperfect community involvement, consultation and process, shouldn't we try to remember who we are, gather up our dignity and stand full square behind our outstanding elected officials in turning the project into the best it can be?

Because be under no illusions, that a continuation of the bickering risks killing the project either through internecine wrangling or through further delays, which will simply invite the various levels of governments to withdraw their funding pledges. What the Lord giveth, the Lord taketh... any time, and especially in a downturn economy or during electoral posturing. And just before the naysayers start relishing that prospect, please remember

that the extra \$200 per year saved in your taxes will in reality be illusory, as the maintenance and upgrade costs for the old structures will come in at about the same amount as Westmount's capital contribution to the proposed project, with little to show for it.

I am not arguing for the pros or cons of the project. There are both, whoever you may be. I am over 60, not into hockey, and would love two indoor Olympic pools, but for now I'll defer to some of the facilities for the slightly younger crowd. Instead, I'll use my energies to create some positive contribution to the community. Perhaps we could all get behind contributing positively to our community. Perhaps you could support me in my endeavours?

I am referring to my passion of bringing science back to kids in a fun way. I know what a great need there is for this. As director of the Marianopolis Science Camp, I was told this repeatedly by hundreds of parents and kids. It's now time to bring science fun to Westmount! And the new community centre will provide an ideal venue for this project.

And in case you haven't yet noticed, we have already begun: I brought McGill on board and during last season and they delivered a wonderful new series of science talks and activities to kids through the Redpath

Continued on page 11 ▶▶

SEND US YOUR LETTERS!

The Examiner welcomes letters from readers on topics of local interest. While we only publish the writer's name and street, all letters must include the writer's name and address, as well as a daytime phone number for verification. Letters may be sent by mail to: Letters to the Editor, The Westmount Examiner, 245 Victoria Ave. suite 210, Westmount, QC. H3Z 2N2, by fax to 514-484-6028 or by email to larsenw@transcontinental.ca. We look forward to hearing from you!

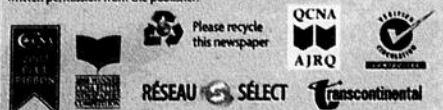
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Signs of the times

Have we unknowingly become a nation of imbeciles?

ROBERT N. WILKINS

The current proliferation of assorted public and commercial signs is the subject of continuing polemics both here and abroad. Furthermore, while a Gazette article explained the issue admirably well ("Billboards are 'visual pollution,' Quebec group says," June 1), it also caused me to consider my own thoughts and observations on the wide-ranging subject of signage. And as is occasionally the case, that process took me briefly overseas.

Last autumn, while deep in a South Bank Underground Station near Lambeth in Central London, I came upon two side-by-side elevators designed to convey passengers to and from the train platform. One of the timeless 'lifts' was totally enclosed in a steel work cage such that it was not physically possible to approach and was, therefore, very obviously out of service. Nevertheless, a sign accompanied the job site and reminded customers that while the restoration was taking place, users should consider using the only other elevator!

It struck me at the time that the notice was totally superfluous, and that we are increasingly living in a very solicitous society. In that regard, upon my return to Montreal, my harmless study continued on this side of the Atlantic. As a logical follow-up to the London 'tube,' I started my scrutiny in this city's metro system. To be sure, it didn't take long for me to realize that this town's underground network also provides a wealth of informative signs, many of which are thoroughly redundant.

Take, for example, a dreadfully tiny corner in the Sherbrooke metro station. About the size of a very small bedroom, it was caged off from the rest of the station a number of years ago. This rather inoffensive move was quite naturally accompanied by the requisite tablet explaining that it had been done in order to assist visually-impaired people avoid a pointless junction. Interestingly, however, the somewhat supercilious notice was neither in Braille nor in English.

Speaking of which, many English-speaking Montrealers are quite often unwittingly reminded of the necessity of their next ophthalmologist appointment by a quick glance at the emergency information instruction signs in metro wagons. While most users, by way of illustration, would be quite capable of deciphering the French text, the considerably smaller version in the language of Shakespeare leaves a lot to be desired. In fact, the English script always reminds me of the bottom line on that same eye doctor's evaluation chart. The simple fact is that, given their diminutive size,



they would be of no use whatsoever in a truly urgent situation. But I digress.

Some otherwise meaningless notices in our subway system are simply totally ignored. For instance, in the client seating section of the Berri metro station, a panel informs the reader that the accommodation is for the exclusive use of its patrons. Yet, on any given day, there can be seen a plethora of vagrants sleeping totally undisturbed on them.

Of course, useless signs are not exclusive to Montreal's transportation network. Some are even found in our universities. In particular, at the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM) there are several overhead pictograms indicating that people in wheelchairs should not use the stairs in order to move from one level to another but rather employ the neighbouring ramps. Alternately, an adjacent representation instructs walkers not to use the ramps but rather the stairs.

Have we unknowingly become a nation of imbeciles?

SIGNS CAN BE MISLEADING AND DANGEROUS

Much more critically, however, some road

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signs in this city, although far from unnecessary, are dangerously misleading. For example, the Cathedral Street eastbound entrance to the troubled Ville Marie Autoroute presents a singularly unique peril. Immediately upon entering the downtown tunnel, a couple of overhead green arrows suggests the presence of two lanes, yet on a steep descent, and on a sharp curve at that, the access passage rapidly reduces to one lane of traffic. Here, where there should definitely be at least a cautionary notice, there is nothing. On the other hand, and in another area, some traffic panels simply overwhelm the reader with elaborate information. Montreal's parking restriction road signs are notorious for this.

And so on that note, I end my observations

Some things are too obvious for words – so a pictogram is necessary.

on the subject and return home from that same Sherbrooke Street metro station mentioned earlier. Feeling somewhat fatigued, and while waiting for the train to arrive in the station, I lean against one of the support bars placed on the platform wall. At that juncture, I was not in the least bit surprised to see that there was a nearby notice suggesting that I was indeed using the device for the right purpose.

Robert N. Wilkins is a local historian and freelance writer. He can be reached at montreal_1900@hotmail.com and his website is located at www.forgoodmeasure.tk

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	DESTINATION ULTIME 5 (EN 3D) EVERY DAY: 1:10-3:10-5:10-7:10		LA MONTÉE DE LA PLANÈTE DES SINGES (NUMÉRIQUE) EVERY DAY: 1:10-3:25-7:10-9:25 LATE SHOW FRI-SAT 11:40		LES SCHTROUMPS 3D MOVIES FOR FAMILIES SAT-SUN: 10:30 EVERY DAY: 12:45-2:55-5:05-7:15-9:25 LATE SHOW FRI-SAT 11:35		STARBUCK EVERY DAY: 1:05-3:20-7:05-9:20 LATE SHOW FRI-SAT 11:35
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	SPY KIDS: ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD MOVIES FOR FAMILIES SAT-SUN: 10:30 EVERY DAY: 1:05-3:25-5:05-7:05-9:05 LATE SHOW FRI-SAT 11:05		FRIGHT NIGHT EVERY DAY: 1:15-3:30-7:15-9:30 LATE SHOW FRI-SAT 11:45		FINAL DESTINATION 5 (EN 3D) EVERY DAY: 9:10 LATE SHOW FRI-SAT 11:10		30 MINUTES LESS 30 MINUTES LESS EVERY DAY: 9:40 LATE SHOW FRI-SAT 11:40
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Gilbert races across Africa — sort of



MARILYNN VANDERSTAAY

AROUND WESTMOUNT

Former Westmount resident Nancy Gilbert has committed to a virtual race across Africa to raise money for Rotary projects, and she wants to win.

"Okay, the race isn't really 'across' Africa," she admits. "It's more like 'up' the Nile River, the longest river in the world at 4,132 miles. However, I have the whole month of September to do it. I'm also part of a team, so we each just do our part."

Participants do exercises at home and log it on the Race Across Africa website to track their progress. They earn Nile Miles for almost anything, such as biking, golfing, yoga, walking the dog, curling... you name it. They also earn one Nile Mile for every dollar they raise. Gilbert admits she doesn't know how much exercise she will do, but is hoping to buy her way to victory.

The race supports the Rotary water and sanitation project Start with Water (www.startwithwater.org), which supports initiatives in Africa. Globally, unsafe water is the biggest killer of children under the age of five. Gilbert's personal goal is to raise \$5,300 or enough money to support a full WASH program at a school in Tanzania. The \$5,300 will be matched by \$21,200 from partner sources. And the best part is that since Rotary is a volunteer-driven organization, the only expenses are administration costs, which Gilbert has already paid — so 100 per cent of donations go directly to the projects.

To become involved in the Race, you can make a donation at www.raceacross.org by clicking the Donate Now button in the upper corner.

Luncheon series returns to Atwater Library

After a summer hiatus, the Atwater Library's luncheon lecture series returns on Thursday, Sept. 1 at 12:30 p.m. when adventure traveler and photographer Victor Breedon gives his illustrated presentation 'Istanbul to Samarkand by Bicycle: An Indian Adventure.'

This incredible adventure began last Jan. 29 when Breedon and a team of riders left the Taj Mahal in Agra, India, en route to the southern tip of Kanyakumari. In total, the riders traveled a distance of 3,900 kilometres, during which time they experienced colourful desert cities, beaches, the ruins of Hampi, and so much more that Breedon will share in words and images.

Tour d'Afrique, a Toronto-based company named for its flagship cycling tour that annually traverses the African continent from Cairo to Cape Town, has named this one of their dream tours. Come hear more at the Atwater Library and Computer Centre, 1200 Atwater Ave. on Sept. 1. Admission is free. Participants are invited to bring a bag lunch. Light refreshments will be served, and as always, donations are always accepted.



Did you catch Judy Garland at the Forum?

On Oct. 29, 1961, legendary singer Judy Garland performed her only concert in Montreal, at the Forum. Fifty years later, the Segal Centre will celebrate that event by staging 'Judy: By Myself,' a one-woman show starring Denise Rose as Judy Garland, appropriately, on Oct. 29.

Now, the Segal Centre is going 'Over the Rainbow' to make the event even more memorable. Publicist Carolyn Flower is looking for anyone who was at the original concert on that evening 50 years ago. If you were there and would like to participate in the nostalgia, please contact Flower at 450-424-7121 or 514-979-3570.

Fotheringham launches poetry book

Author/poet Anne J. Fotheringham will launch her latest book of poetry, This Jagged Winter, on Sunday, Aug. 28 at the Pierrefonds Cultural Center, 13850 Gouin Boul. W. from 1 to 4 p.m.

"These poems navigate the cold seasons: the late fall that foreshadows snow, the jagged winter and the early spring that teases us with hints of warmth and a false promise of summer," says Fotheringham. "As the story of winter unfolds, so too does the story of a life. From the frozen images emerge memories of love, loss and hope."

Fotheringham is a professional writer/editor living in Montreal. She is a former journalist and currently works in public relations. Her poetry and short stories have been published in several American and Canadian publications. For more information, phone 514-457-5733.

Courageous cancer survivor marches toward a cure

ALISHA LUNDGREN-DRINKWATER

Aberdeen Avenue resident Thérèse Attias will spend this weekend walking 60 kilometres alongside thousands of fellow supporters at the seventh annual Pharmaprix Weekend to End Women's Cancers — a two-day event that helps raise money for breast and gynecological research at the Jewish General Hospital.

"It's like a whole family trying to work and fight for something," said Attias, a petite but radiant woman. "They are all fighting for family and friends. It's so empowering. When you get to the end you are exhausted, but people are cheering all over the streets and you feel like a hero. We are walking for the same people and that unites us."

Now 68, Attias was first diagnosed with breast cancer at age 35 while raising young children with her husband, Jacob Attias, a successful real estate developer. In the past five years, her cancer returned three times but throughout treatment she remained hopeful and determined to find a cure.

Attias's cancer is now in remission, and she credits her survival to the positive attitude she maintained by painting and volunteering.

"I'm a survivor," Attias said with a tear in her eye. "I know a lot of people who lost their battle and some that are still going through it. It's very important that women with cancer understand that their sickness shouldn't hold them back. You have to keep on believing that you are strong. You're the one who is going to beat the sickness, not the sickness that is going to beat you."

Attias and those who accompany her raise at least \$2,000 each walk. This year she will be



Thérèse Attias

supported by her daughter, Iris Attias, as well as her close friend Elaine Dubrowsky. Attias plans on participating in as many walks as she can in the years to come and is grateful for each day she is alive.

According to Kim Gradek, a communications coordinator for the event, the walk has raised more than \$40 million over the past five years. These donations have allowed the hospital to equip two state-of-the-art laboratories in the Segal Cancer Centre and the Cell Imaging Facility. They have also funded innovative molecular and genetic studies, research by internationally renowned scientists, and the latest technology for operating.

For more information about the Pharmaprix Weekend to End Women's Cancers or to get involved, call 514-393-9255 or visit www.endcancer.ca.

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GOING BACK to school



August Madness experiment was a success

Local merchants offered back-to-school bargains at second summer sidewalk sale

■ CARMEN MARIE FABIO

Whether it was Sunday's rainy forecast or just the lure of finding a back-to-school bargain, Sherbrooke Street and Victoria Avenue were bustling with an air of festivity last Friday and Saturday for this summer's second Westmount sidewalk sale.

"It's the first time in 35 years that we've had two fairs in one season," said Westmount Merchant's Association member Gerard Fellerath. "This is an experiment and I think people love it."

Though smaller in scale than the June event, the sidewalk sale presented a colourful array of wearable, useable, and edible merchandise and the event was also a good opportunity for area residents to learn about services offered in the community.

"Do you know anyone who could use a good therapist?" was the clever catchphrase offered by Argyle Institute of Human Relations



Tiffany Scott was helping to raise funds to support Trafalgar School for Girls. Photo: Carmen Marie Fabio

staff to passersby in an effort to promote their psychotherapy services. The non-profit organization recently moved to the corner of Greene Avenue and took advantage of the milling crowds to advertise their new locale and

services which include no waiting period and unlimited sessions.

Community spirit was proudly endorsed at Sharyn Scott's clothing boutique as her daughter, Tiffany, volunteered to raise funds for Trafalgar School for Girls via the sale of mugs, water bottles, and umbrellas.

No street fair would be complete without food and drink and Westmount didn't disappoint, offering a range of consumables from David's Tea to freshly cooked corn on the cob at Vic Market on Victoria Avenue.

U owner Carlos Boubeta, as ownership of the coiffure has just changed hands. At his enormous display table of costume jewellery and baubles, Boubeta was bittersweet about moving on from the area after an enjoyable six years in business. The salon will reopen under a new name after a three-week renovation.

Taking advantage of the carnival-like atmosphere, a group of students hosted a car and bike wash at Westmount Auto on Sherbrooke at Grosvenor. The event was a fundraiser with proceeds benefiting the Montreal arts collective Indecent Exposure.

"We're all about promoting local culture," said organizer Alexa Jodoin. Working in conjunction with Pop Montreal, the group is known throughout the city's student community for its party planning and music promotion.

Merchant participation extended down Victoria Avenue and though Westmount Florist had more customers on Friday, Saturday was still deemed a good sales day by employee Michael Carl.

"The first sale this year was so successful that we agreed to do another one," he said.

Owner Christine Pickrell observed that it's not just locals coming to the area for the sale. "We seem to get a lot of customers from Outremont," she said, "which is great for us."

Even retailers new to the area were happy with the customer turnout. Boutique Lolë,

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GOING BACK to school



Natacha Lauzon was outside boutique Lolë, offering free "hooping" lessons.

Photo: Carmen Marie Fabio

which specializes in women's sporting apparel, only opened for business two months ago.

"What's good about the sale is a lot of people are getting to see our store and know our store," said manger Cynthia Boriassi.

Neighbouring boutique *Quelque Chose* only recently moved to the area from Notre Dame de Grace and co-owner Annie (just Annie) declared the sale "fabulous, just fabulous..." not just for the sales but for getting to know her fellow vendors and new customers.

Shopper Ellie Jacobs, who was eyeing zebra-patterned picture frames, felt the sale was good for both the neighbourhood and the economy. "The weather is perfect and it brings a lot of people to the area," she said.

Even with Sunday's deluge, the "experiment" was pronounced successful with credit going to the organizers.

"We're lucky that we have the Merchant's Association," said Pickrell. "The people that are involved with it are really good."



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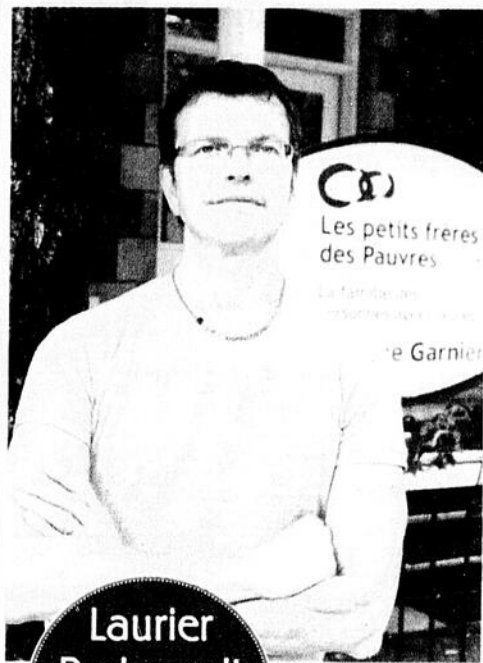
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HELPING HAS NO AGE



Laurier Pedneault

Photo:
Alarie photos

Many charities are working in the shadows of the spotlight. Such is the case with the International Federation of the little brothers of the Poor (IFLB), an organization that makes sure seniors can get out and do activities without being alone. Laurier Pedneault, 51, has spent half his life working for IFLB. These days, he organizes the number of activities that take place each week.

"My role is to coordinate all transportation, hospitality and entertainment when we plan an activity," said the man who first graced IFLB as a student. He organizes all the activities at the Garnier street headquarters in Montreal and the summer home in Oka.

"The people who IFLB help don't usually have a family or have one that is absent," Pedneault said. "We act as their family. We are with them until the end. It's important that somebody who is in their older years have somebody who is significant to them around at all times.

"A lot of the time, we work with seniors who don't have children...or those who had children who passed away before them."

Even with its specific name, the organization will help all sorts of people who are alone, no matter their socio-economic status.

"Right now, we speak of emotional poverty, even if a person has money and no material want," said Pedneault. "To prevent conflicts of interest, everything is offered free, as if we were caring for our own aging parents."

The organization does not receive any government subsidization, relying solely on the donations of the public. This year, the IFLB has revived its 'Cyclothon' fundraiser.

"This year, we are renewing the fundraiser after a 10-year break, he said. "The course will be between our headquarters at Garnier Avenue and our country house in Oka." The cost to participate? \$100 per cyclist.

Pedneault senses that he is really making a difference. The people who are solitary for too long are suddenly revived once in contact with the younger volunteers who accompany them.

"We make sure that life is easier to live," he said. "It is an almost indispensable part of life."

He has been a companion for two people already; one woman was 85 when he started. She died at 101, knowing she was not alone.

"It really meant something," said Pedneault. "When we are with them right until the end, we know that they are leaving happy."

He has also been a companion to a man who had completely retreated from the world.

"I wasn't sure how he was going to act the first time I went in to meet him," said Pedneault. "But when it was time to leave, he told me 'you, I'll see again.'"

The organization, founded in 1946 in France, celebrates its 50-year presence in Montreal in 2012. And like their slogan 'Merchants of happiness for 50 years' indicates, the IFLB has many happy years ahead, with more help for our seniors.

Samuel Leduc-Frenette
samuel.leduc-frenette@transcontinental.ca

Laurier Pedneault in 3 questions

- 1 Who is your role model?**
The comedian Juliette Huot. Even with her fame, she takes the time to come and prepare meals at IFLB.
- 2 What is your greatest accomplishment?**
To have kept the same level of motivation, even after 25 years. It's not necessarily an achievement, but I hope to continue to do it.
- 3 If you could change one thing in the world, what would it be?**
That we would be more conscious of the people who are alone in this world and that we pay more attention to our seniors.

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Muslims join to help Somalis

MOHAMED HARFOUSH

Three local Muslim organizations came together last Friday to support needy Somalis during the holy month of Ramadan.

Members of the Muslim Association of Canada joined Concordia University's Muslim Student Association and Pakistani Student Association at the downtown Masonic Temple to organize a mass Iftar — the Ramadan fasting-breaking meal — to raise money for Somalis who face hunger and bleak conditions in the African horn area.

Organizers agreed that Ramadan is an excellent opportunity for such an event, as fasting in Islam is to make believers compassionate for the poor and needy. During Ramadan, Muslims abstain from food, water, and sex during daytime hours. They normally eat a meal before dawn and break their fast at sunset.

"The wisdom of fasting in Islam is to make us more compassionate for the needy people," said Kathy Malas of the Muslim Association of



Muslim Montrealers came together last Friday at the Masonic Temple to raise funds for drought-stricken Somalia. Photo: Mohamed Harfoush

Canada's Youth Division. "Islam is a human religion. It fights for social justice for human beings regardless of religion or ethnic background."

Malas, a 27-year-old Canadian of Lebanese origin, said the famine in Somalia motivated the three associations to work together for the first time. She added that Somali women in

Montreal donated and prepared the food for Iftar.

"Two hundred and thirty people are attending," said Hassan Abdulahi, a 25-year-old spokesman for the event. "This is the maximum capacity of the hall. All tickets are sold out. We are thinking of organizing a second fundraiser, maybe after Ramadan."

Abdulahi added that \$3,000 was raised through ticket sales alone, with each ticket selling for \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door.

Malas and Abdulahi said the Canadian government pledged that it would match every dollar they raised, and this money would be eventually funneled to the Somali people by the Canadian charity Human Concern International, which has posted an urgent appeal for Somali drought relief on its website.

"I think it achieved its goal," said Omar Khan, a 25-year-old volunteer who studies computer engineering at Concordia. "In Ramadan, we fast and we realize what being hungry means."

▶▶▶ Letters continued from page 4

Museum's efforts...check your latest Sports and Recreation calendars for the fall sessions: we are repeating the successful experiment!

By 2013 I can see a full fledged Science Camp in Westmount, hosted in the new community spaces. Perhaps in 2012 we'll see the start of this with the inauguration of the Science Den for the day campers of Westmount. How exciting would that be?

So please, please, please. Stop the wrangling, support the imperfect solution and support any positive initiative you may consider within the constraints of the existing project.

Nigel Penney,
Prud'homme Avenue

Misinformation is in the eye of the beholder

To the editor:

Last week's editorial "Nothing Tony about Misinformation" (Aug 18/11) dealt with the apparent lack of respect accorded Westmount by mainstream media in their coverage of the arena project. Since some \$20 million of other Canadian's tax money will be spent on the project, it is not unreasonable that it be scrutinized by those footing the bill.

The fact that neither the coverage nor the comments were sufficiently deferential is something that Westmount will have to get used to, especially if they want the money. As for lamenting "the spirit of hostility" noted by the mayor, perhaps he himself could start by no longer characterizing anyone who questions or disagrees with council as four or five malcontents and naysayers, particularly as he is well aware of the enormous number of

residents who have expressed reservations about the arena project.

The editorial lectured those outside the pedigreed journalist's circle (bloggers) for their lack of standards and professional training, because of "the danger that their words will be accepted as the truth by unsuspecting readers." Yes, those childlike readers, who must be protected by having their news delivered only by council-friendly journalists, journalists who, unlike bloggers, only write the truth, not opinion, and certainly never anything to support a politician.

Misinformation lies in the eye of the beholder and takes many forms. Surprisingly, an editorial which is ostensibly about misinformation and targets some vague, never-specified "false information bouncing around Westmount" does not address the systemic misinformation process used to sell the project to residents. For those who need reminding, the following are a few examples:

* The undocumented claim that a second full-sized rink was needed;

* The flawed needs assessment, which relied on extrapolation from another demographic cohort, a community of 60,000 to justify building a second rink because of an imaginary dramatic increase in births. Oddly enough, what the tables do show, is that for each of the periods 2006 - 2016, 2021, 2026 and 2031, the 20-24 age group will actually decline by a whopping 50 percent and the 15-19 group by 13 percent (2016) and 8 percent (2021), before stabilizing in 2026 at the level of 2006;

* The claim by the city, in its polling material, that the "infrastructure grant is very specific: two rinks and an outdoor pool." In fact, while governments do not grant money for an infrastructure project with no plan, the entente between the city and the government makes clear that the plans can be changed as long as the granting agency is informed;

* The claim, in the polling material, that the grants would shortly expire, which left the impression that if the option of two rinks and a

pool were not accepted the grants would be lost; in fact they expire in 2015;

* Finally, the absence of any acknowledgment that the primary beneficiary of this project would be Selwyn House, or even any mention of the role of the school, despite a

co-ordinated, behind-the-scenes effort in support of the project, is also a form of misinformation.

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Melville Avenue

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