

Camp issue

Can you believe it's time to start thinking about summer fun for the kids?

Please see p. 8.

INSIDE



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Our Man in Ottawa

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Police solve car break-in spree

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A rash of thefts from cars in Westmount appears to have been stemmed with the arrest February 9 of a man who now faces 33 charges of break-and-entry and theft, police report.

"This arrest closes at least 50 files," explained local police community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel. "We believe more charges will follow, also related to Westmount."

Alert patrol officers apprehended the man three hours after six cars were broken into in an apartment garage on de Maisonneuve near Roslyn around 8:30 pm. Surveillance cameras caught the suspect using a screwdriver to break into the lobby of the building and then breaking car windows in the garage.

He was described as wearing red gloves and a three-quarter length coat.

Alerted by the superintendent, the responding officers recognized the suspect, Pimentel said. "Other officers patrolling the district passed by to view the video and a man matching the description was spotted and arrested at St. Catherine and St. Marc." Among the thefts solved were two in an apartment garage on Rosemount, January 29.

Changing face of Public Security



At the change of shift, Westmount Public Security's first woman sergeant, Kimberley Colquhoun, hands the keys of the supervisor's car to newly promoted sergeant Kaushi Patel. Born in India, he is the first visible-minority sergeant. See story, p. 4.

Arena parking being re-costed

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

New cost estimates are being sought for underground parking inside the proposed arena building. The news was disclosed in the wake of the initial architectural and engineering feasibility report.

Costs that had been provided by the Lemay consortium were reported to have been sufficiently high to have ruled out the underground construction given the city's targeted arena renewal budget of \$25 million.

But "underground parking hasn't been decided," said Councillor Cynthia Lulham, who represents District 7, in which the St. Catherine St. arena is located. "We're waiting for a second costing. If it's reasonable, it should be done." Many cost factors are involved, but the arena should improve rather than compound parking congestion, she said, "because the impact on my little community is harsh."

Councillor Patrick Martin, an engineer who also sits on the design committee, underlined her *continued on p. 4*



Robert Walker's "Warsaw, 2000." Learn more in Westmount Art Scene on p. 6.

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Belvedere fire ignites renovation concerns

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A structural fire that caused considerable damage at 40 Belvedere Rd. February 4 has sparked new concerns for the safety and monitoring of renovation work being undertaken in Westmount.

Discovered at about 8 am by workers on the top floor who heard an explosion, the fire originated in the basement electrical distribution panel, said chief of operations Aimé Charette, who was at the scene from the Montreal fire department. It spread directly up to the third floor between the walls. The cause was not immediately known; nor was it apparent, police

said, whether it had started with city or house wires.

Hydro Westmount director Pierre Dubé said the cause was under investigation "but we know modifications were made to increase the home's electrical capacity."

"There were 10 construction workers inside at the time but all managed to get out before we arrived," Charette said. "There were no injuries."

The house was vacant. It had been under renovation since the summer and residents were believed to have been planning to move back in about three months.

Police said workers had tried in vain to stop the fire using an extinguisher. Firefighters were on the scene shortly after the call at 8:09 am and found smoke throughout the house. "It was pretty heavy," Charette said.

The use of a thermal imaging camera helped pinpoint its spread between the walls. Some baseboards had to be torn off and portions of wall opened before stopping it. A section of the roof was also opened to ventilate.

A one-alarm fire "with additional re-



The origin: electrical distribution system.

sources," the incident brought 12 fire vehicles and 35 firefighters to the scene. It was reported contained at 9:32 am and the operation was basically over an hour later, Charette said.

Commenting on the fact that houses under renovation have long been reported as the major source of fires in Westmount, Charette said one of the problems prevalent during construction was a tendency to disconnect alarm systems or remove batteries from detectors, "This is a no-no." Workers can warn alarm centrals of work that may cause false indications of fire.

How to reduce the threat?

Councillor Patrick Martin, who represents the district and surveyed the damage, said he intended to ask council to look into the fire pattern.

Now that so many houses are under renovation, it is especially important to try to reduce the safety threat, he said, and "ensure our precious homes are not lost to us or present a danger to those next door."

"We need to look into ways of preventing such fires to the extent we can. Is the overloading of circuits a factor?" he asked.



40 Belvedere Rd. just south of Sunnyside.



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Superman's Canadian connection uncovered by Mietkiewicz

BY KRISTIN MCNEILL

Did you know that the *Daily Planet* – where Clark Kent, Superman's alter ego, worked as a reporter – was initially called the *Daily Star* and was inspired by Toronto's daily newspaper of yore, the *Toronto Daily Star*?

This is one little gem of trivia linking Superman to Canada that York St. resident Henry Mietkiewicz dug up in a rare interview with the co-creator of Superman, Joe Shuster, in 1992.

Mietkiewicz wrote for the *Toronto Star* from 1973 to 1999. He has a passion for pop culture and a life-long love of comics. Landing an exclusive interview with Shuster, who was born in Toronto, was clearly a personal and career highlight for him.

He will reveal more about Superman's Canadian co-creator at the Atwater Library and Computer Centre Lunch Series on March 12 at 12:30 pm.

Mietkiewicz recounts that he made a pitch to his editor in 1991 to investigate rumours linking Superman with Toronto and the *Toronto Star*. He got the green

light and worked his contacts for six months, among them Joe's first cousin Frank Shuster (of the comedy duo Wayne and Shuster). Mietkiewicz was finally awarded an audience with Shuster in his modest LA home in 1992.

First interview in decade

"It was kind of a coup to get Joe Shuster...To my knowledge, it was the last interview of any kind he gave to a news media outlet, and the first one in at least 10 years that he had given to anybody about any aspect of his Superman work," he explained.

Mietkiewicz's article ran in the April 26, 1992 issue of the *Toronto Star* (one of a series of special articles written to mark the *Star's* centennial), three months before Shuster died.

According to Mietkiewicz, Shuster read the article and "was very happy. Because, there is something about being recognized in your own hometown – even with major athletes or rock stars, there's something special about playing to a hometown audience, no matter how big you are else-



Henry Mietkiewicz displays photograph of Joe Shuster and himself in 1992 during his hard-won interview in Shuster's home.

where."

Mietkiewicz remembers Shuster as "the kindly old uncle that everyone wished they could have – soft-spoken, humorous, gentle" with a keen memory.

Shuster delivered *Star*

Though Shuster left Canada at the age of 10, he brought with him childhood memories that would later appear in the Superman cartoons. Mietkiewicz discovered that the fictional newspaper was originally named the *Daily Star* because of Shuster's boyhood job delivering the

Toronto newspaper and because "he was grateful to the *Toronto Star* for having opened his eyes to comics...He wanted to tip his hat."

The fictional newspaper was later renamed the *Daily Planet* "because they didn't want to take the chance that a paper that was actually called the *Daily Star* would be able to say 'Clark Kent works at our newspaper!'"

Mietkiewicz also uncovered the fact that the skyline of the fictional city of Metropolis was modelled after Toronto of the 1930s.

Dubeau, Pietà have new album, concert

Award-winning violinist Angèle Dubeau, a longtime Westmounter, and her string ensemble La Pietà are releasing their 15th album.

The album, *Gargantua and Other Delights*, is a compilation of works by composer Jean Françaix. It will be launched at a concert on Tuesday, February 24 as part of the Montreal High Lights Festival (Théâtre Maisonneuve/Place des Arts,

514.842.2112).

Dubeau has also released many solo and joint albums, and has sold over 300,000 units to date.

In addition to many other awards and honours, Dubeau is a member of the Order of Canada, appears on Radio-Canada television and is the organizer of Tremblant's "Music in the Mountains" festival.

Bruce Smith returns to playwright-ing

Westmounter Bruce Smith – most recently known for his screenwriting work, including *Prairie Giant: The Tommy Douglas Story* – has written his first play in 15 years. His writing has twice been nominated for Geminis.

The play, *Blessed Are They*, will be produced at the St. James United Church from February 19 to March 8. It is "a challenging look at the role of religion in today's fast-paced society."

The play is about a doubt-ridden minister being confronted by a faith-filled member of his congregation. The play takes place in contemporary Quebec and is set at an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting in a United Church basement.

For tickets, call 514.987.1774 x 104 or email box-office@infinithatre.com.



Bruce Smith



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Our Man in Ottawa

Our aim: avoid the ballot box, minimize the pain

BY MARC GARNEAU,
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR
WESTMOUNT-VILLE MARIE



As official opposition, the Liberal Party of Canada must act responsibly in the interests of Canadians. Most Canadians have expressed the wish that we not return to the ballot box at a time when the economy is experiencing a severe downturn. Instead, all of us should work together to minimize the pain being felt by our fellow Canadians. That pain is very real. 129,000 Canadians lost their jobs in January, an unenviable monthly job loss record. Some of those Canadians were likely the sole breadwinners in their family.

Accountability

Given that the prime minister and his minister of Finance failed to anticipate the looming economic crisis last fall (when they were calling for surpluses for the foreseeable future), it is certainly reasonable that they be held to a high level of accountability.

It can also be argued that the spending of this government during the past three years did not demonstrate an adequate level of prudence. It is for this reason that the Liberal Party insisted on an amendment to the budget that would provide a number of checkpoints in the coming

months. Those checkpoints will in fact constitute confidence motions.

The current budget has some major weaknesses, notably insufficient support for Canadians who have lost their jobs or who are on the verge of doing so; steps backwards on employment equity provisions for women; a missed opportunity to make vital investments in the green economy, as well as innovation, science and technology; and no credible plan to get us out of an \$85 billion projected deficit over the next five years.

Science important

It will be up to the opposition parties to ensure that the government is reminded of these deficiencies and we intend to do so. As the Industry, Science and Technology critic for my party, I personally intend to promote the importance of science, research and innovation as a long-term strategy to create the jobs of tomorrow.

Living in a constituency with an extremely important university and research hospital presence, and having heard from many eminent Canadian researchers, from within and from outside the riding, I am particularly concerned with the government's failure in this budget to provide new funding to Genome Canada and the three research granting councils.

If ever there was a time to demonstrate vision and strong support for our scientists, it is now.

More on this in my next report to you from Ottawa.

Patel takes on new responsibilities

New sergeant reflects Public Security's diversity

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

Newly promoted sergeant Kaushi Patel has made his way into the history pages of Westmount's Public Security Unit.

"I'm very proud of having our first sergeant to represent our cultural communities," said Public Security director Richard Blondin. "His success in our recent sergeant exams reflects the diversity of our department."

The Public Security Unit also has members from Russia, China, Trinidad, Mexico, Kazakhstan and Ukraine.

Patel, who was born just north of Mumbai (Bombay), India, came to Canada in 1975 with his parents. "We lived right on Tupper St.," he said, little realizing it was the very doorstep to the community where he would forge his career.

The Public Security Unit promoted its first woman to sergeant in June 2007 with the naming of Kimberley Colquhoun.



Sergeant Kaushi Patel.

Replaces last original PSO

Patel assumed his new rank February 9 after placing first in the recent sergeant exams to fill the vacancy left by the retirement of Sgt. Robert Stringer, the last of the original public safety officers (see *Independent*, December 17, 2008, p. 1).

The other successful candidates will be next in line to fill other vacancies. They are Jennifer Chabot, Robert Forbes and Nicolas Bouchard.

"I'm very happy we have so many good candidates waiting to take on positions of responsibility," Blondin

said. "They are really dedicated to the city and the citizens, and will bring a breath of fresh air to the department."

Besides Patel and Colquhoun, the unit has three other patrol sergeants on shift (Robert White, Gregory McBain and Dave Sedgwick), and one in charge of parking, Denis Proulx.

Fake fifty?

A possibly fake US\$50 bill was inadvertently accepted by a Victoria Ave. merchant on February 11. It is unknown if the money is counterfeit as the bill was still in the store owner's possession.

The potential suspect had, moments before, attempted to make a purchase from the store next door but the money was refused, according to the salesperson who said she "had a funny feeling" about the individual. The person then proceeded to the next shop and bought merchandise for \$5. When he left, the bill was passed around the store for closer inspection and a co-worker suggested it might be a fake

due to its weight and texture.

Officer Alain Diallo from Station 12 said that nothing had been reported and therefore he could not comment on that specific situation. Generally speaking, he said counterfeit fraud is rare in Westmount. Merchants accept American money at their own risk, and if suspicious about money received, should take it to a bank, which normally sends it to the RCMP for further analysis, he explained. The Montreal police are not mandated to determine if paper dollar bills are genuine and don't make enquiries based on suspicions.

Arena would need adequate parking

.....
continued from p. 1

concerns saying, "It would be irresponsible of us" to build a second full-size rink without providing more parking to accommodate the additional requirements its hockey games would generate.

"Under our by-laws, we don't expect a commercial developer to build a new building without providing adequate parking, so why should we allow it for a municipal facility?" he asked. "It wouldn't be sustainable."

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Letters to the Editor

WESTMOUNTERS NOT ABOUT ‘TO VOTE WITH FEET’

The lack of logic in Henry Olders' opinion piece "Make phase 1 report public, larger arena benefits city" (February 10, p. 6) requires a common-sense response.

There are three key issues facing our city council and the taxpayers on the new arena: need, cost and preservation of community.

On the first issue, there is no question our current arena is sub-par and needs renewal. Debate has taken place on how much ice capacity we have, and it has been shown that Westmount has better than average per-capita ice surface. (Please see www.wamcam.org.) Nevertheless, some believe that there is still a shortfall.

With our current \$37 million debt load and high taxes, many citizens want the city to be prudent in spending, yet maintain the high standards we all expect.

With Westmount being primarily a residential city, the preservation of neighborhoods and community is essential in everything we do.

On the question of need, Mr. Olders says we should build as big as we can and try to satisfy the "wish list" prepared last April. The consequence of not doing so would be that Westmounters would "vote with their feet" and leave. If this were true, it's surprising anyone lives here anymore, given the state of our current arena. Also, since our real estate prices have more than doubled in the past 10 years, it seems there is a lot more to Westmount than an arena.

With respect to cost, it's strange to hear a taxpayer say that the city should not "consider excessive costs to taxpayers." I thought our elected officials were supposed to prudently manage our money and control tax levels.

Finally, Mr. Olders suggests that the city

should not "cave in to pressure from groups worried about site aesthetics, traffic or parking problems."

Yet we all know that aesthetics are a critical part of every building project in Westmount. The city has gone to great lengths to control streetscapes, building materials, architectural styles etc. New projects are scrutinized to ensure they blend well with their surroundings. Are we to abandon all of this?

With respect to parking, perhaps we should park all the extra cars in trees?

The city administration has an obligation to respect local neighbourhoods, our Westmount heritage and the taxpayer. We expect our elected officials will show good judgment and skill in balancing the various objectives, to the satisfaction of everyone.

GARY IKEMAN, SPOKESPERSON
WESTMOUNT ARENA
MODERATION CAMPAIGN

SPEND ON DOGS, NOT SKATERS

Before 1997, the Jean Talon SPCA had asked for \$1 million annually to run its already rundown, on-the-verge-of-bankruptcy shelter. It was refused by our government and the money was allotted elsewhere.

Now, we are dealing with the aftermath of that and other decisions. The SPCA is in debt and being supported by private donations. It is still a rundown shelter with people sacrificing their own well-being in order to help helpless animals.

There are still 1,197 puppy mills out there. That's at least 1,197,000 dogs living in extremely cruel conditions – and they still love humans when they are rescued.

We haven't even begun to address the puppy mills in the city or the pet stores that feed the flow of puppy-mill dogs.

\$25 million for a new arena in Westmount? \$80 million to spiff up Old Montreal, and millions and millions for the Grand Prix? Give me a break!

"You can judge the humanity and of a society by how its treats its animals."

KATE DAVEY, ST. HENRI

DON'T DO DOG-DOO

I would like to bring your attention to a situation regarding the dog-owning residents of Westmount. No, this is not about leashing one's dog outside dog runs. This is about taking responsibility for one's actions.

In upper Westmount, particularly the areas surrounding and within the vicinities of Murray (King George) Park and Summit Park, there are visible piles of dog excrement everywhere – and I mean *everywhere*: on peoples' properties (e.g. Montrose Ave.), around the children's playground in Murray Park, on walkways and on hillsides. People are not being responsible and respecting others' rights to enjoy what is supposed to be the most magnificent and pristine neighbourhood of Westmount.

It is one thing for people to allow their dogs to mess up both public and private properties, but what is worse is the municipality has not been enforcing tougher regulations by monitoring the areas.

It would certainly be helpful to see station dispensers with doggy-poop bags there as well.

This is also unfair to those of us dog owners who show respect by cleaning up after our pets and keeping them off peoples' properties altogether.

Thankfully, I am a renter, because if I were paying the sky-high property taxes so typical of this part of Westmount, you can bet I would be knocking on the municipality's door.

ALIX CHODKOWSKI, STANTON ST.

FOUNTAINS COULD REAP FINANCIAL REWARDS

It seems that according to one of your readers, "Mr. Chin has had many good ideas, but [a fountain for Westmount is] not one of them" and "There are installation costs (approximately \$100,000), but, worse than that, a lot of water would be wasted each hour! (Forever!)" (February 3, p. 5).

Wasted...? Forever...?

When Gustav Eiffel's Tower was accepted by Paris, there were widespread protests about its exorbitant costs and ugliness. Maupassant, Émile Zola, Gautier and other leading French writers signed a strong protest letter. But to no avail.

It did cost a mountain of francs. But after a century, Paris is still reaping the waterfall of billions and trillions of francs the Tour Eiffel continues to pour into the city's coffers. Perhaps a fountain for city hall may well turn out to be another of Mr. Chin's "many good ideas?"

STEPHEN CHIN
SHERBROOKE ST.

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Westmount Art Scene

Robert Walker and Frank Caracciolo: Colour is power

BY HEATHER BLACK

Colour captivates. Whether captured by photographer Robert Walker (see photo, p. 1) or created by artist Frank Caracciolo, colour redefines beauty and transforms perception.

Robert Walker at the McClure

In "Mediascapes", the Montreal photographer features the colours of commercial imagery. Framing neon billboards and Times-Square kiosks, unsuspecting tourists and pedestrians are secondary to advertising. In one, "Warsaw, 2000", an orange face dominates a poster and street scene to suggest global public images and consumer experience.

Yet many images are unique to New York, Las Vegas or Montreal. In "Chantier,

Bibliothèque nationale du Québec", a red, ice-covered hydrant dominates centre ground and two construction murals – one of pedestrians, the other of bookshelves. In another, a tourist in a leather jacket emblazoned with Robert Goulet's portrait is uniquely Las Vegas. A plastic-covered statue set against Warsaw architecture is distinct in colour and sensibility to that city.

Beautifully framed to create intriguing and colourful compositions, Walker's images are captivating. Presented as large-scale images, the effect is both attractive and dramatic. "Mediascapes" continues until February 28 at the Visual Arts Centre (350 Victoria Ave.).

Frank Caracciolo at Sandra Goldie

Abstract artist Caracciolo creates com-

elling colours for his new show "Darling". Transforming paper on panel with sweeps of rich colours and contrasting textures, the Montreal painter creates a dynamic lyricism. In "Peony", black and white interrupt solid red brushstrokes to project a vibrant strength.

Caracciolo is known for small, eight-inch square paintings with rich, patina-like surfaces – some transferred to silk for Montreal fashion label Amabile. Inspired by the beauty of textured walls and architecture, the Brooklyn native scratches or scrapes the oil-painted surfaces. The result is complex, textural art heightened by a high-gloss resin.

Trained as a graphic designer, Caracciolo experiments with colour. In "Self-portrait, 2008", a multi-coloured and textured form on the left is mirrored with flat blue surface. Playing with light and depth, the painter creates interesting and memorable art. "Darling" continues until February 20 at Galerie Sandra Goldie (4898 de Maisonneuve Blvd.).

Artistic vision

For Walker and Caracciolo, it is not form that dictates colour, but colour that creates form. And both artists – whether through photography or painting – reveal the beauty of both simple and complex colours. The result is sophisticated imagery which defies definition, but is readily appreciated.



Robert Walker, "Times Square 2002"

**APPEL AUX ARTISTES**

Les artistes de Westmount sont invités à déposer leurs soumissions pour la 10^e saison d'exposition de la galerie du Victoria Hall qui se tiendra de septembre 2009 à août 2010.

Ce concours s'adresse aux artistes amateurs et professionnels. Les candidatures sont acceptées pour des expositions solo ou partagées.

DATE LIMITE : 2 mars 2009

INVITATION TO ARTISTS

The Gallery at Victoria Hall welcomes proposals from Westmount artists for its tenth exhibition season, which will take place from September 2009 to August 2010.

This competition is open to amateur and professional artists. Applications are considered for solo and group exhibitions.

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M.D. (Yellow)	16	5	4	7	17
C.A. (Green)	16	6	8	2	14
P.H.D. (Blue)	16	4	10	2	10
Executive B	GP	WIN	LOSS	TIE	PTS
M.B.A. (White)	16	10	5	1	21
BROKERS (Blue)	16	8	7	1	17
LAW (Black)	16	8	8	0	16
ENGINEERS (Red)	16	5	11	0	10
Senior A	GP	WIN	LOSS	TIE	PTS
KINGS	27	23	2	2	48
BLUES	27	13	12	2	28
RED WINGS	27	8	18	1	17
BRUINS	27	6	18	3	15
Senior B	GP	WIN	LOSS	TIE	PTS
PREDATORS	23	18	3	2	38
CANADIENS	23	16	4	3	35
SHARKS	22	11	9	2	24
SENATORS	22	10	9	3	23
NORDIQUES	22	10	9	3	23
HAWKS	23	8	10	5	21
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Summer Camps

Register now! Some camps give one chance

BY ISAAC OLSON

When it comes to February, people might think about hitting the slopes, hot cocoa and Valentine's Day. March is much the same - with St. Patrick's Day and Easter thrown into the mix. It's hard to imagine these often cold and snowy months mark the start of summer camp registration, but local camp directors rec-

ommend getting the ball rolling as soon as possible.

As the saying goes, the early bird gets the worm.

Be they sleep-away or only during the day, accredited summer camps have to meet certain camper-to-staff ratios that, in turn, allow for a predetermined number of available spots. With the limited amount of space, some popular camps fill up long

before the snow melts. An extreme example of this is the annual day-camp held at the Montreal Biodome, where new camper registration is one day only, making the line-up at registration resemble ticket sales for a big-name rock concert.

'Bio-camp': one-shot registration

For those who don't know, the Biodome is a facility located in the East End that allows visitors to walk through replicas of four ecosystems. During the summer, it plays host to arguably the most popular day-camp on the island. Campers don't just walk through, they get a chance to experience it hands-on while learning about responsible living and protecting the environment.

Offering a French-only day-camp to kids ranging from 7 to 17, the Biodome's 10-day program has bloomed in popularity so much over the years they've upped the number of campers from 480 to 600, according to coordinator Etienne Laurence, but that doesn't mean kids are guaranteed a spot. Returning campers have first dibs, with a registration day held on

To meet many camps' staff members in person, think about visiting *Montreal Families' Camp Fairs*, to be held on Monday, February 23 (Holiday Inn, 420 Sherbrooke St. W.) and Tuesday, February 24 (Holiday Inn, Highway 40 & St. John's) from 5 pm to 8 pm each day.

March 21 - while newcomers get their chance the following Saturday, March 28.

Because of the high demand, spokesperson Nadine Fortine said they've changed registration procedures to help limit lines that once wound out into the parking lot. This year, it will be a lottery drawing. Parents should show up between 8 and 9 in the morning to get a number - only one number per family - and, later in the day, those numbers will be drawn.

Either way, explained Laurence, they are anticipating about 200 available spots for first-time campers, but it's hard to predict.

"We have activities where the kids help the zookeepers," said Laurence. "For example, early in the morn-

ing they help to prepare *continued on p. 11*

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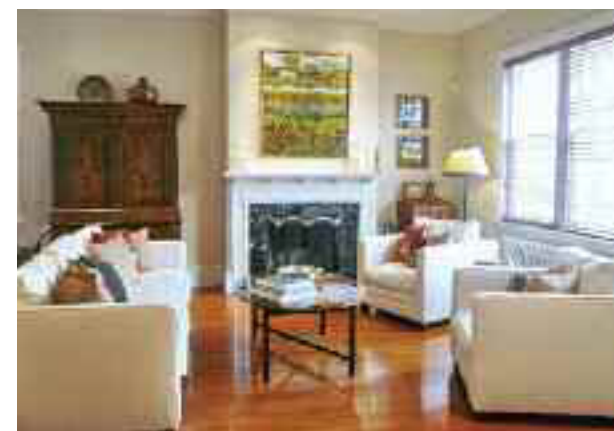
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Asking \$1,049,000



new listing

Handsome Home

3-storey semi of great proportions. 7+1 bdrms, 4+1 bths, large eat-in kitchen, 2nd floor den, high finished basement, beautiful garden w/ mature trees and beautiful views of city & river.
3200 The Boulevard
Asking \$1,295,000



new listing

Superb Stonehouse

Elegantly & tastefully renovated residence located steps to fine private schools. Luxurious master suite, large entertaining room, double garage & large garden.
3249 Cedar Ave.
Asking \$1,350,000



Westmount-adj.

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Reno'd Rowhouse

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481 Argyle Ave.
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The Inventory: Houses for sale

The Inventory is content provided by the Westmount Independent for the benefit of the reader. All information is garnered from public sources. Real estate agents, on the other hand, have access to closed networks that allow them to see more information, including the addresses of all listings. The Inventory endeavours to list all of the real estate of the type specified (e.g. condos or houses) that is for sale in Westmount at press time. If you are a real estate agent or private seller whose property has been overlooked, please write to us at indie@westmountindependent.com and we will work to include your properties in future editions.

\$329,000 Address unavailable
 \$369,000 104 Abbott Ave.
 \$440,000 327 Victoria Ave
 \$479,000 2 Prospect St.
 \$525,000 50 Bruce Ave.
 \$529,000 109 Lewis Ave.*
 \$529,000 111 Lewis Ave.
 \$535,000 102 Irvine Ave.
 \$559,000 4860 St. Catherine St.
 \$599,000 443 Claremont Ave.
 \$645,000 534 Lansdowne Ave.
 \$648,000 4608 St. Catherine St.
 \$649,000 54 Bruce Ave.
 \$679,000 59 Columbia Ave.
 \$699,000 488 Victoria Ave.
 \$760,000 527 Victoria Ave.
 \$795,000 458 Claremont Ave.
 \$798,000 382-382A Metcalfe Ave.
 \$829,000 479 Argyle Ave.
 \$829,000 481 Argyle Ave.

\$849,000 431 Wood Ave.
 \$849,000 Address unavailable
 \$859,000 Address unavailable
 \$889,000 Address unavailable
 \$895,000 4697 Westmount Ave.
 \$898,000 4146 Dorchester Blvd.
 \$900,000 434 Metcalfe Ave.
 \$909,000 460 Lansdowne Ave.
 \$939,000 Address unavailable
 \$979,900 Address unavailable
 (Sunnyside/Upper Roslyn)
 \$990,000 594 Lansdowne
 \$990,000 754 Upper Lansdowne Ave.
 \$995,000 644 Grosvenor Ave.
 \$995,000 4306 Montrose Ave.*
 \$995,000 Address unavailable
 (near Greene Ave.)
 \$995,000 25 Renfrew Ave.
 \$998,000 716 Upper Roslyn Ave.
 \$999,500 490 Argyle Ave.

\$1,039,000 628 Victoria Ave.
 \$1,088,000 26 Thornhill Ave.
 \$1,095,000 Address unavailable
 \$1,095,000 638 Roslyn Ave.
 \$1,150,000 449 Claremont Ave.
 \$1,195,000 4335 de Maisonneuve Blvd.
 \$1,195,000 Address unavailable
 \$1,195,000 19 Willow Ave.
 \$1,195,000 595 Lansdowne Ave.
 \$1,225,000 Address unavailable
 \$1,249,000 Mountain Ave.
 \$1,275,000 1 Severn Ave.
 \$1,295,000 3664 The Boulevard
 \$1,295,000 4386 de Maisonneuve Blvd.
 \$1,295,000 Address unavailable
 \$1,345,000 Address unavailable
 \$1,349,000 Address unavailable
 \$1,350,000 70 Summit Crescent
 \$1,350,000 3249 Cedar Ave.
 \$1,375,000 Address unavailable
 \$1,395,000 79 Rosemount Crescent
 \$1,395,000 Address unavailable
 \$1,398,000 786 Upper Belmont
 \$1,399,000 481 Strathcona Ave.

\$1,399,000 800 Lexington Ave.
 \$1,425,000 364 Kitchener Ave.
 \$1,445,000 26 Melbourne Ave.
 \$1,488,000 Address unavailable
 \$1,495,000 10 Willow Ave.
 \$1,499,000 40 Roxborough Ave.
 \$1,525,000 659 Belmont Ave.
 \$1,550,000 Address unavailable
 \$1,588,000 175 Cote St Antoine Rd.
 \$1,595,000 359 Redfern Ave.
 \$1,595,000 122 Sunnyside Ave.
 \$1,595,000 531 Grosvenor Ave.
 \$1,595,000 4820 de Maisonneuve Blvd.*
 \$1,625,000 Address unavailable*
 \$1,650,000 Address unavailable
 \$1,695,000 3 Bellevue Ave.
 \$1,695,000 443 Elm Ave.
 \$1,698,000 Address unavailable
 \$1,699,000 3284 Cedar Ave.
 \$1,789,000 Address unavailable
 \$1,795,000 729 Upper Lansdowne Ave.
 \$1,850,000 757 Upper Belmont Ave.
 *also for rent.

.....
 continued on p. 13

More on summer camps

.....
 continued from p. 8

the food for animals and then bring it to them. You can't really do that anywhere else in Montreal. Also, we have trained biologists, with many years of experience, working with the kids."

For more information, consult the Biodome's website, www2.ville.montreal.qc.ca/biodome, or call: 514.868.3087.

YMCA day-camp: the sooner the better

Starting in early March, day-camp registration at Westmount's YMCA will be getting underway and Chris Lockhart, camp coordinator, said it's important that parents come in to register their kids as soon as they can. With a healthy list of programs slated for the summer and a limited amount of space available, the camper roster can fill up fast.

Offering a wide-range of themed programs to kids as young as 2 and as old as 17, Lockhart said the YMCA can accommodate upward of 200 campers. With activities that range from swimming to arts and crafts, campers take advantage of the YMCA facility on Sherbrooke St., wander over to the Westmount Park or, in the case of the older campers, even trek out into the city. Like many camps, however, they limit the number of campers so as to ensure a safe, wholesome experience for the children.

"It's a chance to really be free of your daily routine and just have fun – to enjoy the summer," said Lockhart. "It's an experience for everyone involved, for both the kids and the counselors. The kids have had their full year of being in school, but this is supposed to be recreation – this is supposed to be fun. That's my goal, to make sure everyone is having fun and everyone is safe."

For more information, check out the YMCA website, <http://www.ymcamontreal.qc.ca/yymcaen.html>, or call: 514.931.8046.

Hockey school and sleep-away camp

Hockey Montreal, an 11-year-old hockey school based in St. Laurent, is readying for a full-service summer day-camp program that focuses not just on hockey, but other activities as well. With a bus service from Decarie Square and an action-packed summer in the making, Eric Rayment, president and owner of the school, strongly encourages parents to sign their kids up before it's too late.

Besides his specified training programs for older campers, this summer will include both daily ice time and outings where kids will have the full day-camp experience. With this in mind, early registration is key if parents are aiming to get their kids into specific programs or want

to ensure a summer spot. August, he warned, is the busiest month.

Back by popular demand, Camp Maromac, which was a residential summer camp for 42 years before switching to an

event centre, will be opening its doors to campers for two weeks this season. (See separate story below.) For more on Hockey Montreal, visit hockeymontreal.com and, for Maromac, go to www.maromac.com.

Maromac returns

Maromac is back.

The Val des Lacs-based facility (in the Laurentians between St. Agathe and Tremblant) is again offering the traditional children's camp that it ran from 1968 until 2006, when operating expenses dictated a change of business.

The Westmount-headquartered family business had been moving towards being an event centre since 1985, by renting itself out as a venue for corporations and private schools to hold retreats or special events. Maromac now also sells building lots on its land. A third party constructs buyers' houses.

A number of factors influenced the move away from the pure summer camp business. Co-owner Joseph Marovitch explained to the *Independent*. "It was the way we were running the camp. Certain programs were expensive, and counselors who supervised [the campers] were not instructors. The introduction of the PST & GST, and spiking gas prices were also con-

tributors."

But Marovitch now has a format – such as no bussing up to camp – that allows him to offer two one-week opportunities (or one two-week stint) to a new generation of campers at a price (\$675 a week) he thinks will work. The camp's new, short season starts on June 29.

Will campers see a big change? Marovitch hopes not.

Parents will be responsible for getting their children up to camp, but he sees this as a plus, "They will have the peace of mind of knowing where their child is staying and with whom. Parents can go right into the cabin, choose the bed and set up the space for their child." Counselors are now instructors as well.

What else is on tap? What Marovitch described as "back to basic" camping: bonfires, canoeing, sailing, tennis and music. For more information on Maromac, visit its website at www.maromac.com or call 514.485.1135.

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WEDNESDAY, FEB. 18: **Special council meeting** at city hall starting at noon.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 18: Dr. Mai-Anh Le Van gives a presentation on her work with **Médecins sans frontières** in Congo at 12:30 pm at the Atwater Library and Computer Centre (1200 Atwater). Free.

SATURDAY, FEB. 21: Opening public screening of *Fennario's War: The War to End All Wars* co-produced by Westmounter **Patrick Barnard** of Outwork Films at 7 pm at de Sève Theatre at Concordia University's Library Building (1400 de Maisonneuve W.). Tickets \$10 available at the door. 514.932.2026.

MONDAY, FEB. 23: The Women's Canadian Club of Montreal is hosting "**Nordic Passion**" with a recital at 11 am by pianist Derek Yaple-Schobert who will play works by 18th and 19th century composers, followed by luncheon of authentic Danish food at the Unitarian Church (5035 de Maisonneuve W.) Advance ticket purchase only (\$28 for members; \$30 for non-members). 514.284.1219.

THURSDAY, FEB. 26: **The Montreal Children's Library** (80 years old) holds its annual general meeting from 10:30 to 11:30 am in the basement of the Atwater Library

(1200 Atwater). Its mission is to provide free library services where none are available. AGM is open to all members of the community. Refreshments. The library is seeking new volunteers. 514.931.2304.

FRIDAY, FEB. 27: **Dr. Dorothy Williams** reads from and discusses her book *Blacks in Montreal 1628-1986: An Urban Demography* at 12:30 pm at Atwater Library and Computer Centre (1200 Atwater). Free.

MONDAY, MARCH 2: Pre-register for **March Break Camp** at Centre Greene. Registration ends March 6. \$25/day or \$100/week. www.centregreene.org or 514.931.6202, for more information.

SATURDAY MARCH 7: Sophie Lukacs will be giving a **free soccer clinic** for girls (ages 7 to 11) at Centre Greene from 4 to 5:30 pm. She is asking for donations of team soccer uniforms that will go to a co-ed soccer league in Burkina Faso. Money donations can also be made at www.justgiving.com/sophielukacs.

TUESDAY, MARCH 10: 7 pm, the **Westmount Horticultural Society** presents guest speaker Karen Runnels, a chartered herbalist from the Dominion Herbal College of Canada, natural health consultant and garden designer. Westmount Library.

514.932.9349. Non-members \$5.

THURSDAY, MARCH 12: Art Focus presents "Painting Montreal: The city seen through artists' eyes" an illustrated lecture by **Sandra Paikowsky** at the Westmount Library at 1:30 pm. Reservations 514.937.6391. ● **Henry Mietkiewicz** speaks on "Superman's Canadian Co-creator: The Triumph and Tragedy of Joe Shuster" at the Atwater Library and Computer Centre (1200 Atwater) at 12:30 pm.



Sophie Lukacs (right) with a soccer associate. See March 7 for info on her clinic.

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Bridge for Bright Brains: Responsibility and reliability

BY GEORGE RETEK

When one plays in a team game the level of responsibility increases. One needs to justify the bids and line of plays not only to one's partner, but to the teammates as well, especially when the chosen path differs from the generally accepted route. It helps to have supportive and understanding teammates.

Edith Denenberg of Pompano Beach, Florida is one of the unsung heroes of the game. Although she had won the ACBL Ace of Clubs competition in the Diamond life master category several times, she is practically unknown outside of Florida. However those who know her are well aware of her expertise and reliability.

In the last round of a recent Swiss Team event, the following crucial hand faced the declarer (please cover the East-West hands before deciding how you would play the cards).

North

♠ 9
♥ K 7 6 4
♦ K Q 10 4
♣ Q 9 8 3

West (Edith)

♠ Q 10 6 5 4 3
♥ A J 8
♦ J 7 2
♣ K

East

♠ A 7
♥ 9 5 2
♦ 8 6 5
♣ 10 7 6 5 4

South (Visitor)

♠ K J 8 2
♥ Q 10 3
♦ A 9 3
♣ A J 2

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	INT(15-17 HCP)
2 Spades	Double	Redbl	2 NT
	(takeout)	(has Spade honour)	
Pass	3 NT	All pass	

The 5 of Spade was lead to the Ace. The Spade 7 was returned, covered by the 8 and 10, while dummy discarded a Heart. At trick 3, Edith led the Q of Spade, and the Visitor was at crossroads. What would you do?

The "standard" play to nine tricks would be to take the Club finesse. However the visitor knowing of Edith's reputation was convinced that she would not provide an additional Spade trick by continuing Spades if she did not have two entries (Ace of Heart and King of Club). Consequently he paid the ultimate compliment to Edith's by playing the Ace of Club from his hand at trick four, then finessing successfully East for the 10 of Club.

Declarer ended up with 11 tricks, while the contract failed at the other table. Please note that playing the Ace of Club is the right play (as long as West has the King), even if the King is not singleton.

The last words (tongue in cheek) came from Bev and Al Levy (the Visitor's teammates): we are so fortunate to have such a learned person as a teammate, who is aware of the "Rabbi's Rule", that states: whenever the King is singleton behind the Ace, play the Ace.

More Inventory

continued from p. 1

\$1,875,000 55 Belvedere Circle	\$2,500,000 526 Clarke Ave.
\$1,895,000 401 Côte St Antoine Rd.	\$2,565,000 607 Clarke Ave.
\$1,950,000 365-7 Redfern Ave.*	\$2,590,000 40 Fornden Crescent
\$1,970,000 30 Surrey Gardens	\$2,600,000 Address unavailable
\$1,980,000 593 Argyle Ave.	\$2,760,000 3 Murray Ave.
\$1,995,000 701 Victoria Ave.	\$2,950,000 Address unavailable
\$1,995,000 29 Bellevue Ave.	\$2,988,000 4302 Montrose Ave.
\$1,995,000 Address unavailable	\$3,199,000 Address unavailable
\$1,998,000 Address unavailable	\$3,250,000 630 Clarke Ave.
\$2,150,000 9 Rosemount Ave.	\$3,290,000 64 Fornden Crescent
\$2,200,000 4760 The Boulevard	\$3,475,000 Address unavailable
\$2,375,000 420 Cote St. Antoine Rd.	\$3,500,000 62 Belvedere Rd.
\$2,390,000 Address unavailable*	\$3,750,000 Address unavailable
\$2,400,000 680 Victoria Ave.	\$3,980,000 Address unavailable*
\$2,400,000 3255 Cedar Ave.	\$4,800,000 3657 The Boulevard*
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Westmount Profile: Cynthia Lulham

Taking community to heart

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Cynthia Lulham's upbringing in a family of athletic achievers in historic Longueuil probably explains her interest in preservation and her drive to succeed in whatever she pursues.

"There was always this pressure to be athletic and competitive," she explains.

It was happenstance and an unplanned career in early childhood education that brought her to Westmount. And it was her time on the road for La Cache in the US that instilled her with an appreciation of the community whose quality of life she has been working to enhance during 13 years on city council.

"When I work in my front garden, people stop and tell me their problems," she says. "That's how you connect and get another perspective."

And with a home on the corner of St. Catherine and Irvine Ave., most of the hot issues in Westmount lie in her own backyard. And those that don't are not far from the front one.

In her four terms on council, Lulham has been involved in them all: the current arena renewal project, Westmount Park's playing fields, traffic congestion, parking problems, train and highway noise, and the upcoming reconstruction of the Ville Marie Expressway.

Work and life entwined

Lulham was the first councillor in Westmount to give birth in office, and her work and personal life have become inextricably intertwined. She served first as commissioner of Sports, Recreation and Community Events, and now as commissioner of Urban Planning.

Lulham grew up with older twin brothers and a younger sister on old seigneurie land where her great grandfather had a country home. "We were the only anglo family in a francophone neighbourhood," she recalls.

The family lived near hockey great Jean Béliveau whom her mother, a professional figure skater with the Ice Follies, used to jog "behind." Lulham's father was a commonwealth canoe champion, and her uncle was also a canoeing medalist. Her sister became the CEO of the Canadian Volleyball Association and is now media consultant for the Canadian Olympic team.

Not about to break with tradition, Lulham was set to study physical education at

the University of New Brunswick until her plans were derailed by a life-altering motorcycle accident. She was riding behind a boyfriend on the South Shore. "I was smashed up badly and underwent two years of healing bones and skin grafts."

Redirecting her studies to Concordia and early childhood education, she was introduced to Westmount by a summer job at the Y as head of the day-camp. "It was very different from the Westmount that I had read about in the newspapers."

Launching Narnia

After graduating in 1976, and spending "a defining year" in Europe, she teamed up with Barbara Keiser in launching the Narnia daycare, located in the Westmount Park School building. She subsequently started and became director of its after-school program. "I worked long days," she recalled, and decided to move to Westmount, originally on Melville.

Five years later, she happened to accept a part-time sales job at La Cache on Greene Ave. But it quickly developed into responsibility for window displays and marketing, and a new position as US operations manager, during which time she opened 20 new stores. "I lived on a constant road trip."

Marrying Max Pompili, she decided to settle down in Westmount, realizing from her absences the sense of community it offered. She began restoring her present home, which is believed to have been the Irvine farmhouse.

Lulham's entrée to municipal politics followed a 20th anniversary party that she organized for La Cache, which turned Greene Ave. into a giant party, complete with camels, peacocks, circus performers and barbecues.

Loved the neighbourhood

It brought her into contact with local residents and most of the city departments, "and never had I found a more positive group of people." So, soon after, when neighbours put her up to run in the election of 1995, she took on the challenge. "I loved the neighbourhood and the can-do attitude."

Lulham's council tenure includes the turbulent merger-demerger period. One of her proudest achievements was running the Victoria Hall shelter during Ice Storm '98, "an incredible example of the community coming together."

While on council, she introduced food, beverages and chairs to the deck of the



Cynthia Lulham with son Harris Pompili and Kiki, their SPCA special. Lulham stood in line all morning four years ago to adopt Kiki.

Westmount pool, "and got rid of the bathing caps." She was also instrumental in obtaining the prototype sound barrier at the end of Abbott Ave., the renewal of Victoria Hall and the conservatory, and the creation of the Community Events office. She also co-founded the Westmount Horticultural Society.

Latterly, she has been working to find "solutions" to super-sized houses, and hopes to introduce a process for public consultation regarding major renovations and additions. "We were told we couldn't legally do this," she said, "but we've discovered the law has been changed."

She was vice-chair of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' (FCM) Quebec caucus in 2006 and sat on the federation's Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. She continues to serve on Westmount's train committee.

Rollercoaster years

Throughout these years, Lulham's personal life has been a roller-coaster ride,

punctuated by new motherhood and the opening and subsequent closing of La Cucina – the kitchen store and catering business she ran with her husband on Victoria Ave. He died suddenly in March 2006 at the age of 48.

Left to raise her son Harris, then 9, on her own, "I had to find a job and go back to work," she says. A new job developed out of her volunteer work for the FCM on a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Railroad Association of Canada. She became the MOU's first project manager.

"Our aim is to find solutions to issues where railroads touch communities and to interface with municipalities," she says. "We created guidelines for new developments in proximity to railroads so they don't build problems for tomorrow."

Will she stand for election again this November as the councillor for District 7? Without hesitation, Lulham replies: "I'm going to run again, but it will be my last term."

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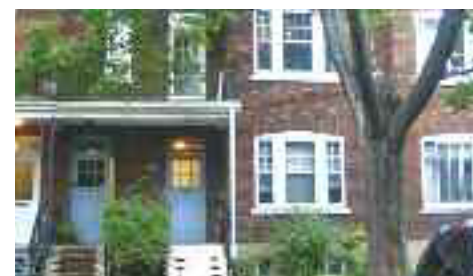
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