

Church Hill accident a ‘wake-up call,’ spawns other issues

*Where is Miss Vicky’s occupancy permit?
How many daycares operate in the city?*

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The issue of Church Hill traffic once again dominated much of question period at the December 5 city council meeting with the city reporting that no occupancy permit could be found for Miss Vicky’s, the independent pre-school operating at St. Matthias’ Church that generates much of the traffic.

The city does, however, have a record of renovation permits allowing the church to make changes to accommodate Miss Vicky’s, said city director general Duncan Campbell.

And the *Independent* has since learned that the school and city are working to clarify the permit issue (see separate story, p. 5).

It was to Miss Vicky’s that two young

children were headed September 29 when their stroller was hit in an accident caused by a runaway car that resulted in mental anguish to many and has fuelled the safety issue.

“It’s a wake-up call,” school owner Victoria Naday told the *Independent*.

But while some residents point to the coming and going of parents as creating a traffic problem, they also point out that the steep narrow street is used by northbound school buses and traffic from other nearby schools and other sources.

Longtime safety advocate Shelley Kerman, who first raised the Church Hill traffic issue, appealed to the city at last week’s council meeting to prohibit use of the street by all northbound traffic, particularly during morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up periods.

And in another passionate plea – this time from Christina Smith, the mother of the two children who es-

.....
caped injury from the *continued on p. 5*

Owner doesn’t blame city

City pledges higher dog run fences after dog killed by car

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

The city of Westmount plans to raise the height of fences surrounding its two dog runs, after a dog was run over by a car, having jumped over the fence at the Lansdowne Ave. dog run.

On the morning of November 28, Don Patton was at the Lansdowne run, when his two dogs spotted a squirrel outside the

fence, jumped over and took off in pursuit.

“That’s not the first time they’ve done that,” said Jennie Donovan, who was inside the run with her two dogs at the time.

According to Donovan, the vehicle’s driver “was clearly upset and offered to help. Don himself was just in a state of complete shock. She [the driver] drove him to the nearest vet. I took his other dog in the meantime.” In a phone interview with the *Independent*, Patton had no re-

proaches to make against the city.

“I don’t hold Westmount responsible for this,” he said. “Yes, the fences could be higher, and that would be great. It would

make it easier to keep them in there. But my dog had jumped the fence before and I brought her back, and I take responsibility for that. Yes, if the fences were higher that would be great, but I’m not angry with Westmount.”

Since last winter, Westmount has installed wooden snow fencing atop the three-foot-high permanent steel fence at the two dog runs to compensate for snow that accumulates underneath. Despite this, some dog owners feel a higher fence is needed year-round.

Donovan said the death of a beloved pet incident demonstrates the need. “It’s not the first time that I’ve seen a dog jump the fence,” she said. “I believe that for the safety of the dogs and of the people it would be very wise to build a proper fence to hold the dogs in.”

Councillor Cynthia
Lulham, who oversees the *continued on p. 6*

INSIDE



City page p. 16

Social Notes BY V. REDGRAVE p. 26

Bought & Sold p. 17 • Comin’ Up p. 19

Underdog BY C. LEE p. 21

9 Lives BY L. FOWLER p. 20

City council news

See p. 5, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12.

Don’t Miss It

Police blood donor clinic at
Westmount Square,
Friday, Dec. 16. See p. 19.

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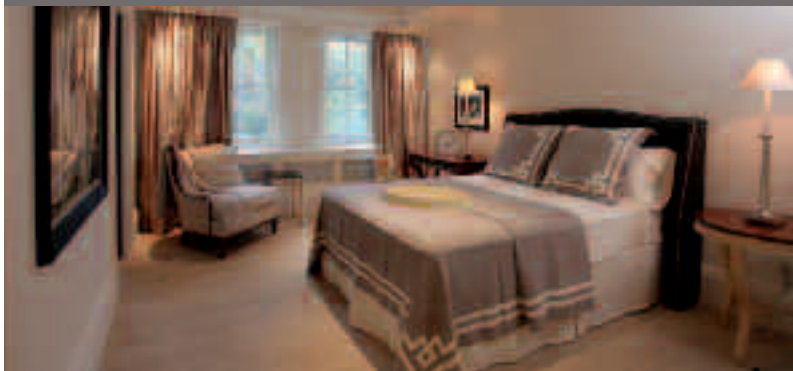
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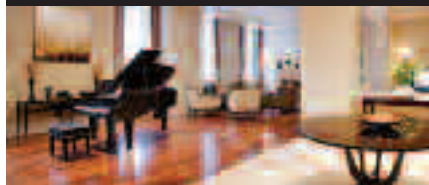


The Open Door drop-in centre for homeless people situated in St. Stephen's Church on Dorchester Blvd. held a fundraising artwork vernissage on December 6. All proceeds are to be directed towards workshops and supplies for an art program launched at the centre in July. Seen here from left (the artists are holding their work) are Peter Aitkens, Noemie Jaarsma, Andy Adams, Open Door executive director Caleb Clark, Jill Stafiej and supporter Sherina Payne. Some of the art work was created by Open Door clients. A total of \$730 was raised.

Photo: Martin C. Barry



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How to turn your wheels when parking on hills

Driving courses teach it, and the law requires it, but there continues to be confusion in Westmount on exactly how to turn a car's wheels against the curb on a hill as a precaution against it breaking loose.

Public Security officials said last week that while many people are complying



Sign from San Francisco.

with the recent "Wheels to Curb" campaign, a number of car wheels are being turned the wrong way.

And apparently, it's not a problem unique to Westmount. It's so prevalent that on the hills of San Francisco, signage has been mounted showing the correct way to turn the wheels.

"We're in the early stages of producing our own temporary signs that we can install from time to time throughout the city, starting with Church Hill and the steeper hills," said assistant Public Security director Greg McBain.

"It's an attempt to educate residents

Bathrobe exhibitionist flashes again

For the second time in a month, a man wearing a bathrobe was reported to be flashing passers-by early in the morning in the general area of Sherbrooke/Victoria district, Public Security officials report.

The latest incident occurred November 29 around 7:30 am when a call was received for a man wearing an orange toque and a black and white bathrobe, who was exposing himself at Prince Albert and Windsor avenues. Public Security and police searched the area in vain.

The suspect was described as white, aged about 55 with grey hair and appearing to resemble the suspect in a previous incident October 24 near Sherbrooke and Grosvenor/Lansdowne. On this occasion the man had disappeared in a green pickup truck (see November 1, p. 3).

Work stopped

Work on the façade of the building at 389 Claremont at Sherbrooke was stopped for safety purposes November 29, Public Security officials said. A permit had not been obtained to occupy the public sidewalk and roadway. The work resumed Friday when the permit was obtained and safety measures undertaken.

and frequent parkers."

Parking downhill requires the fronts of wheels to be turned against the curb, he said.

When parking uphill, however, it's the backs of front wheels that must rest against the curb. This means that the fronts are turned toward the street.



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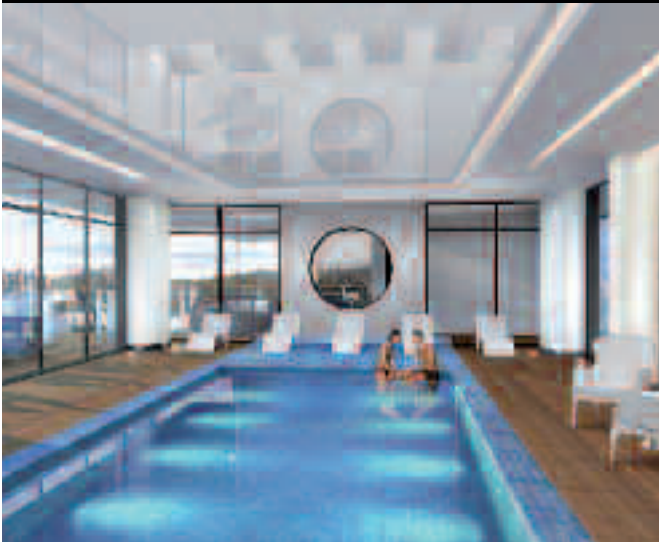
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The images are artistic renderings and final results may vary.

Church Hill ‘not unique’

continued from p. 1

runaway car September 29 – the city was asked to make this an opportunity to look at the broader issue of traffic in all school zones.

“Westmount is a destination for schools,” explained Smith. “Church Hill is not unique.”

“I appreciate your point,” Mayor Peter Trent said, noting that Westmount “welcomes” some 20,000 students a day – many coming from afar – to some 15 schools, including two CEGEPS. The issue has led to a new question of exactly how many daycares actually operate in the city (see separate story at right).

Times have changed, Trent noted, since churches and schools were allowed to locate in residential zones so neighbourhood people could walk to them. Churches experiencing dwindling congregations are turning to other sources of revenue for sharing space, such as nursery schools or daycares that have become magnets for traffic.

Smith later described the accident in which her children were involved as “a freak accident that had nothing to do with the school.” School personnel are at street side helping the children inside, she said, and were there at the time of the accident.

“It’s been difficult for us to live through, and I hope something good can from it, so no one else has to live through the same experience.”

Campbell also announced that the city’s Administrative Traffic Committee was recommending that the east side of Church Hill be changed from a no-parking zone to no-stopping.

But former Roslyn principal Bertha Dawang, who lives across the street from the school, asked why a commercial establishment was allowed to operate on a residential street in the church under vested rights when, as a longtime resident of the street and educator, she had been denied similar rights to open an office. Who had more vested rights?

Dawang also pointed out that in Quebec all traffic must stop for school buses discharging passengers, yet on Church Hill little kids are being let out on the street side with traffic passing around them. She also noted how a dog had been hit at the same location September 30 (see October 18, p. 23).

“We’ll have to look at it more quickly,” Trent replied of the issue. “You’ve made your point most eloquently.”

On another traffic issue, a resident of Redfern asked the council why so many delivery trucks were allowed to stop over

the sidewalk, creating another dangerous condition. “When we find them, we ticket them,” Campbell said.

“I’ve never seen a ticket on one,” the questioner replied.

Mystery permit, pre-school’s status under review

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

An ongoing search for an occupancy permit for Miss Vicky’s, an independent pre-school, has not only come up empty-handed but also raises interesting questions, the *Independent* learned last week.

While the city could not find a permit from 20 years ago in its records, pre-school founder Victoria Naday suggested the church would likely have it if one had been issued. But rector Kenneth Near said his search had not turned up anything either.

But that does not surprise him.

“In our view, Miss Vicky’s does not require a certificate of occupation because we consider they operate under the umbrella of our outreach program. They are here as part of our mission of outreach to the community.”

The school currently has 80 students, Naday said. Some 80 percent live in Westmount.

Near, who came to St. Matthias’ exactly three years ago, long after Miss Vicky’s arrival 20 years ago from Melville church, said that even though the nursery school is a commercial operation, it is “consistent and resonates with our mission” as are all the groups that operate, or have, out of the church, such as Girl Guides and the Orpheus Choir.

The permit issue is now being followed up by Miss Vicky’s and the city, director general Duncan Campbell said Thursday last week. “I believe a permit is required.”

The issue was initially brought up at

Kerman later told the *Independent* that she called Public Security December 2 to report two Videotron trucks parked up over the sidewalk on the east side without their wheels turned to the curb.

Public Security officials said no tickets were issued since the crews were in the process of leaving.

the November 7 council meeting by Bertha Dawang, a resident of Church Hill across the street, who questioned why a commercial establishment was operating in a residential area (see November 15, p. 4).

Dawang, who is a director within McGill’s faculty of education and a former principal of Roslyn, followed up at the December 5 council session to challenge a vested rights designation for the pre-school given *continued on p. 13*

How many daycares?

One of the offshoots of the Church Hill traffic issue and the safety of children is the number of possibly unknown daycares operating in Westmount.

While the city lists some 15 private and public schools, including Dawson and Marianopolis colleges, this figure does not include all nursery schools or daycares, which attract younger children who often require transportation.

A listing from several years ago of educational centres inspected by the city fire department named 10 pre-schools, which included four larger daycare centres. But what about smaller ones or those that might be operating privately?

That’s a question the city is now looking into in the hopes of preparing an inventory, said director general Duncan Campbell.

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Team pulled off ice

Westmount victorious at Cape Ann hockey tournament

BY MARLENE EISNER

Eight Westmount hockey teams participated in the 20th Cape Ann Hockey Association tournament the weekend of November 18.

The annual three-day event was held in the town of Gloucester in Cape Ann, Massachusetts. Girls and boys between the ages of six and 14 represented Westmount as the Novice A Wings, Atom A Wings, Atom B Wings, Atom B Predators, Peewee A Wings, Peewee A Predators, Peewee B Wings and Bantam A Wings.

By the end of the weekend, the kids had played a total of 16 games, and the coaches had a chance to show their hockey skills in two games. The standings were 12-4 for Westmount, with the coaches losing both of their games.

“In total, about 120 families made the trip down to Gloucester for the event,” said Andrew Maislin, sports coordinator with Westmount Sports and Recreation.

“One of the great moments of the tournament was the fact that the Novice A team got their first two wins of the season at the exchange.”

The *Independent* learned that there was a tense moment when a Westmount team was pulled off the ice during a game with a minute left to play, allegedly because the coach felt the game was getting violent.

As per “association policy” that all requests for information must first go through Maislin, an email sent by the *Independent* to the coach was re-directed to Maislin, who refused to comment on the incident, except to confirm that it occurred and that “no one was injured.”

“I am very proud of all the teams who participated in the exchange. This was a great experience not only for the players of the teams, but for the families who travelled down with them,” he said.

Buy Rotary calendars!

The *Independent* is proud to again be the sponsor of this year’s Rotary Club of Westmount calendar. *Indie* contributor and Rotary president Ralph Thompson donated his photographs to the effort, as he has done for the previous two editions. Don’t miss his photos of Westmount parks, trees and finer spots.

Westmount’s Rotarians are best known for their garage sale of previous years, which has experienced a re-birth as a collection of items for future good works, including getting the items to people who need them and a possible auction (“Rotary

to start collecting ... again,” September 27, p. 30).

In 2011, they have also financially supported the international campaign against polio as well as many local projects. The sales proceeds from this calendar will help continue those efforts.

It is available at Chez Nick and the Scotia Bank on Greene Ave., Westmount Florist, Westmount Stationery and Hogg Hardware in Victoria village, and at the Y and Manoir Westmount in “central” Westmount.

David Price, Publisher

Stingers pitch in at Mountainside’s Christmas citrus drive



Photo: Martin C. Barry

Hundreds of crates of Indian River oranges and grapefruits arrived on schedule from Florida on December 5 at Mountainside Church on The Boulevard. They’re for a Christmas-time fundraiser the congregation conducts each year for l’Abri en Ville, a non-profit group that helps provide housing for adults who have a mental illness. Members of the Concordia Stingers men’s hockey team were on hand to unload the fruit. Seen from the left are church members Margaret le Gallais and Sandra Baines, Stingers coach Kevin Figsby and Stingers players Mathieu Dubuc and Djan Lefebvre.

Dog run fence

continued from p. 1

dog runs, said ongoing construction work for the arena project will soon make it necessary to relocate the Lansdowne dog run somewhere close by.

“In the end, we will be putting up a high fence around the new and improved dog park,” she said. “We’re going to look at a metal fence, at a more attractive fence. I can’t say if it’ll be four feet or five feet, but

it’ll be higher.” She said the same measure will be taken at the dog run in Murray Park.

Lulham acknowledged that part of the city’s reluctance to install a higher dog run fence stems from a ban on chain-link fencing. “We don’t allow chain-link fences for our residents, and I don’t believe the city should use chain-link fences either,” she said, adding that an exception is made for fences around tennis courts.

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Police Beat

Greedy suspect holds up Banque Nationale

BY DAVID GOLDBERG

An armed suspect who wanted more money than a teller could give him held up the Banque Nationale at 4084 St. Catherine St.

Police say the suspect entered the bank at 10:05 am on December 5. He went up to a teller, opened his jacket and said, "Look what I got."

"The suspect revealed a black handgun, which was tucked in an inside pocket in the jacket," said Pimentel. "He told the teller to stay calm and hand over the money."

The teller emptied her cash drawer, but the suspect said he wanted more money.

"The teller told him that she couldn't get any more money without authorization from her supervisor," said Pimentel. "At that point, the suspect appeared to become nervous and he left, heading east on St. Catherine."

The suspect is described as a white male with a pale complexion, 35, 5'8" and thin. He had a moustache, and wore a red and black jacket, and a red and white wool toque.

Possible car bomb not what it seemed

Police say what at first looked to be a car bomb turned out to be something quite different.

Officers were called for a suspicious package in a Subaru parked on St. Catherine near Grosvenor at 3:38 pm on November 28. When they arrived, the officers saw two gas canisters in the car, along with a metallic briefcase.

"There was also a Sucrets cough drops tin with a button and a switch on it, and a wire which seemed to attach the tin to the briefcase," said Constable Adalbert Pimentel. "The officers took the situation

very seriously. They set up a safety perimeter, and the bomb squad was notified."

The officers used the car's licence plate to locate the vehicle's owner, a 20-year-old NDG man.

"He was brought to the scene, where he explained everything to the officers," said Pimentel.

The man told police he had two gas canisters because his car was leaking gas. The briefcase held some work-related tools, and the Sucrets box was a device he rigged up to start his car.

"He told us he was having trouble getting it started," said Pimentel. "The officers checked out the briefcase and the Sucrets tin, and the man's story checked out completely."

The driver was issued a parking ticket and told his vehicle would have to be sent for inspection.

Two residential break-ins

There was a pair of residential break-ins over the past few weeks.

The first happened between 1:45 and 3 pm on November 27 in a home on Wood,

near de Casson. Police say the homeowner had gone out for a walk and left his front door unlocked.

"The suspect simply walked in and stole his laptop computer, cell phone and some jewellery," said Pimentel. Police canvassed the area, but there were no witnesses.

"When you leave your home, even for a short period of time, always lock your

doors," said Pimentel.

The second break-in happened between 8 am and 5 pm on November 28 in an apartment on de Maisonneuve, near Elm. The suspect removed the screen and opened a window at the rear of the building. "The suspect searched two rooms, stealing a laptop computer and \$25 in cash, before fleeing the same way he came in," said Pimentel.

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BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

NEWS FROM CITY COUNCIL

Something smells funny – at Victoria Hall

Lansdowne Ave. resident Dan Lambert appeared wearing a gas mask at the microphone during the city council question period December 5 to drive home a request to replace an allegedly stinky carpet in the Lodge Room of Victoria Hall. "I am wearing what is becoming a recommended accessory for yoga and yogalates courses at Vic Hall," he said.

Discovering he had to remove the face mask in order to speak, Lambert asked the city to replace the carpeting with wood or other material.

He presented a list of 43 signatures from exercise class participants supporting his request.

Sports and Recreation commissioner Kathleen Duncan said she and Cultural and Community Services commissioner Nicole Forbes had had an opportunity to discuss the request but there were a number of other problems that also needed prioritizing concerning Victoria Hall.

"We'll take a look at it," Mayor Peter Trent said. An answer could be expected at



Dan Lambert at the council meeting, December 5.

the January 9 council meeting.

Yoga classes would eventually take

place at the new Westmount recreation centre, he added.



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

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

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Msgr. Sean Harty, Parochial Administrator

Rev. Patrick Donnelly, Associate Pastor

MEETING, DECEMBER 5

Possible Côte bike path questioned

Cycling committee wraps up mandate

City council's *ad hoc* cycling committee has completed its mandate and folded its work into the master traffic study, Councillor Gary Ikeman announced at the December 5 meeting of city council.

"All suggestions will be dealt with

under the parameters of the Traffic Master Plan," and through city director general Duncan Campbell, he explained as outgoing committee chair.

Ikeman pointed out that the committee had been formed to study problems related to the bike path and make recommendations, especially concerning its safety through Westmount Park, which it had done.

He, along with councillors Kathleen Duncan and Theodora Samiotis, were thanked for their efforts by Dan Lambert, president of the Westmount Walking and Cycling Association (WWCA).

Recommendations concerning the bike path, the bicycle lanes on Lansdowne/Glen Rd. and future routes are under review by the Genivar traffic consultants preparing the master traffic plan.

WWCA member Patricia Dumais repeated requests for the city to start planning now to open a bike path along Côte

St. Antoine in time for spring. As a resident of the street, Trent replied that while he was in favour of such a new route, "I've got to figure out a way how to get other people on the street behind it.

"Everything's political," he added.

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Other council news stories:

- **Arena/pool spending tally, p. 10**
- **Braemar to be restored, p. 12.**

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City says totals expected this week or next

Arena/pool spending tally under microscope

By Laureen Sweeney

The total amount of spending to date on the arena/pool project is undergoing an auditing process by the city before being released as publicly requested, city director general Duncan Campbell told the *Independent* after the December 5 council meeting.

“I prefer to do a forensic accounting to ensure nothing unrelated slips into it,” he explained. A total could be known this week or next.

By and large, he pointed out, a lot of the spending undertaken before adoption of the \$37-million loan by-law in August 2010 was paid for out of appropriated surpluses and other means set aside for preliminary arena/pool studies and other work.

So far, Lemay architectural fees of \$1.3 million will form much of the total amount already spent, he said, though an allocation for professional fees had been set aside in 2008 (see August 17, 2010, p. 3). Final amounts are in negotiation, he had explained at the council meeting. The city terminated its contract with the firm four months ago.

Preliminary work on the arena/pool project dates back to the previous council’s mandate when some of the planning and initial studies were undertaken.

Along with design fees, total costs to date are expected to include those spent on a variety of items such as traffic, soil, needs and fundraising assessments as well as consultants, PR, fundraising and newspaper advertisements.

In requesting the spending totals, long time arena/pool project critic Patrick Barnard told the recent council meeting it

had already taken him “a lot of time” to access information related to some \$65,000 paid to Bruce St. Louis in his position as project management consultant after his retirement as city director general.

Barnard was now seeking a response to his second request regarding expenditures



Among those lined up to speak during question period are, from left: Nina Safdie, Bertha Dawang, Shelley Kerman and Richard Lock.

to date on both the above-ground project proposed by the former council and the current underground one.

“We’ll give you an account rendering on the first and second projects,” Mayor Peter Trent said. When pressed for a timeline, Campbell said this would be forthcoming at the January 9 council meeting.

Barnard also officially turned over a petition of the Save the Park group to the city, which includes some 2,150 signatures collected since April and titled “Change Westmount Arena Plan” (see December 6, p. 10).

Prospect St. rep appeals to Chagnon for help

City up against more sound barrier delays

By Laureen Sweeney

Westmount’s 25-year quest for a sound barrier along the train tracks and Ville Marie Expressway seems to have been derailed again.

The latest hitch has been the recent

switch in Quebec Transport ministers, with Pierre Moreau taking over from Sam Hamad. It was Hamad with whom Mayor Peter Trent had met a year ago, believing he had obtained buy-in for a barrier while insisting Quebec pay the cost of at least the stretch east of Hallowell.

“This change of ministers has hurt the cause,” he told inquirer Frank Candido at the city council meeting

December 5.

Candido, who was representing fellow residents of Prospect St. and their neighbours, said he had just written to MNA

Jacques Chagnon, speaker of the house, asking for his “direct involvement” in resolving the sound barrier problem “immediately.”

Trent stated he was now hoping to meet with Minister Moreau, whom he had known during the demerger issue when Moreau was minister in charge of the Montreal region.

A consultant’s report for the city tabled May 1 this year described noise levels across the entire Westmount transit corridor as exceeding 65 decibels. This is the level set by Quebec as warranting noise reduction. The report proposed a number of solutions from berms to a sound wall similar to the Plexiglas prototype at the foot of Abbott Ave. (see May 3, p. 1).

Candido explained in his letter to Chagnon that “while it may make sense” to await final plans for the rebuilding the Turcot interchange before proceeding with sound reduction measures west of Greene (or Hallowell), the same does not apply for those to the east.

“Unfortunately, the Turcot reconstruction project will have no impact on the immediate area of Prospect St. whereby the Ville Marie Expressway will not be moved or lowered,” he wrote.

The situation needed to be addressed now. “We have been living with this health hazard for over 25 years,” he stated.

Traffic study delayed for start of arena/pool project

By Laureen Sweeney

The second and final phase of the city’s master traffic plan has been put on hold until the city gets the shovel in the ground for the arena/pool project, Mayor Peter Trent told the December 5 council meeting. The study’s conclusions could be expected in “the spring.”

The study and recommendations had initially been scheduled for conclusion by year-end, though Trent had stated in September that they might be delayed (see October 4, p. 1).

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“We want to put the Westmount Recreation Centre to bed first and don’t want to open up two fronts at the same time,” he said in replying to a request for timelines from Patricia Dumais of the Westmount Walking and Cycling Association.

“The Westmount Recreation Centre has dragged on far too long,” he later added.

A preliminary report from the Genivar traffic consultants undertaking the study was presented to the council September 27. It contained an extensive amount of data, which, Trent said, he wants to disseminate to all Westmounters in January “as a snapshot of where we are today.”

That, he explained, would be the “first stab” at defining goals that would enable the study to move into the solution stage.



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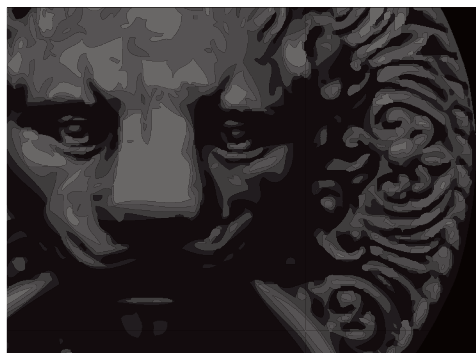
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Christmas spirit comes to city hall



led by director David Szanto, the choir from Ascension of Our Lord Parish was joined by local Cubs and Beavers and many residents for the annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony at city hall on December 5. City councillors were also on hand to sing a few carols, and the Cubs and Beavers contributed a few jokes and riddles. After the Christmas lights on city hall and on an evergreen tree were flipped on, people headed over to the lawn bowling clubhouse for refreshments.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

Joseph Marovitch

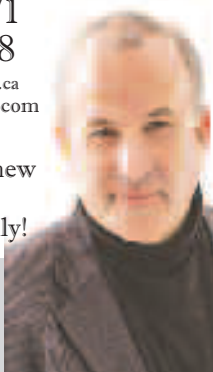
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Resident requests city pass a No-CETA resolution

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Lansdowne Ave. resident Richard Lock made a second request to city council December 5 to adopt a resolution excluding municipalities from the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA).

His argument is that the far-reaching trade agreement in which Canada is currently in negotiation, would undermine the ability of municipalities, school boards, hospitals and provincial agencies to promote community economic devel-

Braemar gets permission for restoration work, garage

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

One of Westmount's oldest and most historic homes is about to undergo renovation to restore its exterior and carry out much needed maintenance.

At the city council meeting December 5, two permits were granted for work at 3219 The Boulevard, the white southern colonial mansion-type house west of Mount Pleasant, known as Braemar and classified as Category 1* in the city's heritage ratings.

"It's probably one of the most important houses in Westmount," explained Mayor Peter Trent.

In the 1980s, he recalled, three new houses had been allowed on the front of what had been its large property almost obscuring a view of the house from The Boulevard, a decision that aroused controversy at the time and continues to be regarded as a flagrant urban planning error.

Braemar had been allowed to deteriorate over the years, but now "we're happy to see the new owners are interested in restoring it," said Councillor Cynthia Lulham in explaining the requested work per-

mits.

Work related to the first permit involves insulating the exterior walls from the basement to the ground floor, repairing the balconies that completely surround the house on two floors, and re-establishing openings that had been blocked. The roof is to be redone as well as the greenhouse, and windows and doors replaced.

A second permit was granted to erect on the west property line a new one-storey accessory building to be used as a garage, re-landscape the property, relocate the driveway and build retaining walls.

The home's galleries running around all four sides make it unique in Westmount. According to the city's heritage study by architects Beaupré and Michaud in 1988, the house was built around 1847, and is believed to be the only other remaining building on the island of Montreal designed by the architect of the Bonsecours Market, W.M. Footner.

The house had a twin known as Clairevue that has been demolished. They stood out in old photos as the highest point of buildings in Westmount. Details were added to Braemar during a facelift in 1924.

opment. This would include "buy local" and "hire local" policies.

If enough municipalities were to opt out of CETA, the entire deal could be in jeopardy, according to The Council of Canadians, which is driving the issue among municipalities, in conjunction with the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE).

Municipalities have not been consulted or involved, Lock explained, adding that a draft resolution had been prepared by MP Marc Garneau's office for use by city coun-

cils.

Mayor Peter Trent explained that while he agreed in theory with the objectives of CETA, he would worry about lowering environmental standards if international companies were allowed to compete for municipal contracts.

He asked Lock to communicate further with Councillor Cynthia Lulham, who is involved with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and with Councillor Victor Drury, who has related interests in the issue.

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Lit up



New festive lighting for the Greene Ave. (above) and Victoria/Sherbrooke commercial districts was installed on light posts at the end of November.

Photo: Laureen Sweeney

Church Hill

continued from p. 5

that the city had not allowed her to open an office at her home.

Campbell, later explained that Urban Planning would be looking into the issue of zoning for St. Matthias' but to qualify for acquired rights, a building had to exist in a particular role or manner before new zoning was introduced at a later time.

The original St. Matthias' was built in fields in 1875 at Côte St. Antoine and what is now Church Hill as a country mission of St. George's Anglican Church downtown. The current stone building was erected in 1912.

The church and pre-school enjoy a win-win association for both, Naday said. "We pay a substantial amount to the church," though Near says that it is not an important source of income, rather that they are able to enjoy shared use of the facility and that the school can operate in a "safe and caring" environment.

To accommodate the school, the church underwent major renovations, including the installation of a sprinkler system and other safety features.

Excessive barking brings yet another ticket

Public safety officers issued a \$75 ticket December 3 to the owner of a dog on Willow Ave., which neighbours complained was barking excessively, Public Security officials said.

On arrival just after the call at 7:39 pm, officers reported the dog was "howling constantly" in the back yard while they attempted to reach the owner, who arrived home 14 minutes later. Previous barking offences dated back to 2009.

Warnings over, check parking signs

With the start of winter parking restrictions on certain streets starting December 1, parkers are reminded to check out signage now that a week's tolerance has expired, Public Security officials said.

"We've been giving out 50 or 60 warning tickets a night to people since December 1," said assistant director Greg McBain.

As well, he said, with snow removal operations likely to be required any day now, Westmounters should keep an eye out for related signs and be careful where they

park – especially at the end of the day – to avoid being towed.

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CONSEIL MUNICIPAL
Séance extraordinaire du conseil
Le conseil municipal présentera le budget de la Ville de Westmount pour l'exercice financier 2012 ainsi que le programme triennal d'immobilisations pour les exercices financiers 2012, 2013 et 2014 lors d'une séance extraordinaire qui aura lieu le lundi 19 décembre 2011 à 20 h à l'hôtel de ville de Westmount. Info : 514 989-5200.



TRAVAUX PUBLICS
Floralies des Fêtes
Rendez-vous au Conservatoire pour l'exposition de poinsettias. Ces floralies se poursuivront pendant toute la période des Fêtes. Info : 514 989-5311.

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Arbres de Noël

La cueillette des arbres de Noël débutera le 5 janvier. Assurez-vous de dépouiller l'arbre de tout(e) décoration ou emballage et placez-le sur votre terrain à l'arrière du trottoir. Nous vous prions également de faire preuve de patience en raison du déneigement et des autres tâches pouvant retarder la cueillette. Info : 514 989-5311.



SPVM POSTE DE QUARTIER 12
Collecte de sang le 16 décembre
L'équipe du Poste de quartier 12 de Westmount vous invite à partager un cadeau unique : le don de la vie le vendredi 16 décembre entre 11 h et 19 h au 1, Westmount Square.



ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES
Fête de Hanouka
Joignez-vous au maire Peter F. Trent, aux membres du conseil et aux rabbins et membres des deux synagogues de Westmount pour l'illumination de la première chandelle de la Hanouka le mardi 20 décembre à 17 h à l'hôtel de ville. Une réception avec des friandises et des jeux traditionnels suivra. Info : 514 989-5226.



CITY COUNCIL
Special Council Meeting
City Council will unveil the budget of the City of Westmount for the fiscal year 2012 as well as the three-year programme of capital expenditures for fiscal years 2012, 2013, and 2014 during a special council meeting on Monday, December 19, 2011 at 8 p.m. at Westmount City Hall. Info: 514 989-5200.



PUBLIC WORKS
Holiday Flower Exhibition
Enjoy the seasonal display of poinsettias in the Conservatory throughout the holiday period. Info: 514 989-5311.

Collection Services: regular schedule throughout holidays
Please note that collection of kitchen waste, recycling and garbage will take place according to the regular schedule throughout the holiday season. Info: 514 989-5311.

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Christmas Trees

Christmas tree collection will begin on January 5. Make sure your tree gets composted by placing it behind the sidewalk and by removing all decorations and wapping. Please be patient, as snow removal and other services may delay the collection. Info: 514 989-5311.



SPVM NEIGHBOURHOOD STATION 12
Blood Donor Clinic December 16
Westmount Station 12 personnel invite everyone to give a unique holiday present: the gift of life on Friday, December 16 between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. at 1 Westmount Square.



COMMUNITY EVENTS
Chanukah Party
Join Mayor Peter F. Trent, members of City Council and rabbis and members of Westmount's two synagogues on Tuesday, December 20 at 5 p.m. at City Hall for the lighting of the first candle of Chanukah. A reception with traditional treats and games will follow. Info: 514 989-5226.

SERVICES MUNICIPAUX : HORAIRE DE LA PÉRIODE DES FÊTES

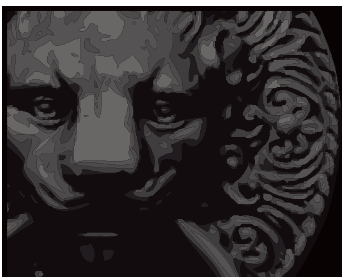
Décembre 2011 December 2011						
	mercredi 21 Wednesday	jeudi 22 Thursday	vendredi 23 Friday	samedi 24 Saturday	dimanche 25 Sunday	lundi 26 Monday
Hôtel de ville et administration City Hall and administration	8 h 30 - 16 h 30	8 h 30 - 16 h 30			Fermé Closed	
Bibliothèque Library	10 h - 21 h	10 h - 21 h	10 h - 21 h		Fermé Closed	10 h - 21 h
Conservatoire Conservatory	10 h - 21 h	10 h - 21 h	10 h - 21 h	10 h - 17 h	Fermé Closed	10 h - 21 h
Aréna Arena	8 h - 22 h 30	8 h - 21 h 45	8 h - 21 h 45	9 h - 16 h 45	Fermé Closed	12 h - 19 h 45
Victoria Hall et la galerie Victoria Hall and The Gallery	8 h 30 - 16 h 30	8 h 30 - 16 h 30				
Police – PDQ 12 Police Station 12	Tous les jours de 9 h à 19 h Every day from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.					

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE OF MUNICIPAL SERVICES

Janvier 2012 January 2012						
	mercredi 28 Wednesday	jeudi 29 Thursday	vendredi 30 Friday	samedi 31 Saturday	dimanche 01 Sunday	lundi 02 Monday
Hôtel de ville et administration City Hall and administration	8 h 30 - 16 h 30	8 h 30 - 16 h 30			Fermé Closed	8 h 30 - 16 h 30
Bibliothèque Library	10 h - 21 h	10 h - 21 h	10 h - 21 h		Fermé Closed	10 h - 21 h
Conservatoire Conservatory	10 h - 21 h	10 h - 21 h	10 h - 21 h	10 h - 17 h	Fermé Closed	10 h - 21 h
Aréna Arena	8 h - 21 h 45	8 h - 21 h 45	8 h - 21 h 45	9 h - 16 h 45	Fermé Closed	12 h - 19 h 45
Victoria Hall et la galerie Victoria Hall and The Gallery		Fermé Closed				8 h 30 - 16 h 30
Police – PDQ 12 Police Station 12	Tous les jours de 9 h à 19 h Every day from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.					

Bought & Sold: Real estate transferred October 31, 2011

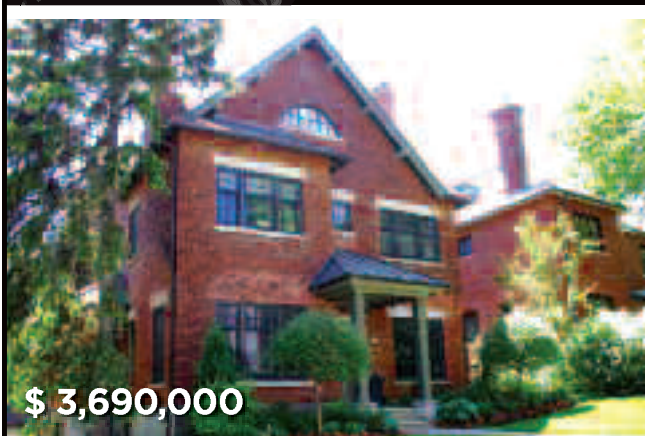
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MUHC sets up outreach office at Crowley Centre

By ISAAC OLSON

Westmounters looking to learn more or voice concerns about the McGill University Health Centre's (MUHC) rising superhospital now have an NDG-based "project office," where they can meet with officials and discuss not just the current but also the long-term plans.

While the public has always had a hotline to call, an email address to write to

hospital to reveal more in-depth plans for the future, but officials like spokesperson Caroline Phaneuf have said it is a plan-on-the-go build and not every detail was finely-tuned before construction began.

Now, however, she said those plans are finalizing and residents can, through the office, look further ahead.

"When people phone in, we don't have these architectural renderings and pictures to look at," said the MUHC's community liaison, Johanne Emmanuel, who confirmed that there have been around 200 inquiries since the hotline was opened about a year ago. "Also, people are sometimes more shy when they are in a group like the Comité de bon voisinage, but they may be more open with us, and we can answer their questions on a more one-on-one basis."

The continued mission is to respond to the concerns of the community and, while they admit not every request can be met as there are often counter-demands among disagreeing community members, there is a concerted effort to listen to and, whenever possible, remedy issues.

Residents are invited to call "the New MUHC Planning Team" at 514.934.8317 or email construction@muhc.mcgill.ca.



From left, SNC Lavalin's Diane Rivard and MUHC's Johanne Emmanuel show off their new office space in the Crowley Arts Centre.

and regular public meetings to attend, project planners are now able to release more detailed information to the public in a private one-on-one space that seeks to eliminate both the on-the-spot feeling of meetings and the anonymity of phone conversations. It also allows people to review images and models of the site plans while staff can discuss topics ranging from construction schedules and street cleaning to hospital layout and public access points.

"The purpose is to be able to answer all questions from the residents and the business owners," said SNC Lavalin's Diane Rivard, a communications head focused on MUHC's Glen site.

Available to residents and merchants by walk-in or appointment, the office is located on the second floor of the Crowley Arts Centre (532 Crowley Ave. near Decarie). It will be open to the public two days a week: Thursdays from 9 am to 7:30 pm and Friday from 9 am to 4:30 pm. Appointments outside of the walk-in hours are available.

The MUHC is running the office in collaboration with its building partner, Groupe Immobilier Santé McGill (GISM). There will be a vacation break from December 19 through January 8, but service will resume on the 9th.

Many residents from the surrounding area have been putting pressure on the

Comin' Up

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

- "Demystifying Aging," with guest speaker Mark Bromby, 6 pm at the Atwater Club, 3505 Atwater. Cost: \$30.76 for dinner. Reserve: **The University Women's Club of Montreal** at 514.932.3922.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15

- The Westmount Historical Association is replacing its previous presentation with an invitation to the public to attend and share individual **experiences of playing sports in Westmount**, at 7 pm around a big table at the Westmount Public Library. Coffee and Christmas cookies will be served. Info: 514.989.5510.

- Actor Michael Rudder does a dramatic reading of Frederick Forsyth's *The Shepherd*, the Christmas ghost story famously read for CBC radio by Alan Maitland, 12:30 pm at the Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

Local **police station 12's blood donor clinic**, 11 am to 7 pm, at Westmount Square (location of former SAQ store).

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

Christmas concert "Lightning from the East: Orthodox music for Christmas," by **The Orpheus Singers**, directed by Westmounter Peter Schubert, 8 pm at St. Matthias' Church (131 Côte St. Antoine). Tickets: \$18 for adults or \$20 at the door; \$10 for seniors and students or \$12 at the door. Reserve: 514.846.8464 or info@orpheusmontreal.org.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19

Special **city council meeting**, 8 pm.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20

Menorah lighting at city hall (4333 Sherbrooke St.), 5 pm. The lighting of the first

candle of Hannukah with Mayor Peter Trent, members of council and the rabbis from the Shaar Hashomayim and Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom synagogues. Reception with traditional treats and games to follow. Info: 514.989.5265.

- **Poetry workshop with Ann Lloyd**, 2 pm at the Westmount Public Library. Info: Donna Lach 514.989.5386.



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Goldie Blondie is the first to greet me when I come through the door of the kitten room. Even with the two food plates in my hands, she stops to wait for me while I put the food down and her siblings run for their meal.

She lifts her head, and her huge blue eyes just melt my heart. We have a long cuddle, she flips on her back for a belly rub, then I put her by one of the food plates so she can join the others.

I look forward to a loving family in our neighbourhood for her. She is really a treasure.

If you would like more information on Goldie Blondie, you can reach me on my cell at 514.909.7186. You are most welcome to drop by to visit with the kittens. They are growing up to be very sociable, and they love company.

Your neighbour, Lysanne

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Handsome single male seeks loving home, strings attached



The Underdog Club

CYNTHIA LEE

Have you ever met the perfect guy? You know, the kind who gets your pulse racing and puts butterflies in your stomach? Everything about him is right; he's handsome, smart, loves to snuggle and even enjoys the occasional romantic comedy!

Perfect, right? Everything's going great until the moment you introduce him to your friends. This is a big moment in any



Bert

home, a good one to boot. Sadly for Bert, the home was in a part of the city that banned his breed. Back he came to Sophie.

The experience left Bert a little jaded. The result has been some socialization issues. To start with, this good-looker is vocal when he's around other canines. He is loquacious but not in a Larry King kind of way, more like Howard Stern. It's tough to quiet him down.

Bert also thinks it is fine to jump on new dogs and pin them down. He just needs to learn the rules of dog.

But at the same time, he can be mellow too. At a foster home a few months back, his best buddy was a chihuahua. They got on like a house on fire. Another defining

moment for Bert came when he was attacked by his foster mum's cat, Button, who left a nasty gash on Bert's noggin. He hasn't liked cats since.

Word on the street is that Bert is special – the kind of dog that people who know and cherish pit bulls dream about. He's that good despite his baggage.

But come to think of it, who doesn't come with a little baggage? Are you looking for someone to sit at your feet and bask in your glow? How about someone silky soft to cuddle and hold? Bert ticks all the right boxes, but you need to know a little something about pit bulls and be

living in a place where they are allowed.

Pretty please contact Sophie's Dog Adoptiosn at info@sophieadoption.com or 514.523.5052.

Dog attack checked out, unproven

A large, long-haired dog was allegedly attacked December 1 by a smaller one that was reported to have bitten off a clump of its very thick fur in Summit Woods, Public Security officials said.

Officers responding to the call from a woman, who sounded very upset, located the victim, a resident of Summit Circle, but could not find any signs of injury to the dog or missing fur.

The owner of the alleged aggressor, also a nearby resident, contended the two male dogs had simply engaged in "normal intervention." She was advised to obtain a dog licence and no further action was recommended in light of the absence of physical evidence.

Murray dog owner fined – again

A resident of Murray Ave. was issued a \$75 ticket November 30 for a small dog found running loose nearby in Murray Park. Public Security officials said a call concerning the dog was received at 9:03 pm, and the Norfolk terrier was taken to the station while its ownership was traced through the dog database. It was given back along with the ticket in a long line of dog by-law offences recorded against the owner going back to 1996.

For a peek into the complicated and touching stories of Montreal's hard-on-their-luck dogs, please visit www.underdogclub.org.

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relationship and usually the ultimate litmus test.

Well Bert, our two-year-old pitty, is quite familiar with this drill having failed miserably quite a few tests himself. You see, Bert is that perfect guy: sweet, whip-smart and available. The reason he's still up for grabs has to do with a few issues he has.

For starters, he was born into a home of drug dealers. As a tiny puppy, the cops barged in and shut this drug den down, leaving Bert homeless and bound for euthanization.

The cops decided he was far too cute to be put to death and sent him to Sophie's Dog Adoption.

Not long after Sophie found him a



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ON THE SHELVES

Among recent reading and audio-visual material at the Westmount Public Library singled out by staff are:

Magazines: Tech wars...

“E-book readers: They’re lighter, cheaper, and better” in *Consumer Reports*, December 2011, p. 29. (Full access to Consumerreports.org is available to Westmount Library members through the library’s website: www.westlib.org.)
“Liseures électroniques : mille livres en un” in *Protégez-vous*, December 2011, p. 23.



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New eBook titles

The Luminist by David Rocklin – In Victorian-era Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), Catherine Colebrook and her family’s 15-year-old servant Eligius explore the possibilities of the emerging science of photography, as they contend with the increasing strife between the British and the local population, and their conflicting feelings of allegiance.
The Scottish Prisoner by Diana Gabaldon – In the 18th century, paroled prisoner of war Jamie Fraser and his old friend Tobias Quinn must travel from London to Ireland on a mission of intrigue, surrounding a packet of documents and an ancient relic.

Adult non-fiction: Examining happiness...

Human happiness by Brian Fawcett – The author looks at his parents and childhood to search for the meaning of happiness by examining the mysteries of marriage and family.
Why not?: fifteen reasons to live by Ray Robertson – After a bout of suicidal depression, Robertson decided to try and answer two of the biggest life questions. What makes humans happy? And what makes a life worth living?

Adult French – And the winner is...

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L’art français de la guerre by Alexis Jenni – The author’s first novel was awarded the Prix Goncourt. The narrator befriends an ex-military man and, through their conversations, discovers 50 years of France’s military history. He recounts their friendship but also questions himself about the state of contemporary France.
Guyana by Élise Turcotte – Turcotte has won the Grand Prix du livre de Montréal with her latest book. Ana takes an interest in a small community of Guyanese immigrants when her children’s hairdresser, who came from Guyana, is found dead of an apparent suicide. Eventually, Ana launches her own investigation, as she has reason to believe that the woman was murdered. More than a mystery, this story is also an exploration of our attitude towards death.
DVDs

Page One: Inside the New York Times – Gain unprecedented access to *The New York Times* newsroom and the inner workings of the media desk. With the internet seeming to surpass print as the main news

source and newspapers all over the country going bankrupt, see the media industry transform at its time of greatest turmoil.
Bobby Fischer Against the World – Considered by many to be the greatest chess player to ever live, this is the first and definitive documentary biography of the eccentric genius, who rose from humble beginnings and captivated a world audience with his victory over Russia’s Boris Spassky at the height of the Cold War.
Non-fiction for Children
40 jeux de relaxation: méthode Rejoue by Micheline Nadeau – This book offers 40 amusing games that a parent or a teacher can use to help children from 5 to 12 years old relax.
Bart’s King-Sized Book of Fun by Bart King – Are you bored? This book is full of silly ideas to make your day more fun!

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Quebec classifieds

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Wajzman speaks out against a state-controlled press in Quebec

BY LAUREN O'LOUGHLIN

Beryl Wajzman, editor in chief of *The Suburban*, was guest speaker for the Montreal Press Club (MPC) November 21 at the Atwater Library.

After a comment by MPC president Byron Toben, Wajzman launched straight into his tirade against the Quebec government, giving examples of the “horrible torts to the body politic,” which he said he has witnessed as an advocacy journalist.

Wajzman argued passionately against Quebec minister of Culture, Communications and the Status of Women Christine St. Pierre’s proposal to enforce the recommendations of a report entitled “Information in Quebec – a public interest.” The report was drafted by ex- Radio Canada journalist Dominique Payette and was created in light of the rapid changes in technology and communications, and how this has changed the world of journalism. It aims to outline strategies to prevent erosion to the quality of news received by people in Quebec.

Wajzman introduced the topic by first explaining his role as an advocacy journalist and how it differs from conventional journalistic roles. He paced energetically



Beryl Wajzman speaking November 21 at the Atwater Library.

before his small audience and even did away with the podium as he spoke into a hand-held microphone. “The press is the fourth estate of government [...] when the government has no time, when the government has no knowledge and the courts are too expensive, they [the people] come to us – the press,” he explained, as he elaborated on the duties of the “advocacy journalist” and the importance of coercing wayward bureaucrats into doing the right

thing under the duress of negative media exposure.

Payette’s plan

Wajzman then moved on to explain the background of the “Payette plan” and the two elements, which he felt would have the greatest negative impact on journalism in Quebec. First, it aims to enforce an accreditation system for journalists “to ensure that the supply of information and the conditions of practising professional journalism do not deteriorate further.”

This would create a two-tiered system of professional and non-professional journalists. The danger in this, according to Wajzman, is that should this bill go through, “the government will basically determine who becomes a member of the fourth estate.”

He said the report also marginalizes non-francophone publications in Quebec by enforcing annual French exams in order to become an accredited journalist. Wajzman refers to this section as “a death knell for non-francophone media.”

To close his heated speech, Wajzman reached out to journalists to abandon “false piety [...] be courageous.” When explaining the motivation behind his confrontational approach to journalism and social activism, Wajzman said “it pleases me to destroy evil and kick hypocrites in the ass!”

Sixth book of poems by Silvera-Rochon



Westmounter Claire Silvera-Rochon dropped by the Independent’s office December 9 to show off her new book of poetry. *Concerto pour des images*, published by Éditions du Vermillon, is Silvera-Rochon 6th book of poetry, which is complemented by photos of collages she created to illustrate the poems. The book contains short poems that touch on issues of life, love and time. The book is destined to be sold in bookstores.

Photo: Westmount Independent

“Information in Quebec – a public interest” can be read in full at www.mcccf.gouv.qc.ca/fileadmin/documents/publications/consultation/new-media-serving-public-interest.pdf.

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Westmounters at work

BY LAUREN O'LOUGHLIN

Gettings kids organized

Carolyn Melmed of Roslyn Ave. has 35 years of teaching under her belt. Five years ago, she decided to put that experience into her business, Improving Study Skills. Melmed has created workshops and a DVD and workbook kit, which provide parents and children some tools to learn the necessary skills to become more organized, improve communication and learn how to deal with conflicts. "I realized



Carolyn Melmed at the CJAD radio studio.

Photo: Improving Study Skills

I was helping many children but that parents deserved a resource too," said Melmed. The DVD and workbook were launched last year and are available to purchase through the website www.improvestudyskills.com.

Four Green Steps is bounding to success



From left, actor Boo Boo Stewart (Seth Clearwater in the Twilight series), Jaye Yarrow, Bill Yarrow and Fivel Stewart, teen celebrity and sister of Boo Boo, at the Los Angeles Green Festival in October.

Photo courtesy of Four Green Steps

Jaye Yarrow of Prince Albert Ave. is the president of Four Green Steps (FGS), an online resource that pools together thousands of ecologically and ethically produced goods from around the world into one online marketplace. The business has been active for three years, but the official launch was held in October. "We didn't want to launch until we were [officially] established as the largest green marketplace" said Yarrow. The company also offers free teaching resources to schools to help youths learn more about the environment and how to foster more ecologically sound lifestyles. Visit www.fourgreensteps.com.

Hockey players need yoga too

Lauren Rudick, 26, of Claremont Ave. is the owner of Avigna Yoga. She identified what she considers a niche unique to the Canadian yoga market – yoga for hockey players. "It's a wonderful practice to help hockey players [...] they don't stretch enough and often end up with injuries," said Rudick. She mentioned groin injuries as being one of the most common among hockey players. She developed an eight-week course called Yoga for Hockey players. She currently teaches the technique from Siscoe Gym on Jean Talon

street. Sessions are \$15 per class. There about 12 men attending "and I push them hard," joked Rudick. For more information, visit www.avignayoga.com or call 514 945 2333.



Lauren Rudick busting a move.

Photo courtesy of Lauren Rudick

The content in Westmounters at work is researched and written by the Independent. Businesses that appear do not pay for or approve what is written.

Small fire, major response

Numerous fire trucks and other emergency vehicles converged outside Alexis Nihon Plaza December 3 for what turned out to be a small fire in an apartment on the 15th floor of the Plaza Tower, 4000 de Maisonneuve.

In relating the incident, Public Security officials said they had been alerted to the fire at 3:48 pm by an angry tenant, who did

not want to leave the building in spite of the evacuation alarm.

On arrival, officers spoke to fire officials, blocked the street and helped with crowd control until 4:22 pm when the incident was reported over. Neither Public Security nor Hydro Westmount had been informed by 911.

Berke helps launch RSVP's 2nd edition



From left, Westmounter Bunny Berke was on hand at Wave on November 29 to help RSVP Magazine's editor in chief Maya Sardouk celebrate the launch of her second edition, along with Larry Lusco and Carolina Gallo-La Flèche.

Photo courtesy of RSVP

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Grassi's Rococo at The McClure Gallery



Westmount contemporary abstract painter Antonietta Grassi, centre, and her husband Stanley Hason, left, and McClure Gallery/Visual Arts Centre director Victoria LeBlanc, right, stand in front of Grassi's new paintings, including the Rococo series, which is being exhibited at the McClure Gallery until December 21.

Photo: Annika Melanson



WESTMOUNT: Corner bright elegant Victorian home with charm backing on Park Stayner (tennis courts and 2 skating rings). Cross hall plan, moldings, butler pantry and bay window in living-room give a lot of character to his house. Great outdoor space off the kitchen with direct access to 3 parking spots. No back neighbours, lot of privacy in back-yard. **\$875,000** MLS #8656725

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A close-up photograph of a woman's face, looking directly at the camera. A large, dark green leaf is positioned in front of her chin and neck area.

The logo for "peau" (esthétique médicale), featuring a stylized green leaf inside a white circle.

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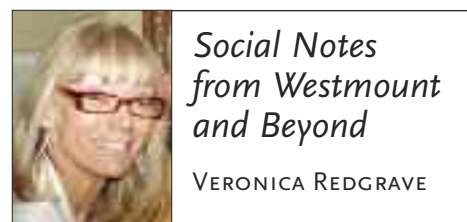
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Gala raised money for 'Sarah's Floor' of new hospital



*Social Notes
from Westmount
and Beyond*

VERONICA REDGRAVE

The 10th anniversary of the Sarah Cook Fund of the Cedars Cancer Institute was celebrated on November 3 at Le Parquet-Centre CDP Capital.

The gala called "Grin and Bear It" was decorated with cuddly teddy bears, and charming gifts were presented to the guests, courtesy of **Sarah Cook's** parents, **Lorena and Norman Cook**.

The event marked the 10th anniversary of Sarah Cook's fight with Ewing's sarcoma, a rare type of bone cancer, for which she was treated at the Montreal Children's Hospital (MCH) in 2001.

Honorary chairs were **Cookie and Larry Rossy**. Event chairs were Westmounter **Bradley Massi** (there with his wife **Raphaëlle**) and his father **Raymond** (with wife **Eleanor**), senior partner at RSM Richter Chamberland, a major donor, as were The Larry and Cookie Rossy Family



Westmounters Daphne and Jeff Shamie surround Andrew Carter, centre.



Event co-chairs Raymond Massi (left) and Westmounter Bradley Massi (right) stand on either side of Sarah Cook.

Foundation, Kamik (the Cook family) and Gildan (the Amel and Glenn Chamandy family).

Westmounters attending included gala committee members **Nadia Niro**, (with husband **John Anthony Luzio**); **Roberto Bellini**; **George Vouloumanos** (with mom, **Vicky**); and **Elaine and Calin Rovinescu**; as well as **Julia and Stephen Reitman**; with daughter **Lisa** and her husband **Ari Himmel**; **Sylvie Chagnon**; **Hilary Pearson**; **Colleen and Mirko Wicha**; **Christina and Craig Miller**; and **Daphne and Jeff Shamie**, executive director of the Cedars Cancer Institute.

Andrew Carter was emcee with **Julian Hecht**. Chair of the Best Care for Life Campaign at the MUHC **John Rae** attended with his wife **Phyllis**.

Also seen were the MCH Foundation chair, **Dr. Nicolas Steinmetz** (with wife **Birgitta**); and president **Marie-Josée Gariépy** (with husband **Robert Davis**); **Arthur**

Porter; and **Bruce Shadeed**, president, Cedars Cancer Institute.

There was hardly a dry eye in the room during Sarah Cook's speech, which brought her two well-deserved standing ovations.

The evening also paid tribute to the

many health care professionals at the MCH, and raised \$875,000, which goes directly to the MCH, the Best Care for Children, and Best Care for Life campaigns of the MUHC, as well as to perpetuate "Sarah's Floor" at the hospital's new facilities at the Glen Yards site.

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Macdonald-Akbari received award

Westmounter William Macdonald-Akbari, 18, was chosen for a Youth in Philanthropy Award from the Association of Fundraising Professionals on November 15.

Macdonald-Akbari's volunteer work is primarily at the Royal Victoria Hospital, which nominated him for the award.

Last summer, he completed the Student Training and Education Program program that offers volunteer opportuni-

ties to high school and CEGEP students, and training in life skills and career exploration. He is currently a Vanier student.



Photo courtesy of Janet Macdonald

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