

Letters cont'd...

continued from p. 8

(November 10, p. 7). I fully agree with her.

Any change of contract conditions after the fact is unacceptable. I also agree with reader Kimberley Lapenson (p. 6 of the same issue) who deplores the poor air and water quality at the Y swimming pool and offer my congratulations to this Masters swimmer who just turned 84.

Unfortunately, most of us are not Masters swimmers and merely want to keep fit, but have seen our lane time severely reduced by the special requirements of the Masters. Whereas ordinary swimmers cannot use the pool during the designated Masters times, Masters can and do use our lanes during our designated times, often intimidating us with their fast and aggressive swimming, further reducing pool availability for us.

Shouldn't we have a discount for loss of lane time? Now, if Westmount had a year-round pool (poorer municipalities in Montreal do) everybody would get along swimmingly!

MAYA KHANKHOJE, KENSINGTON AVE.

Editor's note: It is my understanding that the new fee did not come about "after the fact," but was previewed and discussed long before the start of the fall 2009 season.

PARANOID MOTHERS UNITE

Thank you for reintroducing your new writer, SophieTarnowska. I've enjoyed reading her last few witty articles on motherhood and can't wait to see and hear more of her in the future. Sophie, I'm thrilled to know I'm not the only paranoid mother around!

JOELLE AZOUZ PISCOPOS, UPPER BELMONT AVE.

'TEAR DOWN THIS FENCE'

Mayor Trent: One of your first tasks should be to unravel the financial mess left to you by the previous council, which has been so divisive for the citizenry.

Some tasks:

1. Why was a contract for \$1.3 million (\$850,000 already spent) given to the architects Lemay & Associates, and why was it given without seeking proper consensus from the people living in the surrounding neighbourhoods? Please let us know if any lobbyists or paid consultants were involved, apart from Lemay and the soil testing firms.

2. An enormous amount of city employee time and money were wasted on the cancelled synthetic turf boondoggle and the citizens have never been given a proper financial accounting. Again, other than the

landscape architects and the playing fields specialist were any lobbyists or consultants involved and, if so, how much were they paid?

3. Why was \$905,000 spent on landscaping and all of the other work that was involved on the Academy Rd. soccer fields only to have them iron gated as if it were a private estate? Mayor Trent, "please tear down this fence."

These are just a few of the serious and costly financial blunders that await your study and for which the citizens deserve an honest and complete accounting.

Mayor Trent, all of the above is about a council which forgot sound business principles and had "no skin in the game" but more important, it is about financially strapped taxpayers who have been hurt by the ineptitude that went on around them, and who trusted that their money would be used wisely and prudently during these difficult financial times.

LARRY KLEPPER, ST. CATHERINE ST.

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Toile's used bedding initiative helps local women's shelter



Suzie Legg and Toile owner Ingrid Bryson, November 12.

The Victoria Ave. exchange started off with "You're great!" from Toile owner Ingrid Bryson, thanking Westmounter Suzie Legg, November 12, for dropping off her used duvets to donate to a local women's shelter. Legg retorted "No, you're great!" to Bryson, who was collecting donations of used bedding from Westmounters to donate to Chez Doris, a day shelter for troubled women at 1430 Chomedey St., just east of Atwater. The initiative started in her

own store when Bryson set aside non-matching sets of pillow cases and duvet covers to give away to the shelter which used the bedding "to help get the women back on their feet."

This year, Bryson offered a discount on new merchandise for bedding donations and hopes it will become an annual event "to help communities within the Westmount area in need."

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