

Habs anthem duties brings celebrity status to West Island beauty Briannah Donolo

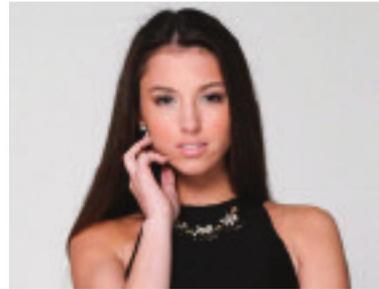


Mike Cohen

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being recorded and should be out with a bang in early 2015.

Last September Briannah took part in public auditions for anthem singers for the Habs. She was among an endless array of individuals to take part in this *American Idol*-like format to perform *O Canada* and the *Star Spangled banner*. "It was an empty Bell Centre, they put me up on the Jumbotron and I sang my heart out," Briannah was telling me last week. "It went very well. I got a call back and on Sept. 25 I was assigned to do the pre-season game between the Habs and the Ava-



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Briannah got the call again two weeks ago for a big game between the Habs and the Bruins. She'll be back soon, but is sworn to secrecy as to the specific date. The wide exposure has now made her an Internet celebrity. Some blogs have frankly gone a bit too far. "It's all good," she said. "I was out for supper with my dad the other night; the waiter recognized me and asked for a photo. With my album coming out the publicity can only help."

A huge Habs fan, Briannah naturally wants to pursue a career in music professionally. She completed her first year of CEGEP at Marianopolis College, but when she was offered a potential recording label

in Las Vegas she did not register for this fall semester. Instead she is earning her credits at LaSalle College and will be back at Marianopolis in January. "Music is my passion," she says. "I taught myself guitar and piano at the age of four and continued to perform at Kuper, where I also taught competitive cheerleading. I hope to go back and visit there soon."

FECAL TRANSPLANTS AND IBD: Sufferers from Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) could benefit greatly from fecal transfers or transplants if research currently being done at McMaster University in Hamilton continues to show progress, I learned at a recent symposium to mark Crohn's and Colitis Month at Hotel Ruby Foot's.

Dr. Maya Saleh, an associate professor in the Departments of Medicine and Biochemistry and director of the Inflammation and Cancer Program at the McGill University Health Centre, spoke optimistically about research currently being done at McMaster about fecal transfers and success in this area thus far related to cases of C Difficile. "It is in the really early stages," said Dr. Saleh, "but the hope is fecal transplants could prove to be a cure and administered in the form of a suppository."

This experimental therapy involves injecting fecal matter into the GI tract of

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NEWS & VIEWS

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PICTURE BOOK AUTHOR: Children's author Lydia Lukidits, a graduate of Westpark Elementary

School and West Island College in Dollard des Ormeaux, will launch her new picture book *The Dilly Dilly Routine* at Paragraphe Bookstore downtown on McGill College Avenue this Saturday, Nov. 29 at 10:30 a.m. The audience will enjoy a charismatic reading of the book followed by a signing. In addition, the author will give a free puppet making workshop to all of the children in attendance. They will also be offered free illustrations and other goodies to take home. This is geared towards kids aged two to eight and their families. The book focuses on Mocha, who says it's bedtime, but Petri wants nothing to do with it! Reading books, singing lullabies and juggling plates are only a few of the things Mocha does in an attempt to tire his son out. Although Petri is entertained, he still refuses to sleep. He just wants to dilly dilly! Worn out by his son's shenanigans and silly antics, will Mocha ever get Petri to bed before losing his marbles? "I always encourage children to continue reading, because it expands their horizons and helps develop their imagination," says Lydia. "In this technologically driven age full of distractions, I want to help keep literacy alive. For me the magic is in the written word and I would like to ignite this passion in children."

Have something to share? E-mail me at mcohen@thesuburban.com or leave a message at 514-484-9203, ext. 307. Follow me on Twitter @mikecohencsl and at <http://blog.thesuburban.com>.



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BUDGET

Cont'd from page 1

him to represent LBPSB on the board of directors of the Quebec English School Boards Association.

Commissioner Marty Sherman will return to chair LBPSB's executive committee, which will be vice-chaired by Craig Berger and includes Stein Day as well as Mary Ann Davis, Frank di Bello, Eric Bender as members.

Davis was also appointed to represent LBPSB on the Verdun municipal social development committee.

Stein Day regretted an Education Ministry decision "to cut commissioners' stipends by 30 per cent."

Heffernan said that the amount of money that will be divided among 17 commissioners has fallen to \$138,337, "about

\$100,000 less than last year."

Sherman will also take over from Stein Day as chair of LBPSB's ethics committee.

Conflict case reopened

The Suburban has learned that LBPSB ethics commissioner Bernard Grenier has quietly reopened his investigation of conflict of interest allegations against Stein Day.

The accusations stem from her term on the board of the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations (QFHSA). They are connected to the subsequent disbandment of the Sherwood Forest school governing board, after parents questioned the legality of home and school association activities there.

"I signed five declarations of interest, including one for QFHSA," said Stein Day, who declined a request that she recuse herself from discussing the issue before coun-

cil. "I do not need to recuse myself unless there is an actual conflict."

Former governing board member Cindy Mac Donald complained that the school board has provided misleading information about the case.

"Ethics commissioner Grenier reopened the case during the school board election," she told *The Suburban*, following reports that she and two other complainants, Luc Horne and Michèle Poupore, were dissatisfied with how LBPSB handled the case.

"He approached us directly," Mac Donald said in an interview. "He asked us to provide more information. We submitted some material that had not been forwarded to him. The school board has known about this for awhile, but doesn't want to talk about it."

"We expect to hear something at the end of this week," she concluded. ■