

PLEASE NOTE:

Due to circumstances beyond our control, this week's crossword puzzle was unavailable. We apologize for the inconvenience.

Matthieu Handfield makes West Island proud with prestigious dance award



Mike Cohen

Kirkland teen Matthieu Handfield is still coming down to earth following his impressive feat in July in Orlando, Florida. The 15-year-old competed and won the Teen Mister Candance North America national title, beating out top soloists from across Canada and the United States.

"As cheesy as it sounds, it was one of the single best moments of my entire life so far," Matthieu said from New York, where he is finishing up an intensive summer session of training. "It felt as if all of my hard work and long hours and dedication finally paid off. The feeling you get when your name is displayed on the stage when you are asked to redo your solo in front of everyone again is just outstanding. I still can't believe it."

The title award was based on audition classes done in Orlando and a solo performance. Judges from across North America added the scores together and presented titles to the highest finishers.

Matthieu has been shaking a leg at the Sheila Parkins School of Dance and Music in Dollard since the age of eight, training 30 hours a week. He currently competes for the school and attends a Dance Etudes program during the academic year at the École Supérieure de Ballet du Québec downtown. In New York, he is being pushed out of his com-

fort zone. "I'm a ballet boy," he says, "and all we did was technique, partnering and a lot of modern. I feel that I have really improved over the past two weeks. I made a ton of friends and amazing connections with teachers and choreographers."

A delighted Parkins commented: "We are so very proud of Matthieu! This is a huge accomplishment and one that will be the start of an amazing dance career. Along with his versatility, Matthieu's hard work and dedication to his dancing have taken him a long way already."

What is Matthieu's career goal? "I know that I want to dance and eventually open up my own studio/school that can give dancers professional training in every style and aspect of dance," he responded. "I want to dance, but whether it's commercial, Broadway or even being in a contemporary company, I'm not sure, and this choice will come in the next few years. I also sing a lot. I have a vocal coach from New York City and I love to act! I want to be a triple threat and be versatile in everything, so that when I go to an audition and they tell me to do something, I will be able to. I want to be in movies and TV shows and be represented by a talent agency."

COMBATTING ANXIETY: Over 20 percent



Matthieu Handfield

of Canadians suffer from anxiety. With this in mind, the Montreal Center for Anxiety and Depression will present an informative evening on combating anxiety and home study options on Wednesday, Aug. 26 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at The Brunswick Medical Center (955 St. Jean, suite 305) in Pointe Claire. Admission is \$19.99 and you may bring a friend with you for free. To hold your spot 514-777-4530 or www.helpforanxietydepression.com.

CEMETERY ART EXHIBITION:

The Friends of the Mount Royal Cemetery will hold their 14th annual Art Exhibition and Sale Aug. 22 and 23 (1 p.m. to 4 p.m.) at 1297 Chemin de la Forêt in Outremont. At the Saturday vernissage, 25 artists will display their beautiful and creative paintings in oil, watercolour, and mixed media. Free walking tours will be on the agenda as well in French the first day and English the second. Info: Andrew Sarrasin 514-279-7358 or aws@mountroyalcem.com.

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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Mr. and Mrs. Fred Cassir, owners of the McDonald's Restaurants in Pierrefonds, D.D.O., Ville St. Laurent and Dorval recently awarded a scholarship to two of their employees. **Jessica Ross** and her twin sister **Nicholle Ross**. Both are starting their first year at Concordia University in Exercise Science in the fall. Jessica would like to continue in the field of Medicine while Nicholle is leaning towards Physiotherapy.



our Scholarship Program is a way of demonstrating that."

Mr. and Mrs. Cassir explained that: "Our Scholarship Program which was established over 20 years ago is to reward academic achievement and to encourage our employees to excel. McDonald's is committed to creating career and educational opportunities for our employees in school. We take pride in our employees' success and

Jessica and Nicholle have been employees at our St. Jean location since June 19, 2012. Both girls are a tremendous asset to our company, making a difference at work, at school and in the community.

"We wish them both much success in their future endeavours."



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