The Westmount Examiner

Vol 72, no 6 • Thursday, February 8th 2007 • www.westmountexaminer.com • 9,800 copies • MAKING ALL OF WESTMOUNT YOUR HOME

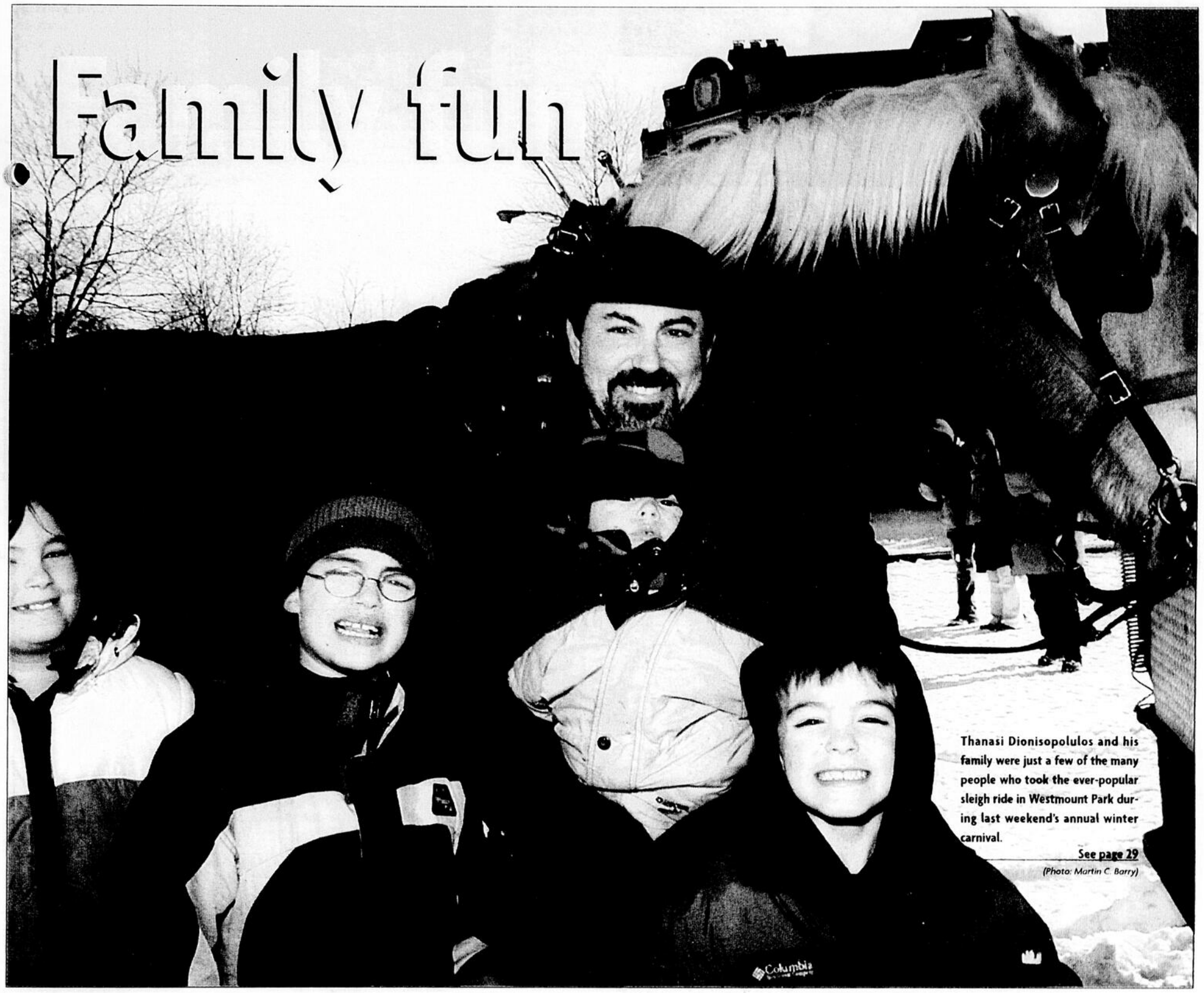
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Family fun



Thanasi Dionisopolulos and his family were just a few of the many people who took the ever-popular sleigh ride in Westmount Park during last weekend's annual winter carnival.

See page 29

(Photo: Martin C. Barry)

Most local properties not affected by Mount Royal protection rules

> Martin C. Barry

Despite the fact that part of the Westmount summit is included inside a zone created by the provincial government for the protection of Mount Royal , only three properties in the area are affected by strict architectural regulations which supercede the City of Westmount's, says Mayor Karin Marks.

With the exception of three privately-owned tracts of land on Côte des Neiges Road, the only part of Westmount included in the Arrondissement historique et naturel du Mont Royal is Summit Park.

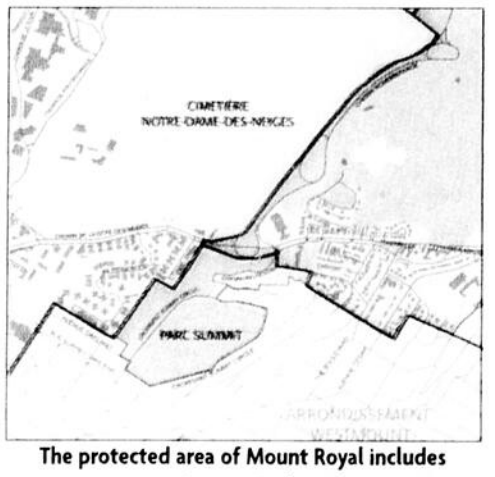
"We've participated very actively in the entire process, which is the development of criteria for what should be protected in Mont Royal," said Marks.

Under the Cultural Property Act, the Quebec government may declare any area with a high concentration of historic monuments and sites a historic district. There are currently nine historic districts across the province and three natural ones. Mount Royal received the dual status of historic and natural district.

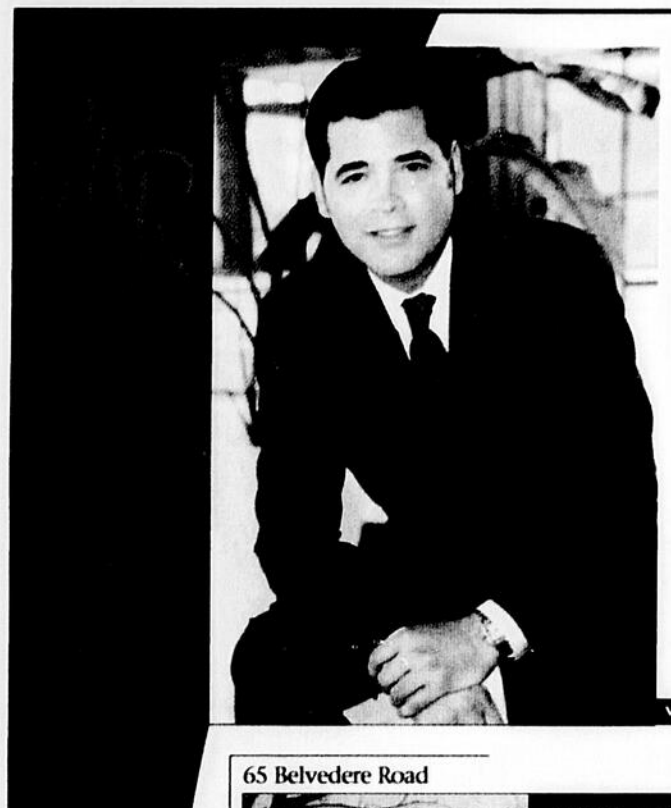
The protected area includes Mount Royal's three peaks as well as the cemeteries, major religious and educational institutions, and numerous monuments and historical sites that are linked with the mountain's past. The selected perimeter takes into account the intrinsic characteristics of Mount Royal.

According to the rules of the district, authorization must be obtained from Quebec's Culture and Communications ministry before the erecting or demolishing of a building, making repairs to or altering the exterior appearance, or otherwise changing the design or purpose of a building or lot. In addition, lots cannot be divided, subdivided or parceled out, and signs and billboards cannot be posted, altered, replaced, or destroyed without prior permission.

Continued on page 5



The protected area of Mount Royal includes Summit Park.



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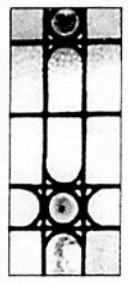
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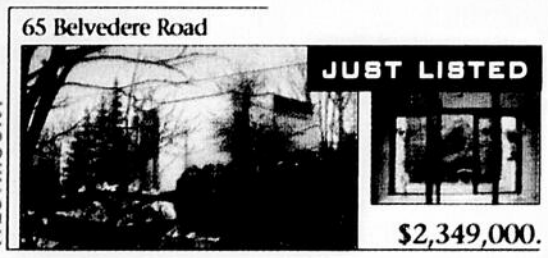




$3,045,000.

HOMES & CONDOS

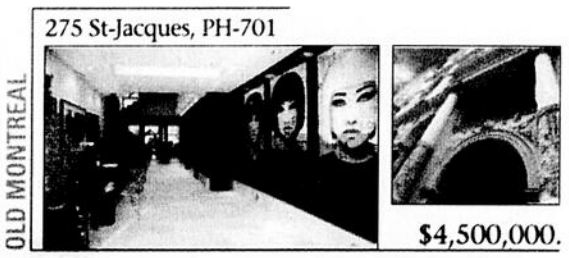
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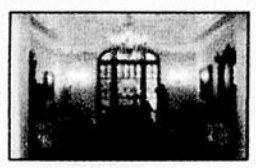


275 St-Jacques, PH-701 — OLD MONTREAL — $4,500,000.




WESTMOUNT ADJ — 3050 DE TRAFALGAR — $2,195,000.


OUTREMONT — 16 MAPLEWOOD AVE. — $1,995,000.


WESTMOUNT — 227 CLARKE — $1,950,000.


WESTMOUNT — 740 UPPER LANSDOWNE — $1,895,000.


MONT-ROYAL — 1955 DUMFRIES — $1,845,000.


WESTMOUNT ADJ — 3057 DE TRAFALGAR — $1,799,000.


WESTMOUNT — 68 SUMMIT CIRCLE — $1,749,000.


WESTMOUNT — 340 WOOD — $1,635,000.


WESTMOUNT — 3720 THE BOULEVARD — $1,419,000.



WESTMOUNT — 4321 DE MAISONNEUVE — $1,399,000.



WESTMOUNT — 18 HOLTON — $1,045,000.


WESTMOUNT — 673 GROSVENOR — $999,000.



OLD MONTREAL — 10 ST-JACQUES PH-1005 — $995,000.



COTE DES NEIGES — 4829 GROSVENOR — $899,000.


OLD MONTREAL — 315 DU ST-SACREMENT, # 4000 — $899,000.



WESTMOUNT — 107 SUNNYSIDE — $899,000.


WESTMOUNT ADJ — 3135 THE BOULEVARD — $899,000.



WESTMOUNT — 725 UPPER BELMONT — $865,000.



OLD MONTREAL — 701 ST-PIERRE — $815,000.



WESTMOUNT ADJ — 3077 TRAFALGAR — $799,000.



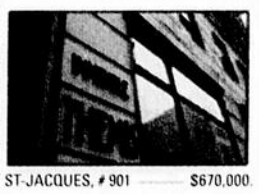
WESTMOUNT ADJ — 3091 LE BOULEVARD — $798,000.


WESTMOUNT ADJ — 1545 DR. PENFIELD, # 1007 — $779,000.



WESTMOUNT — 552 LANSDOWNE — $719,000.


WESTMOUNT — 55 WINDSOR AVE — $699,900.


OLD MONTREAL — 10 ST-JACQUES, # 901 — $670,000.



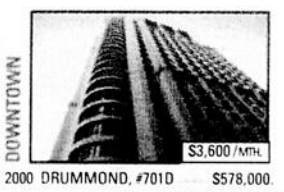
DOWNTOWN — 3455 DRUMMOND, PH-2 — $659,000.



WESTMOUNT — 1 CHURCH HILL — $639,000.



WESTMOUNT — 556 GROSVENOR — $ 599,000.



DOWNTOWN — 2000 DRUMMOND, #701D — $578,000.



WESTMOUNT ADJ — 3980 COTE DES NEIGES, #C-18 — $568,000.


DOWNTOWN — 3430 PEEL, #4A — $549,000.



TMR ADJ — 2371 BROOKFIELD — $539,000.



WESTMOUNT — 168 HILLSIDE — $519,000.



WESTMOUNT — 4476 STE-CATHERINE W., PH-604 — $499,000.



CANAL — 2460 STE-CUNEGONDE, # 209 — $495,000.

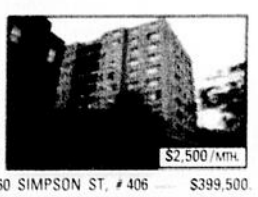

WESTMOUNT — 205 VICTORIA AVE., # 303 — $479,039.
205 VICTORIA AVE., # 103 — $416,823.



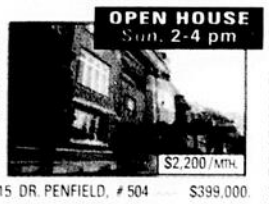
DOWNTOWN — 3455 DRUMMOND ST., #103 — $469,000.



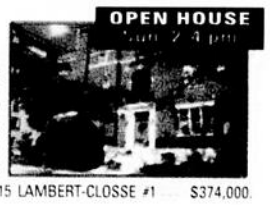
CANAL — 2348 STE-CUNÉGONDE — $449,000.



DOWNTOWN — 3460 SIMPSON ST, # 406 — $399,500.

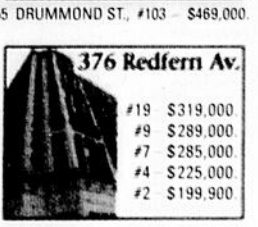


WESTMOUNT ADJ — 1515 DR. PENFIELD, # 504 — $399,000.



DOWNTOWN — 2115 LAMBERT-CLOSSE #1 — $374,000.


NUNS' ISLAND — 220 CH. DU GOLF, # 404 — $349,000.



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WESTMOUNT — 376 REDFERN, # 21 — $350,000.



WESTMOUNT — 376 REDFERN, # 17 — $289,000.



PLATEAU MT-ROYAL — 524 PRINCE-ARTHUR W., # 101 — $349,000.


WESTMOUNT ADJ — 3892 COTE DES NEIGES, #B-15 — $299,900.


GOLDEN SQUARE MILE — 3470 REDPATH ST., #101 — $269,000.

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City expected to release 'encouraging' sound barrier technical report

> Martin C. Barry

A report outlining the effectiveness of an experimental sound barrier erected at the foot of Abbott Avenue is "encouraging," says a Westmount city councillor who has seen technical details that could be made public later this month.

According to Director General Bruce St. Louis, last week the Safety, Utilities and Environment standing committee of city council got a look at the results.

They are slated to be viewed by the general committee of council which meets on Feb. 26. Some of the data could then be released when city council holds its monthly public meeting at 8 p.m. that night.

"Probably that evening, Councillor Bowser or another member of council will have some preliminary feedback on it," St. Louis said, adding that he couldn't reveal any of the contents of the report. "Until all of council sees it, I don't have the latitude to make it public," he said. "In very short order there'll be feedback."

Bowser, who sits on the standing committee and has seen the report, told the *Examiner* the results were "very encouraging. I'd like to say that. I think it's important to know that … I used to live down there …

"But I think also that council wants to have the reaction of the residents. We want to know how residents feel about it. We're planning to consult them with a questionnaire to see how they feel about it." He cautioned, however, that the report needs to be explained properly since a lot of the data is scientific and there are many variables.

The 30-metre prototype wall, mounted on concrete pillars with a transparent plastic top, was installed last summer next to the Ville Marie Expressway and the CP Rail tracks at a cost of $350,000. The City hopes to get answers to certain questions, such as how well it bears up to abuse like graffiti, and whether it will accumulate dirt from the expressway.

Sound tests of the prototype wall's effectiveness started shortly after its completion. The field work was followed up with computer simulations using gathered data. While only the technical report will reveal whether the wall is truly effective, it has received good reviews from local residents so far.

Westmount has been attempting to deal with noise from the expressway for decades. A survey of residents years ago revealed that 85 per cent were in favour of a sound barrier. A medical study concluded that prolonged exposure to the level of decibels near the railway and expressway, measuring around 85, is harmful to health. Should the prototype prove to be effective, many millions more could eventually be spent completing a permanent wall extending the length of the expressway and the rail line.

Everatt named Public Security captain



On the Scene

Noah SIDEL

Westmount Public Security has named James Everatt its newest second-in-command, as he was promoted to captain of the squad at the January city council meeting.

Everatt, who has served Westmount for the past 27 years, started on the force July 21, 1980 as a patrolman before becoming a patrol sergeant in 1986. His previous posting was as sergeant in charge of parking operations, in which he has served since the mid-90s.

"What keeps me going is that I have energy and I just really like my work. Westmount is a great city to work for. I was fortunate to be in the right place at the right time at the start of my career, and my hard work has helped me since then.

"I ask not what Westmount can do for me, but what I can do for Westmount."



Capt. James Everatt (right) is congratulated by City Councillor Tom Thompson and Mayor Karin Marks at the January city council meeting.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

PSOs stop suspected shoplifter

Always on the scene on Westmount's streets, local public security was involved in stopping a shoplifting incident on Friday, Jan. 26

"At 1:40 p.m. our parking inspectors were involved in the arrest of a shoplifter. While in process of giving a ticket on Greene and Sherbrooke, inspector Victoria Bleskina saw someone run out of a store and two employees chasing her," said Capt. Everatt.

"One of the employees pursued the person and one approached (Bleskina), who called for backup and started chasing the suspect. She was able to pursue her until PSO Kim Colquhoun arrived on the scene and stopped the suspect."

The suspect was stopped about a block away, at the corner of de Maisonneuve and Greene.

"Whatever she had stolen had been dumped and the woman was arrested by police. She was found to have drug paraphernalia on her person and was taken away by police."

It's snow trouble

Westmount residents beware—parking laws change when the snow comes down.

"When there's snow removal, people need to make sure they move their cars. We towed 27 vehicles during the three-day cleanup from Jan. 16-18. That was our first major snowfall and our first major snow removal operation. People need to remember to check for the snow removal signage and follow the signs. They can also call City Hall or Public Security," said Capt. Everatt.

Watch your bins!

"We were dispatched to an address at Strathcona during the week because there were newspapers and other papers flying all over the place coming out of an open recycling bin," Everatt said.

"The containers do not have to be secured by law, nor the papers put in bags, but residents have to make sure they're not making a huge mess. We met with the complainant and took some photos and we then contacted the owner, who apologized and cleaned up.

"People should know there is a bylaw about making a mess all over the place. We could have given a $50 fine for it, but the resident cleaned up and we just gave them a warning."

Graffiti can get expensive

The City of Westmount has seen its share of graffiti since the turn of the new year. It has calmed down of late, but still plagues the neighbourhood.

"There was quite an extensive bit of graffiti on the side of a garage roof on Victoria, where the (taggers) climbed up and spray painted on the wall," Everatt explained.

"The City is responsible to clean up or mask the graffiti. The costs of the work carried out and the cost of the products used, except when the paint is provided by the owner, is covered by the City of Westmount and it can get expensive."

As for the time it takes to clean up a mess, Everatt said it can vary.

"If it's extreme like something obscene, we'll clean it up right away, otherwise it could take a week or so, depending on what else is going on and the location it's in."

Lost person

"Last Monday around 1:50 a.m., PSO Nick Cocca noticed an elderly man walking on the street, seemingly confused, who wasn't dressed for the weather, on Cedar Avenue," Everatt said.

"(Cocca) asked him where he lived and he said he couldn't remember how he got to where he was. The officer escorted him home and gained access to his house, noticing a pile of letters and notices on the floor and no food in the fridge."

Cocca got a contact number for the man's son, who said the man was living with him.

"It showed good initiative on Nick's part by taking the time to make sure he was taken care of and not just dropping him off," Everatt said.

The Examiner has changed its address

In order to continue to offer our readers the best possible service and allow us to have the means to accomplish our goals, it became essential to regroup all our forces under one single roof. From now on, the Westmount *Examiner* will be benefitting from the services of a more than 10-person production staff, as opposed to only one previously. In the weeks to come, the results will be tangible, as you see a more vibrant paper.

Be assured that the Westmount Examiner is more than just bricks and mortar and will continue to remain highly informative and relevant. Regardless of where the newspaper's office is located, readers will enjoy the same great local coverage they've come to expect from our experienced editorial staff, who will continue to reflect the priorities and values of their readers.

You can continue to count on the collaboration of the entire team at our new address: 420 rue Lafleur, LaSalle, H8R 3H6. You can reach us at: 514-363-3222.

— The Management

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Baxter honoured in Dryden tribute



Around Westmount

Marilynn VANDERSTAY

Even before he thanked the Bronfman family, and even before he thanked the Molson family, Ken Dryden thanked the head usherette at the Forum, Westmount's own Mary Baxter, Cynthia Campbell told the membership of the Rotary Club of Westmount last week.

Just days after the ceremony to retire Ken Dryden's number 29 sweater, and the reception to which she had been invited, Rotary's hostess Baxter was still aglow with the joy of the event. Baxter, who had been the head usherette at the Forum for many years in conjunction with her career at Air Canada, got to know the ins and outs of the events at the Forum, which included hockey games.

Dryden recognized her dedication during his event at the Bell Center on Monday, Jan. 29.

Missing Vera Jamieson

Westmount mourns the loss of long-time resident Vera Jamieson, who passed away Jan. 26, in her 93rd year. Jamieson was well known in Westmount as the beloved music teacher who taught at the former Queens, Kings and Roslyn elementary schools and Westmount High School.

After selling her house on Bruce Avenue, Jamieson, who never married, lived out the last years of her life at Manoir Westmount, where she was often visited by former students. "Miss Jamieson dedicated her life to education," said former student Richard Lord. "She spent all her time giving her time."

Flute music from around the world

Joan Swamber, who was a judge in the McEntyre Writing Competition for many years, passed away last autumn. Her daughter Ahilya Ramharry, an accomplished flautist, will be joined by a guitarist and pianist for a concert in Joan's memory on Thursday, Feb. 15 at 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Church, 5035 de Maisonneuve W. Proceeds from the concert will be used to plant a tree in Westmount in Swamber's memory. Tickets are available at the door, as well as at the Westmount Library. Phone 514-605-3963 for more information.

A Valentine fundraiser

Jason Goldsmith, founder of the Big Blue Hug, will facilitate a liquid stained glass workshop on Sunday, Feb. 11 from 3 to 5 p.m. at the new spa for mummies Mama, Bébé et Café at 5814 Sherbrooke Street West.

Kids 4 to 12 are invited to create an original liquid stained glass painting. The cost of $35 includes materials and refreshments. A percentage of the proceeds will go to Giant Steps, the school for autistic children on Hillside Avenue. For more information go to /www.thebigbluehug.com/media.html or phone 514-509-7494 or email info@mamabébécafé.com

Continued on page 27

Mount Royal proctection rules barely affect Westmount territory

Continued from page 1

"It doesn't have a big impact on us," said Marks, noting that the district's boundaries have also never been formally passed into law because of continuing negotiations between stakeholders. While some heritage protection groups, such as les Amis de la Montagne, continue to lobby the government to extend the district's borders further into the City of Westmount, Marks maintains it would be wrong.

"I think the further the administration of all of this gets from the local community, the less there are proper controls," she said. "I think we're shown over time that we managed to maintain very good and proper controls on the heritage quality in our community and it would be a serious mistake for that to be taken away from local control. We have regulations that are, I think, exactly what has been hoped for in all of the arrondissements historiques et naturels. So why would they take it away from us? It doesn't make any sense."

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Opinion

New digs, same values



Commentary

Wayne LARSEN
larsenw@transcontinental.ca

The office may have been moved out of Westmount, but the *Examiner* will stay the same.

That was the message I had for members of the Westmount Municipal Association on Tuesday. I had been invited to clear up the flurries of hearsay and rumour that have been floating around Westmount since last Wednesday, when the *Examiner* and West End *Chronicle* staff was informed that we would be moving out of our Victoria Avenue office and relocated to a much larger space in LaSalle.

As word spread through Westmount, it was generally feared that the *Examiner* was abandoning the community. This is completely wrong. We have simply moved our office to a new location just 15 minutes away. As editor, I have no intention of changing any aspect of the editorial content and remain firmly committed to keeping up the long-cherished tradition of excellence and 100 per cent Westmount content that the *Examiner* has always maintained.

My first taste of journalism came at the *Examiner* some 30 years ago, when as a student intern assisting reporter Andy Dodge, I picked up some valuable advice from the late John Sancton. His pet motto, "If it didn't happen in Westmount, it didn't happen," remains firmly entrenched in the paper's philosophy, and moving our office does not change that one bit.

Other local papers—including the Suburban and the two or three little papers that are also distributed in Westmount—never had offices here and do not seem to consider this much of a drawback. They may not cover Westmount very well, but that is obviously by choice rather than a problem of physical distance. Technology has made it easy to work remotely—in fact for the past seven years our diverse stable of writers have all worked from home, submitting their words and images via e-mail. Some have only visited our office once or twice in all that time, but have been out there covering the community.

Yes, it has been a hectic week, but I am settled into my new office and I promise to let everyone know my new number once I get this fancy new phone system figured out. When I do, I hope to receive just as many calls and e-mails from readers as before.



A creeping trend of demolition is afoot

> **Michelle Weinroth**

Have you ever experienced the impact of a demolition beside your house? It can be a traumatic event.

Think of the consequences: the rippling vibrations through your walls, the ground rumbling beneath you, and the fear that your old stone foundation will be dislodged.

Apart from the devastating impact of heavy machinery pounding the ground, demolitions are processes that unsettle and release toxic materials that you would sooner leave undisturbed. Asbestos is one such culprit. The average resident may live in a home with residues of this material, or may be exposed to its dispersal should a demolition be improperly managed. Despite the precautions taken to ensure the safe removal of asbestos, it is difficult to believe that the process is airtight. Rare is the development that is not hurried along by a financially defined schedule. Rare is the development that secures the necessary measures to monitor every toxic particle released into the atmosphere.

In Westmount, structurally sound houses are being supplanted by modern buildings on the pretext that new architectural designs will introduce harmony to a checkered streetscape. But the new models are aesthetically at odds with the predominantly Victorian look that prevails in the city. Yet architects define them for us as "superior" alternatives to the houses poised for demolition. All the while, the true impact of razing a house to the ground is obscured in dense, bureaucratic language. The reality is this: demolitions engender pollution and trauma, leaving in their wake a scarred environment and indignant residents.

It has been argued that some of the new constructions burgeoning in Westmount will restore financial vigour to the City, given its demerger debts. City Hall, it would appear, sees the process of revamping architecture as a profitable investment, indeed, more profitable than the conservation of trees, green space, and the preservation of sound brick and mortar. Dwellings are being condemned for their "imperfect" aesthetics, not for their structural inadequacy. One-hundred-year-old trees are being cut down to make room for massive houses whose heating bills in this era of global warming will be exorbitant and a sure tax on the environment. Cutting down trees for bigger real estate developments may bring in more dollars for some, but for most of us, such ventures, along with the fallout of demolitions, will be costly and painful.

Next time you read a notice for a demolition in your area, don't turn your eyes away. Think of the consequences and make your concerns heard at City Hall. You never know, you might be the next victim on the block.

• Michelle Weinroth is the concerned daughter of Jeanette Weinroth, who is currently facing a possible demolition next to her Victorian house on Côte St. Antoine Road.

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OLD NEWS *from the archives*
1935-2007

Five Years Ago
February 7, 2002

ARENA EXPANSION: "Plans for expanding the Westmount arena was one of the last major issues on the plate of Westmount city council a year ago, before the more pressing concern of the municipal mergers took centre stage. Now the arena dream, price-tagged at more than $7 million, is waiting until the former City of Westmount gets used to doing business as a borough. 'The issue is far from being on the back burner,' Borough Director Bruce St. Louis said this week. 'The building itself is tired and needs a lot of work.' St. Louis said that once things settle down and get organized in the new mega-Montreal, over the next month or so, it will be possible to proceed with discussions on the arena. According to St. Louis, a project of the magnitude of over-hauling the arena would fall under major works, and would therefore have to get Montreal city council approval. In 2000, Westmount engaged an architectural firm to carry out a feasibility study on expanding hockey access for Westmount residents. Although the refrigerating and ice-care technology at the arena are new, the building itself is in need of repair and modernization, and has long since reached its capacity usage."

Ten Years Ago
February 6, 1997

LIBRARY GOES ONLINE: "The Westmount Public Library has a new address, and you don't even have to leave your home to get there. Anyone with a computer, modem and Internet provider can now dial up the library's new site on the World Wide Web, at www.westlib.org and access pages and pages of information on library services. The Web Site has been in the works since last spring, said Craig Wright, head of circulation at the library. Wright unveiled the site last Friday. Containing everything from library hours and services to listings of new books, the site is a work in progress. It will eventually contain information about other services available throughout Westmount."

Fifty-Five Years Ago
February 8, 1952

LIBRARY THEFTS: "A statement which strongly condemns the theft of periodicals and books from the Westmount Public Library was released this week by Miss Kathleen Jenkins. The notice states that the library staff has been forced to remove certain publications from the shelves. These are now available at the circulation desk. They include financial, news, photo, weekly, and trade magazines and papers. Because of the large number of thefts of expensive and often irreplaceable books, many of them on fine arts, photography, technical subjects, business, languages, and others have been placed in a 'closed shelf' category. They are available to members at the desk."

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Optimism grows even as Charest postpones meeting



Civic Alert

Don WEDGE

I wish I could write that during their meeting with him on Monday afternoon, Jean Charest told Karin Marks and the other suburban mayors that the agglom had failed and that he would complete the promised demergers.

But the summit never took place. Besides, he would never admit to such a scenario. Nevertheless, it is very tempting to believe that we are nearing a positive intermediate solution.

Charest postponed the meeting. That was the first good news. Instead, Marks, as president of the mayors' association, and vice-president Bill McMurchie met Municipal Affairs Minister Nathalie Normandeau in her Montreal downtown office.

Their agenda was to "prepare" for a new appointment with Charest tentatively scheduled for sometime next week. In politico-speak, we should assume that the "preparation" was so the premier would have something acceptable to offer the suburbs.

There is no longer doubt that reform is in the air. "We have to make changes," Westmount MNA Jacques Chagnon had told me earlier. "The agglom doesn't work and when something doesn't work, the government must change it."

There may be very little time before the anticipated election — Chagnon expects it in late March. "We must find a way to do what must be done," the Westmount MNA added.

Normandeau revisited

Now it is hard for anyone, even Big Montreal Mayor Gerald Tremblay, to pretend that it is working. He can be persuaded to change his position, as seen by his U-turn on Park Ave. Clearly Normandeau was stalling last fall, attempting to defend the indefensible decision she was handed when taking over the municipal portfolio.

Monday's was a smaller meeting than when the suburbs presented their case to the minister in November. But Marks thought that their message was even better heard.

The mayor said that no new issues were presented. "They have become well-known to the minister and her staff. This week, there seemed to be a greater openness to them," was the tactful way she summarized the discussions.

"I'm optimistic. We're waiting to know what the government will do. There is only a brief time to make proposals acceptable to everybody. If the election is called next week, MNAs will only be in the Assembly for two or three days. It will be hard to get legislation passed."

"Yet we insisted that electoral promises were not enough."

The mayors are not asking for the agglom to be scrapped, only improved.

"It must be made to function with a distribution of responsibility and governance that is democratic," said Mayor Marks.

The suburbs repeated their commitment to share the costs of regional services like public transit, police and fire. They want revisions to the list of local facilities which the Liberals included in the agglom legislation — the Claude Robillard Arena being a particularly sore point.

Face-saver

Excited as I am by the mayors' optimism and Chagnon's realism, I fear unmentioned hurdles. Where is a face-saver for Big Montreal Mayor Tremblay?

He has shown himself to be a bitter defender of Montreal's ability to abuse, rather than cooperate with, the suburbs.

This chiefly has been seen over financial issues, but there have many others. Some were scarcely visible, others blatant — like the attempt to deny the people of Dorval the fluoridated water they had used for decades. That was extreme and eventually overruled by Quebec. It did his case a lot of harm.

Tremblay's early insistence on the undemocratic design of agglom decision-making provoked Charest into endorsing the Montreal executive committee's undemocratic rule of the Island.

Need for income

Montreal's need for money may yet be a determining factor – electoral pressure not withstanding. Let's wish Tremblay well with his bid for Quebec's support of alternate revenue sources. Successive governments — federal as well provincial — have seen reducing contributions to municipalities as a way to avoid their own taxation increases. The forced mergers were seen, in part, as a continuance of the downloading.

It now seems the Liberals have accepted that they have gone too far.

The suburbs should be ready to concede part of their case. One point may be to allow Montreal to continue to bill for shared services — at least it is clear to the taxpayer where the money is going.

Protected tax bills

The suburbs would have to be protected from a repeat of this year's exploitation by the Tremblay-Zampino duo, when they jigged in Montreal's favour the shares paid by commercial and residential taxpayers.

The suburbs are asking for a restoration of the MUC system, in which the costs of the police and others were shared by the municipalities, who included them in their own tax bills.

For there to be any progress, the mention of anything resembling the initials MUC or the concept behind them should be dropped. Montreal has developed a myth that the MUC was evil. Quebec civil servants, most without first-hand knowledge, echo their fears.

Delighted by the positive note in the latest turn of events, I am nevertheless wondering what has happened to the Liberal MNAs from the east of Montreal. They were originally so supportive of the skewed referendum voting and the slanted demerger legislation. How have they been appeased?

ADQ's impact

Was it the inherent threat following the St-Baie-de-Senn-West mayors' alignment with the ADQ that restored the balance?

On the West Island it remains a key factor. "I have now written to all citizens in Baie d'Urfé explaining my decision," reports Mayor Maria Tutino, who was the organizer of the group split.

"I've yet to hear one negative comment, even from die-hard Liberals and former organizers."

She is watching developments and emphasizes "Another promise to do something after the election is just not good enough."

Chagnon speaks out

Jacques Chagnon is one Liberal voice speaking very clearly on the need for reform. "The agglom does not work. If we want it to work, we have to give it the means. It is as simple as that."

Chagnon was speaking on Monday before he knew the result of the Normandeau-Marks encounter. As usual, he was very frank, but carefully choosing his words.

"I don't expect too much until the next meeting with the premier," he added. "We created the agglom and we have to find something else. This cannot continue for four more years.

"There is something wrong with an organization where some partners don't attend, yet it continues to work," he scoffed, referring to the mayors' boycott.

"We have to find another way. Perhaps the South Shore is a model. It is certainly going better there, but there isn't the overpowering share that Montreal has on the Island."

Chagnon thinks there could be changes to responsibilities for arterial roads and sewage systems, as well as revision to the long list of Montreal facilities required to be subsidized by the suburbs.

"There will have to be some kind of supra-municipal body to look after the regional services. If what we propose does not work either, then we must propose another solution. It may take some years to find the right regional model," he warned in his far-seeing way.

University funding

Chagnon missed the meeting with Minister Normandeau and the mayors because he needed to be in Quebec City, where he is chair of the National Assembly's Education Commission.

Through the fall they have been listening to both academic and student leaders of Quebec's 18 universities on the touchy subject of university finances and tuition fees. This week's hearings with the universities of Quebec and Montreal were concluding the series.

Chagnon has a long experience in education administration. He became a school commissioner soon after graduating from Concordia in 1975. He was president of the Catholic school boards' federation from 1982 until being elected to the National Assembly in 1985. He became education minister in the 1994 Daniel Johnson government.

Continued on page 18

Demergerettes are the city's women for all seasons

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> Charles Montgomery

For about six months during the turbulent merger years, a storefront office on Ste. Catherine Street near Metcalfe served as the epicenter of the demerger movement in Westmount. It was full of strong-spirited individuals and the work that went on there may well be responsible for launching the civic ambitions of several current Westmount council members and community activists, not to mention getting our town back.

But when the office closed its doors after one borough election and a successful demerger referendum had taken place, another group's roots had also been established.

The demergerettes or demergettes, depending on who you speak to, were the core group of about eight to 10 women who put in an almost daily effort throughout the demerger drive. Coming from different backgrounds, and possessing different special skills, they represented some of the best of Westmount's wealth of quality volunteers.



"Everyone seemed to fall into a job they were really good at," said City Councillor Nicole Forbes.

"This is why we're so lucky in Westmount: we have so much talent," said Forbes, who headed the demerger office and is one of the demergerettes. "And it's unsung talent, because it's all volunteers and volunteers aren't recognized enough."

From the office, the demergerettes were integral in keeping citizens in the know on demerger issues as well as mobilizing and informing voters when the time came for them to actually cast their ballots.

"During that time we had lots of people coming in and a lot of people coming in on a regular basis," said Forbes. "And the ones who stayed later on, I guess we formed a special bond."

That bond was a lasting one. The demergerettes can, on occasion, be found at Magnan's restaurant catching up on what's been going on in each other's life. "We meet once a month, we try, we may only meet once in the summer," said Forbes.

To the untrained eye, the demergettes may look like a social club, exchanging phone calls and e-mails on special occasions, and attending the lively monthly lunches, but there's more to it than that.

"It's not just a social thing," said demergerette Diana Hendy. "We're doing whatever we can for the city."

The demergerettes have become a strong volunteer network in Westmount. "I know that if I don't have enough volunteers coming out of the city... I always involve the demergerettes," said Forbes.

Recently, the demergerettes received and e-mail from Forbes requesting their help for an upcoming Westmount event. "We can give each other the time that we can," she said. "If they have a special project, they'll call on the rest of us, it's not only me."

Hendy said the monthly lunch meetings are more of a status report on each others' goals and projects rather than a social luncheon.

"I'm very glad the day I walked in there (the office), but I really admire these women," said Hendy. "They're very dedicated and always fighting for the underdog and I think we're different in our own ways, which is great."

Next time you're at a city council meeting or a civic event, look around for the group of women who seem to be having more fun than political procedure usually allows, and chances are you've spotted the demergerettes.

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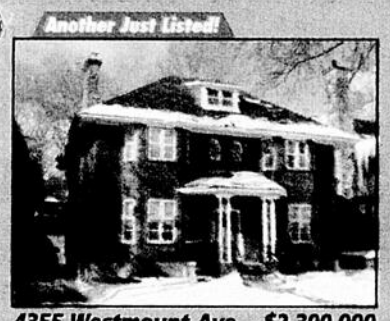
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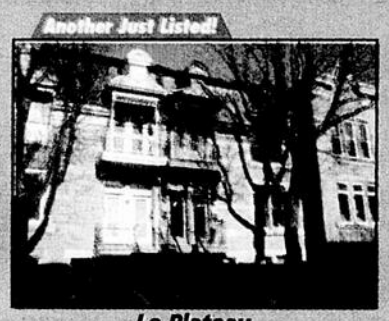
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Westmount's January sales remained soft



Real Estate

Andy DODGE

NOTE: The following article relates to offers to purchase Westmount residential dwellings which were reported by the local real estate agents as having been accepted in January, 2007. Because they are not final registered sales, the addresses and prices cannot be made public, but give a good idea of current trends in local real estate activity. The graph on this page offers a picture of these trends over time.

Prices remained fairly soft in January, with seven reported sales averaging only $790,429 and the price range between $550,000 and $1 million, though some agents are suggesting that other higher-priced sales are being negotiated outside the Multiple Listing Service program. Volume is slightly below average but certainly picked up in the last 10 days of the month, when five of the seven sales agreements were signed.

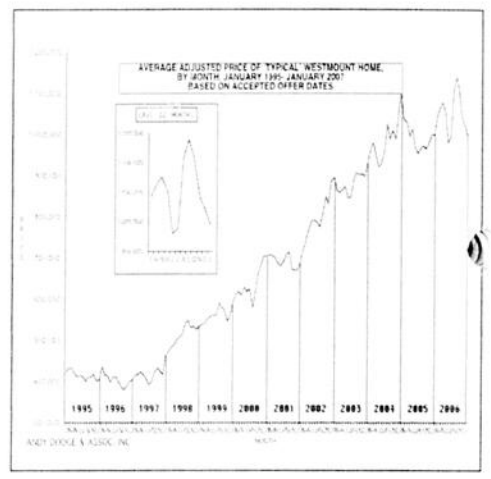
Now that we are comparing prices to the 2007 assessments, it is notable that the average markup is only 2.3 per cent, an indication there has not been much movement between July 2005, the theoretical date for the valuation roll, and the current market.

In January 2004, when the last roll came into force, prices were already 19 per cent above the assessment. In fact, the graph shows that prices have reverted to the level achieved in mid-2004; despite a couple of surges since then, in reality there is little improvement in the overall Westmount market. Usually prices start to move forward in December or January as buyers start to make offers on homes they will move into during the summer months; this year might just be a little late. In our view the reduced prices are simply more realistic, and there are still plenty of buyers looking for property in Westmount.

For the January 2007 market, then, two of the seven sales were for less than the new tax assessment and the highest markup was 19 per cent. Still, the 'typical' Westmount house's value hovers around the $1 million mark.

Three condominiums sold in January for prices ranging from $428,000 to $578,000, averaging just 3.9 per cent more than their assessments, thus about the same level as for homes. The adjacent-Westmount market is starting off very slowly, with one house sale in eastern Notre Dame de Grâce and two in the Golden Square Mile district, none in southern Côte des Neiges or the Trafalgar-Daulac area.

December and January are generally the slowest months of the year, so things should pick up as we enter the spring sales season.



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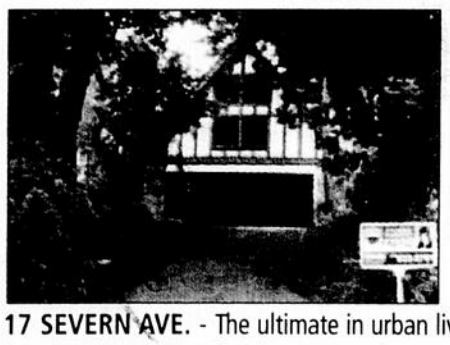
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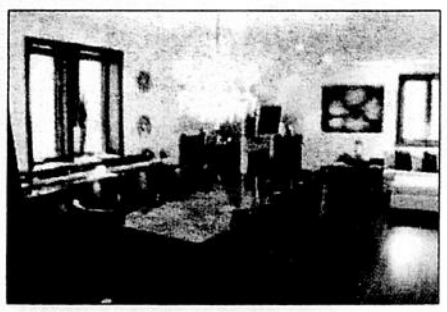
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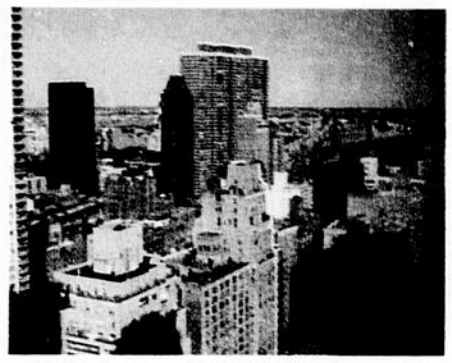


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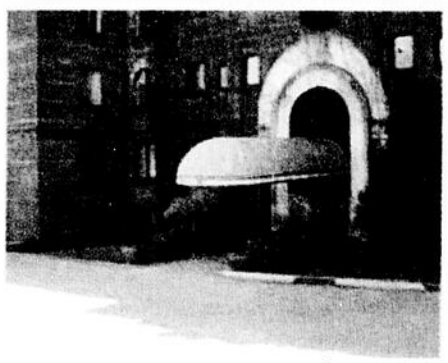
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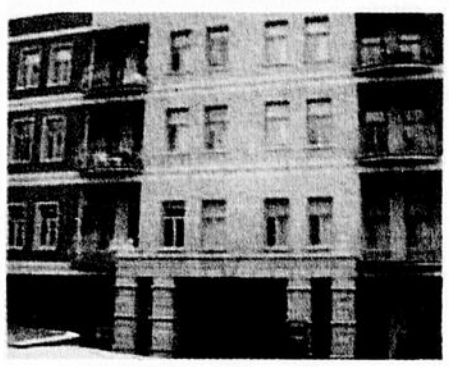
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Well the annual rent increase adjustments are now out. They were a little late this year, but Statistics Canada finally released its data and the work was done.

Please remember that the following figures are only suggested and the true rent increase, following the Régie du logement (rental board) regulations, is specific to each individual dwelling. This specificity means that side-by-side apartments, substantially the same or even almost identical, could have legal rent increase rates that are not the same.

Why can this be so?

- The dwelling could have had repairs that did not occur to the other.
- The other dwelling could have been renovated differently.
- The legal ownership could be under different laws.
- Rent increases in the past could have been at different rates.

So your home could possibly have a dissimilar rent from another 'equal' dwelling.



Know Your Wrights

Ted WRIGHT

Another lesser-known but important factor is that the rent adjustments put out by the Régie have several components. These are the rate adjustments in the press release, the tax increases factored in and divided among all tenants and spread out monthly over the term of the 12 month lease, insurance rate increase, major repairs amortized, etc.

Jean-Pierre LeBlanc, a spokesman for the Régie, was interviewed last week, and he pointed out to me that "the rent increase is not 'cut-in-stone'. It may be different for each tenant."

Now, what you've all been waiting for: rent adjustments for 2007:

• Electrically heated dwelling (heat included with the rent): 1.1 per cent.

• Gas heated dwelling (heat included with the rent): 0.4 per cent.

• Oil heated dwelling (heat included with the rent): 1.4 per cent.

• Non-heated dwelling (tenant pays own heat costs): 0.8 per cent.

Variations in taxes are not counted in the above rates. Tax increase will be extra.

A rule of thumb, provide by the Régie, is that for every 5 per cent tax increase, divided among all tenants, and spread out over the 12 months of the lease, an additional increase (0.7 per cent) will be approximately as follows:

Rent adjustment rates with tax increase example:

Electric heat: 1.1% + 0.7% = 1.8%. With tax increase 5%.

Gas heat: 0.4% + 0.7% = 1.1%. With tax increase 5%.

Oil heat: 1.4% + 0.7% = 2.1%. With tax increase 5%.

Non-heated: 0.8% + 0.7% = 1.5%. With tax increase 5%.

Now you can see why I stated earlier that a rent increase is absolutely not 'cut-in-stone'.

Your individual rate of increase for any specific dwelling can be and most probably will not be the same. Consult the City for individual tax increases.

I will now address several concerns that both tenants and landlords have had at the Westmount Legal Clinic.

What is the rate of increase for any major repair?

This rate is 4.2 per cent. It translates to an additional increase in rent, for every $1,000 spent, of $3.50 per month factored in and divided among all tenants and spread out monthly over the term of the 12 month lease. This may not seem like much and a quick calculation says that a landlord would need 20 years to recoup his investment.

LeBlanc underlined that this rate "is subject to a yearly, increase similar to compound interest," so that the 4.2 per cent becomes a hidden, for example, 4.4 per cent the next year. That is the rate of return on a major repair is increased each year in a similar fashion as compound interest increases interest payable on accrued capital. It does not decrease, so the landlord will have a larger major repair increase in each succeeding lease built upon and added to the former major increase rate. Instead of major repairs, as on first sight requiring 20 years for recuperation, compound interest reduces this time period.

And, of note, and an important point if there are complaints about this rate, is that when have you ever heard of any landlord reducing rent after the major repair has been paid for. It just does not happen. A rent increase can thus be added to a completely paid for repair.

Landlords do not share any increase in equity. Nor is a part of the profit when a building is sold. A competent landlord purchases a building such that little or no risk occurs to the mortgage. A bank will not loan or will limit cash availability to an 'at-risk' building investment. This is part of the all-round safety net accorded to real estate investments.

Q. The building taxes have gone up tremendously. As a landlord I will have a difficult time.

A. Taxes can usually be paid in installments. A landlord gets all increase in taxes back from tenants. If interest payment should happen, related to installment paying, consult your accountant. Tax deductions exist. Management costs are factored into any rent increase.

Q. I am a tenant and there has been a lot of work done to the garage, and I mean a lot. I do not have a car. Do I have to pay for this?

Continued on page 14



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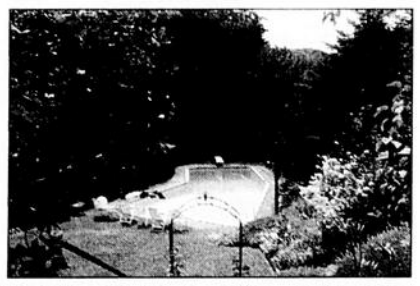
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- **Family from France 4+ bedrooms love to entertain, garden is a priority. $1,2 million range. March occupancy.**
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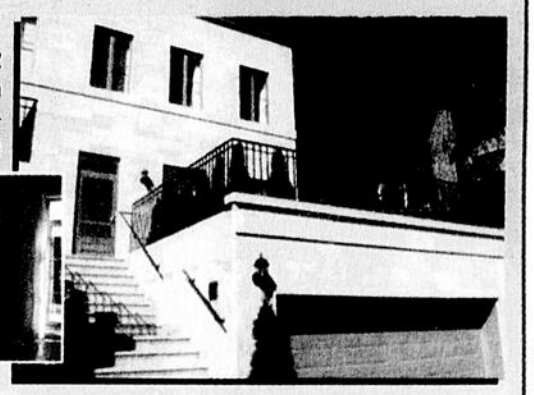
#910 Western exposure, private elevator access, mountain views and 2012 s.f. of living area are only a few of the highlights of this residence. Occupancy February 2007. **Asking $1,125,000**

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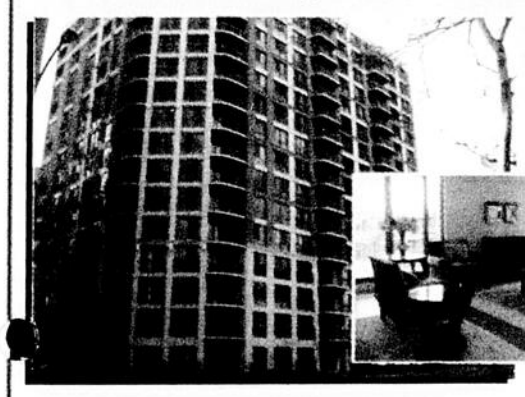
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City remains vigilant over hotel bylaw

> Martin C. Barry

The City of Westmount continues to investigate whether local bylaws are being violated following charges by a resident that apartments at Alexis Nihon Plaza are being illegally rented out as hotel suites.

Provincial regulations state that apartments or rooms that are rented out for 31 days or less must be classified as hotel units by Quebec's ministry of tourism. Plaza Tower rents out furnished executive suites with year-long leases or on a short-term basis, according to their web site.

Replying to questions from John Johnston, a longtime Plaza Tower tenant, Mayor Karin Marks acknowledged during city council's Jan. 22 meeting that Westmount's current zoning rules don't permit hotels.

"The owners have been informed that they are using the building in a way that does not conform with our regulations and we will continue to pursue it," she said.

Johnston claimed that the current owners of the building applied to the City for permission to convert it into condos or a residence for senior citizens and that both requests were refused.

Marks said she was "not aware" whether the applications were made, and that "if they were the owners would have been told immediately that it's against the law. "You cannot convert a building into a condo directly so that they wouldn't be allowed to do that," she said. "They have leases with all the people who are in there and so they can't just suddenly turn it into either a condo or a seniors residence."

Johnston claimed that probably fewer than half the people in Plaza Tower now actually have leases, "because so many of the apartments have been turned into these so-called executive suites. Any executive who goes in and thinks that it's an executive suite will be quickly disappointed."

He said that in one particular instance, a floor with 16 apartment units has only three tenants left. "The other 13 apartments have all been rented on a short-term basis," he said "And that is one of the things that are causing a lot of concern to people, because there's a lot of turnover in that part of the building."

Marks insisted the City is not ignoring the situation. "We are going through a process that is a somewhat delicate one in order to find the best solution," she said "Unfortunately, the wheels sometimes move very slowly and it is not solely dependent on us."

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Continued from KNOW YOUR WRIGHTS, page 12

A. This would appear to be a major repair on the part of the landlord. Normally, a major repair, related to the whole building is amortized and every tenant has his own part to pay, as per the rules of the rental board. It is divided between all tenants.

If you do not have a vehicle, and the garage repair is not related to common areas, you can be reasonably certain that your rent will not be increased related to the garage repairs.

Q. What are the choices a tenant has when the increase notice arrives?

A. The choices a tenant has to answer a rent increase notice are as follows:

• Agree to rent increase and any other lease modification via registered mail.

• Disagree with either or both increase or modification via registered mail.

• Accept either one of the above, but not the other, via registered mail.

• Not answer. The lease is renewed as in the landlord's letter.

• Not accept the increase. Not renew your lease via registered mail.

Whatever choice you make, you must keep a copy, and have proof the landlord received your reply. Registered mail is preferred but a copy of your response, signed and dated, received by the landlord, is sufficient.

If your landlord does not put in his letter of increase, an option to renew but not agree to the proposed increase, it is a very easy indication of a less than honest rent increase letter.

Some unscrupulous landlords give only two choices—renew the lease and accept the rent increase or cancel your lease move out. Not honest and not all your valid legal rights. It is usually done on purpose, systematized, year after year. I have examples of this. Please send me others via fax, e-mail, or drop them off at the clinic.

Q. What are the rules regarding notification of rent increase?

A. On a one-year lease the rent increase notice can be sent three to six months before the start of a 12 month lease. The tenant has one month to respond. If the tenant does not answer, the lease is renewed as in the notice. The tenant must notify landlord to cancel (not renew) the lease.

Advice to all concerned.

Use the Calculation Form from The Régie du logement (Rental Board).

Fill it out and give it to the tenant or provide a blank copy to the landlord.

Get the annual Rent Adjustment amounts from the rental board. Include it with notices or response letters.

Negotiate in good faith with the landlord or tenant. You can do it. Give it a shot.

If you are a landlord and must go to court to decide the rent, you must use the annual 'RN Form' only available from the rental board to assist in the decision. Get it and complete the form.

Information relating to all of the above may be obtained from the rental board at 514-873-2245 or (www.rdl.gouv.qc.ca/english). The 'Calculation 2007' is on the website or available in hard copy in early February. The 'RN Form 2007' will be ready at the rental board, but not on the website, very soon. Other telephone numbers of use for municipal and school taxes are Westmount 514-989-5234, (www.westmount.org), FAQ. English and French School Board taxes 514-384-1830 Ext. 5034. (www.cgtsim.qc.ca).

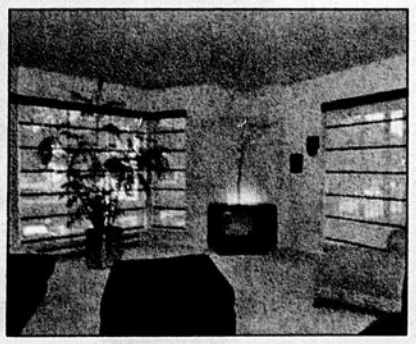
• This is a general overview only. Please seek legal counsel or come and see us for expert advice or from a government source as required. Ted Wright is coordinator of Westmount Legal Clinic, every Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. at the Westmount YMCA, 4585 Sherbrooke St. W. Send questions to tedquestions@yahoo.ca, via fax to 514-277-8403, or P.O. Box 48101, Montréal, Qc., H2V 4S8. Please provide a phone number to verify identity. Your name will not be published without your permission. Mr. Wright contributes to various media in Canada, both print and electronic. Should you wish personal, more extensive assistance, professional fees may apply.

What's selling?

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Read Andy Dodge's analysis of the Westmount market in the Examiner's monthly Real Estate section.

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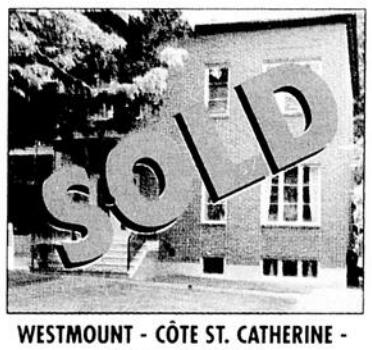
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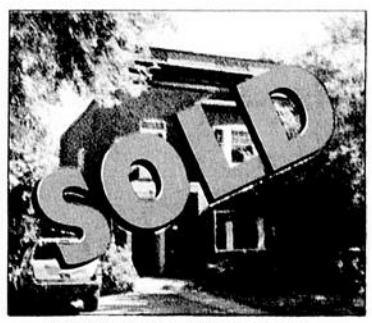
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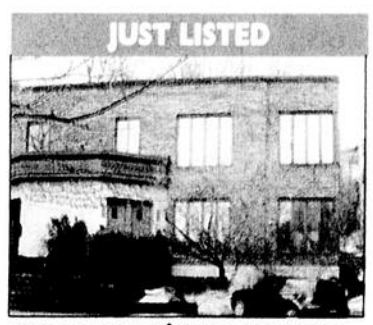
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HOME TRANSFERS IN OCTOBER 2006

ADDRESS	FROM	TO	PRICE	2004 VALUATION
109 Blenheim	Patrick Joseph Boyle	Wilder Penfield & Kristine Blok-Andersen	$370,000	$332,600
4392 de Maisonneuve	estate Russell D. Bell	Audrey Juhasz	$525,000	$482,800
492 Lansdowne	estate Howard Victor Holloway	Sara O'Brien	$685,000	$480,000
459 Mount Pleasant	Franco (Frank) Niro	Thien Vu Mac & Frédérique Tania Schmitt	$712,500	$432,400
716 Upper Roslyn	John Hountalas & Mary Archakis	David Toledo & Susan Ashley	$895,000	$589,700
744 Upper Roslyn	Korin Bobrow & Marie-Josée Béliveau-Crevier	Christopher Zahovskis & Lynda Symonds	$800,000	$597,500
24 Winchester	Gerald Staniclaus Cahill	Kathlyn & Marilyn Celestin	$480,000	$351,300
DUPLEXES				
239-39A Clarke	Wanda Moscicika	Nader Hanna & Antonietta di Staulo	$660,000	$381,200
CONDOMINIUMS				
243 Melville	Sylvan Bolduc	Raj Panda & Susan Ridley	$417,000	$312,800
3169 St. Antoine	Tamara MacMartin	Alejandro Rosales	$255,000	$178,500
4410 St. Catherine, #6C	Mabel Wilmut	Pascale Cauchi	$420,000	$279,700
SHARE SALES				
3117-21 St. Antoine, 26%	Anthony Perzow	Michel Ostaszewski & Marija Djordjevic	$215,000	$93,522[a]

a Valuation is 26% of $359,700.

Low prices in October transfers

NOTE: The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in October, 2006, provided by city officials. A list of sales can be seen above.



Real Estate

Andy DODGE

The lowest average price since December 2003 was recorded in Westmount real estate transfers in October last year, the first month since April, 2005, that no registrations involved prices higher than $1 million and the first since June, 2006, that a price was recorded at less than $400,000.

The low prices are by no means an indication of a plummeting market, however. The average markup for eight transfers is just over 40 per cent, down only slightly from the year's average of 47 per cent. Volume was at its lowest point since February, but with two months still to go it is expected that the year's volume will actually be ahead of last year or 2004.

Highest price in the October sales was $895,000 for 716 Upper Roslyn Avenue, and a near-neighbour at 744 Upper Roslyn was second-highest at $800,000, the only two sales in that price range. Lowest price involved 109 Blenheim Place, $370,000, one of two sales at less than $500,000. The markup range—still comparing to 2004 tax assessments—was fairly tight, between nine per cent (4392 de Maisonneuve Boulevard) and 73 per cent (239-39A Clarke Avenue).

Several of the October transfers involved property which had been in the same hands for many years. The duplex at 239-39A Clarke Avenue last sold in 1947; 24 Winchester was marketed for the first time since 1957, and 109 Blenheim since 1965.

Three condominiums, including two duplex/triplex flats and one apartment, showed a modest price range between $255,000 and $420,000, and one co-op apartment on St. Antoine Street sold for $215,000. There were no commercial or multi-residential transactions in October.

It should be noted, however, that a great deal of real estate now is changing hands in cooperative apartment buildings, including 2 and 3 Westmount Square, 4444 Sherbrooke Street, 300 Lansdowne Avenue, 435-39 Grosvenor Avenue and 388 Olivier Avenue.

On Grosvenor Avenue the agreements involve usufructs which have to be registered, but otherwise the sales do not get registered and are not subject to transfer tax by the City.

Historical Association pays tribute to Dorchester

It received national attention 20 years ago when then-Mayor May Cutler fought to keep the late premier René Lévesque's name off local street signs—but even before that, Dorchester Boulevard played a prominent role in the story of Westmount.

Now, the Westmount Historical Association has announced the lineup of its spring lectures, and this time the history of Dorchester Boulevard will be examined in a series of four monthly talks at the Westmount Public Library.

On Thursday, Feb. 15, guest speakers Caroline Breslaw and Ruth Allan-Rigby will present the lecture 'The Macaulays and Robert Findlay: 4100 Dorchester Boulevard West', an historical introduction to the Dorchester Boulevard area of Westmount that will focus on the Macaulay family patronage of architect Robert Findlay, beginning with the headquarters of the Sun Life Assurance Company at 266 Notre Dame Street West. Findlay designed three family homes for the Macaulays: 4100 Dorchester Boulevard, 3233 The Boulevard (now The Study), and 3228 Cedar Avenue (now Miss Edgar's & Miss Cramp's School).

On March 15, Jane Everett of McGill University will present 'Translating Gabrielle Roy'. Dorchester Boulevard was the home of the author from 1939 to 1947, while she was writing her first novel, Bonheur d'occasion (The Tin Flute).

This talk will deal with Roy's personal and professional relationship with one of her translators, the English-Canadian writer, Joyce Marshall (a native Montrealer). The focus will be on the letters the two women exchanged between 1959 and 1980. Marshall translated three of Roy's works—La route d'Altamont (The Road Past Altamont), La rivière sans repos (Windflower), and Cet été qui chantait (Enchanted Summer); each project posed particular problems, some of which are addressed in the correspondence.

On April 19, Sophie Marcotte Ph.D. of Concordia University will present 'Gabrielle Roy: From The Tin Flute to Enchantment and Sorrow' She will emphasize the years 1939 to 1947, when Roy lived in rooming houses on Dorchester while she was writing The Tin Flute. She will also talk about the years following the publication of The Tin Flute in 1945 and about the consequences of this 'instant' success on her life, both as a wife and a writer.

The series winds up on May 17 with 'Greenhythe, A Country Home in 1846 on Dorchester Boulevard' featuring architect Michael Ellwood, who will talk about his family home, 'Greenhythe', which was built 45 years before Findlay built 4100 Dorchester and was not demolished until 10 years after.

Dorchester Boulevard was named to commemorate Sir Guy Carleton, Lord Dorchester, Governor-General from 1768 to 1778 and from 1786 to 1796. The early fur trader William Hallowell built his home south of Dorchester on the escarpment near Atwater. In a renewal project in 1962, 135 properties north of Dorchester and south of Tupper Street were expropriated in preparation to widened Dorchester from Hallowell Street to Atwater Avenue in 1966-1967.

The lectures will be held in the Westmount Public Library, 4574 Sherbrooke Street W. from 7 to 9 p.m. Admission is free for WHA members, $5 for non-members at the door. Info: 514-925-1404 or 514-932-6688.

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Cesar Boesten


Alain Boisvert


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Nicole Brunet


Brigitte I. Burdman


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Thomas Castle


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Pam Davidson McLernon


Anne Isabelle Deleeuw


Robert Dontigny


Peggy Drennan


Heidi Fischel


Carl Fontaine


Cyril Girard


Brian Grant

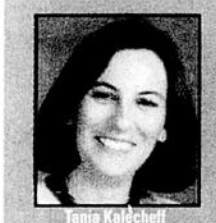

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Margaret Guthrie


Paul Harrison


Therese Hilal


Lois Hollinger


Tania Kalecheff


Petra Kocur


Marie-Thérèse Lacroix

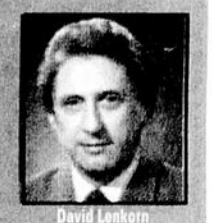

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Marilyn Lally


Michael Lally


Monique Laurendeau


Gérald Lemaire


David Lenkorn


Lillian Leonard


Rosemarie Martin


Marie-Yvonne Paint


Glenn Peterson


Nathalie Picard

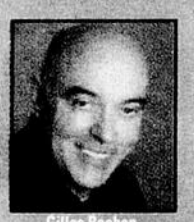

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Continued from CIVIC ALERT, page 7

"We know each other well," he commented about those making presentations since the hearings began on Nov. 8.

Courage wanted

"There are huge funding problems and it is going to take courage to solve them. I don't expect that we will hear a lot about the subject during the election, but we can't let the subject be forgotten either.

"The quality of Quebec's education is at stake.'

After 22 years as an MNA, he knows this will be another fight. "You have to patient," he philosophized, "but also like a bulldog — once you get the meat between your teeth, never let it go."

Civic Studies

Launched: Commander Natalia Shuster of Station 12 attracted a full house at the first of the WMA's winter series with prominent local speakers. She will be followed by *Examiner* Editor Wayne Larsen (March 6), Fire Chief Daniel de Vries (April 3) and Gazette columnist Henry Aubin (May 1).

Deputizing: Francois Ouimet, president of the Montreal Liberal MNAs' caucus, attended the Normandeau-mayors meeting on Monday. He was representing Jacques Chagnon and Geoff Kelley, the riding representatives of the two participating mayors. Both were unavailable.

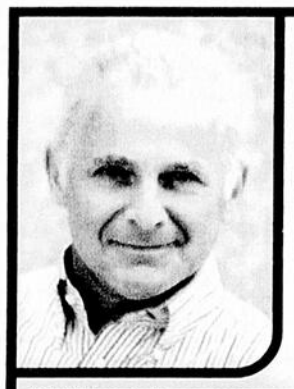
Cold drive: Jacques Chagnon drove to Quebec City on Monday afternoon without heat in his car — wearing the toque, gloves and sealskin boots he normally keeps for visits to the North.

Platform: Liberal MNAs, including Russell Copeman, are ADQ bashing by pointing out Mario Dumont's original support of Pierre Bourque and the megacity, and stepping up their claim that the demergers resulted from Liberal legislation.

Food first: Pointe Claire is setting the pace with food waste collection. Its council on Monday approved a loan to buy 10,000 wheeled containers. A pilot service to 200 homes will begin in May, expanding across the city next year. It will add about $27 a year to the property tax of the average home to cover the purchase of the equipment.

Hybrids: Le Devoir reported that Quebec and Ottawa will fund new hybrid-engine buses in Montreal and Outaouais. To be built by Nova, they will each cost about $350,000 more than a current diesel vehicle.

• Community activist Don Wedge can be reached at calert@web.net. His columns are archived at www.westmountexaminer.com, go to Opinion.



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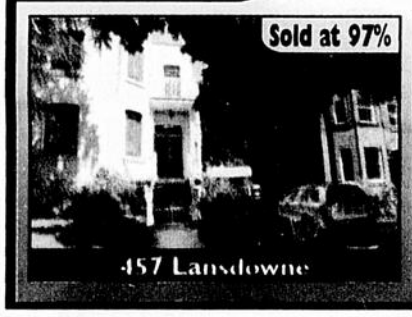
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2006
Award Level
137
transactions

Ventes 2006

60 Cottages
11 Duplexes
42 Co-props/Condos

For Sale

4127 Marcil	cott.	$595K
4620-22 Hampton	cott.	$692K
6251 NDG	cott.	$424K
5267 Côte St. Antoine #102		$255K
4507 Melrose	lower	$335K

À Vendre

5300 Decelles	condo	$275K
5398 Broder	haut	$265K
5000-04 Borden	2X	$485K
6956-58 Somerled	2X	$379K
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SOMERVILLE - Wonderfully bright and renovated 4 bedroom townhouse in the heart of the Victoria Village! With its central A/C, granite eat-in kitchen, skylights, central vacuum, private garden and garage plus 1 exterior parking, this property is not to be missed! **Asking $749,000.**



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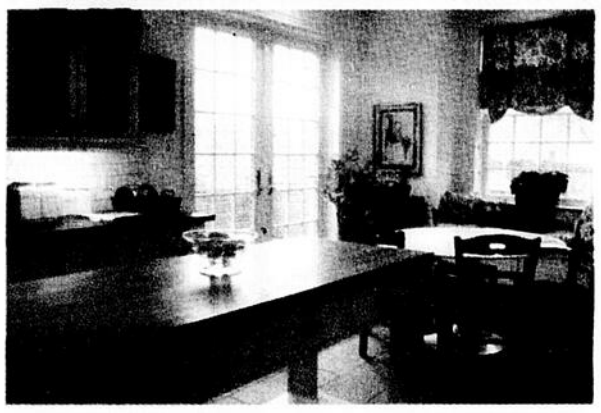


The most important work we will ever do will be within the walls of our own homes.



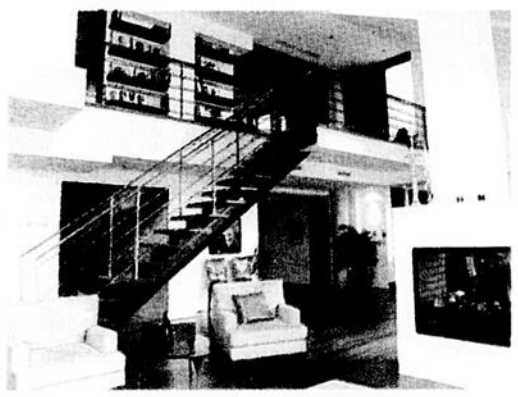
24 Willow Avenue
Asking Price $1,395,000
MLS# 1284814

Inhibited by the thought of renovations? This elegant 4 bedroom family home has already been renovated from top to bottom. Its features include a large designer kitchen with Wolfe range, heated floors, volcanic slate counters & butler's pantry; large living & dining rooms, good sized bedrooms, an upstairs den with gas fireplace, master & family baths with heated marble floors, nicely finished basement with playroom, laundry room & storage, new windows, roof and much, much more. This home's cross hall plan, high ceilings & spacious rooms make it lovely for entertaining as well as for everyday family life. Located on a quiet cul-de- sac, this home will not be on the market for long!









Redpath Loft
Asking Price $1,899,000
MLS# 1225599

This spectacular penthouse in the old Redpath sugar factory boasts a 50 ft. frontage with BEST skyline views of Montreal & the Lachine canal. The entire 3300 S.F. space is a masterpiece of design – 4 bdrms, 3 bathrms, 3 Sub-zeros, private terraces, 2 indoor parking, gym, pool, security.



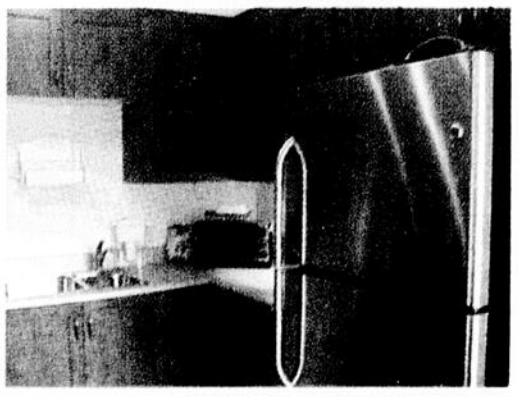
3074 St. Sulpice
Asking Price $2,599,000
MLS# 1285275

A modern masterpiece with all the extras! This sunny 4 bedroom home has been rebuilt with the finest details: sleek designer kitchen and baths, heated floors, Italian windows & doors, main floor den, gym, home theatre, 2 car garage & more.



3005 Barat
Asking Price $719,000
MLS# 1283694

Renovated 3 storey home backing onto priceless laneway where children can play freely. Perfect for downtown family living with 5 bedrooms, very nice kitchen & bathrooms, spacious principal rooms, garage & garden. Centrally located just steps from the Atwater & Sherbrooke.



SOLD - Condo Terrasses Windsor
Asking Price $165,000
MLS# 1249641

Sunny 1 bedroom condo in a modern, well-appointed building. This 4th floor unit has a dark wood kitchen with stainless steel appliances and a pretty view onto the interior courtyard. Downtown living at the doorstep of the Bell Centre and all that Montreal has to offer.

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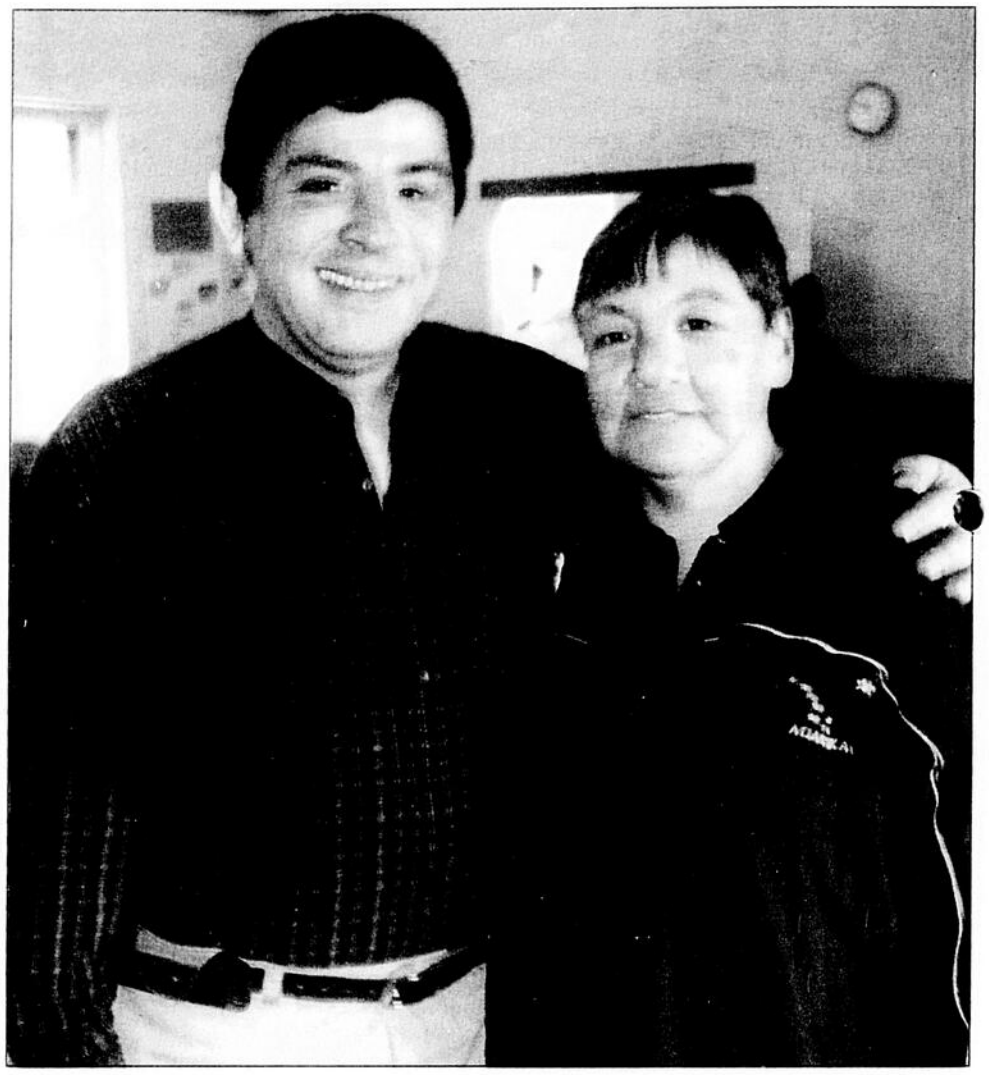
Herrera's door is always open for the needy

> Walter J. Lyng

The walls of the Open Door refugee center are relatively sparse. Most of the visible art work is courtesy of the children who attend the House of Prayer for All Nations next door. Grouped together in one spot is a series of colourful hand tracings of some of the youthful parishioners. All of the drawings read 'hands in prayer.'

The center's director, Ramon Herrera, has his hands not only in prayer, but in virtually every aspect of the center's operations. And there are many.

In addition to providing a hot meal every day, the Open Door also offers hot showers, laundry, hair cuts, free glasses, housing placement and dependency workshops.



Ramon Herrera (left) with one of his many supporters at the Open Door.

Photo: Walter Joseph Lyng

"My main mission is to try to restore them," says Herrera.

Located on the corner of De Maisonneuve and Wood, the center is open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. every day—but this is more of a guideline than a strict schedule. Herrera says he has no problem with getting someone some food even if they show up at 2 p.m. as he's locking up.

"This is open until it closes" he says.

Open to all, the center caters to the needy, homeless or not, as well as international refugees.

Herrera himself hails from Venezuela. He arrived in Canada five years ago where he worked for four years as a lay pastor in Ontario before coming to Montreal.

The Open Door has been around since 1988, when it was started by a member of St. Stephen's congregation who noticed the need for such a service. Since then, it has moved a couple of times, finally settling in its current location.

In some ways, the center works like a co-op, with several of those who use the services also working as volunteers. Mervyn Jack, whom Herrera refers to as his 'right hand man,' is perhaps the best example. While making use of services like the clothes depot, Jack is also the head cook at the center, preparing all the meals himself as well as overseeing the food budget of $50,000.

"I want the guys to feel good for themselves," says the 50-year-old Jack who, on any given day, will prepare anything from homemade chicken soup to shepherd's pie to lasagna. On a few occasions, Jack has even prepared caribou – an acknowledgement of the several Inuit visitors the center receives.

Herrera estimates that from June, when he started working for the center, to December, approximately 14,000 meals have been handed out. To ensure everybody gets fed, Herrera asks his visitors to sign a guest list so he can have a rough idea of how many meals to prepare

"What I don't like is to run out of food," he says.

The food served at Open Door certainly has its fans. Many come back for seconds, according to Herrera and, in some cases, thirds, fourths, and fifths.

While some come for the food, others stick around for the sense of acceptance the center offers. Albert Lord, 49, is a regular of the center. While he currently has an apartment of his own, he has spent a good part of his life on Montreal's streets.

"I like socializing with homeless people because I used to be homeless," says Lord. "Sometimes I think of going back on the street …there's more life."

Lord says the cycle of poverty is hard to break out of. Discrimination, he says, is rampant, especially against persons suffering from mental illness, such as him.

Finding and maintaining work can be next to impossible.

"The minute they found out I had a mental illness, I wasn't an intelligent person anymore … They have more respect for criminals," he says.

For a man who describes himself as having fought 'the system' since he was 17 years old, however, Lord is remarkably positive about the Open Door. The center, he says, has benefited from the hands-on approach of Herrera.

Asked what brought him to Canada from Venezuela, Herrera gestures those hands upwards.

"We came to take care of His children," he says. "These are his children."

National Defence / Défense nationale
Veterans Affairs Canada / Anciens Combattants Canada

NOTICE:
Chemical Warfare Agent Testing Recognition Program
Service at Allied Forces' Test Establishments

On February 19, 2004, the Ministers of National Defence and Veterans Affairs announced a recognition program for Canadian veterans who served as test subjects in chemical warfare agent experiments between the 1940s and the 1970s. Eligible veterans can receive a one-time tax-free payment of $24,000 in recognition of their service to Canada. This amount is in addition to any disability pension benefits to which they may also be entitled. Those eligible for payment under the program are members or former members of the Royal Canadian Navy, Canadian Army, Royal Canadian Air Force or the Canadian Forces, who volunteered and participated as test subjects at Suffield, Alberta, from 1941 to the early 1970s, or the Chemical Warfare Laboratories, Ottawa, 1941 to 1945.

The Government has now extended this program to include Canadian military veterans who served as test subjects at Allied Forces' test establishments such as the Chemical Defence Experimental Station at Porton, Wiltshire, United Kingdom during the Second World War.

Where eligible veterans are deceased, the executor of an estate that is still open – or the primary beneficiary of the veteran's will where the estate is fully dispersed – may submit an application. In those cases where an eligible veteran died without a valid will, the last unremunerated adult person(s) ordinarily residing with the veteran at the time of the veteran's death may also apply for the one-time, non-taxable payment of $24,000. Healthcare givers, housekeepers and other individuals paid to provide services to these veterans are not eligible to receive this *ex gratia* payment.

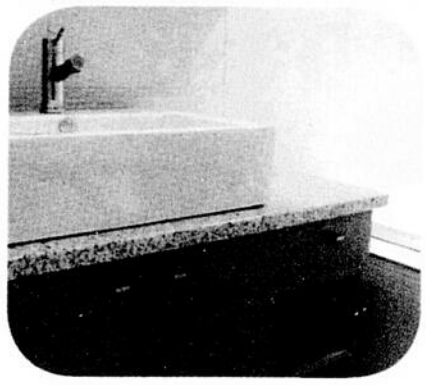
For more information please contact the Chemical Warfare Agent Testing Recognition Program Office by phone at 1-800-883-6094, by e-mail at: recognition-2006@forces.gc.ca. or in writing to Chemical Warfare Agent Testing Recognition Program Office, National Defence Headquarters, 101 Colonel By Drive, Ottawa ON, K1A 0K2.

It should be noted that many Canadian service personnel attended courses in the United Kingdom at the "Army School of Chemical Warfare" at Winterbourne Gunner during the Second World War. While this establishment is close to the Chemical Defence Experimental Station, Porton, it is a separate unit and service at this school, which often included exposure to chemical warfare agents, does not equate to being a chemical warfare agent test subject.

Applications from, or on behalf of, Canadian chemical warfare agent test subjects who served at Allied Forces' test establishments must be received by February 28, 2007.

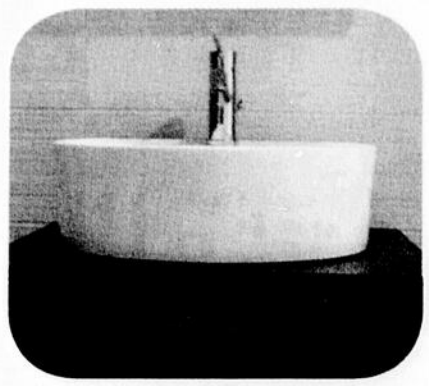
Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) provides for the award of disability pension and other health-related services and benefits for service-related disability or death. If you believe you suffer from a disability related to your military service, including a disability related to chemical warfare agent testing – or if you are the surviving spouse/partner of a deceased veteran who you believe suffered from a disability related to his/her military service – please call VAC toll-free at 1-866-522-2122 (English) or 1-866-522-2022 (French).

Canada



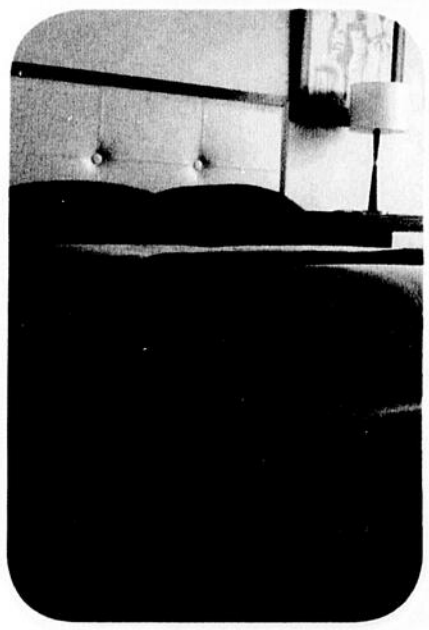
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SOLD	#1901	2,665 sq.ft.	$1,185,900
	Tower 3		
SOLD	#214	760 sq.ft.	$271,000
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533 CLARKE
Imposing detached 3 storey cottage features gorgeous woodwork and moldings, high ceilings, large entertainment rooms, main floor den with f/p, beautiful entrance hall, views, possibility of 2 car garage and more! **Asking $1,650,000**



Beauxarts - Townhouse #1
1638 Sherbrooke
Magnificent 2 storey townhouse with over 3,000 sq.ft. featuring Neff kitchen, marble ensuite w/Jacuzzi, 24 hr. doorman / valet parking, indoor courtyard and more. Priced to sell - includes garage! **$1,100,000**



Westmount - 174 Edgehill
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Asking $2,375,000



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Downtown - 1 Wood #304
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658 Belmont
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Asking $798,000



54 De La Vigne
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15 Oakland
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319 Prince Albert
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448 Lansdowne
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*Conditional



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Unit 1012 Asking $569,000
Unit 402 $500,300 SOLD



Old Montreal
305 de la Commune TH#2
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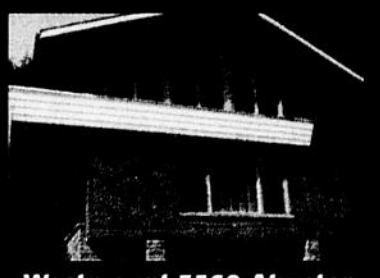
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4850 de la Côte St. Luc #109
The Montebello Westmount Adj, Minutes from downtown. Completely renov. and redesigned. This 1461 sf 3 bdrm. unit offers magnificent views! 24 hr doorman, valet parking, fitness centre, pool and sundeck, A/C, large deck & more! **$490,000**



Westmount 3560 Atwater
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Author Hage offers insight into successful first novel

> Walter Joseph Lyng

Much praise was lavished upon Montreal author Rawi Hage's DeNiro's Game on Tuesday night last week as the author and guests gathered at the Atwater Library to participate in a panel discussion on the novel.

Winner of the 2006 Quebec Writers' Federation awards for first book of fiction, DeNiro's Game was also a runner-up for the Scotiabank Giller Prize and the Governor General's Award for English-language fiction. Despite all the acclaim, however, Hage seems to have remained humble.

"I was always under the impression that panels and analysis of your work came later in life," said the reserved Montreal author.

DeNiro's Game tells the story of two young men living a life of delinquency in civil war-era Beirut. As their crimes escalate against the backdrop of war, Bassam, the story's narrator, wishes to escape while his friend George strives only for power and survival, reveling in the violence.

The apocalyptic tone of DeNiro's Game was said to be, during the course of the evening, in the vein of Joseph Conrad's Heart of Darkness. Hage did not disagree with the comparison, admitting his novel drew from several inspirations, not only literary in nature. The novel's title, in fact, is a direct reference to the character portrayed by Robert DeNiro in the seminal Vietnam epic, Deer Hunter; specifically, the infamous Russian roulette scenes. The deadly game also works itself into Hage's narrative.

"I'm a visual artist and I had a period in my life where I watched a lot of movies," Hage told the *Examiner*.

Hage also cited French literature and Arabic poetry as being major influences of his. The over all poetic tone of his novel is a testament to his native Arabic language.

"I grew up in a very poetic language," he says. "I remember when I was in school; every week we had to read poetry in front of the class."

While Hage's early life may have been marked by poetry, it was also marked by the terror of being a first-hand witness to war. While Hage emigrated from his home country while still fairly young, the war, he says, has had a lasting impact on him—an impact, however, that has not always been apparent.

"It took me 20 years to realize I had liv through a horrific experience," he says.

While Hage was the first to admit that Lebanon has had a long history of warfare, he nevertheless came to the defense of his country of origin.

"I hope that people are not so simplistic to label that culture as one that is inherently violent," he said.

One of the few criticisms Hage received came during the question period when an audience member commented on the very dark and bleak tone of the book.

"I don't know how to write happy novels," he said. "My next novel is even darker."



The telling of the tale

Library presents an evening of spoken-word adventures

> Matthew Surridge

On Friday, Feb. 9, at 7 p.m, the Westmount Public Library will host an evening of tales, riddles, and rhymes presented by a trio of storytellers.

A House Full of Stories is aimed at all ages and will take place in the Westmount Room. There is no cost, but those interested in attending should sign up ahead of time at the desk in the children's department.

The event, which will run for one hour, is hosted by professional storyteller Stephanie Bénéteau and her two daughters, Sabine and Naomi. Appropriately, the theme for the evening's stories is "family", and will present traditional tales from around the world about grandparents, parents, siblings, and babies. Some of the stories will ask for audience participation, giving children in the crowd a chance to get involved, and generally drawing the audience into the tale. "It's a very interactive event," said Bénéteau.

Bénéteau has been a professional storyteller for 10 years. Her daughters, at eight and 10 years of age, have begun telling tales more recently. Bénéteau, who often tells at events in schools, has seen for herself how powerful her daughters' tellings can be. At one of their first public storytelling events, telling to a crowd of over 300 elementary school students, "the room was quieter when my daughters were telling than when I was telling. It was amazing. And I realised that children love to hear another child tell a story to them. It means a lot to them ... Plus, my daughters loved being on stage." Bénéteau has a CD of traditional stories, Dreaming Tall: Stories for Growing Girls, which will be on sale at the House Full of Stories event for $19.

The House Full of Stories event represents part of an ongoing effort by the Westmount Library to support and encourage the art of storytelling. The library hosts the storytelling meetings, called swaps, of the Montreal Storytellers' Guild, and is involved in the biannual Montreal Intercultural Storytelling Festival.

The library also holds numerous resources on storytelling in its collection, and supports the Mother Goose program, in which new and expectant mothers are taught traditional stories and rhymes with which to entertain their children.

"That's something we really want to start, is people learning how to tell stories," noted Library Director Ann Moffat. "Who know where this will lead? ... Really, what's more magical than hearing a story?"

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Dental care needs will change over a lifetime. But not those good oral hygiene practices that include flossing, brushing, and regular check-ups. A check-up includes examination of teeth and gums by a professional, since no one can see all the parts of their mouth. A dentist will look for gum disease, cavities, infections, cancer and other problems that can be better treated if caught early. Cleaning is another important step that will help prevent gum disease.

Practicing good dental care habits at home may become more difficult with age. Sometimes, family members or other caregivers will need to lend a hand to the senior in their lives to help them with dental health needs. This should be done with the utmost respect for their wishes, as it may be uncomfortable at first.

For brushing and flossing, the Canadian Dental Association advises caregivers to stand behind the person to brush and floss, since this will allow them to use the same motions they would use to care for their own teeth. An electric toothbrush or one with soft bristles is preferable. It's important not to brush too hard. If possible, have the person rinse her own mouth out afterwards. If the caregiver notices swelling, sores, or changes in the colour of gums, this should be reported to the dentist.

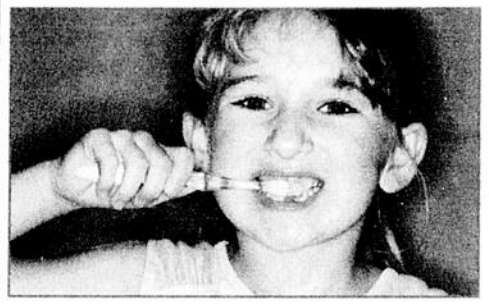
Often aging means a loss of teeth, and the need to wear dentures. Caregivers can help with the daily cleaning, and ensure there is no damage to the dentures. The person who knows best how to take out and put in their dentures is the person wearing them, so a caregiver should ask for a demonstration before taking on this job. Dentures need to be scrubbed daily with a denture brush and soap, then rinsed well. An overnight soak in special cleanser or water and vinegar is recommended, and water only should be used for dentures with metal clasps.



In order to keep teeth healthy throughout one's life, good oral hygiene must be taught at an early age.

Other factors also have an effect on teeth. A dentist may ask about smoking habits, health problems or medical conditions, allergies, medications, changes since your last visit, and any stress in your life, since these can all affect dental health. This will help the dentist provide the appropriate care and treatment.

Making Toothbrushing Time Fun



(MS) - It can be difficult for parents to get their children to brush their teeth regularly. After all, kids see it as a chore, not realizing that brushing and flossing is essential for a healthy mouth. So how do you entice your kids to head willingly to the bathroom to brush? Here are some tips for adding some "wow" to your family's oral health routine:

Trendy toothbrushes:
Allow your kids to brush with an electric toothbrush - especially one emblazoned with their favourite superhero or cartoon character. The vibrating action will make the brushing experience a novelty. And what youngster can pass up playing with a gadget... even if it is a toothbrush?

Deck out the bathroom
Transform the bathroom into a room of imagination. Let your kids dream up a theme for the bathroom - like underwater adventure - and then make it come to life. Accessories like an ocean themed shower curtain, wall mural, and toothbrush and soap holders will really make a splash.

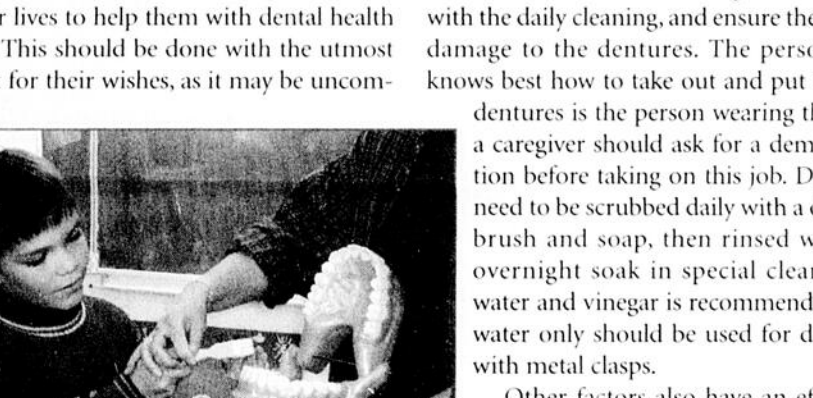
Flavour in "in"
Why settle for mint toothpaste when each member of the family can enjoy their own flavour? These days flavour variety is an exciting trend in toothpaste. Cruise your local supermarket or drug store and experiment with some new flavours.

Be a role model
Children are more likely to brush if they see their parents practicing oral health care regularly... and willingly. Invite the kids into the bathroom and give them a proper lesson on keeping teeth healthy. Make it a family affair that's fun.

Turn on the tunes
Allow the kids to brush along to their favourite tunes. Songs typically last two to three minutes, the ideal time needed for proper brushing. Plus, if they brush to a favourite song, the enjoyment factor may make them more likely to hit the bathroom and brush.

Clean completion
Plan a family-friendly competition once a week. Ask your dentist or pharmacy for little red pills or tablets that you chew to see how clean teeth are after brushing (known as disclosing tablets). Chew the tablets and examine each other's teeth. The one with the best results gets a prize - like a night out for pizza or a favourite toy.

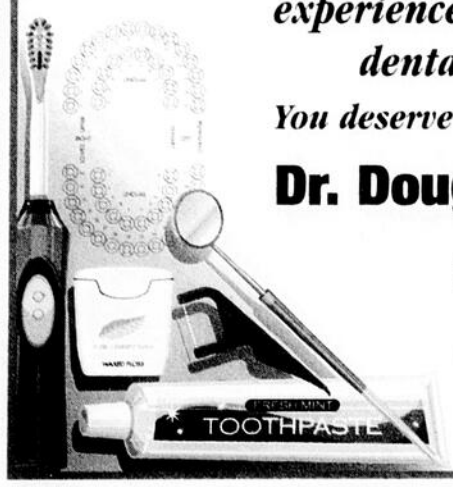
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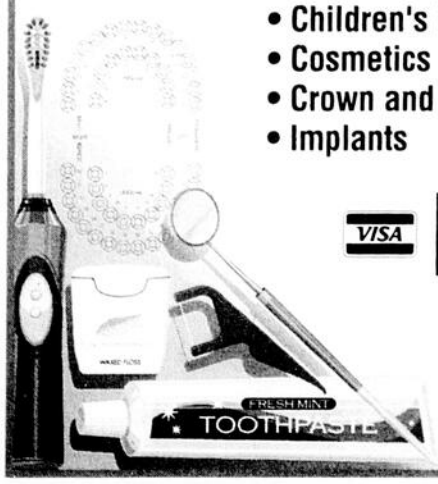


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Tobacco: your teeth's sworn enemy



Tobacco will harm your dental health as well as that of your family.

A smoker risks the possibility of contacting oral cancer four times more often than a non-smoker. Tobacco use is also an important factor in gum disease, which causes teeth to fall out. It is also linked to other mouth diseases such as gingivitis, pre-cancerous tumors and gingival recession. There are numerous unpleasant dental side-effects related to smoking such as bad breath, more plaque and tartar on teeth, yellowish stains, loss of smell and taste, etc...

Studies also show that second-hand smoking also damages dental health. Cavities in a child where there is a smoker in the home dramatically increase by 27% and dental alterations to the tooth surface, by 14%. Smoking not only affects you, it also negatively affect your loved ones.

If your health is a major concern and a priority, take immediate action by contacting your health provider for support and assistance to help you quit this harmful addiction. Your teeth will thank you!

You want to keep your bright white smile? Take some good resolutions this month of April, which also happens to be Dental Health Month. This year, tobacco will be the main target of the campaign to inform the public on the harmful consequences of tobacco use. Thousands of deaths are attributed to tobacco use according to health professionals and dentists would like to see smokers think about such a dangerous dependency, which directly affect dental health.

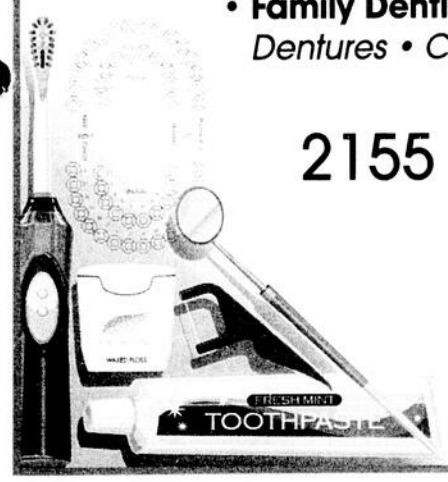
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Continued from AROUND WESTMOUNT, page 5

Celebrating National Therapeutic Recreation Week

Feb. 3 to 9 is National Therapeutic Recreation week in Canada and members of the Quebec Association of Activity Professionals got together for a general meeting last week at Chateau Westmount to discuss how they could best raise awareness in the community about their profession and the benefits of what they do.

In addition to her keynote presentation, 'Celebrating Diversity', Danya Morrow, coordinator of therapeutic recreation for the Alzheimer Society of Montreal on Sherbrooke Street and vice president of the association, led a brainstorming and discussion session.

These unsung professionals who include therapeutic recreation specialists, special care counselors and community recreation leisure technicians, and work alongside traditionally recognized professionals including doctors, nurses, social workers and administrators at hospitals, rehabilitative centers, senior residences and other health care centres. They provide stimulating and therapeutic recreational activities that can range anywhere from arts and crafts to dances and entertainment, afternoon tea to sports. In Westmount, these professionals can be found at the Contactivity Centre, Manoir Westmount, Place Kensington, Chateau Westmount, and St. Margaret's residence and day centre.

"A large part of what we do demands not only a true love of our clients but a sense of humour, and always being 'on' to meet the needs of our clients." Morrow told the group. For many residents in senior residences and participants in other centres the recreation professional becomes a friend not thought of as a health-care professional and often their programs give the clients the reason to get up in the morning.

For more information about the association or membership phone 514-330-7227 or go to www.qaap-aqpl.com

ALCC observes Black History Month

The Atwater Library and Computer Centre is celebrating Black History Month with two more special events.

On Tuesday, Feb. 20 at 6:30 p.m., there will be a reading of Coloured Pictures in Family Frames by Dr. Dolores Sandoval, narrated by Dr. Dorothy Williams. The evening will also include the Montreal launch and sale of Who's Who in Black Canada, second edition, by Dawn P. Williams, and the sale of posters by the Afro-Canadian Contemporary Art Foundation (ACCAF) to benefit the Atwater Library.

On Wednesday, Feb. 28 at 12:30 p.m., the ALCC will present 'Haitians in Quebec: A Little More of the Story', a variety show organized and hosted by Maguy Métellus. The Atwater Library has a specialty collection of books by black authors and books about black history and culture. For more information, phone Tanya at 514-935-7344 or e-mail tmayhew@atwaterlibrary.ca All events will be held at the Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater Ave. Admission is free.

Investors Group donates to breakfast program

Last month, Eliane Monnier-Hurbain and Gail Skutezky, consultants with Investors Group Westmount Square, presented Westmount Park School principal Gail Somerville and the teachers with a cheque for $1,000 to support the school's breakfast program.

The cheque was the beginning of a volunteer community relationship tea, the consultants at Investors Group Westmount Square has established. Nationally, Investors Group partnered with the Canadian Association of Food Banks to bring national attention to the issue of hunger in Canada. CAFB is a registered charitable organization and serves as the national umbrella group for food banks in Canada. They currently have a member network of 250 food banks across Canada. For more information, go to www.cafb-acba.ca/english.

What are Cavities?

"Cavities" is another way of saying tooth decay. Tooth decay is heavily influenced by lifestyle, what we eat, how well we take care of our teeth, the presence of fluoride in our water and toothpaste. Heredity also plays a role in how susceptible your teeth may be to decay.

While cavities are generally more common among children, adults are also at risk. The types of cavities include:

Coronal cavities—the most common type occurring in both children and adults, coronal cavities usually are located on chewing surfaces or between the teeth.

Root cavities—as we age, our gums recede, leaving parts of the tooth root exposed. Since there is no enamel covering tooth roots, these exposed areas easily decay

Recurrent decay—decay can form around existing fillings and crowns. This is because these areas may have a tendency to accumulate plaque, which can ultimately lead to decay.

Adults are especially at risk for cavities if they suffer from dry mouth, a condition due to a lack of saliva. Cavities are very serious. Left untreated, a cavity can destroy your tooth and kill the delicate nerves at its center, which may result in an abscess, an area of infection at the root tip. Once an abscess forms, it can only be treated with a root canal, surgery or by extracting the tooth.

How Do I Know if I Have a Cavity?

Only your dentist can tell for sure whether you have a cavity. That's because cavities develop below the tooth's surface, where you can't see them. When you eat foods that contain carbohydrates (sugars and starches), these carbohydrates are eaten by the bacteria in plaque, producing acids that eat into the tooth. Over time, the tooth enamel begins to break down beneath the surface while the surface remains intact. When enough of the sub-surface enamel is eaten away, the surface collapses, forming a cavity.

Cavities are most likely to develop in pits on the chewing surfaces of the back teeth, in between teeth, and near the gumline. But regardless of where they occur, the best way to spot them and treat them before they become serious is by visiting your dentist regularly for checkups.

How Can I Help Prevent Cavities?

Brush at least twice a day and floss daily to remove plaque from between teeth and below the gumline. Have regular dental checkups. Preventive care can help stop problems from occurring and keep minor problems from becoming major ones. Eat a well-balanced diet that limits starchy or sugary foods. When you do eat these foods, try to eat them with your meal instead of as a snack to minimize the number of times that your teeth are exposed to acid.

Use dental products that contain fluoride, including toothpaste. Make sure that your children's drinking water is fluoridated. If your water supply does not contain fluoride, your dentist or pediatrician may prescribe daily fluoride supplements.

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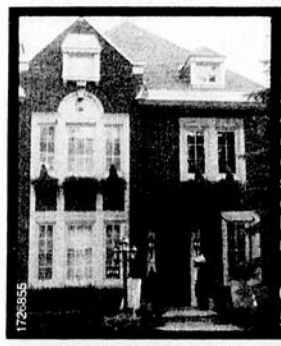
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SPECIAL NEEDS EDUCATOR to work at our home. Contact lindaburnsrock@videotron.ca

605 Miscellaneous employment

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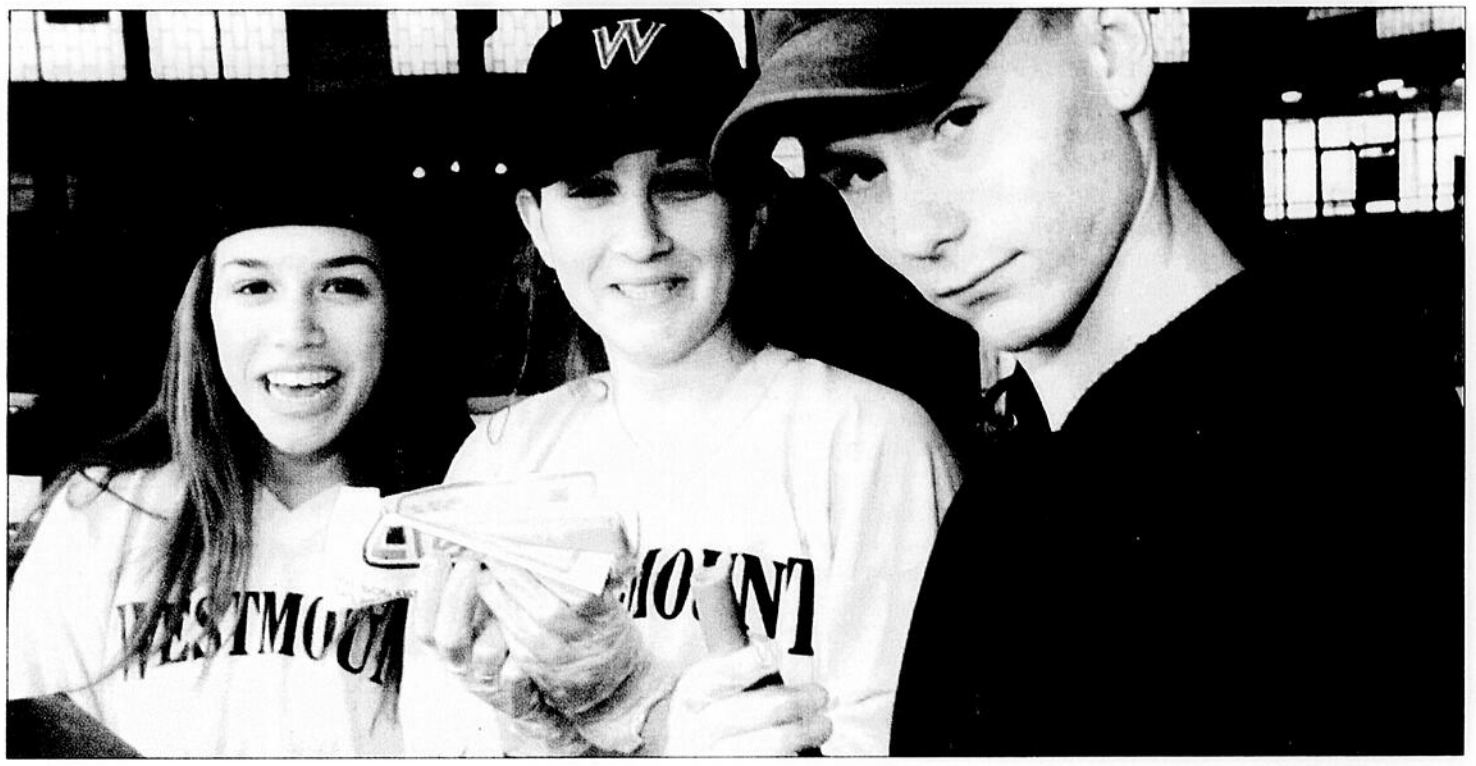
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Ideal weather draws a crowd to Westmount's winter carnival

> Martin C. Barry

Everyone seemed to agree. There couldn't have been more appropriate weather for Westmount's annual winter carnival.



Hot dog vendors Kevin Motton, Amanda Pappe Weinstein and Heather Tekeles.

After some doubts were expressed during a warm spell in early January as to whether there would eventually be a cold snap, Westmount Sports and Recreation Department Director Mike Deegan said on Saturday that the weather for this year's carnival ended up just right.

"It's been a good crowd, it's been a very good year," he said.

"The weather's been amazing. We've had such cold weather the last two weeks and then having this is just phenomenal."

Starting last Thursday, the three-day celebration of winter began at the Contactivity Centre for senior citizens, where a Seniors Carnival Luncheon has for years been the carnival's opening event. That night, there was family tobogganing in King George Park.

On Friday, Westmounters had the opportunity to escape and become snowbirds for an evening, on a Family Carnival Cruise Party staged at Victoria Hall.

Parents and children who turned out dressed in masks for Mardi Gras enjoyed dinner, dancing and games on an imaginary vessel which was christened 'The Westmount of the Seas.' From 8 p.m. onward for those 18 years and older, the Mardi Gras theme continued with live entertainment and a cash bar at Bourbon Hall on the Bayou.



Skating at the arena

On Saturday at the arena from 10 a.m. onward, there were activities for the whole family, including a scavenger hunt, a broomball competition, outdoor skating, sleigh rides in Westmount Park, a sugar shack, face painting, a puck-shooting contest, a tug of war and free hot dogs.



Tom Krezer, Devon Krezer and Mike Fortier sample some maple taffy.

Enjoying maple taffy on snow on Saturday afternoon, Mike Fortier, John Kruzer, and his young son, Devon, recounted the great time they had on the Carnival Cruise the previous night.

"There was terrific dancing and everything," said Fortier, adding that older family members headed immediately to the adult event afterwards. "It was good entertainment last night." According to John, Devon "danced the night away and had a good time. Today we did the puck-shooting contest."

Sitting in back of a horse-drawn sleigh as it was about to set out for round-trip across the south playing field of Westmount Park, Thanasi Dionisopolulos and his children were all having a great time. "We've been here every year without fail," he said. "It's well-run and organized and a pleasure to be here. We're very fortunate."

— *Photos by Martin C. Barry*

845 Prayers/card of thanks

WILLETT - Mamie Bell (nee **Snowie**) July 27, 1917 - January 6, 2007. Peacefully while sleeping, and with her only child, Katherine Anne Willett, by her side. Predeceased (1976) by husband James Claude Thomas. Survived by brother Jimmie (Phyllis). Born in Breadalbane, PEI, she moved to Montreal where she worked in a war plant, then at Gillette's of Canada from 1945-1972 when she retired. In 1996 she moved to Vancouver with Katherine. Funeral Service was held January 11, 2007 at holy Trinity Anglican Church, Vancouver, BC. Interment at Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Burnaby, BC. In lieu of flowers, a donation to the charity of your choice in Mamie's memory would be appreciated. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.kearneyfs.com

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Bulletin Board

Thursday, Feb. 8

The Montreal Storytellers Guild tells stories for adults at the Westmount Public Library, 4574 Sherbrooke W. at 7 p.m. Free admission; donations welcome. Info: 514-341-6622.

The Visual Arts Centre, 350 Victoria Ave., presents an evening of poetry and prose reading with Carolyn Zonailo, Hugh Hazelton, Helen Zisimatos, George Slobodzian, Lucille King-Edwards, Matt Santateresa and cellist Karen Kaderavek at 7:30 p.m. Admission is $5 at the door. Info: 514-488-9558.

Friday, Feb. 9

The Westmount Public Library presents 'A House Full of Stories' with Stephanie Bénéteau and her two daughters, who will tell a medley of traditional stories, riddles, and audience-participation stories on the theme of families. 7 p.m. at the library, 4574 Sherbrooke W. Register at the children's desk or by calling 514-989-05229.

TGIF at Centre Greene, 1090 Greene Ave. Meal followed by weekly activity for ages 5-11; $10 per drop-in. 6 to 8:30 p.m. Info: 514-931-6202.

Tuesday, Feb. 13

The Westmount Horticultural Society welcomes guest speaker Régie Millette, president of la Société québécoise des hostas et des hémérocalles, who will give an illustrated talk on hostas from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Westmount Library, 4574 Sherbrooke St. W. Join the society or renew your membership. Annual dues are $15; guest fee $5. Info: 514- 932-9349 or westhortsoc@canada.com.

Thursday, Feb. 15

Dramatis Personae, Westmount's community theatre, presents 'Snapshots', an album of short plays, at 8 p.m. in the Gallery at Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke W. Free admission, but donations are welcome. Info: 514-486-7423 or 514-484-2016.

Friday, Feb. 16

Dramatis Personae, Westmount's community theatre, presents 'Snapshots', an album of short plays, at 8 p.m. in the Gallery at Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke W. Free admission, but donations are welcome. Info: 514-486-7423 or 514-484-2016.

Saturday, Feb. 17

Dramatis Personae, Westmount's community theatre, presents 'Snapshots', an album of short plays, at 2 p.m. in the Gallery at Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke W. Free admission, but donations are welcome. Info: 514-486-7423 or 514-484-2016.

Tuesday, Feb. 20

The Friends of the Westmount Public Library hold their Annual General Meeting at 7 p.m. in the Westmount Room of the Library, 4574 Sherbrooke W. Date has been changed from Feb. 13. All are welcome.

Ongoing

The McClure Gallery at the Visual Arts Centre, 350 Victoria Ave., presents 'Interior Experience', an exhibition of large-format acrylic paintings by Lynn Millette, through Feb. 24. Info: 514-488-9558.

St. Margaret's Home for the elderly is currently recruiting volunteers to help with mealtime assistance and tuck shop, as well as assisting the occupational and physiotherapist. Info: Melanie Lafleur at 514-932-3630.

The Advent Refugee Centre is in need of men's, women's and children's winter clothing in good condition. Info: June Paterson at 514-933-6839.

Mary's Recovery: Weekly meetings in English and French at the Westmount YMCA for people seeking help in dealing with fear, anger, stress, depression, anxiety, panic attacks, phobias, insomnia, gambling addiction. Info: 514-485-2194 between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

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Horticultural Society unveils its 2007 program

The Westmount Horticultural Society has announced its program for 2007, which features a wide variety of topics—from roof gardens to birds.

The new year was launched Jan. 9 at the regular monthly meeting in Westmount Public Library with an overview by McGill entomologist Prof. Christopher Buddle on the most common bugs likely to be found in local gardens, differentiating between pests and those that are beneficial.

Lily and hosta expert Roger Millette will provide an illustrated talk at the next meeting, Feb. 13, on the care of hosta and the many types that make this a favourite in many Westmount gardens.

"We've planned a program that we hope will be especially meaningful to local garden enthusiasts," says Brigitta Brittain, co-president with Gabrielle Pilot. "We welcome new members as well as visitors."

An annual membership fee of $15, available at the door, entitles members to attend monthly lecture meetings and participate in special activities and garden visits. Admission for non-members is $5 Meetings take place on the second Tuesday of the month, starting at 7 p.m., in the Westmount Room of the library, 4574 Sherbrooke St. W.



The society's objective is to foster, study, and encourage all aspects of horticulture year-round.

The following subjects are also slated for presentation in the coming year:

March 13: 'Green Roofs' with Owen Rose.

April 10: 'Indoor Plants; with guest speaker George Libby of Alpha Plantes et Poteries.

May 8: 'Dahlias' with guest speaker Michele Cartier.

June 12: 'A personal landscape: Glen Villa and its gardens' with Pat Webster, featuring her Eastern Townships garden.

Sept. 11: 'Gardening Tools' with Stuart Robertson, CBC radio host, Gazette garden columnist and the Society's founding president.

Oct. 9: 'Organic Gardening', an evening devoted to the growing movement.

Nov. 13: "Attracting birds to the Garden" with McGill bird specialist David Bird;

Dec. 11: Christmas Wreath/Centre Piece workshop and party with Orysia Krywiak-Valenti of Tuilerie Fleurs.

Assisting the co-presidents are members of the 2007 board: Elizabeth Tsuk, Susan Zegray, Laureen Sweeney, Rosalind Moquette, Andrea Leber, Jody Negley, Sally Cooke, Joan Shideler, Diana Bruno and Diane Cameron, the past president. For more information, call 514-932-9349 or e-mail westhortsoc@canada.com.

1
Comment relever les cinq défis de la gestion des personnes?
20 février 2007
Un atelier interactif d'une durée de **2 heures** sur la fidélisation des employés et comment les mobiliser afin de contribuer aux résultats de l'organisation et à l'efficacité du travail. Animé par Mme Jocelyne Racine de **Nadeau Lessard inc.**

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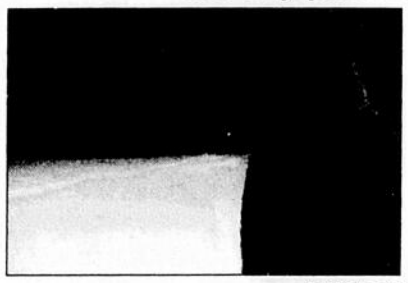
2
Gérer la diversité culturelle : une compétence-clé.
13 mars 2007
Un atelier dynamique de **2 heures** sur le défi que constitue l'intégration au milieu des affaires des personnes immigrantes et issues de minorités visibles. Animé par Mme Ana Luisa Iturriaga de **Québec Multi-Plus.**

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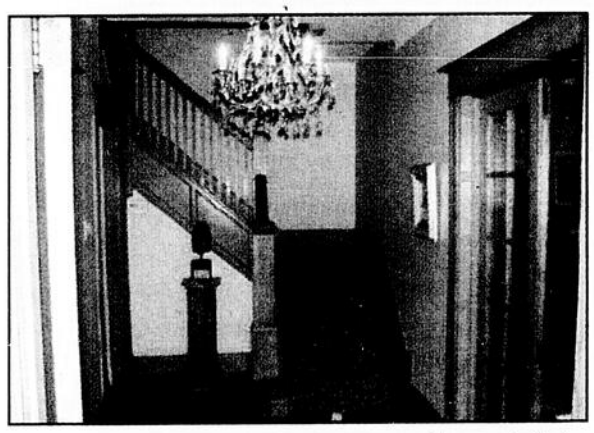
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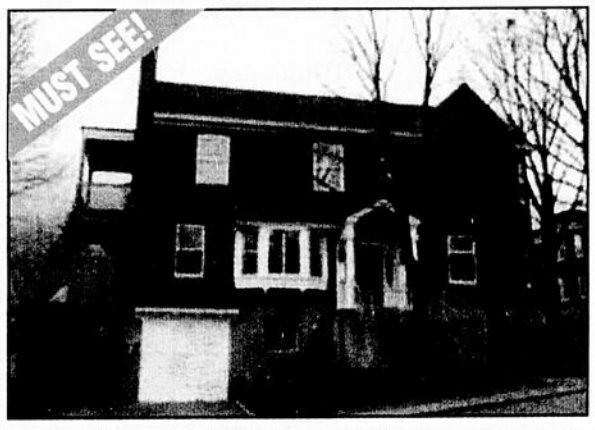






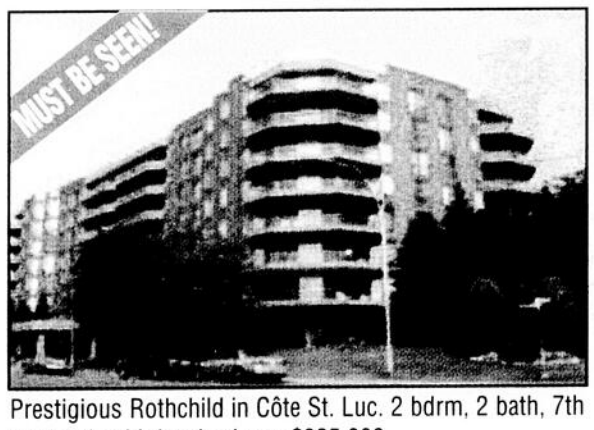
Westmount. 3612 The Boulevard. Elegant detached stone residence well located near private schools, parks, transportation. $759,000.



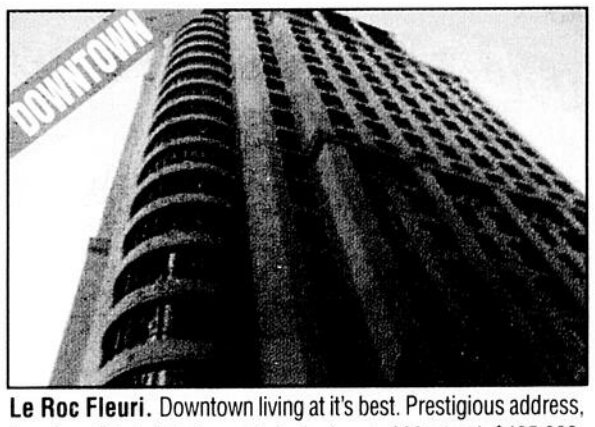




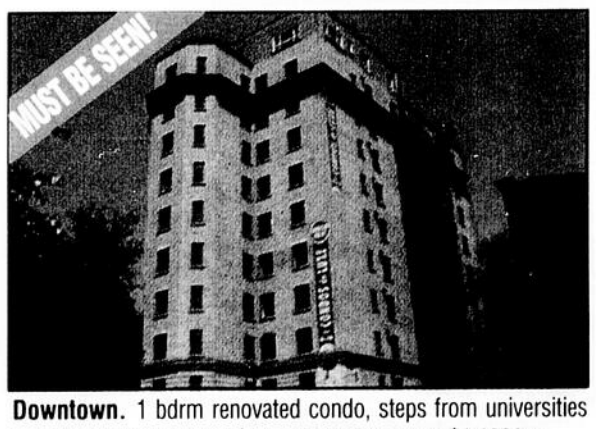
Westmount. Sunny Lambert style cottage with cross hall plan, full of charm, 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 bathrooms, lots of woodwork, hardwood floors, great play room, fireplaces, move-in condition. $985,000.



Prestigious Rothchild in Côte St. Luc. 2 bdrm, 2 bath, 7th floor unit with lovely views. $325,000.



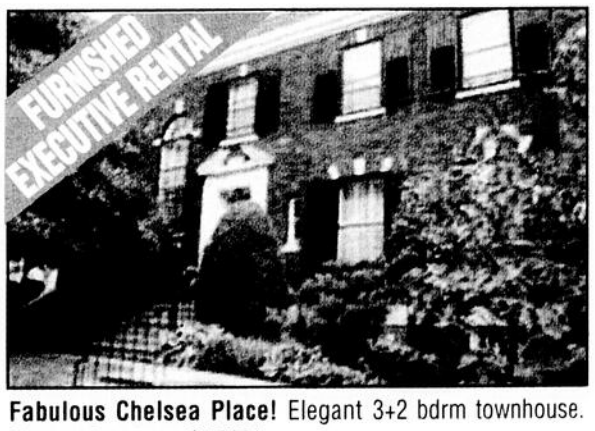
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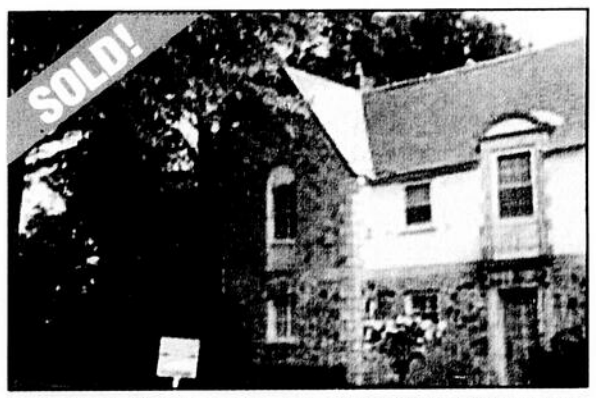
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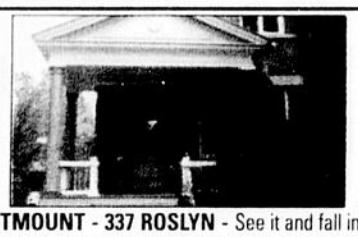
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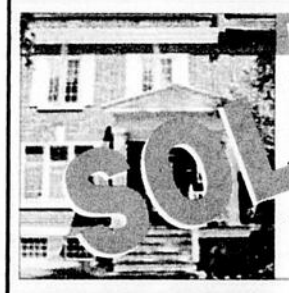


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DOROTHY RAICH
514-931-7190

WESTMOUNT CONDOS

#3 Westmount Square - Spacious 1 bdrm, well appointed, garage. $325,000

Clarke Ave. Superb view & location. 4 bdrms, 2 baths. Needs TLC. $439,000.

WESTMOUNT - RENTAL

Perfect for executive. Great for entertaining, exclusive mid-level street, 2 yr. lease from July. $9,750/mo.



Westmount Adj. - Det. renov. town house on quiet street, x-hall plan, large LR with FP, DR with cross ventilation, eat-in kit. 2 baths + 2 pwdrms. Lg master, den/library has bookshelves, possibly 2 other bdrms. Fin. bsmt with walk-in cedar cc, large laundry rm, lots of storage space. Sun deck over garage (no garden). Imm. occ., easy to show. **Asking only $765,000**

JANE ALLAN 514-762-9481

CÔTE DES NEIGES



NEW: Fantastic 2 bdrm renovated apartment on Victoria. Close to all amenities, schools, hospital and shopping. Must see! **Asking $209,000**

OLD MONTREAL



Stunning spacious new rental in #1 McGill. Available imm. 2 bdrms plus garage, tastefully renov. **Asking $2,600** furnished or unfurnished.

TINA BAER 514-933-5800



MAGNIFICENT MANSION

AAA residential / professional & coach house on huge lot, corner of Sherbrooke St. W. & Mount Stephen facing Westmount Park, 2 car garage, 6 outdoor parking spaces. **$1,950,000**



SOPHIE (SONIA) BESNER 514-912-3006