



LOCAL NEWS
**Generous
Donation**

Richard Gervais gives political memorabilia to National Assembly.
Page 3



ARTS & BOOKS
**Victorian
Operetta**

Three Gilbert & Sullivan companies unite for special event.
Page 13

**CLASSIFIED
ADS**

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**Nature's
fury**

A work crew was kept busy for several hours in front of 79 Arlington Ave. last Wednesday afternoon after unusually high winds snapped the trunk of a mature tree, parts of which crashed down on the house. No one was injured, but there was considerable damage to the roof and cupola. Another part of the tree fell between the buildings, crushing a parked car.

(Photo: Ralph Thompson, Photomageur Inc.)

**School and
Oratory
collaborate
on summit
access**

> Martin C. Barry

A well-lit walkway linking the Westmount summit to St. Joseph's Oratory and other points beyond opened recently thanks to a collaborative effort between the Villa Sainte-Marcelline girls' school and officials at the Oratory.

As part of a lengthy refurbishing underway these past few years at the Oratory, including a major re-landscaping of the site, a part of Kingston Road, which was a winding street on the shrine's western edge that was closed more than 20 years, has been converted into the pedestrian path.

Part of the Kingston Road land, which had been under the jurisdiction of the City of Montreal, was purchased by the school in 2004. The new surfaced path, which can be accessed by a driveway at Villa Sainte-Marcelline, is equipped with four light standards furnished by the Oratory.

A lit pedestrian tunnel at the far end leads onto the Oratory property. According to Danielle Thibodeau, associate director of Villa Sainte-Marcelline, the Oratory is also paying for the electricity that powers the lights. "It's supposed to be lighted between six o'clock in the morning until midnight," she said.

"Because of this agreement between the two neighbours, the whole neighbourhood will benefit from it. I think it should enhance the quality of life."

Thibodeau, who is a Westmount resident, said she once had some security

(Continued on page 12)

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Westmount vous informe...

Westmount Page



Vol. 10/1
Publié par Westmount • Published by Westmount



MESURES D'URGENCE Fonds d'aide aux victimes de l'avenue Mount Stephen

La Ville de Westmount, en collaboration avec l'organisme Jeunesse au Soleil s'est engagée à offrir assistance et appui à long terme aux victimes de l'incendie qui a ravagé l'immeuble d'appartements de l'avenue Mount Stephen. Les résidents de Westmount désirant venir en aide à leurs voisins sont invités à faire un don en espèces au Fonds d'aide aux victimes de l'avenue Mount Stephen à l'adresse suivante.

Jeunesse au Soleil
4251, St-Urbain
Montréal (Québec) H2W 1V6

Veuillez inscrire sur le chèque que l'argent est destiné au Fonds d'aide aux victimes de Mount Stephen.

Les résidents peuvent également donner aux victimes des meubles et des appareils ménagers en bon état; veuillez contacter la Ville de Westmount au 514 989-5455 pour annoncer votre contribution. Visitez notre site Web pour obtenir de l'information additionnelle.



RESSOURCES HUMAINES Emplois d'été

Westmount embauche des étudiants pour occuper différents postes durant l'été. Les formulaires de demande d'emploi pour l'été 2008 sont maintenant disponibles sur notre site Web, ainsi qu'à la réception de l'hôtel de ville. Veuillez noter que la date limite pour soumettre votre candidature est le vendredi 1^{er} février 2008. Info : 514 989-5210.



TRAVAUX PUBLICS Déneigement

La Ville a besoin de la collaboration de tous les résidents afin de s'assurer que le déneigement s'effectue rapidement et efficacement pendant tout l'hiver. À chaque fois que vous stationnez votre véhicule, n'oubliez pas de vérifier les panneaux orange. Les véhicules entravant le déneigement seront remorqués.

Déchets électroniques

Recyclez-les dès maintenant ! L'élimination responsable et sécuritaire est en place à Westmount. Un dépôt permanent, situé aux ateliers municipaux de la rue Bethune, est ouvert de 7 h à 21 h, sept jours par semaine.

DATES À RETENIR

A compter du 17 janvier

Exposition : Lily Lam et Barbara Wisnoski
La galerie du Victoria Hall

Le 17 janvier - 16 h

Club de lecture *Readers to Readers*
pour ados (13 ans et +)
Bibliothèque

Le 23 janvier - 18 h 30

Club de lecture française
Les titres de la maison d'édition Les Allusifs
Bibliothèque

Le 25 janvier - 14 h

Club d'échecs
Bibliothèque

Le 25 janvier - 19 h

Vendredis du cinéma
November réalisé par Greg Harrison
Bibliothèque

Le 28 janvier - 20 h

Séance générale du conseil
Hôtel de ville



EMERGENCY MEASURES

Mount Stephen Victims Fund

The City of Westmount has collaborated with Sun Youth to provide long-term assistance to the victims of the devastating Mount Stephen Avenue apartment fire. Westmount residents who would like to help support the victims can make a cash donation to the Mount Stephen Victims Fund at the following address:

Sun Youth Organization
4251 St. Urbain
Montreal QC H2W 1V6

Please indicate on your cheque that the funds are to go to the Mount Stephen Victims Fund.

Residents may also donate gently-used furniture and appliances to the victims; please contact the City of Westmount at 514 989-5455 to make your pledge. More information is available on our Web site.



HUMAN RESOURCES

Summer Employment

Westmount hires a number of students for a variety of positions during the summer months. Application forms for 2008 summer employment are now available on our Web site and at the City Hall reception desk. Please note that the deadline to submit your application is Friday, February 1, 2008. Info: 514 989-5210.



PUBLIC WORKS

Snow Removal

The City of Westmount depends on the cooperation of all residents to ensure that snow is removed quickly and efficiently throughout the winter. Whenever you park, look up and check carefully for orange signs. Vehicles blocking snow removal operations will be towed.

Electronic Waste

Recycle your e-waste now! Safe and responsible disposal is available in Westmount. A permanent depot is open at the Public Works Yard on Bethune Street from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., seven days a week.

Christmas Trees

Make sure your tree gets composted by placing it right behind the sidewalk at the front of your property at any time. You must remove ALL decorations, wrapping or plastic bags. Please be patient, as collection is ongoing and it may take several days

Arbres de Noël

Participez à la cueillette des arbres de Noël en plaçant votre arbre sur votre terrain à l'arrière du trottoir en tout temps. Assurez-vous de dépolluer l'arbre de TOUTE décoration, emballage ou sac de plastique. Nous vous prions également de faire preuve de patience en raison du déneigement et des autres tâches pouvant retarder la cueillette. Info : 514 989-5311.



SPORTS ET LOISIRS

Cartes d'accès - installations sportives 2008

Les cartes d'accès pour l'année 2008 sont maintenant en vente au bureau des Sports et loisirs à l'Aréna de Westmount. Veuillez noter qu'une carte d'accès valide est requise pour les périodes de patinage libre et toute partie de hockey improvisée à l'Aréna.

Carnaval d'hiver 2008

Venez participer aux différentes activités offertes dans le cadre du Carnaval d'hiver de Westmount qui auront lieu le 31 janvier et les 1^{er} et 2 février. Vous trouverez un horaire détaillé des activités dans votre courrier et sur notre site Web. Info : 514 989-5353.

DATEBOOK

Beginning January 17

Exhibition: Lily Lam and Barbara Wisnoski
Gallery at Victoria Hall

January 17 - 4 p.m.

Readers to Readers for Teens
(13 years and older)
Library

January 23 - 6:30 p.m.

French Book Club
Les titres de la maison d'édition Les Allusifs
Library

January 25 - 2 p.m.

Chess Club
Library

January 25 - 7 p.m.

Film Fridays
November directed by Greg Harrison
Library

January 28 - 8 p.m.

General Council Meeting
City Hall

before the tree is picked up, especially during snow removal. Info: 514 989-5311.



SPORTS & RECREATION

2008 Facility Membership Cards

Sports Facility Membership Cards for the 2008 calendar year are now for sale at the Sports and Recreation office at the Westmount Arena. Please note that a valid Sports Facility Membership Card is required for general skating and pick-up hockey at the Westmount Arena.

Winter Carnival 2008

Come and celebrate with us at this year's Winter Carnival on January 31 and February 1 and 2. Watch your mailbox or consult www.westmount.org for complete details. Info: 514 989-5353.

Gervais donation deemed largest ever

National Assembly receives important collection of political artifacts

> Martin C. Barry

This collection bears witness to some of the most important events and political forces over the past 125 years... That was how an expert appraiser described the assortment of memorabilia donated to the Quebec National Assembly by Westmounter Richard Gervais this past fall — a gesture that earned him the province's prestigious Medal of Honour.

The Mount Pleasant Avenue resident began collecting items related to Canada's major historical and political events more than 40 years ago. His gift has been acknowledged as the largest known donation of such material to the National Assembly.

At the time of his decision last year to break up his vast collection, Gervais's documents, photographs and other items were said to form the largest private collection of political and historical artifacts in Canada.

"There's some military and some religious, but it's related mainly to history," he told the Examiner.

Over time, Gervais has also given some of his collection to the Governor General's residence in Ottawa, Rideau Hall, as well as to the Citadel, which is the Governor General's residence in Quebec City, and the McCord Museum in Montreal.

When administrators of the National Assembly learned recently they were being handed a museology mandate, they decided to solicit Gervais, who had acquired a reputation not only as an avid collector, but also as a political advisor and a public relations specialist.

Gervais began his career as an aide to former prime minister Lester Pearson, worked on Pierre Elliott Trudeau's initial Liberal leadership campaign, and later worked as an assistant to Liberal foreign affairs minister Mitchell Sharp. After a public relations stint with Imperial Oil, he founded his own firm, GGA Communications, whose clients have included the City of Westmount.

Gervais started his habit of collecting political and historical memorabilia at about the same time he began work for Trudeau, Jean Marchand, and other members of the Liberal government.

"I asked everybody for pictures," he said. Gervais had also known former Liberal prime minister Louis Saint-Laurent while a student at Loyola College.

"I briefly courted his granddaughter," he said. "I had met Mr. Saint-Laurent. He was

retired and he liked me a lot."

While a student at Laval University, Gervais also met Quebec Liberal Premier Jean Lesage, who ushered in the province's 'Quiet Revolution.'

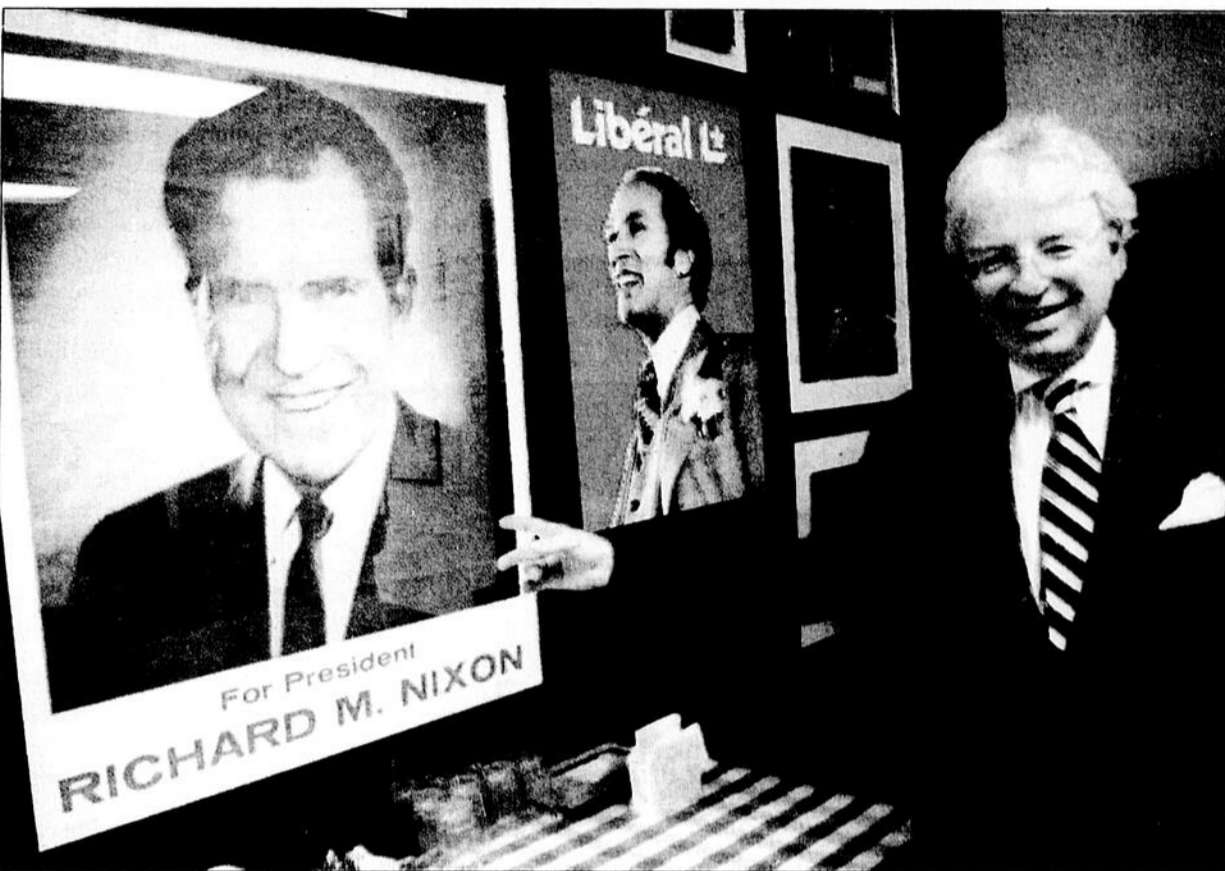
"I was very interested in politics from the start. And so they gave me autographed pictures, and then I began collecting more, and then I began asking political photographers or journalists who were friends to sell me some or give me some. Then with time, I began roaming all the antique shops in the Ottawa area, because I lived there for seven years, and after that I did the whole country."

As secretary for two years to a federal committee examining changes to Canada's constitution, Gervais traveled to all the country's major centres, where he was able to explore the pawn shops, antique shops, as well as private and estate sales.

In the end, he amassed a vast collection of artifacts that eventually included not only photos of political events and a wide range of political posters, but also busts made of bronze and plaster depicting politicians, and medals and medallions issued by provincial lieutenant-governors and the country's governors-general.

"After every election, I would hire students to remove from the poles these large posters, as was required by law," says Gervais, explaining how his function as an election organizer served him as a poster collector.

Municipal politics haven't been overlooked. "I've got things going back to Jean Drapeau, Camillien Houde," he said. They were among the artifacts given to the National Assembly, which plans eventually to show them and other items on the Internet.



Richard Gervais shows off a prized part of his expansive collection of political memorabilia.

Photo Martin C. Barry

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Westmount Y offers course on king of card games

> Matthew Surridge

Contract bridge is one of the world's most beloved pastimes, a game played by millions around the globe. Devotees have included Winston Churchill, Radiohead, Somerset Maugham, and Charles Schulz.

And starting next week, the Westmount YMCA will be giving people the chance to learn the game for themselves as they host a bridge course for new players.

"It's the king of card games," says instructor Eva Paulai. "It's so much more complex than other games."

Paulai, who taught a similar course at the

Westmount Y in the fall, notes that bridge is a truly international and intergenerational phenomenon. "There is a social aspect to it ... you get hooked on it, you get really passionate about it."

The course will be based around the instructional techniques of Audrey Grant, a Canadian author of books on bridge strategies.

"She's the best," says Paulai. "She explains very clearly, only you do need the experience of playing with others, you need the experience of opponents and partners."

The course will mainly feature exercises rather than actual games, preparing players

for the many facets of bridge. "You have to listen to the bidding," says Paulai. "There are so many factors, and you have to have a certain amount of intuition."

Paulai's primary aim is simply to introduce people to the complexity of bridge: "Just to get them hooked on it, that's all. Then once they get hooked on it, they can read further books, take further instruction."

The upcoming course will largely cover the same ground as the fall class, but will be longer, and include more theory. "I hope they will be good beginners ... I hope that those who listen to me read the book as well, that they will be good beginners."

ing that studies indicate that bridge significantly lowers the risk of developing Alzheimer's disease. "Some people at 85 can't dance anymore, but they can play bridge, so it gives them a hobby they can have for the rest of their lives, and allows them to maintain a social life."

Paulai observes that bridge is "very big in Montreal. There are lots of bridge clubs ... there are also recreational clubs. I still play bridge, in clubs especially ... If it's just for passing the time, then you can play social bridge, but I like the competitive element. You do it for the love of the game, the game we are hooked on."

Bridge helps logical thinking

Paulai had the idea of offering the course through the YMCA when a friend asked her to find somewhere in Montreal to learn and play bridge. Unable to find such a place in central Montreal, and an experienced volunteer in other fields, Paulai decided to present a bridge course herself.

"It helps logical thinking," says Paulai, not-

• Eva Paulai's course on contract bridge will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. on alternate Thursdays from Jan. 24 to March 13. There are several spaces still available; those interested should contact Tracy Kamel, Community Development Coordinator of the YMCA, at 514-931-6770, ext. 248. There is no cost for the course, although the YMCA welcomes donations from participants.

Three courses at Temple

The Westmount Mini Centre, a division of the Cummings Jewish Centre for Seniors, has announced its lineup of courses to be held at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom this winter.

Featured are 'Socrates' Café Part II', in which Francis Charet, PhD tours the highways and byways of western philosophical tradition to convey a sense of passion that has enticed the western mind.

In the course 'Saudi Arabia: A Major Player in the Middle East', Henry Habib, PhD, examines Saudi Arabia's internal and external politics and its vision of the future.

Finally, Stan Nachfolger, MA will present 'News and Views' in which he gives his analysis of international and national events of the day. To register, call Judy Stern at 514-342-1234 ext. 7205.

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CAIS

Everyone can respond to the Mount Stephen fire



Civic Alert

Don WEDGE

Editor Wayne Larsen decided to give front page coverage to last week's column about the City's reaction to the fire on Mount Stephen Ave., at which about 50 residents lost their homes.

We re-jigged the story at press time, to focus on the accounts of those involved, but I still want to emphasize how important the availability of emergency response is for citizens.

"The ultimate way to judge a municipality," was Director-General Bruce St. Louis' theme when he spoke to the Westmount Municipal Association at the time of the "Y2K" computer scare some eight years ago.

Westmount shone then and, of course, during the Ice Storm of 1998. Care went beyond the provision of shelters and emergency, bottled water, and included scores of citizens stepping forward in a neighbourly way, particularly to look after the aged and infirm.

There is now another opportunity for us to come to the aid of fellow Westmounters — by helping the victims of the Mount Stephen fire. Though on vacation at the time, Mayor Karin Marks proposed that the City cooperate with Sun Youth to provide long-term support.

Cash donations or gently-used furniture and appliances are sought. Details are available on www.westmount.org or at 514 989-5455.

On that bitterly cold night of January 2 — it was -25 degrees with the wind chill at midnight — I think the fire chiefs fighting the incident were surprised to find Westmount's emergency services ready to step forward. St Louis, who was on vacation, quickly drove in and stayed until all the victims had been accommodated.

Library comfort

Library director Ann Moffat, who has the responsibility for emergency services for victims, was also there.

"Opening the Library provided a comfortable and warm place for the Red Cross to process the victims," Moffat said.

The volunteer Red Cross group that was offering assistance on the scene agreed. Rime Naim, an Outremont financial adviser and frequent volunteer for the society, explained their operation.

She was the duty dispatcher that evening when the Montreal Firemen, who routinely advise the Red Cross when there is a residential fire, called.

In the Westmount case, Naim heard from them at 10:25 p.m., about 20 minutes after their first trucks — from Stanton Street — had responded.

"It was not a very escalated call at first," she noted.

The Red Cross has a core of volunteers, each available for about a fortnight's duty every three months. A pair always responds to an emergency. Dispatchers are on call much more frequently.

On Jan 2, Naim reached three volunteers, including a Westmounter whom she could not name for confidentiality reasons. Not surprisingly, he was the first to arrive and had called for backup.

"There was great cooperation between the City, Sun Youth and ourselves," the dispatcher added.

Human dignity

"Maintaining human dignity at such times is very important. We want to show that someone cares and can be counted on."

The Red Cross provides hotels for up to three nights for those who have nowhere else to go and also gives out food and clothing vouchers.

"Clothing stores are not open in the night, of course," Naim explained, "so I called in Sun Youth who provide the physical items the Red Cross does not have."

The Library was opened again the following evening for the Red Cross to hold a meeting with many more of the victims.

The Society has a contract with the Big Montreal to supply the emergency services. This is regarded as an Agglom expense, so Westmount taxpayers pay towards its support.

"We seem to be famous for our international relief work, but not for the local emergencies," Naim added. "We always have need for more volunteers."

It is noteworthy that a Westmounter was the first Red Cross worker to arrive, and is a reminder of the many residents who donate their efforts and resources to causes outside the physical boundaries of the town.

A score of issues — and counting!

Council's first big meeting of 2008 is not until the end of the month, but most members are already back in action and preparing

for the last third of their mandates.

If one accepts that electioneering will have taken over by September, 2009, and that there are two summers and a year-end break in between, only about 15 working months remain for councillors!

They could be fully occupied with their already announced projects and ongoing issues and concerns, without others about to crop up. Here is a partial check list, in no particular order, except alphabetical!

Arena: Think of it as a new sports facility for which, at present, ambition knows no

bounds. But see The Debt, below. What will be planned?

Bike path 1: Are we really going to leave it as part of the Park? Will there be new traffic calming measures?

Bike path 2: Cyclists would really like to use their bikes to go safely to the same places as car passengers, which include the Library, the Y and shopping. So that means safe cycling on Sherbrooke. How to face this island-wide concern?

(Continued on page 14)

THE ART OF POSTURE

New Year's Resolution!

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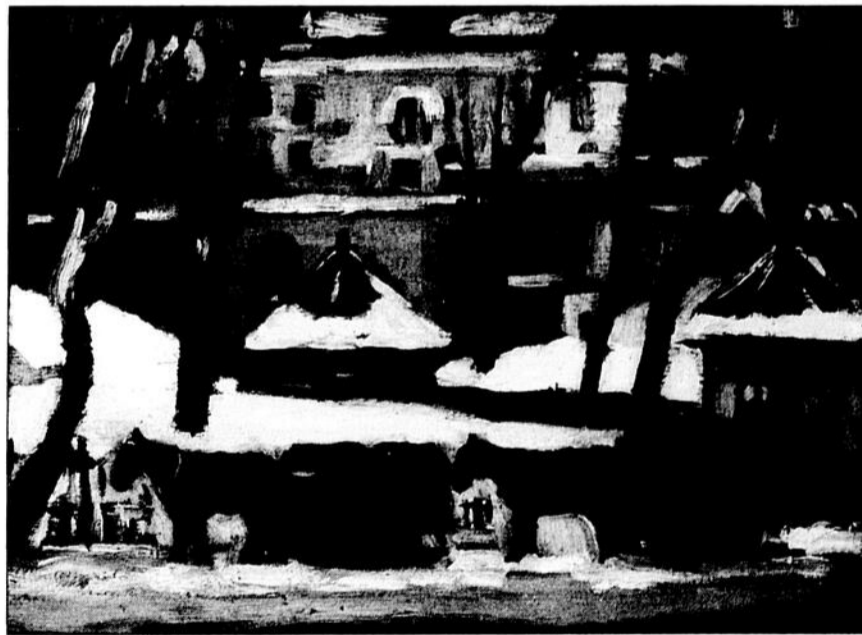
WEDNESDAY EVENINGS: PIERREFONDS
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RITCHIES

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That's snow biz

Every time you see the flashing lights of a plough or a line of dump trucks piled high with snow, remember how lucky we are to have modern equipment and efficient plans to clear our streets after a blizzard.

There are several sepia-toned photos of hearty, mutton-chopped work gangs wielding shovels and wheelbarrows as they clear a veritable mountain of snow from Victorian Montreal's cobble-stoned streets. It was a huge job that could take weeks to complete — if ever completed at all. Some of the snow was hauled away in horse-drawn wagons, but a lot ended up shovelled to the side, just enough for traffic to get through. In those days, winter in Montreal meant long months of going about your business between towering snow banks on either side of the street. Clear sidewalks were a luxury reserved for only the principal thoroughfares, and the only truly reliable form of snow removal was the advent of spring.

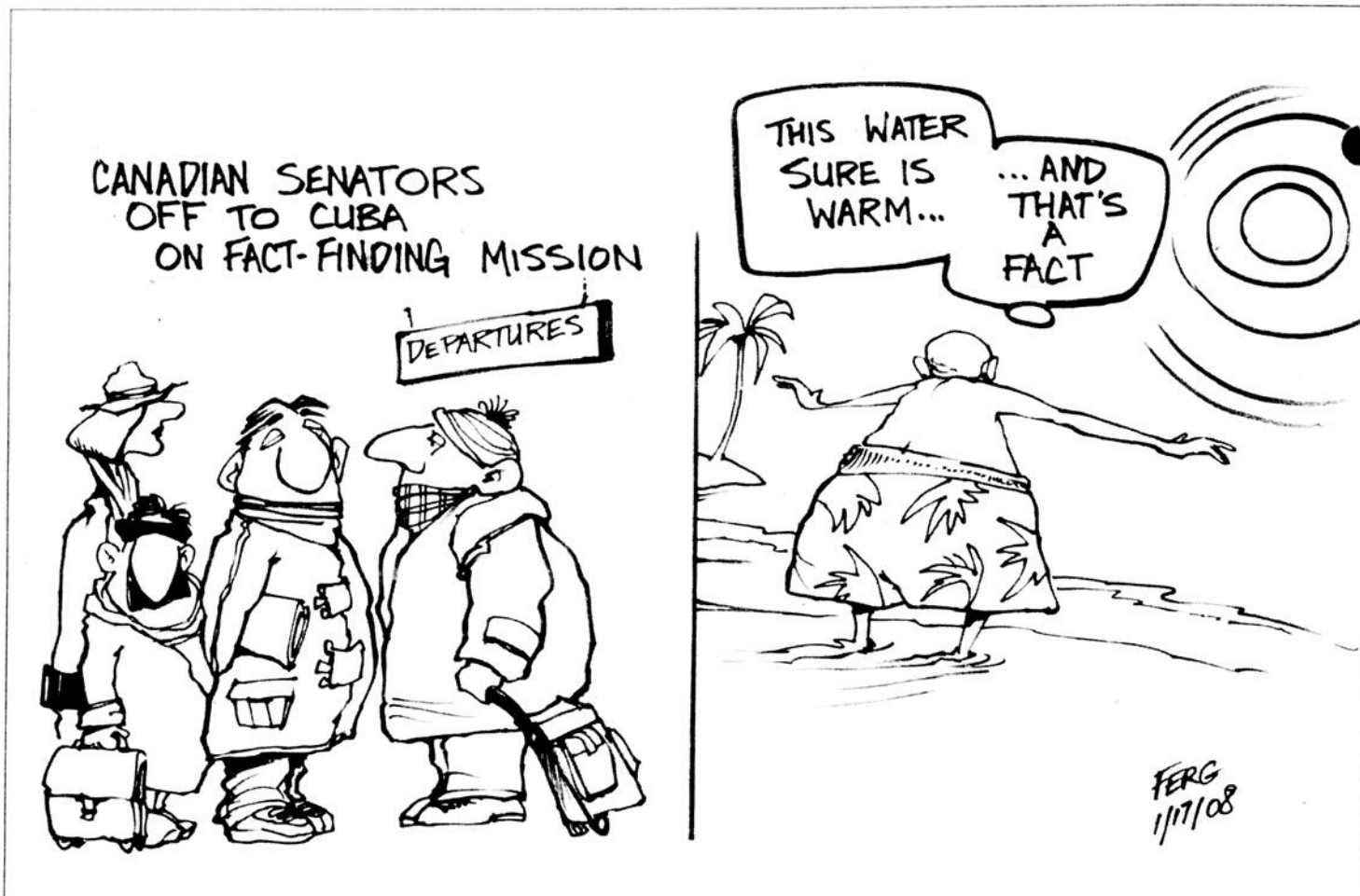
Now, in the computer age, we have sleek, efficient machines to haul away the snow, all of them coordinated online by dispatchers, and we are able to clear our streets of the annoying white stuff in a time frame that would make our great-grandparents swoon with disbelief. It is not perfect, of course, for even these machines are ultimately at the mercy of municipal budgets, labour unions, and Mother Nature. These three fundamental elements often work harmoniously, but if any one should falter, our streets are left in chaos and citizens bear the brunt of the inconvenience.

This year, there have been complaints of inefficient snow-clearing in Westmount by motorists. Even those who use hassle-free public transportation to get around are not immune from the delays. For the first few days after a blizzard, commuters are forced to board busses by climbing over waist-high banks left by passing ploughs. This can be a dangerous manoeuvre for the reasonably athletic, but for the elderly it is a blatant hazard.

The system is currently out of whack — we all know that — but everyone involved is doing their best under trying circumstances. Westmount's Public Works department is doing an admirable job, though admittedly far from the efficiency of previous winters, when we were not hit by three large snowfalls in a row.

Given the current problems inherent to the snow-clearing operations across the island, we should be grateful that the streets are cleared within a week of the latest storm, never mind complaining after just a few days. Our forefathers would laugh at us and point out just how easy we have it.

SEND THE EDITOR AN E-MAIL:
larsenw@transcontinental.ca



Merci, Lucienne



Commentary

Wayne
LARSEN
larsenw@transcontinental.ca

The recent announcement that local MP Lucienne Robillard will be retiring from politics this month comes as no surprise; announcements from her office throughout 2007 indicated (between the lines) that she was not long for the job, and the confirmation of successor Marc Garneau merely iced off the cake.

Robillard is of course most familiar to her Westmount constituents through her regular column here in the Examiner, which ran throughout much of her mandate. Admittedly, the column did generate many more complaints than praise from readers, the vast majority of whom objected to the fact that our MP was given a bi-weekly spot and usually filled it with thinly veiled government press releases that had nothing to do with Westmount but everything to do with Liberal horn-blowing and self-congratulatory reports on new social programs.

This, the sceptics agreed, was tantamount to a shameful waste of prime newspaper space that would have been much better used in addressing issues of local importance. I was often urged to get rid of the MP column altogether, for it only occasionally mentioned Westmount or contained any local references.

My defence was always clear: An MP who makes the effort to communicate with her constituents on a regular basis is a precious rarity — especially an MP holding down one or two major Cabinet portfolios. Many Canadians are lucky to get a Christmas greeting from their local MP in the mail, even if they are represented by an obscure backbencher with plenty of time on his hands. Westmounters were indeed fortunate to be represented by someone who made sure something was sent in to the local paper on a regular basis. This was something to be encouraged, I argued, not stifled. The Examiner would not cut off that line of communication between citizen and elected official.

Then, after the last election bumped the Liberals out of power, the Robillard column got interesting. She suddenly became pointedly critical of the Harper government, just as a good Opposition MP should be — a complete turnaround from the never-rock-the-boat Lucienne we all knew. This lasted for a while, then she stopped writing altogether. No explanation, no words of farewell — just an abrupt end to the columns.

That was when it was clear she had decided to step down.

The announcement that local resident Garneau would replace her on the ballot in the next election came as great news to most Westmounters, through a few grumbled that he should have been properly nominated to the post by local party members.

Another common complaint levelled against Robillard was that she rarely appeared in the riding. This is nonsense; she may not have ever lived here, but she certainly made a point of spending as much time in Westmount

as her schedule would allow. From the annual Remembrance Day ceremony at the local Cenotaph to mingling with her constituents at Family Day, she made it back here quite often — even while handling the additional responsibilities of a major portfolio.

Image was everything

It's impossible to sum up her long tenure as our federal representative in just a few sentences. Perhaps the most obvious thing to mention is her stoic devotion to maintaining an untarnished image. Robillard consistently displayed the most valuable skill for any politician — the uncanny ability to avoid trouble. Throughout her career, her personal reputation remained above reproach. Even at the height of the notorious sponsorship scandal, when so many of her fellow Liberals were being dragged through the mud, she managed to float high above it all. She was so good at this that in 2005, when Belinda Stronach caused a huge stir by crossing the Commons floor to join the Liberals during the darkest days of the scandal, Robillard's name was not even mentioned in most national news reports as the minister who relinquished her Human Resources portfolio to accommodate the star newcomer.

It was a remarkable coup of self-promotion — or in this case, self-suppression.

As a result of her knack for keeping her head down at the first sign of trouble and standing tall and proud during times of triumph, she never embarrassed her constituents. Instead, she has kept the Westmount-Ville Marie riding's name just as untarnished as her own, and has served us with distinction and class.

The Westmount Examiner

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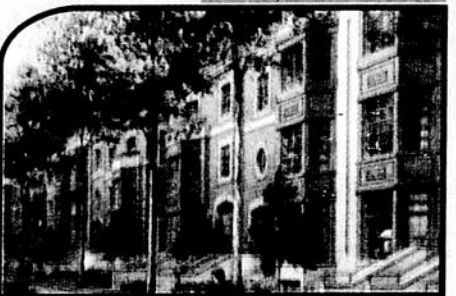
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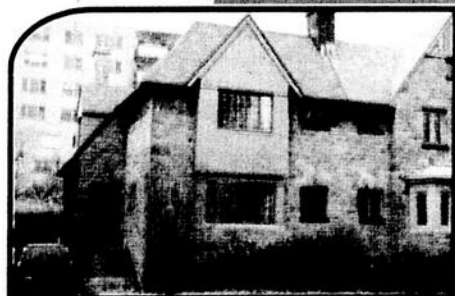
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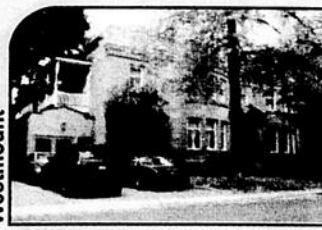
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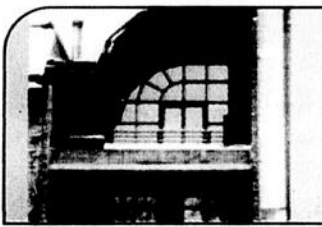
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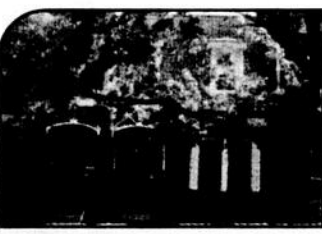
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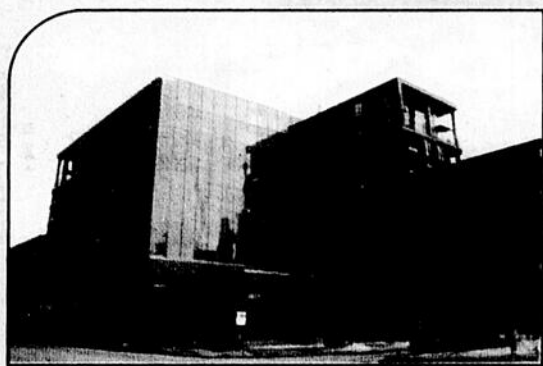
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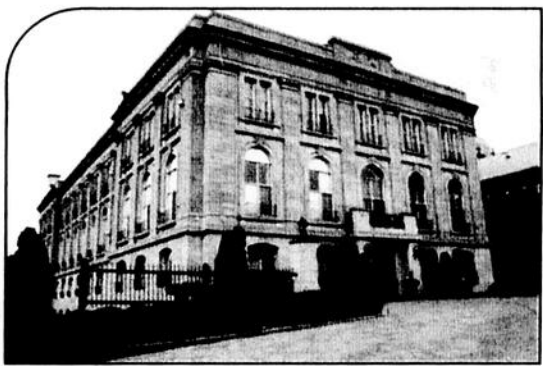
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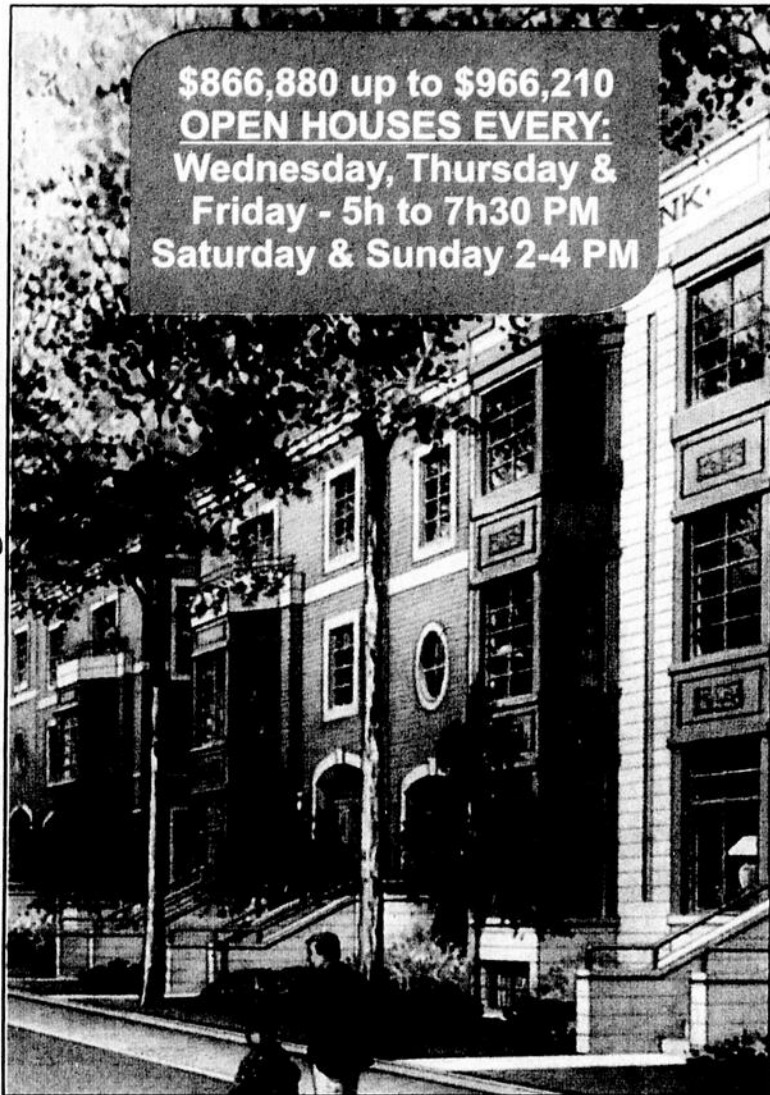
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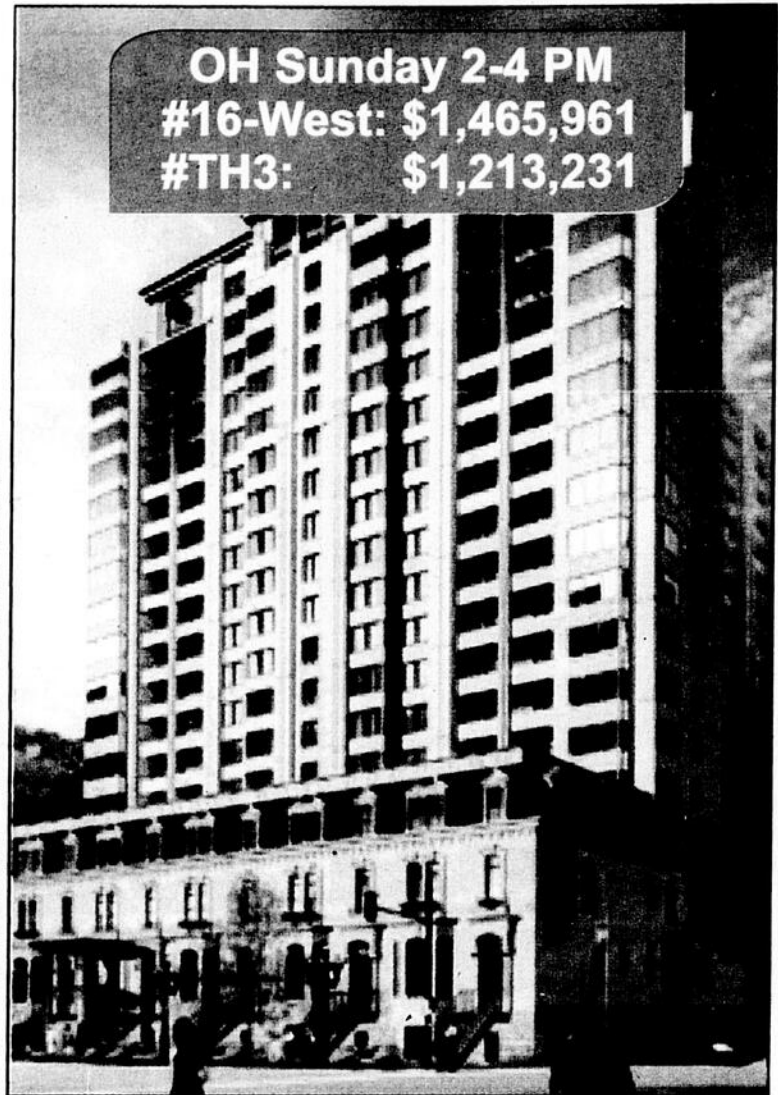
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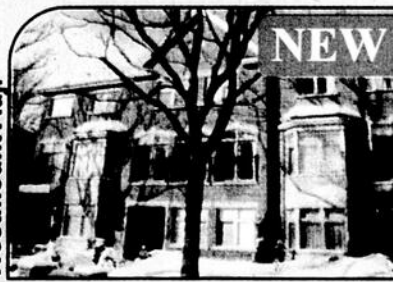
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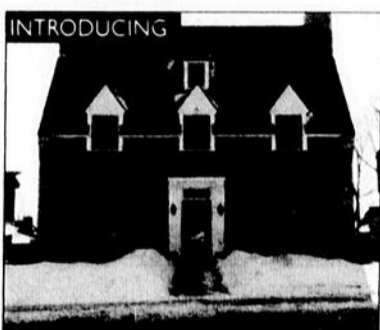
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The Westmount Examiner

Thursday, January 17, 2008 11

(Continued from page 1)

concerns before Kingston Road was formally converted to a path. She feels those issues have now been largely resolved.

"It was safe, but now it will be lighted," she said. "At night, when it was not lighted, I suppose people didn't like so much to go there, but now it will be lighted all the time. People

will be able to use it more."

She said the pathway is already popular with nearby residents.

"I know that a lot of people use this road to go to Queen Mary to take the metro," she said. "All the kids who go to Collège Notre Dame use it."

Westmount Mayor Karin Marks said she

could not comment on the completed project, having not inspected the site. While acknowledging that the pathway was included in plans Oratory officials shared with Westmount when announcing the refurbishing, Marks said she wasn't sure if the plans changed.

"I'm not aware of a little tunnel," she said. "When you look at it on plans, it doesn't necessarily look the same."

essarily look the same."

However, Marks confirmed that the project is in line with a policy Westmount has recently been following to encourage access by pedestrians to the mountain. "We're not talking about major roads that are going to bring more traffic," she said. "A footpath enables people to come up in an environmentally sound way."



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Marc Garneau and his family would like to wish all the residents of the riding a year full of health, happiness and success.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

marc@marcgarneau.ca



A well-lit tunnel next to Villa Ste. Marcelline

Photo: Martin C. Barry

Quilters kick off
2008 session

The Westmount Quilters Guild has begun this year's program, and will be holding weekly meetings in Victoria Hall.

The Guild was founded in January of 2003 to promote interest in quilting by providing good fellowship among quilters and quilt lovers. Their activities include show-and-tell, group and individual projects, demonstrations, workshops, and speakers.

Members are encouraged to develop and improved their individual quilting expertise through participation and the mutual sharing of skills and resources in an open, fun-filled atmosphere.

The Guild is open to anyone interested in the objectives and activities of the group. They welcome both novices and experienced quilters. It's just a matter of attending one of their meetings and finding out more about them.

Meetings are held in English at Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke St. W. from 7 to 9:30 p.m. every Thursday evening except July and August.

For more information, call 514-989-7939 or send an e-mail to westmountquilters@gmail.com

12 Thursday, January 17, 2008 The Westmount Examiner www.westmountexaminer.com



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Gilbert & Sullivan companies unite for milestone performance

> Martin C. Barry

Like the Three Tenors, who were once friendly rivals but eventually decided to join forces, Montreal's three leading Gilbert & Sullivan performance companies will be marking a historic first this Friday when they perform as a team.

The Montreal West Operatic Society, the Lakeshore Light Opera and McGill's Savoy Society are getting together for the first time to present a joint concert, 'Hail! Unity,' to promote their productions taking place in the coming year.

Conceived with the purpose of bringing the Gilbert & Sullivan operettas to a wider audience and to promote their works as family entertainment, the concert is being held on Jan. 18 at 8 p.m. at St. George's Church in downtown Montreal.

The concert will feature excerpts in choral form from *The Mikado* (Savoy Society), *Ruddigore* (Lakeshore Light Opera) and *H.M.S. Pinafore* (Montreal West Operatic Society) being presented by the companies in 2008. Funds raised at the concert will be divided equally among each society for contribution to charities of their choosing.

"What is interesting is that in Montreal there are three groups that are performing musicals written by two men in the Victorian era in the 1890s and there's still a real demand for this kind of music today," says Philip Magder, who's been a Lakeshore Light Opera member for the past four years. For the first time in the history of Gilbert & Sullivan performances in Montreal, about 120 members of the three companies will be united on stage to sing *Hail Poetry* from *Pirates of Penzance*.

McGill's Savoy Society has been bringing Gilbert & Sullivan to the community since

1963, when the expiry of William Gilbert's copyrights on his Savoy Operas made them more accessible. The company's productions are made possible through the voluntary efforts of students and non-students both onstage and behind the scenes.

The Lakeshore Light Opera saw its beginnings in 1955 when the Men's Club of St. Paul's Anglican Church in Lachine decided to present Gilbert & Sullivan's 'Trial by Jury.' For more than 30 years, the proceeds of their productions have been donated to the Lakeshore General Hospital.

The Montreal West Operatic Society was founded in 1939 by a group of the town's residents. Notable events staged annually by the company include singing Christmas carols in the streets of Montreal West and visits to the historic Haskell Opera House, which straddles the border between Vermont and Quebec.

Tickets for this Friday's performance are available by calling the Lakeshore Light Opera box office at 514-804-4900, or at the door. Tickets are \$15, \$8 for students and seniors.



A recent dress rehearsal for *The Mikado*

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(Continued from page 5)

Bike path 3: Mega-hospital planners may attempt to use CP land to get over the Decarie bottleneck in NDG. The route would continue into Westmount and then join the existing path at Prince Albert. Could it continue downtown on CP land? Perhaps, especially if no Shuttle - see below.

Compost: Council ordered 1,000 containers for a pilot project in kitchen waste collection. But the City has 8,800 homes. Decision time for who will be on the collectors' routes? Approximately half of homes are in apartments and there is no plan to extend the service to them for the time being.

FCQGED: "Front commun québécois pour une gestion écologique des déchets". Spelling out here the name of Quebec's main waste management environment group means that I don't have to make the following paragraph even longer than it is!

Lachenaie: Home of the monster landfill owned by the America giant, BFI. Some of Westmount's garbage goes there and all will eventually if Big Montreal has its way. The owners have asked the Quebec government for a license to extend its life by 17 years! Whatever happened to the 3Rs? A decade ago, their Mayor, Council and citizens welcomed the mega dump. Now they oppose it and the FCQGED wants it to close! Should Westmount send its garbage to a place where the population opposes receiving it?

Parks: An inventory of present facilities, with some proposals for the future, is now commissioned. It could provoke another Great Debate. Will any decisions and actions be possible during this mandate?

Redevance: The term for a surcharge on garbage collected by the government to refund municipalities for some of their recycling and similar costs. Big Montreal claims it is all theirs. Westmount and the like say the law stipulates it is to help meet their local recycling costs. Who will win? Meantime, \$193,000 sits in escrow.

Shuttle: Latest news is Henry Aubin's revelation that developers of the mammoth Griffintown project want a train station. This would mean the CN line is used for the proposed Airport Shuttle. Would Westmount win or lose?

Snow: At the very least, December's big storms must have dented the city's financial reserves. Are cutbacks in other sectors coming to compensate?

Sound barrier: A contentiously expensive project to help a relatively small number of people living near the CP tracks. Could the situation be helped by trams and quieter tracks? See Shuttle, above.

Sustainable Community: A city policy adopted eighteen months ago awaits the appointment of a project leader. Will the right person be found? It calls for someone to work with all departments, motivate citizens and outside institutions, explain the science to councillors and write the Plan - all on a proposed two-year contract!

The Debt: Brings everything back down to earth.

Water: The promised evaluation of our system has been delayed, perhaps by Public Works' dedication to beat the huge snowfalls this season.

X: The mark to use on each of the above that won't be completely resolved by election '09.

Community activist Don Wedge can be reached at calert@web.net.

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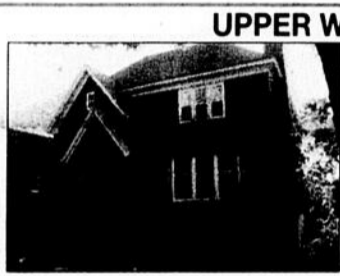
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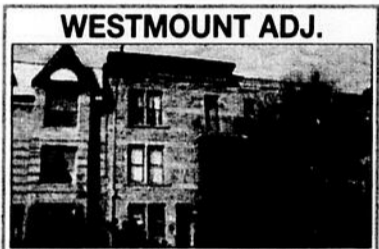


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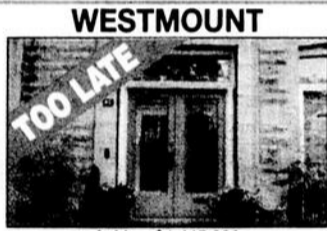
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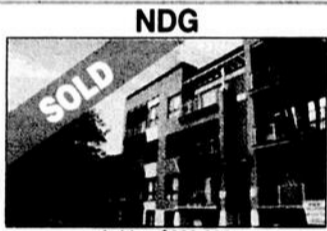
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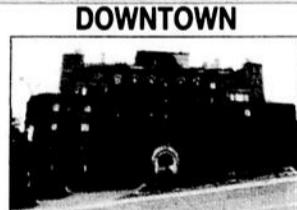
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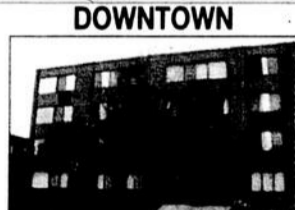
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