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HERE COMES HALLOWEEN

Library's pumpkin gala a big hit with little guests

Page 18

Photo: Martin C. Barry

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Local News

Councillors form demerger coalition

Martin C. Barry

Although elected as independents, Westmount's borough and city councillors have joined forces with dissenters from Montreal Mayor Gérald Tremblay's party to send a message to the Charest government.

In an open letter made public during a press conference at Victoria Hall last Friday, the coalition of 23 city and borough councillors—most of them with the mayor's Montréal Island Citizens Union—pleaded to Quebec Premier Jean Charest to ensure a fair, open and democratic consultation process on the issue of demergers.

The coalition was formed because of growing concern that, in revising Bill 9 (the provincial law expected in November that will set the rules for megacity demerger referendums), Quebec is thinking of modifying the conditions for the signing of referendum registers, that it may require minimum levels of voter participation for the referendums to be considered valid, and that it may also change the powers, assets and boundaries of reconstituted cities following demerger.

"The minister of municipal affairs has made statements including 'there is no going back' or 'vast equalization payments,'" the 23 councillors stated in the letter.

"Forced mergers were and remain undemocratic. We count on you as premier of our province to correct this previous injustice by ensuring that the rules set out in Bill 9 be fair, and that the due process be based on this country's entrenched democratic traditions."

The letter appealed to Charest to make sure that the registers be made available for a five-day period (including a weekend); that a yes vote would result in the return of merged cities with the powers and responsibilities which they had previously; that minimum participation levels not be imposed; and that the referendum be decided by the rule of a simple majority of 50 per cent plus one of voters.

(continued on page 19)

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DISAPPOINTING TURNOUT FOR BLOOD DRIVE

Martin C. Barry

A lower than expected number of donors seem to be participating in Westmount's annual blood donation clinics.

By late last Thursday afternoon, only 33 donors had been registered after three hours at the clinic sponsored by firefighters at Station 19 on Stanton Street.

There should normally have been 60 by that time, said Denise Émond, a reception desk attendant. By 8 p.m. when the blood clinic ended, the number of units donated had not reached the expected goal, a fire department spokesman confirmed.

Once it was all over, the final tally was 51 units—less than half the amount hoped for by organizers.

Philip Johnston, a de Casson Road resident, was astonished at how the list of reasons for excluding potential donors has grown since he started giving blood. Since 1960, he had donated more than 50 times. "They'd ask a few questions, but there was no form like this," Johnston said, referring to a long list of exclusions.

In addition to some of the well-known grounds today, like AIDS and Creutzfeldt-Jakob (Mad Cow) disease, anyone who in the last 12 months has had acupuncture or electrolysis, or a tattoo, or who's been in prison, or who currently has a sore throat, is out. Anyone who's spent more than a month in England is also excluded

because of Mad Cow disease.

According to figures from Héma Québec, the agency which conducted the clinic, there has, in fact, been a steady decline in donors from Westmount in recent years. In 1998, 159 pints of blood were collected at the Westmount clinic, in 1999, it was 134 pints, and in 2000, 117 were collected.

For those who donate, however, the experience is rewarding. Relaxing on a stretcher with a probe in her arm, Hilary Head of Blenheim Place was enduring the experience.

"I'm not too fond of it," she said. "I usually feel faint afterwards, but I make myself do it anyway—I try to." Only recently, Head added, a close friend benefited from blood which had been donated. "Just a couple of weeks ago, an elderly woman friend of mine had to have donations because

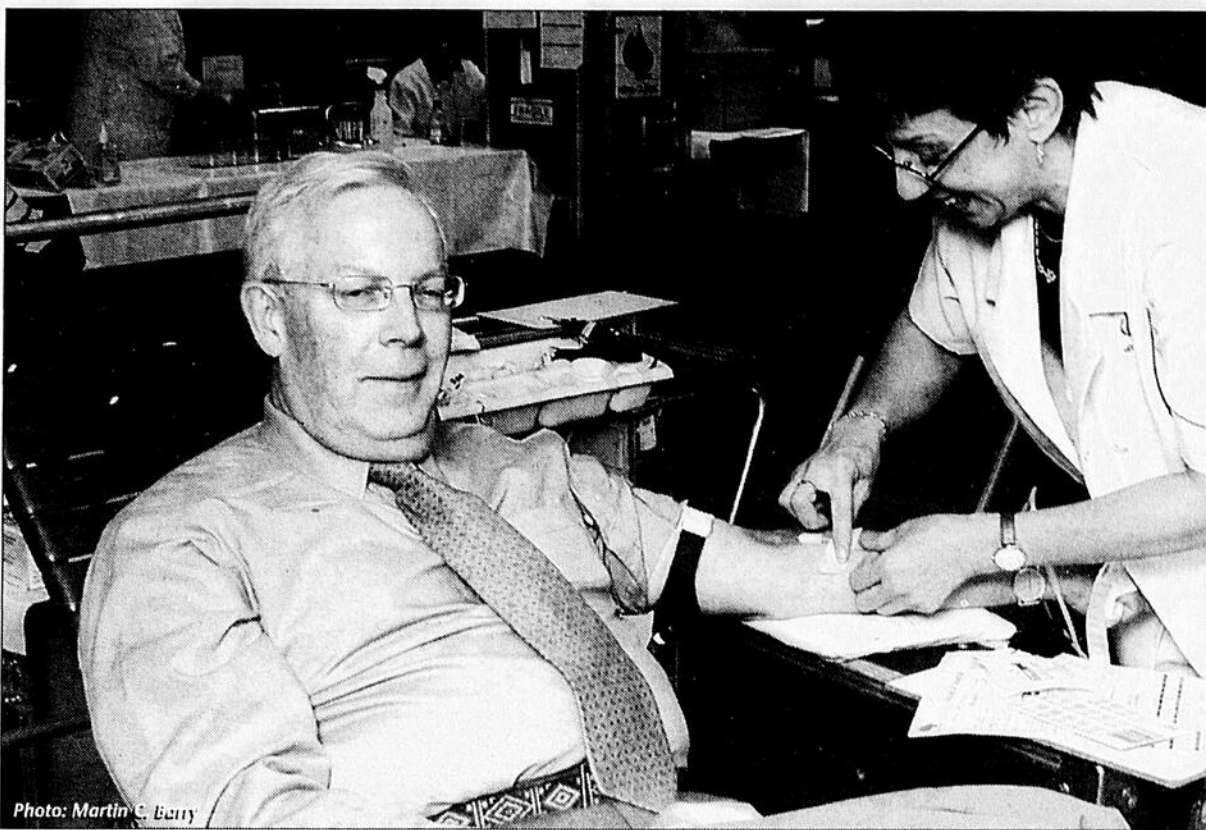


Photo: Martin C. Barry

Westmount resident Philip Johnston gives blood at the fire station on Oct. 16.

she was bleeding internally," she said. "It's something pretty concrete that you can do to help somebody else."

It was the 17th time Belinda Dufour was making a donation. "Just giving the blood itself, no matter who it goes to, is giving somebody life, hopefully

somewhere, or helping somebody out," Dufour said. "I've had my own transfusions, so I know what it's like," she added. "I know what it's like being in the hospital, being sick. It's just something I can give back."

Two candidates running for EMSB commissioner in Ward 7

Pamela Epps

Two candidates are running for school commissioner in the upcoming election for Ward 7, which represents Roslyn and Westmount Park elementary schools and Westmount High School.

Richard Lalonde and Ginette Sauvé-Frankel both accepted to run for the position and have brought up several issues that they wish to discuss and implement if elected.

One of the main issues brought forth by Lalonde at a public meeting on Monday night was the budget and the management and spending of the funds.

"There's a lot to be done and often we're faced with the answer that there's no money or the resources are not enough," he said. "I think if the money is used properly, for what it is meant to be used, I think our schools would be in better shape."

As a parent himself, Lalonde says he understands the need for parents' opinions to be heard, and cooperation between the parents and the school is essential in providing high-quality education for the children. Therefore, he believes that council meetings should be discussed in public and com-

missioners should be accountable to the community.

Lalonde believes that emphasis should be on preparing students for vocational education because the reality is that not every student will go on to university. Children should be given the right to success and the school should provide them with all the opportunities to achieve success, he said.

Ginette Sauvé-Frankel's position reflects a more global approach. She focuses on a commissioner's responsibility to be accountable to all members of the community, including students, teachers, staff, and taxpayers.

"We need to take a step back and take a long view and a global view and see where things are going and make decisions that are accountable, responsible, and that will bring the board to, again, be viable and vibrant so we can ensure the success of the kids," she said.

Sauvé-Frankel believes in the importance of asking questions and making informed decisions based on the community's concerns and that being commissioner of Ward 7 has a responsibility not only to the schools in that district, but to the entire board.

"It's important to stand back and look at all the issues and figure out

what is good for the whole board," she said. "Although we represent the ward, we represent the whole board when we sit as commissioners."

Sauvé-Frankel also stresses the importance of equal opportunity. She believes that all students should have the same options for success and that these options should be made easily accessible to all students.

Sauvé-Frankel has a long history of political involvement in her family. Her father, Paul Sauvé, was minister of youth and social welfare, which set up the first trade schools in the province, and is seen as the forerunner of vocational education.

A mother of two grown children, she has been involved in several parent committees and was the chair of a committee to rebuild the schoolyard at École Guillaume-Vignal. She is the owner of a design and communications firm and feels that her skills will be an asset to her position as commissioner if elected because she looks at all sides of an issue.

"I will bring creativity to bear and make sure that solutions are found to involve all aspects of the community in the decision-making process and in caring for our school system and our English education."

Sauvé-Frankel is bilingual. She has

a BA from Université de Montréal, a diploma from École des Beaux-Arts de Montréal, and an MBA from Concordia University. She also has teaching experience from the CEGEP du Vieux-Montréal and the YWCA.

Richard Lalonde, the father of two children, both attending Westmount Park School, has participated in parental organizations since 1998. He was chair of the Parent Participation Organization from 1998 to 2001 at John Adams School in Delson. He then became a member of the governing board for the 1999-2000 school year. At the same time, he was also a member of the Central Parents Committee at Riverside School.

From 2002-2004 he went from being co-chair to chair of the governing board at Westmount Park School. In addition, from February 2003 to September 2003, he was vice-president, anglophone, at the Federation des Comités de parent de l'Île-de-Montréal.

Lalonde currently works for the Quebec government in human resources with the Curateur Public du Québec.

• Elections for Ward 7 will be held on Sunday, Nov. 16 between 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Westmount High School, 4350 Ste. Catherine St. W.

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Bird and Nature Fair returns to Westmount High

Elsie Mitchell

You don't want to miss the 19th Annual Great Bird and Nature Fair, sponsored by the Province of Quebec Society for Protection of Birds, at

Westmount High School on Nov. 15 and 16, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. It's a lot of fun.

You'll be amazed to see how the school gym magically transforms into a big indoor fair. Artists and artisans will have booths with everything you could wish for, including: field guides, bird seed, binoculars and feeders. Tapes and CDs of bird songs, as well as books for children and adults alike, will also be available.

Roger Bider's Ecomuseum's Cynthia Chesman will have on display a number of live ducks, guaranteed to grab

your attention—gadwalls, shovelers, with their spade shaped bills, mallard and black and a pair of colourful wood ducks, the male in his glossy green plumage with swept back crest. Chesman and her team will be glad to answer your questions.

Admission is free. If you're lucky, you could win one of the door prizes donated by the nearly 40 exhibitors. Last year's prizes included a heron carved out of driftwood and a sculpture of a killdeer.

The fair makes a great family outing, as there is something for everyone. Small children should enjoy the fish pond. More than 100 fantasy magnetized hand-painted fish, swim around the brightly coloured pool while children fish for prizes with magnetized rods. There are also clowns and face painting always good for a laugh. For the older children, arts and crafts will be provided. This year, children will make bird feeders to bring home.

hanging tubes, squirrel-proof feeders, nut-made feeders and even some designed to stick to window panes. Enquire about baffles to foil squirrels from climbing up poles to your feeders and gobbling up all the bird's seeds. Discussion concerning what kind of seeds will appeal to different birds in your back yard, will occur.

The Ecomuseum will also provide the opportunity to have a close encounter with a variety of real-life birds including: a great horned owl, red tailed hawk and tiny screech and saw-whet owls. On hand to answer your questions about how owls can hunt at night without moonlight, how a hawk can spot a field mouse from the top of a high tree, there will be staff from the museum on hand to answer your questions. See if you can stump the experts.

Chris Adam, of the Earth Values Institute, will be showing bee boxes while Carl Miller of the Canadian Falcon Environment Services will be on hand with a peregrine.

For Christmas shoppers there's all sorts of wildlife art— from Plume Image's pins and jewelry made of birds' feathers to Karen Neal's lamp shades and paintings on slate and stone. Janis Belanger will again feature her pressed-flower pictures.

Songbird Coffee, grown in the shade under the forest canopies of Central America, to help protect the habitat of neo-tropical migrants during the winter, will be on sale. At the PQSB booth there will be a good selection of books in French and English including field guides and books for young people.

During the fair, the critically acclaimed film *Les Peuples Migrateur* will be shown. The English version, *Winged Migration*, is not yet available.

There's something for everybody, so chat it up— and enjoy!

DOROTHY RAICH



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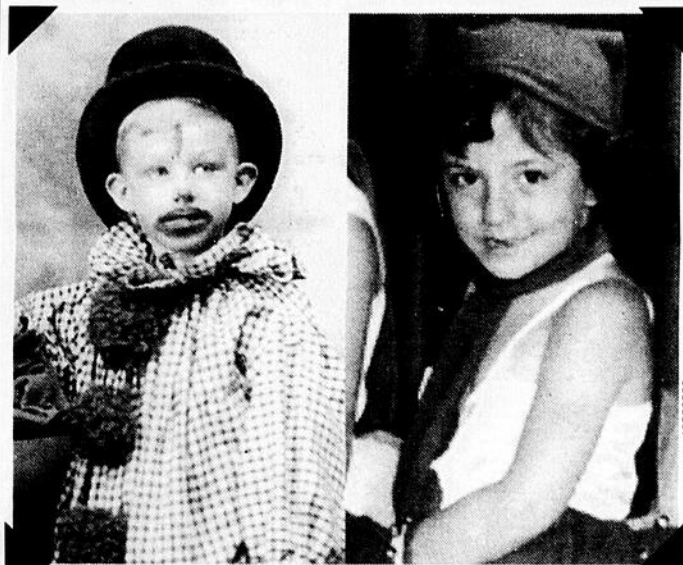
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Bert McCardle of the Boy Scouts Council and director of the PQSPB, will entertain youngsters with his wildlife puppets. As Chief Top Leaf, he educates children across Quebec and Ontario, as well as running the society's Nature Exploration Centre.

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E-WASTE COLLECTION UNEARTH'S RARE FIND

Martin C. Barry

Buried in a pile of discarded computers stacked in the rear of a U-Haul last Saturday next to Westmount Park, the recyclers had made a rare find.

Someone had brought in an Osborne—a relic from the early days of personal computing. Considered the first truly portable computer when it hit the market in the early 1980s, it weighed as much as a couple of cinder blocks and occupied an equal amount of space.

With its tiny rectangular green-cathode-ray screen, a pair of 5 1/4" floppy drives, and a design which enabled it to be opened, shut and brought into just about any situation with the help of a carry handle, the Osborne was hailed for a few years as a marvel of the new PC technology, until smaller and much lighter "laptops" came along and its manufacturer went bust.

"People will pay a lot of money for the old ones just out of simple nostalgia," said Kurt Wood, an employee of reBoot Quebec, a computer recycling organization on the West Island which was helping out at Westmount's first e-waste disposal drop-off.

If there was one point Michel Séguin, director of another e-waste recycling group, the Réseau des Ressources du Québec, wanted to make during a talk on recycling electronics at Victoria Hall a few days before, it was that they shouldn't be treated as ordinary trash.

"If we keep treating them as garbage, we have



Kurt Wood, left, and Scott Glass with an old Osborne portable computer.

a problem," he said. "It's a quality of life issue, an environmental issue, it's a health issue. We're poisoning ourselves."

These days when a family wishes to dispose of a defective or unwanted electronic device or appliance, like a VCR or a computer screen, it is simply left out in front of the home, and before long someone will have picked it up.

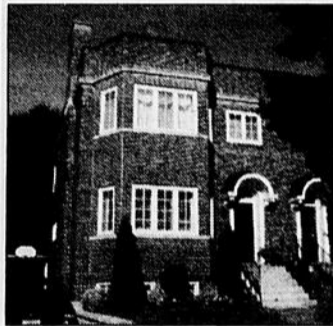
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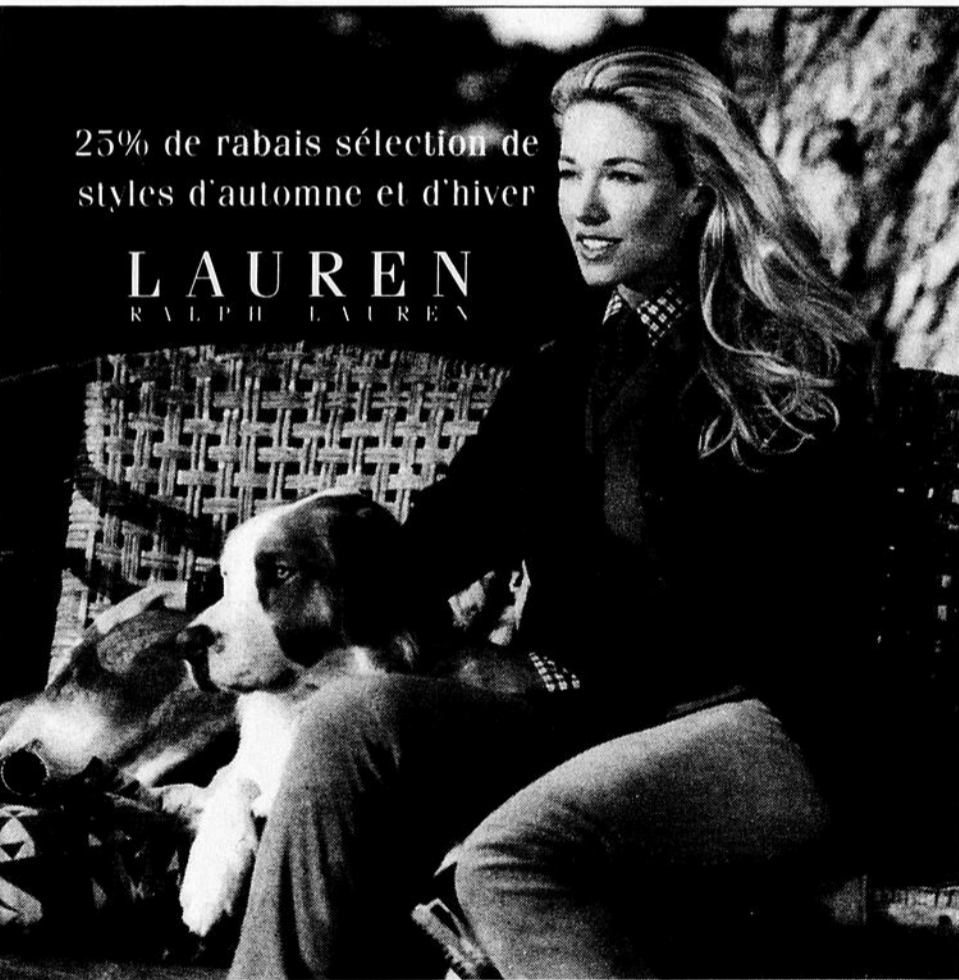
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A NASTY MESS

This time two years ago, you couldn't get Gérald Tremblay and Pierre Bourque to say many nice things about each other. They were locked in a bitter fight to win the votes of Montrealers, who were preparing to visit the polls in the first-ever Montreal megacity election.

Choosing your favourite candidate back then was simple; Mr. Bourque was the hardliner when it came to 'One island, one city', while Mr. Tremblay was far more open to the possibility of eventual demergers. Or so he said from his soapbox throughout the campaign.

Commentary

Wayne Larsen

e-mail: larsenw@transcontinental.ca



Even after Mr. Tremblay was established in office—gladly elected on the 'lesser-of-two-evils' ticket—Mr. Bourque continued to badger the new mayor and his councillors with accusations of corruption and incompetence. Now, the political climate has changed so drastically that the two former rivals have nearly joined forces to fight off what amounts to the greatest threat to their current situation. Mr. Tremblay, who remains committed to his plan to decentralize various powers to the boroughs, has stopped just short of hopping into bed with Mr. Bourque—but both remain firmly opposed to the demerger option.

As a result, there is nastiness flying all over the place. Demerger advocates are using tough rhetoric with the Charest government and the two main parties at Montreal City Hall, while defenders of the megacity are sniping back with nasty words of their own. While the demerger movement gains momentum across the island and poses a real threat to the megacity, those in power are circling the wagons to defend their current positions from possible dismantling. In short, those who were democratically elected are preparing to back an overtly undemocratic concept without acknowledging that they are doing something wrong.

The whole thing has grown into a huge, ugly mess, with no one really sure how it will all work out. One thing is certain, though—it was that fundamental lack of democracy behind the passing of Bill 170 two years ago that has led directly to this situation. And anyone defending it is as guilty as the twisted PQ ministers who promoted the megacity plan in the first place.

Letters to the editor

A job well done!

To the editor:

It is not often that we see 34 years of exemplary and consecutive public service. Obviously, our school system would have been in an even greater quagmire than presently, if not for the continuous efforts of Mrs. Joan Rothman.

Mrs. Rothman has been an unselfish champion of children's education for decades, long after her own children passed through their secondary schooling. Her commitment and valued input, through many years of turmoil in our school system, has been immense.

Mrs. Rothman is yet another fine example of a Westmount citizen who has provided her expertise to the well-being of the greater Montreal area population.

Thank you, Mrs. Rothman, for an important job well done.

Howard B. Hoppenheim
The Boulevard



Go West, Old Man

Off the Leash

George Bowser



I visited Alberta recently, for an audition. They told me that if you stay more than two weeks, you'd never want to leave. This is probably an over-simplification, but there is some truth in it.

The physical space is invigorating. The treeless rolling plains, the mountains silhouetted against the western sky, the herds of cattle—but enough about the murals at Calgary Airport. Alberta is the west, and has doubled for the American west in such movies as Kevin Costner's 'Open Range', and Clint Eastwood's Oscar-winning western, 'Unforgiven', a movie about Stockwell Day.

The premier of Alberta is Ralph Klein, and he is always forgiven. When premier Ralph Klein said, "I have a drinking problem," the profoundly not surprised people of Alberta simply shrugged and voted him in again. They were probably well refreshed themselves. The last guy who ran against Ralph Klein on the drinking issue got only one percent of the vote. This reminds me of Monty Python's village idiot competition, where one contestant was denied first prize because, as he put it, "I turned up."

In Alberta, the f-word is "federal", but they do get some of the goodies. This year the Canadian government named the town of Red Deer one of the five "Cultural Capitals of Canada," and gave it a grant of half a million dollars. You'd think this would be an undeserved accolade for a town whose tourist guide directs visitors to look for a

small bronze sculpture called "Francis the pig", but the title, like the term "military intelligence," describes what they plan to achieve rather than what they already possess. Montrealers should not scoff. A pickled heart and a second language do not necessarily equal culture.

2005 will be Alberta's centenary year, and the province is calling for an official theme song. Competitions such as this are usually won by sincere-sounding but forgettable drivel such as "Hey Friend, Say Friend," the Expo '67 theme song, but things will be different in Alberta. Ralph Klein has already proposed a sure-fire title—"Shoot, Shovel and Shut up." If that doesn't work, there's always The Rodeo Song (Forty Below), recorded by the fine Alberta band Showdown in 1980.

There's fine dining to be had in Alberta, and you don't need to stop the traffic to eat it. Yes, although Alberta is land-locked and full of cattle, the most famous delicacy is a seafood dish: the prairie oyster. No wonder the cows are mad. I'd be a bit ticked off myself.

Albertans must drive great distances, and the highways are very different from our clogged eastern arteries. They are less crowded than ours, and they run straight. Not as straight as those in Saskatchewan, where turn signals are an option on new cars, but straight enough. Tourists beware—the police patrol in unmarked pickup trucks. Albertans love to drive, and it shows. In Alberta, the Kyoto Accord is some kind of fancy imported SUV.

I enjoyed my stay in Alberta, but some people might find it a lonely place. Chicken farmers, for example, or atheist vegetarian scuba divers. And it might not be the best place to start an Alouettes fan club, or a poetry-reading group. You'd have to adapt. Since we passed the audition, I may have to.

• George Bowser is one half of the musical comedy duo Bowser & Blue.

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MARIO COULD BE RIGHT FOR THE RIGHT

Uncensored

Tommy Schnurmacher



What about Mario Dumont? The leader of the ADQ may have failed in his attempt to become premier of Quebec, but some political insiders are now floating his name as a possible dark-horse contender to lead the united right if and when the newfangled Conservative Party ever gets off the ground.

Mario Dumont as prime minister of Canada? It certainly sounds far-fetched, but never say never. The man is definitely a conservative. He believes in entrepreneurship and less government. He certainly wants to lower taxes. On some days, he's even in favour of a flat tax.

Politically savvy and fluently bilingual, he had no problem charming a business audience when he spoke to the Canadian Club in Toronto.

That's all very well, you say, but Paul Martin will hardly lose much sleep at the prospect of young Mario moving into 24 Sussex Drive in 2004. True enough, but there's no rush. If the new conservative party loses the next election, which, in all likelihood it will, at least it will have a capable leader in place for 2008.

The current crop of hopefuls don't even pretend they can actually deliver any seats in Quebec. There is not much doubt however that Mario could easily deliver the new party a seat if he ran in Rivière du Loup.

In the last provincial election, Dumont peaked way too early and his party did lose. Nonetheless the man did succeed in securing close to 20 per cent of the vote. That's impressive. It means that one in five Quebec voters insisted on voting for Mario even though all polls in the last half of the

campaign showed he had absolutely no chance at forming a government.

Dumont has great potential as does the new conservative party which is already drawing close to 30 per cent in polls even though it has yet to choose a leader or formulate a platform.

Time is also on Dumont's side, since Paul Martin is old enough to be his father. While Martin was born into a life of privilege, Dumont was raised on the farm — something that will hold him in good stead out west.

Smart and charismatic, Dumont could provide the new federal party with a new look and less baggage than the steamer trunks being lugged about by the likes of Stephen Harper, Peter MacKay and, especially, Mike Harris.

Dumont is not without some baggage of his own, but it's more of the carry-on variety.

He did fight alongside Lucien Bouchard and Jacques Parizeau in the 1995 referendum but that might prove to be no more than an interesting his-

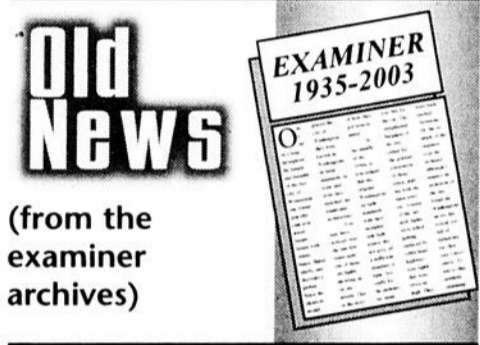
torical footnote in the rest of Canada, where concern about Quebec separation is non-existent.

While Quebec anglos will flock to the Liberals as usual, francophones — federalist and soft nationalist alike — may very well be drawn to a native son as they once were to Pierre Trudeau and Brian Mulroney.

Dumont might not even be interested in the gig, but don't be surprised to see the new party come calling. Even if Dumont does not run for the leadership this time around, he sure would make an impressive Quebec lieutenant.

A few years ago, Jean Charest moved from Ottawa to Quebec City. A few years from now, Mario Dumont might be moving in the opposite direction.

• Tommy Schnurmacher is heard weekdays 9 a.m. to noon on CJAD 800 Radio. His e-mail address is tommys@total.net.



Old News
(from the examiner archives)

One Year Ago
October 31, 2002

DE-MERGER POLLS: "Encouraged by poll results indicating strong support for their cause by Montreal Island Liberal voters, de-merger activists in Westmount say the issue is best left in the hands of the Quebec Liberals. According to last week's poll conducted for La Presse and Radio Canada, more than 65 per cent of Liberal voters on the island favour de-merger—an option only the Liberals are addressing as Quebec heads towards the next provincial election as early as the spring. The Liberals have promised to hold consultations on de-merger if elected, although they are emphasizing larger issues such as health and education in their platform. According to the SOM poll, 41 per cent of Montreal residents would vote for the Liberals, compared to 28 per cent for the Action Démocratique and 21 per cent for the PQ. Thirty-three per cent of residents from the old City of Montreal would vote Liberal, compared to 52 per cent in the former suburbs. Former Westmount Mayor Peter Trent was so happy about the poll, he joked that he went out and framed it. 'I was very pleased by it, because the general impression that people were given, at least by the media, is that the interest in de-merger had dwindled substantially,' he said. 'This effectively says that's not true. People may be quiet about it, but they're very angry with what happened.' Trent said that Montreal Island voters' traditional loyalty to the Quebec Liberals could become even stronger given the low number of undecided voters shown in the poll. 'Such a low percentage of undecided confirms that people are bound and determined to have the right to have a say in the future of their community, which was so arrogantly removed by the PQ.'"

Five Years Ago
October 29, 1998

GRAFFITI CRACKDOWN: "Three teenagers were arrested and charged with mischief in two separate cases last week as Westmount Public Security continues to crack down on graffiti in the city. The first arrest came on Friday morning, shortly after Public Security officer Greg McBain drove past a bus shelter at the corner of Park Place and Ste. Catherine Street. He noticed some graffiti on the shelter which he was sure had not been there a few minutes earlier. Spotting a teenager inside the shelter, McBain parked in a lane behind a building on Ste. Catherine Street and kept the youth under surveillance. After witnessing more graffiti being drawn in the shelter, McBain called in Sgt. Robert Stringer and PSO Chayne Barnes, and the youth was placed under arrest while MUC police were called."

Twenty Years Ago
November 3, 1983

NEW BUS: "Westmount is to get some long-sought restoration of adequate bus service early in the new year. Mayor D.C. MacCallum told the Examiner yesterday morning that the MUCTC directors were expected to approve the inauguration of a new bus route, No. 63, linking Snowdon and the Atwater terminus via Victoria avenue and St. Catherine street, long lacking in service and the subject of many complaints by Westmount residents."

Forty Years Ago
November 1, 1963

ANNEXATION THREAT: "Westmount and other autonomous municipalities on the island of Montreal were shocked this week when Montreal-executive-committee chairman Lucien Saulnier made use of a Chamber de Commerce platform opportunity to make it clear that he believed that he had the right to expand to the water's-edge on all sides, and by 1967. The target areas came back fighting, and Westmount's Mayor Chipman H. Drury when queried by newsman about the Saulnier statement: 'This is neither necessary or essential.'"

Fifty Years Ago
October 23, 1953

MORE POWER: "A \$950,000 loan by-law—to extend and renew Westmount's electric light and power system—received third reading Monday. Referendum on the borrowing of this large amount may be necessary if it is requested of council by ratepayers. According to General Manager Hughes electric appliances in the municipality have increased the demand for power so that in some cases the supply is almost exhausted. The loan would not necessarily be spent within a specified time, but would be at the disposal of the council, for such expansion as may be necessary. He said the city was working on a 20-year plan."

Fifty-Five Years Ago
November 5, 1948

MARLER ELECTED: "George C. Marler, MLA for Westmount-St. George constituency, was elected yesterday afternoon to head the Liberal Party in Quebec legislation, it was announced yesterday by Adelard Godbout, after a caucus held in Quebec to discuss party problems. Marler takes over from the retiring Godbout who was defeated in the last provincial elections and will head the eight Liberals who managed to gain seats."

Sixty Years Ago
October 21, 1943

VICTORY LOANS: "The resounding echo of the guns announcing the opening of the Fifth Victory Loan Campaign was heard by the enthusiastic canvassers of the Westmount Unit, already at their task of seeing to it that no one in Westmount was deprived of the opportunity of sharing in the success of the Fifth Victory Loan. The Patrol Leader of St Matthias' Boy Scout Troop—E. Ross Whitehead, 15—arrived on his bicycle to Unit 201, Greene avenue, on the opening of the Victory Loan and was registered as first bond-buyer. Following on his heels—or rather, his wheels—came Robin Badgley, aged 12, who for the second time just missed the honor of being first."

Sixty-Five Years Ago
November 4, 1938

MARS ATTACKS: "The most amazing thing about that panicky radio play Sunday evening (Orson Welles' production of 'War of the Worlds') is the obvious lack of attention and concentration shown by most people over what comes through their radios. Had the panicky ones paid some attention to the periodic announcements to the effect that the entire affair was fictitious, there would have been no moving of furniture out into the street or jumping out of sick beds to flee into the woods."



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Jacques Chagnon

The National Assembly began sitting once again on October 21. This will be a session full of new legislation which will, at times, be contested, especially by the unions. I'm thinking of legislation such as the bill concerning the reorganization of union accreditations in Quebec hospitals.

In fact, some hospitals, such as the McGill University Hospital, count more than 90 different union accreditations, which make their day to day administration extremely difficult. By reducing the number of accreditations to around ten, it will considerably simplify the management of human resources. This is one of the promises that we made and that we will respect.

In addition, the Minister of Labour should table amendments to articles 45 and 46 of the Labour Code during this session. The unions will once again get up on their high horses. Certainly, subcontracting has become a sacred cow in union ideology. They are against it and it is a taboo subject. These are two issues that will certainly be "hot" this fall.

The first question period of the new session focused on the importance of "re-engineering". What will the savings be? What sectors will be affected?

Is it truly serious? The leader of the Parti Québécois even succeeded in making us laugh a bit after announcing, in a great flight of oratory, "We are not the ones that have changed; what has happened is that a new government has been elected..." A strange way to admit that it is the population that has changed and that a government that stops listening or stops being connected risks becoming obsolete and having itself sent off to spend some time as the opposition.

The return of MNA's to the National Assembly, as to the House of Commons, is

always a happy time. The MNA's enjoy debate and it's a pleasure to see each other once again. Of course, there are few tears shed when the session closes. But there is certainly a parallel to be made with students returning to school in the fall. It's a move that we even see in nature, when vast numbers of wild birds migrate in the autumn, only to return the next spring.

There is a certain order everywhere, in the seasons and even in our parliamentary debates and routines, outside of our extraordinary sittings.

There are, of course, other important pieces of legislation that will be adopted or debated this session. The Minister of Municipal Affairs, for his part, will be quite busy, having spent several months in a parliamentary commission examining Bill 9, which deals with allowing citizens to be consulted on the future of their municipality. There will also be an omnibus bill dealing with several issues that have been called for by the municipalities.

As for me, I have already tabled Bill 6 dealing with jail sentences for the non-payment of fines for violations of the highway code. This means that those who do not pay their parking or traffic tickets will not head to a jail cell. Instead, they will first lose their driver's license and, eventually, they will have their vehicle seized until the tickets are paid.

Today, 150 spots are taken up each day in Quebec prisons by people who have not paid fines relating to violations of the highway code. I think it makes much more sense to use our prisons for true criminals who commit robberies and assaults rather than fill jail cells with people who don't pay their fines.

It makes much more sense to take away their means of committing infractions (driver's license, vehicles) and wait for them to pay their fines. I believe this will make individuals who have parking or traffic violations more responsible and, as well, will allow us to make better and more efficient use of our detention system.

• Jacques Chagnon is the Liberal MNA for Westmount-St. Louis.

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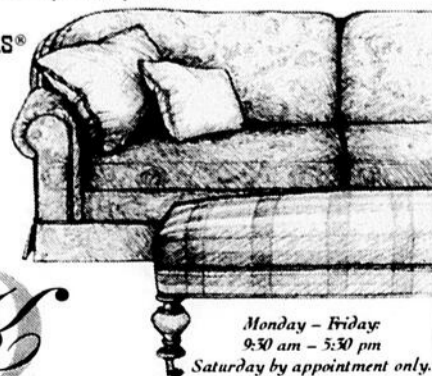
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4. Stop only at familiar houses in your neighborhood, unless accompanied by an adult.
5. Small children should never be allowed to go out alone on Halloween. Make sure an older sibling or adult accompanies them.
6. Instruct your children not to eat any treats until they bring them home to be examined by you.
7. Instruct your child to never enter the home of a stranger or get into their car.
8. Make sure your child carries a flashlight, glow stick or has reflective tape on their costume to make them more visible to cars.
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DEMERGERS: DANCING TO THE BEAT OF NEW FUSION

Glenn Wanamaker

Demerger advocates who thought that by electing the Liberals, Quebec would soon be dancing to a retro beat should update their record collection.

The music coming from the office of Jean-Marc Fournier falls squarely into the category of new fusion.

That's the unquestionable conclusion to draw from the weeks of public hearings at the National Assembly, which wrapped up last week. Citizens may be able to get back their old cities, but never as they were.

When the Municipal Affairs Minister tables his amended version of Bill 9 on municipal reorganization in mid-November, he will allow for one and only one alternative to the mega-cities imposed by the former PQ government.

At most, that alternative would provide for a "reconstituted" Westmount or a "reconstituted" Ste. Foy or Aylmer or La Baie or Pointe Claire or St. Bruno, with clearly defined but limited powers, within the mega-city.

Citizens may get their old mayor back, but the mayor will preside over a municipality with responsibility for local services only, with limited taxation powers.

"Whatever the result [of referendums]," Fournier said at the close of hearings, "the municipalities will continue to be part of the broader urban community. It's this entire urban community which creates economic activity and benefits."

"Thus, it goes without saying that the citizens of this whole urban community must share the costs of the range of municipal services which support and generate this activity. This is an indisputable fact..."

Sounds clear enough, but would it better?

It would restore to those who want it a measure of community autonomy over aspects of daily life - street maintenance, snow-clearing, garbage pickup, and recreation - with direct accountability in municipal elections.

Would it be enough? Not for those who want their full municipal autonomy restored. But it could be for those

who'd be satisfied if their old municipality regained its identity, its legal status as a city and some powers, instead of being a powerless borough of no particular cultural or historical identity.

Even if this were to happen, the amalgamated city will remain. It will still collect the lion's share of municipal taxes and it will still have authority for all things that are regional in scope - economic development, urban planning, water and waste treatment, policing, fire protection, and social housing.

The other issue Fournier must clarify is the public consultation process to get from here to there.

He has so far refused to say if the amended bill will require a certain level of voter turnout.

Under Bill 9, at least 10 per cent of eligible voters must sign a register to trigger a referendum. That will probably remain unchanged because the government cannot be seen as erecting too many barriers.

However, Fournier has shown a preference for a minimum referendum turnout, probably of at least 50 per cent. Over and over again, he has said

he wants to ensure the "greatest possible legitimacy" to any vote.

"The process must allow us, at the end, to see that the choice is legitimate and indisputable. Why do I say that? Because we're doing all this because the mergers themselves were not legitimate and were disputable. So we have to find the right mechanism. Let's assure ourselves that the one we put in place will allow the true wishes of the population to emerge," he said last week.

Meanwhile, Fournier reiterated that before the consultation process begins, voters will have access to the "most complete studies possible" so they can weigh the costs and benefits of their choice.

And that choice will be pretty clear: the mega-cities as they now exist or the mega-cities made up of mini-cities with clearly defined but limited powers.

None of this is music to the ears of those who want de-merger, clear and simple. About 400 people turned out for a de-merger fundraiser Sunday in St. Laurent and about 200 paraded Saturday in Grand-Mère to denounce the forced marriage with Shawinigan.

And you can be sure eyes will be turned towards the middle of Ontario on Nov. 10 when residents of 16 former municipalities will be voting in a referendum to undo the forced merger into the new City of Kawartha Lakes.

Quebec pension plan

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That's one of the options put forward by the minister responsible for the Quebec Pension Plan Claude Béchard, as the government looks at how to adapt to changing demographic realities.

(continued on page 13)



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(continued from page 5)

That may seem quick and easy, but according to Séguin is an environmentally unsound approach.

"The problem is that if you're putting things on the lawn that are broken or need repairing, and that somebody's going to just take the part they want or that's worth something, the rest gets thrown away," he said.

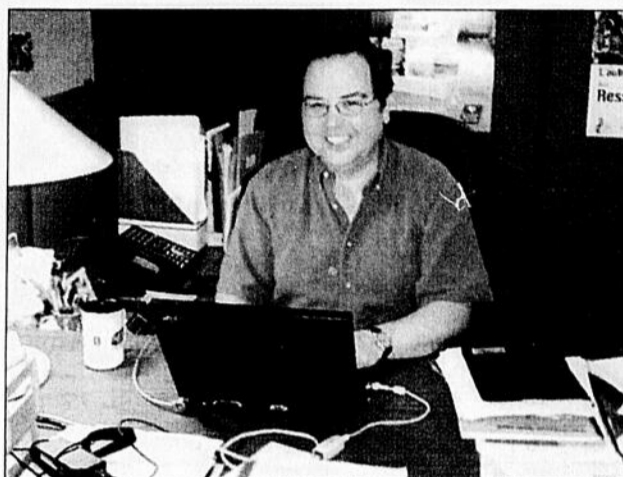
Old pieces of electronic gear gathering dust may seem innocuous—even though some of the most noxious heavy metals like lead, mercury and cadmium

went into their manufacture. In Canada last year, 36,000 tonnes of computers were thrown out. The number increases to 141,000 tonnes when other electronics, like TVs and microwave ovens, are included. A quarter of the total was in Quebec.

Public authorities started only recently to wake up to the fact that using conventional methods like incineration or landfill to dispose of the increasing volume of e-junk could endanger the public's health. "Heavy metals don't disappear," said Séguin. "They're gas, solid or liquid, so they get back to us one way or another."

Until now, municipalities like the City of Montreal have been paying much of the cost of recycling. Séguin thinks it's time manufacturers of electronics started to contribute their share.

"The producers put these products on the market and it's municipalities who have to pay the cost of what to do once you're finished using it," he said. "We say there has to be a partnership. Producers of this kind of product have to have a responsibility to help pay."



Michel Séguin

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Rising star Anton Kovic emerges as men's tennis champion

Ben Raby

It's a good thing they don't ask for ID at Westmount's Men's Tennis Tournament. For the second consecutive year a teenager was crowned champion, 14-year-old Anton Kovic taking the honors this time.

Kovic, an avid tennis player who has played competitively for five years, made his presence known in his first year in the Westmount event, capturing titles in three singles draws: men's, boys' under-14 and boys' under-16.

Kovic is part of a rising crop of young tennis players in Westmount, including the 2002 men's singles champion Sean Brophy. Brophy, 15, failed in his defense of the men's title, falling to Kovic 6-3, 6-3 in the semi-finals. Three of the four semi-finalists were teenagers and all plan on returning in 2004 creating the possibility of some intriguing match-ups in future tournaments.



Anton Kovic

As for Kovic, he is quickly emerging head and shoulders above his peers, and not just because of his 6'1" frame. The grade 9 student from College Marie-de-France trains nine hours a week in Nun's Island and is making a name for himself on the provincial tennis scene, where he is currently ranked ninth in Quebec in the 14-and-under

category. Kovic is now focused on playing in as many tournaments as possible, whether provincially, nationally or even internationally.

"In December I'll be spending 15 days in Florida competing in the Orange Bowl and Price Cup tournaments, so the experience down there should be good," he says. Kovic is anxious for the Orange Bowl, one of the world's most prestigious junior tournaments that has seen the likes of such tennis greats as Andre Agassi and Andy Roddick in years past. "I just enjoy playing in tournaments and gaining as much experience as possible from the matches... I try to play in as many tournaments as I can in Quebec, sometimes having to travel a few hours just to play one match."

Kovic was also active on the court last summer participating in "La Coupe de Quebec," against top ranked juniors from New England and Ontario and even enjoyed a match in Spain against a former Wimbledon and US Open champion. While vacationing in Spain with his family, Kovic had the rare opportunity to play with Manuel Santana a tennis legend from the 1960s, often described as one of the best Spanish tennis players of all time. "He beat me something like 8-0, but it was still great to play with him at his club," Kovic says, acknowledging that sometimes the experience is more important than the final score.

The ultimate goal, Kovic says, would be to attend an American university on a tennis scholarship. "I don't know that

I necessarily want to play professionally. If I can make it to the pros after school that would be nice, but the scholarship right now is the priority."

With such an impressive resume of prestigious tournaments and tennis experiences, one is forced to wonder how the tennis phenom stayed motivated during Westmount's annual tennis tournament, traditionally played with a recreational frame of mind.

"It doesn't matter to me what the competition is. The more practice I can get, the better. Even playing against weaker players can be beneficial, and in the end by the later rounds I was up against very strong opponents who gave me some pretty tough matches."

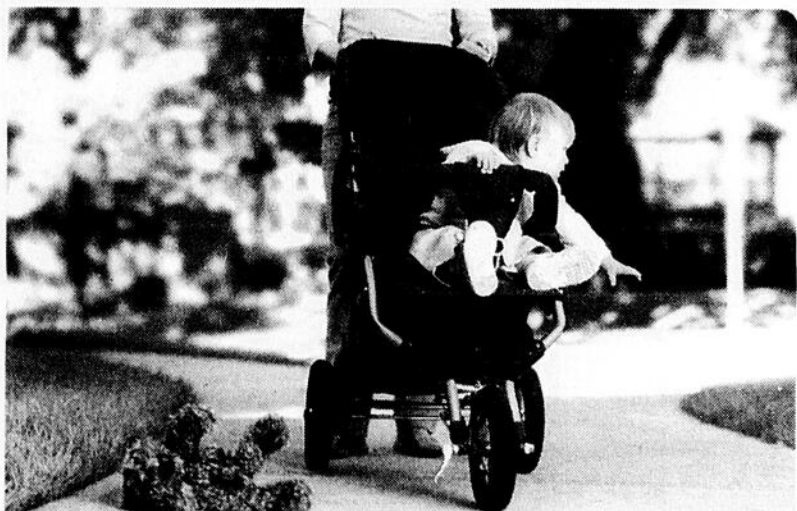
In the end Kovic won nine singles matches, without dropping a set. His only setback in the 2003 Westmount tournament was a second round defeat in the men's doubles event, in which he teamed up with his father, Antony.

"It must have been some miscommunication problems," Anton jokes.

The men's doubles title went to Guy Casgrain and George Syrovatka, who successfully defended their championship of a year ago. Also repeating as champions were Lydia Mezey and Vladimir Tchmoumakov in the mixed doubles category.

Other winners in the 2003 Westmount tennis tournament include: Minzhi He (women's singles), Maxene Guerin and Alexandre Garon-Belanger (junior doubles), and Sebastian Meltzer (boys' under-12).

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(continued from page 10)

Bécharde released a background paper and a series of proposals last week that will be open for public discussion early next year.

The proposals cover basic retirement pensions, disability pensions, and pensions paid to a surviving spouse or child. Among them:

- An increase in your monthly pension of 0.7 per cent (up from the current 0.5 per cent) for each month you keep working after your 65th birthday up to age 70.

- More flexibility for those who want to retire or work less time between age 60 and 65.

- Improved pension protection for all workers who suffer a severe and permanent disability before age 65.

- A higher pension for a surviving spouse and a three-fold increase in an orphan's pension.

The other good news is that the Pension Plan is in good financial shape after the recent increase in premiums. No new increase is forecast, Bécharde said.

If you'd like a copy of the proposals and back-

ground paper, call toll-free 1-800-463-5185 or go the Régie des rentes website (www.rrq.gouv.qc.ca). Available in English.

School board elections

The deadline for getting your name on the voters' list for the Nov. 16 school board elections is this Thursday, Oct. 30, at 10 p.m.

If you don't have a child in school, or if you live in a different area than where your child goes to school, you may not be on the voters' list for the school board of your choice.

A change to the law last year provides that a voter who doesn't have a child in English school is automatically placed on the French school board list in your area. In such a case, if you want to vote in the English board elections, you have the responsibility to make the change yourself. It doesn't matter if you voted in 1998 or not.

To get on the proper voters' list, call your school board and ask for the returning officer.

• Glenn Wanamaker can be reached by e-mail at wanamaker@hotmail.com.

Artist Creo shows at Shayne Gallery

Leonard Creo, an internationally renowned artist and world class race walker, has returned to Montreal to celebrate the fiftieth year since his first solo exhibition in Mexico, and the twentieth anniversary of his representation by the Shayne Gallery in Town of Mount Royal.

The artist was born in New York City in 1923. Following his discharge from the US Army, he began his studies at the famous Arts Students League and taking advantage of the G.I. Bill, he spent three years in Mexico developing his unique style. While there he worked with Gutierrez and the famous muralist Sequierros.


Ten years were spent working in Italy, where he developed his special technique painting his favourite subjects of children playing, musicians, market places and landscapes, which reflect life in Herefordshire where he presently lives. While in Italy, he also apprenticed with Pietro Annigoni.

A frequent traveler, Creo has had numerous solo exhibitions, including galleries in New York, Los Angeles, New Orleans, Fort Worth and Palm Beach. His work can also be found in a number of museum collections in the United States. The Shayne Gallery has sole representation for Canada.

When not painting, Creo participates in race walking at the international level. He recently was invited to, competed in and completed a 28-hour race-walk of international competitors in Roubaix, France. In Montreal he can be found most days training on Mount Royal, walking with the classic heel and toe strides. When his schedule has permitted on visits here, he has participated in charitable walks.

The exhibition at the Shayne Gallery, on Royal Mount Avenue, opened Saturday Oct. 18 and continues until Nov. 1.

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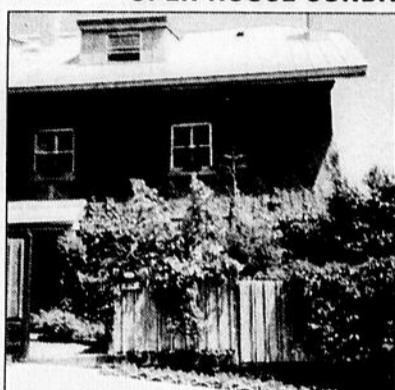


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Purple Dragon Theatre is on its way

Sandrine Etonde

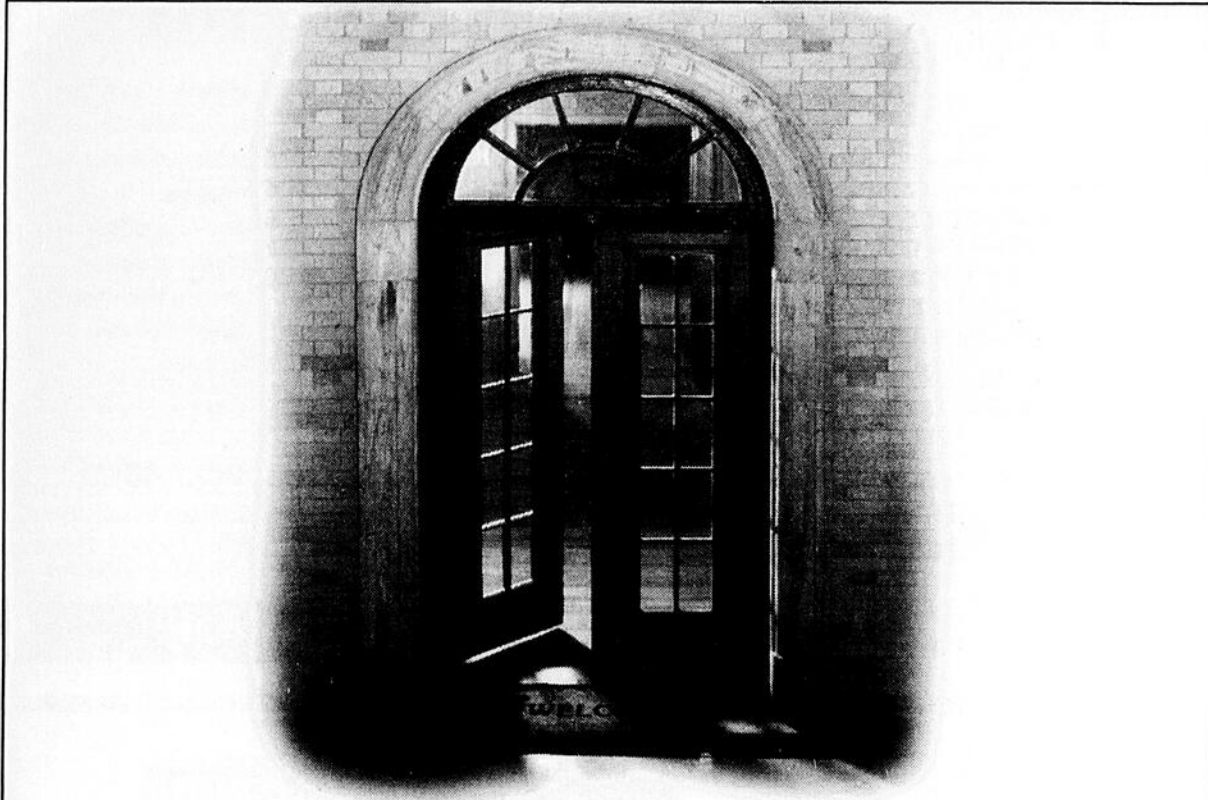
They act, they sing, they dance. The Purple Dragon Theatre's NDG Troupe, a combination of 75 talented kids, teens and adults from Montreal's diverse horizons, is enthusiastically rehearsing musicals for December representations.

This season's family shows at the Centre Culturel Calixa-Lavallée, near Park Lafontaine, will feature The Lion King (Dec. 4-7) and The Sound of Music (Dec. 11-14).

"It's more than little productions or school plays for the family, it's semi-professional," said creative and artistic director Kendall-Jane Rundle. "Our combination of kids and real actors makes it pretty



Westmounters Rebecca Dadouche (front), Hannah Lazare, Olivia Gutherz (centre) and Sophie Doyle (back) of Purple Dragon Theatre.



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high standards... The concept is to learn through doing."

The Purple Dragon Theatre and 42nd Street, its match for adult-only productions, belong to the Quebec Drama Federation. They offer high quality training for beginners and professionals, who go through competitive auditions to join the companies Rundle and her musician husband created in 2002.

"There was nothing in Montreal involving kids, teens and adults," said Rundle, a theatre performer since age six. The 29-year-old Australian gained a solid experience in acting, teaching, writing and producing in South Africa and Australia before moving here.

They started with an adaptation of the musical Annie, involving mostly friends' children, and got a "huge response." Now shows sell out, programs expand, and dozens apply. Tuition costs \$350/child and \$200/adult for 15 sessions, ending with several representations.

"We're growing, but I don't want to compromise services by going too fast," said Rundle, who for instance always offers her personal phone number.

Drawing from studies in education and social anthropology and work abroad with street kids using theatre as a therapy, Rundle wants theatre to be accessible to everybody. Each season they reserve spots on the casts for children troubled by personality, financial or family problems, referred to them by the CLSC or local organizations. They also donate 10 per cent of their ticket sales revenues to schools and community groups. Fundraising would help them make it even more affordable.

"It's a community project," said assistant director Claudia Litvak, 38. "They (actors) become family. It's a very warm and caring environment."

The Westmount kids appearing in the upcoming shows are: Nathalie Cummings, Sean Segal, Danielle Tal, Rebecca Dadouche, Hannah Lazare, Olivia Gutherz and Sophie Doyle.

Auditions for the NDG Troupe's May/June productions will be held in January. Details are available at www.purpledragonmauve.com.

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Artisans' Fest next weekend

While we were enjoying the late Indian summer, our thoughts turned to what's next—the fifth annual Westmount Artisans' Festival, of course, taking place on Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 8 and 9, at Victoria Hall.

This year, as well as the return of many old favourites, like our wood-burning duck carver, our knitters, weavers and textile painters, there will be many new artisans who do extraordinary things with clay, glass and wood. Handmade paper, felted hats, ceramic tiles and collectibles are only some of the new works to make their way to the Festival. For the accessory minded, there are many more jewellers this year, with pieces created from wood, polymer and seed beads as well as silver and knitted wire.

For children, there are whimsical wood toys, fabric accessories and teddy

bears, not to mention some charming mice. Hobby horses and tooth fairy pillows add to the selection.

On the domestic side, there are hooked rugs, quilts and painted floorcloths. There is a wide range of gorgeous soaps, sachets, bath goods and aprons. When you're finished looking and adding to your lists, have lunch, coffee or dessert at our Elissa's Café on the stage.

This year, the sale of items on our gift tree will again benefit the Belvedere Residence.

And before you leave with your arms full of incredible gifts, don't forget to stop for some buttercrunch candy to take home for yourself or for someone you love.

The Westmount Artisans' Festival will take place Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 8 and 9, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission: non-perishable food items.

Call for book donations

The Friends of Westmount Public Library will be holding its fall book sale on Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 15 and 16, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Westmount Room of the Library.

If you have any books, CDs or videos in excellent condition that you would like to donate to this sale, please bring them to the Library now. All proceeds from this sale go towards purchasing new books for the Library.

For more information, contact Anne Morillot at 932-3625.

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Residents satisfied after Selwyn House expansion

Martin C. Barry

A year-long construction project at Selwyn House School appears to have had no negative impact on nearby residents.

To mark the end of the first phase of a three-year improvement plan the Côte St. Antoine Road private school began last year, administrators held an informal wine and cheese reception on Oct. 14 for residents of Argyle Avenue, Church Hill and other neighbouring streets.

"I can't complain," said one Argyle Avenue resident, noting that the school took measures before and during the project to keep residents informed. "I

would say it was not as bad as I would have thought."

Carolina Lobo-Kerckhove, also an Argyle resident, said she and other neighbours "really appreciated" Selwyn House's openness before and during the construction period. "They really had no obligation to do any of that," she said.

"They could just go ahead. They got permission to build and they could have done it, but they had a neighbourhood wine and cheese reception at one of the homes and they explained the whole thing to us.

"They showed us the plans, they told us not to worry—that they were not going to increase the number of stu-

dents beyond a certain number," she added. "So even though they had more classrooms, it wasn't going to be a lot more traffic. We really appreciated that because they really had no obligation."

It was Selwyn House's first major renovation and expansion since 1968, when a wing was added to the Lucas building and before the school had acquired the church across Stanton Street, noted Duncan Campbell, a member of the board of directors and a class of '69 graduate.

"What this does is relieve a lot of stress on the existing facility and allows us to bring the school to the level of a teaching facility that's up to more of a present-day standard—

which I think is important in today's education," he said.

Two years from now, when Phases Two and Three are completed, Selwyn House's entire campus will be renewed. In the first phase, completed in time for the opening of classes this fall, the school's floor space grew by 40 per cent, although the student population, currently at 565, is remaining the same.

Larger classrooms, a Learning Centre with a bigger, modernized library and integrated computer centre, a new underground gymnasium, study areas for individuals and small groups, and a new auditorium, are part of the just completed facilities.

Atwater Library must raise funds for building repairs

The annual campaign of the Atwater Library and Computer Centre (ALCC) has targets of \$150,000 for operating expenses and \$300,000 for building maintenance, according to an announcement this week by Gordon Clark, ALCC president.

"We are 175 years old in November, and we are looking forward to the next year as a milestone year in our continuing development," Clark said.

"We have to raise a lot of money, though," he noted. "ALCC has to raise each year 50 per cent of its operating costs by donations from the community, but ALCC is also unusual among non-profit organizations because it can generate internal revenues for the other 50 per cent of operating expenses—through memberships, computer courses, computer rentals and facility rentals," he said.

"What's different this year is that we need repairs to our building that will cost \$300,000. We will make special efforts to raise that extra money."

ALCC is placing greater emphasis on becoming a community center, Clark noted. "We will continue to operate

both a library and a computer center offering hourly rentals and computer courses. In addition, we will emphasize our room and auditorium rental facilities, our services to new Canadians and to the black community nearby. We also want to increase our services to residents of eastern Westmount, Shaughnessy Village, and generally to the youth of our area."

A new combined membership rate of \$35 per year entitles a member to borrow books and to use the hourly computer rental equipment at \$2 per hour. Introductory computer courses are given on new computers equipped with Windows XP and Microsoft Office.

A new emphasis will be placed in 2004 on the heritage aspects of ALCC. A "heritage book" collection is being assessed and catalogued and should be available to the public within a year. Application has been made to the National Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada for historic site status.

"We are expecting a banner year in terms of more community support and new service initiatives," Clark said.



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Library pumpkin gala kicks off Halloween activities

Martin C. Barry

There was hardly a place to sit or stand in the Westmount Room at the public library last Saturday afternoon, as children and parents gathered for the annual Halloween party.

Organized by the children's department of the library, the event attracted more than 75 people who enjoyed a skit based on the Wizard of Oz staged by children's library staff, followed by prizes in a pumpkin-carving contest, and refreshments.

"It's Halloween time, so our theme this year was the Wizard of Oz," said children's librarian Wendy Wayling. "Today it's to celebrate all the participants' entries in the pumpkin gala, to give out the prizes, and just to do storytelling at Halloween time for the kids."

In keeping with the subject, programming and outreach librarian Donna Lach played Dorothy, Wayling had the role of the Good Witch of the North, and animator Françoise Callamant-Mayer was the Wicked Witch of the West.

Dressed in a wispy fairy godmother's gown, glittering wand in hand, Wayling was reprising a role she's played before at other events. "Oh, but I like to play evil witches, too," she said.

Peter and Ellen Munn, three and four years of age respectively, accompanied by their mother, Wendy, showed up dressed as a Harry Potter-style wizard and a unicorn. "This is pretty exciting for us," she said, noting that it was her children's second Halloween since the family moved to Canada.

"We're from Australia—we don't do Halloween in Australia," she said. "Last year was the first one, and this year they're a better age for it. I think it's wonderful. They're very excited."

Escorted by her father Louis Boissonneau, Tea, 4, was dressed in a blue-fringed dress as Alice in Wonderland. "It was her grandmother who sent her the dress," he said. "It was for her birthday, but it appeared to be a better costume."



Photo: Martin C. Barry

Members of the Francoeur and Belzil-Kakos families stand proudly by their Halloween decorations on Prince Albert Avenue.

Accompanying her son, Harris, who dressed as Aragon the spider from Harry Potter, the event brought back memories of Halloweens past for Westmount Borough Councillor Cynthia Lulham. "I never had this good a show," she said, recalling how she and her brothers used to go door to

door Halloween night with a pillowcase to collect all the loot. "We used to go trick-or-treating pretty much until people stopped answering their door."

Young Allan and Harry West, dressed identically as the Spanish hero Zorro, probably caused a few double-takes by those trying to tell them apart.

Although six and five years of age respectively, the two Roslyn School students could have passed for twins. "They saw the movie a couple of months ago and decided they wanted to be Zorro for Halloween," said their mother, Rocio.

Elsewhere in Westmount, many families have gone to great lengths decorating the exterior of their homes for this year's Halloween. In one of the most "spirited" examples, on Prince Albert Avenue above Sherbrooke Street, the Francoeur-Kakos family decorated the balcony and front lawn of their residence with an impressive display of skeletons, spooks and a coffin certain to leave an impression on trick-or-treaters this Friday evening.



Photo: Martin C. Barry

Kids crowded into the Westmount Room of the Westmount Public Library for the annual Pumpkin Gala.

Bulletin Board

Deadline for submissions is Monday at noon preceding the next publication. No exceptions. Submissions may be edited or omitted for space.

Saturday, Nov. 1

Harvest Moon Sale at St. Andrew's-Dominion-Douglas Church, 687 Roslyn Ave., from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Baked goods, home decorations, Christmas gifts and toys, etc. Lunch served at noon.

Friday, Nov. 7

Hollywood Bazaar at ECS School, 525 Mount Pleasant Ave., from 2 to 5 p.m. Crafts, baked goods, raffles and games. Proceeds will be donated to needy charities.

The C.G Jung Society of Montreal presents drama and music therapists Stephen and Shelley Snow, who will speak on 'Embodying the Archetypal World of Fairy Tales' at 7:30 p.m. at Dawson College, 4001 de Maisonneuve W., Room 4C1. \$15 for non-members, \$10 for members, \$6 for students and seniors. Info: 481-8664.

Saturday, Nov. 8

The Greater Montreal Chorus, Sweet Adelines International presents 'Punch, Peel and Potato Salad', a story of lost love and intrigue set to '50s barbershop music, at 8 p.m. at the Motherhouse of the Congrégation de Notre Dame, 4873 Westmount Ave. \$15 general admission, \$12 seniors and students. Tickets and info: Gloria at 766-0669.

Ongoing

Call for donations for Fall Book Sale: The Friends of Westmount Public Library will be holding its Fall Book Sale on Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 15 and 16, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Westmount Room of the library. If you have any books, CDs or videos in excellent condition that you would like to donate to this sale, please bring them to the library now. All proceeds from this sale go towards purchasing new books for the library. Info: Anne Morillot at 932-3625.

Westmount Toastmasters: Take the fear out of public speaking each Thursday evening at 7 p.m. in Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke W. Info: 367-5986.

Yoga for Kids, ages 5 to 9 years, classes with parents. Saturdays at 2 p.m. at Centre Greene, 1090 Greene Ave. Register now for the fall session. Info: Clearlight at 933-8671.

The St. Matthias' Church Choir is recruiting children 7 to 12 who would like to learn to sing, earn pocket money and participate in organized activities, including trips. For information, please contact the church office at 933-4295.

Attention Animal Lovers: Would you like to help a frail senior to maintain the three animals she has at home? A friendly dog needs his walks and the cats could use some care. If you have a little available time and would like to do some volunteer work in the community, please call Consuelo at Contactivity Centre at 932-2326 or 932-3433.

The Mankind Project meets on a regular basis at 7:30 p.m. at the Westmount YMCA, 4585 Sherbrooke W. All men are welcome. Info: 923-4694 or 637-8370.

The Atwater Library's Book Sale Room is open on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from noon to 3 p.m. Quality used books at reasonable prices. 1200 Atwater. Info: 935-7344.

St. Margaret Day Centre is looking for volunteers to assist seniors in use of computers, Mondays, Tuesdays or Thursdays from 10 a.m. to noon. Info: Chi at 932-3630 ext. 3024.

The Rotary Club of Westmount meets each Wednesday at Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke, at 12:30 p.m.

LOCAL NEWS

(continued from page 1)

"In other words, apply the rules that have served us well for so long," the signatories said. "Anything else would be a restriction of our democratic rights and a broken promise."

Signed by Westmount Borough President Karin Marks and borough councillors Cynthia Lulham and John de Castell along with the 20 others, the letter was issued following a number of recent defections by elected officials from Tremblay's party, including councillors from the West Island, as well as from the Borough of Mount Royal who decided last week under pressure from constituents to abandon Tremblay and sit on the borough and Centre City councils as independents.

Eleven of Montreal Island's 27 boroughs are now represented by councillors who have gone on record as supporting demerger or demerger referendums. Seven of the 11 boroughs are currently dominated by city or borough councillors who are members of Tremblay's party. Councillors in the four other boroughs sit as independents.

While some merger foes have insisted from the start that the megacity would eventually come apart at the seams, Lulham maintained that last week's demonstration of solidarity by the 23 councillors wasn't about that.

"The effort was really to send a clear message to Mr. Charest and to Mr. Fournier that what was promised during the election—particularly by Mr. Charest because he was the one who campaigned on it—was demerger," she said.

"However, what we've been hearing for the past month is that we won't get our cities back the same, that they'll require larger voter participation, perhaps, and all these trial balloons. And our feeling was that, no, that's not what you were elected on, Mr. Charest, that's not what you campaigned on. So we wanted to send a clear message saying 'give us what you promised during the election. That's what we elected you on. Don't start playing with it now.'"

Marks was equally adamant. "We, the three councillors in Westmount,

chose to run as independents in this new megacity because we truly believed that its creation was destructive to the many cities which had existed on the island, and in particular to our 127-year-old city of Westmount," she said.

"Our citizens overwhelmingly supported our position... That is why, we the independent Westmount councillors have joined with the UCIM councillors and other independents to react to the recent comments of the minister of municipal affairs. Those comments seem to influence and dis-

courage those who wish to reclaim the kind of cities they once had.

"These statements are completely inconsistent with the clarity of the promises which were made... (and) seemed to be testing out how the rules of signing of the register or of the referendum might be tightened," Marks added. "We therefore call on the government to uphold their commitment to offer citizens the right to express themselves in a truly democratic choice... We believe that Mr. Charest made a promise which he intends to honour."

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