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Local News

ROBILLARD EMERGES UNSCATHED

Patrick Lavery

Despite a bitter and hard-fought campaign characterized by accusations levelled against her party, it turned out that Westmount—Ville-Marie MP Lucienne Robillard had little to fear in Monday's election.

When the dust had finally settled and the last poll results were in, the incumbent Liberal had taken more than 55 per cent of the vote in the riding to win a clear victory.

"It's a landslide!" cheered a worker in Robillard's campaign office Monday night.

Robillard herself appeared a bit more reflective on her third consecutive win in the riding. "I am happy I received the confidence of the people of Westmount—Ville-Marie again," she said after her re-election had been confirmed. "I am very proud, very happy. I will serve them as I did in the past."

Conservative candidate Robert Gervais could only muster 10 per cent of the vote, despite having run a strong campaign that didn't end until the polls opened Monday morning. Gervais ended up finishing fourth in the riding, just behind NDP candidate Eric Steedman. The closest any of Robillard's opponents got was Bloc candidate Louis La Rochelle, who won just under 15 per cent of the vote.

"I am surprised the Bloc came second," said Robillard, Minister of Industry and Minister responsible for the Economic Development Agency of Canada for the regions of Quebec. "I am surprised that the Conservatives came fourth. I thought it would be like last time, with the Conservatives second and the Bloc third. Only a few days ago, polls showed the Conservatives running second."

(continued on page 2)

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FEU DE JOIE

Community celebrates a special
 Fête Nationale in Victoria Hall
 and Westmount Park

Page 3

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(continued from page 1)



Surrounded by aides and campaign workers, Liberal MP Lucienne Robillard carefully watches incoming poll results on Monday night.

It certainly seemed like Gervais had more support at the Meet the Candidates night held at Victoria Hall last Wednesday. With all seven candidates in attendance, voters from around the riding were given the opportunity to see the politicians debate each other on party policy and political records. Gervais seemed to have a bigger cheering section in Victoria Hall that night, as the crowd jeered at Robillard, with one woman demanding honesty and integrity from the government.

Robillard didn't believe the relatively strong showing of the Bloc was part of a reaction to the sponsorship scandal the mired the Liberal government earlier year. "All the parties used the sponsorship scandal to attack us, not just the Bloc," she said. The Bloc won 54 seats or two-thirds of the seats in Quebec on Monday night. Robillard said she was not surprised by the third place finish of NDP candidate Eric Steedman.

Robillard believes the people of Canada sent a message to the Liberals with the results of the election. "They are still confident in the Liberals," she said. "But at the same time, they're saying 'whoa.'"

With the minority government the Liberals now hold, they look to work with the NDP to formulate policy. "I think right now, the Liberals are leaning closer to the NDP," she said. "I think we will be working with them more than with the Bloc."

The NDP, which finished with 19

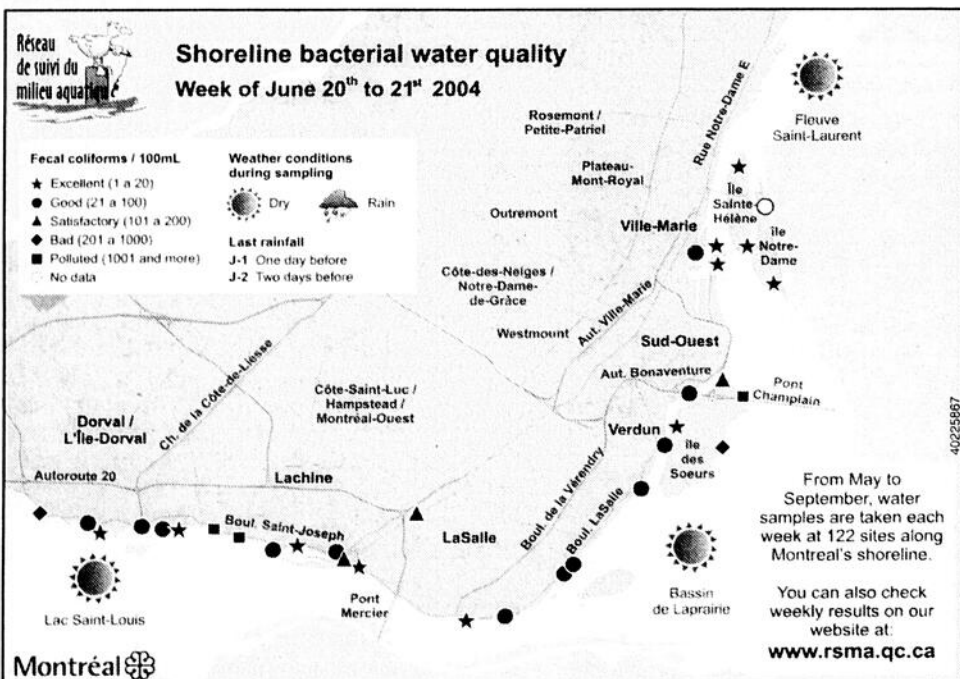
seats in the House of Commons hold the balance of power. Their 19 votes combined with the 135 Liberal votes would beat the 99 Conservatives and 54 Bloc votes by own, were the parties to band together in such a fashion. "We will see what the leaders decide," said Robillard. "Perhaps together we can govern well."

Robillard is optimistic that the minority government lasts. "I don't think Canadians want to have another election next month," she said. "So I hope so. But we never know with a minority government."

"This is a new experience for me," she added.

The final tally of votes in the Westmount—Ville-Marie riding, expanded this year to include a considerable part of NDG and downtown that stretches south into Montreal, past St. Laurent Boulevard into the Old Port area, was as follows:

Lucienne Robillard (Liberal) 19,787 votes; Louis La Rochelle (Bloc Québécois) 5,259 votes; Eric Steedman (NDP) 4,347 votes; Robert Gervais (Conservative) 3,549 votes; Brian Sarwer-Foner (Green Party) 2,276 votes; David Proctor (Marijuana Party) 364 votes; and Serge Lachapelle (Marxist-Leninist) 98 votes.



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WESTMOUNTERS CELEBRATE A 'SPECIAL' ST. JEAN

Threat of rain keeps most Fête Nationale activities indoors at Victoria Hall

Martin C. Barry

The traditional 'Feu de Joie' lit in Westmount Park every June 24 for St. Jean Baptiste Day was especially joyful this year.

Last Thursday evening was the first time Westmounters were celebrating a community event since voting a few days before to regain their status as a city.

"I think every first for the new city is a special occasion and this is the first St. Jean since we know we're getting our city back," said Borough President Karin Marks. "That makes it just that much more special."

Borough Councillor John de Castell Freed. "We certainly have a lot to celebrate this St. Jean Baptiste Day here in Westmount and at least 14 other municipalities," he said.

Westmount Avenue residents Kate and Stephen Takacs and their three young children, Georgia, Julia and Nicholas, were enjoying the afternoon. "We're waiting for the cake—that's the big one," said Kate, adding that the family would probably be back home by the time the bonfire was lit.

"We're very happy to be celebrating the St. Jean," said Stephen. "Especially



Photo: Martin C. Barry

Borough President Karin Marks cuts the St. Jean cake

after being able to demerge to get our city back, we feel that it's very important to show that we're part of Quebec. We love our province, as well, but we also love our municipalities."

This was the sixth year Westmount marked the St. Jean Baptiste holiday. Virginia Elliott, a borough community events coordinator, said more than a dozen borough employees worked hard getting everything organized. Many volunteers from the local Guides and Scouts, the St. John's Ambulance and other organizations, were also involved serving popcorn, potato chips, soft drinks and other snacks.

As heavy rainfall had been forecast, a decision was taken early on to move the event into Victoria Hall so as not to expose the musicians' electrified instruments to moisture. Families, neighbours, couples and friends who had brought along picnics to enjoy in the park had them sitting at tables inside instead. As it turned out, the rain didn't start falling until around 9:30 p.m., a half-hour after the bonfire had been lit when it was beginning to die down.

"Because Environment Canada gave us a 60 per cent chance of rain,

we decided to do it inside because we didn't want to be outside and suddenly have a downpour," Elliott said, noting that downpours this time of year are frequent and difficult to predict.

From the late afternoon through the evening, a large fleur-de-lys cake was cut up and served by Marks, and entertainment was provided by L'Homme à deux femmes, a guitar, accordion and fiddle trio that presented a rousing concert of traditional Québécois music, dance and song. It was more than a concert, however. Westmounters joined in the set dances, led by callers and eight semi-professional dancers known as Les Mutins de Longueuil, who led the crowd.

Westmount-Ville Marie MP Lucienne Robillard, out campaigning before Monday's election, put in an appearance during which she recalled past St. Jean Baptiste celebrations. "When I was younger it was really a big celebration for all French Canadians," she said. "Unfortunately, I have to say that I think the Parti Québécois and the Bloc Québécois have stolen our flag and our celebration. That's why I really appreciate that here in Westmount we celebrate this. This is for all people."

Borough switching from Lotus Notes to MS Outlook

After a year of disappointing experiences, the Borough of Westmount has decided its administration personnel would be better off using Microsoft's Outlook e-mail program managed by the borough, rather than the Lotus Notes program supplied by the megacity.

In a memo circulated in April from Borough Director Bruce St. Louis that was made public at the June borough council meeting, St. Louis noted that even after a year, the level of comfort with Lotus Notes by borough personnel was not very high, bilingualism was a major problem ("English version will not be available"), no filtering system was available for the large amount of spam received daily, and all modifications had to be processed through the megacity administration downtown.

Jerry Dolar and Craig Wright, two borough information services employees, noted that demonstrations of Outlook were made to several employee groups and their response was "almost overwhelming in terms of their preference of Outlook over Lotus Notes."

Outlook will be based on the Westmount.org domain, a site the borough continues to maintain in addition to the one it has as part of the City of Montreal's comprehensive web domain for all the megacity's boroughs. The Outlook program would be managed by Westmount, would provide easy home access, a choice of language for users, a password, integrated spell check, offline access and control of junk mail.

TRAGEDY AVERTED AT PLACE KENSINGTON

Marilynn Vanderstay

Just a cup or two of chlorine added to the swimming pool resulted in a toxic chemical reaction that forced the evacuation of Place Kensington's 210 residents on Monday.

The drama began at about 10 a.m. when Camil Bondu, maintenance manager at the Ste. Catherine Street seniors' residence, was routinely adding chlorine to the pool. The bucket suddenly foamed up with a cloud of toxic chlorine gas. He ran to the sink and dumped the bucket while dialing 911. Despite choking on the gas himself, he evacuated the staff from the basement where he was working, and headed upstairs to alert executive director Sylvia Zagury and administrator Pam Hendy.

When Frank Albert, division chief of the Westmount fire station, received the call, he was told it was for a hazardous materials incident. Before the 24 emergency vehicles arrived, Place Kensington staff was already evacuating residents, starting with the assisted-care residents on the second floor. Zagury immediately called Ginette Villeneuve, executive director at the Chateau Westmount, to arrange for the nursing home to take in and feed the 40 assisted-care residents. Westmount Public Security officers Chayne Barnes and Kaushi Patel cordoned off the area and

diverted traffic.

Within minutes the firefighters entered the building, their faces covered with oxygen masks, and took over the evacuation, systematically checking the building for residents and helping them in and out of the elevators, even carrying out residents seated in chairs when necessary.

Downstairs, firefighters dealt with the toxic chlorine gas. "Although not a lot of chlorine was involved, it has an affinity for water and attaches itself to the mucous membranes of the nose and throat. That is why it is so toxic," said Albert. The firefighters ventilated the building using fans pressurized with fresh air to push the gas out.

While residence staff dealt with the task of assisting the seniors board the buses, many with cumbersome walkers, the community around the centre started rallying to aid in the crisis. Next door, Robert Salico, vice president of Decarel Construction, saw the seniors milling around on the sidewalk and immediately made arrangements for 25 of them to be seated in the firm's conference room while they waited to board a bus.

A resident of Metcalfe Avenue offered the use of her bathroom facilities to seniors on the bus that was waiting for directions outside her house. Recognizing that particular need, the borough made arrangements for the buses to park outside Victoria Hall for the duration.

In spite of Victoria Hall being used as a polling station, staff assisted the seniors in using the washroom facilities for the hour they were parked outside. Borough President Karin Marks and Borough Director Bruce St. Louis spent the hour chatting with and comforting the evacuees.

At 1:15 p.m. Place Kensington staff started reintegrating the residents. Since the kitchen was contaminated with the lingering smell, management representative Caron Gelber arranged with Snowdon Deli to pick up sandwiches to feed the hungry seniors upon their return. The staff at the Deli scrounged up every sandwich they could find and Gelber's husband, Bob Sugar, left his job to pick up and deliver the emergency provisions since she was unable to leave the site.

At 4 p.m. the last of the assisted-care residents came off the bus. Tired and a little dazed, they made their way back into the residence with the aid of their nursing care. At the end of the long day, amazingly no one had been hurt by the gas or had been treated for any other ailment by Urgences Santé.

"Everybody involved, from my firefighters to the staff at Place Kensington to the police and Westmount Security, cooperated in an immensely professional way so that we were able to avoid what could have been a real disaster," said Albert.

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SERVICES MUNICIPAUX Fête du Canada

Les bureaux administratifs ainsi que les installations de loisirs, à savoir l'Aréna de Westmount, la Bibliothèque publique de Westmount et Victoria Hall, seront fermés le 1^{er} juillet en raison de la Fête du Canada. Veuillez également prendre note qu'il n'y aura pas de collecte d'ordures le 1^{er} juillet. ♻️



ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES La galerie du Victoria Hall

La galerie du Victoria Hall est fière de présenter les œuvres de l'artiste Caroline Hart. L'exposition intitulée *Portraits de l'artiste* tiendra l'affiche jusqu'au 14 juillet. Info : 989-5226.

Concerts d'été au parc Westmount

Du 11 juillet au 15 août à 14 h

Vous êtes invités à assister à une série de concerts donnée par des musiciens professionnels devant se tenir au parc Westmount, à proximité de l'étang, les dimanches à 14 h. Cette série débutera avec l'ensemble jazz *The B Team Trio*. En cas de pluie, le tout se tiendra au Victoria Hall. Info : 989-5226.

La troupe Les Marivaudages

La troupe Les Marivaudages présentera la comédie *Arlequin, valet de deux maîtres* de Carlo Goldoni le jeudi 8 juillet à 19 h 30 au parc Westmount. Veuillez apporter vos chaises. En cas de pluie, la pièce aura lieu au Victoria Hall. Info : 989-5226. ♻️



HYDRO WESTMOUNT Vous déménagez?

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BIBLIOTHÈQUE Horaire d'été

Veuillez noter que la Bibliothèque publique de Westmount sera fermée tous les dimanches pendant la période estivale, et ce, jusqu'au 5 septembre inclusivement. Les abonnés peuvent toujours consulter le catalogue et les bases de données de la Bibliothèque en ligne à www.westlib.org.

DATES À RETENIR

Se poursuivant jusqu'au 14 juillet
Caroline Hart : *Portraits de l'artiste*
La galerie du Victoria Hall

Le 5 juillet - 20 h

Séance du conseil
Salle du conseil

Les 8 et 27 juillet - 19 h 30

La troupe Les Marivaudages
Parc Westmount

Les 11, 18 et 25 juillet - 14 h

Concerts d'été
Parc Westmount

Club lecture vacances

Pour voyager dans le temps et se transporter à travers les âges avec des histoires de pharaons égyptiens, de mythologie grecque et de guerriers aztèques, inscrivez-vous au club lecture vacances de la bibliothèque qui se tiendra du 11 juin au 27 août. Après tout, lire cet été c'est emballant! ♻️



TRAVAUX PUBLICS Résidus de jardin

Les résidents doivent veiller à ce que leur paysagiste élimine les résidus de jardin de façon adéquate. Seuls les débris d'herbe, les feuilles et les petites branches (mesurant jusqu'à six pouces de diamètre) peuvent être apportés aux ateliers des Travaux publics situés sur la rue Béthune, et ce, en vue de leur compostage. Les grosses branches et les troncs d'arbre doivent être éliminés sur un site privé.

Les résidus d'une longueur maximale de six pieds et de moins de 12 pouces de diamètre peuvent également être attachés en paquets et jetés avec les ordures ménagères. Toutes autres matières laissées ailleurs ne seront cueillies. De plus, on demande aux résidents d'aviser leur jardinier et paysagiste de ramasser les débris d'herbe et de ne pas les déposer sur le trottoir ou dans la rue. Info : 989-5311. ♻️



SPORTS ET LOISIRS Camp d'été de Westmount

Destiné aux enfants de 6 à 13 ans voulant participer aux activités sportives, artistiques et scientifiques, de bricolage, d'observation de la nature, de musique et de théâtre, l'inscription débutera le 5 juillet à l'Aréna de Westmount, et ce, pour la session de deux semaines débutant le 12 juillet. Info : 989-5353. ♻️



MUNICIPAL SERVICES Canada Day

All Westmount administrative offices and cultural facilities, including the Arena, Westmount Library and Victoria Hall, will be closed on July 1 (Canada Day). Residents should also note that there will be no garbage collection on July 1. ♻️



COMMUNITY EVENTS The Gallery at Victoria Hall

The Gallery at Victoria Hall is pleased to present the works of artist Caroline Hart. The exhibition titled *Portraits of the Artist* will run until July 14. Info: 989-5226.

Summer Concerts in the Park

July 11 to August 15, 2 p.m.

Join us on Sundays at 2 p.m. at the lagoon in Westmount Park for concerts by professional artists. This 6-week series begins on July 11 with jazz ensemble *The B Team Trio*. Rain location: Victoria Hall. Info: 989-5226.

Theatre in the Park

La troupe Les Marivaudages will perform *Arlequin, valet de deux maîtres*, a comedy by Carlo Goldoni in French on Thursday, July 8 at 7:30 p.m. in Westmount Park. Bring a lawn chair. Admission is free. Rain location: Victoria Hall. Info: 989-5226. ♻️



HYDRO WESTMOUNT Moving ?

Please call us at 925-1414 at least 7 days prior to your move. Do you pay your account through the bank? Don't forget to advise them that your account number has been changed. This will avoid any unpleasant surprises. ♻️



LIBRARY Summer Hours

Please note that the Library will be closed every Sunday until September 5 inclusively. As always, members may still access the Library catalogue and databases through the Library's Web site at www.westlib.org.

Summer Reading Club

Take a journey back in time to discover the ancient civilizations of our world. Read about Egyptian pharaohs, Greek gods and Aztec warriors. This summer, just let yourself get wrapped up in reading in the Library Summer Reading Club. Sign up at the Children's Department from June 11 to August 17. ♻️

DATEBOOK

Until July 14

Caroline Hart: *Portraits of the Artist*
The Gallery at Victoria Hall

July 5 - 8 p.m.

Council Meeting
Borough Hall

July 8 & 27 - 7:30 p.m.

Theatre in the Park - Les Marivaudages
Westmount Park

July 11, 18 & 25 - 2 p.m.

Summer Concerts
Westmount Park



PUBLIC WORKS Garden Waste

Residents are responsible for making sure their contract gardeners dispose of garden waste properly. Grass cuttings, leaves and small branches (up to 6 inches in diameter) may be brought to the Public Works Yard on Bethune St. for composting. Large branches and tree trunks must be brought to a private site.

Alternatively, the waste may be bundled (maximum 6 feet long by 12 inches in diameter) and placed with the regular garbage. Any materials left elsewhere will not be collected. Residents are asked to notify their gardeners that grass clippings are to be picked up and not left on the public sidewalk or roadway. Info: 989-5311. ♻️



SPORTS & RECREATION Westmount's Summer Camp

Children aged 6 to 13 years will enjoy sports, arts and crafts, science and nature, music and theatre. Registration begins July 5 at the Arena for the two-week session beginning July 12. Info: 989-5353. ♻️



Roslyn community ponders alternative school bus arrangements

Martin C. Barry

Parents at Roslyn School are waiting to hear what the Borough of Westmount will propose as an alternative to using the Roslyn playground as a bus loading zone this fall.

Major road repair work on Roslyn Avenue between Westmount Avenue and The Boulevard is set to begin in July and be completed by the end of October. The \$1.5 million project will begin with the replacement of the water main, to be followed by the complete reconstruction of the roadway and sidewalks. This will directly affect Roslyn School's buses, which use Roslyn Avenue for picking up and dropping off students.

At a meeting of the Roslyn governing board on June 14, teachers unanimously endorsed a motion put forth by parents to remove from consideration a possibility buses would use the schoolyard "either on a temporary or permanent basis" to drop off and pick up students while the street reconstruction work is being done.

The meeting was preceded by a well-attended session of the Roslyn Parents Participation Organization that was open to residents of the community.

About 400 Roslyn students (about half the student population) are bused in Monday to Friday during the school year. Roslyn and Grosvenor Avenue residents voiced their concerns regarding traffic issues on their streets, and lent their support to the parents' efforts to demand consultation from the borough on these issues.

According to Melbourne Avenue resident Cathy Richards, a spokesperson for the parents, one of the important reasons the idea of using the schoolyard was rejected was that Grosvenor is too hazardous as an access point. "Grosvenor is a fire lane—it is the only escape route over the mountain from Westmount to Queen Mary directly," she said.

"That's why they don't put speed bumps on there. It's already a traffic nightmare because parents are breaking the law and double-parking and parking on the wrong side of the street and up on sidewalks. You couldn't get a fire truck through there at five to nine (a.m.) if you prayed."

"But what they were talking about doing is bringing the school buses up through that traffic and turning onto the school yard from Grosvenor, and then swinging the buses around in a circle and then bringing them back out onto Grosvenor. It was just a recipe for disaster."

Options the parents and school staff have proposed include using land from the school grounds facing Westmount Avenue to create a bus loading lane, or having the buses come on Lansdowne or Roslyn below Westmount Avenue and allowing the students to cross the street.

By far, according to Richards, the parents think that using Westmount Avenue as the drop-off point would be the safest and most sensible choice. However, concern about serious traffic jams on Westmount Avenue in the morning and afternoon when the buses stop for up to 15 minutes is preventing that option from being adopted.

The parents have come up with the suggestion that a 'designated traffic lane' be created on Westmount Avenue, separated from the rest of the street by barriers. According to research conducted by a committee member, this would allow traffic to pass legally in both directions.

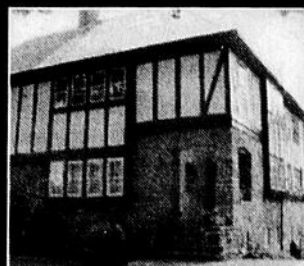
While acknowledging the risks of putting buses in the Roslyn schoolyard, Borough Director Bruce St. Louis said: "We are open to any and all suggestions because we have a short-term problem. We are looking at a couple of other solutions with a final decision to be made in the coming days. Our intent is to collaborate with the school and the parents' committee to find a solution that everyone can be comfortable with—but at the same time putting the risk to kids at an absolute minimum."

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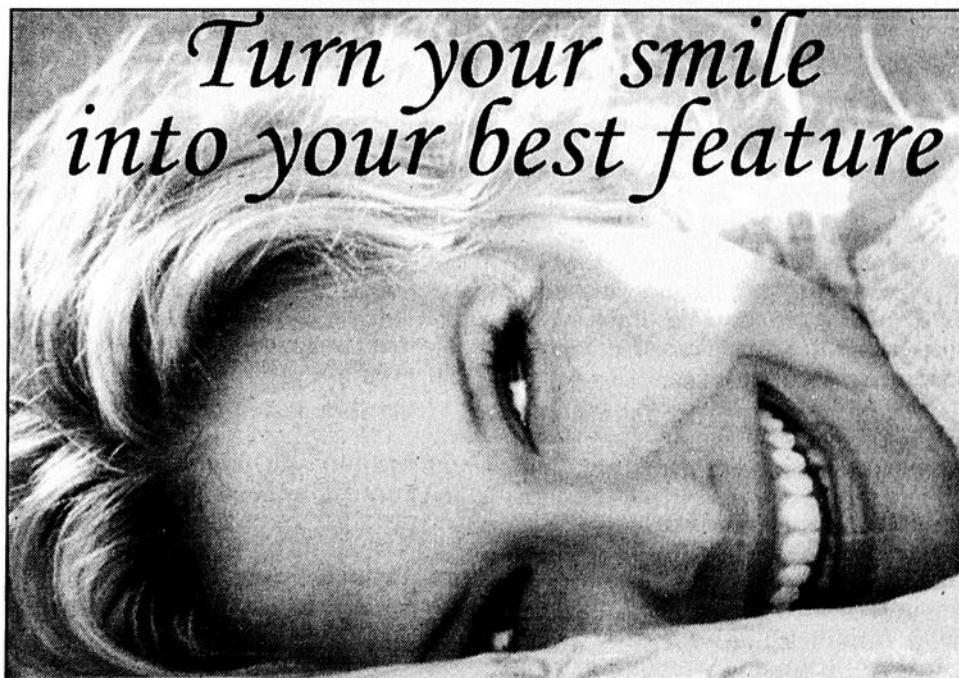
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Robillard held up for Liberal sins

It was a hot night in Victoria Hall last Wednesday as the main event in the Westmount-Ville Marie election campaign unfolded in front of a standing room-only crowd.

The traditional 'Meet the Candidates' night, which the *Examiner* once again co-organized with the Westmount Municipal Association,

was by all accounts a great success, judging not only by the unprecedented attendance, but also by the high spirits that charged the proceedings. And as the audience filed out after the last closing statement, one thing was certain: this election would not be a walk in the park for Liberal incumbent Lucienne Robillard.

The traditional Liberal landslide was not expected this time around. Dissatisfaction with the federal Liberals, coupled with growing support for the Conservatives and Bloc Québécois, seemingly stacked the deck against the big red Liberal machine. Robillard certainly must have felt she was in the hot seat on several occasions, placed in the awkward position of having to answer for the misdeeds of her party. She defended herself and her colleagues as best as one can under the circumstances, but in the face of such far-reaching scandals, it was a matter of too little too late. To her great credit, she never made any lame excuses and even came right out and said her party had made mistakes.

No, it certainly wasn't a walk in the park for Robillard or many other Liberal candidates—but they proved that in the face of great adversity, one must try even harder. They did, and they have the election results to prove it.

Commentary

Wayne Larsen

e-mail: larsenw@transcontinental.ca



SHRINKING HOSPITAL IS STILL A SUPER-PROBLEM

Civic Alert

Don Wedge



It was the view of the Westmount Municipal Association five years ago that, second to annexation, the super-hospital was the biggest threat to Westmount.

Meantime, the project has become a shrinking super-hospital. Even so, the association should probably revise the mantra to become: "After the transition committee, the MUHC is the biggest threat."

Nevertheless, given the determination of Dr. Arthur Potter, the MUHC's new American chief, there will be pressures from many directions to get the building started. But is the path really clear?

First step: a lot of contaminated soil has to be cleaned up from the Glen Yards, but the amount will not be known until CP moves the train marshalling elsewhere so that the tracks can be lifted.

More directly, what provisions has the hospital made to avoid impact on

those who live nearby? We have already seen changes to property ownership and exploding rents on Sherbrooke Street as well as attempts to rezone and further commercialize the NDG part of de Maisonneuve Boulevard.

Most of all, what of the traffic problems? Although modern hospitals have been built to be car-free, board chairman David Culver totally rejected the suggestion that MUHC do likewise.

In earlier plans, there were to be hugely expensive connections from underground parking to the autoroute. Without it there will be enormous impact on residential streets. Additionally, Culver said the hospital was considering making part of the disused Turcotte Yards a super-parking lot.

Although the public relations emphasis has been put on the main access being at Vendôme metro station, less publicized plans allow for the entrance to be at the street-level intersection of de Maisonneuve, Claremont and Ste. Catherine. There could be a hotel on that corner, too.

It seems inevitable that southwest Westmount and Vendôme Village in NDG will bear the brunt of the hospi-

tal's impact. However, with a slimmer MUHC project, could the Westmount land be available for a more harmonious development? Or even save the little forest and a home for a family of burrowing owls?

Missing the point

Francophones, or at least those with opinions in the media, seem incapable of accepting that we wanted our cities back because they were better and more cheaply run. Plus it is more pleasant to know the staff working for you than dealing with a faceless bureaucracy.

Predictably, the post demerger anger felt by many Montrealers towards the "rich" has continued, fuelled by the francophone media. In *La Presse* (June 25), a reader's letter stated bluntly: "The reasons for the vote are language and money and those who do not see it are blind."

In the *Journal de Montreal*, a reader said that the linguistic cleavage had been maintained, not to say worsened. The West Island "separatists" had scored a shining victory. There were many more similar comments.

Even the *Gazette* had a francophone reader saying that in the referendum vote "anglos made a point of showing

how they are truly separate from the French-language Montreal majority."

Meantime, a *La Presse* reporter was revealing that there was a backlog of at least 40,000 municipal court hearings, all with unpaid fines. Why? The creation of the megacity, calmly explained mega-court spokesperson Marie-Anne Aubert.

It is one of the great megacity scandals and there will be more to come.

Decision sharing

Our only delegate to the megacouncil, Karin Marks, was apprehensive about the reaction she might receive at last week's megacouncil meeting, the day after the referendum.

"I was congratulated by several councillors from both parties," she told friends. "There was a generosity of spirit. They appreciated that we had been clear on our intentions all along."

Marks had a mega-dilemma to face over a planning issue—one of her specialties. Council had to approve developers' requests for a substantial height increase to condos already dwarfing the historic Mount Stephen mansion on Drummond Street.

(continued on page 7)

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Old News

(from the examiner archives)

EXAMINER
1935-2004

Ten Years Ago
June 30, 1994

DAWSON RENOVATIONS: "Residents of streets near Dawson College voiced their frustrations about what may be a long and loud construction period during the CEGEP's proposed expansion, and city councillors got the message. About 15 people lined out for a public consultation meeting on a proposed zoning amendment that would allow Dawson to conduct its Phase IV expansion to dimensions only slightly at odds with the current zoning. A new gymnasium, classrooms and greenhouse are part of the plans. But residents seemed more concerned about noise and traffic disruptions they expect will take place in 1995-96."

Twenty-Five Years Ago
June 28, 1979

MAPLE SYRUP CRISIS: "Her Majesty the Queen might receive the Royal Maple Syrup in plastic bags—or even in tin cans—this year, unless Westmount can find a suitable replacement for the Kent 16-ounce glass jugs with handles which have been used to hold the annual syrup shipments for 20 years. Dominion Glass Works, or DomGlas as it is now known, has discontinued production of the graceful, pot-bellied vessels which over the years have carried Quebec-made maple syrup to fill the City of Westmount jug, handed to Queen Elizabeth on the steps of city hall 20 years ago Monday."

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OPINION

MYTH WESTMOUNT

Off the Leash

George Bowser



Myth is irresistible to the simple-minded, and is more powerful and more enduring than truth. You don't need facts when you have Myth on your side.

The victory of the demerger side in the recent referendum has revived many of the myths that have plagued reasonable dialogue in Quebec for years.

The myths that are most useful to the popular French press in Quebec are these: nobody in Westmount speaks French, everyone in Westmount is wealthy, owns a big house, and votes Liberal. It's time to start some newer, better myths. With help from my friend Wilder, who is now confined to the basement of Hogg Hardware, here is a list to get us started, which I shall call "Myth

Westmount," for nohtalgic reathonth.

Myth # 1. The PSU cars are actually taxis. You can hail them and they will pick you up and take you to any destination within Westmount. They will deposit you at a border, for example at the corner of Sherbrooke and Claremont.

Myth # 2. The Traffic Wardens are not there to hand out parking tickets—they are in fact dog walkers. Just hand them your dog's leash, and they will take over. When not actually walking local dogs, they are looking for poop to scoop.

Myth # 3. There is a floral clock in front of Victoria Hall. Beneath it there is a very small room. Peter Trent lives in there.

Myth # 4. Victoria Hall was a Westmount suffragette. During her lengthy campaign for the right to vote in municipal elections, she had her maid chained to the railing in front of her house. She still lives at Manoir Westmount.

Myth # 5. Many of the large mansions in Westmount can be purchased for one dollar.

Myth # 6. There actually is a Metro stop at the Metro grocery. It's behind the fish section.

Myth # 7. All plumbing systems in Westmount must be made of copper, cast iron, or palladium. Westmount waste water flows directly into Saint Henri, Verdun, and Lasalle, where it is bottled and sold as Kik cola.

Myth # 8. There used to be a field of marijuana plants in the Westmount Athletic Grounds. That's why it's called Westmount High, man.

Myth # 9. The ruins of an ancient Ziggurat lie buried beneath the summit. In ancient times, pre-Colombian natives used the spot to tie down sacrificial victims and tear out their personalities. Those that survived became actuaries.

Myth # 10. All of the places on the Westmount St. Patrick's day float are booked six years in advance. Tickets have been 'scalped' for as much as \$2.

Please make up your own myths and pass them on to tourists, and journalists from La Presse.

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

(continued from CIVIC ALERT, page 6)

For Marks, it was wrong. "Respect of zoning rules was a major factor in Westmount's solid property values," she told council. But the development had been approved by Ville Marie borough.

She wanted to support the borough—suppose it was a Westmount decision that was to be challenged in the mega-council chamber? In the end she voted on the losing side to deny the permit, as did Robert Libman, the executive committee member involved.

The incident raises the question of how much responsibility we have (and will have) for each other. It also involved the downtown area, which some see as a unique district. Last fall, Gérald Tremblay tried unsuccessfully to have it made a special area under

his direct control.

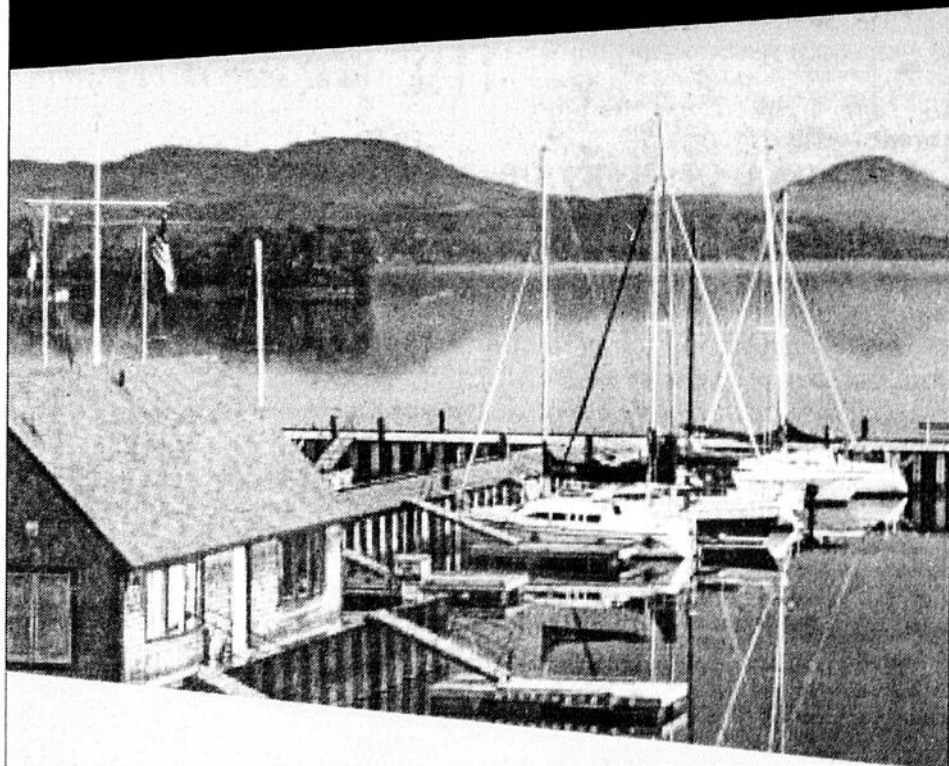
Upping pollution

Each year a municipal blind-eye is turned to the St. Jean Baptiste bonfire as Westmount's pollution-reduction objectives are ignored for a few hours. But last Thursday it went too far. Once it was the job of our fire department and it was lit with paper and kindling.

This year, mega-firefighters doused it with gasoline as the starter. Beside the extra poisons released into the atmosphere, the nauseous odour replaced the pleasant smell of burning wood.

For the organizers, there had been an extra hurdle. To hold the bonfire on the specially prepared area of our park, they had to get a permit from the megacity!

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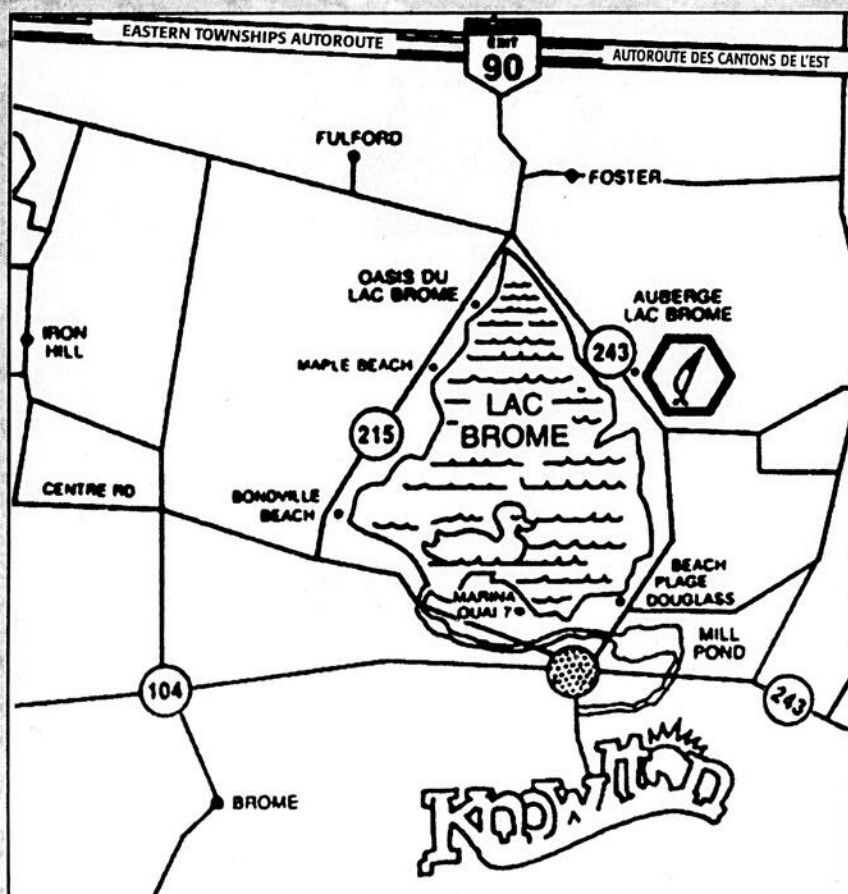
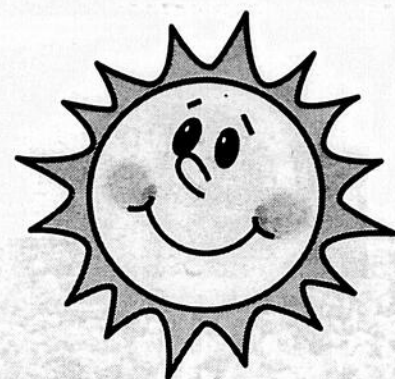
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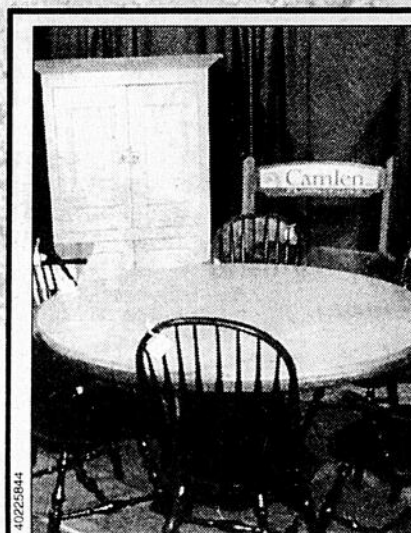
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In the heart of the Eastern Townships



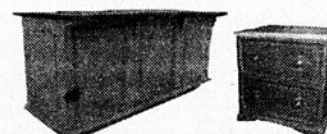
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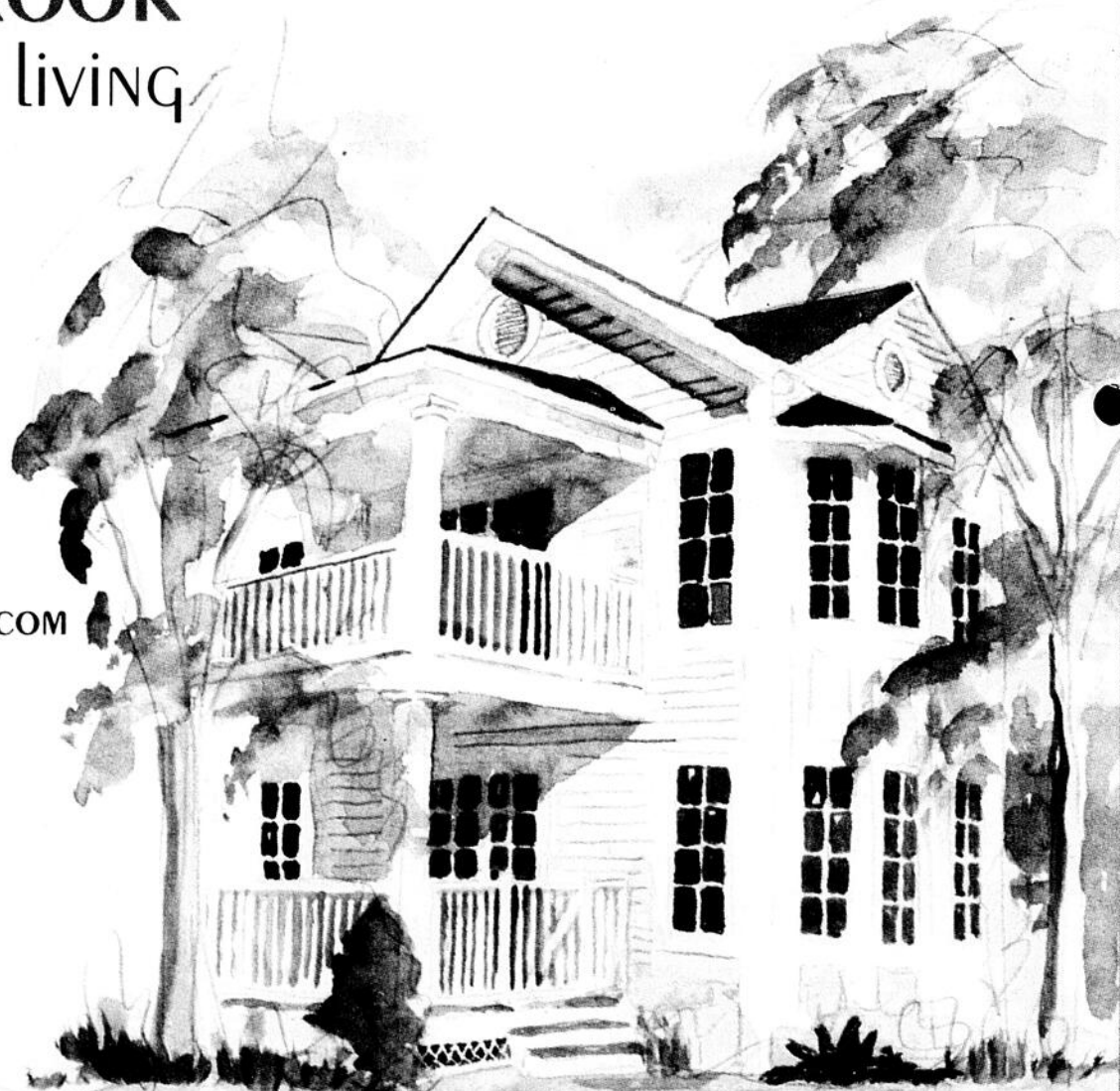
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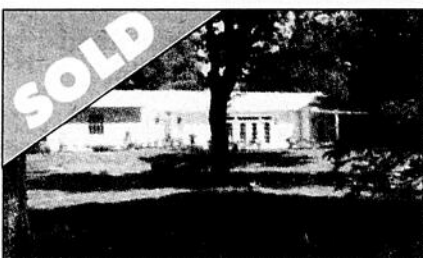
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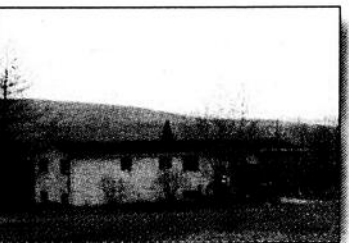
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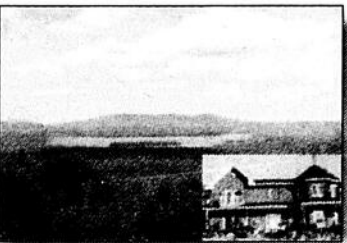
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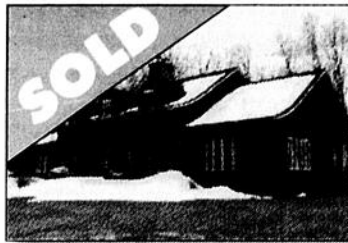
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Knowlton: Older, gracious village home, large rooms, beautiful gardens.

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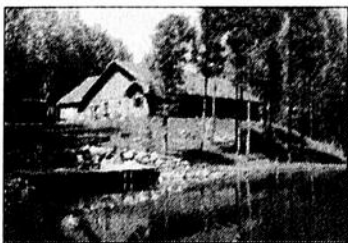
Knowlton: Cottage, far back from the road on 1/2 acre well landscaped lot. Lots of living space.

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Views: Country cottage on a 5 acre lot, quiet road. Large garage with guest apartment. \$235,000

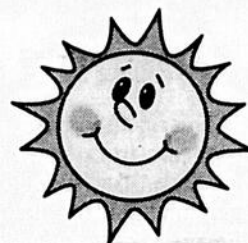
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Secret Gardens and Exceptional Homes: The Knowlton House and Garden Tour Returns

The now-famous annual Knowlton House and Garden Tour is fast approaching and those in the know already have their tickets. Organizers, however, assure the public that tickets are available for those who love gardening and home decoration.

This fascinating look at some exceptional homes will take place on Wednesday, July 7, 2004 from 10 am to 4 pm. The self-guided tour includes six properties, all very special and unique. From a large architect-designed contemporary structure that can house three generations at one time and boasts gardens second to none overlooking the mountains to a small gem of an English country cottage in the village that shows off the owner's Regency antiques to perfection, the homes on the 2004 tour offer a wealth of interior and exterior decorating ideas as

well as tips on garden architecture and planting.

Again this year, ticket holders have the choice of a gourmet picnic lunch or a coupon valued at \$10.00 that is redeemable for lunch or dinner in participating restaurants. The Tour is sponsored by Theatre Lac Brome and is one of its most important fundraisers.

Tickets are \$50.00 and may be bought at Theatre Lac Brome / Arts Knowlton, 9 Mont-Echo Road in Knowlton, by calling (450) 242-1395 or in Montreal at

Rowntree Antiques, 780 Atwater Street. Credit card customers may purchase their tickets at the Theatre or by calling (450) 242-1395 or visit the Theatre's web site at www.theatrelacbrome.ca

Knowlton is a one-hour drive from Montreal by taking the Champlain Bridge, direction Eastern Townships autoroute 10

to Exit 90 (lac Brome). Theatre Lac Brome is located at 9 Mont-Echo Road, Knowlton.

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Sutton - Cette maison inclus 3,200 pi.ca., grand hall, salon, 2 foyers, coin piano, salle à diner, cuisine, salle familiale, 4 chambres à coucher, 3 salles de bain, 2 salles d'eau, laveuse/sècheuse, sous-sol, chauffage à l'huile et thermopompe (air climatisé), plafond 9 pieds, garage double, piscine et bain tourbillon orientation plein sud. Écurie. Résidence secondaire 1,050 pi.ca. 2 chambres à coucher, 2 salles de bain, mezzanine, salon, foyer, salle à diner et cuisine. Toutes avec 4 acres, étang et ruisseau. \$1,350,000.

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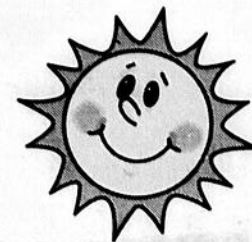
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Theatre Lac Brome 2004 offers a varied and ambitious season



Summer in Knowlton and English language theatre has long been synonymous, from Robertson Davies and Christopher Plummer performing at the Brae Manor Playhouse to Theatre Lac Brome and Now Arts Knowlton. Since 1986 a new initiative to revive English language theatre established Theatre Lac Brome and it has now been successfully promoting Canadian plays and playwrights for the past 19 seasons.

Two special fund raising events are planned: the popular Knowlton House and Garden Tour, where some of Knowlton's most interesting

homes and gardens are open to view, is on Wednesday, July 7 and the Mid-Summer Gala, considered one of the highlights of Knowlton's social season, will be on Saturday, July 31.

For a season brochure or further information call (450) 242-1395, visit the Theatre at Arts Knowlton, 9 Mont Echo Road, in beautiful downtown Knowlton, only one hour east from the Champlain Bridge, or visit the web site at: www.theatrelacbrome.ca

Box Office: (450) 242-2270.

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Theatre Lac Brome Repertory Season 2004:

Opening: July 2nd

Night Butterflies

("Les Papillons de Nuit")

By Michel Marc Bouchard,
Translated by Linda Gaboriau

July 9

July 16

August 2

August 26-28

September 3&4

Home and Beauty by W. Somerset Maugham

Mary's Wedding by Stephen Massicotte

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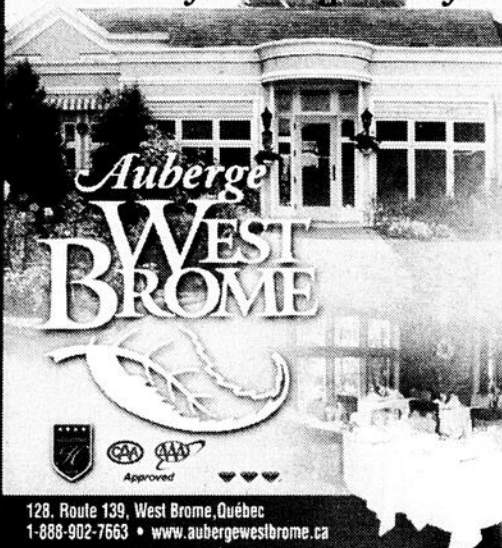
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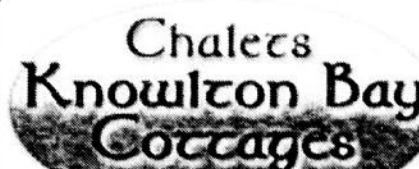
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While we were fighting...

While we were fighting to take back our city, many of the wonderful Westmount events that make Westmount the city we fought for came and went with little notice.

Now that we are victorious in the battle and the dust is settling, here is a sampling of some of the wonderful events that Westmount did continue on with, the events that make Westmount Westmount.

Community helping community
When radical senior activist and

Around Westmount

Marilynn Vanderstay



quilter Lanie Melamed passed away last summer, she left behind an unfinished quilt top. During the winter the Westmount Quilter's Guild completed the quilt and raffled it in the community—raising \$2,627 by selling 1,500 tickets. The Guild sent a cheque for \$2,000 to the Breast Cancer Association of Montreal. A cheque for \$500 and a book entitled 'Quilted Diamonds, Jane Austen, Jane Stickle & Friends' by Linda Franz, a

Canadian quilter, was given to Ann Moffat for the Westmount Public Library.

Seniors compete in tournament

Teams of 15 players from Place Kensington and Manoir Westmount competed in a friendly tournament of the hybrid shuffleboard-curling game this spring. Members of both teams have developed prowess in the sport that demands skills of coordination, strategy, and good humour. The tournament ended in a 1-1 tie, resulting with demands for a rematch in September.

A call for croquet players

"The hot game of the hot season is about to start rolling at the Westmount Croquet Club," says club president Beryl Parker. The public is invited to learn more about the game that combines the precision shots of billiards, the strategy of chess and the accurate putting of golf, with lots of laughs and fun at an open house every Wednesday afternoon. The club shares the greens at the Westmount Lawn Bowling Club. For more information phone 485-6454.

Community art centre

'Collective Visions', this year's annual fundraiser exhibition at the Visual Arts Centre raised over \$11,000 in May. Once again this year, executive director Victoria LeBlanc had the walls painted red and installed over 130 works by local artists including Anne McCall, Sara Gersovitz, Gabrielle Pilot, Gail Eakin, Barbara Asgary, Shelley Freeman, Anthony Hobbs, Hannah Franklin, Mary Martha Guy, Barbara Dickstein, Bruce Roberts, Anne Fish, Sandra Goldie, Caroline Hart, Joanne Hewson Rees, Susan Lazar Hart, Susan Alain, Laurie Campbell and artist/patron Virginia McClure.

Guests not only had the opportunity to purchase affordable art, but Westmount restaurateur Ron Moffat, owner of Java U, sponsored the catering of the hors d'oeuvres and wine that made the vernissage an exciting evening out.

CAA settles in Westmount

The Montreal branch of the Canadian Authors Association moved into the Westmount Room at the Westmount Public Library for their monthly meetings. Chair Harvey Grossman shared the history and mandate of the association that was initiated by Stephen Leacock in 1921 with a dozen authors, published and not, who attended the first Westmount meeting in June. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 6, at 7 p.m. Ianitt Yoo from Indigo books will be speaking on 'How to Market your Book'. For information call 481-2900.

(continued on page 15)

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WESTMOUNT WINGS BARBECUE CÔTE ST. LUC

Noah Sidel

The bottom of the last inning... two outs... bases loaded... up by a run... one out away from championship glory—a situation most baseball players would kill to be in.

Strike one, strike two, strike three.

With that, pitcher Daniel Kost-Stephenson clinched the 2004 Bantam inter-community baseball championship for the Westmount Wings after a season of ups and downs, and most importantly, tasty hot dogs.

The Wings, known as a fun group that had a good time both on and off the field, had a strange tradition for most of the 2004 season. They would have a barbecue running throughout the game, and the players and coaches would snack their way through each victory.

"It was well organized, everyone brought food and the kids knew that if they had a good inning they could come back and have a hot dog," said co-coach Ryan Crelinston.

But near the end of the season, after receiving complaints, Baseball Québec banned the infamous barbecue from the field, throwing the Wings for a loop.

"We persevered without the barbecue and that was quite a feat. The kids were pretty upset about losing the bar-

becue, but they overcame it and started bringing doughnuts and other food," Crelinston said. "But it still just wasn't the same."

Krispy Kremes in hand, Westmount went into the playoffs as one of the best teams, and went into the finals against the Côte St. Luc A's on a roll. With a lot of depth on the roster, co-coaches Crelinston and Rob Stroll were confident of a victory despite the losing the opening game of the best-of-three series.

"The kids wanted to win. We lost last year in the finals, and for a lot of kids this was their last year in the league. They didn't want to lose two years in a row, they talked about not wanting to lose again," Crelinston said. "They knew we had played well against Côte St. Luc during the season and that we could beat them."

After their 9-8 game one defeat, the Wings came out of game two with a 14-9 romp and were ready for a big game three. It went down to the wire, with Kost-Stephenson having to strike out CSL's last batter to clinch the title.

"The team got together and stepped up. We had good pitching, and I think we had a deeper team than them. It showed in a three game series, and in the long run I think that paid off," Stroll said.

The barbecue issue also played a special role for the Wings.

"The kids heard that Baseball Québec banned the barbecue because a lot of the other coaches had complained, so that was motivation," Stroll said. "But I think we just had a better team and we won."

The 2004 Bantam inter-community baseball champion Westmount Wings

are Aaron Besner, Jory Cohen, Philip Cutler, Joseph Hopmeyer, Emile Janda, Charles Madon, Malko Maino, Wesley Monaco, Jason Paperman, Daniel Kost-Stephenson, Daniel Stroll, Josh Vasquez, and Ian Wilson. They were coached by Ryan Crelinston and Rob Stroll.

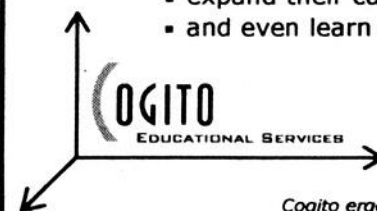
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(continued from
AROUND WESTMOUNT, page 12)

President changes hats

When Westmounter Dr. Birendra Prasada retired from his position as president of the Canadian Institute for Telecommunications Research and professor at McGill, he took on the position of honorary president for the Kabir Cultural Centre. On Wednesday, July 7, the centre will launch a film club with a showing of 'My Mother India', an award-winning documentary narrated and directed by Australian Safina Uberoi at the deSeve Cinema at Concordia University. Sushma Prasada, Birendra's wife, has also started a unique book club that gives members of both the South Asian and the community at large the opportunity to discuss and share thoughts monthly about a variety of books written by South Asian authors. For information about the Centre or its events call 931-0942.

Thirty years in Westmount

Congratulations to Gerard and Gail Fellerath, who celebrated the 30th anniversary of Folklore I on Sherbrooke Street with a festival on Saturday, June 19. The couple, who met in Chicago at a meeting of past Peace Corps workers, decided to open the store while on a trip in Mexico in the early 1970s. "We fell in love with the Mexican folklore, pottery and baskets and realized that if we opened a retail shop we could be surrounded by what we love and have the opportunity to travel, too." Today the store sells artisan products from South and Central America, Mexico and India.

Congratulations also to Maria Pietracupa and Paula Pedicelli on the 30th anniversary of their business Décor Marie Paule. The sisters, who had good business savvy, combined with a sense of decorating, opened the Sherbrooke Street bed and bath retail shop in August 1974. When clients started asking for custom-made items, the sisters hired a professional decorator and a team of professional seamstresses. The store soon became a destination center for home décor for clients from all over Quebec who were eager to order trend setting quality linens. Today Pietracupa and Pedicelli continue to travel regularly to the United States and Europe seeking out the finest in bedding and bathroom linens and accent pieces.

• Items for Around Westmount may be sent via e-mail to regards-mari-lynn@sympatico.ca.

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THE GREATEST NOVEL OF THE 20TH CENTURY

Mixed Media



Wayne Larsen

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There may still be a few aching heads around the world as the Irish, non-Irish and literary hangers-on continue to recover from this year's Bloomsday—an unofficial bash that does not appear on conventional calendars but over the years has approached St. Patrick's Day as the biggest celebration of Ireland in general and Irish literature in particular.

But unlike St. Patrick's Day, which is the straightforward celebration of the man said to have driven the snakes from Ireland, a good many of the hundreds of thousands who raised a glass or two this month have only the slightest idea of what they were actually drinking to.

For the uninitiated, Bloomsday is June 16—the day on which is set what is most widely considered the greatest novel of the 20th century. James Joyce's 'Ulysses,' that complex literary labyrinth whose very name strikes terror in students and has driven even the most dedicated English professors to dive for cover, chronicles a day in the life of an average Dubliner as he goes about his business on June 16, 1904. A simple premise, of course, but in Joyce's hands it is transformed into a literary epic that has never ceased to amaze scholars for its ambition and scope—so much so that it is actually honoured with a global day of celebration to mark the fictional occasion. No other novel can boast of that.

So in June it was 100 years since Leopold Bloom, a salesman of advertising space, crossed paths with

Stephen Dedalus, Joyce's recycled hero of the autobiographical 'A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man'.

But why June 16? Anyone who has studied Joyce will tell you that everything in his body of work was set down deliberately, with definite purpose, so the choice of June 16, 1904 must have some great hidden significance. Scholars pondered this puzzle for years, until it finally came out that when Joyce began writing 'Ulysses' a decade later, he set it on that day for a much simpler and more personal reason than anyone expected: it was the day on which he and his future wife had their first, shall we say, date.

Those who have never read 'Ulysses' will be pleased to know that it retains the dubious distinction of being famous for not being read. Many have attempted it but were quickly discouraged by the multiple levels of meaning, abrupt changes in narrative style, obscure symbolism and that unconventional Joycean wordplay which would only become fully realized in his final work, the notoriously impenetrable 'Finnegans Wake'.

But you don't have to have read 'Ulysses' all the way through in order to fully appreciate what Joyce was able to achieve—a modern-day Odyssey set in all the familiar streets, pubs and homes of his inescapable Dublin. Each chapter corresponds to an episode in Homer's original, each employing a different narrative method, tone and style. It was the ultimate literary undertaking up to that time, the ultimate portrayal of a city.

The story behind 'Ulysses' is more of an epic than the plot itself. Its author was a fiercely passionate Irishman living in self-imposed exile in Europe, struggling to support a family amidst crippling poverty, nasty domestic quarrels and literary rejection (his first book, 'Dubliners' had taken years to find a publisher

and was burned at least once along the way). Worst of all, rapidly decreasing eyesight forced Joyce to abandon the project for long periods.

When it was first published in Paris in 1922, it was an immediate success—but breaking into the American market proved to be much more difficult. Authorities impounded the book on the grounds that it was obscene (all anyone had to do was glance at the very last page, which contains the climactic end of Molly Bloom's breathless, punctuation-free monologue), which of course drove up the demand and made Joyce notorious on two continents.

How big is Bloomsday? A simple Google search with that one word comes back with more than 50,000 web sites. The City of Dublin, among many other official bodies, had been planning special festivities for this year's centennial, and there were hundreds of smaller celebrations around the world—many of which are still going on.

Dead for more than 60 years, James Joyce has long since passed from public attention. His books remain in print, but it is highly unlikely that you will ever spot someone reading 'Ulysses' or 'Finnegans Wake' on the bus at rush hour. He is now known almost exclusively among the ever-diminishing ranks of English students and their professors—which makes the annual celebration of Bloomsday all the more curious.

In a flashy, high-tech culture that venerates movie stars above actors and pop icons above musicians, it is heartening to know that a serious work of literature—the extraordinary product of one man's effort and talent—is not only remembered after more than 80 years but celebrated on a grand scale, mostly by people who would never have otherwise heard of the author or his work.

Words and Music event promotes Westmount Public Library

Noah Sidel

The Friends of the Westmount Library got together on June 17 for a night of song and poetry at their annual Words and Music event held in the Gallery at Victoria Hall.

With five diverse acts, friends of the Friends got to take in an entertaining show while learning a bit about the organization that brought them there.

"We have young artists and singers perform and it's become quite a nice annual event," said co-organizer Joan Albu. "I've been around since the beginning, and it's a nice way of making the community aware of us and the library. There's no admission, and it's not a fundraiser. It's an event to let people know about Friends of the Library."

Performer Catherine Kidd has been involved since the first Words and Music night four years ago.

"I move around and tell stories and have fun with funky wigs and stuff," she said. "I'm touring a show this summer, but I made a point of being here at this event because I like it so much."

With a summer tour stopping in Whitehorse, Yukon and Edinburgh, Scotland, Kidd felt the night at Westmount Library was a good way to get her busy season started. "I just love this show. I've been doing it every year and I find that having the sense of continuity this gives helps bring peace. To have this every year brings some stability."

In addition to performances by storyteller Mike Burns, musician Bryan Highbloom and the Orpheus Singers, Chantal Montreuil read Jean Cocteau poems to the audience as part of the show.

"I've been a member of the Friends for a while, but this is my first time participating. I think it's very nice and it might help us to bring more people to the library, and

at the same time promote both French and English poetry and music," Montreuil said.

"This is a pleasant event that helps bring awareness and attract people to the library," said Friends of the Library president Miriam Tees. "What it does is give support to the library. We've been able to help out by giving them money from our book sales, and last year alone we were able to give \$10,000 to the library for books and videos. We've got about 100 members and the library's got more than 13,000, so we're doing well with it. The library is important for people to be able to read, be informed, and have a quiet place to think. It's also very important to have a vibrant library in the community to keep the history of Westmount alive."



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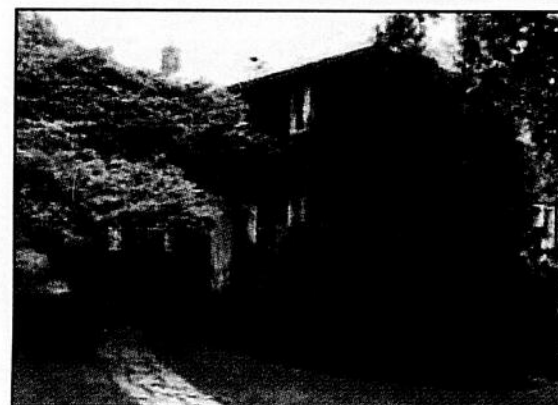
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