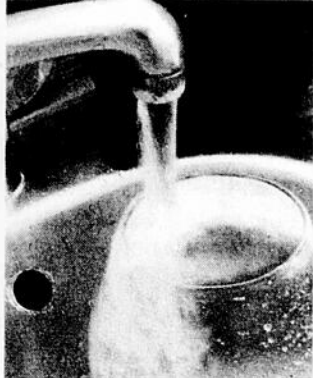


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LOCAL NEWS

Looking at lead content

Westmount and Montreal keep an eye on our drinking water.
Page 3



ARTS & BOOKS

Prescription for success

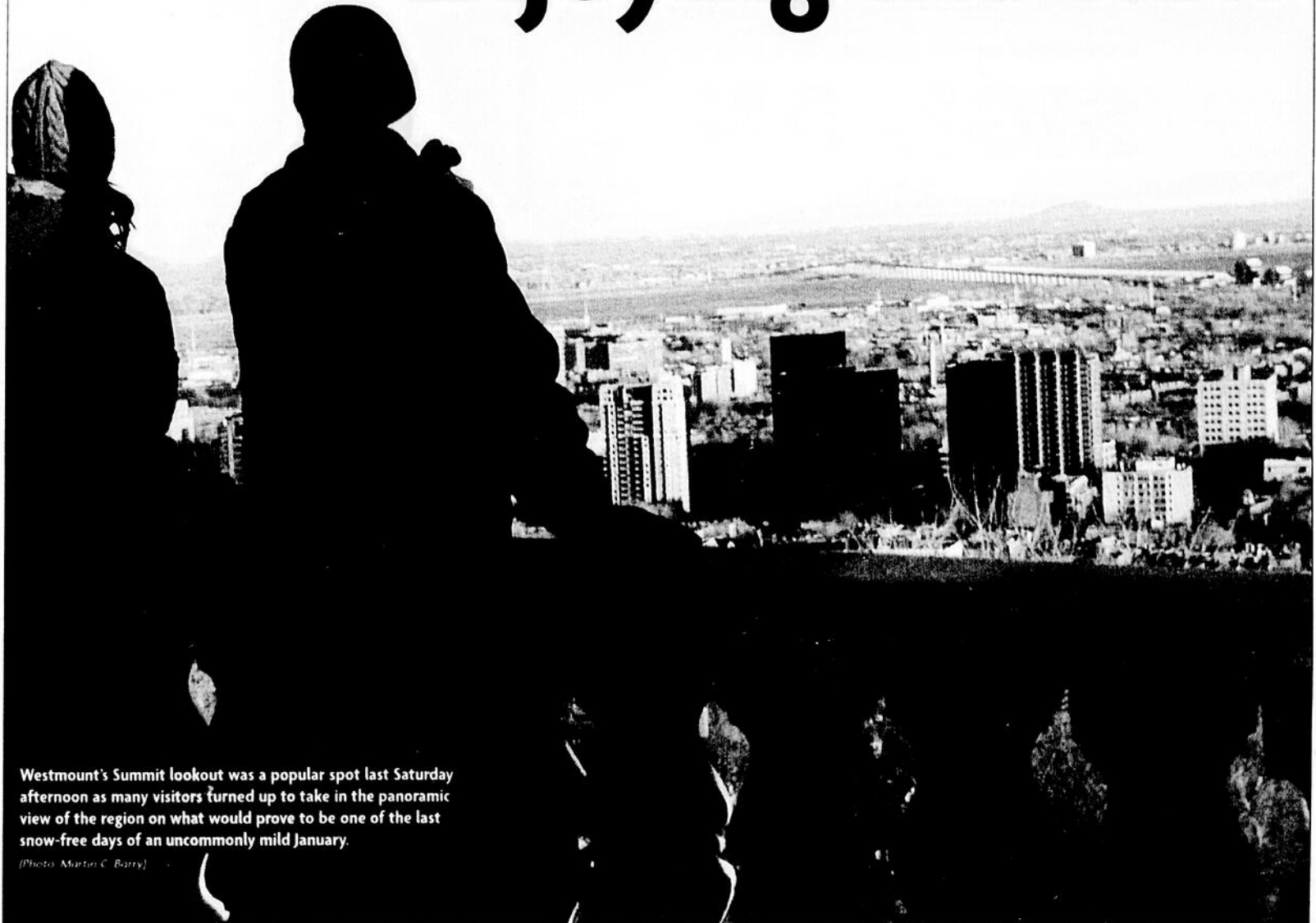
Westmount satire raises \$50,000 for local troupe.
Page 14

More stories on the web...

- Time for a tropical vacation...
- Know Your Wrights...
- Meet the 'Demergerettes'...

www.westmountexaminer.com

Enjoying the view



Westmount's Summit lookout was a popular spot last Saturday afternoon as many visitors turned up to take in the panoramic view of the region on what would prove to be one of the last snow-free days of an uncommonly mild January.

(Photo: Martin C. Barry)

Dumont reaffirms anti-Agglom stand

> Martin C. Barry

While the provincial Action Démocratique party is renewing a promise to abolish Montreal's Agglomeration Council if elected, Westmount Liberal MNA Jacques Chagnon says the Charest government has no plans to change the island council's structure before Quebecers head to the polls in the spring.

The mayors of the island's 15 reconstituted cities are marking the beginning of their second year of demerger with a renewed protest that the City of Montreal is still abusing its control of the Agglomeration Council.

They are also suggesting that the Liberals could face a hard time on election day in Montreal's suburbs, because of a failure to deal with the continuing Agglomeration problem.

With a majority of the population on the island, the City of Montreal dominates voting on the governing body set up by the province, and effectively controls budget allocations and other crucial matters.

Seizing on the discontent, ADQ leader Mario Dumont told a gathering of Rotarians in Westmount last June that the ADQ, which holds only a few seats in Quebec's National Assembly, would abolish the Agglomeration Council and replace it with a structure resembling the former Montreal Urban Community (MUC).

Repeating those pledges last week, Dumont said he was counting on the support of suburban voters in the next election.



ADQ leader Mario Dumont

Continued on page 5

décor marie-paule

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PSOs kept busy over holidays

Police and Westmount Public Security have had their hands full with everything from graffiti to impaired driving over the last few weeks, but have had some success in keeping the streets safe so far this year. Starting with the last big catch of 2006,



On the Scene

Noah SIDEL

"One was just after 3 a.m., and the other was just after 4 a.m. Both complied with orders to lower their music and tone down the noise. One was on Kensington near Ste. Catherine, one was on Greene between Sherbrooke and de Maisonneuve."

One out of 10 ain't bad

Other than a total lack of snow, ice and cold heading already into mid-January, our strange weather has led to another interesting phenomenon: winter graffiti.

"There have been 10 incidents of graffiti since Christmas Day, with the latest on Jan. 6. We attribute it to the warm weather, because usually it tones down in the winter. I'd say we're right on par with the summer right now," Everatt said.

"We did manage to catch one suspect in the act near 995 Glen on Dec. 30, which is the Westmount Hydro station just near the Home Depot down there.

"One of our patrollers noticed three individuals near some graffiti on a fence around midnight and engaged the youths in conversation. They denied any involvement and two of them took off running. The third one started to walk away and was informed he was under arrest. The police came on the scene and restrained and handcuffed him," Everatt said.

"As we caught up with the three individuals, we immediately called police for backup. The one that was caught was found with the actual can of spray paint that is suspected to have been used.

"He was given a \$620 ticket as he was 19 years old. Sometimes we catch one out of 10, but it's such a hard thing to stop."

local officials have been vigilant.

Partying a little too hard, a little too early...

"We noticed a car stopped at the light on the northwest corner of Atwater and St. Antoine around 5 a.m. on Dec. 31," said Westmount Public Security Captain John Everatt.

"The light changed and the car didn't move. Our officer pulled up behind him and beeped and the car still didn't move, so (the officer) looked in the window and the man was slumped over the steering wheel.

"He flagged down a police officer who knocked on the window and the car started to drive away," Everatt said of the drunk driver who was apparently partying down a night earlier than everyone else.

"He started to move the car and stopped a short distance away before getting out of the vehicle. He was then given a breathalyzer and was taken away by police."

Partying a little too hard, a little too late...

The following evening, as parties raged all over the city, Westmount had just two noise disturbances and no other incidents on record.

"We had to shut down a couple of New Year's parties, but that was about it," said Everatt.

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Local News

Victoria Hall cruises south for winter carnival

> Virginia Elliott

A few years ago, Westmount's Community Events advisory committee thought people might like an escape from winter, so the members came up with the idea of transforming Victoria Hall into an imaginary cruise ship during the city's winter carnival.

Residents cross a gangplank to enter the concert hall, which becomes the ship Westmount of the Seas, complete with tropical décor and menu where everyone can dance and party the winter blues away in the atmosphere of a tropical cruise.

This year, residents of all ages are invited to board Westmount of the Seas for a New Orleans bayou cruise on Friday, Feb. 2 from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Kloda Focus Group will be entertaining guests with animators, lively music and lots of fun activities including a Mardi Gras parade. The menu will include such southern specialties as 'possum puffs (pogos), gator bits (crudités) greens and grits (veggie lasagna) and bayou beverages (juice and soft drinks).

There will also be a cash bar (beer and wine) for the grownups. Tickets are \$10 (\$5 for children 12 and under) and will be on sale during normal business hours at the Arena and Victoria Hall as of tomorrow, Jan. 19. So don your masks, costumes and beads and come out for an evening on the bayou. Spaces are limited, so be sure to get your tickets early.

Not up for a cruise? Last year's successful pub night at Victoria Hall will be back for those 18 years and older who prefer to sit and enjoy some adult company and live music. The Lodge Room continues the New Orleans theme and becomes Bourbon Hall on the Bayou. MC Shawn Rourke will greet patrons, while Tom Stowe and Ross Brown—members of the group Northbrooke Nine—will be on guitar and bass providing some lively tunes. The cover charge is \$5 with a cash bar (beer, wine and a southern surprise). Tickets are available at the Arena and Victoria Hall as of tomorrow.

This year's winter carnival will be held from Thursday, Feb. 1 to Saturday, Feb. 3. Outdoor activities include tobogganing in King George Park, a taffy pull and old-fashioned sleigh rides in Westmount Park, as well as games at the Arena. An informative pamphlet will be distributed to all Westmount residents' homes with the schedule of events.

Full details are also available online at www.westmount.org.

• Virginia Elliott is the City of Westmount's assistant community events coordinator.

City looks into lead levels in drinking water

> Martin C. Barry

Officials with the City of Westmount will be discussing the implications of a report from the City of Montreal that is expected to raise awareness of the lead content of tap water in some of the island's households.

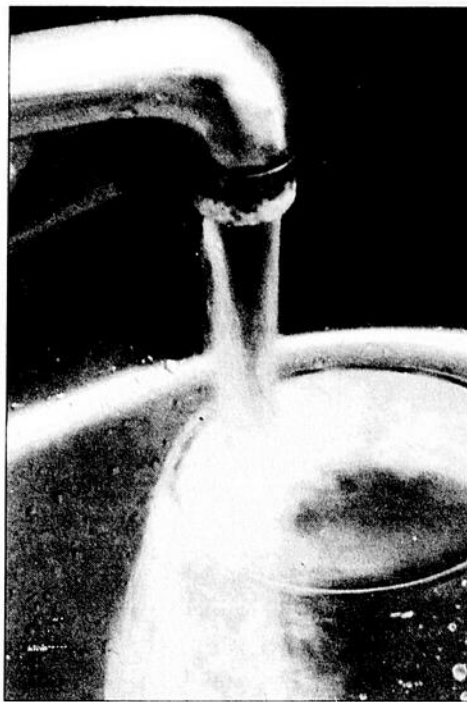
According to minutes of a meeting of City Council's Safety, Utilities and Environment Committee last fall, the City of Montreal requested that Westmount obtain four volunteer households with water service constructed with portions of lead piping to partake in a six-month survey.

The survey involved obtaining samples of drinking water on a weekly basis. "We're having meetings on that over the next two weeks because, from what I gather, this is an issue that all cities on the island will have to be addressing over the course of this year," Director General Bruce St. Louis told the *Examiner*.

"We're in the fact-finding process," he said. "This is certainly not a new issue by any means. It's common knowledge that, especially in the war-time houses, many of the service entries have a certain lead content."

"However, the literature shows that this has not been a health problem in the past and we want to approach this with science and not hearsay ... Right now I have no new information. But I think it's an issue that will be coming forward in the very near future."

St. Louis said the City is in the process of examining provincial legislation and ministe-



rial norms that could provide guidance.

"All the demerged cities in Montreal are working collectively on this issue," he said, adding that Westmount is "catching up" because the City only recently became involved in managing its own water supply.

According to a list of frequently asked questions about the use of lead in wartime and post-war housing posted on the Montreal Public Health Department's web site, drinking water produced for consumption across the island contains practically no

lead and conforms with provincial regulations.

"Rather, lead can dissolve into tap water when water flows through lead service connections that link some homes to municipal water mains or if there is lead solder in the pipe joints in indoor plumbing," the agency states. In these cases, hot water and water from taps that have not been turned on for hours tend to contain higher concentrations of lead.

Although lead solder in indoor home plumbing can cause lead to dissolve in tap water, the agency maintains that, in more recently-built homes, this does not result in lead levels that exceed a provincial standard of 0.01 milligrams per litre after the water has been left running for at least five minutes.

Recently, however, lead concentrations measured in tap water in post-war or wartime housing built between 1940 and 1950 and linked to the municipal water main through lead service connections, have been found to exceed the new 0.01 standard, while staying within the old 0.05 standard.

Although the Montreal Public Health Department considers the risk to be low and limited to the fetuses of pregnant women and children under six years of age, the agency said it felt compelled to ensure that citizens affected by this situation be informed and in some cases "adopt certain preventive measures that can reduce their exposure to lead to a minimum."

Curbing garbage infractions

> Martin C. Barry

Westmount's Public Works department has hired a part-time garbage inspector to provide a level of bylaw enforcement consistent with the City's garbage disposal regulations.

In a report recently submitted to City Council's Safety, Utilities and Environment standing committee, Director General Bruce St. Louis said the problem with providing a consistent level of garbage inspection arose from the fact that three City departments are involved, but their coordination and follow-up of inspections needed improvements.

He therefore recommended that a part-time inspector be hired to focus on both the residential and commercial sectors. The inspector's job involves observation, giving out written notices and providing an analysis of the situation in preparation for a revised City garbage policy in 2007.

According to Mayor Karin Marks, there were a number of different locations where the City had problems with garbage disposal prior to hiring the inspector.

"It's a matter of being out in the streets and going around particularly to the areas where there are problems," she said, adding that large apartment or commercial buildings next to residential areas have been especially troublesome.

Marks said that sometimes in order to prepare for garbage pickup by the City, the owners or administrators of such buildings have been putting their garbage out a day early. "And that's a problem, because if you've got animals who get into it, it can create a real mess," she said.

"So it's a matter of going around and making sure that garbage is put out when it's supposed to be put out. But those people who should be having their own garbage pickup—which is the case for some of the commercial places—have proper bins that are closed outside. It's all of that."

Marks said the new garbage inspector will be able to hand out tickets. For a number of years now, employees of Westmount Public Works and other departments have been

empowered, like Public Security Officers, to issue infraction notices to persons observed violating the City's bylaws.

Over the past year, at least one resident has approached City Council to complain that the cleanliness of Westmount's streets was threatened because of inadequate enforcement of the rules for placing garbage on the curbside to be picked up.

Last July, Dorothy Lipovenko said an increasing number of people in Westmount were putting their garbage out the night before pickup, or even earlier, instead of in the morning as stipulated in the garbage bylaw. She also said that the responsibility for reporting bylaw violators should not be with residents.

"In the same way that you would not expect citizens of Westmount to patrol streets looking for cars that are illegally parked, I don't think the expectation should be that citizens should be calling this in," said Lipovenko. "Because if it was that way, we'd be on the phone constantly."



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Westmount vous informe...

Westmount Page



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RESSOURCES HUMAINES

Emplois d'été pour les étudiants

Les formulaires de demande d'emploi pour l'été 2007 sont maintenant disponibles à la réception de l'hôtel de ville de Westmount. Les formulaires, ainsi que des détails complets, sont aussi disponibles au www.westmount.org. Veuillez noter que la date limite pour soumettre sa candidature est le mercredi 31 janvier 2007. Info : 514 989-5210. ♣



ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

La galerie du Victoria Hall

La galerie du Victoria Hall est fière de présenter les œuvres du peintre Fred Andrews. L'exposition intitulée *Rumination* se poursuit jusqu'au 10 février. Info : 514 989-5226. ♣



BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Soirée de jeux

Vous aimez jouer à des jeux de société ? Joignez-vous à d'autres passionnés le vendredi 19 janvier à 19 h dans la salle Westmount pour une soirée de *Monopoly*, *Sorry* et *Scrabble*. Info : 514 989-5386.

Conférences de 14 heures

Joignez-vous à Pamela Grimaud, historienne de mode, le mercredi 24 janvier à 14 h pour une fascinante présentation visuelle sur la vie de Coco Chanel, la fabuleuse dessinatrice de mode qui révolutionna le monde de la haute couture parisienne pendant presque six décennies. Vous devez préalablement vous inscrire au comptoir de prêts. Info : 514 989-5386.

Les vendredis du cinéma

Familia réalisé par Louise Archambault

La prochaine rencontre aura lieu le vendredi 26 janvier à 19 h et mettra en vedette *Familia* réalisé par Louise Archambault. Ce film examine avec réalité et rigueur les relations mère-fille à travers les générations et nous fait réfléchir sur la possibilité de ne pas reproduire les comportements malsains, innés ou acquis de nos parents avec nos propres enfants. Âges: 13 et plus. Info : 514 989-5386. ♣



TRAVAUX PUBLICS

Arbres de Noël

Participez à la cueillette des arbres de Noël en plaçant votre arbre sur votre terrain à l'arrière du trottoir les jours de semaine. Assurez-vous de dépouiller l'arbre de TOUTE décoration, emballage ou sac de

DATES À RETENIR

Du 18 janvier au 10 février

La galerie du Victoria Hall
Fred Andrews
La galerie

Le 19 janvier - 19 h

Soirée de jeux
Bibliothèque

Le 22 janvier - 20 h

Séance du Conseil
Hôtel de ville

Le 24 janvier - 14 h

Conférence de 14 heures
Présentation visuelle sur Coco Chanel
Bibliothèque

Le 25 janvier - 19 h 15

Guilde de Westmount Quilters
Victoria Hall

Le 26 janvier - 19 h

Les vendredis du cinéma
Familia
Bibliothèque

plastique. Nous vous prions également de faire preuve de patience en raison du déneigement et des autres tâches pouvant retarder la cueillette. Info : 514 989-5311.

Déchets électroniques

Recyclez-les dès maintenant ! L'élimination responsable et sécuritaire est actuellement en place à Westmount. Un dépôt permanent, situé aux ateliers municipaux de la rue Bethune, est maintenant ouvert de 7 h à 21 h, sept jours par semaine. Info : 514 989-5390. ♣



SPORTS ET LOISIRS

Carnaval d'hiver de Westmount

Venez participer aux différentes activités offertes dans le cadre du Carnaval d'hiver de Westmount qui auront lieu les 1, 2 et 3 février. Vous trouverez un horaire détaillé des activités dans votre courrier et sur notre site Web. Info : 514 989-5353.

Carte d'accès - installations sportives

Les résidents de Westmount peuvent se procurer ou renouveler leur carte d'accès en se présentant au bureau du Service des sports et loisirs de l'Aréna de Westmount. Vous devez présenter deux preuves de résidence ainsi qu'une carte d'identité personnelle et une photo grandeur passeport pour tous les membres de la famille. Frais : individuel - 25 \$, familial - 50 \$. Info : 514 989-5353. ♣



HUMAN RESOURCES

Summer Employment for Students

The 2007 Summer Employment application forms are now available at the reception desk of City Hall. The application form and complete details are also available at www.westmount.org. Please note that the deadline to submit your application is Wednesday, January 31, 2007. Info: 514 989-5210. ♣



COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Gallery at Victoria Hall

The Gallery at Victoria Hall is pleased to present the paintings of Fred Andrews. His exhibition titled *Rumination* will run until February 10. Info: 514 989-5226. ♣



LIBRARY

Games Night

Do you like to play games? Join other board game enthusiasts in the Westmount Room for an evening of *Monopoly*, *Sorry* and *Scrabble* on Friday, January 19 at 7 p.m. Info: 514 989-5386.

2 O'clock Series

Gabrielle Coco Chanel: Fashion's First Modernist

Join Montreal fashion historian Pamela Grimaud on Wednesday, January 24 at 2 p.m. for this scintillating visual presentation on Coco Chanel, the fabulous French dress designer who ruled over Parisian haute couture for almost six decades. Please register for this event at the circulation desk. Info: 514 989-5386.

Film Fridays

Familia directed by Louise Archambault

The next Film Fridays will be shown on Friday, January 26 at 7 p.m. This month's selection, *Familia*, is a refreshing and insightful look at the relationships of two sets of three generations of women that contemplates the question of whether or not women are genetically bound to be like their mothers. (Age: 13+) Info: 514 989-5386. ♣



PUBLIC WORKS

Christmas Trees

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

DATEBOOK

January 18 to February 10

The Gallery at Victoria Hall
Fred Andrews
The Gallery

January 19 - 7 p.m.

Games Night
Library

January 22 - 8 p.m.

Council Meeting
City Hall

January 24 - 2 p.m.

2 O'clock Series
Visual presentation on Coco Chanel
Library

January 25 - 7:15 p.m.

The Westmount Quilters Guild
Victoria Hall

January 26 - 7 p.m.

Film Fridays
Familia
Library

up, especially during snow removal. Info: 514 989-5311

Electronic Waste

Recycle your e-waste now! Safe and responsible disposal is available today in Westmount. A permanent depot is now open at the Public Works Yard on Bethune Street from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., seven days a week. Info: 514 989-5390. ♣



SPORTS & RECREATION

Winter Carnival

Come and celebrate with us at this year's Winter Carnival on February 1, 2 and 3. Watch your mailbox or consult www.westmount.org for complete details. Info: 514 989-5353.

Facility Membership Card

Westmount residents can get or renew their Facility Membership Card at the Sports and Recreation office at the Westmount Arena during normal business hours. Two proofs of residency are required, along with personal identification and passport-sized photograph for each family member. Fee: individual - \$25, family - \$50. Info: 514 989-5353. ♣



Fred Andrews

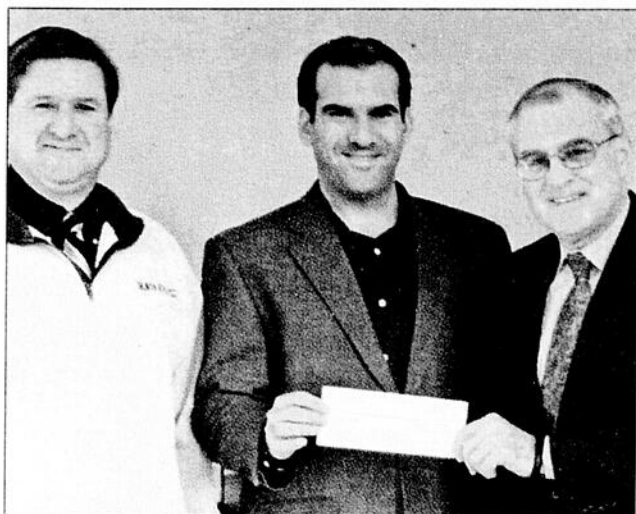
Terry Fox foundation receives \$33k from Selwyn community

On Dec. 12, Selwyn House School presented a cheque for \$33,149 to the Terry Fox Foundation, proceeds from the school's 20th Terry Fox Run, which was held Oct. 6, with over 600 Selwyn House students, teachers and parents taking part.

Peter Sheremeta, director of the Terry Fox Foundation for Quebec, says that upwards of \$1.4 million was raised for the Foundation in Quebec this year. That total is down somewhat from the proceeds of last year's, Sheremeta says, but is still "a lot more than two years ago."

Last year's Terry Fox Run saw more participation than most years, because it marked the 25th anniversary of Fox's original Marathon of Hope in 1980.

Selwyn House has donated almost \$400,000 to the Foundation in the 20 years that Selwyn House Athletic Director Steve



Left to right: Selwyn House athletic director Steve Mitchell, Terry Fox Foundation director Peter Sheremeta and Selwyn House headmaster Will Mitchell.

Mitchell has been organizing the Terry Fox Run at the school. Out of approximately 400 schools taking part each year in Quebec, Selwyn House is roughly tied for first place in donations raised, Sheremeta said. "Selwyn House is easily in the top 20 schools in Canada," he added.

Headmaster Will Mitchell credits the "groundswell of inspiration" from Terry Fox's original Marathon of Hope as the incentive for the participation we still see today. But each school seems to have one person who champions the cause from year to year, he said, and "Steve is the

champion here."

"When I was studying at McGill, my mother died of cancer at the age of 47," Steve Mitchell said. "I was tremendously inspired by her determination, dedication and her 'If you start, finish it' attitude.

"Then, in 1986, I had the opportunity to meet the mother of Terry Fox. I was struck by Mrs. Fox's commitment to carry on her son's goal of finding a cure, and I volunteered to help in Greenfield Park. In 1987, we established the Terry Fox Run at Selwyn House School, a run in which we raised \$488 the first year by charging each student a dollar. As the years went by, it was clear that the Terry Fox Run was a very popular and fun event at the school. This is the only event in which all three of our schools (elementary, middle and senior) participate together."

Continued from page 1

Commenting on the new developments, Westmount mayor Karin Marks said this week, "We've always said that we're going to make sure that this is an election issue ... I think it's wonderful that Mr. Dumont is making this part of his platform and is going to certainly raise it as an electoral issue, and I suspect that the PQ will also have it as an electoral issue.

"The Liberals made a fairly vast promise in the last election," Marks added. "They kept half their promise and they seem to feel that that's enough. We don't feel it's enough and we don't feel it's healthy for the whole

island of Montreal because they've created a structure that creates lots of conflict."

When asked whether the Liberals plan to eventually respond to the demerged cities' complaints by changing the Agglomeration, Chagnon told the *Examiner*, "Before the next election I don't believe so, because that will require some legislative amendments and I don't believe we will have anything else in the budget before the election."

Saying he expects an election in the spring, he acknowledged, however, that the Agglomeration is "dysfunctional" as currently structured. "That kind of Agglomeration doesn't work. We have to

find something else."

Asked whether the prospect of Liberal support declining in Westmount-St. Louis concerned him, Chagnon said, "Democracy is the way to permit the people to say what they want to say."

In Côte St. Luc, where anti-Agglomeration feelings also run high, Mayor Anthony Housefather said he and city council will soon be considering whether to take an active role in the upcoming election.

"It's getting close to an election, and if the election comes soon and (the Liberals) haven't done anything, I think that there's

potential ramifications," he said. "The ADQ's promise—if they're going to keep that promise—it's certainly a very good promise and something that I strongly agree with.

"I'm hoping that before my council and I have to make this decision—which will be a difficult one in the event we choose to get ourselves involved—that the Liberal caucus, the premier and the minister of municipal affairs will recognize that they created an unjust system ... and that they come up with something different to offer us and implement it before they call an election."

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The Westmount Examiner Thursday, January 18, 2007

Opinion

Seeing red over green issues



Commentary

Wayne
LARSEN
larsenw@transcontinental.ca

Any recent visitor to Westmount would probably come away with the impression that this is a community where environmental concerns are of great interest. They would be right, of course, but this has been especially true over the past few months, where two major controversies have erupted over the use—or misuse—of local park land.

The recent pillaging of Sunnyside Park beneath the Summit lookout struck a raw nerve with many Westmounters, especially those who live in the area and saw first-hand how the City's well-intentioned plan to refurbish the park ended with what was perceived as a "chainsaw massacre" by shocked residents. While City officials calmly defended the operation, pointing out that it was not only for the greater good but that everyone had been well informed of the City's intentions long before the first truck arrived at the site, environmentally conscious residents could not help but express their outrage over the sudden loss of more than 100 trees.

Meanwhile, further down the hill, the battle over Westmount Park continues—with no end in sight. Last fall, the City's proposal to install artificial turf on the playing fields was met with an outcry of protest from local residents that has since grown into a grassroots (ouch!) movement to keep the park's natural state intact.

By far the most vocal and visible is the campaign orchestrated by the highly organized group that calls itself Save the Park / Sauvons le Parc. They have shown remarkable dedication to the cause and have made it clear that they will not back down. Even those who could not care less one way or another if the playing fields are covered with artificial turf—no doubt the vast majority of Westmount residents—must admit that the tenacity displayed by members of Save the Park is an excellent example of community activism at its best. Their current initiative, an online petition to amass support for their cause, may be a noble idea—but we must remember that the power of the petition is definitely on the decline.

Mayor Marks and the City administration have come under considerable pressure from residents on these two loosely related issues, and all eyes will be fixed on this Monday's council meeting for what many expect to be the next round.



I've got the blues



MNA

Jacques
CHAGNON

No, don't worry, all is well. And how are things with you?

It's still early enough in January for me to wish you a Happy New Year. And it's not that the holidays were not enjoyable. They were somewhat quiet, but isn't that what we all want?

No, things are going well and I should tell you I even have some good news to share: my daughter Sophie announced at Christmas that she is getting married. So my depression doesn't stem from anything personal.

What's getting me down is the world in general. Whereas we should be working on all sorts of things, being enthusiastic about it all and looking towards bettering our world, this morning I'm feeling somewhat down in the dumps.

I can appreciate the words of Willy Brandt, who, in 1967, upon seeing his two sons in the streets protesting against his government, stated that we might be born on the left, but we die on the right. I understand this, and I find it quite normal that the majority of 18- to 24-year-olds are so much in favour of 'social democracy'. But it's depressing to read the results of a CROP poll that were just made public. Perhaps I'm the one who is coming unhitched. Let's look at this together. In spite of vast amount of evidence pointing towards the imminent arrival of a demographic shock in Quebec, the effects of which will be heightened by the aging population and by our level of collective debt, our fellow citizens do not see things in the same way.

They feel that Quebec must be as generous as possible in its social programs. While 36 per cent of those polled said that Quebec is already too generous, a large majority of 57 per cent are of the opposite opinion, seeking an even greater role for the state where the government can facilitate access to services and improve the extent to which we share our wealth and manage the economy.

Moreover, 83 per cent of Quebecers were offended by the increase in electricity rates,

an increase of 20 per cent over five years. We're still debating whether one day we'll see fees imposed to counter wasting electricity. As for the possibility of doubling tuition fees over five years, just over a third of Quebecers are in favour and almost two-thirds opposed. When compared to other Canadian institutions, our universities are still under-funded.

The majority—53 per cent—oppose creating a system where patients contribute to health care. It's not that I don't agree with them, but my reasons are different. Sixty-six per cent are open to setting up private clinics and to welcoming private health insurance so as to accommodate those who wish to pay for health care. One wonders why there can't be a combination of both systems. Quite strangely, 46 per cent of those polled support a decrease in services, while 49 per cent are opposed. The matter is definitely not closed.

Personally, I find it depressing because I keep thinking that we need less government and more individual responsibility. There is still work to be done.

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

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Transcontinental

OLD NEWS from the archives

1935-2007

Five Years Ago
January 17, 2002

CLEARING THE WAY: "The demolition of an old building in Westmount to create parkland could be paving the way to a closer connection between green spaces on Westmount mountain and in Mount Royal Park. Only the concrete foundations of the Clifton apartments at 4350 Côte des Neiges Rd. remained last week. The building was located in a sometimes forgotten corner of Westmount, at the bottom of the mountain's northern slope at the borough's boundary. Built in the 1950s in a valley linking Westmount's Summit Park to the western entrance of Mount Royal Park in the City of Montreal, the apartment block had been neglected for decades. Last month, in one of its last acts as a municipality, the City of Westmount acted on an agreement it had made with les Amis de la Montagne, a group interested in the preservation of Mount Royal. The city contributed toward the cost of re-landscaping the wooded lot around The Clifton into a natural park."

Ten Years Ago
January 16, 1997

STATION BYLAW: "Little was made Monday night of council's adoption of a \$2-million bylaw to renovate the protective services station on Stanton, but residents with comments to make about the project will have a chance to be heard after the City publishes the required notice. 'It's for the public to decide,' said Westmount's director-general Bruce St. Louis, when asked if he thought residents would mount anything like the opposition that quashed a previous \$6-million loan bylaw to demolish the station and build a new one. 'The issues are different. I don't think this will be as contentious as the issues of the other project.'"

Fifteen Years Ago
January 16, 1992

A WRITTEN GUARANTEE: "There is nothing surprising in MNA Richard Holden's brief to the Parti Quebecois task force on the place of English Quebecers in a sovereign Quebec. What is more surprising, considering a boycott by both Alliance Quebec and the Equality Party, is that he made the submission at all. 'I will feel better for having told them,' said Mr. Holden. Though his submission may carry little or no weight, if Quebec does separate, 'I've been on the record. It's a moral thing.' Alliance Quebec refuses to participate for two reasons; it doubts the sincerity of the effort, considering its co-chair and leader of the party have made donations to Action Quebec, a group that reports violations of the sign law, and it does not accept the premise of the task force in the event of a sovereign Quebec."

Twenty-Five Years Ago
January 14, 1982

SCHOOL SIGNS RECONSIDERED: "The Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal is currently undertaking a cost study to determine the feasibility of restoring the school signs which have been removed from Westmount High School and obscured at Westmount Park School. The changes to the signs were made by the PSBGM in an effort to comply with Bill 101. But after complaints from school committees, the board admitted that such a move was not necessary."

Big decisions ahead — debt, park turf and ADQ



Civic Alert

Don WEDGE

The holidays are long over. It's time for some hard thinking about a few things that, if not life-changing, certainly threaten the culture of Westmount: facing up to the debt created by the megacity, settling the debate over artificial turf in Westmount Park, and deciding whether to support an ADQ candidate in the coming provincial elections. They all demand from citizens—property owners particularly—a degree of civil duty to be part of council's decision-making.

Two are municipal decisions and the third, the Quebec election, will be driven by the lack of response by the Charest Liberals to the dysfunctional results of their creation—the Agglom—so it also has a municipal dimension.

Lest this be viewed as a tally of doom, let us celebrate being able to discuss these issues in a way that could get a considered reaction. Had Charest not kept part of his promise to allow demerger, we would still be trapped in the megacity with little or no say in the decisions. Indeed, the ADQ option would probably not even be on the table; thank you, Jean Charest!

Taking them in order

The four years in the megacity led to their grabbing the "float" (about \$4 million) which previously funded the routine maintenance of roads, buildings and similar facilities. The work allowed by the megacity was funded by borrowing, often for 20 years. The accumulated debt—about \$37 million—has been passed back to Westmount.

Because the "float" has disappeared, most of this year's capital spending will also have to be met by borrowing. Soon the debt will be \$43 million. At the same time, the new rates include an element that will partly restore the float.

If all goes according to plan, in 10 years the debt will be contained and once again the routine work will be done out of income. Then the penalty of borrowed money will be eliminated, and more work can be done with no interest charges to pay—the situation before the annexation the PQ forced on us.

In outline, this seems a great approach. Unfortunately no one from City Hall has spelt out the details. Should it really take 10 years to get to this level? Should we bite the bullet and do it in five or three years? Or would it be more comfortable if we spread the debt over two decades, not one? Should current borrowing take 20 years to pay back?

What would it do to our tax rates if we were to choose another course? What would it do to road and water infrastructure if the programs were delayed five or 10 years?

After the suspension of reconstruction during the megacity years, are our side street conditions so bad that they cannot be tolerated—particularly when compared with those of our Montreal neighbours?

There is occasional talk about participatory budgets. It was tried in the Plateau borough in 2006 and found to be disappointing, probably because too much was expected.

But it confirmed that the citizenry at large

can help determine the broad strokes.

Surely the population—the shareholders in a municipality with their own services and properties at stake—have the right to be consulted on the grand lines of the budget! Council must provide the data and subsequently look after the appropriation, as now.

Westmount is full of discerning citizens with huge personal stakes in their properties and the lifestyles that go with them. They should take the responsibility of speaking out.

Council has outlined a path. It has been accepted so far with very little detail having been supplied. Anything is better than the megacity! But citizens should express themselves in a formalized setting so that the future path is clear.

Turf tempest

The proposal to install artificial turf on one of the sports fields in Westmount Park is one that must, in the end, be evaluated by the whole population.

It has attracted some high profile campaigning. The Save the Park group is even advertising their petition in the *Examiner*! When was the last time you saw a political ad other than at election time or from the megacity spin doctors?

The proposal has taken on a rare controversial aspect. All sides must be evaluated publicly, before this becomes an even more divisive issue.

There seems to be five main elements:

- A need for expanded soccer facilities, coupled with the fact that natural grass fields need restricted, not heavier, use.

- Provision for children from Westmount Park School and playgroups.

- The range of aesthetics and heritage issues, particularly the impact on those who overlook the Park.

- Cost.

- Health concerns.

The people who have been heard from so far are Council, who are under pressure to maximize use of the existing soccer fields, school supporters and—most vocal of all—the neighbours who have produced lots of arguments.

Those who could benefit most—the soccer players and their families—are unbelievably silent. Don't they care?

Council took years before agreeing even to consider the option. Mayor Marks has taken much of the criticism, ironically, as she was among the last to accept that artificial turf was viable.

Because of the criticism, Council has hired an environmental engineer to make a report. Publication of this is awaited. It will be interesting, to say the least, to see how an engineering analysis will address the social concerns or the research brought forward by the Healthy City Project.

With such diverse views, the population must be given the opportunity to speak and guide Council's decision. Raw emotion will have its place, but there should be a factual analysis, too. Experts should be involved, with their evidence open to rebuttal.

The hearings should be modeled on those of the province's environmental board (BAPE).

Dumont's improved stance

Can it be that Mario Dumont and the ADQ will get Westmounters' votes in the spring

election? The party intends to run a candidate in every riding. Liberals have a tough position to defend over the broken demerger promises and the mess of a solution they legislated and continually defend.

The personal popularity of Jacques Chagnon will be a factor, and his spirited prophesies this week on possible face savers for the Liberals could be an early shot in his campaign. But it could well be it is the ADQ that offers a viable and acceptable program for municipal reform when the different platforms are unveiled in a few weeks.

What seemed to be a purely opportunistic foray into the troubled waters of the Agglom when Mario Dumont came to speak at Westmount Rotary Club in June is now being fleshed out.

Then he defined the Liberal municipal legislation as being politically motivated, rather than designed to bring good local government to the Montreal Island.

Dumont, who once seemed a stronger supporter of One Island, One City than Pierre Bourque, has moved on and is offering some better solutions. Westmount Council will be expected to evaluate his promises and compare them to Charest's failures. So will all the voters.

Civic Studies

Big 90: Irene Marks, the mayor's mother, celebrated her 90th birthday on Monday. Her family hosted a dinner for her in Old Montreal. Who would believe Irene is 90?! There is hope for us all!

Big spending #1: Quebec Transport Ministry is planning either a major reconstruction of the Turcot interchange to cost about \$500 million and extend its life for 15 years, or a complete rebuild, which would cost at least \$1 billion, but last much longer.

Big spending #2: Longueuil spent \$29.5 million on its new City Hall, but has upset citizens in demerged St. Bruno and St. Lambert by charging it to their Agglom.

Park Ave. renamed #1: "I would not have done it." — Former PQ premier Bernard Landry, editor for the day, on Daybreak.

Park Ave. renamed #2: "I'd be surprised if Robert Bourassa would be very happy at the mess surrounding his name. He was forever watching every social movement everywhere." — MNA Jacques Chagnon on his former boss.

Reductions: Montreal Police want to reduce the number of local stations from 39 to 32, according to Assistant Chief Yves Charette. Among the cutbacks, two stations in CDN would be merged, as would NDG and Côte St.-Ham-West.

Extended: Three of the morning rush-hour trains on the CP line through Westmount now originate in St. Jerome. In the afternoon, service on the five trains between 3.35 p.m. and 7 p.m. is extended to this new AMT northern terminal.

Copying Montreal?: Using its new charter, mega-Toronto has formalized community councils in four of its former cities (Scarborough, Etobicoke-York, Toronto and East York, North York), empowering them to create and enforce bylaws and name citizens to boards and committees.

Royal Flush: Since 2001, Guelph has issued 4,500 rebates to homeowners who have introduced low-flush toilets. It is now promoting a Royal Flush program with models that use even less water while achieving the appropriate result!

Lunchtime series features a virtual tour of historical websites



Around Westmount

Marilynn VANDERSTAY

The Atwater Library and Computer Centre this week featured a talk by film maker, web designer, history professor and almost Westmount resident David Millar, who spoke on the topic 'Time Traveling on Canadian History Websites'.

Millar, whose career includes 10 years at

the National Film Board and leading a number of oral history projects across Canada, led participants in an animated tour of local and national websites that depict Canada's rich history.

He also gave the participants the tools to research their hometowns or regions, favourite Canadian heroes and families through books available in the collection at the library and online on their home computers or at the library computer centre.

Since 1970, Millar has been an oral historian and professor of history and is now in

retirement. He says he is passionately interested in this kind of human exploration, and is working on interesting projects that include Voices of Montreal, a website whose basic format would be multilingual life stories, including music, podcasts and blogs from Montrealers of all origins. To find out more about David Millar or to access a list of online resources, go to his website <http://pages.videotron.com/fdmillar/fdmillar.htm>.

For more information about the presentation that also included a display of relevant books from the library collection and postings on the website, or for more information about upcoming lunchtime series speakers, go to www.atwaterlibrary.ca

Celebrating Robert Burns Day

Next Thursday, Jan. 25, at 12:30 p.m., the ALCC lunchtime series continues with a celebration of Robert Burns Day. The presentation 'Some Scots in Montreal' will be given by Rev. J.S.S. Armour, author of the book Saints, Sinners and Scots that is a history of the Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montreal 1803-2003.

His book is in the library along with a collection of other books by or about notable Scots in Canada and abroad.

Participants are encouraged to bring their lunch and as always coffee and cookies are provided. For more information go to www.atwaterlibrary.ca or phone 514-935-7344.

Knitting for a cause

The Pediatric Social Work Department of the Montreal Children's Hospital was the grateful beneficiary of a cheque for \$2,150 from the members of the Kensington Knitters, the group of crafty residents at Place Kensington, who are always looking for ways to benefit community through their innovative knitting projects.

This time they raised the money from the sales of hats and scarves and raffles of blankets, all of which they created since their large donation of knitted items to Dans La Rue in the fall.

Rosanna D'Orazio, professional coordinator and social worker at the hospital, gladly accepted the gift, saying the money will go a long way to helping families cope with their children's challenges.

For 90 years the social work department has been assisting families in the hospital that has been serving the community for 102 years. Today, the department has 25 social workers who support patients and their families with issues that include mental health and adolescence, and chronic and acute care with help that can include guidance and counsel dealing with their child's health issues, connecting them to community resources and even providing tangible assistance, including food and clothing.

Following the presentation the participants enjoyed tea and a performance by pianist Vladimir Krassov.

Continued on page 13



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VISION QUEBEC NATIONAL ROUNDTABLE

Innovation is a symbol of success for Transcontinental



The coming year looks quite promising for Transcontinental. The negative effect of high exchange rates continues to be felt but the scrupulous implementation of its business plan allows the company to maintain its growth.

"There are several interpretations in the USA and in Quebec that predict an economic slow down," according to Luc Desjardins, president and CEO for Transcontinental. "However, there are many areas in which we are present that are doing well. Therefore, we cannot say that the forecast is not as good in 2007."

First in printing in Canada and seventh in North America, Transcontinental is also the most important publisher of magazines intended for consumers and French-speaking educational works, as well as the second publisher of local and regional newspapers in the country. Its growth and success rest widely on innovation.

"We have made many changes during the past years," Desjardins said. "Many improvement initiatives regarding efficiency have been put into place to offset the negative effects related to exchange rates and difficult market conditions in some sectors."

In the Media sector that was subject to a strong performance in general, the company made \$10 million worth of investments in 2006 and \$5 million more

are projected this year.

The inauguration of a new Internet broadcasting studio for LesAffaires.com, the launching and co-publishing of various Internet sites such as AskMen.com or Mercado.ca, show the importance given by Transcontinental to its digital strategy.

"Transcontinental proposes a unique business model in certain very dynamic market segments in the USA," Desjardins said. "Among others, Direct Marketing and Premedia are growing strongly and we are in a good position to take advantage of it in 2007." During the last year, this model unique to Transcontinental has deserved the trust of such prestigious daily newspapers as The New York Times and the San Francisco Chronicle for the printing of their products.

Transcontinental Media has also widened its local and regional newspapers via the acquisition of two new publications, including the weekly Le Progrès de Coaticook; bringing the number of its Quebec-based newspapers to 94. They make up an important strategic foundation for the company.

These accomplishments allow contemplating the coming years with assurance. Should the Quebec economy face productivity, competitiveness and manpower challenges in the forthcoming years, Transcontinental has already taken the means to make the best of the situation.



Transcontinental round table: A Quebec first

Inited to share their vision on economy in 2007 and to debate on issues of the moment, four important players of Quebec economy have taken part in a panel on Nov. 15, 2006 at the Transcontinental printing facilities in Pointe-aux-Trembles.

The discussion lasted close to two-and-a-half hours and was lead by former minister and current president and general manager of the Quebec Forest Industry Council, Guy Chevrete. The president of the Quebec Federation of Labour (FTQ), Henri Massé; the president of the Federation des Chambres de Commerce du Québec, Françoise Bertrand; the vice-president of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business for Quebec, Richard Fahey and the president of the Conseil du Patronat du Québec, Michel Kelly-Gagnon accepted Transcontinental's invitation to exchange on the topic of economy in 2007.

During the 150 minutes of sometimes highly-passionate discussions, panellists have agreed that the situation of economy is not too bad, but that we must be careful because Quebec is currently losing important ground compared to other places.

Three main issues were at the forefront of the debate and discussions: regions, large projects, as well as threats and opportunities related to market globalization.

Regions at the forefront of development

The president of Quebec's Conseil du Patronat, has maintained a line consistent with typical liberal philosophy: reduce government intervention and let the market adjust by itself.

"We must not separate interventions regarding territorial occupation from times past," said Michel Kelly-Gagnon. "There will always be population displacements. The principle behind this is that it is the individuals that are driven toward resources and not the other way around. When resources are depleted within a region the population diminishes. We must be careful not to play the wizard-apprentice game in thinking that we can escape an obvious fact of the past." He deplores the fact that the regions' political heritage does not make much room for adjustments in that sense.

FTQ president Henri Massé maintains we should attempt to tame human nature and not throw in the towel as soon as a problem crops up. "If a chance had been given to the Murdochville mine, it would be profitable today. It was abandoned too soon." Being conscious that businesses will always open and close down, we will have to be more perceptive toward regions. The implementation of research and development programs would be one solution that we would have to advocate. Regarding training, Massé asks himself why, in a manpower shortage situation, training is not more accessible. Mining activities are soaring in the Abitibi region. Miners are in demand and must have appropriate training. A training course fills up as soon as it is created. Others would like to join up but they are told: "Sorry, the course is full!" It doesn't make sense. There should be more courses available.

As far as Françoise Bertrand is concerned, she noticed that for the last few years flagship regions like Montreal and Quebec appear to be incapable of developing themselves differently than to the detriment of resource regions. "Manpower shortage already being

an acute issue in those parts of the country," she said.

She does not understand why such sectors as pharmacology and the aeronautical industry would develop while the forestry industry is plummeting. Financial assistance toward regions would therefore need to be increased and eggs would need to be re-distributed in

more baskets as no industry is "condemned" to live forever.

As far as having powerful regions for a powerful economy is concerned, Richard Fahey warns that "projects are sprinkled. On the Accord projects front, regions were invited to choose one or two market segments and they were told that they would receive help in those areas. Once the regions mobilized, the government and the business environment have supported the projects. Eve-

rything must come from the business environment per se; it is extremely important. It is the business environment that must choose; not the government."

Mr. Fahey has also shared his concern regarding the single-industry-cities phenomenon that he evaluates to be at some 200 in Quebec. "If we do not develop a strong entrepreneurial business environment, all we will be left with are ghost-towns once the large company will have closed down."



Threats and opportunities

Innovations in the area of information technology are dear to boards of trade leaders. "We will have to invest to allow for initiatives, renewals. We have a deficit compared to other provinces and there's a sharp turn that we must take, said Françoise Bertrand. Difficult for her to grasp a single grain of sand among millions; there is a colossal task to undertake.

One thing is certain: manpower importation will be essential as well as worker upgrading. If quality is available it will be more obvious for investors to go ahead with modernization.

Bertrand sees a threat in the present market stagnation. If Quebecers do not build bridges they will fall in the economic abyss dug by the Pacific Rim.

Moreover, the president of Quebec's Conseil du Patronat (Quebec employers' association) mentions that important work can and must be done on other aspects, particularly regarding investments. Business competitiveness is at stake because Quebec businesses have neglected to invest in their equipment for too long.

"Businesses did not take advantage of the low dollar value, to modernize their machinery. And, business taxation and most particularly the tax on capital are burdens that are too heavy."

The fall in birth rate and manpower shortage are limitations identified by the Conseil du Patronat. However, the organization denounces a certain pessimistic line on those issues. "The fall in birth rate will have catastrophic impacts on our economy, only if it is not managed," said Kelly-Gagnon.

Regarding immigration, Richard Fahey said it can help curtail two problems in Quebec. "If you look at immigrants, they have more children. Not only do they fulfill manpower needs but they also contribute to alleviating the fall in birth rate issue. It's the same thing with Aboriginal people."

"It's necessary to innovate. It's not enough to compete with China, we want to steal the market lower down. We must get China to invest in Quebec; modernize our equipment. Businesses must be able to react. It's by using a sub-contracting approach in China that we can develop value-added market segments right here."

Henri Massé mentions that 30,000 jobs have been lost so far. The strength of the Canadian dollar and the lack of investment in those businesses would explain in part the present situation. In his opinion, the government has thrown in the towel regarding the manufacturing sector.

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Large Projects : we must not be afraid to take action

Regarding Guy Chevette's comments to the effect that in the area of large projects, promoters and politicians are always afraid to displease certain un-meaningful groups of people, Robert Fahey says that "we must impose stringency upon ourselves collectively. We must allow people to express their views but that does not mean that I will give the same weight to a scientific expert in comparison to a fearful citizen. This has to do with the debate on the perception of private individuals' concerns. We must have the leadership to support scientific foundations."

For the vice-president of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business for Quebec, the main challenge for large projects is to do the work on time and according to projected budgets.

In the course of discussion on the topic of large projects, the President of Quebec's Conseil du Patronat (Employers' Association), Michel Kelly-Gagnon said that Quebec is ill-perceived by foreign investors. "Site Locators do not see Quebec as a sound place to invest. This is how Quebec is perceived. Serious work has to be done on this image."

"We must stop rolling about in havoc!" said Henri Massé. "I am sick of this right-wing defeatist line that is always on the back

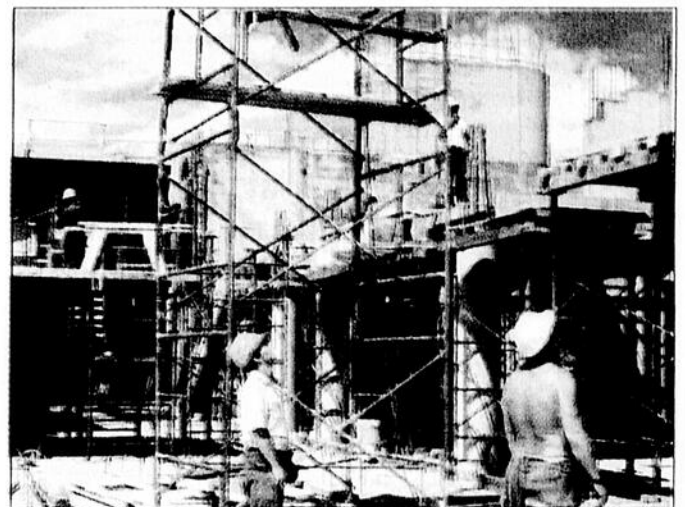
of community groups. By dint of bawling out, you project a false image of Quebec." Taking the example of the moving of the Montreal Casino, he said that it is because of a major investor, the government in the circumstances that desisted from the project and that this failure was put on the community groups' back by employers.

To which Kelly-Gagnon rebutted that he merely pointed out a fact. "It's only an observation. Reality is there. Yes, Quebec is an interesting land to invest in but there is also a fiscal burden that is perceived as a curb on investment and in attracting business executives. Labour laws are the most stringent in North America and they prevent many investments and re-investments."

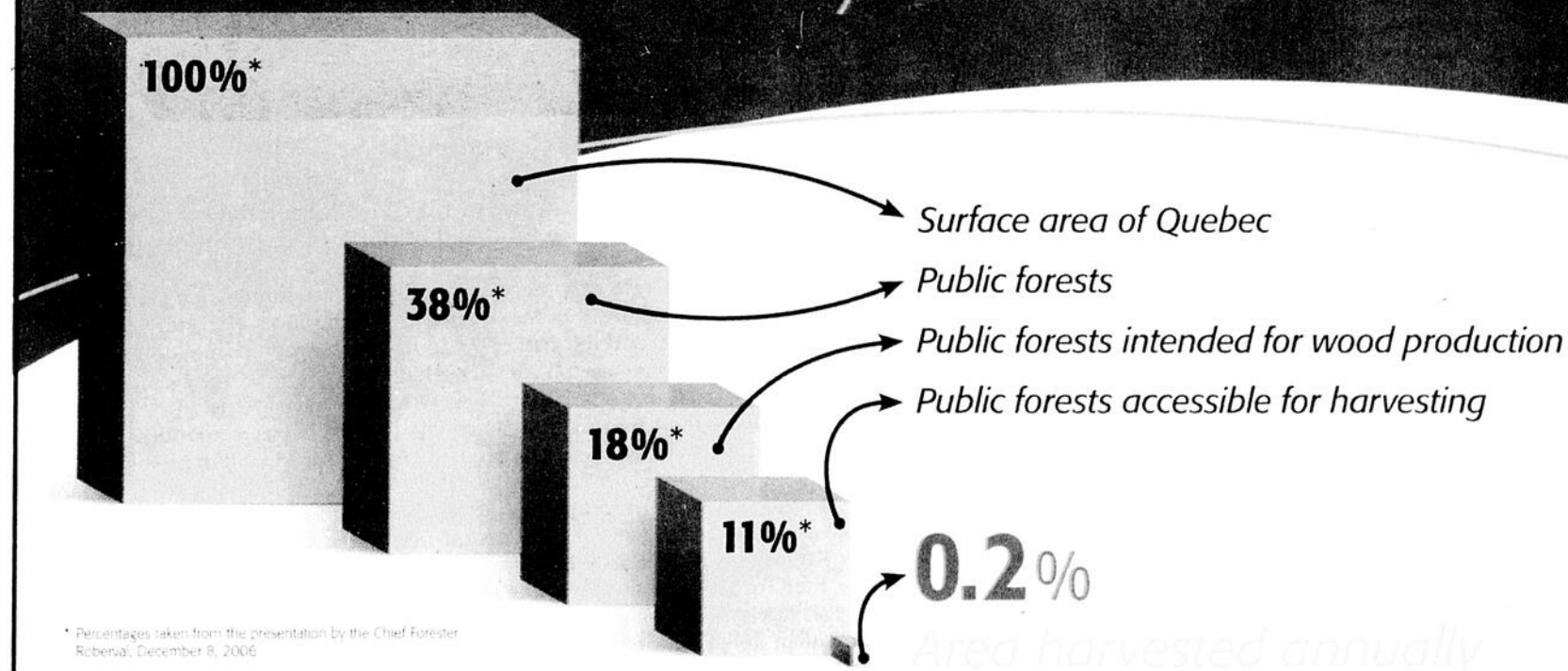
Henri Massé said that the defeatist line "would rather come from a lack of enthusiasm to invest in Quebec on the part of businesses, as much from Quebec than anywhere else." He also says the FTQ takes a stand in favour of Quebec's economic vigour more often than the Conseil du Patronat. "We have the lowest strike rate among all OECD countries. Yes, we are leading and we want to stay in the lead."

In her view, the president of the Federation des Chambres de Commerce du Québec (Boards of Trade), Françoise Bertrand, said sustainable development would have to be at the forefront in decisions to be made regarding large projects. However, care must be taken not to impede upon economic

evolution as drought lurks the territory! "We must invest in an innovative manner and allow a better competitiveness, she reiterates. The economic dimension must return and I do not think that the BAPE (Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement) can do it."



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WHAT THE EXPERTS SAID

By our reporters:



Patrick Voyer
Ottawa Region



Marie-Ève Courchesne
Montreal



Vincent Lanctôt
Montreal



Jean-Pascal Lavoie
Quebec City



Julie Roy
Lamontville



Guy Chevette

- Regionalization: "If we don't define the concepts (regionalization and decentralization) we're going to continue to have problems."

- "If we're not able to make a first conversion of quality at a low cost, it will be impossible to make second and third conversions."

- "Large projects are almost all public except for the Highway 30 and 25 projects. What other large projects can come from the private sector?"

- "For a long time it was a sin to make a profit. We must demystify that. We're always afraid to displease certain small groups."

- "We're governed by perceptions and not convictions. Often time this is just flash. I include all parties and levels of government."

- Environment: "We must maintain a balance between all aspects of sustainable development: economy, human being, environment."

- "You're afraid to be tagged as politically incorrect by loud groups? The press takes what we give it; we must therefore give it more. We're afraid to shake hands"



Richard Fahey

- "Everybody has his/her own definition of sustainable development and everyone emphasizes his/her own turf."

- Wealth: "To have a prosper society we must firstly have wealth."

Before we can say how we're going to share the

pie, we must first of all begin by creating it."

- Large projects: "The big challenge is to get it done on time and within allocated budgets. I have a problem with what some community groups represent. On plant floors we are capable of great things, we must work on that."

- "I won't give the same weight to the scientific expert compared to the citizen that is fearful. This has to do with the debate on the perception of the private individual's apprehensions. We must have the leadership to support scientific foundations."

- "If we do not develop a strong entrepreneurial business environment, all we will be left with are ghost-towns once the large company will have closed down. We must not just think of large companies. One can create his/her own business."

Immigration: "Observe immigrants' mind-set, they have babies. Not only do they address the manpower problem but they also contribute to the fall in the birth rate. It's the same thing with aboriginal people."

- "We mustn't just compete with China; we must bring it to invest in Quebec, replace old equipment with the new. By way of sub-contracting in China we can develop value-added niches right here."



Françoise Bertrand

- Regions: "Flagship regions appear to be incapable of developing themselves differently than to the detriment of Resource Regions. Manpower shortages are already a hot item in those

geographic areas."

- "No industry is condemned to live forever..."

- "Invest in a way to include innovation and to allow for a better competitiveness. Invest in information technology to allow for initiatives, positive renewals."

- "Sustainable development must be at the forefront in decisions to be made regarding large projects."

Environment: "The economic aspect must return. I don't think that the BAPE can do it. Let's be clear with the population green won't be able to replace green dollars."

- China: "If Quebecers do not build bridges they will fall in the abyss dug by the Pacific Rim."



Henri Masse

- "Agree with Kelly-Gagnon regarding the fall in the birth rate. If we manage the problem well, we should be able to make the best of it."

- "I'm sick of a certain right-wing attitude that is always so defeatist toward Quebec. Our labour laws are ahead and we want it to stay that way."

- "Government has delegated its responsibilities to municipalities. It has steered away from real solutions."

- "Mines are operating at full blast in Abitibi. We need miners and they must have proper training. As soon as a training course is opened it fills up instantly. It doesn't make sense. There would have to be more courses."

- "We have lost 30,000 jobs in the manufacturing sector. I'm not saying to close down borders

or to come back to absolute protectionism, but just look at the USA that put into place 32 measures to preserve their clothing industry. We would have to return the pendulum and impose tariffs and quotas."

- "The Laval overpass is only an example to the effect that our infrastructures are obsolete. There's a need for funds in health, education, but also for our infrastructures."



Michel Kelly-Gagnon

- "Foreign investors don't see Quebec as a good place to do business. There's a serious move to make to change this perception."

- Large projects: "We must reinstate a realistic risk management notion. The principle of precaution must be invoked both ways. To restrict our capacity to increase our revenues, also means that our ability to protect the environment will be restricted."

- "Competency recognition as much for an experienced but non-qualified worker, as for an immigrant with a non-recognized qualification is crucial to alleviate the manpower problem."

- "The basic principle is that it is the individuals that are driven toward resources and not the other way around. When there are no more resources in a region, the population decreases. We must be careful not to play the game of wizard-apprentice in thinking that we can escape an obvious historical fact."

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Québec

Continued from AROUND WESTMOUNT, page 8

Copie Resolutions relocates

Since 1991 Copie Resolutions has been serving the printing and publishing needs of Westmount clients, first at its location on St. Catherine Street and for the last nine years on Sherbrooke Street.

Like so many small businesses on Sherbrooke Street in Westmount, however, they have been driven out of town by landlords who continue to raise rents and make it impossible for business owners to continue and still serve their clients for reasonable rates on their services. "Unfortunately, the cost of the rent has risen to a point where we can no longer stay in Westmount," said partner Liz Valente. "We are fully aware that the new location is off the beaten track."

As of Jan. 29, Copie Resolutions will be located adjacent to Westmount at 930 de Courcelle, across from Home Depot in St. Henri. The phone and fax numbers will stay

the same at 514-487-0086 and fax 514-487-7801. The website will continue at www.copieresolutions.ca. The good news for clients is that they will still be able to e-mail or fax their copy needs to the store and will be able to pick them up later in the day or have them delivered.

Owners Nancy Williams, Liz Valente and Sonia Labranche tried valiantly to find a location in Westmount. "We looked high and low, even in the more obscure areas of Westmount to find a location in Westmount," said Valente, "but we could not find a location that was large enough to meet our needs or affordable enough to still sustain our business." They recognize local business from the walk-in customers on Sherbrooke Street will lag at the new location and hope to build on their new direction of meeting the printing needs of existing and new corporate clients. Westmounters who have come to trust the small business that revitalized the words customer service will be

A voyage of dialogue and peace

The Sisterhood/Brotherhood of Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom holds its third Cultural Bagel Breakfast of the season on Sunday, Jan. 28.

Featured is Thérèse Klein, representing the interfaith dialogue groups who made a joint two-week visit to Jerusalem last June. A slide show created by Alain Rodrigue, the trip photographer, will accompany the lecture, which will be in French. The trip was inspired by Patrice Brodeur, chairman of Islamic Studies, Pluralism and Globalization of the Faculty of

Religion, Université de Montréal. Anne Godbout and Jocelyne Allard facilitated the travel plans, and set up meetings for the group with individuals vital to the peace process, like Palestinians working for peace and rabbis for human rights.

The breakfast will begin at 9:30 a.m. with the lecture/slide show at 10 a.m. Admission including both the meal and the talk is \$5. The event is in Temple's wheelchair accessible ground-floor reception hall. All are welcome. Enter via 395 Elm Ave.

sorely disappointed.

Rotaract Club hosts fundraiser

The Rotaract Club of McGill University will host its third annual fundraising gala on Saturday, Feb. 3 at the Vogue Hotel. The evening's festivities will include a silent auction, guest speakers on Rotary International and micro-credit, an a cappella group, an African dance performance, and a four-course meal.

This year, proceeds from the event will go to support micro-credit programs in Ghana. The Rotary Small Loans Program (RSLP) fosters grassroots development in some of the most undeveloped areas of the world.

Last year's gala raised over \$7,000 for the Free the Children Foundation.

Rotaract is a division of Rotary International and is comprised of individuals 18 to 30 who aim to foster international development, cultural awareness, and community involvement. Rotary International is a world-wide organization of 1.2 million members in 157 countries. The Rotary Club of Westmount is also part of the international club that is the world's largest not-for-profit organization.

Ticket prices for the event are \$95 for a single ticket and \$175 a couple. For more information e-mail mcgill.rotaract@gmail.com.

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ARBONNE
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Arts & Books

Infini theatre writes a prescription for local satire

> **Stephanie Bento**

Prescription for Murder was just what the doctor ordered: comedy, drama and \$50,000—four times more than what Infini theatre initially expected to take in with their annual fundraising event.

And it only gets better from here. For every dollar the theatre raises within the next year, Placement Culture, a provincial endowment program, will double it, establishing an investment program that will ensure the troupe's long-term survival.

Prescription for Murder, directed by Infini theatre artistic director Guy Sprung, rounded up a one-of-a-kind team of hard-working professionals and self-motivating amateur actors, aged 12 to 82 years, to perform in front of a packed theatre at the Saidye Bronfman Centre for the Arts last week for an exclusive world premiere.

"It was an extremely interesting set and it was very well directed," said Westmount resident Graham Nesbitt. "The movements were good, the timing was perfect and that it was an extremely amusing plot."

The play is set up in a Westmount home clinic where a horrendous ice storm forces conflicting characters to one common room for an entire day—sparking romance, laughter and tragic, bloody murders. The highly-opinionated and flirtatious general practitioner Dr. Gerda Maysonne welcomes a variety of patients, including a 12-year-old

Mayor of Westmount, feisty Royal Duchess of Westmount Rose Belmont and her punk nephew Justin, Mr. Phelan, an old man who loses his memory every 47 seconds, and his loveable niece, Mary.

As the body count starts to rise during the sporadic black-outs of the ice storm, a 'bilingual' francophone officer, Inspector Phyllis Luella McLeeks, shows up with her identical evil twin (oops, I gave it away!).

Prescription for Murder was especially entertaining to its Montreal audience because of its many references to local radio personalities and politicians, as well as timely issues such as the \$2 billion over-budget mega-hospital and the public health care system.

"I've seen a couple of the actors in a few other pieces," said audience member Linda Poirier, referring to Irene Smyth Simons, Gus O'Gorman and Heidi Lubert Teller, who are all amateur actors who have donated their time and talent to Infini theatre's yearly benefits. "I see them develop and their work is always better than the one before."

Smyth Simons, who played the leading role of Dr. Maysonne, explained the difficulty in balancing her real-life Westmount home clinic with her dedication to the theatre.

"I must admit my patients got a little bit neglected this week," she said with a laugh.

Even director Guy Sprung admitted the production was no walk in the park. "It's difficult to do because they're doing it on their

spare time," said Sprung. "So it was hard to get an hour here and an hour there."

Only in theatre would you see a 12-year-old Mayor of Westmount, played by Spencer Wuest, who visited the clinic for a flu shot and growth hormone pills. "I was nervous at the beginning, but when I came on, I had a great time," said Wuest, whose role was also filled by Diana Nicholson, Kevin Tierney and Michael Shafter on a rotational basis.

Professional actors such as Stephanie Breton, Julien Elia, Vincent Hoss-Desmarais and Veronick Raymons worked side-by-side with amateur actors, including 82-year-old Pam Dunn.

"I hadn't been on stage in over 40 years so it really gets the memories going," said Dunn, who played Rose Belmont, the Royal Duchess of Westmount. "It was a very rewarding experience because a part of the cast was made up of professional actors and I learned a lot from them."

Even though the cast was part professional and part amateur, it was difficult to tell who was who—they were all at ease on stage. But how does an 82-year-old feel on stage in front of hundreds of people?

"It didn't bother me at all—which



Curtain call at a recent performance of Prescription for Murder. Photo: Stephanie Bento

surprised me," responded Dunn, who has over 30 years of experience in amateur theatre. "It just seemed to come right back."

It took intense, hard work for Dunn to learn her lengthy lines, but she doesn't regret it one bit. When asked whether or not she would do it again soon, she responded, "Yes I would, but not for a year or so... I don't think I'd be ready to start another play tomorrow!"

• Infini theatre launches its second production, The Elephant Song, on Jan. 18 at the Bain St-Michel, 5300 St-Dominique. General admission is \$25, for Infini theatre members, seniors and students it's \$15. For reservations, call 514-987-1774 ext. 3.

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505 Companion

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520 Massage

4060 Ste-Catherine West, Suite 370. NEW! MAGIC. Chinese. Good Service. Receipts: 514-935-4039.

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660 Domestic services

NANNY REQUIRED to care for almost 3-year-old boy in my home. Dynamic, responsible, trustworthy, non-smoking, non-allergic to cats. Located near Met. Atwater. Part-time, bring to/from Daycare. Starting soon. Leave message for Daniel: 514-931-0009.

685 Computer graphics/printer

COMPUTER TUTOR: experienced teacher will provide one-on-one tutoring in your home. Windows, word-processing, spreadsheets, E-mail, Internet, digital photography, troubleshooting, buying or upgrading computer system. Mike: 514-488-3972.

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Some lessons are best learned by losing



Off-Sidel

Noah
SIDEL

While the big shots in the media may have watched the 12th annual NDG Provincial Novice/Atom hockey tournament from the VIP room at Bill Durnan Arena in late December, but we certainly didn't miss out on the emotions of the evening—especially as the NDG Cougars skated to a 6-5 overtime loss in the atom B final.

The atmosphere at these tournaments is always a blast, and it's even better when there's a local team in a final as was the case last Dec. 30 as the Cougars fell to the Anjou Coyotes about as exciting a game as can happen at that level.

I'll admit that we're all "homers" in the local media, so I wasn't ashamed to cheer whenever NDG scored.

Standing in the booth with the tournament organizers and a delicious spread of party sandwiches, cheese and crackers, I had an interesting perspective on the game—especially since co-organizer Lisa Dawes was jumping around frantically as her son Nicholas's team fought to stay in the game.

It's hard not to pull for a team when a) it's

local, playing against a visitor in its own tournament final, and b) one of its defenceman's mothers is standing right in front of you.

So I got to cheering for the Cougars and I felt genuinely bad for the players, parents and coaches when Anjou's Detroyt Pereira beat NDG's Mark Osis on a breakaway in overtime to seal the deal for the visitors.

After giving it a little, though, I actually don't feel bad at all.

A tournament loss like that will do nothing but build character for this crew of aspiring hockey stars and will only help them be better in the future.

I think back to my own experience as a peewee in my first tournament in St. Hubert, circa 1993-94.

It was my first year playing A-level hockey and my first tournament.

From the sign-in process to having our bags delivered to the room, I was blown away by the whole show.

Put that together with the music playing at each stop in the action and the orange slices between periods as the Zamboni cleaned the ice during the second intermission and we had an all-out professional show.

I think we lost the first game, and won the second in a shootout before we were eliminated in the third game of the double-knockout tournament.

Continued on page 18



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Bulletin Board

Thursday, Jan. 18

The Atwater Poetry Project presents poet Bryan Sentes, author of 'Ladonian Magnitudes', performing with guitarist Juan Perales, and George Slobodzin, author of 'Clinical Studies' at 7 p.m. in the Atwater Library Auditorium, 1200 Atwater Ave. Free admission. All are welcome. Info: 514-935-7344.

Friday, Jan. 19

TGIF Senior and Junior at Centre Greene, 1090 Greene Ave. Meal followed by weekly activity for ages 5-11. \$12.50 per drop in. 6 to 8:30 p.m. Info: 514-931-6202.

Saturday, Jan. 20

The Bimetallic Question Sherlock Holmes Society will be celebrating the 153rd birthday of the Master with a gourmet dinner at the Montefiore Club, 1195 Guy St. Special guest speaker will be CJAD broadcaster Dan Laxer. All are welcome. Cost is \$43 per person, including taxes and gratuities. Please contact Wilfrid de Freitas at 514-935-9581 before Jan. 17 to reserve.

Monday, Jan. 22

The Montreal Camera Club presents Fred Hore, who will show his outstanding presentation on Morocco at 7:30 p.m. in Westmount Park Church, 4695 de Maisonneuve (rear entrance). All are welcome. Info: 514-933-6332.

Tuesday, Jan. 23

The Philatelic Club of Montreal invites all

stamp collectors to its meeting in the Westmount Room of the Westmount Public Library, 4574 Sherbrooke W., at 7:30 p.m. Guest speaker will be Dr. Charles Cahn, who will speak on the topic 'Psychiatric Philately.' Free admission; all welcome. Info: 514-735-3941.

Wednesday, Jan. 24

Senior's luncheon at Centre Greene, 1090 Greene Ave., from 12:15 to 2 p.m. \$5 per meal. Info: 514-931-6202.

Thursday, Jan. 25

The Atwater Lunchtime Series presents 'Some Montreal Scots', a talk by J. S. S. Armour to celebrate Robert Burns's birthday, at 12:30 p.m. at the Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater Ave. Free admission. Coffee and Scottish shortbread will be available. Attendees are welcome to bring their lunch and enjoy it during the presentation. Info: Tanya Mayhew at 514-935-7344.

Friday, Jan. 26

The Yellow Door Choir performs the concert 'Song Shrouded in Mystery' at 8 p.m. at the Unitarian Church, 5035 de Maisonneuve. Tickets are \$15 and can be obtained at the door or by calling 514-575-4669.

Saturday, Jan. 27

The Yellow Door Choir performs the concert 'Song Shrouded in Mystery' at 8 p.m. at the Unitarian Church, 5035 de Maisonneuve. Tickets are \$15 and can be obtained at the door or by calling 514-575-4669.

Tuesday, Jan. 30

St. Matthias' Church, 131 Cote St. Antoine Rd., presents 'Traveling with Jesus through the Holy Land' with commentary by Rev. Ralph Leavitt at 7:30 p.m. Coffee and wine will be offered in the Lower Hall following the presentation. Admission is \$5. Proceeds will be donated to Tyndale-St. Georges Community Centre.

The Atwater Library and Computer Centre, 1200 Atwater Ave., presents author Ravi Hage, who will read from his book 'De Niro's Game', followed by a panel discussion in English and French, at 6:30 p.m. Free admission. Info: Tanya Mayhew at 514-935-7344 or tmayhew@atwaterlibrary.ca.

Ongoing

The Gallery at Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke St. W., presents Ruminations, an exhibition of recent works by Fred Andrews, through Feb. 10. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends. Info: 514-989-5226.

The McClure Gallery of the Visual Arts Centre, 350 Victoria Ave., presents Blind Spot, an exhibition by David Gillanders, through Jan. 27. Gallery hours are noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday to Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday. Info: 514-488-9558.

Winter courses: Don't miss this year's lineup of winter courses at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, 395 Elm Ave. You can learn about the world of Sholem Aleichem, the great Yiddish satirist and humourist, or hear a discussion on the History of Evolution from Darwin to DNA. Henri Habib, PhD, will give

you his views on America and the Middle East, and you can hear an analysis of International Events of the Day as only Stan Nachfolger can present it. Info: Joyce Tobenstein at 514-342-1234 ext. 7318.

The Advent Refugee Centre is in need of men's, women's and children's winter clothing in good condition. Donations may be brought to the Centre at 326 Wood Ave. weekdays between 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Info: June Paterson at 514-933-6839.

Continued from OFF SIDEL, page 17

Two things from that tournament really stuck with me:

The first was the ecstasy of winning the Game 2 shootout. Shootouts are intense for anyone, but even more so for a goalie. I think that was my first experience really stepping up in a clutch game and making a difference.

The second was the down of losing.

That was probably the first time I had ever lost anything important in hockey and it stung. My teammates and I learned even more about losing in the playoffs that year as we lost in the semifinal despite having the best record in the league.

What we learned is that losing sucks, but it really isn't the end of the world. That's the lesson these kids will pull away from their tournament experience.

The game isn't everything, but as long as you play your hardest all the time, winning and losing isn't everything, either.

SEND THE EDITOR AN E-MAIL:
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18 Thursday, January 18, 2007 The Westmount Examiner www.westmountexaminer.com

Ville de Westmount
City of Westmount

RÔLE DE PERCEPTION TAXES MUNICIPALES 2007

AVIS PUBLIC est par les présentes donné à tous les contribuables et résidents de la Ville de Westmount que le rôle de perception de la taxe foncière pour l'exercice financier 2007, a été complété et déposé au bureau du sousigné, et que les comptes de taxes seront mis à la poste dans le délai imparti.

Toute personne intéressée peut maintenant le consulter au bureau du sousigné, à l'hôtel de ville de Westmount située au 4333, rue Sherbrooke Ouest du lundi au vendredi de 8 h 30 à 16 h 30.

Donné à Westmount ce 18^e jour de janvier 2007.

Claude Lachance CMA, MBA
Trésorier / Treasurer

MUNICIPAL TAX COLLECTION ROLL 2007

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given to the taxpayers and residents of Westmount that the municipal tax Collection Roll for the year 2007 was completed and deposited at the office of the undersigned, and that the tax accounts will be mailed within the allotted delay.

Any interested person may consult same at the office of the undersigned, at Westmount City Hall located at 4333 Sherbrooke Street West, Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Dated at Westmount, this 18th day of January, 2007.

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FRIDAY MARCH 23, 2007, 8 PM
Bach and Death
Cantatas by Johann Sebastian Bach
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Coproduced with
Les Voix Baroques.
Pollack concert hall, McGill University
555 Sherbrooke W., Montreal

THURSDAY MAY 3, 2007, 7 PM
Garde-robe (Wardrobe)
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**Old Montreal
650 Notre-Dame #901**
Stunning 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Has balcony, hardwood floors and many outstanding updates. Priced to sell!
Asking \$699,000



4850 de la Côte St. Luc PH3
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4850 de la Côte St. Luc #109
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DOWNTOWN - GOLDEN MILE

Asking **\$489,000**

VILLE EMARD

Great opportunity to buy an impressive 5-plex in excellent condition and close to downtown. Don't miss your chance at this great price. **\$395,000**

LOTS OF INVESTMENT PROPERTIES AVAILABLE + GREAT MCGILL GHETTO CONDOS. CALL ME FOR MORE DETAILS.

RYAN LUDLOW
514-933-6781

WESTMOUNT

646 Carleton
 On one of Westmount's most desirable streets. Renov. with a level of fine finishes, it offers magnificent entertaining rooms, gourmet kit., dbl garage, winecellar, a/c, wrought iron gate & much more! **\$3,400,000**

WESTMOUNT

3258 The Boulevard
 Beautiful detailed traditional Westmount family home has gorgeous woodwork, molding, high ceilings, 2 car garage and pool sized lot! **\$1,350,000.**

WESTMOUNT

Westmount Square
 This 2,385 square foot apartment has a large living room, dining room, 3 bedrooms and gorgeous views!

LIZA KAUFMAN
 Cell: **232-5932**
 Off: **933-6781**
 lkaufman@videotron.ca
#1 * Chairman's Club
 Hall of Fame 2005
 www.lizakaufman.com
 * RE/MAX Designation

christina miller
514-933-6781
 Affiliated Real Estate Agent
 RE/MAX Westmount Broker

attention sellers: I have buyers.

Wanted by Family of 4: Mid-level 4-5 bdrm with garage, ideally near Murray Hill Park.
 Wanted by Family of 4: Nice home on Upper Roslyn, Upper Belmont or Upper Lansdowne.
 Wanted by Family of 5: Large detached home with garage & garden, occupancy ASAP.
 Wanted by Family of 6: Detached 6+ bdrm mid-level home, walking distance to schools.
 Wanted by Newlyweds: Large detached home with pool-sized lot.

These buyers have generous budgets and are not intimidated by renovations.
 If you are thinking of selling, please call for a confidential discussion about whether your home would suit their needs.