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COMMUNITY LIFE Pedalling for a cause

Patricia Dumais bikes
to fight MS.
Page 5



SPORTS Swimming success

Westmount Dolphins
win big at local meet.
Page 14



Westmount Blooms

City horticulturalist Claudette Savaria and Mayor Karin Marks welcome Communities in Bloom judges Chris Andrews (left) and David Hilton at Monday's luncheon event at Victoria Hall. (Photo Martin C. Barry)

Local judging results announced next month

by Martin C. Barry

The judging has taken place. Now Westmounters will have their fingers crossed until September, when they learn how their city fared in the Communities in Bloom competition.

Two judges were in town on Monday to evaluate Westmount in the nation-wide floral competition. A luncheon was held that day by the City of Westmount in the art gallery of Victoria Hall to welcome David Hilton of Kamloops, B.C., and Chris Andrews of Woodbridge, Ont. The two volunteer Communities in Bloom judges later toured the community in order to rate Westmount for its natural beauty, community spirit, and environmental awareness.

Communities in Bloom is a national organization committed to fostering civic pride. It also promotes environmental awareness through community involvement and the challenge of national competition.

Andrews, who is semi-retired, was executive-director for 18 years of the Canadian Nursery Landscaping Association. Hilton is the parks manager for the City of Kamloops.

"We're being evaluated on our efforts, in terms of management and maintenance and improvement and innovation," said Mayor Karin Marks, who, along with city council, has been ardently promoting this year's competition — the first time Westmount has competed since its forced merger with the Montreal megacity.

Continued on page 10

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Local News

Displaced fire victims still seeking insurance settlement

>Martin C. Barry

Twenty months after a fire gutted the interior of a four-storey condominium apartment building at the corner of de Maisonneuve Boulevard and Melville Avenue, repairs are underway — although the condo owners still don't know when they will be going home.

The displaced occupants of 4500 de Maisonneuve say their insurance company — whose policy they thought would provide complete fire coverage — decided to pay only part of the total cost for restoration following the blaze in November 2005.

A total of 11 condo unit owners have been claiming up to \$500,000 from AXA — that being the difference between the amount the insurer was willing to pay and the actual restoration cost.

AXA has offered to indemnify up to the level of code standards that were in force when the building was constructed in the late 1950s. But the condo owners are faced with paying the cost of rebuilding up to the current code.

Much of the cause for the delay by the company in issuing a settlement has been attributed by the owners to the fact the building wasn't declared a write-off, but sustained only partial damage, mostly to the interior.

"It is about 20 months since the fire, and we don't really have a completion date," said Gotham Hooja, a co-owner. "We've gone ahead and made a decision to reconstruct the building, notwithstanding an appreciable gap between the settlement offered by AXA, our building's insurance company, and the estimated construction cost."

While AXA won't pay up to the level of the current code, according to Hooja, a series of subcontractors have refused to reconstruct without respecting the details of the code. Although there is hope the work will be completed by Sept. 30, Hooja said he would not be surprised if there were further delays.

Hooja said the owners have no option now but to resume negotiations with AXA. "We will have to continue to reach into our pock-



Condo owner Gotham Hooja has been waiting almost two years to go home. (Photo: Martin C. Barry)

ets and to gap-finance this project. Obviously, because of these negotiations, this has become a very, very long project and it's been very personally stressful to a lot of us.

"Many of us have experienced health problems. One of us will never actually make it back because she passed on. At the moment, a lot of us are experiencing a lot of dislocation in terms of personal finances, and those of us who worked out of our homes certainly do not have home offices to go back to."

While some of the condo owners have suggested the City of Westmount ought to intervene, Mayor Karin Marks maintains the issue is between the insurer and the owners.

"Our position in that is that when they applied for a permit, they were given a permit to do the work that needed to be done," she said this week. "That's really our only position in all of that. All the rest of it is in negotiation between the residents, the owners and the insurance company."

Turcot plans inspire a green idea

>Veronica Islas

Anyone driving from the airport into Montreal on Highway 20 will notice a decrepit wasteland in the area below the St. Jacques escarpment. Bumper-to-bumper traffic exposes this barren, semi-industrial area for those entering Montreal from the west. Now, three Montrealers hope to change this unpleasant view for a park with a lake in the centre.

Allen F. Mackenzie, Jean Fortier, and Jacques Beique are the creators of the Otter Lake Society, an association that intends to bring nature back to Montreal.

"We noticed this ugly area, full of containers, right next to the Lachine Canal, which is a national park. It's a disgrace," said Mackenzie. "We also noticed that there's a natural park regenerating itself in the Falaise St. Jacques."

Since the Quebec Transport Ministry recently announced that the aging Turcot Interchange will be rebuilt, these nature enthusiasts decided to propose the creation of a giant park with a lake in the middle, "a la Central Park."

"This lake would recreate one that existed there 200 years ago as a result of the St. Laurence overflow," said Mackenzie.

Although the old lake stretched from the Atwater Market to Ville St. Pierre, the proposed new lake would be smaller, feeding off the Lachine Canal.

But for the project to be feasible, Highway 20 needs to be moved.

"Our proposal requires the highway runs next to the falaise. This is very positive because the cliff creates a natural sound barrier for NDG residents," Mackenzie said.

The Otter Lake Society is also proposing green alternatives for public transportation:

"We are proposing a ground-level tramway that would run through the park all the way into Old Montreal," he added.

The park would also have walking and bike paths.

They are also proposing that CN run a maximum of two train tracks instead of the eight that CN wants once the new Turcot Interchange is finished.

"For at least two years they will be running on two tracks; why do they want to go back to eight?" Fortier said, adding that the trains can take an alternate route, and that they could just move further east.

Continued on page 4

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'Match Against Prostate Cancer' raises funds and awareness

>Bridget Forbes

Local tennis players lobbed, smashed and volleyed for prostate cancer at the 10th annual Jewish General Hospital Tennis Classic, held Aug. 2 at the Mount Royal Tennis Club.

The fundraiser, usually held at Jarry Park, has raised more than \$1.5 million for the Segal Cancer Centre over the past nine years. To celebrate their 10th year, the organizing committee sought a new venue and set themselves a goal of \$500,000 to benefit prostate cancer research.

According to Pat Ifrah-Stein, who co-chaired the event with Elyssa Yanofsky, the committee chose to dedicate the funds raised to prostate cancer, the most prevalent cancer in Canadian men, in order to raise awareness about the disease.

"I knew nothing about prostate cancer when my dad was diagnosed two years ago," said Ifrah-Stein. "It was a simple blood test that detected it. It's like a mammogram; it should be a yearly examination."

Ifrah-Stein's father is now in remission following treatment at the Segal Centre by Dr. Jacques Corcos, chief of urology at the JGH.

"It's important to be screened for prostate cancer considering the frequency of the disease," said Dr. Corcos.

Testing for the disease, that will affect one in eight Canadian men in their lifetime, involves a rectal exam and blood test that should be done annually in men over age 50. Men with higher risk factors, including a family history or the risk of coronary artery disease, should start talking to their doctors around age 40.

"In a very large number of cases we can control the disease with treatment," said Corcos. In fact, the Prostate Cancer Research Foundation of Canada website indicates that 95 per cent of prostate cancer cases are curable when detected early.

According to Dr. Corcos, the tennis tournament is an essential fundraiser for the hospital, which is a leader in prostate

cancer research in Canada. He approached pharmaceutical companies and worked alongside the sponsorship co-chairs, Richard Stein, Richard Yanofsky and Charles R. Spector, to involve major sponsors including Paladin Labs Inc, Sanofi-Aventis, HSBC Bank Canada and Abbott.

Richard Stein is proud of the tournament's success. "We had a fabulous committee this year, and we have the most incredible community in the world," he said, adding that he would like to see the tournament continue to support prostate cancer and hopes to eventually create a national event.

"My long-term goal is to make this a national tennis day where, across the country, people will be playing tennis for prostate cancer," said Stein. He also hopes to draw attention to the disease through branding. To that end, the committee developed a magnetized ribbon to promote the event, similar to the pink ribbons

that have been used in the fight against breast cancer.

In total, 80 players took to the courts at the Mount Royal Tennis Club, on a day when the mercury climbed to 32 degrees. The private club has held fundraisers to benefit the Children's Hospital in the past, but this was the first time that the club had opened its doors to non-members for an event.

"Because it's our centennial at this location, we wanted to give something back to the community," said Westmount City Councillor and tennis club president Patrick Martin. "We are very proud to be able to participate in the great success of the fundraising effort."

The tournament was followed by dinner and a cabaret show at Bice Restaurant in downtown Montreal.

At press time, figures showed the event had raised around \$450,000 and the Jewish General Hospital Foundation office was still accepting donations.

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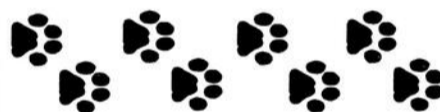
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Continued from page 3

"Trains are noisy, dusty, and they represent a security problem, such as terrorism," he said. "They do not need eight lanes. There should be an arbitrage to diminish their impact on the population."

At the same time, Mackenzie argues that the economic impact that the project would have would be enormous: "Real estate value in the area would witness a five-fold increase. This would translate into more taxes," he said.

Francis Boisvert of Consultaxe Ltee and Cyprien Zapareniuc of Beique Legault Thout Inc. are the companies that studied the economic impact on real state values. This increase would affect neighbouring areas such as NDG and Westmount.

"At the same time, we are also proposing the creation of a biotech centre, which would be beneficial both for McGill University and pharmaceutical companies," he said.

The promoters are also suggesting the creation of a transportation museum to boost tourism in the area.

"This is where Canada began from an economic standpoint. There is a natural theme of transportation and history in this area," he said.

The promoters want to show the public that green spaces are much needed in Montreal: "Montreal is one of the most industrialized cities in North America, and we want to increase green spaces," Mackenzie said.

Ken McLaughlin has been walking around this area and the Turcot yards for years, and he loves the project.

"I would love to see the Otter Lake reclaimed. There is an enormous opportunity at Turcot Yards and it is really a shame to see it totally squandered by a lack of vision," he said.

"We want the public to like this project first," Mackenzie said. "We welcome ideas from the public".



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Dumais cycles in MS fundraiser

-Michelle Levy

Next week, Westmount resident Patricia Dumais will cycle 143 km over two days in an effort to raise funds for the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada (MSSC).

Dumais has lived in the city of Westmount for 17 years and is one of the community's more involved citizens. She is the recording secretary for the Westmount Municipal Association and also sits on the Healthy City committee.

An avid adventurer, Dumais is a past-president of Randonnée Aventure, an outdoor enthusiast club. She will be participating in the RONA MS Bike Tour with the Spirit Rider team, a group of 13 cyclists all affiliated with the outdoor club.

She has thought about participating in the MS Bike Tour for some time now. "Coming into contact more and more with people with MS prompted me to do the event," Dumais said this week. In fact, most of the people on the Spirit Rider team have someone close to them suffering from MS.

Team captain Linda Lessard has been involved in the event for the past 17 years. She said that since her team is composed of cycling enthusiasts, training for the event will not be difficult. "All of the team are strong cyclists," Lessard said.

Some cyclists do not finish, but as Lessard points out, "It's not a race — we're cycling for a cause."

Dumais sees the MS Bike Tour as an enjoyable way to help. A naturally athletic person, she is proud not to own a car and spends a considerable amount of her day walking or cycling. "Everybody should do a little something for a cause," she said.

Fundraising for the Bike Tour takes a considerable amount of time and effort,



Dumais and the Spirit Riders are trying to raise over \$15,000 for the RONA MS Bike Tour (Photo by Andrew Burlone)

and Dumais has already exceeded the \$200 minimum needed to participate. "It seems to be a cause that really matters to people," she said.

Dumais and her team will leave early on the morning of Saturday, Aug. 25 to be in advance of the group of cyclists because it is safer to ride in smaller numbers. The tour takes the cyclists from Rockland, Ont. to Gatineau, Que. and back the next day. The Spirit Riders expect to complete the first day by mid-afternoon after which there will be an awards ceremony and a dinner for all participants.

More than 10,000 cyclists are expected to participate in the 22 tours taking place across Canada between June and September.

If you wish to support the MSSC and Patricia Dumais, visit the website at www.mssociety.ca/en/events/biketour where you can donate in Dumais's name or to her team, the Spirit Riders.

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Opinion

It has to be fuchsia!



Commentary

Wayne
LARSEN
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Brace yourself, folks, because here it comes.

Yes, in just a couple of weeks the local stationeries and office supply stores will be overrun by parents and school-age children, all of them hell-bent on pillaging through the otherwise orderly aisles and shelves in a frantic search for their annual haul of school supplies.

It's supposed to be the most wonderful time of the year — and there is even a popular TV commercial to prove it — but there lurks an ugly side to the happy back-to-school experience, and it comes in the form of the dreaded supply lists handed to each student on the first day of class.

Never mind all the weepy sentimentality and woeful lamenting that they grow up so quickly — one of the sweetest things about having your children graduate from high school is experiencing that rush of smug relief when you pass a store in early September and see the chaotic crowd of school supply shoppers. Like some sort of twisted 'Nam flashback — but without the helicopters — you suddenly remember the rush of the crowd, the lunging hands, the smell of the new coloured pencils and erasers, and the unprintable exclamations of frustrated parents as they realize that there's a separate list for each class.

You know there's a problem when you see a kid, on the verge of tears, yelling at her exasperated mother, "But it can't be a pink binder — the teacher says it has to be fuchsia!"

Ask any parent in the checkout line and they'll invariably blame teachers for making things painfully complicated by demanding so many specific items, many of which are next to impossible to obtain after the first wave of shoppers have swept through the stores on their frantic scavenger hunt.

Colour-coded binders may look good in the classroom, but they are totally unnecessary. Back in the good old days — not that long ago — kids chose their own binders and nobody seemed to care about the colour or design. Instead of relying on a strict system of colour-coordination, they had a foolproof method of telling which binder was for what class — they wrote MATH or PHYSICS on the front. It really was that simple, and though many of today's teachers might not believe it, it worked like a charm.



LETTERS to the editor

Westmount-Ville Marie Liberals should choose

To the editor:

There have been many complaints, including those from B'nai Brith and the Montreal Gazette, about the selection of Joceylon Coulon as the Liberal candidate in the forthcoming Outremont by-election.

The controversial selection of Coulon by Stéphane Dion could cost the Liberals votes and may lead to their losing this seat.

This could probably have been avoided if there was a nomination meeting, as was held in the Papineau riding, which was won by Justin Trudeau. In fact, such meetings are the usual practice.

Giving the local party the right to choose their candidate is a democratic procedure and should be followed, when elections are held. Regrettably, Mr. Dion has stated this will not be done in Westmount-Ville Marie, but someone will be parachuted in, as Lucienne

Robillard has stated she will not run in the next Federal election.

One can hope that the Federal Liberal top-brass will change their mind and allow the local party to choose their candidate at a nomination meeting.

Stanley Baker
De Maisonneuve Boulevard

Thanks for encouraging column

To the editor:

I wish to express my gratitude on behalf of everyone here at Repercussion Theatre for the very encouraging Commentary column that appeared in last week's Examiner.

The article came at a very opportune time as we were engaging in some navel gazing as to the "big questions" of who are we?

Was mounting Molière a wise decision?

Should we even do plays in the language of Molière?

Audiences have been lower this year and to some extent that was anticipated given that we had embarked on the "beau risque" of venturing into the other solitude.

However, it took Shakespeare in the Park a number of years to build its loyal audience base, and that was with a brand very well known in the anglophone community. Molière en plein air is relatively new, and as you mentioned, his oeuvre is not nearly as well known. Our mandate is to ignite a spark of passion for theatre in those that wouldn't think to buy a ticket to Place des Arts or the Centaur. We do that by bringing theatre to them, in their communities.

Doing free outdoor theatre is a very challenging endeavor that constantly tests the commitment of everyone involved. Your very encouraging words are a source of inspiration and a reminder of why we do what we do.

Ray Hiltz
Executive Director, Repercussion Theatre

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OLD NEWS from the archives

1935-2007

Ten Years Ago
August 7, 1997

CONDO DEAL: "A deal may be close at hand for the CP land around the Westmount train station on St. Catherine Street. But while the developer is poised to start construction in October, City officials say his proposal has yet to be accepted. Standing in the parking lot on Tuesday morning, Jerome Winikoff of Oblin Homes described his vision for low-rise townhouses flanking the station. A row of 11 units would be built on the east side and another eight to the west of Victoria Avenue. He also hopes to build another seven units at rear if he can get the City's permission."

Thirty-Five Years Ago
August 10, 1972

ROAD CLOSING: "Results of a survey of Westmount traffic that was taken this spring have shown that with the opening in the fall of the new Trans-Canada highway, it would be feasible to close part of de Maisonneuve Boulevard to traffic. The proposal before Council calls for the closing of the street between Melville and Lansdowne, the section that runs through Westmount Park."

Forty-Five Years Ago
August 10, 1962

JUMPING THE JALOPY: "If you were (or are) a young man driving a jalopy and the old crate breaks down, what would you do with two pretty gal passengers? Have them get out and push, of course! Such was a summertime sight along Sherbrooke Street Tuesday afternoon. And the girls were wearing shorts, too! The unusual spectacle didn't last too long, however, as the gals managed to get the old bus rolling within a block or two."

Fifty-Five Years Ago
August 8, 1952

SCAVENGING: "On Wednesday morning the gang at the Westmount YMCA were scrounging around the city as Hugh Stratton sent them scrambling on a scavenger hunt. Here is a list of what the boys had to dig up: Coca Cola bottle cap, Orange Crush top, maple tree leaf, wooden match, toothpick, one cent stamp, one edition of Time magazine, and one button."

Sixty-Five Years Ago
August 6, 1942

SUMMER SLUMBER: "Tomorrow evening the YMCA vacation club will hold another 'Snooze Party'. This party is being looked forward to greatly by the vacationers. An excellent program has already been lined up by the junior council leaders. They have obtained Howard Richardson, who will tell one of his ghost stories. This will be followed by a moonlight dip in the pool. Other highlights will be a wiener roast and a sing-song."

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New arena joins mayor's legacy list



Civic Alert

Don WEDGE

Mayor Karin Marks is planning to initiate not one but two legacies by the end of this council's mandate. We have previously heard of the intended sustainable community, and this week she confirmed that a second objective has been added.

This is the proposed new Arena, in whatever form it ultimately takes. "It may not be completed by the end of the mandate, but I am determined that, at least, we have a shovel in the ground and construction is on the way."

Marks hopes there will be a crossover of the two projects, so that the new facility is also built to the highest and greenest of standards.

"That will be a very expensive undertaking," she warned, "because arenas are huge energy consumers."

Doubtless, there will be those who will argue that we can only consider a new building if it is at the highest environmental standard.

Marks promises full opportunity for public input once there is a project to be considered.

The mayor feels that unless a project is actually put forward for consideration, a public debate would be too unstructured.

She maintains that the Library reconstruction only began with architectural concepts. No doubt she was referring to the expensive version with reflecting pools. A more modest revision was accepted after an outcry!

I hope the new presentations will come in the form of additional components to the basic arena, so that citizens can consider the implications, including land use, height and cost.

Tackling the To-Do List

With a summer break behind her, Marks was in great form on Monday, hosting a lunch for the visiting Communities in Bloom judges.

Now, council turns to the long To Do List that awaits them this fall, although some members and a few senior staff are still on vacation. There is a short council meeting at noon today (Thursday) and a full meeting on Monday evening, Aug. 27, with the Agglom resuming on the following Thursday.

The Recreation and Culture Standing Committee also meets today after the council meeting.

My list last week of recent legacy work in the community has not been challenged, although it has provoked a number of interesting additions — including what might be regarded as near-legacy achievements.

Yet the most interesting new suggestion does not qualify!

It comes from Laurel Bossen, a York Avenue resident for many years. She thinks that the decision against allowing

the old train station to be used as a proposed Police-Fire megastation is a great legacy.

"Then Mayor Peter Trent deserves a lot of credit for listening to the citizens and responding when they said it was a bad idea. He was not hung up on an Edifice Complex."

Megastation remembered

With the forced mergers that followed, both services have been usurped by Big Montreal, and Westmount would not be the owner of the station, she points out.

Prof. Bossen wants to see the station used productively — another potential item for the Council's To-Do List.

Her suggestion is to convert it to a half-museum/half-library. "Make it a site for the storage and use of Westmount archives — perhaps only with reduced hours — as a branch of the Library.

"It would also be a small museum where we could celebrate our history.

"Some great people have lived in Westmount — from Leonard Cohen to Gabrielle Roy to Brian Mulroney. Let it feature our artists, scholars, scientists, athletes, journalists, musicians, authors — and, even, politicians.

That would be a nice legacy!"

Bossen e-mailed her thoughts on Westmount in response to last week's article. It was full of suggestions meant to

enhance life for citizens.

Misused bike path

It was such a comprehensive list that I asked permission to publish all of it, but she declined.

However, she said I could use some extracts, so here is another I particularly liked: her analysis of reasons why people walk — dangerously — on the bike path through Westmount Park even though there is a pedestrian path.

The bike path has an asphalt surface, she observes. It is much softer and more pleasant, so it continues to be used. When the pedestrian path next needs replacement, she suggests that asphalt or a well-drained cinder path replaces the concrete.

Among councillors, Nicole Forbes suggested the open-day tours of local artists' studios, an enormously successful innovation last October, could be considered a new legacy.

The event will next be held in 2008; on Tuesday, Forbes met with SEAC, her events committee, to begin preparations.

While this event does not yet qualify as a legacy, it may become one over the years and, meantime, can be regarded as a great achievement.

There are many more for which citizens can be proud.

Continued on page 15

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We will continue to welcome the vitality which a healthy local business sector provides. Patronizing these stores and companies helps to ensure their success and continued presence in Westmount.

As one who often walks to the Victoria Village or the Greene and St. Catherine area, I enjoy the quality of products and services available and the experience of knowing the local merchants which is part of living in a small city.

And so, it is with pride that I salute our Westmount businesses and wish them continued success in the future.

Karin Marks
Mayor of Westmount

When you shop local you support courteous people who take their time. People who care about their time. People who still believe in the customer always comes first. And since we're all in this together, let's support each other. Come on in!

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Communities in Bloom results announced next month

Continued from page 1

"We'd like to think that we are doing well in those categories. But, if we are not doing as well as we should, we hope that they will point out some things where we can improve," Marks said.

"We're looking for the same thing we look for in all the communities," Hilton told *The Examiner*. "Obviously you've got a strong heritage and history here — more so than some other communities — just because of the age.

"But we don't say that because we're going to a younger city, they've only been around 80 years," he added. "How are they treating those 80 years? So it's not about who's the oldest. It's about what they are doing with what they have."

"We're looking at certainly the floral side — the nursery side," said Andrews. "We're looking at finding out about the volunteer involvement, which is extensive here. A small community tends to be tight like that... It's generally the whole communal involvement."



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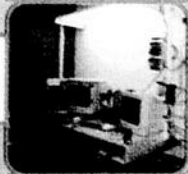
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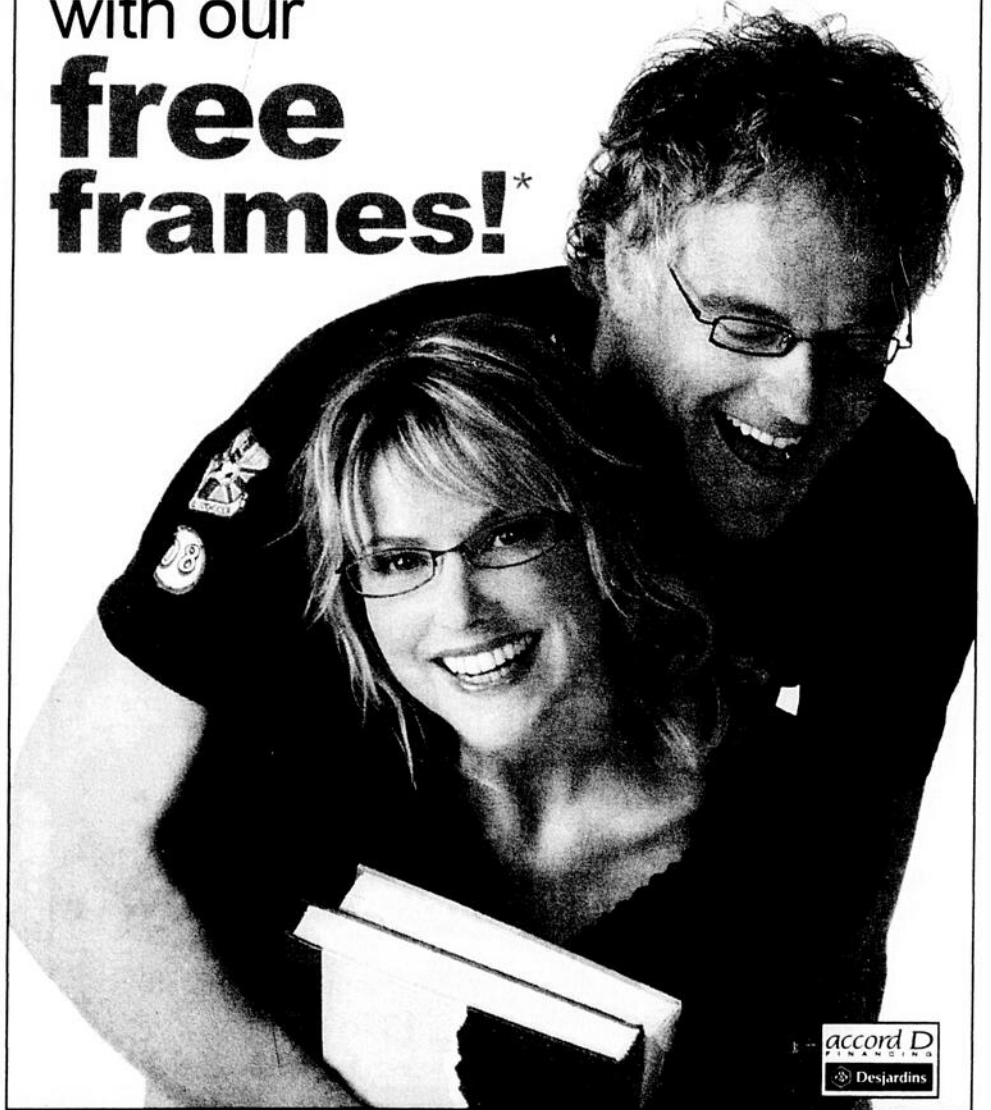
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To the Library and Beyond: Young readers reach for the stars

>Brett Bundale

Young readers have journeyed to the outer limits of their imaginations at the Westmount Public Library this summer. The cosmic adventure is part of an outer space-themed summer program for children, *To the Library and Beyond*.

"Every year we choose a different theme," said Children's Librarian Wendy Wayling. "This is the first time we're doing sci-fi. It's a lot of fun because we get to pull out all different kinds of books on interesting and educational topics."

From 'Mars Needs Moms', to 'Another Day in the Milky Way' and 'Une été dans les galaxies', the bilingual collection explores planet Earth, space and the universe. Every time a young reader finishes a book, they colour an alien or a star to hang on a mural of outer space.

"Kids love the summer program because it's fun and they discover new books," said Wayling. "It's great for parents too, because their children are encouraged to read books

over the summer."

The summer reading club, which started on June 15 and runs until August 24, is open to all library members from 3 to 13 years old. In addition, there are special activities that require registration due to limited space.

Last week, the Mysterious Planets event gave kids a chance to make their very own planet from a papier mâché mold. Next week, on Thursday, Aug. 23 at 7 p.m., is Moonlight Tales, which will take place in the

library's newly redesigned storyteller's garden. Children are encouraged to dress in pajamas and bring along their favourite stuffed animal for the event.

"With nearly 200 children registered, the summer program is really quite a success," said Wayling.



The summer reading club closing party, which features exciting prizes, entertainment and food, will be held Saturday, Sept. 8 at 2 p.m. at Victoria Hall.

Have a comment?




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AVIS PUBLIC est par la présente donné que, conformément à l'article 105.1 de la Loi sur les cités et villes (L.R.Q. chapitre C-19), le trésorier déposera le rapport financier et le rapport du vérificateur externe de la ville de Westmount pour l'exercice financier 2006 lors de la séance du conseil qui se tiendra le lundi 27 août 2007 à 20 h à la salle du conseil de l'hôtel de ville situé au 4333 rue Sherbrooke Ouest, Westmount.

DONNÉ à Westmount, Québec, ce 16^e jour d'août 2007.

PUBLIC NOTICE
FINANCIAL REPORT AND THE AUDITOR'S REPORT
FOR THE 2006 FISCAL YEAR

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that, according to section 105.1 of the Cities and Towns Act (R.S.Q. chapter C-19), the treasurer will file the financial report and the external auditor's report of the City of Westmount for the 2006 fiscal year at the sitting of the Council to be held in the Council Chamber at City Hall, 4333 Sherbrooke West, Westmount on Monday, August 27, 2007, at 8:00 p.m.

GIVEN at Westmount, Quebec, this August 16, 2007.

Alan Kulaga
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The Westmount Examiner Thursday, August 16, 2007

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Community Life

Westmount's bowling green is open to all

>Brett Bundale

It's a lovely Saturday afternoon; the sky is a brilliant blue and the sun is shining. In the heart of Westmount, across from City Hall, lies an exquisitely manicured green turf. Ladies and gentlemen, immaculately clad from head to toe in white, are enjoying a fine game of lawn bowling.

"People walking by will often stop to watch us play," said bowler Stanley Baker, responsible for liaison and publicity at the Westmount Lawn Bowling Club. "It looks like fun, so they come try it out. It's a great way for us to recruit new members."

Founded in 1902, the Westmount Lawn Bowling Club is one of the oldest in Canada. James Brown, founding father and first president of the club, helped turn what was then sleepy farmland in the suburbs of Montreal into some of the finest greens in the world.

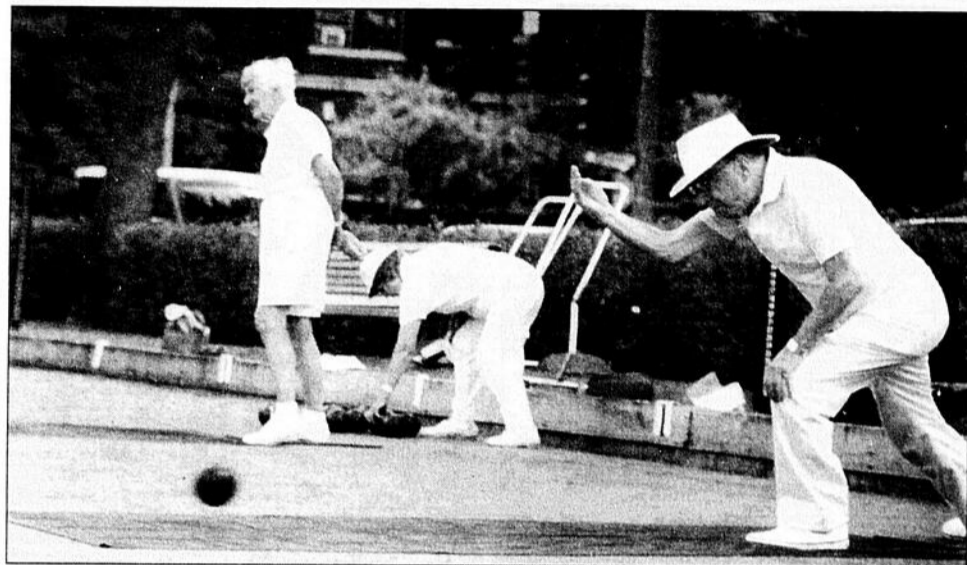
The author of a comprehensive manual on lawn bowling, Brown insisted that the traditional rules and etiquette of the game that he acquired in his native Scotland be adhered to in Westmount.

Most of these rules continue to be respected to this day, with one major change.

"The difference is that 100 years ago women weren't allowed to be members," said Baker. Now women outnumber men three to one. It's possible the club would have closed a long time ago had it not opened the membership up to women.

Club member Evelyn Lodge first bowled in the Town of Mont Royal for over 16 years. "But from the time first time I played, I knew that I wanted to join the Westmount bowling club. It's just so nice here," said Lodge, looking towards the greens. "And there are nice people, too."

After 22 years bowling, Lodge now plays croquet because of health reasons. But she still pays the bowling membership dues every year out of loyalty. "I come to watch them play on



Stanley Baker in action. (Photo: Brett Bundale)



Gay Risk rakes the bowls.

the weekends, it's just such a beautiful game."

The legacy of the beautiful game dates back to antiquity. There is evidence of a similar game being played in ancient Egypt, which made its way to Greece and finally to Rome, where it is believed that Julius Caesar's centurions then brought the sport across Europe. Lawn bowling, along with games like Italian bocce, French petanque or curling, is believed to have originated from this tradition.

The object of lawn bowling, similar to the above-mentioned sports, is to roll a bowl as close as possible to a smaller white ball (called the jack) located on the opposite side of the turf. Because the bowl is slightly asymmetrical, it curves as it loses momentum and the idea is to have it curve as close as possible to the jack.

A game packed with tactic and strategy, the point is not just about getting your bowl closest to the jack. Players must anticipate their opponent's shots. For example, players will aim their bowls to block the jack or

knock the opponent's bowls out of the way.

But the easiest way to understand the game, however, is to watch a match. "You have to come see lawn bowling first hand to get a feel for how it works," said Jessica Chan, member and coach at the Westmount Lawn Bowling Club.

An excellent opportunity to watch a game and discover Westmount's bowling greens is next week when Montreal welcomes some of the most talented bowlers from across Canada. Westmount is one of three clubs to host the 2007 Canadian National Championships from Aug. 19 to 25. The official opening, complete with pomp and bagpipes, will be held in Westmount on Aug. 20.

The Westmount club welcomes all ages to come try the sport. "Bowlers range from their teens to their 90s," said Baker. "It's a popular misconception that lawn bowling is basically a seniors sport. We're not a herd of dinosaurs," he added.

The Westmount bowling club is open

every Wednesday evening to those interested in trying the sport. Personal coaches are on-hand to explain the art of bowls and teach proper technique. The only requirement is flat-soled footwear and white clothing.

Before becoming a member, new players must have a coach approve them based on a minimum level of proficiency. "Though with practice, people's prowess improves quickly," said Baker reassuringly.

If the promise of maintaining a healthy lifestyle and meeting new friends hasn't convinced you to give lawn bowling a try, the tea, cakes, and cucumber sandwiches that emerge at the end of a demanding game of bowls should do the trick. The season starts May 1 and runs until Oct. 15, weather permitting.

The Westmount Lawn Bowling Club is located at 401 Kensington Ave. For information, please call 514 931-8690. To learn more about the 2007 Canadian National Championships please visit www.bowlscanada.com.

Westmount dance studio set to swing open its doors

>Beza Seife

As fall looms closer and closer, Westmount's Hip Action Dance Studio is calling on the public to prolong their summertime joie de vivre by taking advantage of the diverse programs it offers throughout the year.

To kick off the fall season, the studio will be hosting an open house on Sunday, Aug. 26 at the studio's home in Centre Greene

Guests can expect to experience a taste of what Hip Action Dance Studio is all about.

"We like to keep it light, and we find people grasp things easier that way. It's all about socializing, having fun and working out," said Myrle Clery, an instructor at the studio which counts salsa, reggae and

belly dancing among the styles it features.

The open house will feature demonstrations and lessons in African, hip-hop, stomp, west coast swing and salsa dance styles. Admission is free.

Lessons held during the open house will cost \$5 per one-hour session, but are free to anyone who joins the Hip Action VIP guest list before Aug. 20. Guests should e-mail RSVP@hipaction.ca to be added to the list, and should visit www.hipaction.ca for a full rundown of the studio's programming.

Hip Action owner Marsha Lawrence invites people of all dancing levels to attend the open house — from beginners to experienced dancers, the studio provides a warm and inviting environment for all, she said.



"We're not stern teachers, cracking whips over anyone's head. If we let people play, they learn faster," Lawrence said of Hip Action's approach to dancing.

Attendees of the open house will also automatically be eligible for a 10 per cent discount on fall registration, and are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item to the event, to be donated to Share the Warmth.

Organizers hope the event will spread the joy of dancing throughout Montreal.

"What we want is to get a whole lot more people addicted to dancing," said Lawrence.

The Open House event takes place from 1 to 7 p.m. at Centre Greene, 1090 Greene Ave. For more information, call 514-931-6202.

Dolphins set two records en route to division win

>Noah Sidel

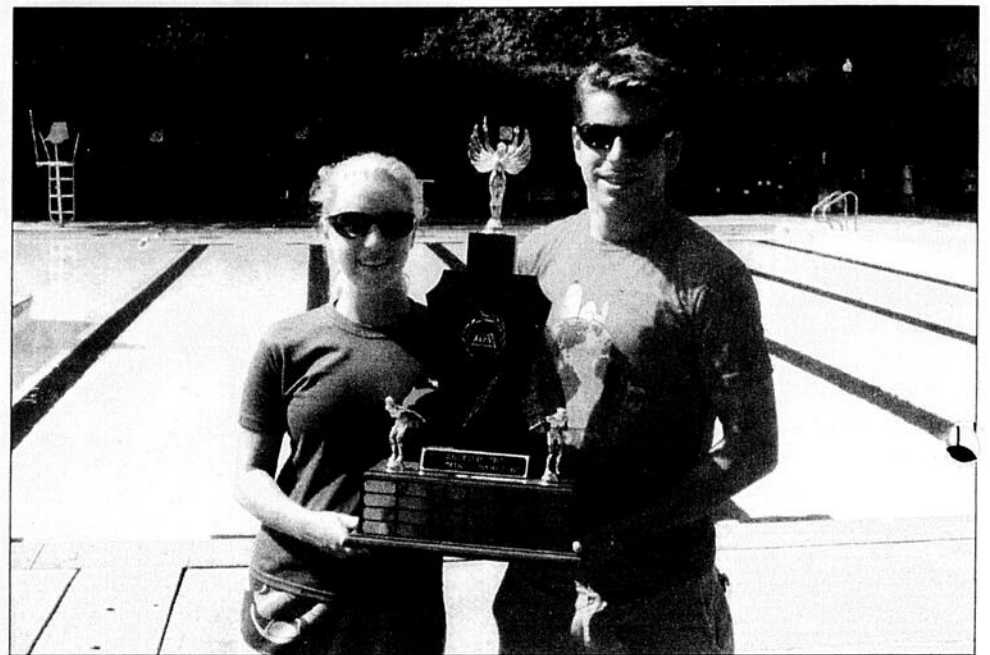
The Westmount Dolphins swimming club is truly at the top of its game, having won this year's regular season, and just last weekend, the ALPS league Division B playoff championship.

"Every week there are dual meets where three pools visit three other pools and the last one gets a bye," said Westmount swim coordinator Ross Fraser. "This past week-

end in Westmount, we hosted the championship and we finished first overall.

Westmount even set a couple of records last weekend.

"We have some really strong kids throughout, but two of our swimmers smashed some all-time ALPS records," said Fraser. "Zach Glassman broke the all-time 15-plus 50-yards breast stroke by almost a full second at 27.14 seconds, the



Leah and Zach Glassman with the Section B trophy.

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previous record of 27.80 being set in 1980. In swimming circles, that's a hell of a big record.

"The other was my son, Kevin Fraser, who broke the all-time 11-12 boys' 50-yards breast stroke with a time of 33.97 seconds, breaking the old record of 34.16, which was set in 1992. These are two pretty old records that went down and is obviously a big source of pride for us. But as special as the individual records are, it's the team win that's most impressive."

There are three different sections in the Association of Lakeshore Pools and there are 22 pools from across the western end of the city that participate, Fraser said.

"This year we swam with Riverside Park (LaSalle), Dixie (Lachine), Valois and Lakeshore (Pointe-Claire), Baie d'Urfe, and Montreal West."

Fraser explained the day's events.

"All seven pools sent their best two swimmers from each event in each age group. There are 50 events in total, including different distances of freestyle, backstroke, breast stroke, butterfly and free relay," he said.

"The age groups are under eight, nine-10, 11-12, 13-14, and 15-plus, which usually goes in the 15-22 age range or so."

With each event scored individually at the meet, the Dolphins went in with a big advantage.

"We were fortunate to be unbeaten through the regular season, so we had a big lead. In the season, you get 50 points for a win and 10 for a loss. Valois was the nearest team to us, and we had 300 points and they had 260," Fraser said.

"In total we won the meet with 1,406 points. Valois was second with 1,297."

With those impressive results, Westmount will have close to 50 swimmers at next weekend's grand finals at Pointe Claire's Lakeside Pool.

Fraser credited hard work from volunteers and coaches for this year's success.

"We used to wallow at the bottom of level C and for most of our first nine or 10 years, we didn't perform very well," he said. "But a few years ago, some great parents got involved and they turned the program around."

"A bunch of nice families for involved and that really got us going. This is a parent-organized program and we hire and pay our own coaches. Our parents are very involved and this is a reflection of their work. The City is very supportive as well."

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Continued from Civic Alert page 7

Councillors' suggestions

Kathleen Duncan put forward the restoration of the Cenotaph and was supported by Tom Thompson.

"The Cenotaph is an element of official Westmount, its culture and tradition," he said.

The large body of activities in the city led Thompson to nominate them, as achievements, if not as legacies. He cited the many Library programmes.

The annual McEntyre Essay contest, with its enormous participation of schoolchildren, might even qualify as a legacy.

The wide participation in Communities in Bloom was in itself a demonstration of the city's values, he thought.

Among examples of events which spotlight the community spirit are the Secret Garden Tour, the Halloween judging, Christmas Carols and Hanukkah Lighting, and the Canada Day and St-Jean-Baptiste Day traditions and, of course, Family Day in the Park.

Also notable are the various block parties, organized by residents and supported by the City.

Swim success

Thompson enthused over the success of the swim team and their weekend meet that Westmount had hosted for the first time — and won!

All such activities gave an added value to the quality of Westmount life, he said.

Thompson thinks the campaign waged by the Save the Park group has produced an effect beyond that anticipated by the advocates: an increased general awareness of all 13 park facilities.

He believes there is a human need to re-create oneself periodically — 're-create' being at the root of the recreation concept — and that the city provides essential facilities and opportunities for this human revitalization.

Meantime, Councillor Patrick Martin maintains that the present council's volume of work will lead to its chapter in the history of the City.

Not necessarily concrete

"A legacy may not be something constructed in concrete," he maintains. "For instance, the sea change of culture that we went through leading to the purchase of the hybrid cars marks a key step in our transition to a sustainable community."

It may not be generally recalled that, in 2004 while an annexed borough, the Healthy City Project asked that council to take a lead and buy a hybrid vehicle as a demonstration of its green orientation.

Council investigated, but for various reasons — financial and practical — the idea.

While the HCP periodically raised the issue, it was only this spring that a new determination on Council's part found vehicles with a specification that met operational needs, and the four Toyota hybrids were bought for Public Security.

A hybrid replacement was also chosen for the Director-General's car.

Bulletin Board

Friday, Aug. 17

The Montreal Children's Library presents Washboard Theatre performing Briar Rose, a bilingual presentation at 10:30 a.m. for ages 3-5 in Cabot Square Park (Atwater and Tupper). Info: 514-931-2304.

Saturday, Aug. 18

Westmount's Knit n' Natter group is having their first annual PicKnit in the park. Bring your lunch, your knitting and something to sit on and meet at the corner of Lansdowne and de Maisonneuve at noon. The group will then find a nice spot in the park. Come on out and meet some other knitters and have a good time!


Repercussion Theatre presents Molière's 'Scapin the Schemer' in Westmount Park at 8 p.m. Free admission. Bring a lawn chair. Info: 514-989-5226.

Sunday, Aug. 19

Repercussion Theatre presents Molière's 'Scapin the Schemer' in Westmount Park at 8 p.m. Free admission. Bring a lawn chair. Info: 514-989-5226.

Wednesday, Aug. 22

Poetry in the Park: A lineup of local poets will read in Westmount Park by the lagoon, starting at 7 p.m. Rain date is Thursday, Aug. 23; in case of rain both evenings, the event will be held in Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke St. W. on Thursday. Info: 514-989-5226.




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A Message from the Montreal firefighters

TO ALL TAXPAYERS ON THE ISLAND OF MONTREAL

DID YOU KNOW THAT

- every year, taxpayers on the Island of Montreal must pay millions of dollars in overtime to the Fire Department?
- the main reason for this expense is that there are way too few firefighters?
- a joint study by the Montreal Fire Department and the Montreal Firefighters' Association clearly demonstrates that to provide REASONABLE protection against fires, at least 500 new firefighters should be hired?



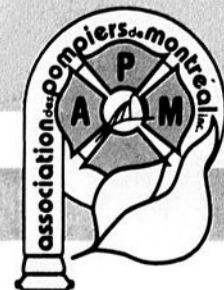
photo: Sylvain Ryan

Instead of reducing overtime costs and providing citizens on the Island of Montreal with reasonable firefighting services, the Tremblay-Zampino administration has not taken any action to correct this situation.

Montreal firefighters encourage you to contact Frank Zampino, the chair of the executive committee and the person in charge of Montreal's finances, to ask him why he is managing taxpayers' money this way.

Monsieur Frank Zampino
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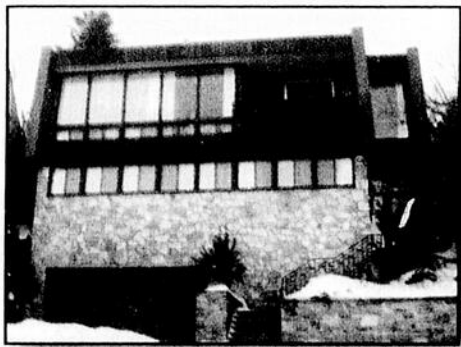


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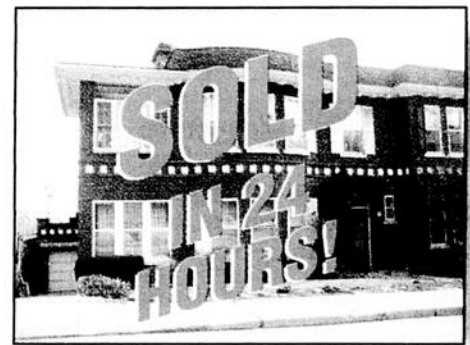
BELVEDERE - Modern multi-level 5 bdrm home filled with light, spectacular views, c/a, fireplaces, 2 car garage & great for entertaining!
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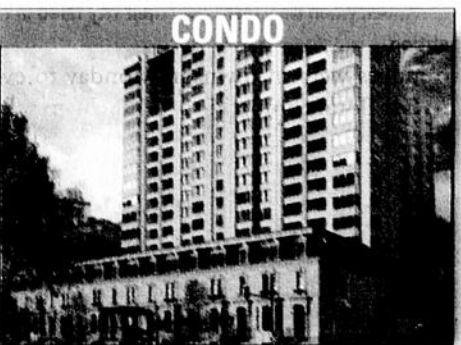
GRENVILLE - Sun-filled "John Hand" home with fantastic southern views! With its 2-car integrated garage; garden; wonderful layout; beautiful mouldings and detail all on a quiet cul-de-sac, this home cannot be compared for location and quality! **Asking \$1,045,000.**



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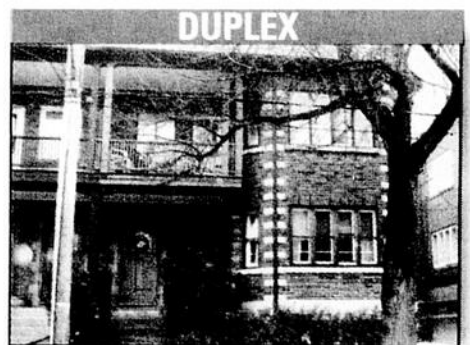
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