

The Westmount Examiner

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WEEKLY

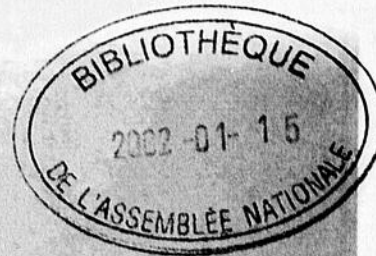
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WORRIES MOUNT OVER EXPRESS TRAINS

Borough council expects to address the possibility of high-speed commuter trains running through Westmount

Page 4



Photo: Martin C. Barry

De-merger committee continues to fight for Westmount's autonomy

Local News

Martin C. Barry

A committee of current and former elected officials from Westmount will be holding their first public meeting later this month to consider ways the borough can be made more autonomous within the new megacity.

Last December, as Westmount city council was winding down its activity before the merger with the City of Montreal came into place Jan. 1, former mayor Peter Trent announced that a committee working towards de-merging Westmount from the megacity would begin sitting in the new year.

According to Tom Thompson, whose term as a

Westmount councillor was cut short two years by the merger, the committee, whose first meeting at Westmount city hall takes place Jan. 23 at 8 p.m., will be composed of the three elected representatives who now sit on the borough council, as well as the six 'de-elected' representatives, including Trent, who are former members of Westmount city council.

The de-merger committee will "continue our discussion about those areas of jurisdiction in municipal affairs that we feel quite strongly should be within a local municipal structure," said Thompson. "That means that if you have what is called the borough of Westmount, we believe that the borough of Westmount can still function effectively as a unit within the larger regional development of what is called the City of Montreal. But we want to see this developed along the lines of some of the models that we have analyzed and studied in the

United States—not the least of which is Boston."

Thompson said that the de-merger committee will essentially be filling the role that Trent had set out last year when he said a 'shadow' council of former Westmount city councillors would sit in 2002,

(continued on page 4)



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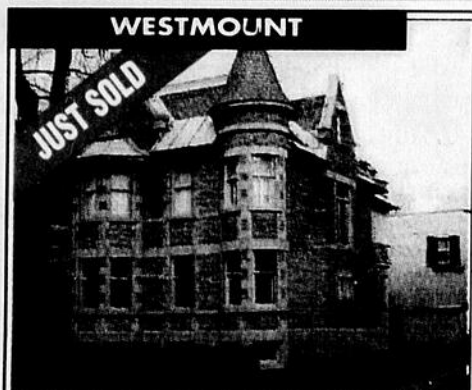
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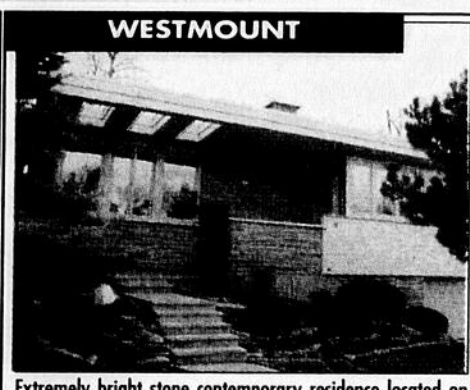
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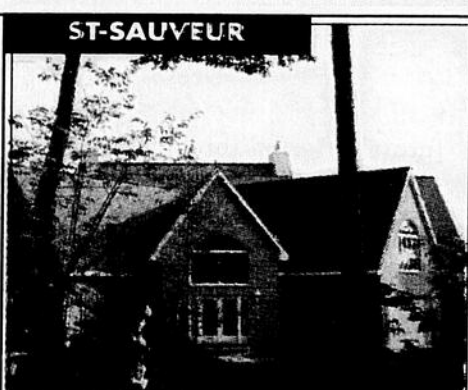
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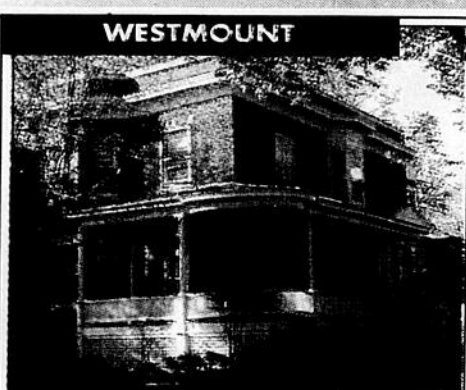
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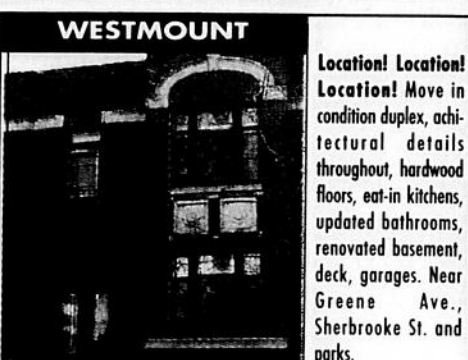
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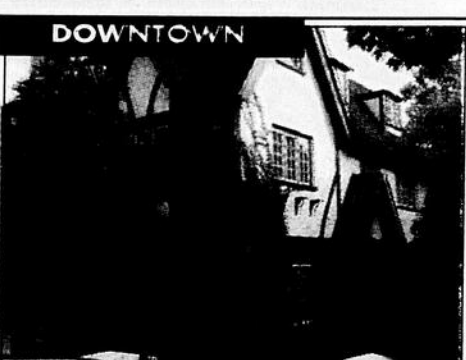
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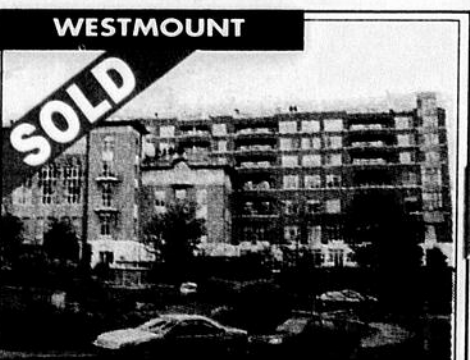
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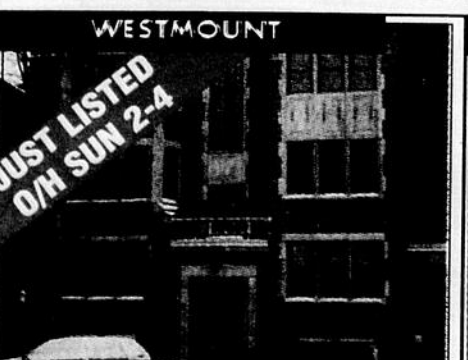
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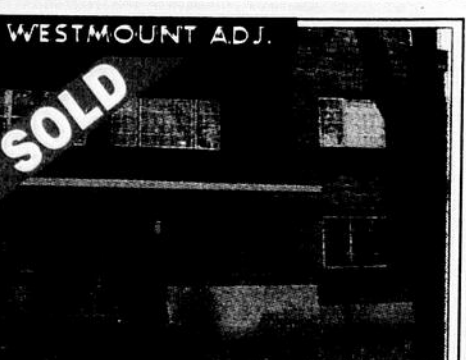
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Young cadet receives prestigious Leadership Medal

Marilynn Vanderstay

When Philip D'Angelo makes a promise, you can be sure he'll keep it.

"I would like to improve the Squadron as much as possible and instill more pride in the Cadets Movement as a whole," the #1 Montreal West Squadron Cadet Commander declared when he was promoted to that post last September—and in three short months he has already accomplished that.

Last month Commander D'Angelo was awarded the prestigious Leadership Medal for Quebec by the Air Force Association of Canada, making him a role model and mentor for both the cadets and the movement.

At a surprise presentation at the annual Christmas banquet last month, D'Angelo was awarded the medal he earned last summer at the Senior Leaders Course at CFB Cold Lake, Alberta. During the three-day review weekend he was evaluated along with other cadets from across Canada on his interaction and leadership skills. Then only 15 years old, D'Angelo himself was surprised the review committee decided he was the best for the position only because of his young age. But he also knew he had worked hard for the award.

Ursula Hyman, veteran Royal Canadian Air Force Association member and first female president of the RCAFA, had the privilege of pinning the award on D'Angelo. Hyman, who served as a wireless operator overseas during World War II, said she was honoured to be selected to pin the award on D'Angelo.



Cadet Commander Philip D'Angelo receives Leadership medal from Royal Canadian Air Force Association president Ursula Hyman

Immediately after receiving the award D'Angelo was given a standing ovation from the 60-plus cadets and guests in attendance.

The Air Force Association Medal for Leadership is awarded annually to the 12 top air cadets graduates, one from each province and territory in the country, at the leaders course. The idea for the medal came from Bruce

Wayne Phinney, a 25-year member of 110 Northumberland Wing in Stellaton, Nova Scotia. Phinney is a former Air Cadet and has devoted his spare time to the air cadet movement. The idea required approval from various levels including the Department of National Defense and the Air Cadet League. The medal is authorized to be worn on the air cadet uniforms.

It was first presented in 1998 in honour of the 50th anniversary of the Air Force Association of Canada. The award is one of the most prestigious awards an air cadet can receive.

The medal was designed by heraldic artist Bruce Beatty of the Canadian Heraldic Authority. Beatty has also designed the Order of Canada award, the Meritorious Service Cross, and the Medal and Order of Military Merit. He is a member of #410 Wing in Ottawa and the Air Force Association of Canada.

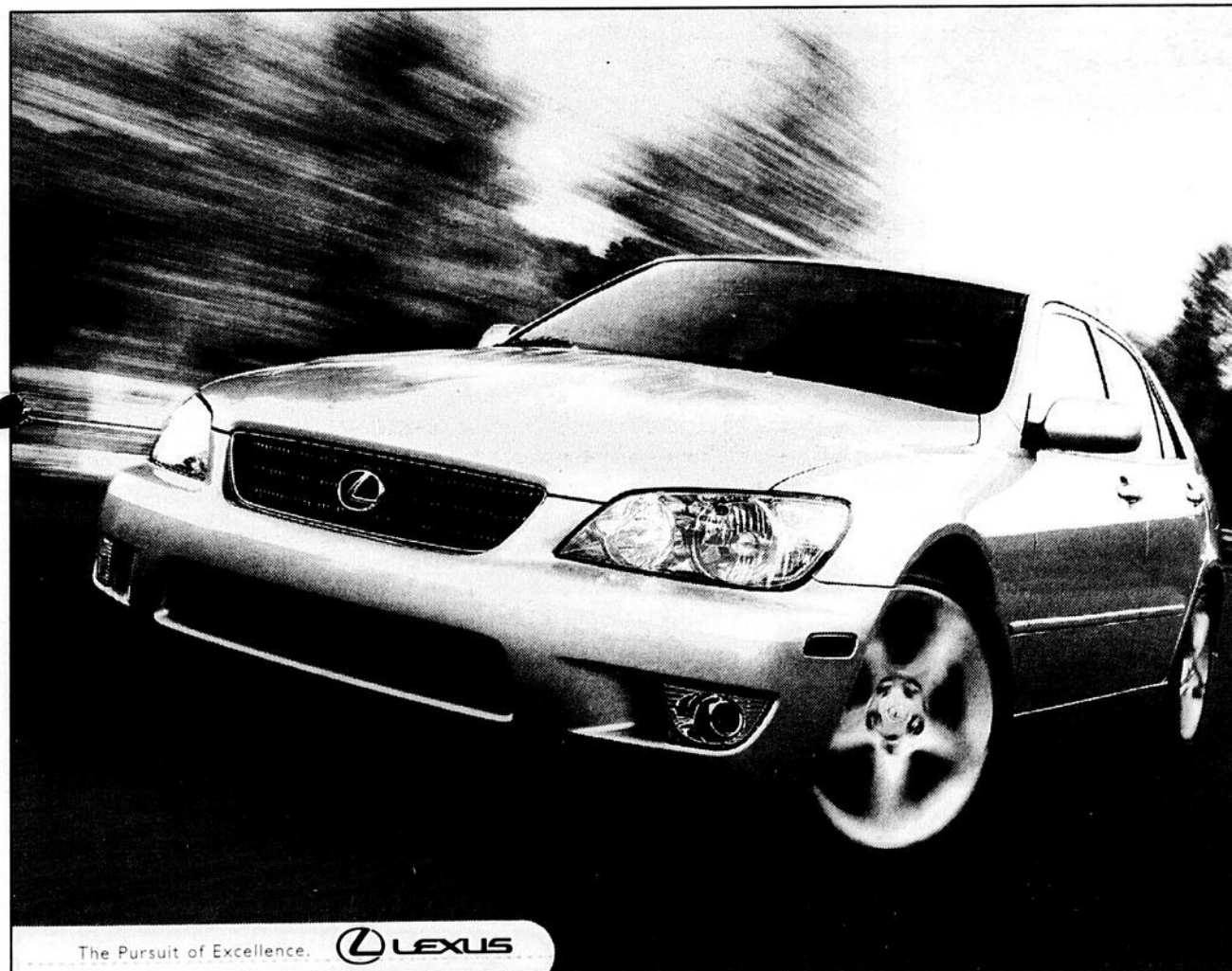
Traditionally, the medal is awarded at the camp in the summer but this year a new medal was being minted and was not finished in time for the camp. The cadets had to wait to receive their award. D'Angelo is the first cadet in the country to receive the limited edition medal and in fact received the prototype itself.

"I am very proud of my association with #1 Montreal West Squadron, its cadets and Commanding Officer Tammy Wallace," he said.

In his position as Cadet Squadron Commander, the highest rank for a cadet, D'Angelo is responsible for all the cadets and running the extensive training program.

The Squadron is in the middle of L'Auto Cadet, its annual fundraiser program. Cadets in full uniform will be selling tickets January 26, 27, and 28 at the entrance to the Alexis Nihon plaza and will be bagging at Zellers.

The Squadron is also recruiting cadets. Young people 12 to 18 years old are invited to an information night Wednesday, January 16 at 6:30 p.m. at the Royal Montreal Regiment at 4625 Ste. Catherine St.



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Concern raised over high-speed trains through Westmount

Martin C. Barry

A recent news report about plans to run high-speed trains from downtown Montreal to Dorval and other suburbs has revived concerns about how the noise level could affect Westmount.

Cynthia Lulham, borough councillor for the southern Westmount ward of W.D. Lighthall, says that one of the matters expected

to come before the council when it holds its first meeting of the year on Jan. 14 will be noise levels in lower Westmount, next to the railway where the trains would pass.

"I'm going to hopefully be trying to bring some people to Westmount to see the situation that we have in lower Westmount with the noise from the trains already," Lulham said.

"I'm hoping that we can promote either putting in electric trains or re-doing the road beds, or not using

heavy locomotives. We're looking at a whole lot of new options, such as whether there's a necessity to have commuter trains at all. Right now the sounds and vibrations of the trains has increased greatly."

Bruce St. Louis, director general of the borough, said that even though the high-speed train service is only speculation at this point, precautions are being taken anyway. According to St. Louis, the matter would be dealt with primarily by Montreal's central

city council, with secondary input provided through local borough councils like Westmount's.

"It would have to be looked at by downtown city hall," St. Louis said. "Hopefully the borough would be implicated in it as well. All the boroughs would be affected by it—if the project is in fact to go through. In projects of this order of magnitude, you're talking about major dollars. This is a big project.

(continued on page 5)

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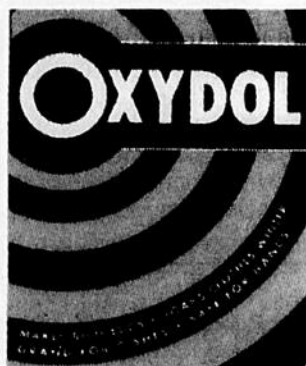


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De-merger committee

(continued from page 1)

monitoring the borough council. According to Thompson, the de-merger committee has no intention of intruding into the affairs of the borough council.

"The elected representatives now in the borough are the only people who should be dealing with issues on day-to-day activities within Westmount," he said. "The only activity that this group—the de-elected councillors and our mayor in exile, as well as our current elected representatives—is committed to is to pursue the issue that we have and that we now refer to loosely under the title de-merger. That's our sole responsibility. You cannot get in between the elected representatives and the citizens."

Thompson said that even though the committee plans to discuss de-merger, the question of actually working towards Westmount's secession from the new megacity, the committee is concentrating on how to implement

changes at the borough level.

"Soft words don't stir up any anger," he said. "The citizens of Westmount lost their city and the status of the city without having any opportunity to be heard in the Quebec government structure of municipal affairs. And that is one of our greatest concerns, that this was not a democratic process."

Thompson suggested that the committee's purpose may not be related so much to de-merger as to another goal that is still in development. "It's not de-merger so much as, in the long-term, the committee to restructure the anti-democratic action of the Minister of Municipal Affairs vis-à-vis local government and the local needs of our community," he said.

"Our biggest concern is that if you develop a bureaucracy but you have no techniques for blending the functioning elements of this amalgamation, it's going to create some more problems—not the least of which, we're watching very carefully, is the fire department," said Thompson.

Other areas the de-merger committee is also looking at are the union structure left over from the former municipal organization, and what local action can be taken for road and sewer repairs. According to the structure of the new megacity, boroughs like Westmount which are former municipalities retained their own public works departments. However, they no longer have the authority to pass bylaws allotting the departments funds.

"If a community was building its own recreation program, how do they get into a situation where they can approve this structure? Because locally the majority of the citizens want it and have reviewed it publicly," said Thompson.

The answer, he suggested, is to have the capacity to develop a pay-as-you-go or a loan bylaw system to do this locally so the costs are here. However, Thompson admitted this would mean bringing about substantial changes to the way the megacity and the boroughs have initially been structured.

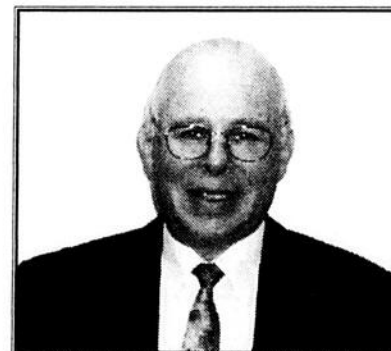
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Fire Chief Adams retires after 38 years

Martin C. Barry

Westmount Fire Department director Jim Adams, whose career with the City spanned 38 years, retired Dec. 31—just as Westmount's history as a municipality was also coming to a close.

Adams, 61, joined the Westmount fire department in August, 1963. In 1990, he became fire chief, as well as director of Protective Services, responsible for overseeing the Public Security department.

At the Westmount fire department, the retirement age had been established as 55 years. But the City's administration decided to keep Adams on past retirement because he was the fire chief. The position of fire chief no longer exists, although a senior firefighter, Georges Aumais, is now the division chief.

Since Jan. 1, Westmount's fire department has become integrated with the City of Montreal's department. The Stanton Street fire hall is now part of the megacity fire Department's District 17, which services an area that includes Westmount, N.D.G. and Côte des Neiges.

Adams said in an interview that he had seen retirement looming ahead for some time. "Whether I was looking forward to it or not, I think yes, but I wasn't against it either," he said.

"Let's put it this way: if things had stayed the way they were, then I would have worked another year-and-a-half,



Jim Adams

because I wanted to get my 40 years in. But because of the circumstances, Montreal taking over, I swore I wouldn't work one day for the Montreal fire department."

Adams said he had definite feelings about not working for Montreal's fire service. "It's like changing allegiance, I guess," he said. "I started as a Westmount fireman, I've done 38 and a half years as a Westmount fireman, and the uniform I was going to hang up was going to be Westmount's uniform. It wasn't going to be Montreal. I felt very strongly about that."

During his nearly four decades combating fires, Adams witnessed some of the most spectacular blazes ever seen in Westmount. He had been a firefighter for just a couple of years when the old Church of St. Andrew, located on Stanton Street almost

across from the fire station, erupted in flames one night and was reduced to a mass of smoking rubble by the following morning.

"That was one of the biggest ones," Adams recalls. "Once fire gets into the structure of a church, very seldom is there even a chance of saving them. Mind you, I was just a young rookie in those days, one of the firemen on the end of the hose."

The only other fires that might compare, he said, occurred in the late 1980s, when the east tower of Alexis Nihon Plaza went up in flames, and on another occasion, when three buildings on Greene Avenue were destroyed in a blaze.

Adams, a LaSalle resident and father of three, said he has only fond memories of this city.

"Westmount to me was like a second home," he said, adding that although he had worked for many directors general, he was especially fond of Bruce St. Louis.

"He probably had the confidence for me to take the job as chief that I didn't have myself, because when it was first offered to me I refused," said Adams. "Bruce basically came and talked me into taking it. I guess he saw something that I didn't see, I don't know. But I've enjoyed every minute of it, and I'm very glad I took the job—and I'm definitely going to miss all the firefighters and public security. I will miss all the guys, all the workers, plus all the staff and directors at City Hall."

High-speed trains

(continued from page 4)

"If it comes to fruition, a lot of money is going to have to be set aside to pay for this," added St. Louis. "But typically there's also the environmental impact studies and a number of other things that would have to happen first before that type of project would proceed... As of now, however, it hasn't filtered to the borough office."

Over the years, lower Westmount has been the source of numerous complaints about noise from passing train engines, as well as from train maintenance done in the nearby Glen railway yards.

St. Louis said that even though the yards are being used for much less maintenance than in previous years, an increase in the number of commuter trains running down the line has kept the noise level relatively high.

"There are so many variables in this," he said, noting that the construction of the McGill University Health Centre in the Glen Yards a few years from now will further complicate the issue. "That will have an impact on the timing of rail service. Then there's the issue of whether it will be a high-speed train, above ground or below ground. There are so many things that still have to be looked at."

St. Louis suggested that the right place for Westmount residents to address their concerns is the borough council, which sits at least once a month at the former Westmount City Hall on Sherbrooke Street

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NEW YEAR

As always, we begin the new year full of hope and enthusiasm and an unflinching positive attitude. Last year the world stood still in shock and disbelief as the events of September 11th unfolded. Hopefully, the worst is over and the healing and rebuilding can commence. We must go forward, mindful and thankful for the sacrifice of others.

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Happy New Year

In the first issue of January, it is customary for the Examiner to devote this column to predictions for the coming year—humorous little jabs of satire and inside jokes aimed at the various Westmount institutions and personalities who tend to populate the pages of this paper throughout the year.

But since the current state of municipal affairs is no laughing matter for many Westmounters—in fact some might go so far as to say that anything is indeed possible after last year's absurdity-filled fight against Bill 170—many readers might consider it inappropriate, or even in bad taste, to poke fun at what might happen this year.

Commentary

Wayne Larsen



For instance, predicting that the Vision Montreal candidate in the megacity election would turn up at Victoria Hall with bodyguards would have no doubt evoked a few chuckles last year—but somehow that was neither funny nor surprising to those who attended the Oct. 22 Meet the Candidates evening.

And so, due to the uncertain atmosphere surrounding the start of 2002, the annual tradition of comical predictions has been unceremoniously replaced by New Year's wishes for those who would otherwise have been lampooned:

To the Westmount Municipal Association: An unprecedented flood of nominations for the annual Volunteer Citizen of the Year Award.

To the staff of the Westmount Public Library: Peace and quiet—and nowhere near the number of expected library users from other parts of the megacity.

To the Westmount Historical Association: The ways and means to finally set up official headquarters in the old Westmount train station building.

To Peter Trent and the former Westmount city councillors: A brief and ultimately successful mandate as the de-merger committee.

To Karin Marks, Cynthia Lulham and John de Castell: A pleasant and productive—but brief—stint on the Montreal city and borough council.

To Westmount Public Security officers: A sudden rash of smiling traffic violators whose vocabularies don't include the F word or unflattering names inspired by body parts.

To former Montreal Mayor Pierre Bourque: A long, leisurely cruise somewhere—anywhere—and a cure for that affliction known as 'Pinocchio nose.'

To the Westmount Dog Owners Association: Municipal legislation that would require all dogs to be properly vaccinated and licensed before being eligible to use local dog runs.

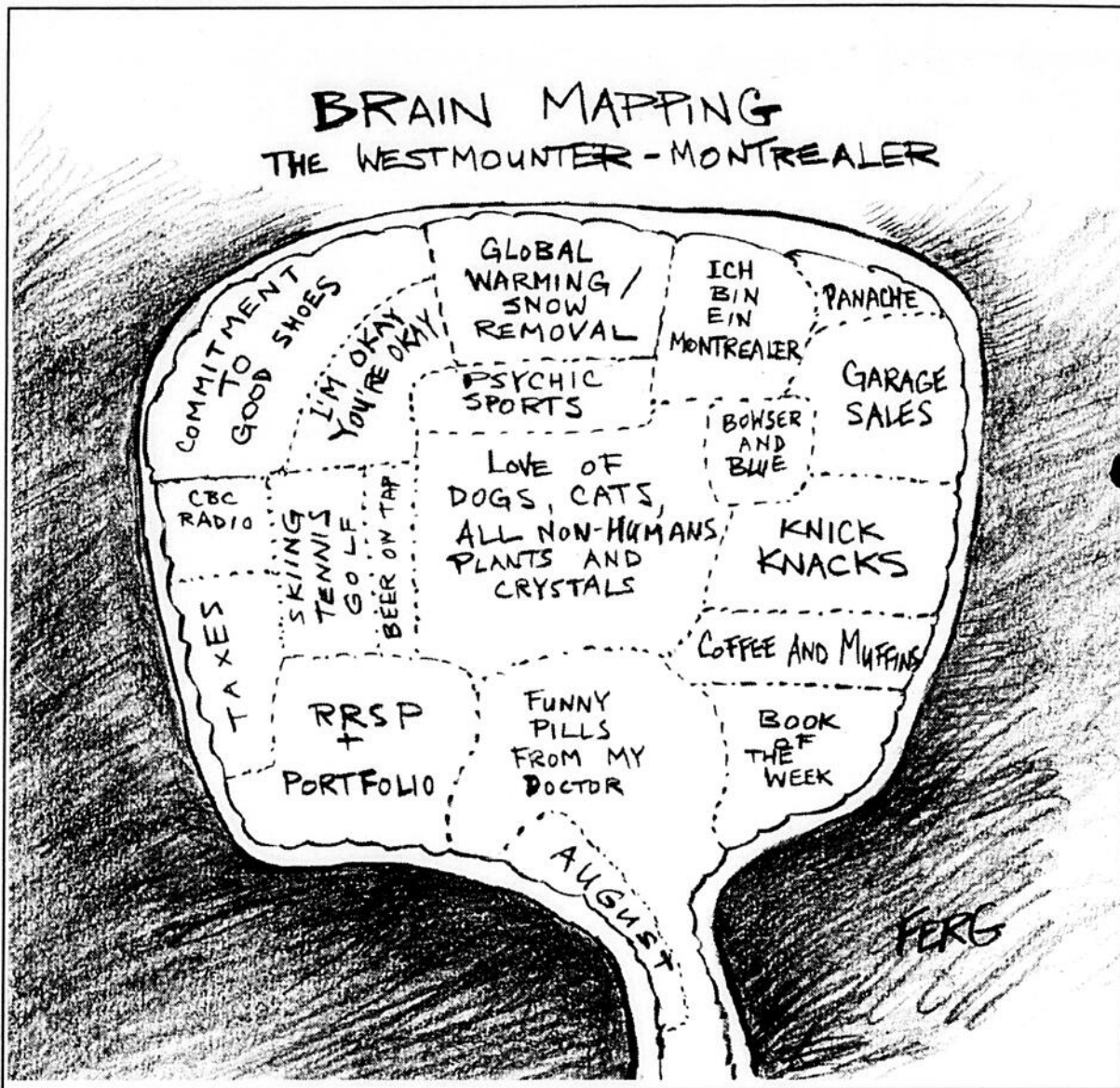
To Municipal Affairs Minister Louis Harel: A strong fan and a set of heavy-duty nose plugs, because that "old foul stench of colonialism" shows no signs of dispersing.

To new Mayor Gérald Tremblay: Good luck, and plenty of it.

To provincial Liberal leader Jean Charest: A year of steadily increasing support across Quebec, and an early election call by the PQ government.

To Fred Caluori and the Public Works department: At least four more months of light to non-existent snowfalls, and temperatures remaining well above zero.

To all Westmount ski enthusiasts: Plenty of heavy snowfalls and temperatures well below freezing from now until late April. (Okay, so it's tough trying to please everyone.)



Letters to the editor

Montreal megacity should follow Westmount's example

To the editor:

A year has now passed since Bill 170 was approved by the National Assembly in the middle of the night after 12 minutes' debate. We should all be proud of our struggle to save our city from the rapacious appetites of Pierre Bourque and Louise Harel. Though we have (so far) been unsuccessful, we did succeed in unseating the former and we are well under way toward unseating the latter, along with her entire administration. Once that happens, hopefully we can regain our identity and independence.

In the meantime, however, we have an opportunity to do something more: to make all of Montreal into Westmount. Gerald Tremblay was elected with a mandate to listen to all the citizens, and I would like to hold him to his word.

That having been said, there are a few New Year's resolutions which we can suggest, all of which have to do with Westmount's experience as a city:

1) Begin now to reduce Montreal's overwhelming debt. The only way to reduce taxes is to stop paying interest, which goes into the ledger as "fixed costs" year after year. In the 1980s Westmount spent a great

deal of money paying off the medium- and long-term debentures and putting its capital costs such as street repairs and hydro equipment into the annual budget. The result was a tax rate we all were proud of.

2) Develop a schedule for road repairs. Westmount has normally rebuilt or resurfaced three or four streets every year, whether they "needed" it or not, and to my understanding this has developed into a program whereby every street is refurbished every 40 years or so. When we drive around Montreal, we are forced to dodge sunken manhole covers and potholes in so many streets that it is obvious Montreal has taken a needs-only attitude, and of course this applies to the network of water mains under the streets as well, which should be rebuilt each time a street is rebuilt.

3) Get the upper hand on the unions from the outset. Knowing the attitude which prevails among so many of Montreal's blue-collar workers, it might be very difficult to convince them that they are hired to serve the city, and not vice versa. Certain protocols and routines might have to be legislated by city council to convince the workers that the citizens

(continued on page 17)

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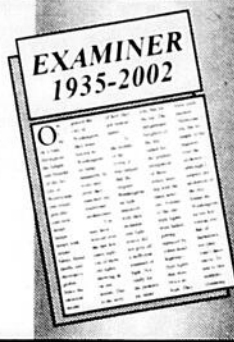
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One Year Ago January 11, 2001:

PLAQUE FOR TUNNEL: "The historic Glen Tunnel, situated between the abandoned train station and the condominium complex converted from the old POM bakery, was built before the library and City Hall. The request to recognize the structure's heritage with a plaque was first brought to city council by Grosvenor Avenue resident Don Wedge in 1998, and has been on the back burner ever since. 'The plaque has been on our agenda for a couple of years now,' said Director General Bruce St. Louis. 'It's certainly on our planning list, and we have not forgotten it. It's just that other things have been placed before it so far. But it's a safe bet that it will happen.'"

Five Years Ago January 9, 1997:

NEW COP SHOP: "Police services in Westmount are about to undergo a radical change. By the end of January, Montreal Urban Community Police Station 23, which serves Westmount and St. Henri, will cease to exist. In its place will be a smaller, community police station serving Westmount and the eastern portion of NDG as far as Decarie Boulevard. It's all part of an island-wide effort to bring the MUC police force closer to the people. 'The purpose is not to save money, although it should and we hope it does, but what we want to do is to reduce the number of (senior) officers and increase the number of constables on the street,' Station 23 director Robert Picard said."

Ten Years Ago January 9, 1992:

ACADEMY ROAD BLAZE: "An overheated extension cord burned into the floor of a top storey apartment living room at 50 Academy road New Year's night, starting a fire that caused heavy damage to two units and the roof, fire investigators said. No one was home in the apartment, allowing the fire to burn up to 60 minutes before being detected about 8:44 p.m., said Lieut Inspector Barry Coates. Tenants fled the smokey building when the alarm was pulled. Many were sheltered in the nearby arena. It was brought under control within an hour without reported injury."

Fifteen Years Ago January 8, 1987:

GARAGE TO RELOCATE: "One of the last automotive service outlets in Westmount is being uprooted this month to make way for a proposed \$7-million luxury senior citizens' residence. The lot containing the Timmins-Campbell Petro-Canada station on St Catherine street and three adjacent buildings on Hillside avenue is expected to be sold officially to Fairway Construction developers tomorrow, according to Brian Timmins, who has rented the building on behalf of owner A.L. Berlin for a number of years."

My New Year's resolution—next year

Marylin Smith Carsley

resolve not to depend on my kids.

These words have evolved from the advice of a wise individual, my mother. I have often failed to heed her offerings of caution, although most of her predictions have come true. My newfound trust in her prophecies evolved this Dec. 31, when she hit the nail on the reality head.

It was that annual New Year's Eve when great effort is invested into elaborate plans to welcome its entrance. Through endless preparation, whether it be a party or a restaurant, an outfit, or even the people, we exert thankless hours perfecting the evening. Many times all the celebration turns into is a fiasco of disappointment. After traveling that party route and through aging and some acquired wisdom, I began to believe that the best New Year's is the one with family. Having children reinforced that sentiment.

Each Christmas vacation for approximately ten years we had vacationed in Florida. Every New Year's Eve was completely family-oriented, involving my parents, my brother and his family, and my sister and hers. We would cook a grandiose meal, make our resolutions together, take videos, watch movies and try to stay up until midnight. At the time these parties didn't appear like big deals, but in retrospect they were the very best occasions.

As the children grew and became involved in ushering in the New Year's festivities with their friends, the family thing seemed to lose importance. This was a problem that needed some reevaluation. I realized how fast time flies and that was one reason I had

been desperate years ago to have another child. My other two had sprouted so quickly, and savoring those childhood years a little longer was a personal necessity.

This year I was determined to repair the family network with a special dinner for the five of us. If the older kids wanted to go out, they could do that later in the evening. Unselfishly I informed the kids that they could invite their dates to join us just to make them more agreeable to my idea. A month ago everyone agreed.

The morning of Dec. 31, I rose early to begin fashioning our intimate family celebration. Dancing to some Broadway music, I set the table, did the cooking and baking, while my husband ran around picking up treats for all. I was inspired by a job well done, but I wasn't aware that the reality of parenting was about to take a direct hit at disappointment.

Due to the fact that my 19-year-old son was arriving from Cancun at 7 p.m., the dinner was organized for 8:30. This still allowed sufficient time for my 22-year-old daughter to venture out before midnight. Fortunately, only for her, a friend of hers decided at 5 p.m. to organize an amazing party and would I mind if she missed our dinner? Yes, I did, but I was never the type to hold my kids back. After all, I had my other two children to depend on.

Not too long after my son called from Mexico to inform us that his flight was delayed. I told him not to worry and we would just eat later. But he had other plans. After all, it was New Year's Eve and he wanted to really celebrate. "Don't worry; we'll talk in the car and catch up when you pick me up," he said.

Thank goodness there was my 12-year-old daughter. She was too young

to disappoint us. She was a guarantee for this evening. Relief flooded through my sadness.

Wearily, I climbed the stairs to regain sustenance from this little girl who was busily typing away at the computer. She gave me a hug and inquired if we were doing anything other than dinner tonight. I told her that we weren't and she said that she was just invited to a friend's and shed love to go. Shocked, I knew that I had a new traitor in my midst. Here before me was a younger member that needed to fly from the nest. What could I say except, "Have a good time." Perhaps my husband would also feel a dire need to miss dinner to catch up on work done at the office tonight.

Despondently, I trudged up the stairs and proceeded to the dining room to dismantle the table settings. It was to be a quiet evening.

By 11 p.m. I could be found typing at my computer, reflecting upon this sad event. I realized that I should be grateful that as a parent I had given my children the greatest gift of all—the wings to fly. In raising them I had provided them with the security to be independent of me and now it was time for me to be independent of them. My mother had warned me that children are on loan. That day was arriving.

New Year's 2001-2002 was the dawn of my awakening and a realization that life must take a new direction. It could also be a new beginning of freedom from responsibilities. I have made my New Year's resolution, and next year it will take effect with this large dinner party for all my friends. We'll rejoice and recapture those good times when children weren't a requirement for the happiness picture, and maybe—just maybe—if I weaken, I'll invite the kids.

Local groups to receive financial aid to address homelessness

Lucienne Robillard

Under the Government of Canada's National Homelessness Initiative, community groups in the province of Quebec will receive over \$20 million in funding from the Government of Canada for projects to prevent and alleviate homelessness.

This announcement was made last Dec. 14, at Chez Doris, by my colleague the Honourable Claudette Bradshaw, Minister of Labour and Federal Co-ordinator on Homelessness.

But how was this initiative created? In the summer of 1999, my colleague Claudette Bradshaw visited 15 Canadian communities from Whitehorse to St. John's and from Iqaluit to Toronto and to Montreal. She saw the effects of homelessness first hand. Through consultations with Canadian communities it became clear that co-operation was needed between agencies and organizations that provide services for homeless people and those at risk.

These consultations led to the launch of the National Homelessness Initiative (NHI), a program which provides \$753 million over three years to ensure community access to programs, services and support for reducing and alleviating homelessness in urban and rural regions across all the provinces and territories.

In the riding of Westmount-Ville Marie, among the groups that will receive funding are: The Women's Shelter Foundation Chez Doris will receive close to \$1 million to renovate the building and to increase the space needed in order to better respond to the actual and future needs of the homeless women. Also, the Old Brewery Mission, a well-known organization in operation since 1889, will

benefit from funding of \$1.1 million. The project is aimed at providing more efficient space for welcoming clients. Two new dormitories will be constructed and major renovations will be made to the dining room and to the kitchen. Maison Lucien L'Allier will receive funding of \$641,000 to renovate the outside and inside building and to replace furniture.

I am so pleased that resources are being directed to local agencies that have the capacity to provide much-needed support to help address homelessness in Montreal. No one government or organization has all the answers, but we can, and must, act together to help make a difference.

The National Homelessness Initiative works in partnership with community organizations, the private sector and all levels of government to help Canada's homeless people by bringing various partners together to develop local solutions that work to address particular homelessness needs and issues. Through this co-ordinated approach, the following building block programs are available to support communities across Canada.

In February 2001, the governments of Canada and Quebec signed a co-operation agreement on the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative. The agreement is in keeping with the jurisdictions, policies and priorities of both governments regarding matters of homelessness. For more information on the Government of Canada's National Homelessness Initiative, do not hesitate to call my riding office at 283-2013, or visit the web site at www.hrdc.gc.ca/homelessness

Lucienne Robillard is the Liberal MP for Westmount-Ville Marie.

Diaries of a duvet duchess

Bridget Blackader

Oh my dears—it was awful! Mum took the duvet away. It was gone for days and days.

I don't know what she was thinking of. What, I ask you, dear diary, can a svelte, curly, beautifully bearded, gorgeous Kerry Blue female with stunning eyes do without a duvet to spend her mornings on? How can such a beauty drape herself languorously down a slope of pillows, one hind leg over and one tucked under the ruffled up duvet, if there is no duvet? I had only pillows to clutch to my bosom as I dreamed of slow squirrels and fast dogs. My Greta Garbo impersonation was ruined.

Don't get me wrong—I'm not that hard up. My own duvet (king-size too), piled atop a beanbag base and well



Going to the dogs

away from night drafts, does provide a cozy retreat to dive into, but, but... it's not quite the same, you see, as the bed. On the bed, at night, I can just tilt my head way back and kiss Mum's nose or ear while she's snoozing. It's really so nice to have someone to squash up

against on a chilly winter night, and of course, so-o-o much more elegant to have the entire bed to oneself of a morning.

Oh, thank goodness, the duvet has returned—all fluffy clean and lofted to great heights. Gee, I hope she doesn't do that again for a long while.

Were your holidays as wonderful as mine? I hope so. Some of my friends were in the country, some stayed in town. As Mum is into consumables, I shared garlic whipped potatoes, and a red wine/beef juices gravy, a touch of smoked salmon, even some cheese soufflé. Oh yeah, yum! And soft new snow. Whoopee!

Mum's version of the above is different. After a long autumn, the duvet had absorbed so much wet dog it was positively bedraggled. Professional help was required! Sharing sleeping quarters with a curly dog who cheerfully collects all loose material in the neighbourhood (we don't need leafblowers on this street!) is a warm but gritty business. There's a dustpan and brush hanging next to the bed, everything gets a sweep most nights. The up side to all this is that I shall never have to spend money at some spiffy spa—I get fully body exfoliation for free at home while I sleep! I decline to discuss gastronomic arrangements, as it seemed I got more kibble and less gravy than you-know-who! But, my kibble had wine with it, so there.

But it is now full winter and wicked cold some mornings. If your woof is shorthaired, please think about some covering for throat and chest and lungs. A simple walk may not be keeping your darling warm enough. Many dog coats have fleece or wool, but many cover basically just the back, with little at the front or underneath. Old turtle-necks, or T-shirts are excellent at providing

that layer of warm air around a body. With a knot at the back, and front legs through arms, short-sleeved will do nicely. A long scarf around the throat and chest, secured behind the ribcage, is equally effective. We're after function, not fashion, but the two are not incompatible.

For problems with road salt caught and melting between pads, or ice lenses forming between pads, try Bag Balm. A generous swoosh with your fingers across and between pads does wonders. Vaseline is too greasy and transfers to carpets. (Remember, Shania Twain uses this stuff from her hairline to her, um, ribs.)

On a different note, I fear I must report the growth of an unsavoury activity. It seems there are some folk with very strange ideas on garbage disposal. Having earned their brownie points by bagging poo, they promptly loose these point (and more!) by dropping used baggies into blue boxes! I know Westmount is mad keen on recycling, but folks, this ain't the way to do it!

It's terrifically tempting in winter to think the snow will never end, and our occasional lapses in poop etiquette will not be noticed. But poop bags tossed into sidewalk snow banks means filled baggies floating past Quebec City. Piles ignored in January reappear miraculously and odoriferously in April. And dogs can get sick from sucking on poopsicles. Besides, who wants a goodnight kiss from a poopsicle eater? So, the bag goes home with you, please.

No leaping over snow banks until you've checked the traffic! Microwave dinner briefly for a tummy-warming glow. Stay warm! Stay healthy!

Bridget Blackader is president of the Westmount Dog Owners Association.

AVIS DE DEMANDE DE DÉMOLITION

À: TOUTES LES PERSONNES INTÉRESSÉES

AVIS PUBLIC est par la présente donné que l'arrondissement de Westmount a reçu une demande du propriétaire du bâtiment situé au 1, avenue Shorncliffe pour un permis autorisant des modifications à 50% et plus de la superficie de tous les murs extérieurs et du toit du bâtiment et un "programme préliminaire" prévoyant l'addition d'un deuxième étage et de deux ajouts au bâtiment existant.

Tous les documents pertinents concernant cette demande de démolition, incluant les plans, peuvent être consultés du lundi au vendredi de 8h30 à 16h30 au bureau de la directrice, Aménagement urbain et services aux entreprises, de l'arrondissement de Westmount, au 4333, rue Sherbrooke ouest, Westmount, Québec, H3Z 1E2.

Toute personne qui veut s'opposer à la délivrance d'un permis de démolition doit, dans les dix (10) jours de la publication de l'avis public ou, à défaut, dans les dix (10) jours qui suivent l'affichage de l'avis sur l'immeuble concerné, faire connaître par écrit son opposition motivée au secrétaire de l'arrondissement.

De plus, chaque personne désirant exprimer son accord à la démolition proposée et/ou présenter toute autre soumission, doit également le faire par écrit, dans ladite période de dix (10) jours, au secrétaire de l'arrondissement à l'adresse suivante:

Secrétaire de l'arrondissement
Arrondissement de Westmount
4333, rue Sherbrooke ouest
Westmount (Québec)
H3Z 1E2
Téléphone: 989-5253

Toute personne qui aura déposé une opposition et/ou une soumission par écrit à l'intérieur dudit délai, sera avisée de la date, de l'heure et de l'endroit où se tiendra la séance publique du Comité sur la démolition à laquelle ladite demande de permis de démolition et ledit «programme préliminaire» pour la réutilisation du sol à être dégagé seront considérés. Ces dites personnes (ou leurs représentants dûment autorisés par écrit) pourront être entendues par le Comité sur la démolition à ladite séance publique.

DONNÉ à Westmount, Québec, ce 10e jour de janvier 2002.

Me Nancy Gagnon
Secrétaire d'arrondissement
de Westmount

NOTICE OF DEMOLITION APPLICATION

TO: ALL INTERESTED PERSONS

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the Borough of Westmount has received an application from the owner of the building situated at 1 Shorncliffe for a permit to authorize alterations to 50% or more of the area of all exterior walls and roof of the building and a "preliminary program" providing for the addition of a second storey and two additions to the existing building.

All relevant documents concerning this proposed demolition, including plans may be consulted on any working day, Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., in the office of the Director, Borough Urban Planning and Services to Business of the Borough of Westmount, 4333 Sherbrooke Street, Westmount, Québec, H3Z 1E2.

Every person wishing to oppose the granting of a demolition permit must, within ten (10) days of publication of this public notice or failing such notice, within the ten (10) days following the posting of the notice on the immovable concerned, make his objections known in writing to the Borough Secretary, giving the reasons for his objections.

Likewise, every person wishing to express support for the proposed demolition and/or to make any other submission in this regard must also do so in writing, within the same ten (10) day period, to the Borough Secretary at the following address:

Borough Secretary
Westmount Borough
4333 Sherbrooke Street West
Westmount, Québec
H3Z 1E2
Telephone: 989-5253

All persons who shall have filed objections and/or submissions in writing within the said delay shall be notified of the date, time and place of the public sitting of the Demolition Committee at which the said application for the demolition permit and the said "preliminary program" for the reutilization of the vacated land shall be considered. All such persons (or their representatives duly authorized in writing) may be heard by the Demolition Committee at the said public sitting.

GIVEN at Westmount, Québec, this 10th day of January 2002.

Me Nancy Gagnon
Borough Secretary

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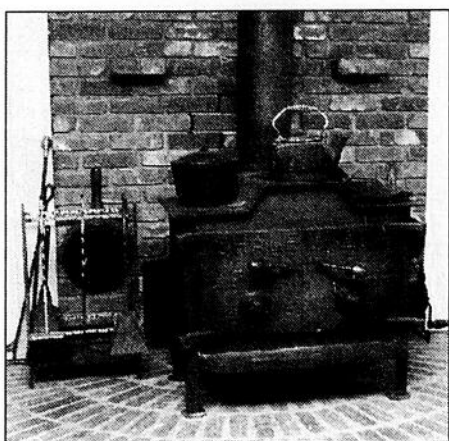
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Heating your home the smart way

Did you know that buying a non-polluting and efficient wood stove that conforms to environmental regulations will reduce the amount of wood needed to heat your home? It will also lower your annual heating costs.

Another option is buying a pellet stove, which is becoming more popular in Canada and is starting to replace the more conventional wood stove. In fact, these types of stoves are the least polluting way to heat with wood. The pellets are clean, easy to handle, made of wood by-products, and easy to store. And because they are made of recycled wood products, they reduce waste and the use of landfill sites. They also encourage consumption of reusable energy sources. Finally, since they produce fewer ashes, these stoves are easier to clean than conventional wood stoves.



A well-maintained wood stove will pollute less and heat more efficiently.

By taking good care of your wood stove and by using it properly, you can reduce air pollution and heating costs. At the same time you'll get better heating results.

You can also reduce the amount of wood your stove burns by using green wood that is well dried. And don't think that the bigger the stove the more efficient it will be; in fact a medium-sized stove will allow for cleaner combustion and require less fuel.

You can also increase your stove's efficiency by placing it in the room you want it to heat. This will reduce the amount of wood required.

Finally, always follow the instructions in your user's guide.

Choosing a heating system

Buying a heating system is a big purchase for most homeowners. After all, it will represent 40 to 60 percent of your overall energy consumption. In the last few years, significant advances have made it possible to reduce the energy consumption of heating systems, but energy efficiency can still vary greatly from one model to another.

Without a doubt, cost is an important factor, so it's important to find a system that will offer the best price-quality ratio within your budget. That's because the more efficient the system is, the less it will cost you in heating bills over the long run. In some cases, more expensive units will result in lower energy consumption and

easier installation. What's more, a high performance unit will reduce waste of non-renewable energy sources and greenhouse gas emissions.

The costs related to a particular heating system can also vary. Installing electric baseboard heating in a small house can cost \$1,000 while a ground source heat pump that can provide heating, air conditioning and hot water supply for a large home can cost up to \$12,000.

When shopping around for a system, look for its ENERGUIDE rating on the back of the manufacturer's brochure. This number indicates its energy efficiency. The higher the number, the more efficient the system is.


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 **Announcement**

Sylvie Roy
 I am pleased to announce that I have joined the RE/MAX team of professionals. I can be reached at 933-6781 or 846-3864 and look forward to being of service to you.

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 **Announcement**

Teresa LeGrove
 I am pleased to announce that I have joined the RE/MAX team of professionals. I can be reached at 933-6781 or 996-9597 and look forward to being of service to you.

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Andy Dodge

Annual figures show that the volume of real estate sales in 2001 in Westmount reached its lowest point since 1996, but was actually about average for the past dozen years or so.

Buyer interest in Westmount real estate peaked in 1997, local volume figures show, mainly because the prices were still quite low, interest rates were at

record lows and the province was anticipating a new election having rejected a second sovereignty referendum in 1995.

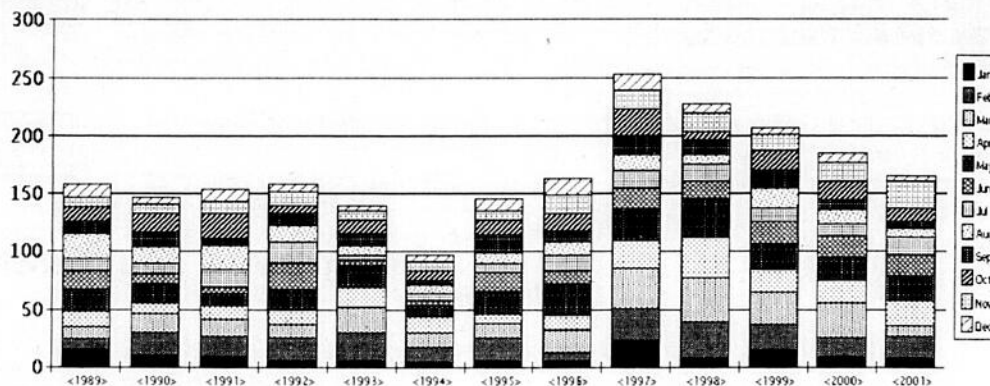
As prices started to climb in 1998 volume began to wane but was still far stronger than it had been in any year since 1986. It has been decreasing each year since then but still the figures indicate more interest than there had been in the seven years before 1997.

This year, according to local

agents, the problem has been supply. There is plenty of demand for all price ranges of houses, even those over \$1 million, according to Diane Menard, the newly-appointed director of Royal LePage Heritage in Westmount.

"If houses are well priced within their market value range, then they will sell," she commented. "The market is still very good, but not overpriced."

SALES VOLUME BY MONTH



| | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O |
|----|-----------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1 | AVG 89-00 | SALES V | (1989) | (1990) | (1991) | (1992) | (1993) | (1994) | (1995) | (1996) | (1997) | (1998) | (1999) | (2000) | (2001) |
| 2 | 9.9 | Jan | 15 | 11 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 23 | 8 | 15 | 9 | 8 | |
| 3 | 18.9 | Feb | 9 | 19 | 18 | 20 | 24 | 12 | 20 | 7 | 28 | 31 | 22 | 17 | |
| 4 | 20.8 | Mar | 11 | 17 | 15 | 11 | 22 | 13 | 12 | 19 | 34 | 38 | 28 | 30 | |
| 5 | 16.3 | Apr | 14 | 9 | 11 | 13 | 17 | 14 | 9 | 13 | 24 | 25 | 19 | 18 | |
| 6 | 19.7 | May | 18 | 15 | 11 | 17 | 18 | 9 | 19 | 26 | 28 | 33 | 22 | 20 | |
| 7 | 13.3 | Jun | 15 | 9 | 5 | 22 | 5 | 5 | 15 | 11 | 18 | 16 | 20 | 19 | |
| 8 | 11.5 | Jul | 11 | 9 | 15 | 19 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 14 | 15 | 15 | 11 | 10 | |
| 9 | 13.4 | Aug | 22 | 14 | 21 | 14 | 9 | 7 | 9 | 12 | 14 | 8 | 18 | 13 | |
| 10 | 10.8 | Sep | 11 | 13 | 6 | 10 | 10 | 3 | 15 | 10 | 16 | 12 | 15 | 8 | |
| 11 | 14.2 | Oct | 12 | 17 | 21 | 9 | 12 | 9 | 13 | 14 | 23 | 9 | 17 | 17 | |
| 12 | 11.8 | Nov | 8 | 8 | 11 | 11 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 17 | 16 | 16 | 14 | 16 | |
| 13 | 8.8 | Dec | 12 | 5 | 10 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 10 | 14 | 15 | 8 | 6 | 8 | |
| 14 | 169.5 | TOTAL | 158 | 146 | 153 | 158 | 140 | 97 | 145 | 163 | 254 | 228 | 207 | 185 | |

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BREAKDOWN OF MY 117 TRANSACTIONS

| | |
|---------------------------------|----|
| From \$2 million to \$3 million | 2 |
| \$1 million to \$2 million | 21 |
| \$800,000 to \$1 million | 12 |
| \$700,000 to \$800,000 | 24 |
| \$500,000 to \$700,000 | 25 |
| \$400,000 to \$500,000 | 19 |
| \$300,000 and LESS | 14 |

I am happy to take this opportunity to express to my clients my sincerest wishes for a healthy and prosperous New Year. I am looking forward to the start of the new year with great enthusiasm, and I can assure you that I will continue to serve you, my clients, with the same high level of professionalism that I have demonstrated during my 14 years in real estate.



HOUSE TRANSFERS IN OCTOBER 2001

Homes

| ADDRESS | FROM | TO | PRICE | 2001 VALUATION |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| 448 Argyle | Carole Maloley | Livia Masnaghetti | \$629,000 | \$436,500 |
| 45 Forden Crescent | Pola Janet Faerman | Helen Veronica Davis & Colin Keeler | \$1 ^a | \$976,500 |
| 4345 Montrose | Alan Marcovitz & Gail Adelson | David Eiley & Carol Shear | \$700,000 | \$546,600 |
| 534 Mount Pleasant | Nukhet Piyale | Leonard Rossiter & Kerry Mitchell | \$795,000 | \$597,000 |
| 3 Prospect | Thomas Herbert Von Eicken | Stephanie E. Perrin | \$270,000 | \$298,000 |
| 41 Prospect | Sally M. Scott | Shaun McMahon & Anita Chandan | \$310,000 | \$259,200 |
| 32 Somerville | Christine Duszenko | Oded Tal & Tamar Yarosky | \$400,000 | \$385,200 |
| 60 Somerville | Maureen Slattery | Christopher A. Usher-Jones | \$328,000 | \$227,600 |
| 434 Victoria | Chantal Martel & Pierre Plante | Frederick Girvan & Marie Major | \$255,000 | \$140,000 |
| 519 Victoria | John M. Anderson & Margaret Carson | Jennifer Du & Robert Platt | \$530,000 ^b | \$346,400 |

Condominiums

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------|
| 399 Clarke, #604 | Paula Nyman | Michael Kovac | \$325,000 | \$187,000 |
| 4500 de Maisonneuve, #33 | Vijay Laxmi Sawh | Lilija Gedvilla | \$163,000 | \$145,100 |
| 3169 St. Antoine | Simon Pelletier & Lise Desjardins | Martin Garneau | \$129,500 | \$130,300 |
| 4175 St. Catherine, #704 | Guido Perrella | Adrian Lavy & Martha Foru | \$775,000 | \$561,800 ^c |
| 1 Wood, #509 | Paul Goudreault | Société d'Administration Rale Ltée | \$250,000 | \$195,500 |

Other Property

| | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|--|-------------|-------------|
| 4278 Sherbrooke | Armen Deukmedjian | Danielle Bellemare, François Villemaire & estate Stephanie Bellemare Caron | \$1,500,000 | \$1,152,700 |
| 1358-60 Greene | Clara Sue Breitman | Michael Millman | \$450,000 | \$478,500 |

Share Sales

| | | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------|------------------------|
| 426 Mount Stephen, 55% | Richard Fabre & Laura Delaney | Caroline Lafleur | \$450,000 | \$225,995 ^d |
| 1-3 Church Hill, 33% | Jonathan Kerridge | Martin Roy & Nicholas Farkas | \$65,771 | \$146,200 ^e |

a Price was declared as "\$1 and other considerations;" value of the consideration was declared as \$1,550,000. Two deeds, both same day, each for 50% of total.

b Two consecutive deeds, each for 50% of total.

c Valuation is combination of \$537,600 for apartment, \$24,200 for garage.

d Valuation is 55% of \$410,900.

e Valuation is 33% of \$438,600.

OCTOBER SALES: VOLUME AND PRICES EASE OFF

Andy Dodge, CRA

(NOTE: The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount one- and two-family dwellings in October, 2001, as they appear on transfer tax information provided to the City. A list of sales can be found above.)

Prices and volume both eased off in October real estate sales registrations in Westmount. Volume dropped to 10 sales of one- and two-family dwellings from 16 registered in September, in fact the smallest number of residential sales for any October since 1993.

Only one sale was registered for more

than \$1 million as 45 Forden Crescent, one of the four houses in the "inner circle" of the crescent. Though priced for "\$1 and other good and valuable considerations," the value was declared for tax purposes at \$1,550,000 once the amounts on two separate deeds are added together.

Lowest price in the month was 434 Victoria Avenue, the tiny wooden house set way back from the street behind the Victoria Avenue parking lot just north of Sherbrooke Street. Though the amount paid, \$255,000, is the fifth-lowest price for a one- or two-family dwelling this year, in fact the sale was 82 per cent higher than its \$140,000 valuation, biggest markup for October. Next-lowest price in the month, \$270,000 for 3 Prospect Street, represented only 91 per cent of its

municipal valuation, the only mark-down for the month.

Between those sales were four in the range of \$500,000 to \$800,000 and three between \$300,000 and \$400,000. They generally represented sales transactions agreed to between July and September, though one was negotiated as early as May.

Five condominium sales were registered in October, up from two in September, and including two in high-rise buildings at Château Westmount Square, 4175 St. Catherine Street, and at 1 Wood Avenue. Another two were in slightly older apartment buildings, 399 Clarke Avenue and 4500 de Maisonneuve Boulevard, and the final sale was one floor of a triplex at 3169 St. Antoine

Street. The latter sold for \$129,500, just under its 2001 municipal evaluation, while Apt. 704 at Château Westmount Square went for \$775,000.

The average condominium markup of 35 percent is roughly the same as the average 37 per cent for single-family dwellings.

Two share-sales of duplexes were registered in October, including a hefty \$450,000 for 55 percent of 426 Mount Stephen Avenue, whose total evaluation is only \$410,900.

Other sales of note include the transfer of the 19-unit Grazia Apartments, 4278 Sherbrooke Street next to 399 Clarke, and a commercial building at 1358-60 Greene Avenue.

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Who said what?

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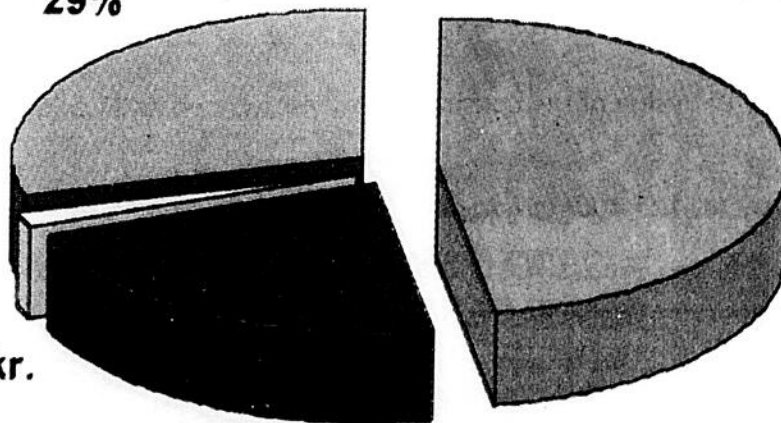


Esther Zimmerman

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 210 VICTORIA AVE., WESTMOUNT, H3Z 2M4

December Sales: Housecleaning

Andy Dodge, CRA

(NOTE: The following article relates to offers to purchase Westmount one- and two-family dwellings which were reported by local realtors as having been accepted in December. Because they are not final registered sales, the addresses and prices cannot be made public, but give a good idea of current trends in local real estate activity. The graph at the right offers a picture of these trends over time.)

December is usually a slow month for Westmount real estate transactions, and this year was no exception despite the low interest rates and the record-high volume of November. If anything, the month was useful for housecleaning, with very few new listings coming on the market and three of the five transactions involving property which had been listed for more than 200 days.

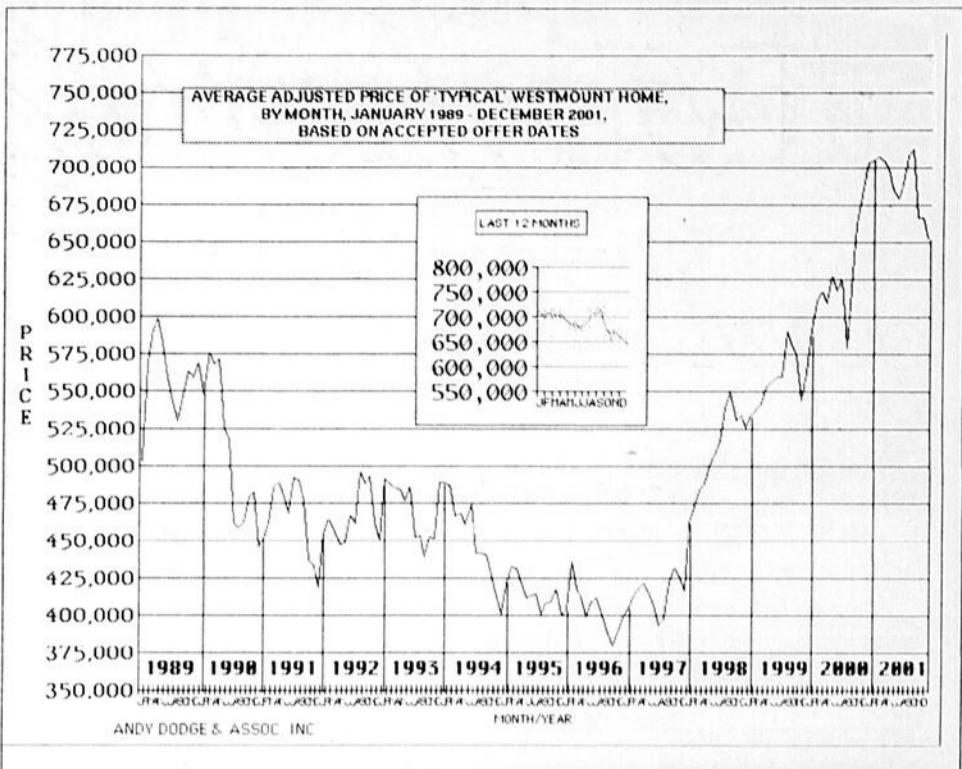
Prices generally were down and the range somewhat limp, from \$387,000 to \$650,000, largely because there was so little activity during the month. The average markup over valuation was 17 per cent compared to 20 per cent in November and 27 per cent in October. Still, while November saw three sales over \$1 million and though the majority of listings are in that category, it seems we will have to wait until the new year to see if there is any renewed interest in the high prices Westmount has to offer.

Interest in condominiums is back, with three sales reported in December compared to one in November and none in October. Still, the four sales in the quarter makes this the lowest volume for condos in the past three years. Prices were off slightly from the third quarter of 2001 but well above the figures for any time before that.

Activity returned to the adjacent-Westmount market after a sluggish November. One house each sold in the areas just north, west and east of

Westmount, not to mention another of the new-construction houses on Jean Girard Street just east of Delavigne Road, and two more in the "Golden Square Mile." Most of the condominium sales were in the latter district, especially the relatively inexpensive units at 3470 and 3480 Simpson Street, six sales all under \$100,000. Of the six house sales, four had markups over valuation between 44.3 and 45.4 per cent, much higher than any of the markups within Westmount, perhaps indicating that the interest inside city ("borough") limits is waning relative to the adjacent market.

A decline in the December market is not necessarily an indication of trends for the coming year, mainly because volume is so low. The problem now is supply, according to agents, who hope many potential homeowners have been waiting until January to put their houses on the market.



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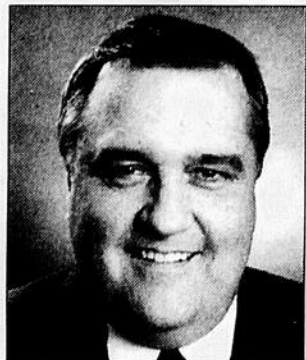
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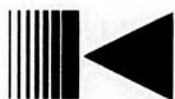
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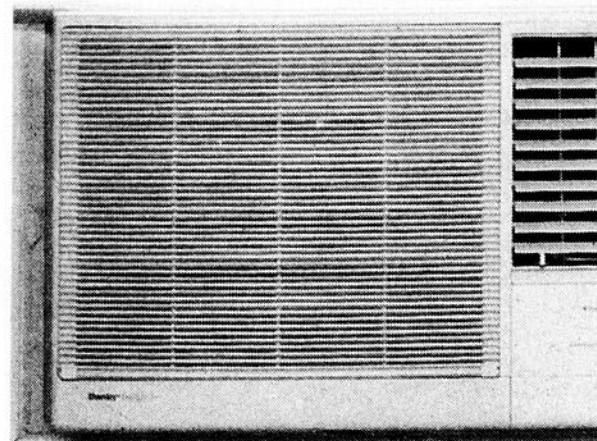
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Ventilation vs. air conditioning

Trapped in or lingering cooking odours, smoke on windows and hidden condensation in walls are a few indications that a home requires better ventilation. Thankfully, there are many ventilation products available that can help with this problem. One popular option is a roof ventilator, which replaces stale indoor air with fresh outdoor air. But this system has a drawback: in



Ventilation and air conditioning units might be expensive, but there are ways of lowering their costs.

the cold winter months, the home's heating system has to work overtime to keep indoor temperature at a comfortable level. That's why a heat-recovery ventilator can be more efficient for our colder climate; it can recover 75 percent of the heat from the evacuated air to heat the incoming colder outdoor air.

A portable or window air conditioner, central air conditioner and heat pump are three types of air conditioning units. Because they can use a lot of energy, it's important to

choose this type of unit carefully; otherwise you might be in for a very unpleasant surprise when you receive your first heating bill. Fortunately, these products are becoming more and more energy efficient: their air conditioning performance is increasing while their energy consumption is decreasing. When shopping for this type of unit, look for the unit's energy efficiency ratio (EER). This number will tell you how efficient it is.

All units carry certain information that can help you determine its efficiency. For example, divide the unit's BTUs per hour by its power in watts. Usually you will come up with a number that is equal to greater than 9. The higher the number, the more efficient the unit is. You can further increase a unit's efficiency by keeping it at 26°C when you are at home and 30°C when you leave.

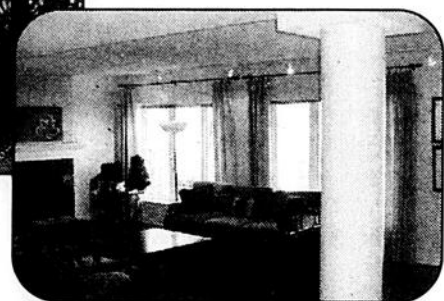
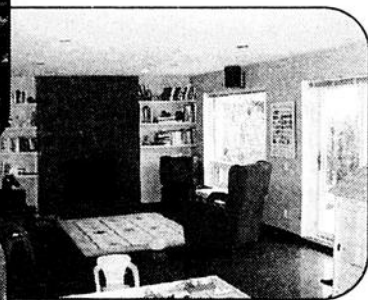
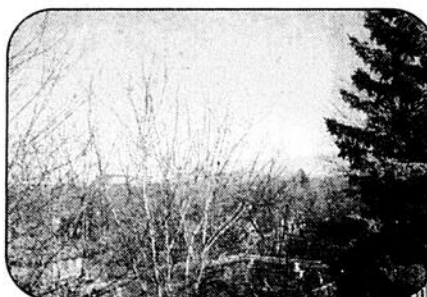
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Local refugee centre offers safety and hope

Marilynn Vanderstay

They leave their homes, often with just the clothes on their backs and the hope that they will finally find peace and a safe place to live.

Refugees from all over the world are finding that sanctuary in the Montreal YMCA Residence in the former Reddy Memorial Hospital on Tupper Street in Westmount.

Last Nov. 1, the YMCA Residence opened its doors as a place where refugees find temporary shelter, clothing and guidance for a new life.

Director Pascal Allatorre and a staff of 30 assist individuals and families during their first three or four weeks in Canada. It is an awesome responsibility. Immigration Canada sends them to the Centre, literally just hours after they arrive in Canada. They come to the Centre hungry, without personal belongings, scared and confused.

"Of the 320 residents at any given time," says Allatorre, "one third of them are children. We go through a lot of Pampers."

Facilities at the Centre are open 24 hours a day to facilitate refugees who

often arrive in the middle of the night. The demand is so great the Centre is expanding and will open another 180 beds in March.

Residents eat three meals a day at the cafeteria, which is also open 24 hours a day to feed the hungry people when they arrive.

"We try to accommodate all religious dietary laws," says Allatorre. "For instance many of the refugees come from Muslim countries and last month they observed Ramadan. We served breakfast at four in the morning and a late supper to recognize their time of fasting."

During the day the refugees are helped to settle into the country. Working with the Côte des Neiges CLSC, the Centre helps the refugees find lawyers to fill in necessary documents to obtain refugee status and help in finding apartments, all of which can be overwhelming to those who have just left their homeland.

At the same time they must be integrated into the basics of Canadian society. Within seven days of arriving they are seen by a doctor and receive a medical. "The Covered Garden" program provides a variety of ongoing workshops

designed to introduce Canada to the refugees. A health workshop teaches basic healthcare and personal hygiene.

"At a workshop with the MUC police, refugees learn often for the first time that the police are not just a punitive body but are helpful in our community," said Allatorre.

Two on-staff childcare workers provide daycare assistance, but parenting workshops are also available to help parents learn about their responsibilities as parents in Canada.

One of the biggest challenges the Centre faces is clothing the refugees. Many of the refugees come from warm countries like the Congo Kinshasa. "Several weeks ago we had a woman arrive who was dressed in summer clothes," said Allatorre. "We really need warm winter clothes to give to these people."

Fortunately, part of their lease includes a lot of storage space which they can use for clothes, and the Centre welcomes any and all donations of new or clean second-hand clothing, boots, shoes, etc. which they then give to the refugees. Refugees receive no money until they have found an apartment and receive their first welfare cheque.

The Centre works with 'Heart of the Nation' church next door in distributing the clothing, and is looking at accepting donations of furniture, which will need larger storage facilities.

The other challenge the Centre faces is the issue of language. Many refugees speak either French or English, but with more coming now from Eastern Europe including Turkey, Romania and Russia, the language issue is becoming more challenging. The Covered Garden offers French and English courses to residents of all ages. The classes are taught by volunteers and more are needed daily. Also books and VCR movies of all kinds—but especially for children—make excellent teaching tools, and the Centre welcomes donations of those too. Clean used toys are needed to occupy the busy children.

"We offer a lot of programs to these people," says Allatorre, "but when they arrive they are exhausted and often just want to sleep. We really have to encourage them to get up everyday and face again new challenges in a new country and lifestyle."

Anyone interested in donating clothing, books, or toys are invited to drop them off at the Centre at 4039 Tupper Street.

Megacity should follow Westmount's example

(continued from page 6)

really care about how things are done in the new city, and that they should form a partnership with the administration, rather than an "us-them" attitude.

4) Build the Montreal boroughs into communities. It is extremely important that we try to create identities for the former sectors of Montreal which will match those of Westmount and the other suburbs. They should have active borough councils, citizen groups, communication channels and neighbourhood events. One of the travesties of the new city is the combination of Notre Dame de Grâce and Côte des Neiges into one huge borough, purely to avoid giving our NDG neighbours the right to English-language services. We should help them organize their own democracy in the hopes of petitioning a new Liberal government to allow them to split the borough into two.

Until such time as Westmount is able to regain its independence, we have a golden opportunity to help our fellow citizens. And who knows, we might be able to rebuild Montreal into the great city it once was.

Happy New Year to all.

Andy Dodge
Côte St. Antoine Road

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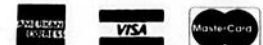
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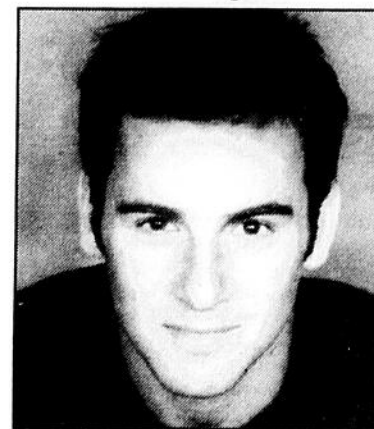
Goals for Jan. 2002:

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Sandra Goldie promotes contemporary Canadian art

Marilynn Vanderstey


Breaking into the business is often the toughest part of a career in the arts, but since last spring Westmounter Sandra Goldie has been helping newcomers find a place in the art market.

"We are committed to featuring the works of new and emerging artists and aim to show important contemporary art not found elsewhere in Montreal," says Goldie, who has established a gallery in the Lachine Canal Complex with business partner Maryse Bonaldo.

The Sandra Goldie Gallery features over 150 small-format paintings, watercolours, photographs and limited edition prints by over 31 artists from across Canada who are in their first five years after completing their studies. The per-



Sandra Goldie (right) and business partner Maryse Bonaldo



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manent collection includes the works of two up-and-coming Westmount artists.

Nina Cherney creates large contemporary paintings that she says are borderline between realism and abstractive. "My subjects are basically domesticity and home life," she says. "And I don't stray far from who I am."

After seeing photographs of artist David Hackney's kitchen in magazines, the artist decided to paint it. The result is a series of paintings in a variety of sizes, degrees of realism and delightful bold colours.

Cherney, who is completing her Bachelor in Fine Arts at Concordia, came across a house in Malibu that inspired her and since then she has been attracted to interiors and domestic scenes. "I paint everything I love with shapes and colours," she said. "I wallow in the images."

Her series is a work in progress. "I have created ten so far and will keep on going until I have worn out the topic. It is interesting to see them change in time."

Fellow Westmount artist Mel Davis Yiu is also just completing her BFA degree at Concordia. Her work is figurative and features mainly animals. 'Dogs' is delightful oil on linen. So is 'Mouse'. What makes Davis-Yiu's work distinctive, however, is her interesting work with brushes. The viewer can see where the brush has been and why.

Goldie's own work features sculptures of circles in a variety of sizes. "They are like port holes on a ship. A challenging shape."

She also paints landscapes from memories of rural areas she has seen from her peripheral vision while driving and has stored in her mind. "Painting them taught me that the secret to contemporary painting is playing with the techniques and constructions."

Goldie began her career as a gallery owner by becoming an avid art collector. Through the years she has collected contemporary art from galleries she has visited and from artists she has met. Friends who own a gallery in Ottawa were having so much fun with it that Goldie was soon buying up more art instead of clothes. After her friends saw her own collection develop they suggested she open a gallery. At the same time there was no real gallery where Concordia

(continued on page 19)

The popular LCC Speakers' Series returns for 2002. Join us for a captivating evening with...



Jeffrey Simpson
January 24, 2002

As the *Globe and Mail's* National Affairs columnist, Jeffrey is a sought after presenter in Canada, the UK and US. He has won all three of Canada's leading literary prizes and has published five books, the most recent of which is the #1 best seller, *The Friendly Dictatorship*.



Rex Murphy
March 13, 2002

A quick-witted and accomplished writer, broadcaster and teacher, Rex shares with a nation, his acerbic political commentary on CBC's *The National*, *Cross Country Check-up*, and *Definitely Not the Opera*.



Aislin
(aka Terry Mosher)
April 18, 2002

Considered Canada's "nastiest cartoonist," Terry has freelanced and travelled extensively for *The Gazette*. He has produced over 30 books, his latest, *In Your Face*, is a compilation of his 200 wittiest cartoons over the past two years.



William Weintraub
April 18, 2002

A freelance writer, William Weintraub worked for *The Gazette* and *Weekend Magazine* before collaborating with the National Film Board of Canada for more than 20 years. His latest book, *Getting Started - A Memoir of the 1950s*, has received critical acclaim.



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Cutler teaches Detroit at Centaur

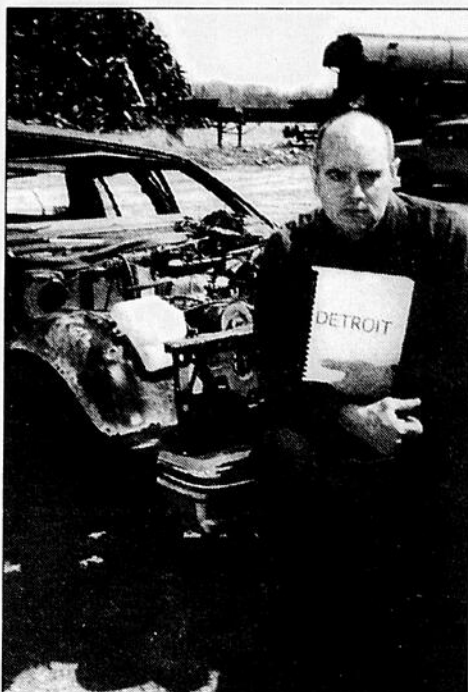
Westmount actor/writer Keir Cutler is back onstage this month with his latest one-man show, Teaching Detroit—the popular sequel to his acclaimed comedy Teaching Shakespeare.

The show is part of Wildside 2002 at the Centaur Theatre, a festival that features local talent.

Teaching Detroit finds Cutler's bumbling English professor character now teaching the novel. As he did to the Bard in Teaching Shakespeare, the hapless academic put his own hilarious spin on teaching, in this case going so far as to use his own unpublished novel as the primary text for the course.

Teaching Detroit will be presented at the Centaur Theatre, 453 St. François Xavier, this Saturday, Jan. 12 at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 16 at 9 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 17 at 7 p.m., and Saturday, Jan. 19 at 3 p.m.

Tickets cost \$10 (less for students and subscribers) and can be obtained through the Centaur Theatre Box Office at (514) 288-3161.



Keir Cutler

Goldie promotes new artists

(continued from page 18)

artists could exhibit and sell their work other than exhibitions and coffee shops. "The common thread does seem to be Concordia Fine Arts students and grads now across the country," she says.

Her own studio was too small and after discussing the idea with Lachine Canal Complex owners Adam and Marina Cutler, she and Bonaldo decided to open the gallery. After a misfire opening in May (Goldie was hospitalized for appendicitis the day of the vernissage) the event went on without her. In October she tried again and more than 100 friends and art collectors attended the official opening.

Goldie is always looking for new

artists but admits that the hardest part of her job is saying no. "We have had to set high standards," she says. The gallery has the unofficial approval of Concordia's art faculty with teachers referring students.

Goldie's raison d'être for the gallery is to help the general public learn more about and understand contemporary Canadian art by making it accessible and affordable. "For the price of a dinner for two you can take home a great piece of original Canadian contemporary art," she says.

The Goldie Gallery is located at the Lachine Canal Art Complex, Suite 159, 4710 rue Saint Ambroise. The gallery is open Wednesday and Thursday afternoons and by appointment. Info: (514) 579-2630.

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Bulletin Board

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

Thursday, Jan. 10

'Colour Fields' an exhibition of large paintings by the late Jean McEwen opens at the McClure Gallery, 350 Victoria Ave. Continues through Feb. 2. Gallery hours are Tuesday to Friday 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Info: 488-9558.

Sunday, Jan. 13

The Leisure Institute of Congregation Shaar Hashomayim, 450 Kensington Ave., presents 'Yiddish Cinema', a documentary narrated by David Mamet, at a 12:30 p.m. luncheon. \$4 for Leisure members, \$5 for non-members. Info: 937-9471.

Monday, Jan. 14

The Westmount Public Library's English Book Club meets from 7 to 9 p.m. to discuss 'The God of Small Things' by Arundhati Roy. Meetings

are led by Carole TenBrink, M.A in Literature. Everyone is welcome to attend. Info: 989-5386.

Women's Rosh Chodesh Prayer Service at Congregation Shaar Hashomayim, 450 Kensington Ave., at 8:30 a.m. Women and children welcome. Info: Judy Caplan at 484-7862, Shelley Ban Haim at 489-9094 or Barbara Nirenberg at 683-4926.

Rosh Chodesh at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, 395 Elm Ave., at 7:30 p.m. A special time for women to come together to explore their relationships to God, to tradition and to each other. This month we will conduct an inter-faith workshop and discussion with our Muslim sisters. Info: Brenda at 484-7826.

Marriage Information Meeting at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, 395

(Continued on page 22)

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| • Summer Camp | 5-10 | 06/25-08/16 | 8.00am-6:00pm | \$135/week | Centre Greene | 931-6202 |
| Children's Activities | | | | | | |
| • Samedi Greene | 2-5 | Sat | 11-12:30pm | \$1/drop-in | Centre Greene | 931-6202 |
| • TGIF dinner & games | 5-10 | 2nd/4th Friday | 6:00-8:30pm | \$3/RSVP | Centre Greene | 931-6202 |
| • Tumbling Tots | Toddlers | T/Th | 9:00-10:30am | \$3.00/drop-in | Centre Greene | 931-6202 |
| • Birthday Parties | All ages | Weekends | Afternoons | Various | Centre Greene | 931-6202 |
| • Children's Music Workshop | 0-7 | M/Th | A.M. | Various | Cordell Henebury | 845-8188 |
| Senior's Activities | | | | | | |
| • Seniors Luncheon | Seniors | 2nd/4th Wed | 12:15-2:00pm | \$4/meal | Centre Greene | 931-6202 |
| • Meals on Wheels | Seniors | T/F | Volunteers Needed!!! | | Jackie 935-3817 Maureen 937-0775 | |
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| • Classical Ballet | 5+ | Various | Various | | Ora Kozlov | 932-2389 |
| • Elementary Ballet | Adults | M | 8:00-9:15pm | | Sheila Lawrence | 989-9034 |
| • Intermediate Ballet | Adults | M/W | 9:15-10:45am | | Sheila Lawrence | 989-9034 |
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| • Special Blend Rap Funk&Jazz | 11-18 | M | 4:45-6:00pm | | Jessie & U-Jean | 935-6489 |
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| • Olympia Tae Kwon Do | All | W/F/Sat | Various | | Reza Ramezani | 486-2139 |
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| | | | | | Kimberly | 278-8009 |
| • Falun Dafa | All | M/T | Various | | Yumin Yang | 487-9486 |
| • Relaxation | Adults | T | 6:30-8:30 pm | | Tina Bischoff | 450-655-3605 |
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WEEK-END French conversation/ grammar classes. In Westmount: Thierry Coultaux (Paris): (514)598-8495 E-mail: mountain_echo@hotmail.com

Continued from page 20

Elm Ave., at 5:30 p.m. Couples considering intermarriage or conversion by one partner before marriage are invited to attend to learn of Temple's policies and practices. Free of charge, reservations requested. Info: 937-3575.

Sunday, Jan. 20

The Leisure Institute of Congregation Shaar Hashomayim, 450 Kensington Ave., presents 'Opera Favourites,' by Verdi, with live performances from Aida, Nabucco, Lombardi and Falstaff, at a 12:30 p.m. luncheon. \$4 for Leisure members, \$5 for non-members. Info: 937-9471.

Tuesday, Jan. 22

Entre Nous Senior Group at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, 395 Elm Ave., presents 'The Importance of Volunteerism' with guest speaker Rosemary Byrne, coordinator of community relations and volunteer services at Mt. Sinai Hospital. Brown bag lunch at noon, program at 1 p.m. Info: 937-3575.

Wednesday, Jan. 23

Power Breakfast at Congregation Shaar Hashomayim, 120 Côte St. Antoine Road, featuring guest speaker Dr. Howard Churtkow, who will speak on 'Memory Loss: When to Concern Yourself.' Shacharit services begin at 7:30 a.m. All welcome. Info: 937-9471.

Friday, Jan. 25

Tu Bi'Shvat Seder at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, 4100 Sherbrooke, at 8:15 p.m. Sisterhood/Brotherhood welcomes you to celebrate the Festival of Trees. Join us as we eat, drink and learn with our esteemed Rabbi. Info: 937-3575.

Sunday, Jan. 27

The Leisure Institute of Congregation Shaar Hashomayim, 450 Kensington Ave., presents 'Songs of the Sephardi', a documentary musical film about the songs and traditions of the Sephardim, at a 12:30 p.m. luncheon. \$4 for Leisure members, \$5 for non-members. Info: 937-9471.

Ongoing

Pregnancy Yoga classes are being held at Centre Greene, 1090 Greene Ave., Wednesdays at 7:15 p.m. and Thursdays at 6 p.m. Registration has begun for the 2002 winter session. Info: Clearlight Gerald at 933-8671.

Balady dance classes at Centre Greene: Registration has begun for the Winter 2002 session. Call now to add your name to the list, 931-6202 or 483-0972.

Contactivity Centre, 4695 de Maisonneuve, is in desperate need of volunteers for grocery shopping and friendly visits to frail, elderly people in the community. We need volunteers for a short-term commitment for shopping over the holiday season. Please contact Consuela at 932-2326 or 932-3433.

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

Chateau Westmount: Anyone wishing to do volunteer work with the elderly is asked to contact Millie Karpman at 369-3000. Wonderful opportunity for students; win-win situation for seniors.

Duplicate Bridge: The Shaar Hashomayim Duplicate Bridge Club meets every Tuesday for lunch at 11:45 a.m. and bridge at 12:30 p.m., 450 Kensington Ave. \$7.50 per person. Free valet parking. Money raised goes to Sisterhood's Meals on Wheels program. Info: Barbara at 938-1405.

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LAND ROVER SE-7, 1996, 18,500\$ 105,000 km., fully equipped, dark green/beige leather interior, excellente condition, (514)813-0111



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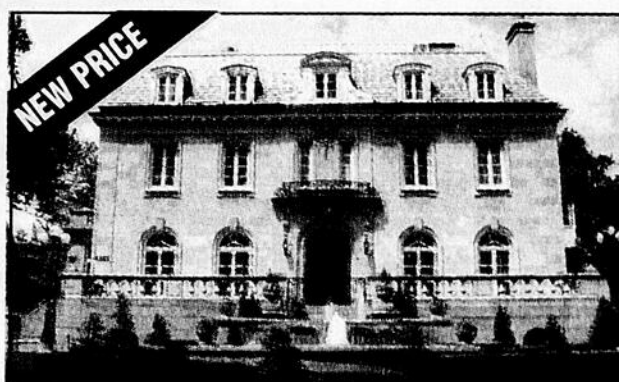


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Attractive Tudor style. Elegant 5 bdrm cottage, cross hall plan, fin. bsmt, garage. \$599,000.



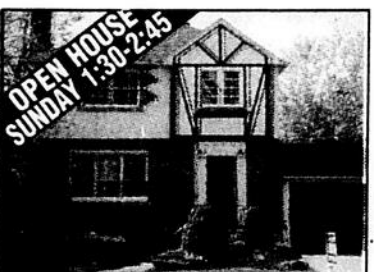
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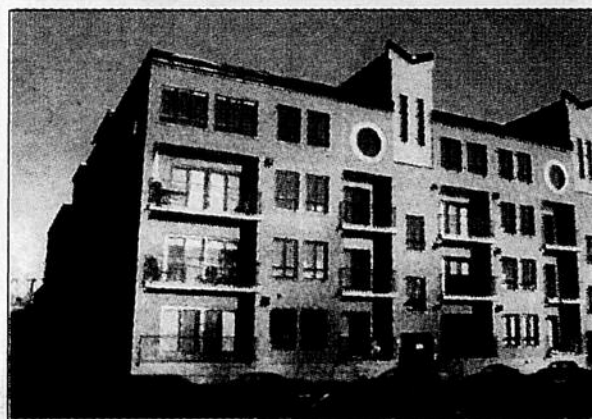
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