

The Westmount Examiner

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Marks elected VP of Agglom Council

"I'm not the leader of an opposition," says Westmount mayor

> Don Wedge

Westmount Mayor Karin Marks was elected vice-president of the Montreal Agglomeration Council at its first meeting on Monday morning, Dec. 19. She was the unanimous choice of the mayors of the 14 reconstituting cities, which with the Montreal centre city form the agglomeration.

Mega-mayor Gérald Tremblay is president, a role assigned to him by the government. There had been fears that he would decide on the candidates for other posts, but in the end he allowed the new cities' mayors to make their own nominations.

It led to a harmonious start, although tension was not far below the surface. There were several sharp references to the contentious water-charging issue, but it never boiled over.

Having been congratulated by the new Westmount council at its meeting on Tuesday afternoon, Marks said that her priority would still be Westmount. However, she wants Montreal to recognize that the cities operate under different systems.

"I'm not the leader of an opposition," Marks said. "We are 15 cities, each with our own roles. Montreal partisan party rules don't apply to us."

"We won't take sides. Whether the mayor or the opposition wins has nothing to do with us. But a successful Montreal is definitely important to us."

Continued on page 10

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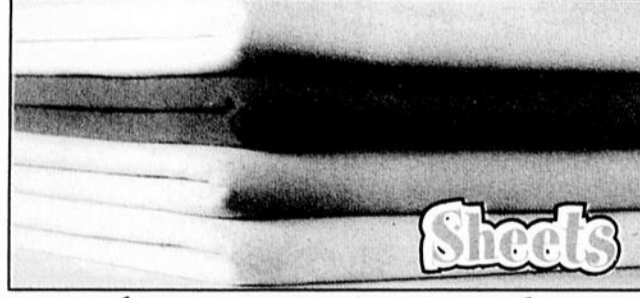
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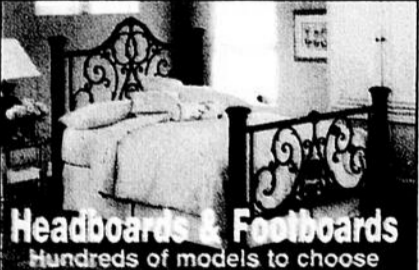


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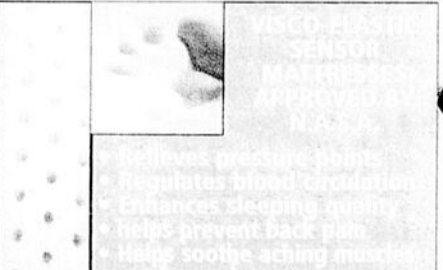
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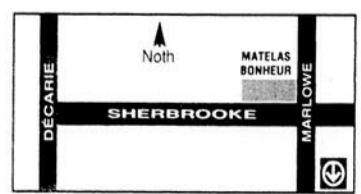


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2005: The Year in Review

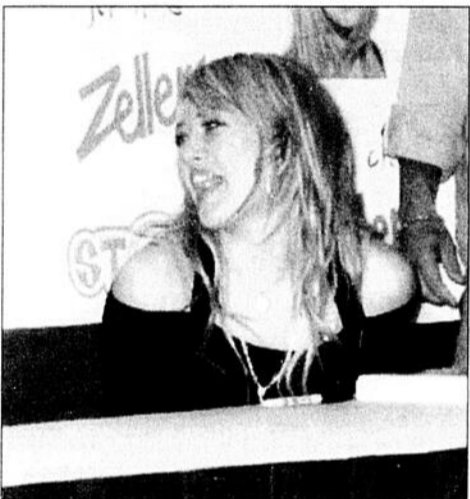
> Compiled by Courtney Boosamra and Ryan Szporer; photos by Martin C. Barry

January

- An amalgamation comprising St. Andrew's-Dominion-Douglas Church on The Boulevard and the Erskine and American Church in June 2004 was the subject of some complications as congregation members were unable to successfully merge the two long names. A contest was held to come up with a new one.

- A used-book sale at the Atwater Library ended up helping students of Westmount Park School, whose library shelves had to be re-stocked following a flood at the school that caused more than \$2,000 worth of damage. EMSB Commissioner Ginette Sauvé-Frankel attended the sale and obtained many books for the school.

- Pop star Hilary Duff made a visit to Alexis Nihon Plaza in efforts to promote to her new Zellers clothing line, Stuff, and her Live in Canada tour. Screaming fans were in abundance, to say the least.



Hilary Duff visits Alexis Nihon Plaza

- Westmount Public Security Director Richard McEnroe addressed issues in crime prevention as well as several security concerns at a presentation hosted by the Westmount Municipal Association.

- Westmount residents faced an increase in taxes, representing a double-digit increase over a two-year period, as Montreal City Hall sent out its bills to all 27 boroughs. In a survey conducted by *The Examiner*, it was revealed that bills increased anywhere from 6 to 15 percent in most cases.

- In efforts to help last year's tsunami victims, Fantasia McGill, a group of university students, raised \$1,470 instead of the expected \$500 at a fundraiser held at Manoir Westmount. Guests were treated to a variety show, with proceeds going to the Red Cross.

- Israeli political scientist Prof. Menachem



John W. Sancton: 1920-2004

Klein and Palestinian historian Prof. Nazri Al-Ju'beh took part in a debate at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, discussing the likelihood of achieving peace between the two peoples in the post-Arafat era. Both agreed that the solution lies within the Geneva Accord.

February

- Following a six-month sabbatical, former Westmount mayor Peter Trent announced that he will not be running for the position once the demergers have taken effect. Trent, one of the leaders in the fight against forced mergers, helped to ensure Westmounters' voices be heard. He did not rule out returning to politics in the future.

- The McGill University Health Centre (MUHC) released its latest site plan. Borough Mayor Karin Marks reported plans to have the MUHC's Westmount portion undergo zoning changes that would differ from the megacity's and take effect once the borough becomes reconstituted as a city.

- The local Public Works yard vamped up security with such expenditures as video cameras and chain-link fencing. The bill came to over \$30,000.

- John Sancton, *The Examiner's* former publisher who had died in December, was honoured by the community at Victoria Hall. Guest speakers included Peter Trent, Sally Aitken, Jim Griffin and Laureen Sweeney.

- MUHC planners considered adding an off-ramp from the Decarie Expressway in efforts to address the almost-certain traffic problem that will arise once the superhospital is built.

- Westmount aimed to purchase two alternative energy vehicles, a gasoline and electrically powered van to replace a van used by the Public Works Department, and an all-electric pick-up truck to be used by Hydro Westmount, the borough's electric utility.

- La Maison Hurtubise, the oldest surviv-

ing house in Westmount, built in the early 18th Century on what is now Côte St. Antoine Road, was declared a national historic monument by the Quebec government. The house's newfound status is the highest designation granted by the Quebec's Ministry of Culture and Communications.

- Borough Mayor Karin Marks admitted publicly that Westmount's 'pay as you go' financial policy might be abandoned following demerging. With no working fund from which to extract funds, Marks said that Westmount might not be in the position to absorb the expenses it used to pay with annual taxes—60 per cent of which will go to Montreal.

- Having the support of her peers and colleagues, Marks announced that she would run for mayor of Westmount in November.

- With the help of a donation from the Westmount Rotary Club, Evangel Church on Tupper Avenue opened Heart for the City, a drop-in centre for Westmount's street people, providing sandwiches and coffee at no charge.

March

- The Rotary Club of Westmount celebrated the 100th anniversary of the founding of the first Rotary Club started in Chicago by businessman Paul P. Harris. Westmount's club has been around for 75 years.

- In the spirit of democracy, Westmount resident Gerald Glass tossed his hat into the ring of mayoral candidates, promising to withdraw should another candidate come forward.

- Acting Mayor John de Castell revealed that Westmount (and five other boroughs) may regain control over a portion of the

summit which falls within the borough's borders. The territory had been included by Quebec as part of the zone in which Mount Royal lies, one which had been controlled by the city of Montreal.

- The 181st St. Patrick's Parade in Montreal went off without a hitch. It was the seventh year that Westmount participated in the festivities with a float of its own, representing the borough's architectural heritage. This was the final appearance of the float, which will be replaced next year.

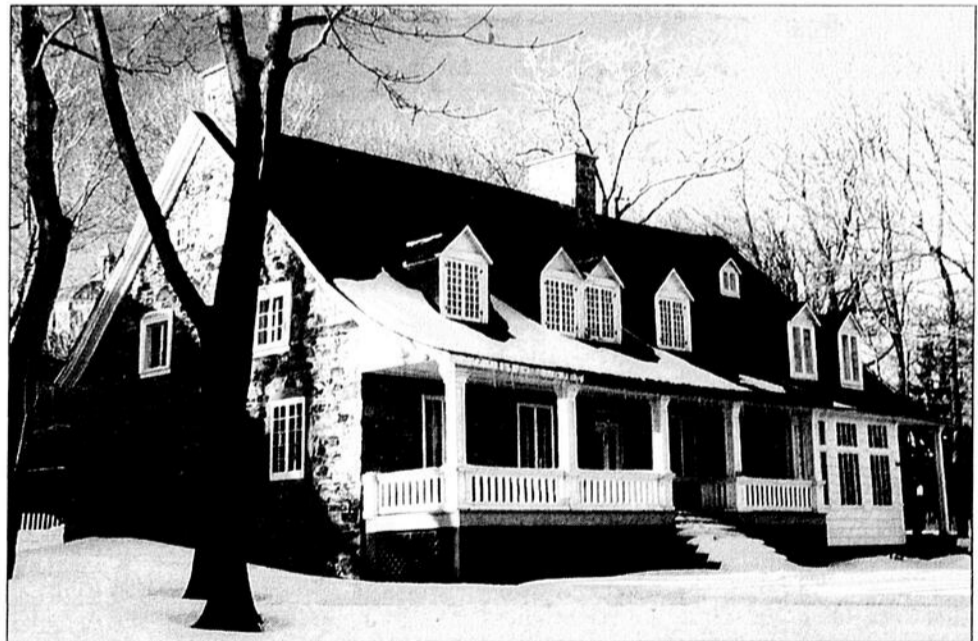
- Demerging suburbs of the island were granted greater representation on the Montreal Metropolitan Community's regional assembly with two seats. Borough Mayor Karin Marks also said that Quebec would grant the suburbs voting rights as well. Still, as Montreal's population will greatly outnumber that of the suburbs, the weight of their vote will only equal 13 per cent.

- The Masonic Foundation and the Grand Lodge of Quebec presented a \$5,000 donation to the Atwater Library, helping to reinforce a historical connection between the two. The Library dates back to 1828, while the first Mechanics' Institute was founded in 1854.

- Westmount paid tribute to community leader Wanda Maria Stachiewicz (1896-1995), artist Goodridge Roberts (1904-1974), journalist, writer and politician Gérald Pelletier (1919-1997), and Westmount mayor Peter McEntyre (1917-1989). All four were honoured as part of the 10th biannual Vin d'Honneur ceremony.

- The Westmount Municipal Association announced that its Volunteer Citizen of the Year Award would be renamed the Derek Walker Volunteer Citizen of the Year Award in honour of the Westmount volunteer who passed away in 2003.

Continued on page 5



The Hurtubise House: A national historical monument

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Four years later



Commentary

Wayne
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Forget all the holiday clichés and tired old editorial cartoons showing Mega-Montreal's mayor Gérard Tremblay as the Grinch Who Stole Christmas. This year the community is receiving a present that cannot be entirely taken away.

When Westmounters gather in City Hall and later Victoria Hall on the afternoon of New Year's Day, they will be marking a milestone of great significance—the rebirth, so to speak, of the City of Westmount.

Throughout the political and legal struggles over the past few years, two Quebec premiers and two Montreal mayors have been adamant in their insistence that despite its reconstitution as a city, there is no looking back; demerged Westmount will never be the same as it was, and there is no point even trying to restore all of the favourable conditions under which Westmounters once lived.

This may be true, but the near-unanimous referendum victory for local demerger advocates last year remains a clear indication that citizens of Westmount much prefer their own city, despite the inevitable financial drawbacks.

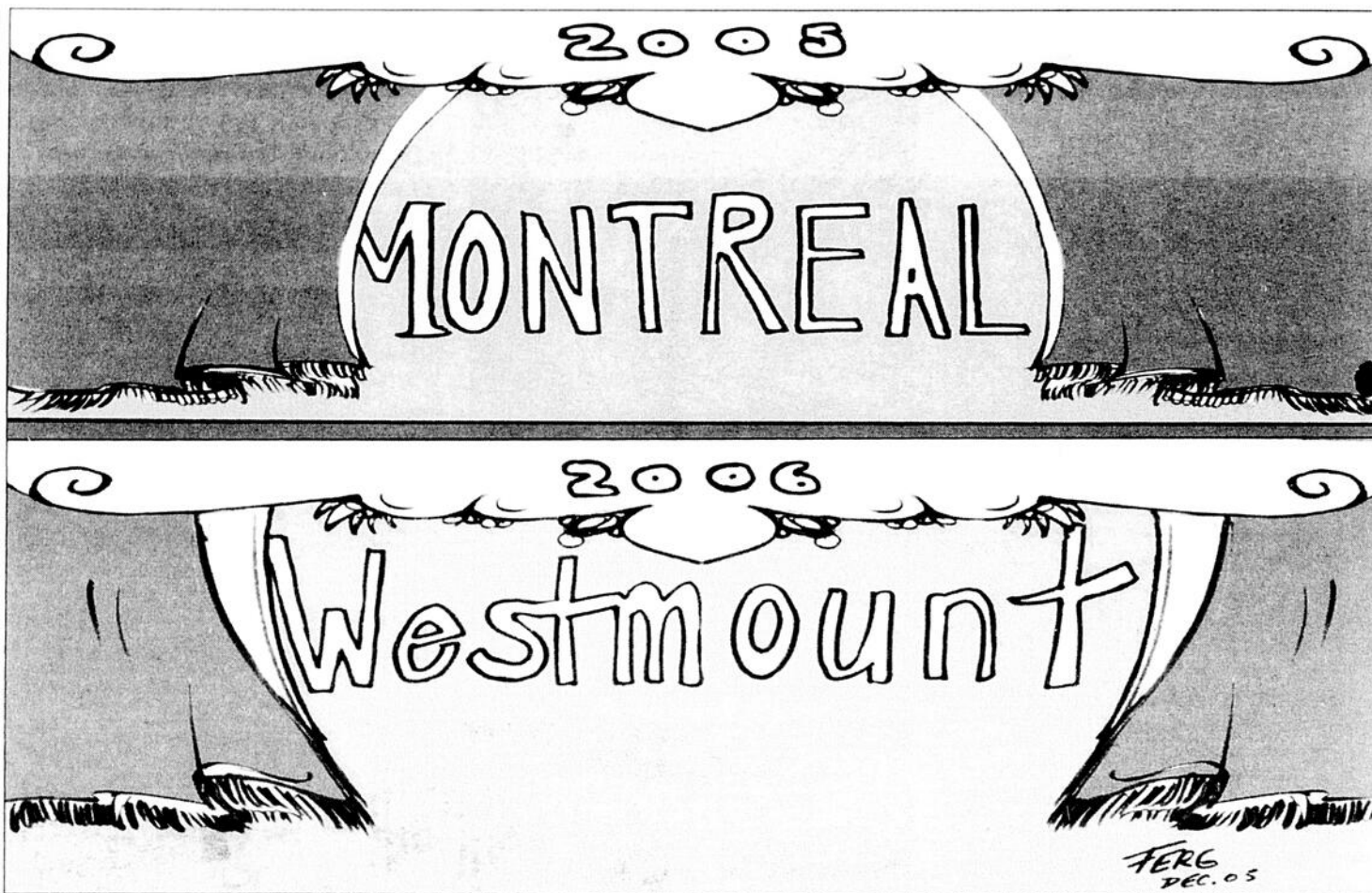
This event has been anxiously anticipated for many years, and during the darkest days of the forced mergers saga it seemed to many that it would never come. But on Jan. 1, the citizens and elected officials of Westmount will be toasting their restored municipal status with all due celebration.

The great importance placed on this event is illustrated by the fact that the City is taking the unprecedented step of opening its Golden Book and inviting residents to add their signatures to those of the many dignitaries who have visited Westmount over the years. The idea is that those present on Jan. 1 will be witnesses to an event of great historical magnitude.

Marks takes on a key role

The recent announcement that Mayor Karin Marks has been unanimously elected vice-president of the Agglomeration Council is excellent news for Westmount. Although it does mean more work for the mayor, it puts her in a key position on the municipal body that determines the future of all cities on the island, demerged or otherwise.

As second-in-command to Mayor Tremblay, she will have significant input on decisions that will affect Westmount in the near future. And since she has emphasized that Westmount will still be her priority, her newfound power puts Westmount in a better position to negotiate the rough political and bureaucratic waters ahead.



Six innovations for 06/06



Civic Alert

Don
WEDGE

Answering questions about council procedures recently, Mayor Karin Marks said: "Don't expect much change in the first six months—we must concentrate on getting the city running again." Fair enough. But what innovations could be hoped for—or at least be in the pipeline—by mid-year?

1. Prepare for 2009: First, why change anything? Westmounters have an unquestioning faith in their officials, both elected and staff. The big job is coping with the mega-city next door. But remember the election? It was two months ago and there were few candidates and a low turnout, followed by a lot of hand-wringing! Part of the remedy is to intensify council's involvement with individuals and groups. Few go to council meetings, so the council should go to citizens wherever they congregate. Let's hear more about what council is considering rather than letting news of developments drip out in the present dull manner. The changes I have in mind would show results at the next poll.

2. Pizzazz: Set out to be noticed. Consider the Westmount Page advertisements which list municipal and community events. They look great with top-class design, but they are not a vehicle for impact or excitement. Better

can be done; see the series of leaflets about city services. The package about the new city that arrived in mailboxes on Christmas Eve was an excellent start.

3. Budget explanations: The 2006 budget was put together in such difficult circumstances that it is unfair to carp, but the reality is that it was presented without any of the detailed reasoning becoming public. What projects were shelved and which were downplayed? Why was the pay-as-you-go allocation so much less than in 2000? Why was it not even than 2000 with four years of mega-contol to make up? The next budget must be more transparent and the process could start now with more explanation of the 2006 projections.

4. Council's thought process: Subjects don't just arrive on the agenda of monthly meetings; most have received a lot of work beforehand. They are usually considered by one of the standing committees, while being readied for council. The work in these should be become public. The present system of heavily censored minutes, produced months later, should be modernized. That means the web and "work done" records—not to wait for the next meeting to approve formal minutes. Some councils routinely produce such a document within 48 hours of the meeting. It is time Westmount joined the vanguard.

5. Building permits: If the measure of a town is how it provides for families, then it must be coupled in our case with maintaining the visual heritage. There is concern over too many renovations being done without

permits. Neighbours could be recruited as watchdogs and primed to report transgressors. The City can only act while illegal work is being done, not afterwards. Permit approvals and rejections should be listed on the web. The reconstituted Architecture and Planning Committee's decisions should be as available as during the four mega-city years.

6. Salaries of the elected have to be upgraded. This is particularly true for the mayor, with the new downtown and media responsibilities. Real commitment is necessary for the professional members. At the same time, we must not lose the volunteer nature of the councillor job, so perhaps there should be additional payments for attending committee and other additional meetings.

Talking points

Here are a few random issues you might talk about to your friends. Perhaps some of them will step forward with solutions:

Artificial turf or muddy playing fields? Becoming more bicycle friendly? Who will pay for the sound barrier by the CP tracks—its neighbours or the whole city? How to Jean Charest know he cost us fortunes by breaking his demerger promise? Why don't we have a vote for the agglomeration president? Should compost collection be compulsory? How quickly should we install water meters? Should cosmetic lighting and underground electrical heating be banned in power peaks? Are there enough after-school facilities? Can we afford a new arena? Should it be for indoor soccer, and hockey?

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Examiner

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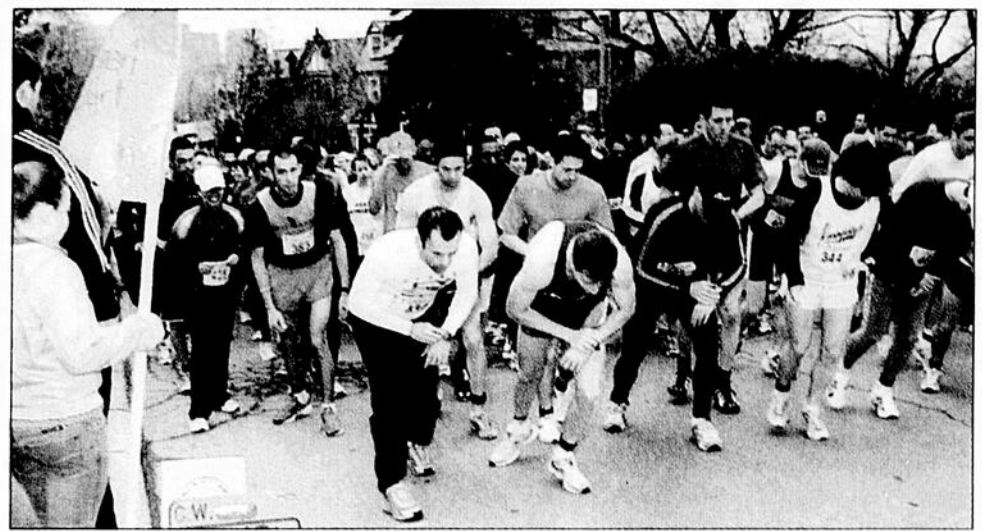
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The farewell appearance of Westmount's St. Patrick's Day float



Lining up for the YMCA's Westmount Puma Challenge

Continued from page 3

April

Long-time resident of Westmount and school board commissioner Dr. Syd Wise announced that he would be a candidate for a Westmount city council seat in the November municipal election. Wise was a candidate in the last election in 1999. For 2005, his campaign focused mainly on tenant's issues, and maintaining the high level of services to which the residents of Westmount were accustomed.

- The Westmount Municipal Association asked for a permanent memorial be dedicated to late journalist and community activist John Sancton. The WMA stated that Sancton, who passed away in December, made an impact on Westmount for 40 years as a strong humanitarian and took part in many projects including the creation of the Manior Westmount senior residence. Some plans included a statue, bust or decorative bronze plaque, permanent photo display, the renaming of Hillside Avenue or the creation of a green space to be named for him.

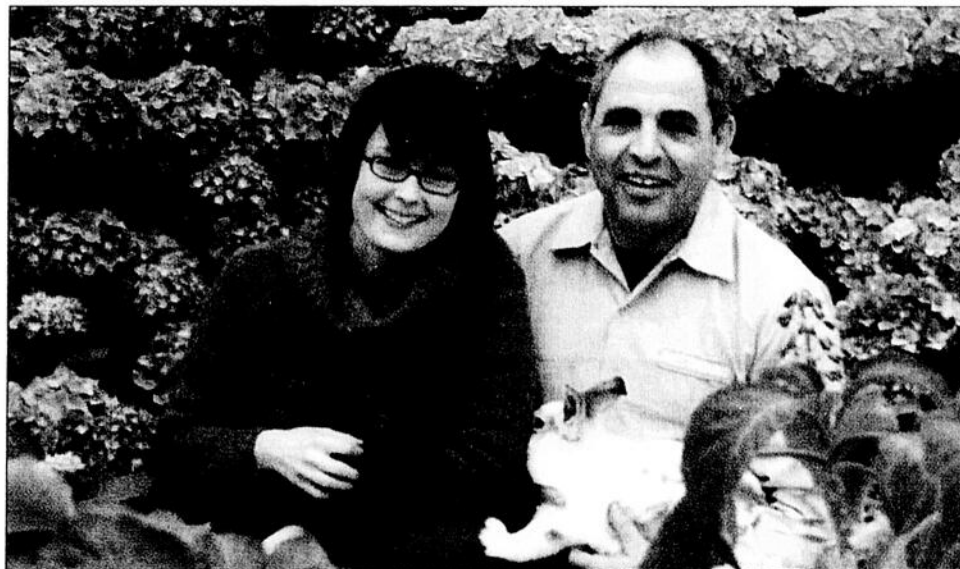
- Each year, the Spring Flower show wins over the crowds and this year was no exception. Popular with amateur photographers, this year's show featured displays of daffodils surrounding a Dutch windmill. Other areas to be planted with colourful flowers were the main entrances of Westmount and King George parks, along with other areas around the borough.

- Founding artistic director of the Westmount Youth Orchestra Mark Simons stepped down in order to devote more time to his clarinet. "I'm a clarinetist as well. Both disciplines require full-time attention," he said. Involved in charity work, Simons planned on climbing Mount Kilimanjaro to raise AIDS awareness in Africa. Taking his place with the WYO was Josee Laforest, originally hired as an interim replacement.

- Former city councillor Tom Thompson announced his intention to run in the

November municipal election. He said his platform would consist primarily of fiscal responsibility and sound municipal management.

- The remains of Marguerite Bourgeoys,



Another great spring flower show

the founder of New France's first school and the Congregation of Notre Dame, were returned to the Notre Dame du Bons Secours Chapel in Old Montreal. Entombed in various buildings since 1767, the saint's remains were moved from the order's Mother House after Marianopolis school announced plans to move into the building next year. The sisters say it would be her wish to end up in the church that was her life's work.

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fications to the steep valley spanned by the old stone railway bridge at the Glen.

May

- Best known for being half of the comedy duo Bowser and Blue, George Bowser decided to step into the political arena and run for a council seat in the November municipal election. He decided to run after receiving encouragement from family and friends. He said the biggest challenge Westmount faces in the next few years will be to maintain a good relationship with Montreal. "We must share where we can, help where we can and draw the line when we must," he said.

- The YMCA Westmount Puma Challenge made the summer that much better for children with disabilities as they almost matched last year's pledges and raised \$17,600. The race's director, Courtney Prieur, said the money is a great help. "With cutbacks not all of our kids can afford to go to camp, and the special-needs kids need a one-on-one companion. All the money raised helps these kids go to summer camp and share experiences just like every other kid."

Continued on page 6

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Continued from page 5

A new way of voting was introduced and Borough Mayor Karin Marks said it means less time spent waiting in line to vote and less money spent for the residents of Westmount. A computerized voting system was considered faster and more efficient, and Marks promised that even though there would be less voting sites, each site would be easily accessible by either foot, car or public transit.

Borough Mayor Karin Marks requested that when Westmount leaves the megacity, it be allowed to take any surplus funds accumulated during the four years spent as a borough. "Our concerns are what sorts of things will be charged to us between now and the time we leave, and will there, in fact, be any surplus to take with us when we go?" said Marks. "We should be allowed to take it with us and to use it in the new City of Westmount."

The Westmount Municipal Association honoured Geraldine Gahan with the Derek Walker Volunteer Citizen of the Year Award. Gahan was instrumental in creating and running the Manoir Westmount for 20 years and said she was planning on moving in herself in the fall.

Housing the first electronic waste depot, Westmount has now made it easier for residents to rid themselves of old computers and other electronics. Before the depot opened under Texserv in the Public Works yard on Bethune Street, residents of Westmount would have to wait for one of the four hazardous waste collections the Borough holds each year. Residents are now welcome to drop off their used electronics at their own convenience.



The Westmount Youth Orchestra's annual Mother's Day concert was a treat for the whole family

The 30th annual Family Day took place at Westmount Park. It allowed families to get to go out and enjoy fun and games on a beautiful Saturday afternoon. Activities included rock wall climbing, carnival games and a petting zoo.

June

The Examiner took several top prizes at the Quebec Community Newspapers Association's annual awards banquet. Reporter and photographer Martin C. Barry won first place for his photo and coverage of the demerger referendum in Westmount. The story also came in third as the best municipal/civic affairs story of the year. In the feature photo category, Barry's coverage of the Remembrance Day ceremony came in second. Cartoonist Ferg Gadzala won first place for his same-sex marriage lampoon.

The Rotary Club of Westmount's annual auction and garage sale was a hit, grossing \$29,895. The event was held to raise money for local and international organizations and charities.

The Westmount Children's Library kicked off its summer reading program with a mini-circus held in Westmount Park. City officials showed up in costume, as did the coordinators of the event.

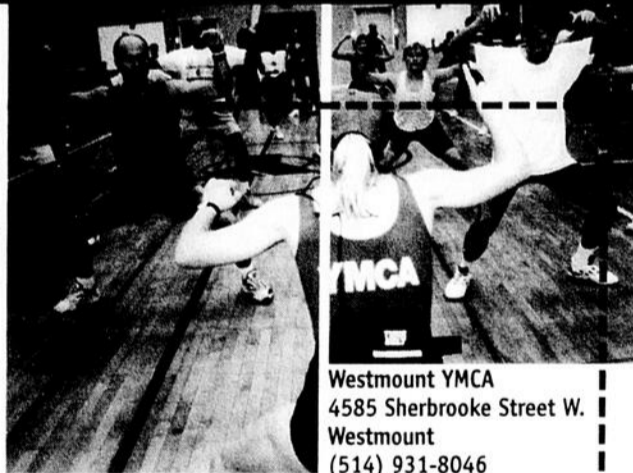
Kathleen Duncan, long-time resident of Westmount, announced her candidacy for city council. The former president of the Westmount Municipal Association said she believes the demerger and regional issues both need careful attention.

Continued on page 8

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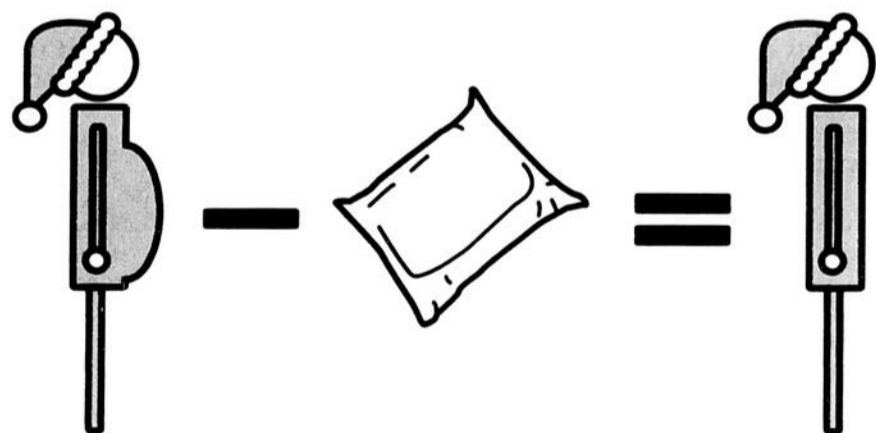


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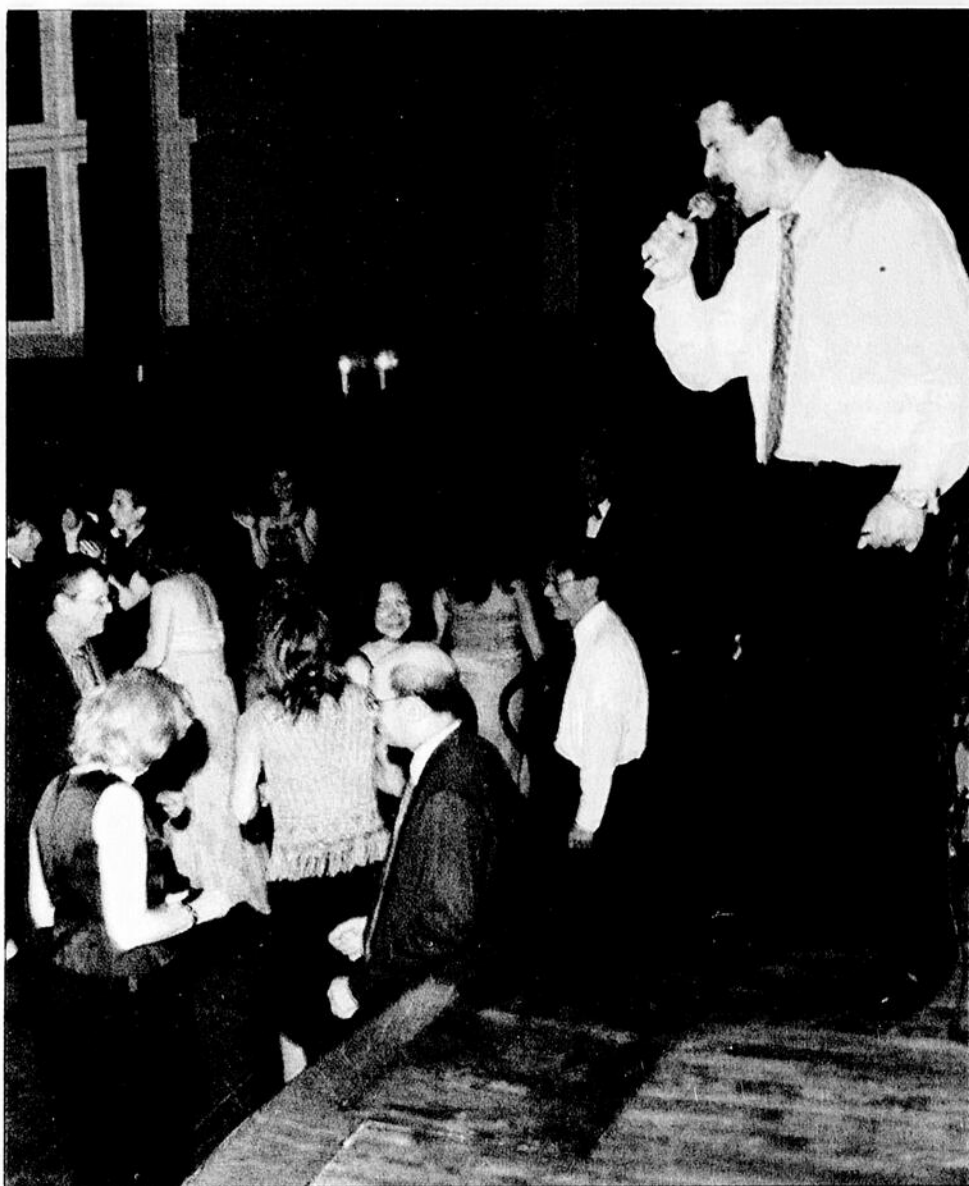
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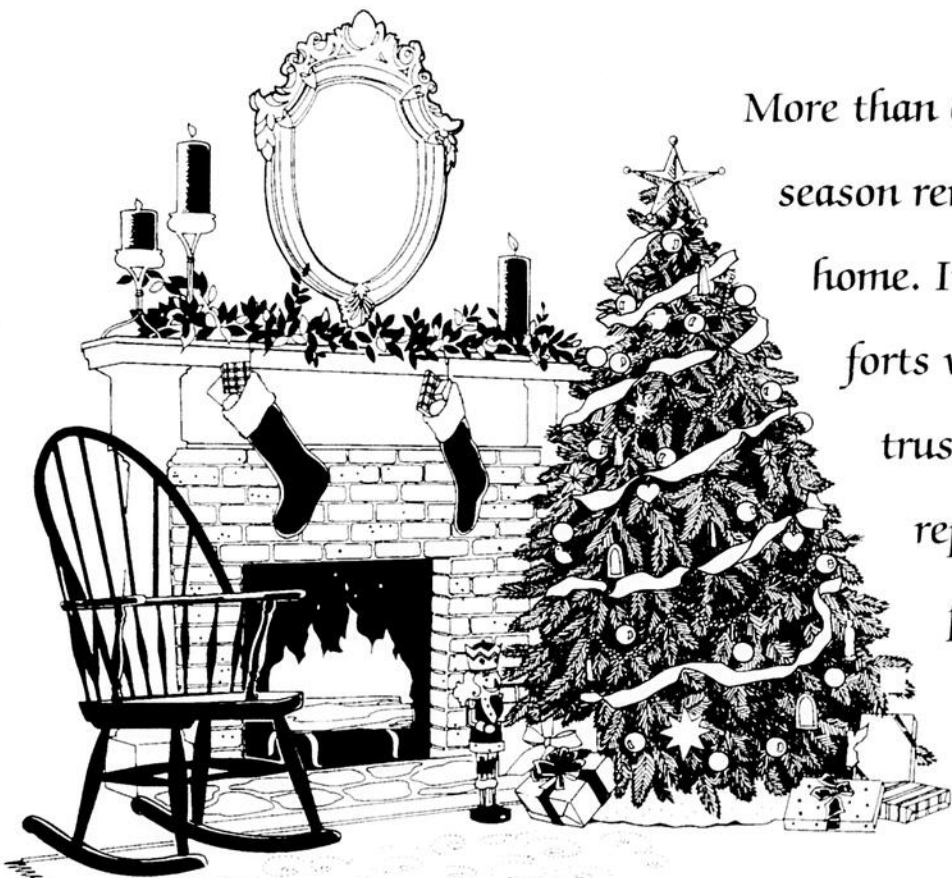


A colourful party opened the Westmount Public Library's Summer Reading Club



A rockin' time at the annual Westmount Spring Ball

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Continued from page 6

• Residents of Westmount had a great day to celebrate the Fête de la Saint Jean in Westmount Park. Several hundred people got together to celebrate Quebec and welcome the summer.

July

• Yet another event was held for the annual Canada Day celebration. Westmounters gathered at the Westmount pool to have a fun day in the sun with friends and family.

• The annual series of Sunday afternoon concerts kicked off in the Westmount Park with a performance by the Ensemble Carre Saint Louis, a flute, guitar and cello trio.

August

• Record-breaking hot weather made attendance at Westmount's public pool skyrocket in a matter of weeks. People were so desperate to cool off that it got to the point where pool officials had to turn people away because the pool was at its maximum capacity. The day passes sold last year reached about 200, while this year's number of day passes surpassed 360.

• Resident Patrick Martin announced his candidacy for city council. A semi-retired engineer, Martin said that his experience would be an asset to the new city council.



Neighbours gather for the annual end-of-summer block party on Arlington Avenue

On the Road for the Holidays

\$6 000 in prizes

3 WINNERS WILL RECEIVE A CERTIFICATE WORTH 2000\$ TOWARDS THE DESTINATION OF THEIR CHOICE

Details on the internet

The Westmount Examiner www.westmountexaminer.com

September

• Congregation Shaar Hashomayim celebrated its 160th anniversary, and welcomed Rabbi Adam Scheier as its chief rabbi in a special ceremony officiated by Rabbi Avi Weiss. Also attending was Rabbi Emeritus Wilfred Shuchat, who has been associated with the congregation for 60 years.

• Saying goodbye to summer was lived up for Arlington Avenue residents when they held their 25th annual block party. Every year the street is cordoned off while residents have barbecues and enjoy the frisbee tournaments, downhill skateboard races and other fun activities.

• Police, Public Security and firefighters got together to hold their second annual Charity Car Wash and Barbecue. Started last year to raise funds for the Special Olympics, this year the proceeds were being given to the Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation. In the end, more than \$1,000 had been collected.

• Members of the Westmount Lawn Bowling Club marked the end of the season with the Final Fling championship matches and annual dinner. Traditionally the members cooked and served the meals, but this year it was decided they would be served a catered meal so that all could relax and enjoy the event. The Westmount Lawn Bowling Club will begin its 104th season in the spring.

• The Atwater Library and Computer center had more to celebrate than just an open house. The building was declared a national heritage monument by the Federal Government.

October

• Victoria Hall played host to senior citizens for the 55-Plus Health and Happiness Fair. More than 20 non-profit organizations were on hand with exhibits on arthritis, hearing loss, healthy hearts, diabetes and much more to encourage and give advice on healthy living to residents.

Continued on page 9

Fido's post holiday sale

Selected handsets and accessories up to **75% off**

<p>NOKIA 6030 \$7.50 -\$7.50 \$0</p> <p>Zone Mobile Rebate (with agreement*)</p> <p>BONUS Receive 1 of the following item for FREE*</p> <p>MP4 Player DVD Player</p>	<p>NOKIA 8801 \$550 with Fido agreement* -\$150 \$150</p> <p>Zone Mobile Gift Certificate applicable on the price of phone</p> <p>• Durable stainless steel case • High resolution screen with scratch-resistant tempered glass • Built-in SVGA camera • 262,144 colours (208x288 pixels) active Matrix screen with animated 3D device for catchy graphics • Video recording & transmission in real time • MP3 ring tones • Synchronized function between apparatus</p>
<p>SONY ERICSON Z520 \$75 -\$50 \$25</p> <p>Zone Mobile Rebate (with agreement*)</p> <p>BONUS Receive 1 of the following item for FREE*</p> <p>Bluetooth Hands free MP4 Player DVD Player</p>	<p>MOTOROLA V190 \$15 -\$15 \$0</p> <p>Zone Mobile Rebate (with agreement*)</p> <p>BONUS Receive 1 of the following item for FREE*</p> <p>MP4 Player DVD Player</p>

The handset and accessories discount is valid from December 28, 2005 to January 31, 2006 on until quantities last. The handset discount is valid with any new activation of a monthly anytime package with Fido. Agreement. The 50% off the monthly service fee for four months on all Fido to Fido packages with Fido Agreement offer is available until January 31, 2006. The price of the package at \$10 per month is determined by applying the 50% rebate on the \$20 Fido to Fido package. Taxes, long distance and roaming charges, monthly an emergency service fee (50¢), monthly system access fee (30¢) and other applicable charges apply. Subject to Fido's Fair Use Policy. Some conditions apply. Fido is a registered trademark of Fido Solutions Inc.

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The Westmount Examiner

Marketplace

Deadline: Word Ads, Monday at 7 p.m. • Display Ads, Monday at 4 p.m.
Open Tuesday to Friday between 9 a.m. & 5 p.m., and Monday until 7 p.m.

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CANADA PROVINCE DE QUEBEC DISTRICT DE MONTREAL No. 500-04-040751-050 SUPERIOR COURT (Family Division)

Present: **AKM ASUNAL KABIR** Applicant

ELIZABETH HOSSAIN Defendant

SUMMONS

IT IS ORDERED to ELIZABETH HOSSAIN to appear at the Montreal Court House, located at 1 East, Notre-Dame Street, Montreal, room 1120, Province of Quebec, within thirty (30) days of the date of publication of the present notice in the Westmount Examiner.

A copy of the Motion for Custody and Child support has been left at the Office of the Court to the attention of ELIZABETH HOSSAIN. The Motion will be presented on January 26, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. in room 2.17 of the Montreal Court House.

Place: Montreal
Date: December 15th, 2005
Lise Tremblay
M515228 109851

Use the Examiner Bulletin Board! Fax at: 484-6028

Continued from page 8

• Current and retired Borough of Westmount employees had the chance to catch up at the 62nd annual Quarter Century Club banquet held at Victoria Hall. Many employees were honoured for their more than 25 years of service and it gave them all a chance to catch up and reminisce.

• St. Andrew's-Dominion-Douglas Church's name was formally changed to Mountainside Church. The name change coincided with the 80th anniversary of the United Church of Canada. Along with a name change the Church faces yet another change—that of the civic address from 687 Roslyn Avenue to the new 4000 The Boulevard.

• Westmount sadly said goodbye to historian and writer Aline Gubbay, who passed away at the age of 85. Author of several books on local history, Gubbay served as president of the Westmount Historical Association and wrote a popular column in *The Examiner*, 'Know Your Westmount'. A grassroots campaign immediately sprang up to rename a local lane in Gubbay's honour.

• Students at Roslyn School surpassed all expectations once the final tally of the pledges came in for the 25th annual Terry Fox Run. The total amount collected by students was more than \$20,000, while school custodian and run organizer Eddie Nolan raised \$10,000 with the help of his family.

• Six local families won prizes in the annual Halloween house decorating contest. The two first-place winners were given a catered dinner in their home by Simply Wonderful; second-place winners were given dinner for four at Java U and third-place families were given Halloween gift baskets designed by Fougagerie.

November

• Westmounters went to the polls to elect their municipal representatives in the new City of Westmount. Borough Mayor Karin Marks soundly defeated challenger Gerald Glass to become mayor of the reconstituted city, while in Ward 8 the incumbent Borough Councillor John de Castell defeated Allen Nutik. The seven other councillors—Patrick Martin, Tom Thompson, Guy Charette, Kathleen Duncan, George Bowser, Nicole Forbes and Cynthia Lulham—had all been acclaimed. Syd Wise, who had intended to run in Ward 6, withdrew from the race prior to the nomination deadline.

Continued on page 10



(left to right) Patrick Martin, Kathleen Duncan, Nicole Forbes and Tom Thompson joined George Bowser, Guy Charette, Cynthia Lulham and John de Castell as the new city council under Mayor Karin Marks.

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Continued from page 9

• Glasses were raised in celebration as Westmount's Rotary Club marked its 75th anniversary as a key service organization in the community.

• Residents paid their respects to those who lost their lives in combat at the Westmount Cenotaph at this year's Remembrance Day ceremony. A parade of Canadian Forces personnel and members of the Royal Canadian Legion and Royal Canadian Mounted Police followed the soldiers as they made their way down Sherbrooke Street from Kensington and Clark Avenues.

• Selwyn House School had a lot to be proud of when the students managed to raise a total of \$17,000 for the Quebec Breast

Cancer Foundation during Breast Cancer Awareness month. The students donated money to see teachers shave their heads.

• Victoria Hall was bustling with activity during the seventh annual Westmount Artisan Festival. Thirty-five high-end artisans showcased their wares in a two-day event that attracted buyers from across the island.

• Westmount's first major fire in more than five years tore through an apartment block at the corner of de Maisonneuve and Melville Avenue, leaving several families homeless. The cause was traced to a stove fire in a second-floor apartment. The five-alarm blaze brought more than 150 emergency personnel to the scene.



A major blaze at Melville and de Maisonneuve

Photo: Charles Montgomery

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December

• Westmount's SWAT old timer hockey team took part in the 17th annual Tournoi. A record number of people showed up to watch the games, which raise money for the Hopital Ste. Justine and the Montreal Children's Hospital.

• Those young and old came out to celebrate and usher in the Christmas season at Westmount City Hall, where the traditional Christmas tree was lit. The festivities included carols and a quiz game played by city councillors with the children.

• Mayor Karin Marks was unanimously elected vice-president of the Montreal Agglomeration Council. "I'm not the leader of an opposition. We are 15 cities, each with our own roles. Montreal partisan party rules don't apply to us," she said, emphasizing that her priority would still be Westmount.

• Tragedy struck on Sherbrooke Street when a young woman was killed by a dump truck during snow-removing operations. Her 10-year-old brother was injured in the accident, which occurred when the two were crossing the street in front of the Westmount YMCA.

Continued from page 1

Prior to Monday's meeting, the mayors published a statement setting out "six principals of approach to agglomeration issues." It was drafted by Côte St. Luc mayor Anthony Housefather and signed by all 14 mayors, including Marks, and called for:

- All municipalities to be treated as partners, recognizing Montreal as the biggest. The needs of all 16 municipalities had to be taken into consideration. The mayors undertook to study all issues with an island-wide perspective.

- Important issues to be discussed by the partners before being brought to a vote.

- Adequate time for review to be allowed. This had not been the case with the first budget. As it had been cancelled, there was now time to work on the revised version.

- The division of costs had to be clear with an auditing mechanism.

- Services to be charged on a pro-rata or user basis, not property valuation.

- Agglomeration spending to be fairly shared between all 16 members, with agreed priorities. Infrastructure renewals were necessary everywhere, not just in Montreal.

- Positions allocated to the reconstituted cities to be filled by their own nominations.

The first agglomeration council meeting had been called and cancelled several times. Notice was short even when it was finally called for Monday morning. Documents to support the decisions were made available only three days beforehand.

Nevertheless, all the new mayors met in a secret caucus at 7:30 a.m., prior to the 9 a.m. council meeting, and agreed on their candidates for the first agglomeration posts and their position on other agenda items.

Marks has been the elected chair of the mayors' group since the referendum in June last year which brought independence from the megacity and marked the retirement of former mayor Peter Trent from the leadership role.

Since the implementation of the forced mergers in 2001, Marks has been the only independent throughout the term of the four

years of the mega-city council. She has won the respect of her colleagues from both the Tremblay administration and the Bourque opposition.

Veteran West Island mayor Bill McMurchie, noting the unanimous choice, said that Marks had been inspirational and done "yeoman-like" work on behalf of the reconstitution in recent months.

"She has a wonderful grasp of the files, gets along with people and, without being confrontational, gets where she wants to be in the end. It's the style of leadership we need to make the agglomeration work as well as it can."

Echoing him, newly elected Baie d'Urfé Mayor Maria Tutino observed that Marks "impresses by being well-informed and prepared. She had brought us green ones up to speed and I felt it an honour to propose her for the vice-president position."

Among other appointments made at the first meeting were Yvon Labrosse (Montreal East) to the transit corporation board, Bill McMurchie (Pointe Claire) and John Meaney (Kirkland) to the CMM, with Vera Dany (TMR) and Anthony Housefather (Côte St. Luc) to the public security commission which will be concerned with police, fire and emergency services. More commissions will be formed later.

The light business agenda involved spending \$18 million, including \$4.1 million in support to the Pointe-à-Callière Museum, maintenance in 2006 of the police's electronic fingerprint system (\$200,000) and repairs to the sewage system (\$2.2 million).

Agreements negotiated by the Transition Committee concerning arterial roads and the water infrastructure were ratified, as was a solid waste plan and a Montreal-written policy document on accessibility to the handicapped.

Future agglomeration meetings have been set for 7 p.m. on the last Thursday in the month, beginning on Jan. 27. Meetings take place in Montreal City Hall, but some may be convened in reconstituted cities.

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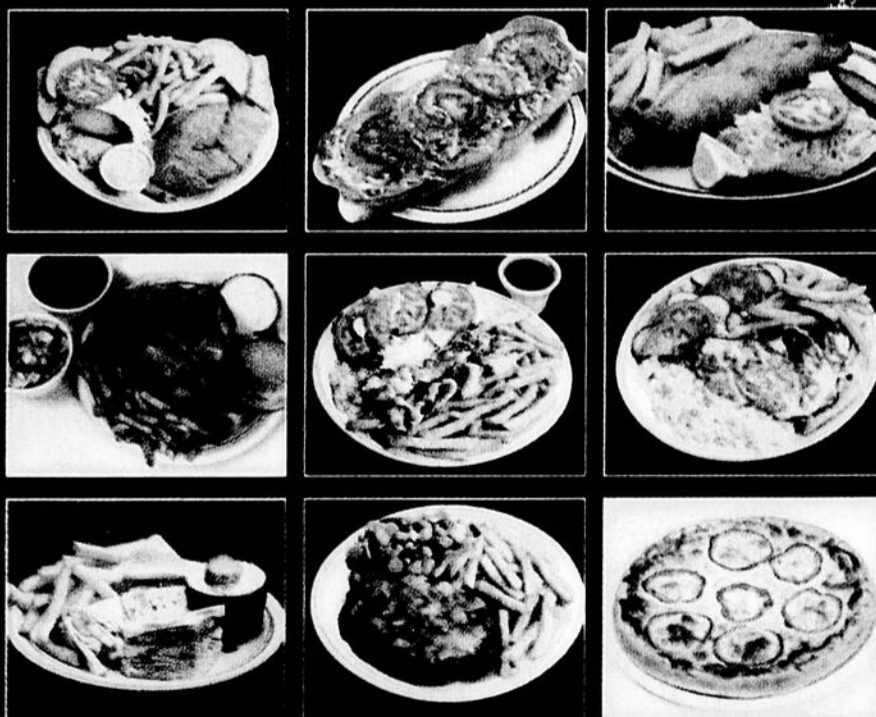
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