

*Examiner*

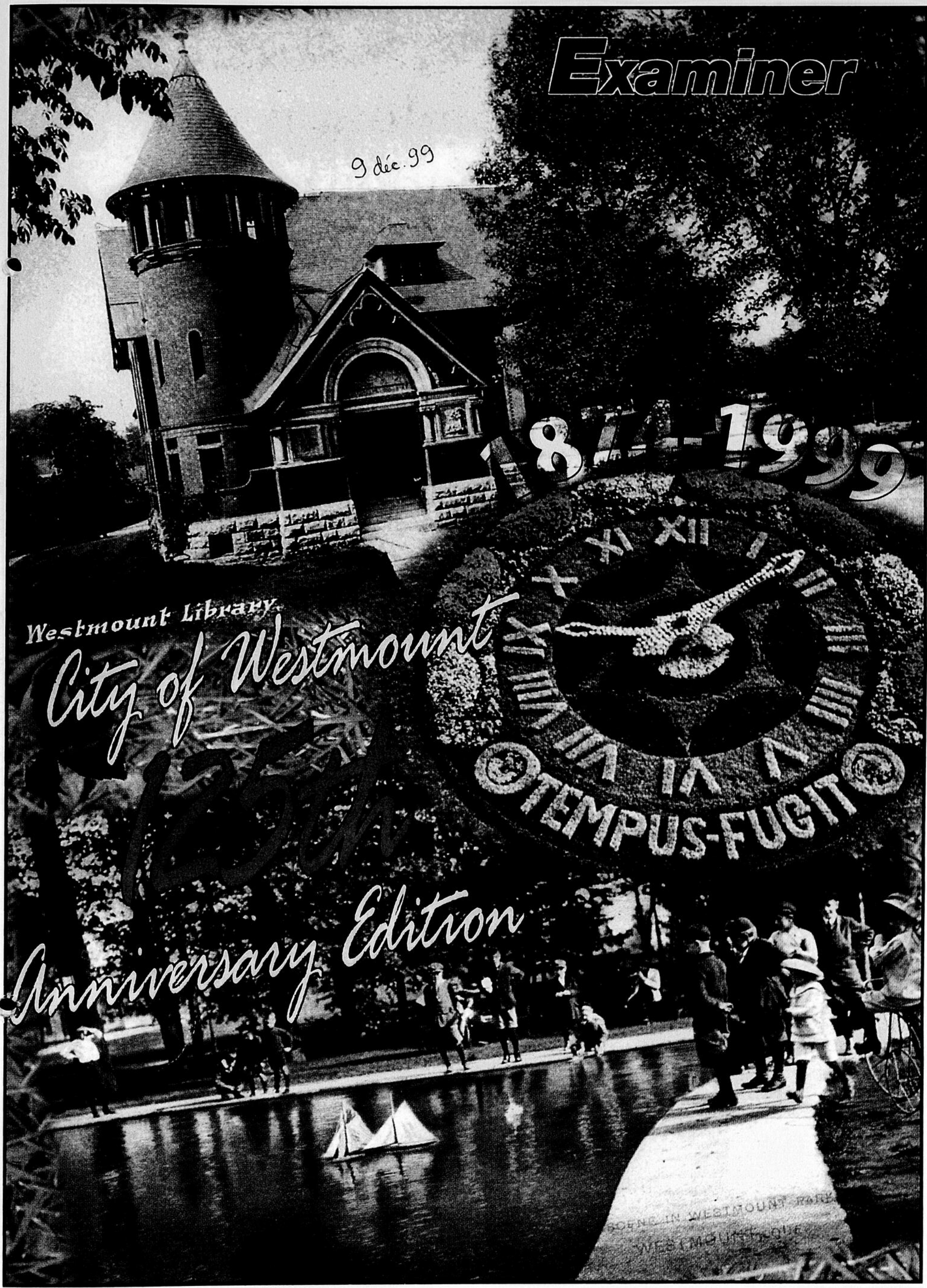
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*Anniversary Edition*



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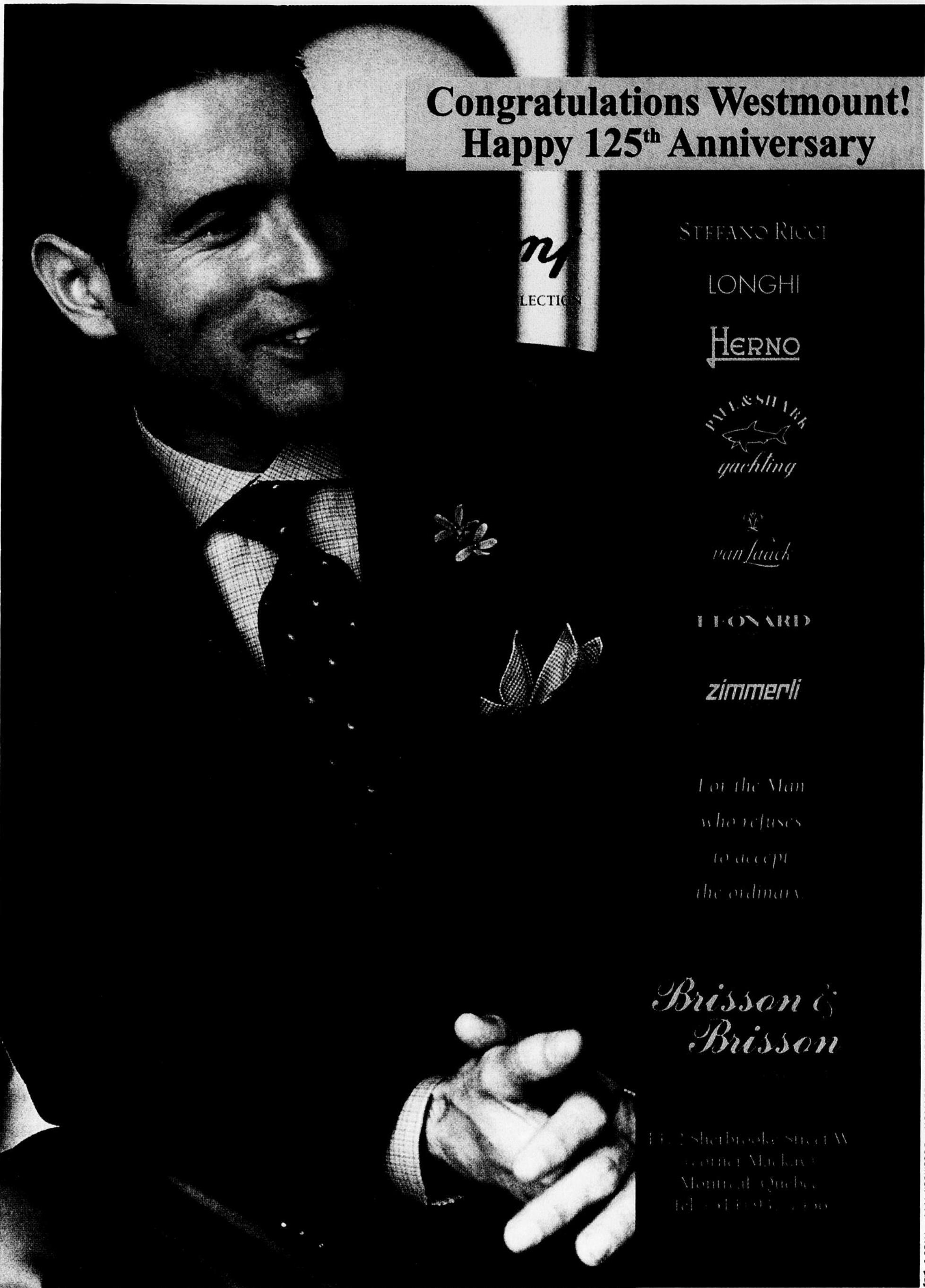
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# What is well built must be well defended

History is forever in the process of being made. Imperceptibly, daily events congeal into the permanence that is the past. Brick by brick, the edifice of history rises with no blueprints and with the sketchiest of plans. All we can do is examine the strange and wonderful structure our ancestors built and hope our children will not be too ashamed of what we put together.

Our own little city of Westmount boasts the richness and complexity that comes with a community built with care, yet we have not allowed this planning to stifle a certain quirkiness. In other words, we grew with the right mix of planning and spontaneity. We are not a gridlike Model City in the mould of the Town of Mount Royal. We are not a city that sprung up fully formed out of nothing.

Indeed, even the way we began is a little strange. On the 19th of February, 1874, the village that would eventually become the City of Westmount had its first council meeting. The Honourable Eustache Prud'homme was unanimously (and certainly expeditiously) elected mayor by the other five members of council present. They were gathered in the upstairs room of a local farmhouse that was rented to them for that purpose for \$50 a year, wood and fuel supplied.

At the beginning, there were, however, great pressures to conform to a Presbyterian norm. The new council wasted no time in passing a whole raft of by-laws. By-law No. 2 "concerning Decency and Good Morals and Public Nuisances" prohibited gambling houses and houses of ill fame, cockfighting and dogfighting, profane oaths and blasphemous and obscene language, indecent placards, public bathing, fireworks, and even the throwing out of contents of privies. They also decreed "no person shall drive than at an ordinary trot...within a radius of half a mile from any church."

But by the turn of the century, the council focussed more on controlling the physical appearance of the city; less time was spent on issuing edicts concerning citizens' behaviour. Around 1910, Westmount adopted detailed construction standards (which included the banning of non-masonry construction). These standards were far superior to anything on the Island of Montreal. Zoning laws were equally strict. In 1916, We were also the first city to create an Architectural Commission. And by 1911, Westmount had invested over \$600,000 in parkland—a prodigious sum at the time for such a small municipality. By 1931, we had more park acreage per capita than any other municipality in Quebec.

But the fixation on appropriate behaviour did not totally die out. In 1912, the Victoria Rifles could not build an armoury in Westmount because booze was served in the mess. Westmounters also looked with disdain at Montreal's nightlife, characterized in 1911 by the Westmount News as "vulgar entertainments...that call for the wild excitement that is productive of a nature that is devoid of higher thinking." They also deplored the "obscene political character" of Montreal.

If one ignores the lamentable lapses in the 60s and 70s, Westmount has continued to be very careful about controlling what citizens can build.

In fact, our current heritage preservation laws are the strictest in Quebec. But when I took office in 1991, our public buildings were decrepit: the older buildings suffered from neglect and—what was worse—60s interventions, and the newer buildings were just plain cheaply built. I said that Westmount was living off its capital. Since then we have restored and expanded our library and Victoria Hall, rebuilt the lawnbowling clubhouse, built an electrical substation, and upgraded our Protective Services station. Yet to come is Westmount train station, the greenhouses, and, of course, the arena.

As Westmount grew, the rural got blended with the urban, the palatial with the unprepossessing. This city, where 14.3 per cent of its citizens earn what Statistics Canada classes a "low income", has a demographic reality that belies its fat-cat image. I would not wish to be mayor of a city of the exclusively rich. Westmount probably has the widest diversity in incomes of any city its size in Canada. We are probably home to a few billionaires; we are certainly home to many people of quite modest means.

Westmount also has communities within communities, whether they make up the "below Dorchester" area, the Abbot/Bethune area, Victoria Village, or Priest's Farm. All very different, but all very Westmount nonetheless.

We have achieved a mini-Canada within our borders, where tolerance and neighbourliness is the norm, a comforting place where families can flourish. Where interests and values are shared. We agree on what makes a perfect city: library, parks, local shops, schools. And independence.

But this idyllic little community is threatened by the forces of amalgamation, by Pierre Bourque and his fatuous slogan of "one island one city." By megacity megalomania. By the forces of homogenization and uniformity. By the big-box approach to city management. Rather than being inspired by a city like Westmount, with its prudent

management, respect for built heritage, and sense of belonging, the amalgamationists want to destroy rather than emulate. We cannot allow mediocrity to win over quality.

So as we look forward to a possible sesquicentennial, our future's a bit hazy. We have to assert a kind of municipal existentialism. We have to demonstrate that, along with tolerance and good government, Westmount is capable of baring its teeth. As Shakespeare put it, "In peace there's nothing so becomes a man as modest stillness and humility. But when the blast of war blows in our ears, then...disguise fair nature with hard-favoured rage." Make no mistake about it—Bourque is launching a hostile takeover. It just remains to be seen when will be the appropriate time for Westmounters to show their mettle. Stay tuned.

We have tremendous strengths to draw on. We are, collectively, a complex product of 125 years. Westmount must live on. We owe it to all the Westmounters who have gone before us and those who, with our determination, will come after us.

*Peter Trent was recently re-elected for a third term by acclamation.*



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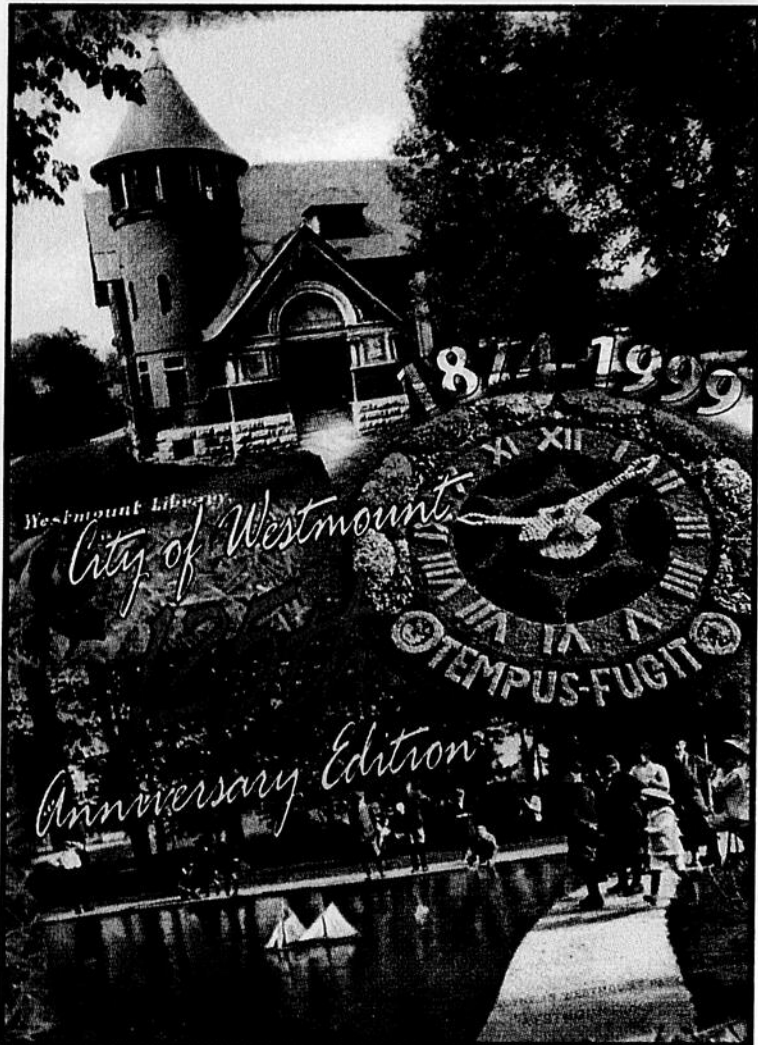
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# Celebrating Westmount's 125th in style



The cover illustration is a collage of three vintage postcards (circa 1910) generously provided by the Westmount Public Library. Concept and design by Production Manager Emanuela Niculescu.

When a friend has a special birthday, it necessitates a special party. Here in Westmount, the party has been going on all year with a number of events starting with the play 'There'll be no tavern in this town' on Feb. 19 and culminating with the 125th anniversary dinner on December 2.

Now it's *The Westmount Examiner's* turn to contribute to the festivities.

This special anniversary issue is the culmination of several months of work by all *The Examiner* staff, freelance writers, photographers and graphic artists. I would like to bring attention to a few individuals for their fine work: Philip Dombowsky, a regular contributor to *The Examiner* and a Director of the Westmount Historical Association,

wrote our timeline for us. His M.A. in Art History and interest in information technologies was a huge asset as he brought together a massive amount of information and helped us sift through countless photographs to find just what we needed. Laureen Sweeney, the long-time *Examiner* reporter and photographer who has covered more than 200 fires, wrote two terrific pieces for us on Westmount's most spectacular fires and the City's honour roll. Marilyn Carsley, another regular contributor, wrote a feature on Greene Avenue and one on places for children's activities over the years.

So, I hope you enjoy the fruits of our labours and join us in wishing the City of Westmount another great 125 years, at least.

—Leonard J Gervais

**The Westmount Examiner**

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City of Westmount  
125th Anniversary Edition

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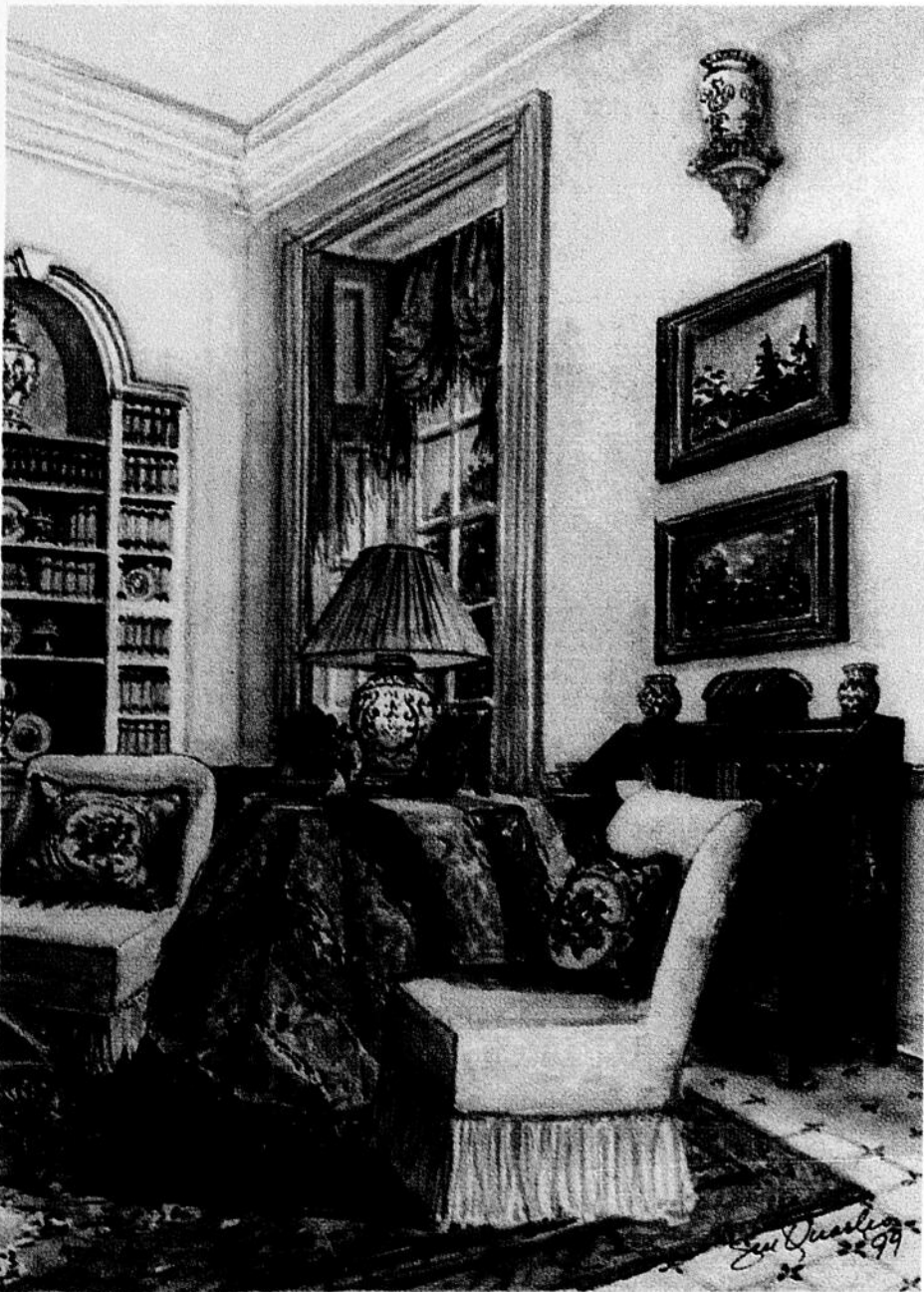
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# Westmount's history features famous Montrealers

Westmount, like many other Canadian towns and cities, went through many changes and incarnations over the years. The following is a detailed timeline of Westmount and its history over the past 300 years. An \* denotes an approximate date.

BY PHILIP DOMBOWSKY

**1662** — The first land grant in the area later known as Westmount was obtained by stone mason Jean Leduc.

**1692\*** — House built by the St. Germain family on Côte St. Antoine Road near the current Lansdowne Avenue. Descendants retained possession of the house until the 1890s.

**1730\*** — The probable date of construction of the Hurtubise house near Côte St. Antoine Road, on land granted to the family in 1688.

**1775\*** — Simon Clarke, a prosperous fur-trader and the first English-speaking settler in

Sherbrooke, built a wood frame house at the corner of Sherbrooke Street and Clarke Avenue. Eventually surrounded by beautiful gardens and extensive orchards, the house remained a local landmark until the early 1900s.

**1802\*** — William McGillivray, a director of the North West Company, built the estate 'Rosemount' on land formerly owned by the Bouchard family.

**1805** — William Hallowell, a partner in the firm of McTavish, McGillivray & Company, leased approximately 100 acres of land running along the escarpment between the present Atwater Avenue and Hallowell Street. Hallowell built a house on the property the following year.

**1828** — Land formerly owned by the Lacroix family was purchased by Charles Bowman, a Montreal merchant. Bowman used the land to build 'Forden', one of Westmount's most splendid early mansions and renowned throughout the city.



Simon Clarke's original house at the corner of Sherbrooke and Clake Avenue.

**1840\*** — Moses Judah Hays built Metcalfe Terrace on land obtained from the Gentlemen of the Seminary of St. Sulpice.

**1852** — William Murray built the estate 'West Mount' on property formerly owned by the Leduc family.

**1861** — 'Rosemount' estate purchased by Robert James Reekie. Reekie would subsequently sell most

of the property for private homes.

**1869** — The first Sunday school classes in Côte St. Antoine were held in the home of William Rutherford on Clarke Avenue.

**1872** — Montreal City Passenger Railway Company's horse-car service extended along St. Catherine Street to Greene Ave.

See page 11

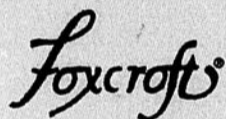
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**CONTINUED FROM  
WESTMOUNT'S HISTORY, PG. 10**

**1873** — The first Protestant school in Côte St. Antoine was established on the second floor of a wooden frame farmhouse at the southeast corner of Côte St. Antoine Road and Clarke Avenue. The school's first teacher was Miss E. Turnbull.

Côte St. Antoine, Côteau St. Pierre and Côte St. Luc were detached from St. Henry to form the municipality of Notre Dame-de-Grâce. The Proclamation creating the new municipal entity was issued on December 9th by Québec Lieutenant-Governor René Edouard Caron.

**1874** — The first council meeting in Notre-Dame de Grâce was held in the house of Prospère Sauvage in Côte St. Luc. The Honorable Eustache Prud'homme was the unanimous choice as the municipality's first Mayor. Alexandre Mills, Luc Prud'homme, John Snowdon, Joseph St. Germain, William Rutherford and James K. Ward were appointed the first councillors.

**1875** — Dedication of St. Matthias, the first Protestant church in Notre-Dame de Grâce.

The small wooden frame structure was built on Crawford Street (Church Hill) above Cote St. Antoine Road on land donated by Mrs. Robert T. Raynes.

**1876** — Secession of the western area of Notre-Dame de Grâce (Côteau St. Pierre and Côte St. Luc). The new municipality was named Notre-Dame de Grâce West. The area east of Claremont retained the name Notre-Dame de Grâce.

Two-storey building on the north end Stanton Street purchased by the School Commissioners for use as a school. The building had a central hall on the ground floor separating two classrooms. The upper floor had several small rooms and one large room, which was used for Council meetings and concerts.

**1879** — Notre-Dame de Grâce incorporated as the 'Municipality of the Village of Côte St. Antoine'.

**1885** — Stanton Street School opened on Stanton Street near Côte St. Antoine Road. The school was renamed Côte St. Antoine Academy.

**1886** — Opening services held in Melville Presbyterian Church at the corner of Stanton and Côte St.



**Metcalfe Terrace, built circa 1840 by Moses Judah Hays**

Antoine Road. Founders of the church included A. C. Hutchison, Matthew Hutchison, Robert Harvie, Thomas Samuel and Douglas Rutherford. The St. Georges Snowshoe Club, founded in 1840, erected a clubhouse on land near The Boulevard and Aberdeen Avenue.

**1887** — The Heather Curling Club, a wooden building housing two sheets of ice, opened on the west side of Kensington Avenue above Sherbrooke Street.

**1888** — The Montreal Amateur Athletic Association erected a

clubhouse on land acquired from the Hallowell estate.

**1889** — French Methodist Institute, housing about 60 boys and 40 girls under the supervision of a governor and a resident principal, opened on Greene Avenue.

Founding of the Côte St. Antoine Lawn Tennis Club. The first clubhouse was built on the southwest corner of Kensington Avenue and Sherbrooke Street and included four grass and two cinder courts. After the property was sold for

**See page 12**



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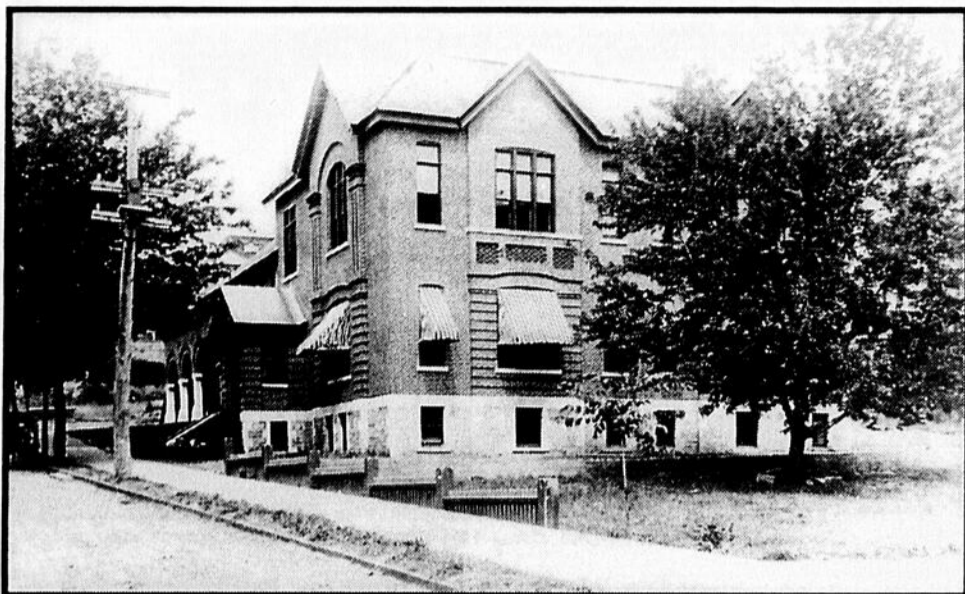
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## 1890s saw expansion and the name changed to the City of Westmount



The former Stanton School, which became the Town Hall in 1895

**CONTINUED FROM  
WESTMOUNT'S HISTORY, PG. 11**

building lots in 1906, the clubhouse was moved to new grounds located between Grey and Vendôme avenues below Sherbrooke.

1890 — The name of the municipality was changed from the Village of Côte St. Antoine to the Town of Côte St. Antoine. The town's population at the time was 1,850.

The shoe merchant John Smithers opened a store on Greene Avenue. The store remained a fixture in

Westmount for more than 80 years.

First services held in the 'Tabernacle', a Methodist chapel at the corner of Lansdowne and Western. The 'Tabernacle' was the first of three Methodist churches to occupy the site.

Formation of the Côte St. Antoine Improvement Committee. One of the first recommendations put forward by the Committee was that the town purchase a 16-acre tract of land south of Sherbrooke Street for use as a public park.

1892 — The first bakery in Côte St. Antoine was opened by

Frederick Carter on Clarke Avenue. James Harrison was appointed Chief Constable of the Fire and Police Department. By the end of the year the police force consisted of four constables who also served as the town's fire brigade.

First church service held in the Church of the Advent at the corner of Western and Wood avenues.

Construction of the Glen Bridge, the first public works project in Côte St. Antoine. The new structure replaced a wooden bridge constructed by Canadian Pacific Railway in 1888.

1893 — Electric streetcar service extended to Côte St. Antoine. The route was in the form of a loop along St. Catherine, Victoria, Sherbrooke and Greene.

A new Côte St. Antoine Academy was built at the corner of Argyle and Côte St. Antoine Road. The old building was later converted into a Town Hall.

1894 — Dent Harrison, "Baker and Confectioner", established a bakery at 1 Dunlop Place, a small lane running parallel to St. Catherine Street between Greene

and Wood avenues. Harrison would eventually build the POM Bakery near the Glen.

The Canadian Speed Skating Championships was held on the grounds of the Montreal Amateur Athletic Association. Ten thousand people attended the event.

Westmount's first bank, the Merchants Bank of Halifax, was opened at the corner of Greene Avenue and St. Catherine Street.

1895 — Name of the municipality changed from the Town of Côte St. Antoine to the Town of Westmount. Publication of Westmount's first newspaper, the Westmount Advertiser. The Advertiser was published weekly until 1906.

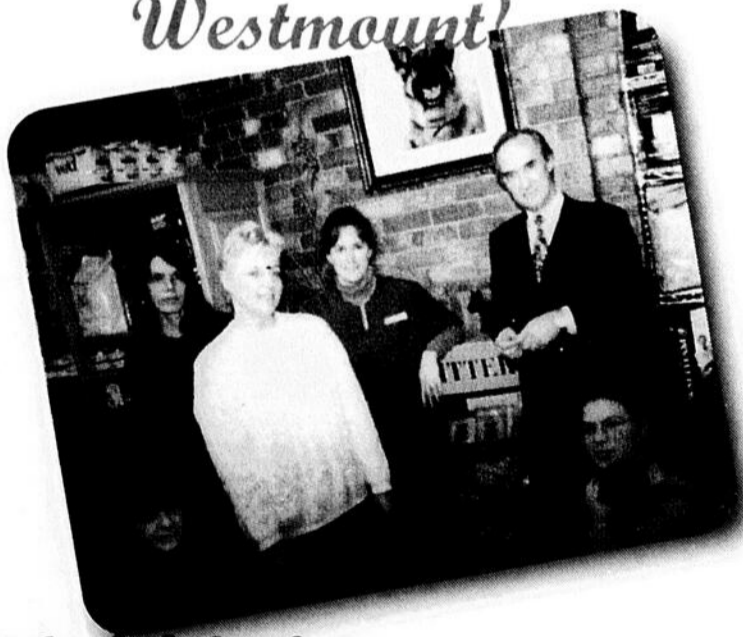
Former Côte St. Antoine Academy renovated as a Town Hall.

1896 — Glen School (later named King's School) was built on Western Avenue between Lansdowne and Victoria avenues at a cost of \$25,000.

1897 — Diamond Jubilee Celebrations held in Westmount Park. Events included a demonstration

**See page 13**

### Happy 125th Birthday Westmount!



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## The library and Victoria Jubilee Hall were both opened in 1899

CONTINUED FROM WESTMOUNT'S HISTORY, PG. 12

by local school children and the unveiling of an attractive granite fountain donated by the Westmount branch of the Women's Christian Temperance Union. Westmount's first train station, a wood building designed by William S. Maxwell, was erected at the south end of Abbott Avenue.

1898 — Land later developed for Westmount Park was purchased by the Town of Westmount.

Indian skeletons were discovered in July on the grounds of the St. Georges Club near Aberdeen Avenue and the Boulevard. More remains were found during excavations carried out in the fall under the direction of W. D. Lighthall.

The Montreal Arena opened at the northeast corner of Wood Avenue and St. Catherine Street on December 31.

1899 — Official opening of the Westmount Public Library, one of the first municipally funded libraries in Canada.

Official opening of Victoria Jubilee Hall. Designed by Robert Findlay in commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria, the building included a dance floor, concert hall stage, bowling alleys, a billiard room, a swimming pool and a gymnasium.

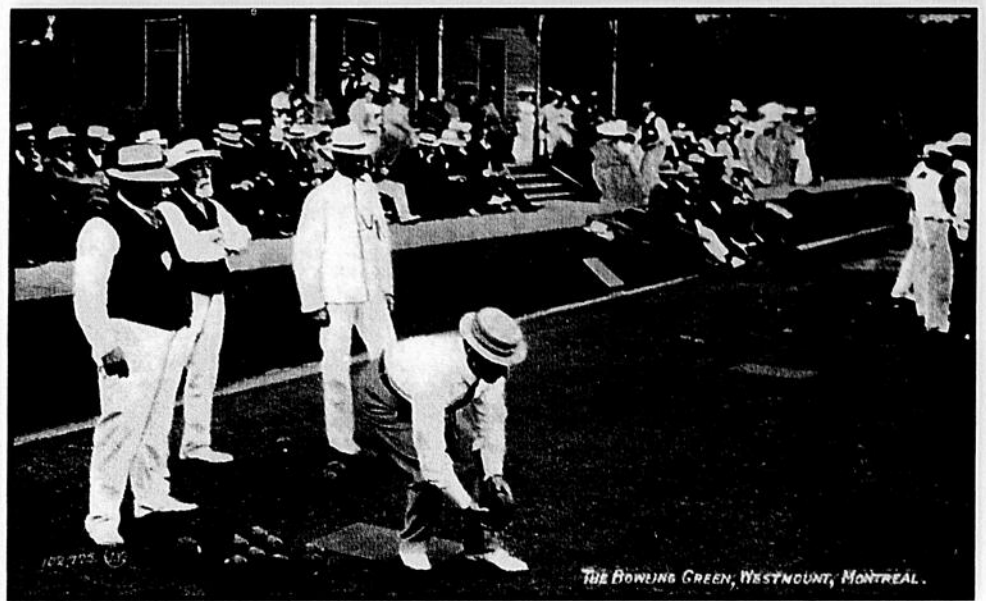
The Swedish watchmaker Nils Ohman opened a store at the corner of Wood Avenue and St. Catherine Street. Ohman later moved his shop to Greene Avenue, where it remained a fixture until the 1980s.

1900 — Opening of Queen's School on Olivier Avenue. The school's first principal was Agnes James.

First services were held in the new Presbyterian Church on Elgin (now Melville) Avenue.

William Douw Lighthall appointed Mayor of Westmount. A lawyer, author, and historian, Lighthall played a major role in the founding of the Union of Canadian Municipalities.

1901 — Mary Saxe appointed librarian at the Westmount Public



This postcard shows members of the Westmount Lawn Bowling Club in action, circa 1902.

Library. During her 30 years as head librarian, the library's collection grew from 2,000 volumes to 36,000 volumes.

1902 — The Westmount Lawn Bowling clubhouse opened on land leased from the Monk estate near Kensington and Côte St. Antoine Road.

Dent Harrison's 'Model Bakery' moved to newer and larger premises at 319 Prince Albert Street.

Within ten years, the Harrison bakery had 100 people in its employ and was producing 100,000 loaves of bread per week.

1903 — First services held in St. Leo's, the first Roman Catholic church in Westmount.

1904 — Formal opening of the new Heather Curling Club on Kensington Ave. near St. Catherine Street.

Royal Bank building erected at the corner of Greene Avenue and St. Catherine Street.

1906 — As part of her Canadian farewell tour, opera sensation Emma Albani performed in front of a crowd of 3,000 at the Arena.

See page 20

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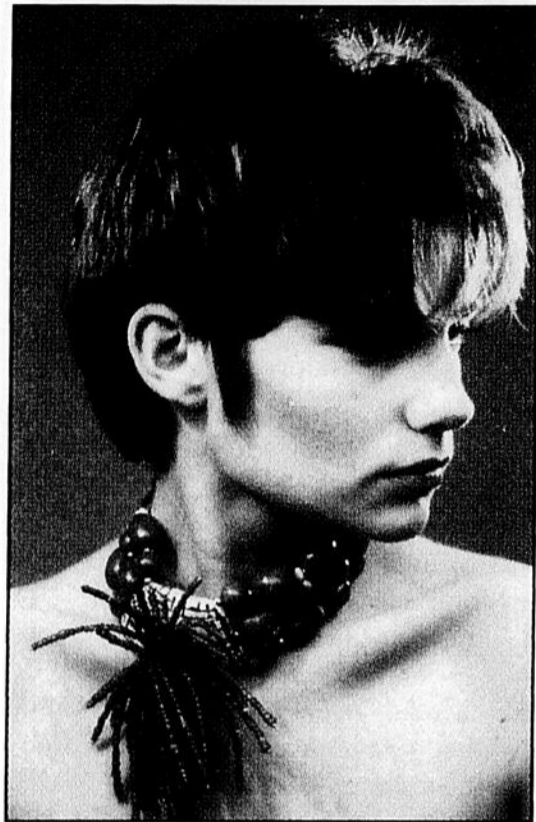
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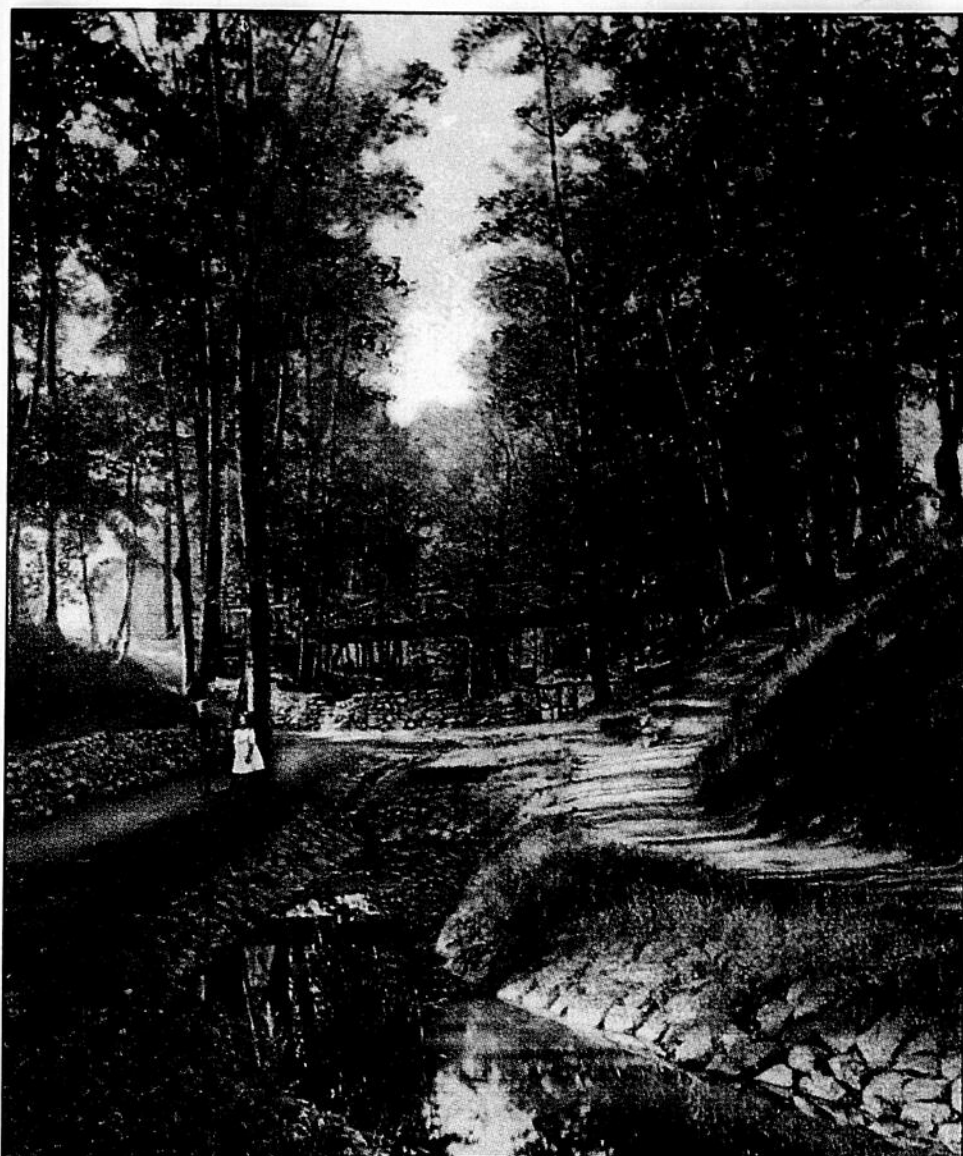
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Westmount Park: A jewel in the city



A view of Westmount Park at the turn of the century. Originally farmland, the park's development began during the 1890s through the efforts of the Côte St. Antoine Improvement Committee. The stream in the foreground ran down through the Glen, but was later diverted underground.

*Congratulations to  
the City of Westmount  
on the special occasion  
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# Westmount's memorable blazes were spectacular

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

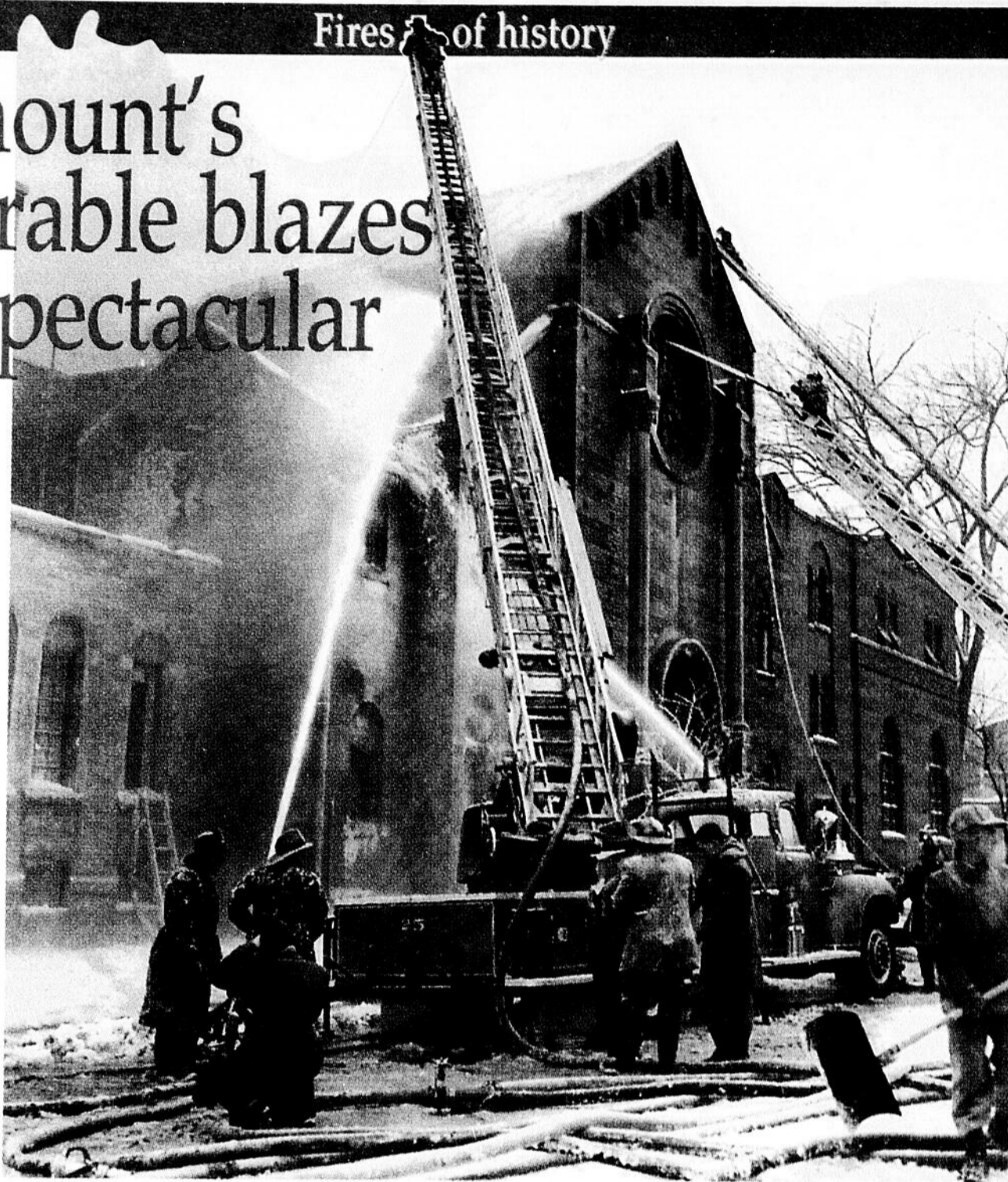
Of all our memorable Westmount fires, certain ones have earned a special place in our history for the landmarks they destroyed, the difficulties they presented, the spectacle they generated, the compassion they forged, the lives they took or the heroes they created.

The stories of our Westmount fires provide us with a fascinating document of history and humanity.

## FIRE AT THE MAYOR'S HOUSE IN 1893

Without doubt, a fire at the mayor's house when Westmount was still known as the Town of Côte St. Antoine, must have been a noteworthy event. Listed in the annual report dated 1893, the year after formation of the fire department, the blaze at Matthew Hutchinson's was one of eight reported along with: explosion of a kitchen range, two chimneys on fire, a fire at Ledoux' stables, a fire in Howley's block, and one at Chapman's drug store.

This was the era when fire vehicles were drawn at the gallop by proud, spirited horses. One can almost imagine the excitement that a New Year's Eve fire must have generated at the start of 1898 when the proud, spirited fire horses pulled the hose reel and ladder truck at a gallop to Elm Hall, a building on Elm Avenue used for dance instruction and the meeting place of the Masonic and Forester lodges as well as other groups. Here, according to a detailed account in the Daily Witness newspaper, the Westmount Chess Club was entering another when one of the players suddenly spotted smoke rising from a floor grate. Despite their efforts in quelling the fire "with a cup of cold water", the smoke increased until "ring out wild bells," was heard.



On December 12, 1957, firefighters were called to battle a blaze at Temple Emanu-El located at Sherbrooke and Elm.

The Westmount Fire Department fought the fire with two streams "one of which occasionally froze up." The dozen or so chess players carried out eight of the clubs "10 handsome tables and a number of other articles of furniture." That the hall was not completely reduced to ashes, stated the report, was due to the stubbornness by which Mr. S.B. Slack contested his chess match with Mr. R. Short, keeping players on hand past midnight, long enough to discover the fire.

## WESTMOUNT ARENA RAZED BY FIRE

One early landmark that was razed by fire was the old Westmount Arena on St. Catherine near Atwater in 1914. Crowds gathered to watch the spectacular blaze just as they had turned out in better times to watch horse shows and other events. When fire claimed the original Victoria Hall on a cold winter day in 1924, the loss was so great that the council immediately undertook rebuilt the community centre.

The freezing of hydrants, fire hoses and equipment continued to plague firefighters throughout the years making Westmount's winters fires

among the most devastating and the most spectacular.

## WELL-DONE PIZZERIA

As the mercury plunged in the early hours of January 5, 1977, fire broke out at the landmark Westmount Pizzeria at the northeast corner of Victoria and St. Catherine. Inside was a "ball of fire." An explosion followed. Wind whipped the flames and waves of sparks scudded across the open pit of the Metro tunnel being extended through Westmount at the time and as far east as the Glen. In the same row of greystones, another spectacular fire gutted an adjacent building on Oct. 30, 1982. And now, like the phoenix rising from the ashes, the city's newest community gardens rise on the empty lot where the buildings once stood.

## TEMPLE EMANU-EL & ST. ANDREW'S

Church fires are among the toughest to fight on account of their cavernous interiors and among the toughest for a community to experience because of the potential loss. On December 12, 1957, firefighters were called twice to Temple Emanu-El at Sherbrooke and Elm.

The second time, at noon, fire was rolling inside. Crowds stood by to watch the 70 firefighters, hampered by a biting wind and the icing of equipment, fight vainly to save one of the finest reform synagogues on the continent. The temple was destroyed but fortunately irreplaceable religious scrolls, one said to 1900 years old, were saved.

It was 11:29 on the night of August 3, 1965, when the janitor at St. Andrew's United Church ran across the street to the police and fire station with the unbelievable news: the church was on fire. Firefighters rushed to the scene to find the basement full of smoke, apparently from smouldering undetected for some time. It's a fire they'll never forget.

The highly polished and waxed interior was soon engulfed. The entire roof fell in and the building went up in flames following a shattering backdraft. Flames shot 150 feet high and were visible for 12 miles.

"I remember looking inside from a nearby roof and thinking it was the closest thing to hell," says Fire Director Jim Adams, a firefighter of two years at that time. "It was all glowing, a big mass of flames and embers."

Despite the efforts of firefighters, the rubble was still smouldering 35 hours later. A construction crane was quickly brought in to knock down what remained of the burnt shell. Fortunately, church records had been kept in a fire-proof vault and miraculously, current registers had been transferred only hours before the fire to Westmount Park Church for combined summer services. "Those were the days when we used to have fires," Adams adds. "I mean fires."

## ROSEMOUNT AVENUE FIRE IN 1967

Adams was also at the big apartment fire two years later at 10 Rosemount on March 25, 1967, when burning inflammables in basement lockers filled the entire building with black smoke. "That was quite a fire," he recalls. "People were waiting out on their balconies. We evacuated a whole slew of people by ladder from the upper storeys."

See page 21

*The Westmount Metro team  
Wishes a Happy 125th Anniversary  
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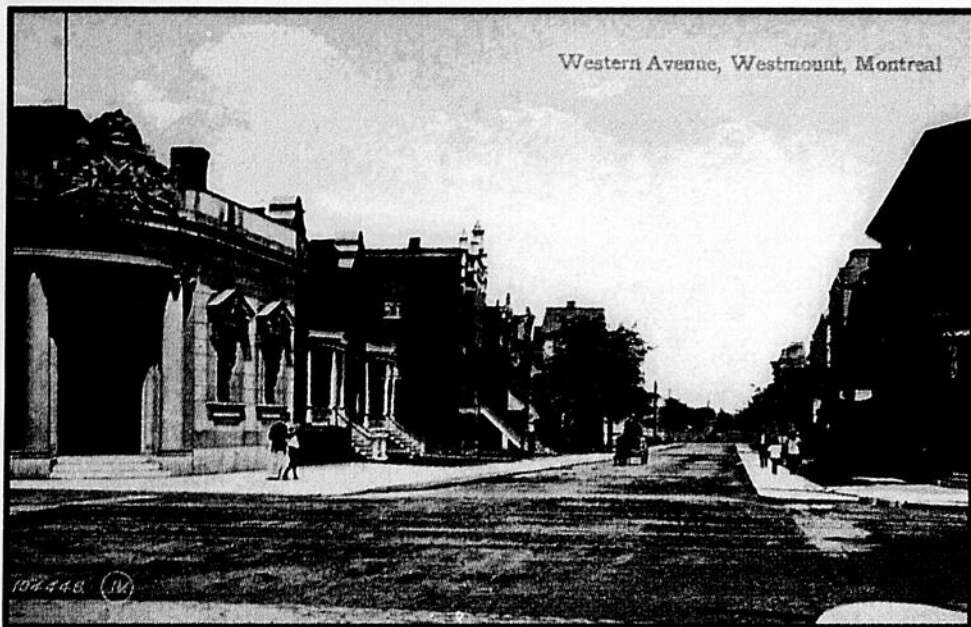
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A view of Western Avenue (now de Maisonneuve Boulevard) looking east at Greene Avenue.

**CONTINUED FROM  
WESTMOUNT'S HISTORY, PG. 13**

1906 — A branch of the Bank of Montreal was opened at the corner of Western and Greene avenues.

Royal Bank branch opened at the corner of Sherbrooke Street and Victoria Avenue.

First power supplied by the municipal incinerator and electric power plant near the Glen Road, the first municipally owned utility in Canada.

1907 — Founding of the Westmount News Company.

The company published the Academy Bulletin, the High School News, the McGill Daily, and the Westmount News. The first issue of the Westmount News was published on October 5th, 1907. The paper's first editors were Mr. Herbert Groves and Mr. C. H. Moody.

Westmount City Council debated the question of annexing Notre-Dame de Grâce.

Inauguration of the Westmount Train Station at the foot of Victoria Avenue.

1908 — Westmount incorporated as a city.

## Legendary tenor Enrico Caruso performed at the Arena in 1908

Opera star Enrico Caruso performed in front of a crowd of nearly 4,000 at the Arena.

The Westmount Municipal Association was formed with the objective of encouraging public discussion on municipal affairs.

St. Paul's Academy opened on Cote St. Antoine Road. The school was built on the site formerly occupied by a small house comprising a general store and the municipality's first post office.

1909 — Official opening of Roslyn School, "the most modernly equipped school in the Dominion".

Dedication of the new St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church on Stanton Street and Côte St. Antoine Road. Within three years of building the new church the congregation grew from 388 to 1300.

The first department store in Westmount was built by William Biltcliffe on a corner lot at Victoria and Somerville.

William H. Trenholme appointed Mayor. During his term, Trenholme led the fight against Montreal's proposed annexation of Westmount.

1911 — St. Leo's Academy, a Catholic school for boys, was opened on Clarke Avenue.

Dedication services for the Temple Emanu-El, Westmount's first synagogue.

Opening of the Children's Room at the Westmount Public Library.

A new Montreal Amateur Athletic Association building was erected on St. Catherine Street.

1912 — Dedication services were held for the new St. Matthias Church on Cote St. Antoine Road.

Formal opening of the Westmount Y.M.C.A. The three-storey building included a gymnasium, swimming pool, billiard room, dormitories and a lunch room.

Westmount Fire Station No. 2 opened at the corner of Victoria and The Boulevard.

1913 — Dedication of Calvary Church at the southwest corner of Greene Avenue and Dorchester Boulevard.

Westmount Fire Department acquired its first motorized vehicle.

**See page 27**

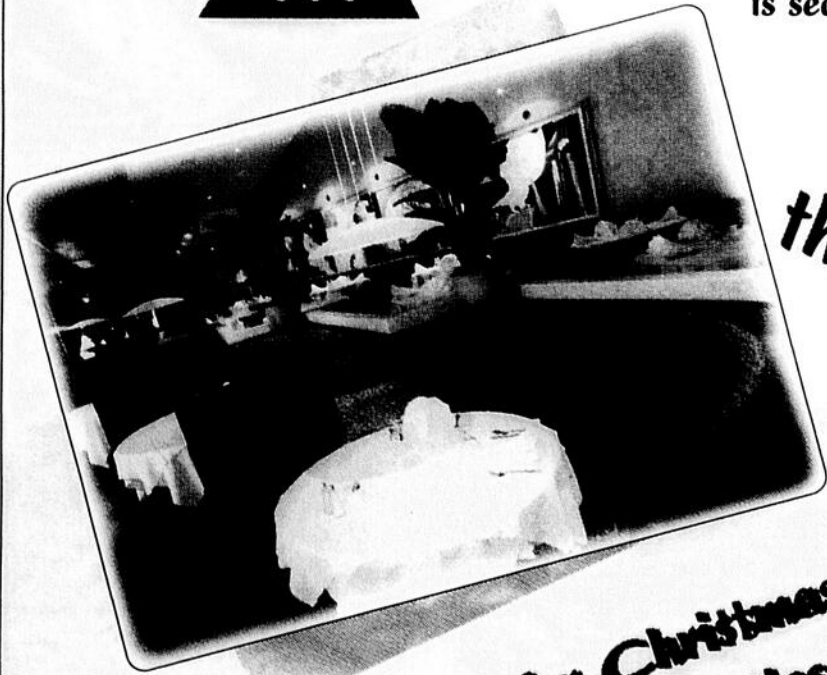


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## Fires of history (cont'd)

CONTINUED FROM WESTMOUNT'S  
MEMORABLE BLAZES, PG. 17

Another large apartment blaze five years earlier (July 17, 1962) had caused extensive damage at the Whitehall Apartments at Kensington and Sherbrooke. The six-hour blaze injured six firefighters. One, Lieutenant Bob Morris, fell through a section of the roof.

It was the same year the aerial ladder truck toppled over taking Fireman Barry Welch down with it. He was working at the top of the ladder during a fire involving construction material in January 1962 on the 10th floor of the huge apartment block under construction at 4300 de Maisonneuve (then Western Avenue). As the truck collapsed, he rode the ladder all the way down as trained to do but was pinned beneath. The 27-year-old was severely injured and subsequently retired on permanent disability. The fire had spread to upper floors by straw used to protect the freshly-poured concrete.

Throughout the years, many lives have been spared and some lost despite various valiant life-saving attempts. Perhaps none was more passionately described than the story of Hiram L. Piper, who died trying to rescue his wife in the early hours of Jan. 15, 1929.

Heavy smoke aroused Mr. Piper, 69, from "a deep slumber" in their home at 94 Arlington, according to a report in *The West End News*. He called the fire department "gasping into the mouthpiece." When the firemen arrived three minutes later, he met them at the door saying his wife was upstairs unable to escape. When the smoke proved too thick for the firemen to find their way through the unfamiliar house, Mr. Piper continued upstairs alone to her bedroom. Minutes later, firemen broke into the house from an upstairs porch to find him overcome near his wife's bed. The couple perished and the interior of the house was house interior was completely gutted.

Years later a high profile blaze that destroyed the stately mansion of Allan Bronfman (younger brother of Sam) at 9 Belvedere Road, led to the life-threatening situation for two firefighters, blinded and disoriented by smoke when a section of the roof collapsed around them. Hearing their cries for help, Fireman William Osborne took a stream and made his way through the smoke leading them to safety. "I still remember the screams," he says. Later, he was commended by the city council for "bravery and selflessness" in saving two confreres from serious injury or death.

The bitterly cold night of February 16, 1977, generated a host of other memories. "It was my first major fire. I was cold, tired and completely overwhelmed," recalls Osborne, who will retire in three months.

Throughout the fire, firemen, policemen, private security people and members of the household staff rescued treasures. "Worker after worker emerged carrying precious paintings and other objets d'art," *The Examiner* reported.

At another heroic fire on Jan. 4, 1985, Captain Michael Boychuck (then a

lieutenant), plunged into a smoke filled apartment at 440 Mount Stephen before any of the arriving fire crew had time to don breathing apparatus. Guided by cries of help, he pulled a man much larger than himself to safety and was later presented with Canada's Medal of Bravery by Governor General Jeanne Sauvé.

Unfortunately, two fires have claimed the lives of three Westmount firefighters. At a highrise fire in Westmount Square June 27, 1973, Ronald Masson was the first to die in an accident that involved breathing equipment.

The second fire, which still touches the lives of those who were at the scene, occurred 20 years ago on November 30, 1979. Here, in the middle of the night, in the smoke-filled basement of a large house at 482 Mount Pleasant, two firefighters became trapped where they had fallen through from the floor above. Time seemed to stand still as colleagues managed to raise one, their lieutenant, and searched for the second. Hope was kindled in vain when he too was brought up. A civic funeral ensued for 28-year-old Eric Hart, a father of two young boys. The lieutenant, Patrick Geraghty, succumbed to the trauma in January 1981.

One of the most spectacular winter fires occurred Jan. 5, 1989, when a fireplace blaze ravaged two heritage-rated homes at 64-66 Rosemount crescent during a spell of extreme cold. As flames leapt high in the night sky, fire-fighting efforts were hampered by frozen hydrants and icy hilly terrain. By the time dawn broke, fire vehicles were encrusted in ice, frozen in place, and many workers suffered frost bite. Icicles dangled from every ladder frozen onto the walls outside and from every door frame inside.

Probably Westmount's best-known fire, the inferno at Alexis Nihon Plaza on Oct. 26, 1986, became its most costly. Originating in the Montreal section of the office tower at 1500 Atwater, the fire spread quickly into Westmount's southwest corner and into our record book with structural damages estimated at \$16 million. Total damages in the tens of millions of dollars made the plaza fire one of Canada's largest commercial losses.

Like the Great Chicago Fire of Oct. 7, 1871 when Mrs. O'Leary's cow kicked over a lantern in the barn, Westmount too has had its share of animal-related fires.

On Nov. 15, 1985, one of two Siamese cats at 625 Côte St. Antoine Road upset a bedroom lamp while residents were out. It was not known which one was responsible. 'Ping' perished but 'Pong' was rescued and resuscitated by Fireman Robert Mills who was subsequently awarded a certificate of merit from the SPCA along with public safety officers Mario Testa and Robert White for their roles.

Other cats and dogs have saved the lives of their owners by alerting them to fire. On June 3, 1988, Rolf, a collie-shepherd mix, kept jumping on his 14-year-old owner until she awoke to find flames licking at the living room of their apartment at 4250 Sherbrooke. They managed to escape in the nick of time.



(Both photos above): It took a steamer to thaw out the aerial ladder truck after the fire at 64-66 Rosemount Crescent in January, 1989.



This fire on September 5, 1981, started at the rear of 196 Selby St.



**M. Jacques Chagnon**  
Député de Westmount-Saint-Louis

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CITY OF WESTMOUNT  
ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR  
125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY.

THANKS TO THE HARD WORK OF ALL THE  
ORGANIZERS WHO PREPARED THE VARIOUS COMMUNITY  
EVENTS, CITIZENS OF THIS UNIQUE CITY WERE ABLE  
TO CELEBRATE THIS MOST SIGNIFICANT YEAR.

BRAVO! FOR A JOB WELL DONE.

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*Celebrating a 125th Anniversary is very special. It is important to preserve  
the heritage that represents the charming City of Westmount. I would like to  
extend my best wishes to all participants, as well as the organizers who have  
worked hard to ensure that the celebrations are a success.*

*J'aimerais offrir mes chaleureuses salutations à tous ceux et celles qui  
participent aux célébrations marquant le 125e anniversaire de la Ville de  
Westmount. J'aimerais également féliciter tous les organisateurs des  
activités qui nous font revivre les pages les plus importantes  
de l'histoire de cette charmante municipalité.*



**Hon. Lucienne Robillard, P.C., M.P.**  
Députée de Westmount - Ville-Marie

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Even though today we are officially called Chaussures Tony Inc., we will cling to the traditions that made us what we are today:



Welcome to  
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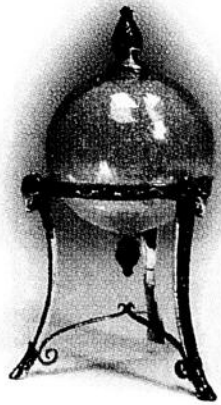
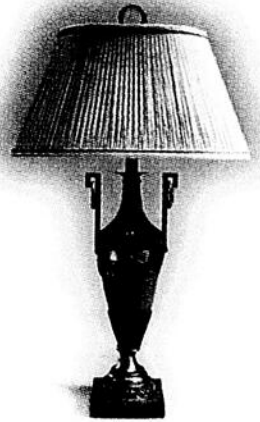
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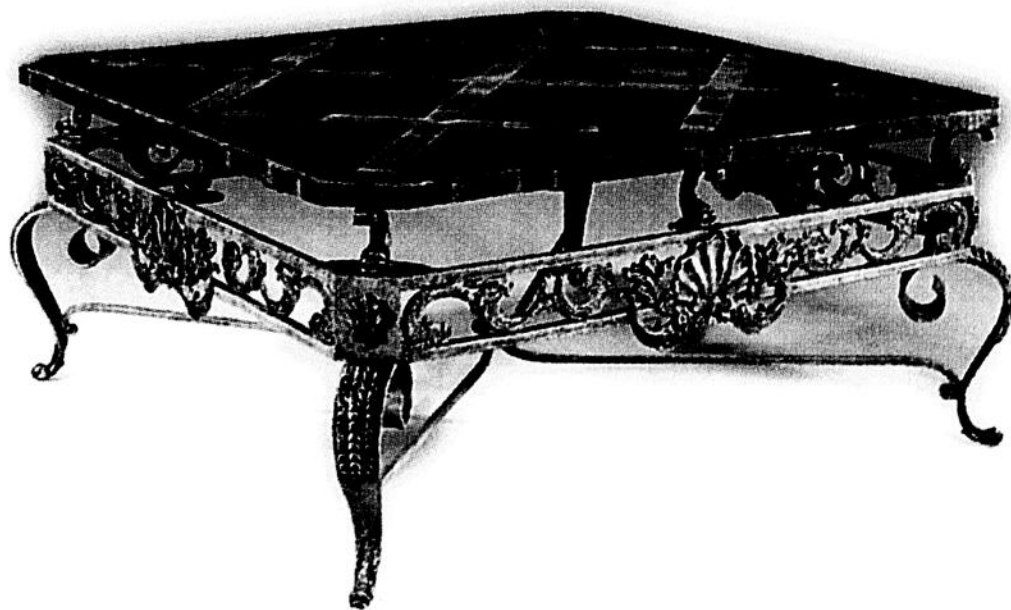
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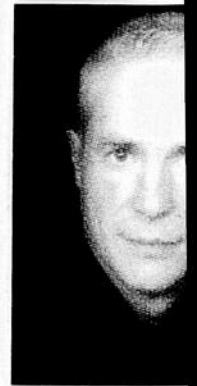
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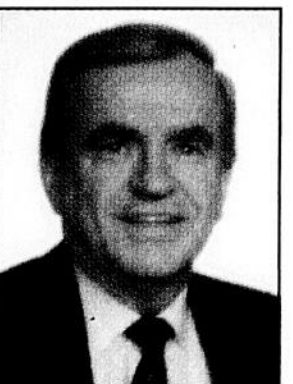
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## George Hill's Cenotaph was unveiled in 1922

CONTINUED FROM  
WESTMOUNT'S HISTORY, PG. 20

1914 — Westmount High School opened on Academy Road. The school's first principal was Mr. R. E. Howe.

Formation of the Royal Westmount Rifles at meeting held in Victoria Hall. The group was later authorized as the 58th Westmount Rifles, who in turn were redesignated as the Royal Montreal Regiment.

Formal opening of Stanley Presbyterian Church at the corner of Victoria and Westmount avenues.

A new Post Office was opened at the corner of Greene and Western avenues.

1917 — The largest and most spectacular fire in Westmount's history destroyed the Westmount Arena, located at the corner of Wood Avenue and St. Catherine Street.



His Royal Majesty the Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII, was fêted by the City of Westmount in a special ceremony in Westmount Park in 1919.

1918 — Westmount Women's Club founded by Mrs. T. de Grey Stewart. The group's early efforts included lobbying for increased recreational grounds for Westmount children. During the Second World War, the Women's Club sewed and knitted an average of 4,500 articles a year for civilians and troops stationed overseas.

1919 — The Prince of Wales visited Westmount, taking part in a special ceremony in Westmount Park.

1920 — Renovations to the exterior of St. Leo's Church. The work included a new Florentine-style facade with a triple arched entrance and bell tower.

1921 — Cornerstone laid for Shaar Hashomayim Synagogue at Cote St. Antoine Road and Kensington Avenue. Opened the following year, the Shaar Hashomayim Synagogue was home to the second oldest Jewish congregation in Montreal.

1922 — Cornerstone for new Westmount City Hall laid by Mayor Peter W. McLagan.

Unveiling of the Cenotaph, a monument designed by George Hill as a tribute to the 188 citizens of Westmount who sacrificed their lives during the First World War.

1923 — Inauguration of the new Tudor-style Westmount City Hall.

First sod turned by the Rt. Honorable David Lloyd George for the Westmount Baptist Church at the northeast corner of Sherbrooke Street and Roslyn Avenue. Ten thousand people attended the event.

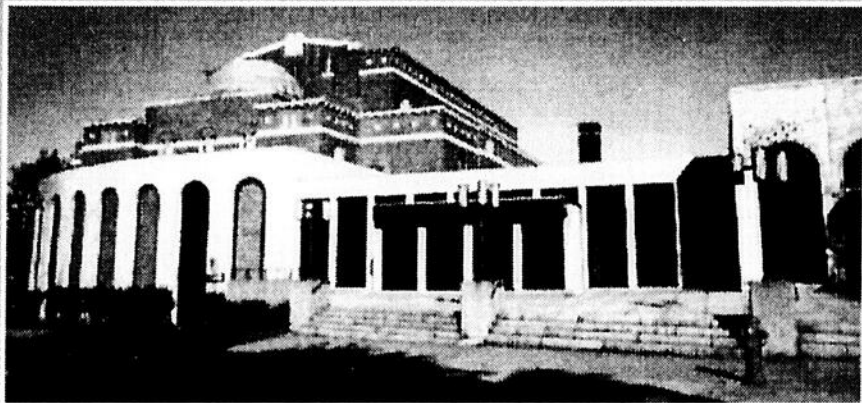
1924 — Opening of St. Paul's Academy on Cote St. Antoine Road by the sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame.

Addition to the Westmount Public Library designed by Robert and Frank R. Findlay. The new space was used as a Reference Room.

1925 — The dedication of Westmount Baptist Church at Sherbrooke Street and Roslyn Avenue.

Official opening of the new Victoria Hall by the Governor-General Lord Byng. The Tudor-style building included a concert hall with a large stage.

See page 30



*Congregation Shaar Hashomayim  
is proud to participate in  
the celebration of  
the 125th Anniversary  
of the City of Westmount*

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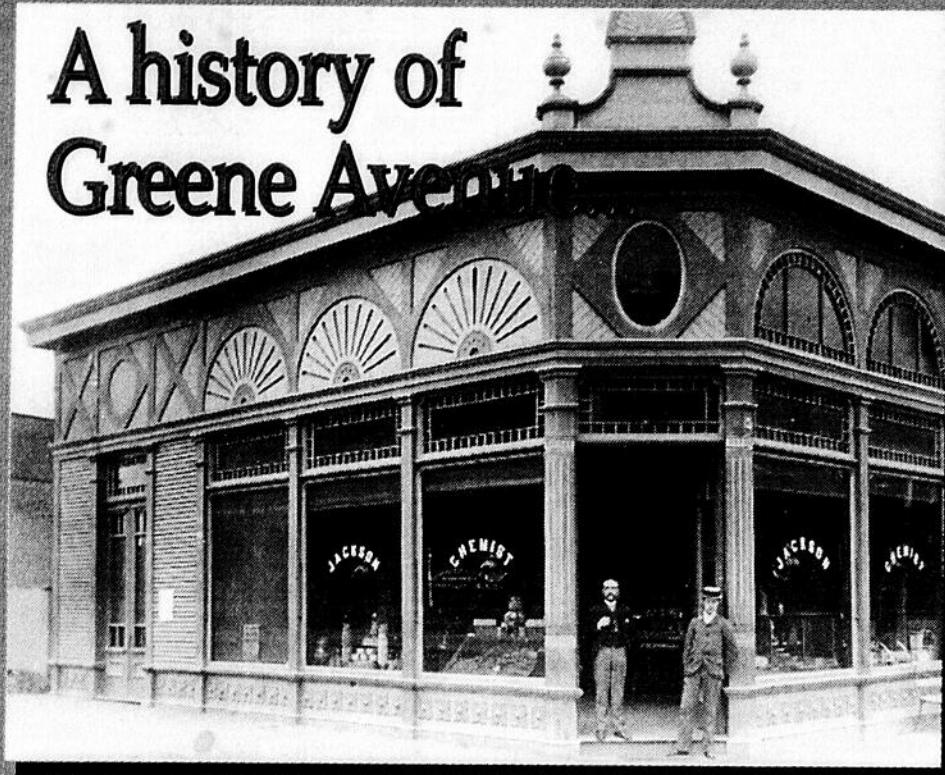
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40103558

# A history of Greene Avenue



A commercial building on Greene Avenue, circa 1895 which housed H.F. Jackson, chemist.

BY MARYLIN SMITH CARSLY

Am I in London?

With a European touch and accents of the antiquated and modern, there exists a vibrant attraction to the aura of Westmount's Greene Avenue.

Varied collections of shops reflect an exterior array of architectural designs defining the uniqueness of this artistic shopping mecca. In the rowhouse fashion, the buildings exhibit traits of the established and the enthusiasm of young hopefuls aspiring to join the successes of the mainstays of Greene Avenue.

It is a street of taste, refinement, service and quality. Representing Westmount's first shopping centres, Greene Avenue boasts shops that have been in existence for 80 years and more. Many of the proprietors have served Westmounters for two to three generations.

There are choices for everyone and don't be surprised by whom you will meet. It may be a chauffeur-driven limousine sporting elegantly-attired individuals, a young mother pushing a carriage or even fashion conscious teens trying to decide on what faddish ensemble is worth purchasing. On the Avenue, we definitely encounter an eclectic mix of people and merchandise.

Step back in time and trace the origins of this area: Greene Avenue was once known as Dorchester Avenue. The name was changed to Greene after Mr. Greene bought so much of the property in that district. In those days, the horse cars came as far as the City of Montreal's limit and if you wished to ride to Greene Avenue, you could do so by paying five cents extra and transfer to an old omnibus.

In the 1870s the artist James Duncan painted a picture of Greene Avenue. In the past, going to school was entering a little one roomed blockhouse by quite a flight of steps. Such a school was situated at the corner of Clarke Avenue and Côte St Antoine Road. This picture included a view of the south side of the mountain. Reflecting back through this image, one can easily imagine what a truly rural and beautiful village it was. The toll gate was a picturesque, octagonal one-storey building standing at the corner of Greene Avenue and Sherbrooke Street.

In 1924, the Post Office was near Argyle Avenue and it was called 'Notre Dame de Grace Post Office'. Notre Dame was the parish name before it was changed to Côte St Antoine.

Where cows once roamed at 1216 Greene, you would have once found the distinguished Ohmans Jewellery Shop, which was established in 1899. Originating in St Johns, Newfoundland this business read from the pages of a Dickens novel. Before Ohmans, this locale was the spot of the town jail.

Another landmark of the past was Smithers Shoe Store. It was located at 4213 St Catherine St., but considered a part of Greene. This business exemplified quality since it started in 1890. Through the years, almost everything could be purchased in Greene's old-fashioned country community centre. Trust was the business code.

See page 43

*Congratulations Westmount  
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part of the community.*



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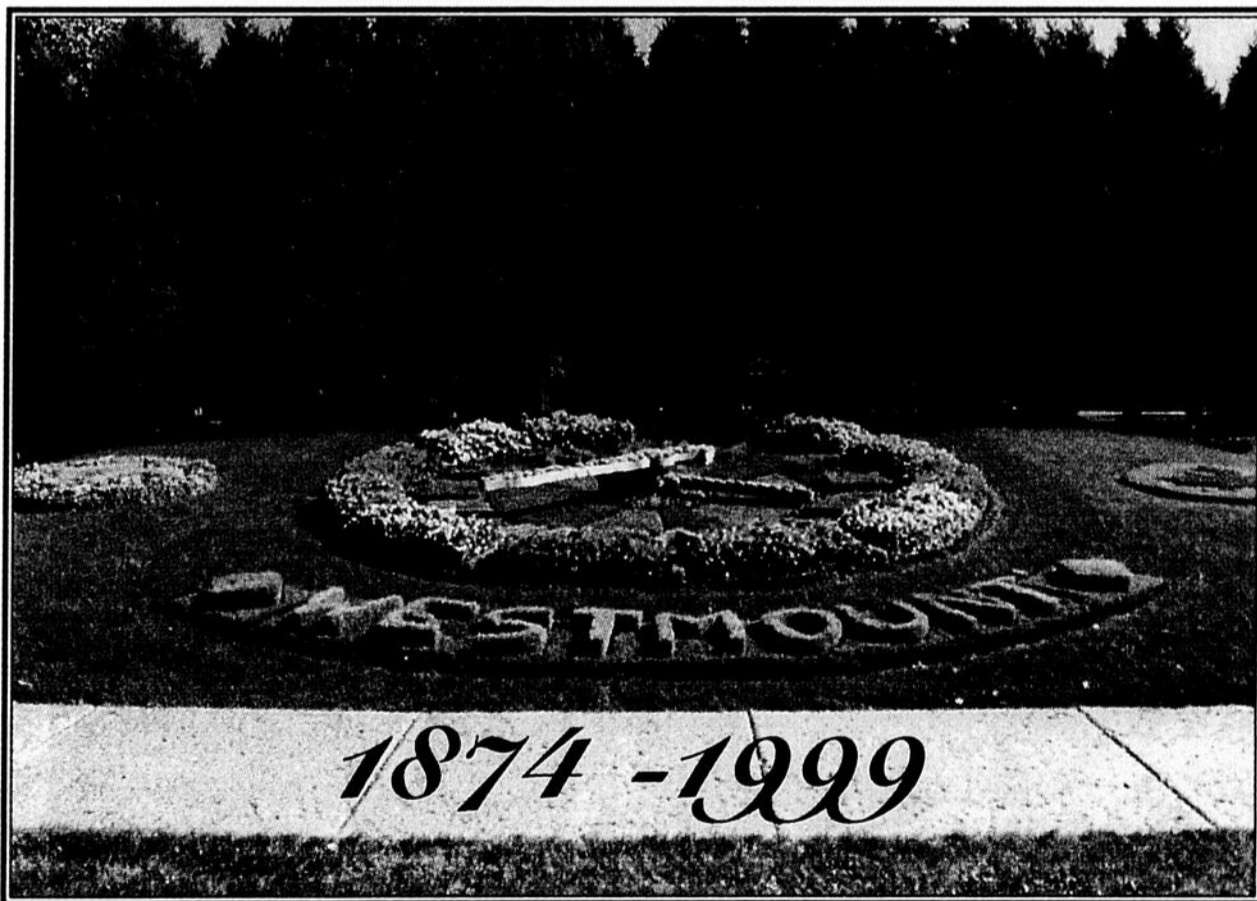
## CONGRATULATIONS

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# 1932 saw the construction of the Summit Circle Lookout

CONTINUED FROM  
WESTMOUNT'S HISTORY, PG. 27

**1925 (cont'd)** — The Royal Montreal Regiment Armoury on St. Catherine Street was officially opened by Canada's Defense Minister E. M. MacDonald.

**1926** — Pipe organ manufactured by Casavant & Frères of St. Hyacinthe, Que., installed in Victoria Hall at a cost of \$18,400. The inaugural recital on the new instrument was performed by noted Canadian organist Lynwood Farnam.

Installation of a floral clock on property west of Victoria Hall. The clock was the first of its kind in Canada.

**1927** — The steel-frame Palm House was built on land between the Westmount Public Library and Victoria Hall. A display of more than one thousand varieties of chysanthemums was featured at the opening of the new building.

**1928** — Extensive renovations began on the interior of St. Leon de Westmount under the direction of



The St. Leon de Westmount Catholic Church underwent a major renovation in 1928.

Guido Nincheri.

The City of Westmount purchased the Murray property for development as a park.

**1930** — Dedication and opening of Westmount Park United Church.

The 24 heraldic shields on the chancel ceiling and a number of the church's stained glass windows were

designed by Westmount resident Charles W. Kelsey.

First meeting of the Rotary Club of Westmount.

POM Bakery opened in a new building on St. Catherine Street near the Glen.

**1931** — Kathleen Jenkins replaced Mary Saxe as chief librarian at the

Westmount Public Library. Jenkins remained at the Library until 1962.

The City of Westmount purchased the MAAA clubhouse on St. Catherine Street for use as a sports centre.

**1932** — Construction of the Summit Circle Lookout, a 'make work' project initiated by the City of Westmount.

**1933** — The first production of the Montreal Children's Theatre, "The Cave of the Island King", was staged at Victoria Hall. Headed by Dorothy Davis and Violet Walters, the Montreal Children's Theatre delighted audiences for more than 50 years.

**1934** — Argyle School on Côte St. Antoine Road was demolished after being declared unsafe.

**1935** — Publication of the first issue of *The Westmount Examiner*.

New Argyle School opened on Côte St. Antoine Road.

See page 31

## Congratulations

The Visual Arts Centre  
is proud to be part  
of the Community  
and would like  
to extend best wishes  
to the City of Westmount  
on the occasion of their  
125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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## The Kastel Gallery



Owners Paul Kastel and Anthony Nevin

Paul Kastel's passion and enthusiasm for beautiful works of art began 42 years ago on Greene Avenue in Westmount as a hobby.

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Paul Kastel and Anthony Nevin would like to take this opportunity to wish Happy 125th Anniversary to the City of Westmount.

*The Kastel Gallery*

1368 Greene Ave.  
Westmount  
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## Westmount Historical Association founded in 1944 at Vic Hall

CONTINUED FROM WESTMOUNT'S HISTORY, PG. 30

1936 — The French Methodist Institute, located on the west end of the present Staynor Park, was demolished. The property was subsequently converted into a playground and park.

Demolition of the William Murray house at the north end of Murray Park.

1939 — Fire destroyed the historic St. Georges Snowshoe Club.

King George VI and Queen Elizabeth visited Westmount in May. Every major building in the City was decorated and the route was a continuous line of flags and bunting. The City commemorated the event by changing the name of Murray Park to King George Park.

1940 — Summit Park was purchased by the City of Westmount from McGill University for use as a wild flower and bird sanctuary.

A new clubhouse for the St. George's Snowshoe Club was opened on The Boulevard.

1941 — Norma Shearer, movie star and former student at Westmount High School, helped launch the Victory Loan Campaign in Westmount Park. 60,000 people attended the event.

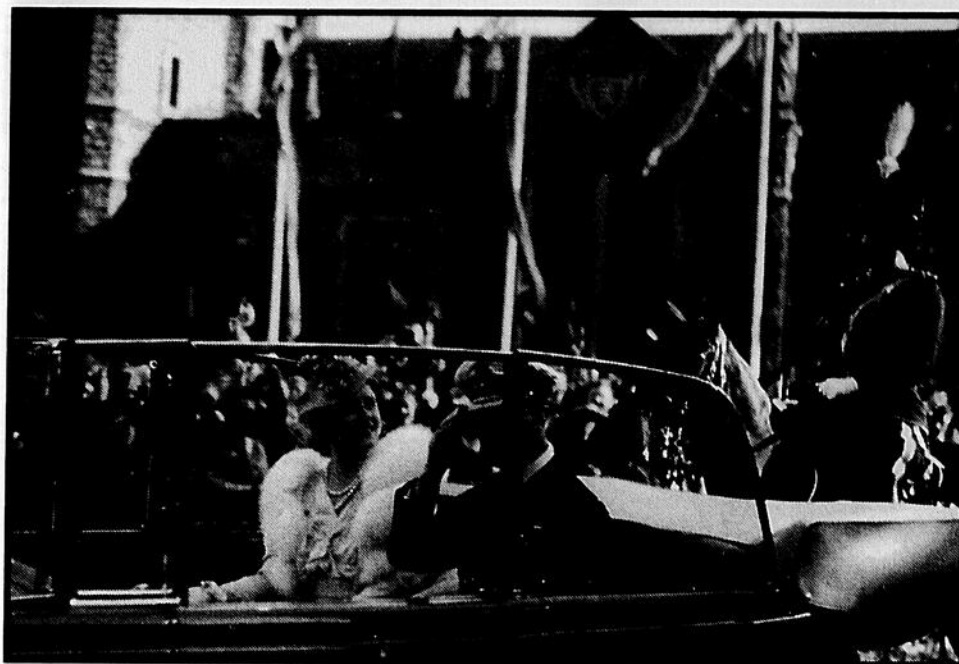
The City of Westmount launched its War Salvage Campaign. About 270 tons of material was collected during the first year of the program.

1942 — The first passenger fatality in the history of the Montreal Street Railway Company occurred when a car derailed and slid out of control at the corner of Lansdowne Avenue and Westmount Boulevard.

1944 — Founding of the Westmount Historical Association at a meeting in Victoria Hall.

1945 — Opening of the first Westmount Historical Association exhibit, 'The Story of Westmount', at the Westmount Public Library.

'Welcome Home' ceremony for the Royal Montreal Regiment held in Westmount Park. More than 50,000 persons attended the ceremony, while tens of thousands more lined



King George VI and Queen Elizabeth visited Westmount in May, 1939.

the route from Westmount Station to the Park.

1947 — The Avenue, the first movie theatre in Westmount, opened on Greene Avenue. To allow the building of the theatre, City Council passed by-law 541, which removed moving pictures from the list of prohibited presentations, exhibitions and performances.

1948 — Demolition of 'Forden', an estate built by Charles Bowman during the late 1820s. The original driveway to 'Forden' was later

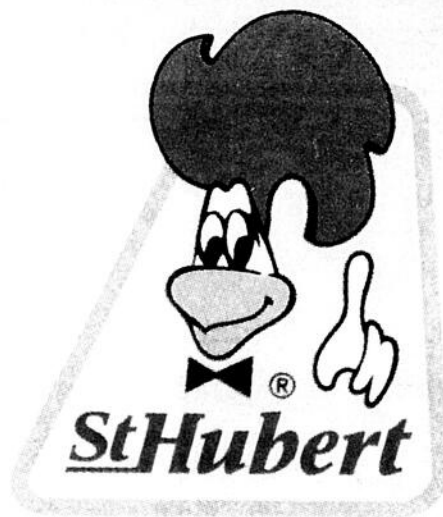
developed into Forden Crescent.

1949 — Bronze plaque commemorating the 141 Westmount boys who sacrificed their lives during the Second World War was unveiled in the Hall of Honour at Westmount High School.

1953 — Dedication of the Josef Aron Museum in the Temple Emanu-El. Housing an impressive collection of Jewish ceremonial objects, the Museum was the first of its kind in Canada.

See page 32

*Congratulation to the  
City of Westmount  
on its 125th Birthday!*



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Students at 'Old Westmount' book launching at Westmount High School, 1967.

**CONTINUED FROM  
WESTMOUNT'S HISTORY, PG. 31**

**1955** — Colin Molson, Mabel Molson, and James Beattie purchased the historic Hurtubise house on Côte St. Antoine Road from Dr. Leopold Hurtubise.

The group later formed The Canadian Heritage of Quebec.

**1956** — Streetcar service discontinued in Westmount.

**1957** — Temple Emanu-El synagogue destroyed by fire.

**1959** — Royal visit by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip. The celebration concluded with a colourful fireworks display in Westmount Park.

The historic Westmount Athletic Grounds clubhouse was demolished to make way for a new Westmount High School.

**1960** — The Study, a girl's school founded in 1915, moved from Côte des Neiges Road to a renovated house on The Boulevard.

Dedication of the new Temple Emanu-El synagogue.

**1961** — Formal opening of the new Westmount High School on St. Catherine Street.

Demolition of Calvary Church at the corner of Dorchester and Greene avenues. Several of the stained glass memorial windows from the church were moved to Westmount Park-Emanuel Church at Lansdowne and Western.

**1962** — Norah Bryant replaced Kathleen Jenkins as Head Librarian at the Westmount Public Library.

**1963** — Sergeant Walter Leja was injured while attempting to defuse a bomb placed in a mailbox at the corner of Lansdowne and Westmount Avenue. The bomb was one of fourteen placed in mailboxes throughout Westmount.

**1964** — King's School on Western Avenue demolished.

Work began on Westmount Square, a three tower apartment and office complex designed by Mies van der Rohe.

**1965** — St. Andrew's Church on Stanton Street destroyed by fire. The loss included several stained glass windows by Westmount artist

Charles W. Kelsey.

Several windows at City Hall were blown out when a bomb exploded at the rear of the building.

**1967** — Official opening of the Westmount Square shopping concourse.

Publication of 'Old Westmount', a history of the city written by students of Westmount High School under the direction of Dr. Hélène Saly and Geraldine Lane.

Dedication of the new St. Andrew's Church on Stanton Street.

The first of over 200 families were evicted from their homes on Selby Street to make way for the Ville Marie Expressway.

Westmount residents vote in favour of by-law 713 permitting the sale of liquor in Westmount.

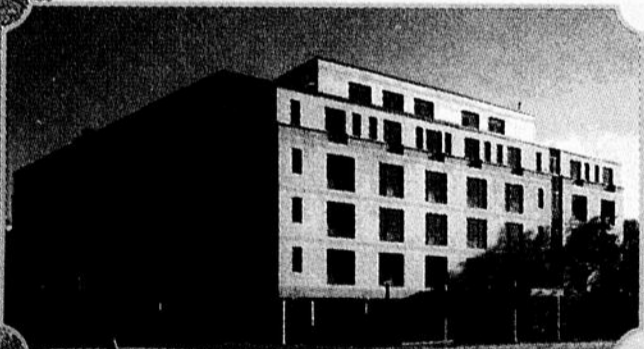
Numerous properties on Selby Street were expropriated to make way for the Ville Marie Expressway.

John W. Sancton buys *The Westmount Examiner* and moves its offices into Westmount.

**1969** — The Potters' Club, a group of ceramic enthusiasts founded in 1946, broadened their mandate to become the Visual Arts Centre.

**See page 37**

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## HONOUR ROLL OF THE CITY OF WESTMOUNT

# Remarkable citizens of the past: 35 great Westmounters

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

### HONOUR ROLL OF 1990

While 'the faith of the citizens' is Westmount's strength, according to the city motto, surely its wealth and heritage lies in the extraordinary talents and contributions of its citizenry.

The outstanding achievements of Westmounters throughout the years have not only created a remarkable community, but also have had enormous impact on the wider community, the nation and even the world at large.

Our architects, artists, scientists, politicians and volunteers have built landmarks, saved lives and been the driving forces behind hospitals, churches, cultural pursuits and the social fabric of their era.

So that today's citizens may appreciate the marvellous heritage we have inherited, civic honours were instituted in 1990, the brainchild of our first woman mayor, May Cutler.

To date, 35 citizens have received the posthumous honours. They are presented in the chronological order in which the citations were bestowed.

**Thérèse Casgrain (1896-1981), civil rights fighter, humanist, reformer, senator**

A dedicated leader in the fight for women's rights, world peace and civil liberties, Madame Casgrain was instrumental in 1945 in ensuring that family allowance cheques be paid to mothers instead of fathers. She founded the Fédération des Femmes du Québec, was Quebec leader of the New Democratic Party, national president of the Voice of Women, Quebec president of the Canadian Consumers' Association and president of the League of Women's Rights.

**Robert Findlay (1859-1951), architect**

One of the favourite architects of his time, Findlay designed landmark buildings including Westmount Public Library, the original Victoria

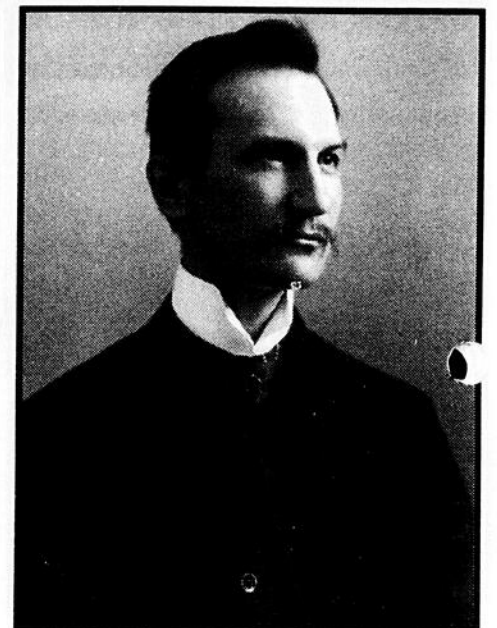


Robert Findlay

Hall, the city hall, some 30 of Westmount's larger homes built between 1891 and 1938 and many fine buildings in Montreal.

**James A. de Lalanne (1897-1988), war hero, chartered accountant, mayor**

A battlefield hero from World War I and a decorated soldier in World War II, Brig.-Gen. de Lalanne served Westmount as school commissioner, alderman and mayor (1955-1957). 'Jimmy', as he insisted on being called, held the Military Cross with Bar, served as adjutant general and assumed the presidency of almost every group with which he was affiliated.



William Douw Lighthall

**William Douw Lighthall (1857-1954), lawyer, historian, poet, mayor**

Westmount's turn-of-the-century mayor (1900-1902) was founder of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. He helped write the city charter and was chairman of the school commission.

See page 35

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# HONOUR ROLL OF THE CITY OF WESTMOUNT

CONTINUED FROM REMARKABLE  
CITIZENS, PG. 34

## HONOUR ROLL OF 1990 (CONT'D)

His anthology of Canadian poetry helped bring Canadian poets to world attention. He identified an early Indian burial ground in Westmount and was appointed an Iroquois chief named Ticonderoga in 1909.

**Francis Reginald Scott (1899-1985), law professor, political activist, poet**

Considered to be Canada's foremost authority on constitutional law, Frank Scott taught law at McGill for 36 years, won landmark court decisions in his fight against premier Maurice Duplessis and expressed his social concerns in prize-winning writing. He was a founding member of the socialist movement in Canada.

## HONOUR ROLL OF 1991

**Samuel Bronfman (1891-1971)  
industrialist and philanthropist**

Legendary in the Jewish community here and in Israel, his name has rallied untold support and millions of dollars for various causes. A generous benefactor of universities and sponsor of the arts, 'Mr. Sam' gave away much of his immense wealth accumulated as owner of Seagram's, the world's largest distillery.

**Jean Gascon (1920-1988), actor**

Founder of Théâtre du Nouveau Monde and the National Theatre School, he was artistic director and actor at the Stratford Festival, theatre director of the National Arts Centre in Ottawa and one of Canada's most imaginative and innovative men of the theatre.

**Edwin Headley Holgate (1892-1977), painter**

The only member of Canada's influential Group of Seven painters to live in Quebec. In the 1920s and '30s, Holgate produced portraits, landscapes and engravings that became outstanding contributions to Canadian art. A graduate of the Westmount Academy in 1910 and a veteran of both world wars, he shunned fame and honour.

**Frank Scholes McGill (1894-1980), flight pioneer, athlete**

Football hero, Olympic swimmer, award-winning athlete and prominent business figure, Air Vice-Marshal McGill was an aviation pioneer who molded the development of Canada's aircraft industry. He founded the 401 City of Westmount Squadron, the only Canadian squadron to fly in the Battle of Britain in World War II.

The first chairman of Canada's aircraft division of defence production, he was also president of Canadair. McGill was one of few named to both the Canadian Football Hall of Fame and Canada's Sports Hall of Fame.



Norma Shearer offers her soignée look

**Edith Norma Shearer (1902-1983), movie star**

'The first lady of the screen' was one of the top ten film stars of Hollywood's golden era, a time of silent and early sound movies. Norma was born and educated in Westmount, leaving at age 20 for New York and then Hollywood. She won a Best Actress Oscar in 1929-1930 for 'The Divorcée' and was nominated five other times.

## HONOUR ROLL OF 1992

**Donald Code Brittain (1928-1989), cinematographer**

A film-making giant, he was considered to be one of the world's foremost masters of the

**See page 36**

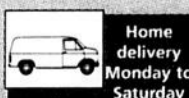
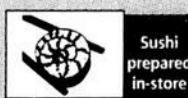
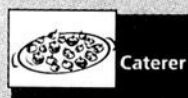
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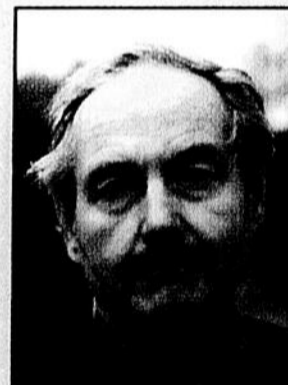
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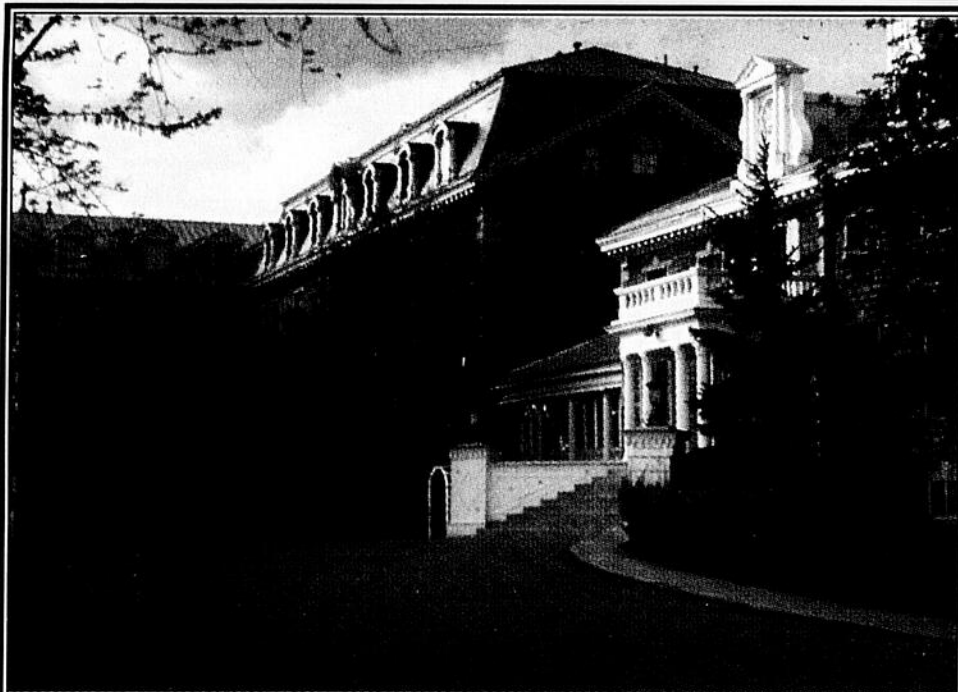
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## HONOUR ROLL OF WESTMOUNT

CONTINUED FROM REMARKABLE CITIZENS, PG. 35

### HONOUR ROLL OF 1992 (CONT'D)

documentary film. Many of his films depicted visual records of our social and cultural past, winning more than 70 international awards and three Oscar nominations.

#### Otto Maass, 1890-1961, professor, scientist

A physical chemist, professor, experimentalist and government advisor, he pioneered the preparation of pure hydrogen peroxide, now used as a rocket fuel, establishing for himself and McGill a worldwide reputation for his excellence in research.

#### J. Alphonse Ouimet, 1908-1988, engineer and broadcast executive

Co-founder and president of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, he became known as the father of television in Canada helping to design and build the first TV receiver used in this country. While he never actually lived in

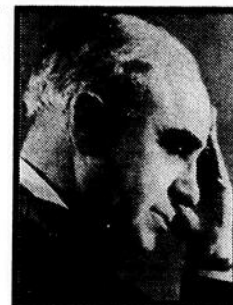
Westmount, his ardent support of St. Léon parish made him a significant participant in the community.

#### Eileen Reid (1910-1974), ceramic artist

Potter, and founder of the Visual Arts Centre, she is credited with bringing world-class standards to the art of ceramics in Canada. She was instrumental in founding the Canadian Association of Ceramicists.

#### Harry Joshua Stern, (1897-1984), rabbi, author, ecumenical pioneer

Spiritual leader of Temple Emanu-El for 45 years, 'the ecumenical rabbi' dedicated his life to promoting interfaith fellowship and assisting Jewish refugees from central Europe. His fellowship dinners brought together citizens from across Canada of different affiliations and walks of life.



Harry Stern

See page 38

### Westmount mayors since 1874

Hon. E. Prudhomme.....	1874
James K. Ward.....	1875-83
Alexander C. Hutchison.....	1884-86
Thomas Patton.....	1887-89
John MacFarlane.....	1890
Matthew Hutchinson.....	1891-93
James Henry Redfern.....	1894-95
Fred W. Evans.....	1896-97
James R. Walker.....	1898-99
William Douw Lighthall.....	1900-02.
Alexander S.G. Cross.....	1903-04
Charles A. Duclos.....	1905
James W. Knox.....	1906
William Galbraith.....	1907-08
William Henry Trenholme.....	1909-10
William Rutherford.....	1911-12
John McKergow.....	1913-18
Peter William McLagan.....	1919-26
George Hogg.....	1927-32
John Jenkins.....	1933-38
Walter A. Merrill.....	1939-44
R.P. Adams.....	1945-48
J.S. Cameron.....	1949-52
Roy L. Campbell.....	1953-54
J.A. de LaLanne.....	1955-56
A.S. Bruneau.....	1957-58
J.C. Cushing.....	1959-62
C.H. Drury.....	1963-64
M.L. Tucker.....	1965-68
P.M. McEntyre.....	1969-71
Paul A. Ouimet.....	1971-75
Donald C. MacCallum.....	1975-83
Brian O'N. Gallery.....	1983-87
May Cutler.....	1987-91
Peter F. Trent.....	1991-

## 1980s saw opening of the new Westmount YMCA, May Cutler as first woman mayor

CONTINUED FROM  
WESTMOUNT'S HISTORY, PG. 32

1970 — Fire destroyed the Old Colony Pharmacy and Restaurant (formerly Macy's) at the corner of Victoria and Sherbrooke.

Five FLQ bombs exploded at random locations in Westmount.

1971 — Work began on the Ville Marie Expressway in lower Westmount.

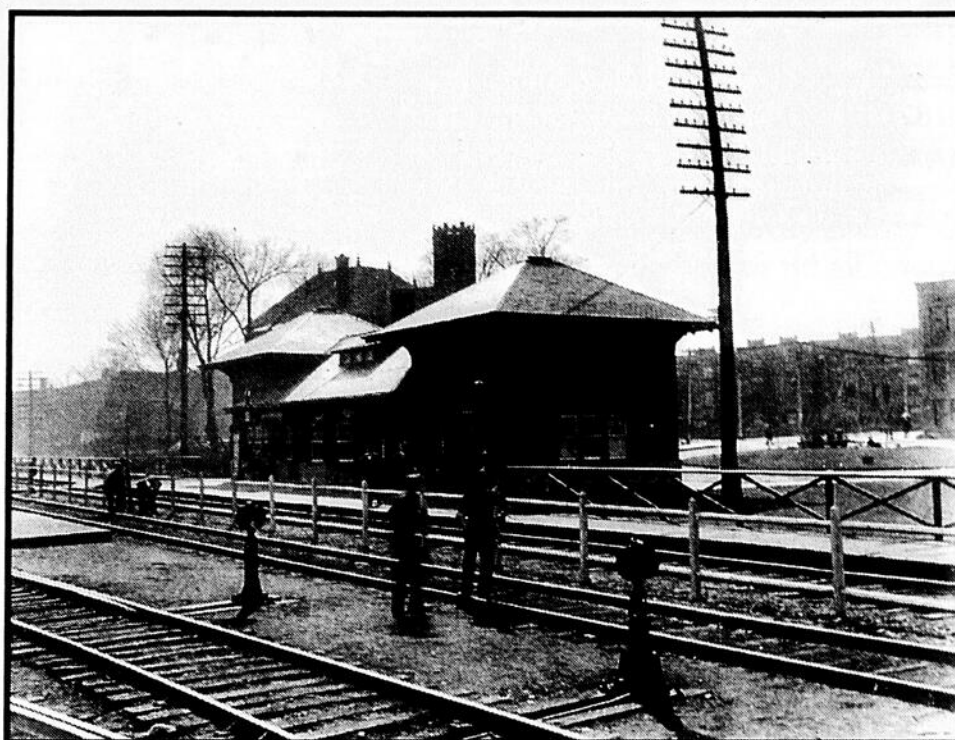
After 15 years of inactivity, the Westmount Historical Association was revived through the efforts of Alice Lighthall.

1976 — Demolition of the Quinlan apartment building on St. Catherine Street West. Built in 1905, the Quinlan was one of the first apartment buildings erected in Canada.

Post office at the corner of Greene Avenue and de Maisonneuve Blvd. converted into retail space.

1983 — The Westmount Train Station was closed after more than 75 years of service.

1984 — Pope John Paul II visited the Mother House of the Congregation of Notre Dame on Sherbrooke Street.



The Westmount Train Station, pictured here in the early 1900s, closed for good in 1983.

1986 — Demolition of the former RCMP headquarters on St. Catherine and Wood to make way for the condominium tower, 'No. 1 Wood'.

1987 — May Cutler, founder and publisher Tundra Books, elected as the first woman mayor of Westmount.

1989 — Official opening of the

new Westmount YMCA.

1991 — Peter Trent appointed by acclamation as Westmount's 35th mayor.

1994 — Commencement of a three-phase project to restore Victoria Hall.

1995 — Westmount Public Library opened after undergoing a \$7.5 million expansion and renovation.

1996 — The City of Westmount's

plan to develop the CPR station site as a protective service facility was defeated in a public referendum.

1997 — Construction of the underground Côte St. Antoine Electrical Substation behind City Hall. The project included the reconstruction of the historic lawn bowling club.

1998 — Westmount was crippled for more than a week by the Ice Storm.

1999 — The City of Westmount celebrated its 125th anniversary.

Completion of the link between the Library and Victoria Hall. The project included extensive renovations to Victoria Hall.

Official launch of the Westmount train station project. Plans include converting the historic CPR station into the Westmount Heritage Centre.

**A longer version of this chronology is available on the WHA website at: [www.westmounthistorical.org](http://www.westmounthistorical.org)**

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** THE EXAMINER ACKNOWLEDGES THE COOPERATION OF BOTH THE WHA AND THE WESTMOUNT PUBLIC LIBRARY, WITHOUT WHOSE COOPERATION THIS ANNIVERSARY EDITION WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE.

The Study School would like to congratulate the City of Westmount on the occasion of its 125th anniversary and wishes it continued success in the future.



**The Study: We have a past of making futures.**

# HONOUR ROLL OF THE CITY OF WESTMOUNT

CONTINUED FROM  
REMARKABLE CITIZENS, PG. 36

## HONOUR ROLL OF 1993

**Douglas Lawley (1905-1971),  
teacher, artist**

An artist who gained national repute for his rendering of wild ponies on Sable Island, he instilled the love of learning in countless students as a much-loved teacher for 34 years (and vice-principal) at Westmount High (1928-1962) and later as a teacher at Lower Canada College in NDG.

**J.-Omer Marchand (1873-1936),  
architect**

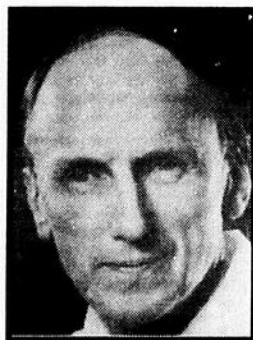
Co-founder of Montreal's École des Beaux Arts, he left a legacy of stately buildings including the CND Mother House (now Dawson College), Institut Pédagogique (Westmount Avenue) and the chapel of the Grand Séminaire de Montréal. J.-O. also worked on reconstruction of the Canadian Parliament Buildings after the 1916 fire.

**Francis M.A. McNaughton (1870-1964),  
general practitioner**

As a school commission and renowned Westmount health officer, Dr. McNaughton (senior) was known for his sympathetic and tireless service to the community for more than 60 years.

**Francis L. McNaughton (1906-1986),  
neurologist, teacher,  
researcher**

Son of the above, this Dr. McNaughton's contribution to the fledgling field of neurology included creation of a course on the anatomy of the brain that remained unchanged for some 25 years.



Francis McNaughton

**Leslie Roberts, (1896-1980)  
author, lecturer, broadcaster,  
aviator**

The first western journalist to go behind the Iron Curtain, he made the world known to Canada, and

Canada to the world. Wounded three times in World War I, he was a staunch patriot, political writer and national commentator.

## HONOUR ROLL OF 1995

**Oscar Pierre Gauthier (1873-1964),  
priest and benefactor**

As the parish priest of St. Léon de Westmount for 48 years (1903-1951), Abbé Oscar Gauthier was the church's first curé and known as the soul of its beautification.

It was he who hired and supervised renowned Florentine painter Guido Nincheri to undertake elaborate interior finishing and frescoes, financing much of the 16-year project from his personal fortune. The impressive work is ranked as a masterpiece.

**Samuel William Jacobs (1871-1938),  
minority rights' advocate**

Elected as the first Jewish representative in the Canadian House of Commons (1917-1938), prominent civil rights lawyer Sam Jacobs was

the outspoken champion of Jewish rights and defender of discrimination against all people. He was the founder of the law firm now known as Phillips Vineberg.

**Edward Maxwell (1867-1923),  
architect**

A master of architectural initiative and detail, Edward founded the Maxwell brothers architectural firm. He and W.S. Maxwell became the most popular Canadian architects of the first quarter of this century leaving their imprint on most major Canadian cities. Their achievements include CPR hotels across Canada, the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, the Montreal Stock Exchange Building and Mount Royal Lookout as well as many prestige mansions in Westmount and Montreal.

**William S. Maxwell (1874-1952),  
architect**

With his older brother and architectural partner, "W.S." designed many well-known buildings. A convert to the Baha'i faith, one of

See page 41

Congratulations to the  
City of Westmount on  
its 125th Anniversary



Contrary to popular opinion  
A, B and C aren't the first  
three letters in education.

**E** is for an excellent education in both French and English and an eclectic mix of enthusiastic girls that enrich our hallways everyday. **C** is for curiosity combined with courage and constant creativity in everything from choir to computers. **S** is for students full of spirit, who gain their strength from a supportive staff and a student-teacher ratio of 9 to 1. **S** also means Spanish, sports and science plus a strong sense of self-esteem that stems from such a special school. Put it all together and it spells **ECS**.

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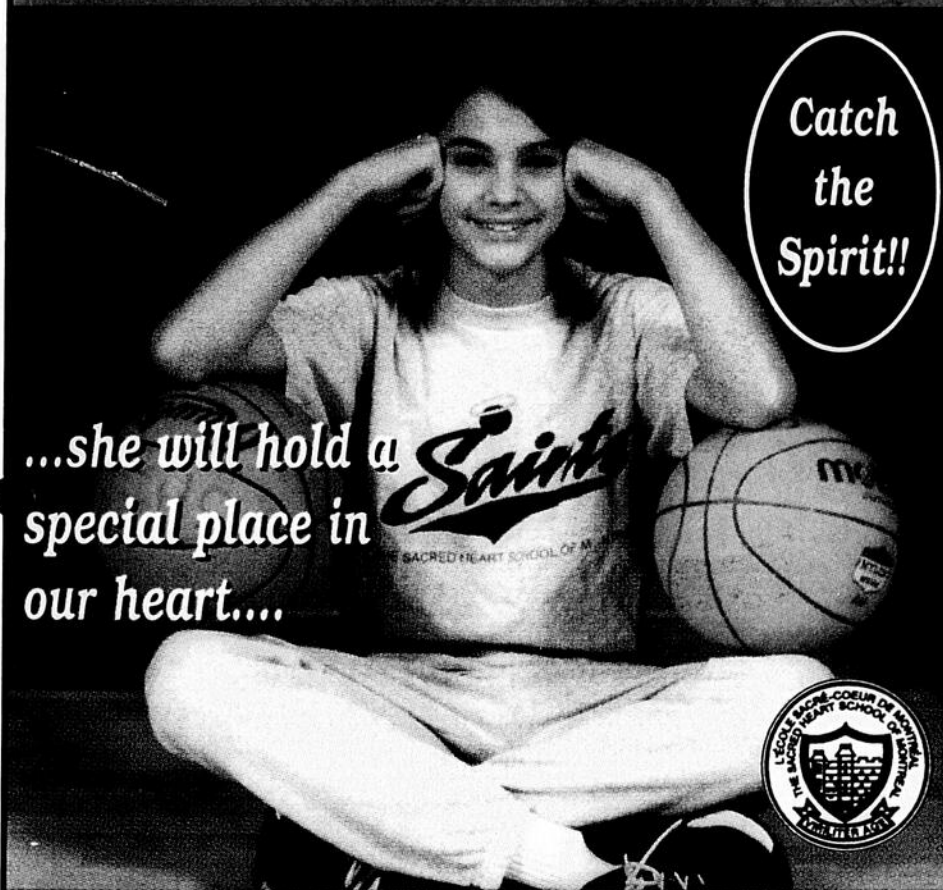


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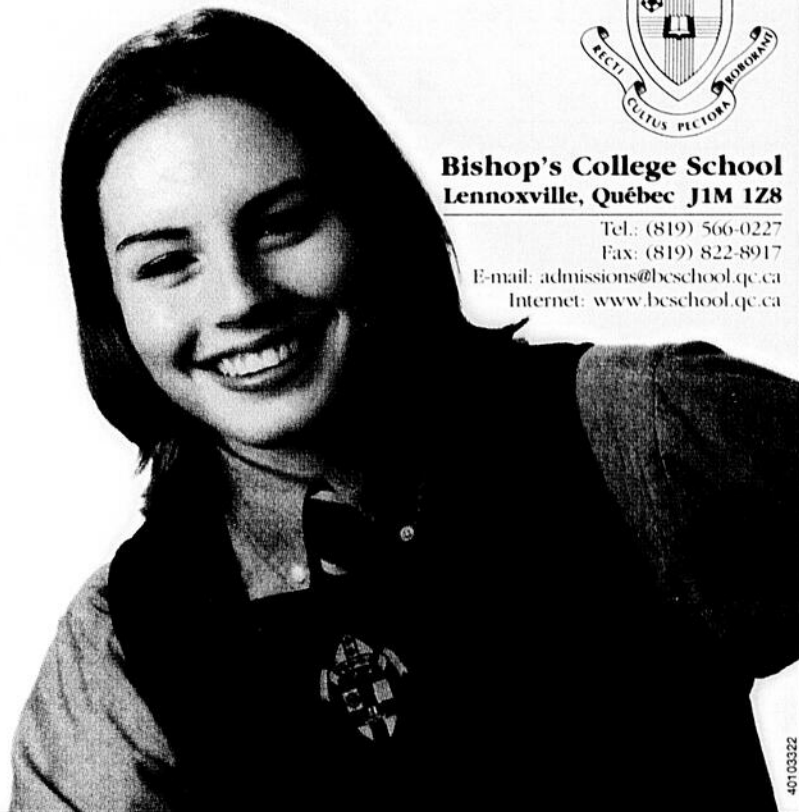
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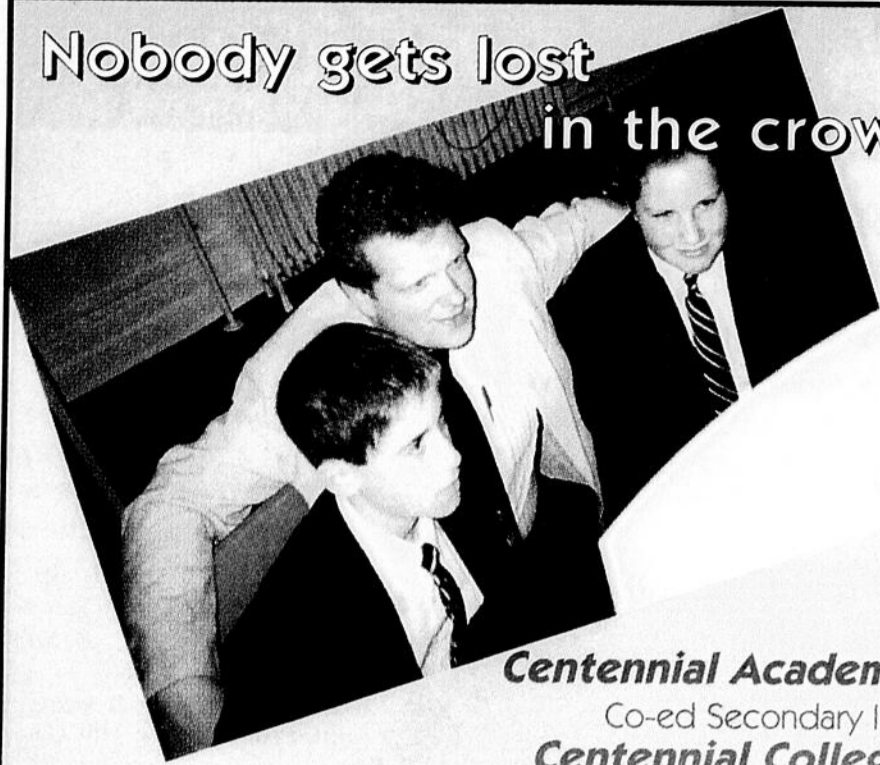
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SELWYN HOUSE

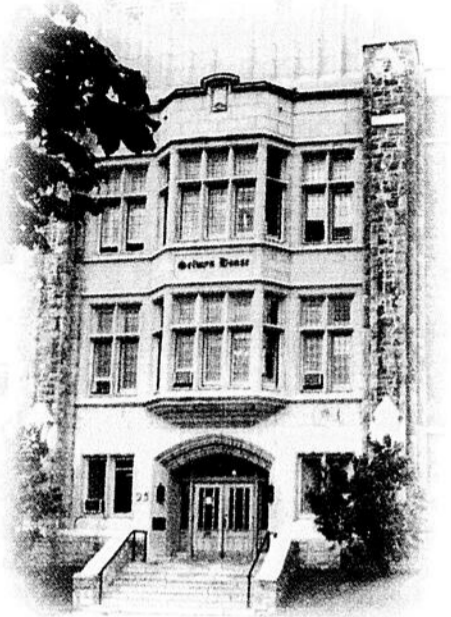


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We are proud of our past, of  
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**A VERY HAPPY 125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY TO  
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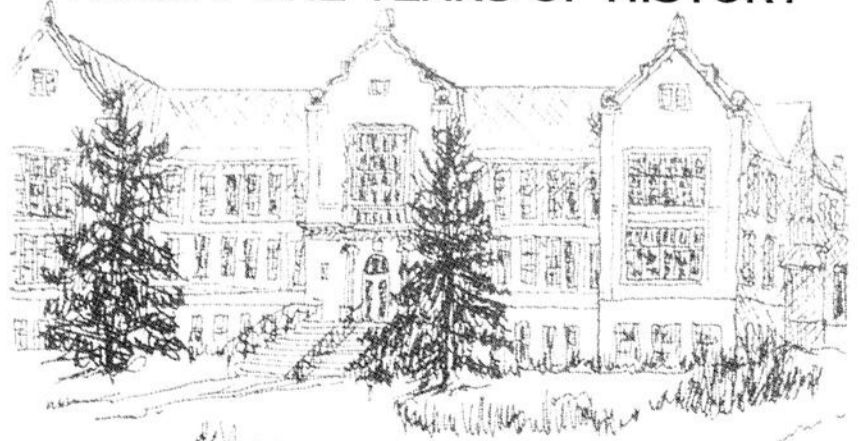


*Congratulations*

*The Students, Staff and Parents  
of Roslyn School  
extend*

*Best Wishes to the City of Westmount on the  
occasion of their 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.*

**ROSLYN SCHOOL  
NINETY ONE YEARS OF HISTORY**



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**PROUD TO BE PART  
OF THE WESTMOUNT COMMUNITY**

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## HONOUR ROLL OF WESTMOUNT

CONTINUED FROM REMARKABLE CITIZENS, PG. 38

his masterpieces was its magnificent shrine at Haifa on Mt. Carmel for which he became known as "the Hand of God". His home on Pine Avenue is maintained by Baha'i for pilgrimage.

**Wilder Graves Penfield (1891-1976), neurosurgeon and writer**

Founder of the world-famed Montreal Neurological Institute, Dr. Penfield pioneered the Montreal procedure for the surgical treatment of epilepsy. Writer and philosopher, he was the first president of the Vanier Institute of the Family.

**Mary Solace Saxe (1868-1942), municipal librarian**

Westmount Public Library was only two years old when energetic Mary Saxe took over as its only librarian. For the next 30 years, she steered its growth, shaping it into a model for other libraries. Essayist, playwright and raconteur, she possessed a strong personality and vision along with energy, wit, political savvy and extraordinary dedication to the community.

## HONOUR ROLL OF 1997

**James Bertram Collip (1892-1965), biochemist, co-discoverer of insulin**

Biochemist and researcher, one of his most notable contributions was as a member of the team that discovered insulin, sharing one-quarter of their 1923 Nobel prize. Collip produced the first insulin suitable for human use and pioneered research in endocrinology at McGill University.

**Louis-Félix Aimé Geoffrion (1872-1946), lawyer, international and constitutional arbitrator.**

Becoming one of Canada's most prominent jurists in trade and constitutional issues, he was part of the team of Canadian and British lawyers that represented Canada in 1903 before the Alaska Boundary Tribune.

See page 42

# CONGRATULATIONS WESTMOUNT ON YOUR 125<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY

Compliments of  
**Charles V. Bierbrier**  
Financial Advisor



(514) 846-3683



Pregnant women crave it. Businesspeople who have moved away long for it. And Westmounters have been lining up for it. It's Dagwoods' big, wholesome sandwiches tickled with their special sauce which have people everywhere wanting more.

Public response to Dagwoods has been so positive that since the first location opened over ten years ago in Dollard des Ormeaux, owner Spiro Krallis has opened eight more including the latest addition at John Abbott College.



from Bishop's University, Krallis knew he wanted to be in the restaurant business and sandwiches would be his niche.

"The big difference between our sandwiches and the ones you'll find in other stores is that ours are made with bread which is baked fresh everyday, never reused, and our cold cuts and vegetables are sliced fresh for the customer, not stored in waxed paper," said Krallis.

Since they don't reuse their rolls the next day, leftovers from the Sherbrooke location are donated twice a week to the Old Brewery Mission. Krallis said that, on average, as many as 60 loaves a day are put aside for the homeless shelter.

## Dagwoods

Sandwichs et Salades

"I don't consider this a job—it's fun and I'm having the time of my life," said Krallis, 37. "It's seven days a week but I work with a great staff and the nicest customers. I'm having a blast."

On the road as a sales representative for three years, Krallis realized what was missing from the restaurant scene was simple, top-quality sandwiches, sliced fresh in front of the customer. A marketing graduate

whole wheat or white roll of 12 or six inches. Along with a variety of freshly-sliced cold cuts, each sandwich is topped with the perfect proportion of edam cheese, lettuce, tomatoes, green peppers, onions, pickles and hot peppers as well as the Dagwoods sauce.



customer can taste every ingredient in the sandwich."

Krallis, father of four, said without his staff, the business would not be possible. Outings every few months along with special events encourage the entire staff, who are mostly between the ages of 18 and 25, to get to know each and have fun while working.

"I'm in this alone along with my really great managers and staff," said Krallis. "Without them, we wouldn't be the quality sandwich store that we are."

Travelling on the road left a lot of time for Krallis to think about the perfect sauce to put the Dagwoods name on. An oil and mayonnaise base with secret herbs and spices is all Krallis will divulge about the sauce which tops each freshly-prepared sandwich.

The Dagwoods experience begins with choosing either a

Krallis said the most popular sandwich combinations are the Club with roast beef, ham, turkey and cheese and the Dagwood with ham, mortadella, pepperoni, salami and cheese although vegetarian sandwiches are also a popular choice.

"Sometimes the flavours of a sandwich can get drowned out by too much of one ingredient," said Krallis. "Our staff makes sure all the vegetables and cold cuts are in perfect proportion so that the customer

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2 grands sandwichs - 2 large sandwiches

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# HONOUR ROLL OF THE CITY OF WESTMOUNT

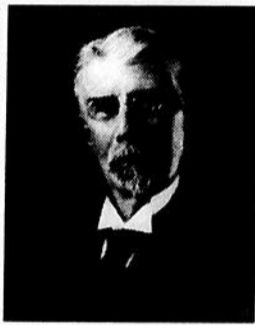
CONTINUED FROM  
REMARKABLE CITIZENS, PG. 41

**Alexander Cowper Hutchison (1838-1921), stone-cutter, acclaimed architect, mayor**

Architect of many important buildings including Montreal city hall, he was also one of the builders of the early Westmount community over many years serving as a school trustee, councillor and mayor from 1884 to 1886 (then the Village of Côte Antoine). A humanitarian, he focused on causes that helped the poor and needy. He was also a founder of St. Andrew's Church.

**John Henry Hutchison (1842-1928), contractor, city councillor**

A contractor of much repute, J.H. (Harry)'s important buildings included the fine residences of Lord Strathcona, Lord Mt. Stephen, Lord Atholston, the Refords and the Molsons as well as



John Henry Hutchison

Redpath Museum and churches such as Erskine and American. Many were designed by his architect brother, A.C. Hutchison. He was a member of the council in the early days of Westmount.

**Herbert Lionel Reddy (1854-1936), physician-in-charge of the Woman's Hospital (the Reddy Memorial)**

For more than 50 years from the late 1880s, Dr. Reddy fought for the better treatment and nursing care of women patients as administrator of the Woman's Hospital. In 1945, when it evolved to include all services, Westmount's only hospital was renamed in his honour as the The Herbert Reddy Memorial Hospital.

## HONOUR ROLL OF 1999

**Donald Gordon (1901-1969), banker, railroad executive, innovator**

A legend in banking circles of the 1930s, and later deputy governor of the Bank of Canada, he was instrumental in setting up the Foreign

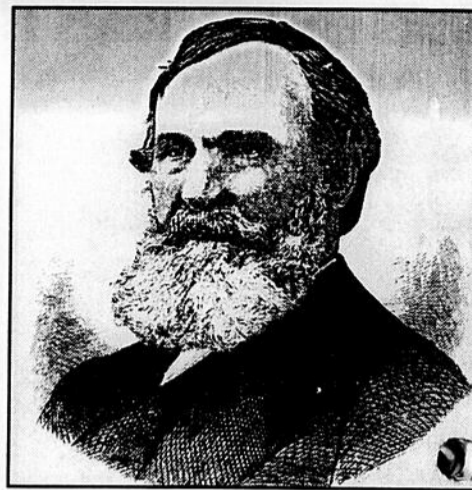
Exchange Control Board, later chairing the Wartime Prices and Trade Board. As president of Canadian National Railways in the 1950s and '60s, he planned and developed the Queen Elizabeth Hotel and Place Ville Marie, projects that transformed downtown Montreal.

**Colin John Black Grasset Molson (1902-1997), accountant, preservationist**

A C.A. by profession, the visionary Jack Molson devoted his life to preserving Quebec history before such efforts were fashionable. He co-founded Canadian Heritage of Quebec to purchase and restore historic properties including the Hurtubise farmhouse in Westmount. The impact of his work spread throughout Canada.

**Samuel Steinberg (1905-1978), entrepreneur, philanthropist**

Known for honesty and integrity, Sam built the family grocery store into a huge empire of supermarkets, shopping centres, Miracle Mart department stores and many other outlets that supplied households throughout Quebec.



John Young

**John Young, (1811-1878), politician, transportation and business magnate**

Importer and proponent of numerous schemes to expand railway and water transportation, including the construction of Victoria Bridge, he was touted as the father of the Montreal harbour where his statue now stands. His work with the harbour commission in the 1850s is largely credited with creation of the Montreal Harbours Board. Orchard saplings from his 'Rosemount' estate on Severn supplied the grounds of McGill University. He was commissioner of public works in the Hincks-Morin cabinet of 1851.

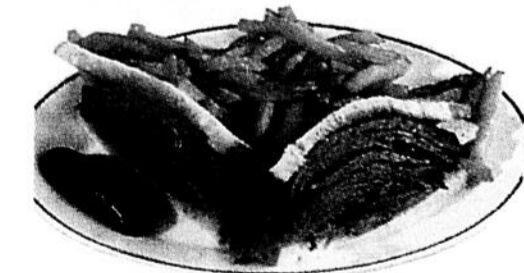
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- Seafood



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11:00 - 5:00

# Greene Avenue: Landmarks and specialty stores abound

CONTINUED FROM A HISTORY OF GREENE AVENUE, PG. 28

George Alevisatos, whose family's businesses influenced the growth of Greene with Chez Nick's Restaurant, By George Catering and the once well-known Togo's Italian Eatery, has commented upon this honesty exchanged between owner and shopper. "You could leave your house without money and return home with everything you needed," he said. "Bills were sent and always paid."

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## HONOUR ROLL OF THE CITY OF WESTMOUNT

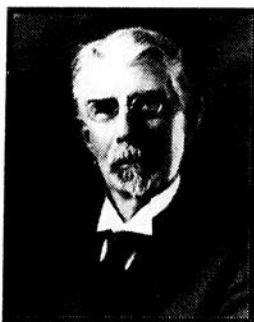
CONTINUED FROM  
REMARKABLE CITIZENS, PG. 41

**Alexander Cowper Hutchison (1838-1921), stone-cutter, acclaimed architect, mayor**

Architect of many important buildings including Montreal city hall, he was also one of the builders of the early Westmount community over many years serving as a school trustee, councillor and mayor from 1884 to 1886 (then the Village of Côte Antoine). A humanitarian, he focused on causes that helped the poor and needy. He was also a founder of St. Andrew's Church.

**John Henry Hutchison (1842-1928), contractor, city councillor**

A contractor of much repute, J.H. (Harry)'s important buildings included the fine residences of Lord Strathcona, Lord Mt. Stephen, Lord Atholston, the Refords and the Molsons as well as



John Henry Hutchison

Redpath Museum and churches such as Erskine and American. Many were designed by his architect brother, A.C. Hutchison. He was a member of the council in the early days of Westmount.

**Herbert Lionel Reddy (1854-1936), physician-in-charge of the Woman's Hospital (the Reddy Memorial)**

For more than 50 years from the late 1880s, Dr. Reddy fought for the better treatment and nursing care of women patients as administrator of the Woman's Hospital. In 1945, when it evolved to include all services, Westmount's only hospital was renamed in his honour as the The Herbert Reddy Memorial Hospital.

### HONOUR ROLL OF 1999

**Donald Gordon (1901-1969), banker, railroad executive, innovator**

A legend in banking circles of the 1930s, and later deputy governor of the Bank of Canada, he was instrumental in setting up the Foreign

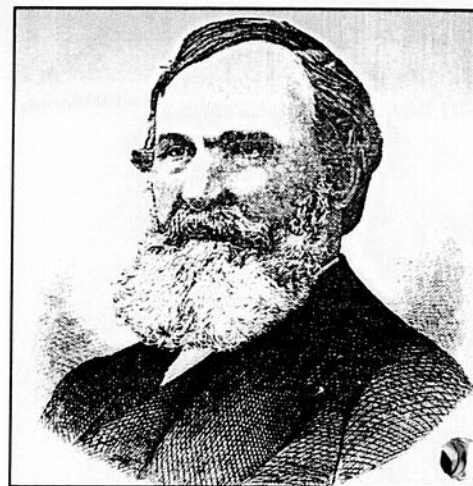
Exchange Control Board, later chairing the Wartime Prices and Trade Board. As president of Canadian National Railways in the 1950s and '60s, he planned and developed the Queen Elizabeth Hotel and Place Ville Marie, projects that transformed downtown Montreal.

**Colin John Black Grasset Molson (1902-1997), accountant, preservationist**

A C.A. by profession, the visionary Jack Molson devoted his life to preserving Quebec history before such efforts were fashionable. He co-founded Canadian Heritage of Quebec to purchase and restore historic properties including the Hurtubise farmhouse in Westmount. The impact of his work spread throughout Canada.

**Samuel Steinberg (1905-1978), entrepreneur, philanthropist**

Known for honesty and integrity, Sam built the family grocery store into a huge empire of supermarkets, shopping centres, Miracle Mart department stores and many other outlets that supplied households throughout Quebec.



John Young

**John Young, (1811-1878), politician, transportation and business magnate**

Importer and proponent of numerous schemes to expand railway and water transportation, including the construction of Victoria Bridge, he was touted as the father of the Montreal harbour where his statue now stands. His work with the harbour commission in the 1850s is largely credited with creation of the Montreal Harbours Board. Orchard saplings from his 'Rosemount' estate on Severn supplied the grounds of McGill University. He was commissioner of public works in the Hincks-Morin cabinet of 1851.

RESTAURANT

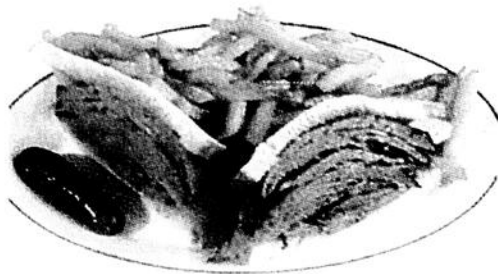
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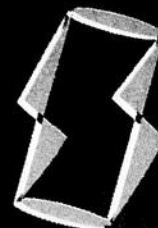


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# Greene Avenue: Landmarks and specialty stores abound

CONTINUED FROM A HISTORY OF GREENE AVENUE, PG. 28

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# Hand to hand: Westmount cares about the children

BY MARYLIN SMITH CARSLY

The City of Westmount cares about its children.

Many centres in this area offer anything and everything for the school-aged resident. Your son or daughter can skate, dance, paint, perform martial arts or just meet new friends. I label this cultivation of interests or extended learning. After all, real education is not based solely on the school academics.

Through the years, there has been an increase in Westmount's development of organized activities for children. The focus has been in keeping kids creative and physically active. There are many branches of the learning tree that reach out to many stimulating venues in life. Being involved in sports or creative arts will eliminate the television robot syndrome stage, which afflicts many children. As the adolescence stage invades, the more varied the interests your teenager possesses, the less likely that alcohol and drugs will tempt him or her. Remember that boredom breeds trouble.

As a Westmount resident for 16 years, I've seen more and more recreational options made available. To assist working parents and in

keeping your child stimulated, after school programs are popular. If you're new in the parenting game, perhaps I can shed some light on

what's out there for kids. Give them the tools to meet the challenges of life. Confidence is gained with knowledge and experiences. Exposure will lead to discovery. Reading unlocks doors and releases the pleasures of learning.

The Westmount Children's Library (4574 Sherbrooke St.) is a haven for the young to acquire the love of words in an updated, bright and cheerful setting. Adults may remain upstairs... your child will be happy here.

Early libraries in Canada did not generally offer services to the young. Under the influence of Chief Librarian Mary Solace Saxe, in 1911 the Library built a Children's Room with a separate

main library. The 'Children's Room' of the past is now 'The Westmount Room' and it is situated on the adult level. The fireplace bears remnants of the first children's place, as the tiles still portray illustrations of Alice in Wonderland and the leaded bay windows are inscribed with the name of famous children's authors.

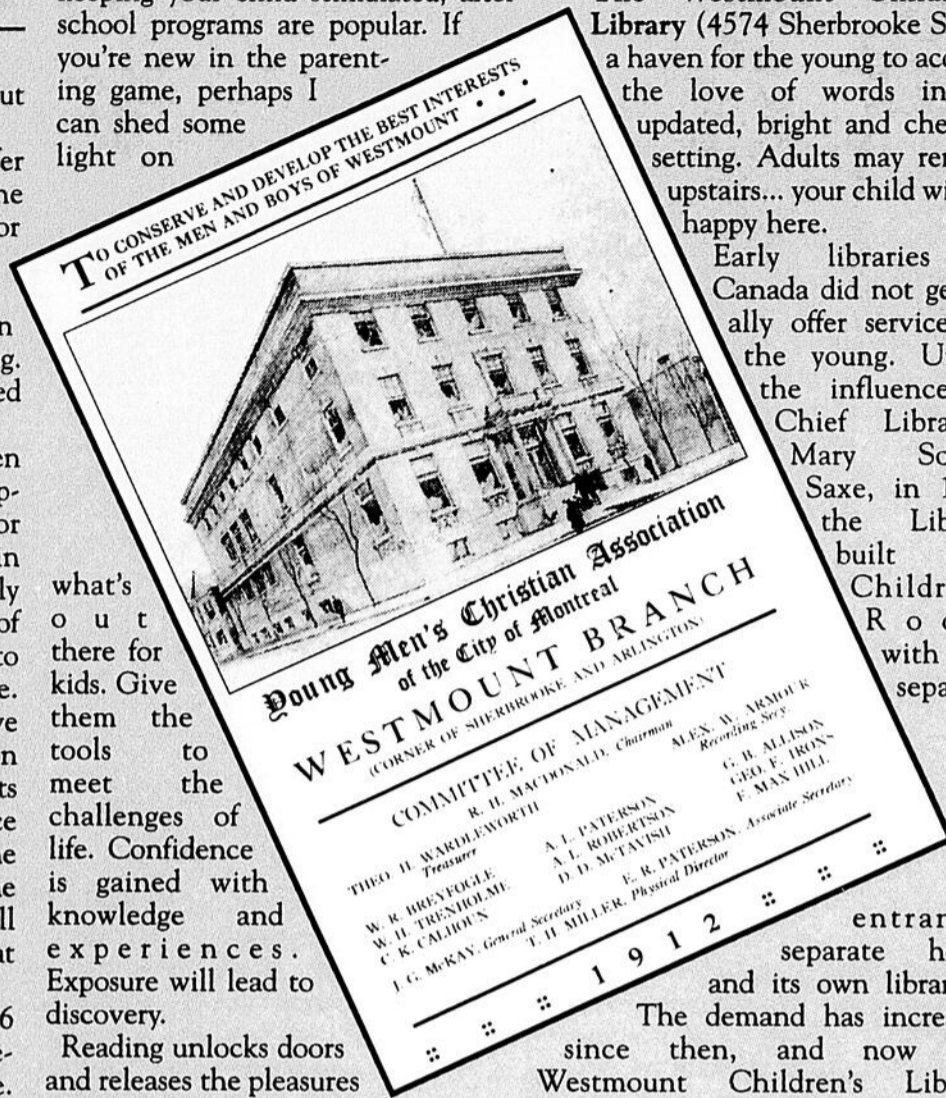
Children have flocked to this facility ever since its beginning. Modern technology has intervened with video and CD loans and computers have replaced card catalogues.

Seasonal activities and decorations create festive moods and the 1999 fall program has included story time, crafts and French sessions.

Monthly pamphlets highlight books for all age groups. Introduce your child to our community library and allow him or her to absorb the delights of the written word.

Committed to the community and dedicated in providing social, cultural and recreational services, Centre Greene (1090 Greene Ave.) is focussed on children. From 1949 to 1989 the Centre was known as the Unity Boys and Girls Club and it was situated below St. Catherine Street.

With a need for a children's gathering place, in 1989 plans were made for a move.



entrance, separate hours and its own librarian. The demand has increased since then, and now the Westmount Children's Library occupies the downstairs floor of the

See page 46

*Congratulations Westmount on your 125th anniversary!*

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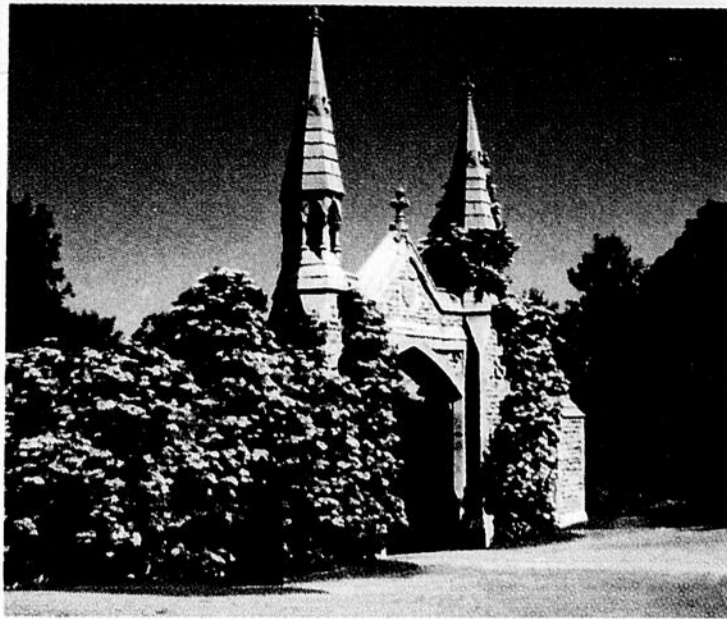
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the same history.*



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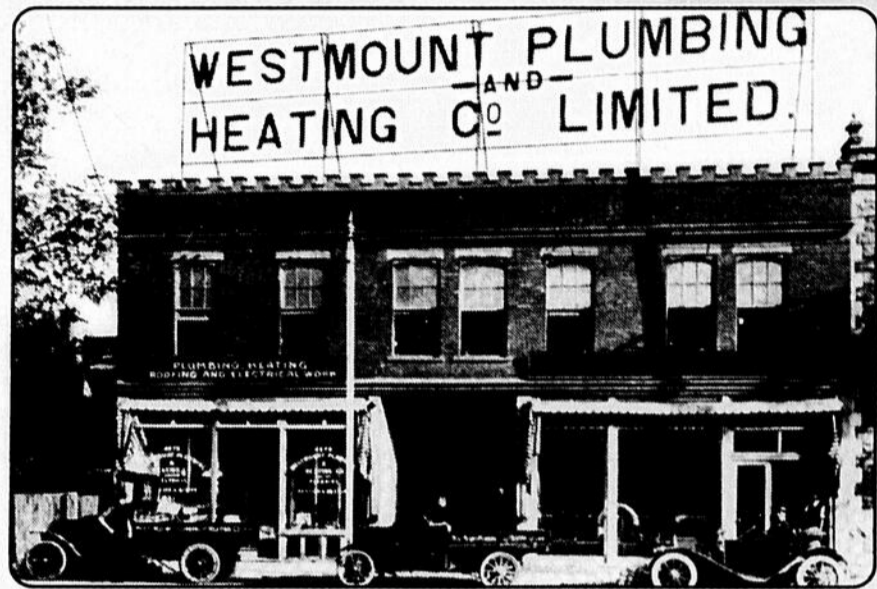
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*Meilleurs vœux à la Ville de Westmount à  
l'occasion de leur 125<sup>e</sup> anniversaire.  
Best Wishes to the City of Westmount on the  
occasion of their 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.*

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on premises  
at sensible prices.*

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**CONTINUED FROM  
HAND TO HAND, PG. 44**

Today, Centre Greene rents (\$1 a year) or gratefully accepts their building as a donation from The Rotary Club. An exciting youth division provides after school programs, activities for holidays, a summer camp, parties, Saturday fun and the highlight event of the week—TGIF. This Friday evening event provides dinner, games and crafts. Staffed with volunteers, the centre is always ready to accept more. Mary Stubbs, past coordinator of Children's Programs, expressed her high regard for this community organization. "It is an exceptional place that provides recreational and social services to everyone, especially our youth."

The freedom of expression comes in many forms. Children love to draw, shape and immerse in the concrete art mode. Unconsciously they are displaying their feelings through a wonderful outlet. Fortunately, Westmount holds the artistic key and The Visual Arts Centre (350 Victoria Ave.) caters to children's creative endeavours. Originally a Potter's Club in 1946, it relocated in 1972 to its present address and offered some children's activities. The centre encompasses a wide range of children's art forms from drawing, painting, pottery and multimedia, plus other classes. The Summer Day Camp is so popular that it fills to capacity before it starts.

Children experience the warm interactive feeling here and the capable staff leads the way. Assistant Director Joanne Chase enthusiastically praised this special place. "There are wonderful teachers who are artists themselves and the bilingual element is alive and well."

The history before 1952 may be vague, and the beginning may have been small, but the Westmount Recreation Department (4675 St. Catherine) is a huge part of many young Westmounters' lives. It began around 1958 with a few people organizing hockey in an open-air building. The department was run by approximately three people, and volunteers were an important part. Some things never change as today 200 volunteers are active here.

The beginning years at the Recreation Department accentuated sports. The 1970s saw the rise of more sociocultural activities and each year new interests were added. Robert Aiken, the Director of Sports and Recreation, started in 1972 when the adult hockey team comprised of 60 players. Today we are looking at 400. At that time, the department was affixed with the title Parks and Recreation but Parks moved to Public Works and the name was changed to Sports and Recreation.

Aiken emphasized that the goal of the department has been to "serve the population where it's not being served." Aiken witnessed an explosion of kid's activities in 1982. Victoria Hall

also opened its doors to sociocultural activities. Here's a few notable children's specialities that residents may not be aware of; there's music for three-year olds, ballet, tap, martial arts and of course the sports. After school and Saturday activities have developed into familial social gatherings. A spin-off on this family theme has been Family Day, which commenced in 1974 as a picnic. Today it is a Westmount event celebrated on the last Saturday in May.

Activities are free of charge as the Westmount City Council has always insisted that they should be accessible to everyone in the area.

"The centre of the whole community is recreational," admitted Aiken.

To finalize our tribute to Westmount's ongoing consideration of youth services, step through the sliding doors of The YMCA (4585 Sherbrooke St.). There are always sounds of children echoing in the corridors and structural changes continue to welcome their presence.

Today, you are never too young to join. Your child can begin in the womb as pregnant women are found exercising in the pool. Director of Pre-school Youth and Teens, Gary White, explained that the Y has definitely evolved. "At one time, it was more a place of physical fitness. Now children are excitedly pursuing drama, creative movement, dance, nature, science, gymnastics and the martial arts."

The Y's after school programs and summer camps are available for all

ages. Special needs children are integrated easily and benefit from the Y's inclusion policy. In turn, other children benefit from the recognition that there are all types of people that make up our world.

Is this place kid-oriented or what? The Y's focus is most definitely directed to the child.

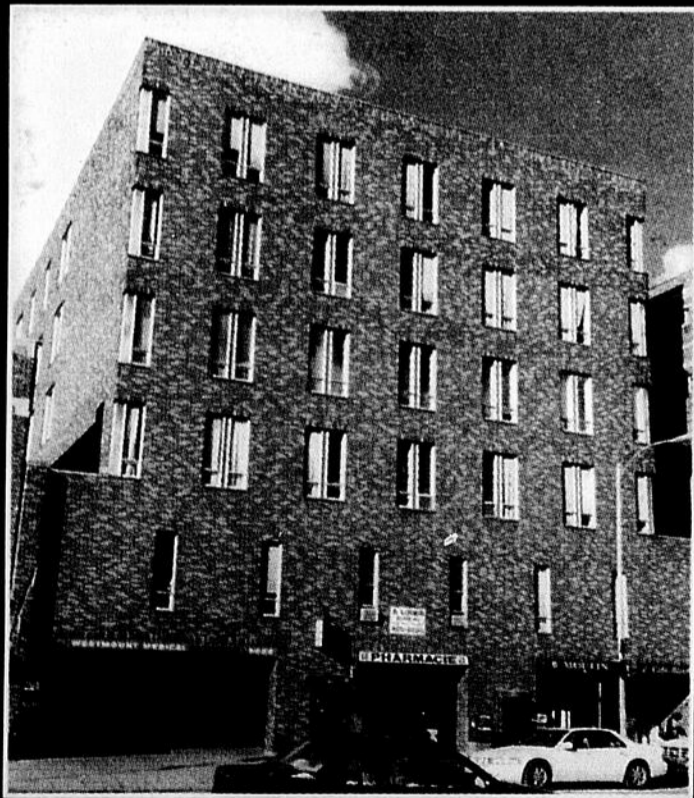
"We had to shut down for a year for renovations but we continued to operate elsewhere," related Gary. "The demand for children's facilities have become so great that our boardroom was converted to 'Pooh's Corner' due to lack of space."

Throughout White's 16-year association with the Y, he has seen an ongoing accommodation process. "The walls are never too strong to prevent our children from entering."

Besides the beauty of our Westmount scenery, the architectural distinctions, the cultural mix of people, the Westmount facilities embrace our youth. Every activity possible is alive here and with the growth in the youth population, there are always new services encouraging healthy development.

The home and the community are responsible for the nurturing of children. Parents need to do the research and direct their child to all the possibilities. The cringing that you may feel when hearing the words "I'm bored" may cease to happen. After all, if you're fortunate to be a child of Westmount, your options for growth and discovery are open-ended.

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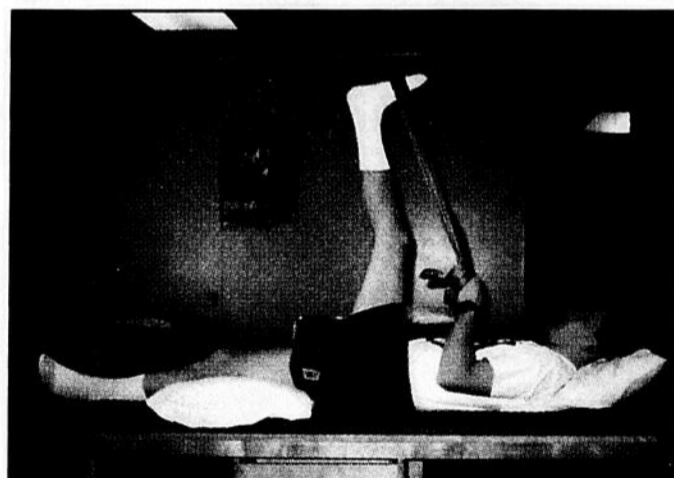
4823 Sherbrooke Suite 235 Westmount Qc H3Z 1G7

**CONGRATULATIONS WESTMOUNT ON YOUR 125<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY!**

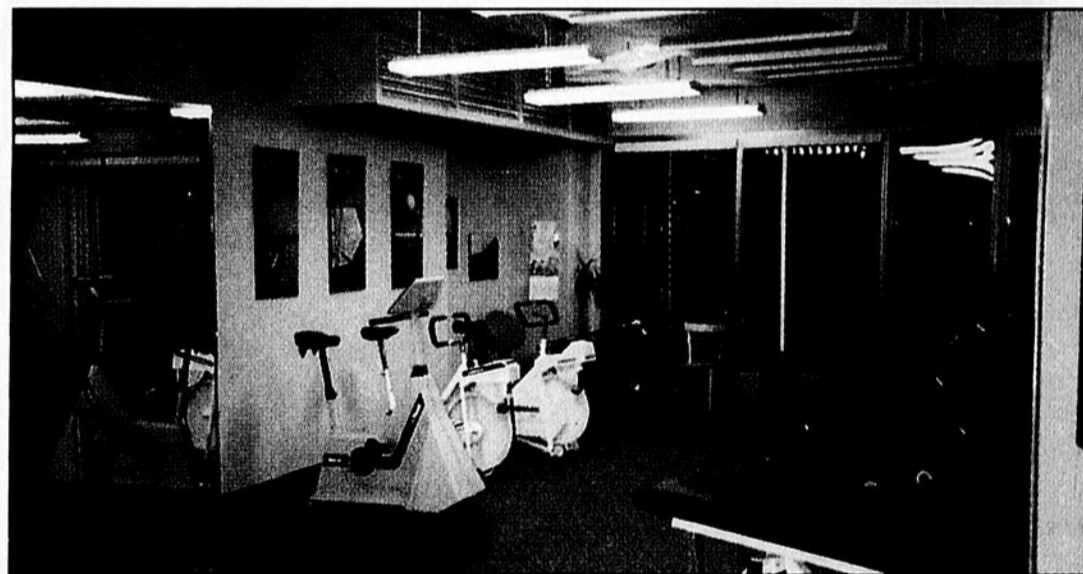
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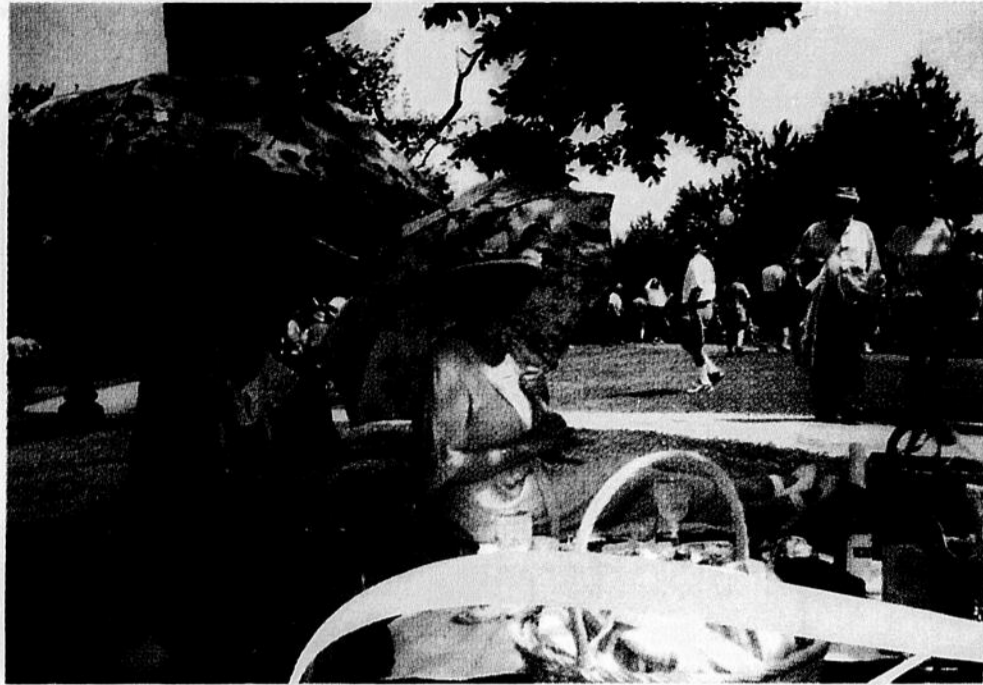
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St-Jean-Baptiste Day - Picnic Contest



St. Patrick's Day - Westmount Float



Canada Day

# A year to remember...



Secret Garden Tour



Canada Day

The 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the City of Westmount gave us a lovely excuse to involve the whole community in one year-long celebration. What is more, this year happened to be the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our library. Using both themes as inspiration, citizen committees, working closely with city staff, recruited hundreds of volunteers who made sure each event was something that Westmounters will remember for years to come.

During this year, annual events such as Family Day and Winter Carnival took on a special celebratory character. New events were created, events one hopes will be celebrated annually: we danced, sang, and picnicked on St-Jean-Baptiste Day; we camped out and had a fireside sing-along in Westmount Park on Canada Day; and a few brave souls joined Bowser and Blue on our award-winning St Patrick's Day float. A whole raft of other events, both large and small, created new opportunities for Westmounters to get together, whether it was to appreciate our heritage houses or to admire our special gardens.

The library, meanwhile, had something going on just about every week: the Centennial Author Series, the Westmount Lecture Series, all highlighted by the Centennial Gala.

This unforgettable year allowed us to fall in love with our city all over again. As elected officials and as Westmounters, we are moved by the enthusiasm of residents and the dedication of city staff that together reinforce that wonderful sense of community that makes Westmount so special.

*Mayor Peter F. Trent  
Councillor Karin Marks  
Co-chairs, 125<sup>th</sup> Celebrations Committee*



Canada Day Campout in Westmount Park  
*(photo by Cliff Skarstedt)*



Westmount Open House and Victorian Tea



Family Day



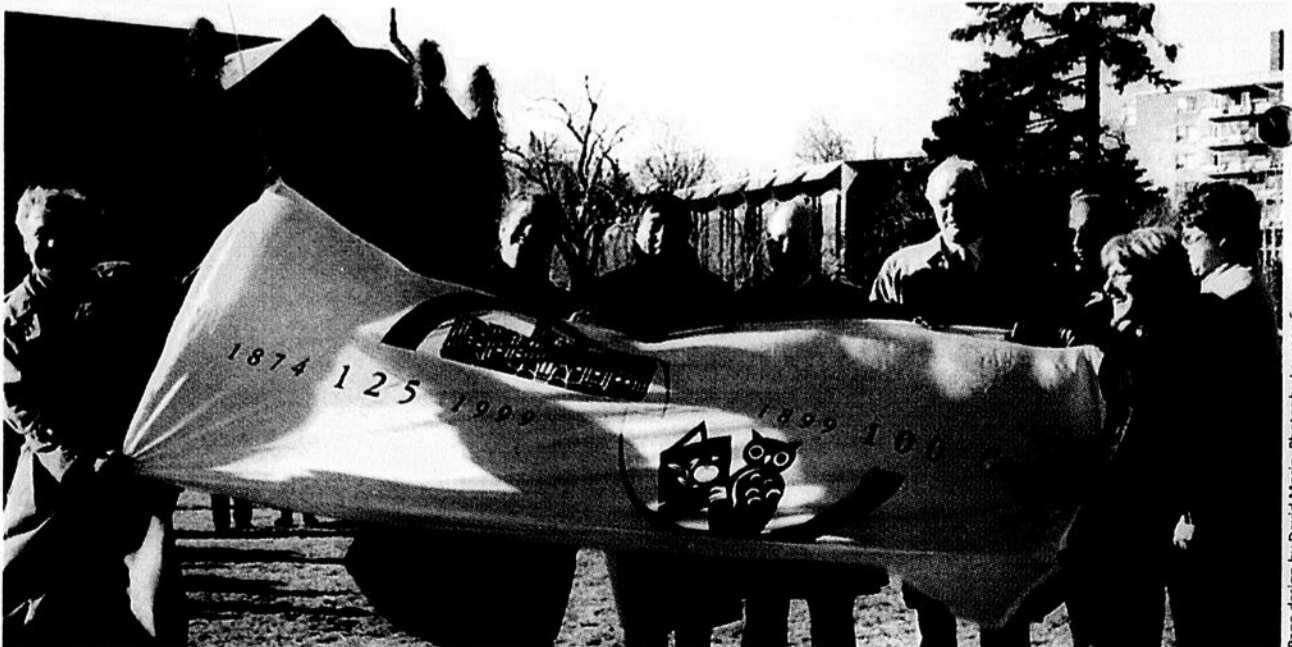
Cast of February 19<sup>th</sup> "The'll Be No Tavern In This Town"



Westmount Library - 100<sup>th</sup> birthday



St-Jean-Baptiste - Feu de Joie



Flagraising - launch of 125<sup>th</sup> celebrations