

The Westmount Examiner

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Local News

Ambition and socialism behind megacity —Trent

Martin C. Barry

Municipal Affairs Minister Louise Harel's personal ambition and the Quebec government's socialist belief in big government are two important factors driving the movement to create an island-wide megacity, says Mayor Peter Trent.

Addressing a noon meeting of the Rotary Club of Westmount last Wednesday, Trent said the reasons given by those in favour of municipal mergers are sometimes 'tacit' or 'unstated.'

Enumerating the justifications for mergers—including cost savings and "too many cities"—that merger proponents usually give, Trent said that if economies of scale really led to savings, then the City of Laval wouldn't be paying over a third of its budget just to service its debts.

He pointed out that when Ontario Premier Michael Harris began efforts a few years ago to merge municipalities in that province, the legislative bill wasn't called the bill to reduce the number of municipalities. "He called it the bill to reduce the number of elected officials," said Trent. Since then, Trent added, Harris has decided "that it doesn't make any sense and they've stopped all future mergers" in Ontario.

"There are some unstated reasons as to why the Quebec government is pushing mergers," said Trent. "Leaving aside cynics—and I'm probably one them—who will say it has something to do with the personal ambition of Mme Harel, who wants to get her name in history books—but again all politicians want to do that—and Mr Bourque, who wants to have a bigger sandbox in which he can play... certainly personal ambition has something to do with this movement."

(continued on page 5)

IDLERS BEWARE!

New signs posted throughout Westmount to warn motorists against idling engines

Page 2

Photo: Martin C. Barry



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New signs warn motorists against idling engines

Martin C. Barry

The message, according to warnings now being placed all around Westmount, couldn't be clearer: **idle your car engine longer than four minutes and you'll end up paying a \$42 fine.**

The Montreal Urban Community has had a bylaw prohibiting the idling of motor vehicle engines for the past ten years, although it is rarely enforced. Westmount council decided to become involved last year.

"We wanted to take a pro-active approach to the issue of local and ground-level air-pollution, and it doesn't take a genius to see why," said city councillor John de Castell, who helped coordinate the effort developing the new anti-idling signs for the City.

"There's been a dramatic increase in the incidence of asthma in children, and if you've ever driven past a

school at rush hours you'll see many cars sitting there with their engines idling winter and summer—and of course this is being consumed directly by their own children," de Castell said.

"Children and elderly are among the most susceptible to air pollution and the most likely to be suffering from respiratory illness."

Westmount's Bylaw 1298 was recently introduced, placing tighter restrictions on the running of auto engines while idling. The bylaw applies everywhere in Westmount, a total of 37 signs warning motorists about the regulation and the consequence of not abiding by it will be posted over the next few days in 19 locations, many of them next to schools and daycare centres.

De Castell said that since the City did its part last year to inform residents of the bylaw's existence, it will now be fully enforced. "We've really gone about as far as we can to inform people of the importance of complying with this bylaw," he said.

Jennifer Patton, chair of the Westmount Healthy City Project's environment committee, said another member, Jeanne Randle, initiated the idea for the sign two years ago. "This is a big issue for all Montrealers and, Westmount being a small community and very active volunteer-wise, also here," Patton said.



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Pictured in the photo on page 2, taken Monday at Roslyn School, are (left to right) Kim Colquhoun of Westmount Public Security, city councillor and environment commissioner John de Castell, Healthy City Project environment committee chair Jennifer Patton, and Roslyn vice-principal Angela Orsi.

WESTMOUNT EXPLAINED

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ROTARY CLUB SENDS AID TO AFRICAN ORPHANS

Items sought to fill shipping container bound for Tanzania

Eliot Buchan

The Westmount Rotary Club is seeking help to fill a shipping container with essential household items to improve the quality of life for 22 kids of the Kikatiti Home for Homeless Children in remote northern Tanzania.

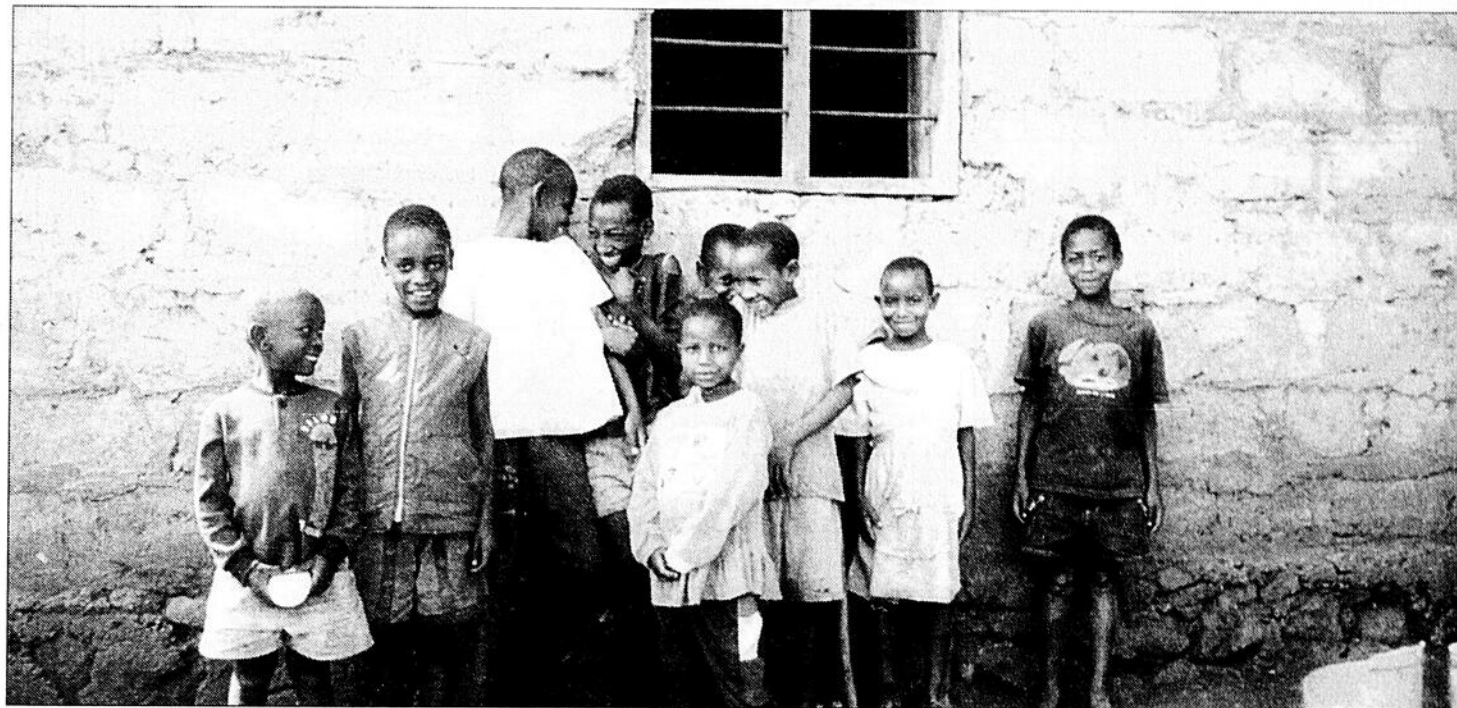
"Our dream is to create a permanent, lasting home for homeless children," said Debbi Eaman, one of the driving forces behind the venture. "These kids have nothing but the very bare minimum. I look into the eyes of a three-year-old girl there, and I see an old lady's eyes—there's no wonderment."

Eaman was moved by the poverty she saw first hand in this orphanage in the foothills of Mt. Kilimanjaro. Children sleep without bedding on bare pieces of foam on the concrete floor of the orphanage. Muddy water for drinking, washing and cooking has to be carted from miles away. There's no electricity, and food is scarce. Cooking facilities consist of few rocks on the floor.

However, some things have improved for these children of late. Thanks to the recent efforts of Montrealers Skip and Debbi Eaman and Mr and Mrs Peter Miller, these kids now have some clothes and shoes and vital uniforms and books which permit them to attend school, and further assistance could now also be on the way.

The chain of events that brought these two opposite worlds together is a fascinating story.

Three years ago, Skip Eaman and Peter Miller and two friends from Europe, were ascending Mt Kilimanjaro, when a decrepit building surrounded by children in rags caught their attention. On their way down the mountain, they decided to find out what the building was, but as the climbers couldn't speak Swahili and the locals were unable to speak English, little was resolved. Their interest and concern, however, did not



Some of the orphans at the Kikatiti Home for Homeless Children near Arusha, Tanzania.

abate and Eaman and Miller returned to the nearest city, Arusha, and then, accompanied by a local interpreter, returned to find the answer.

What they discovered was what they had suspected; that the building was in fact an orphanage, holding 12-15 abandoned children and run solely by one Pastor Sam Urrio, using the meager charity that he could gather from one of the poorest countries in the world.

A deep impression was made on the men, and on their return to Canada and with the help of Mrs Eaman, Mrs Miller and Tony's Shoes, they organized funds and a package of clothes and shoes to go to the orphanage.

Soon after, the Eamans returned to Arusha and were dismayed to find that only half of the package had actually reached the children and that suspicious and considerable 'pick-up' charges had been applied to the shipment. At the same time, they also witnessed the incredible joy radiating from the orphans sporting the new clothes that did arrive. It was over-

whelming, and the Eamans' determination was set on making some long-lasting change to these kids' lives.

In Arusha, the Eamans had noticed a Rotary sign and on their return to Montreal they approached friend and former Westmount Rotary Club president Christine Pickrell to find some way of circumventing any further corruption with future packages.

Pickrell and the Westmount Rotary Club put the word out: Did anyone know anything about the Rotary Club in Arusha?

As it happened someone did and he was right on their doorstep. Manoir resident and honorary Rotarian Derek Walker knew that former Westmounter Michael Chambers was managing a farm about 30 miles from Arusha and had been doing so for around ten years. Contact was made with Chambers and he happily agreed to act as a liaison with the Arusha Rotary Club, from where the logistics of receiving, transporting and distributing a sea container full of aid could proceed unimpeded.

According to Debbi Eaman, the emphasis of this particular project, and any in the future, is to provide assistance that will lead to a sustainable, self-supporting community. Future projects, hopefully with the assistance of Chambers, will involve the digging of a nearby well and the purchasing of some land to alleviate current rent costs and to allow for the raising of some crops and animals. "He's our eyes and ears," Eaman said of Chambers, and it seems incredibly fateful that he is.

The Westmount Rotary Club is looking for donations of the following basics to fill the sea container: clothes, beds, blankets, sheets, towels, desks, chairs, pots, pans, non-breakable tableware, cutlery, hygiene products—soap, detergent, toothpaste, toothbrushes—pens, pencils, paper, toys and non-perishable food such as rice, sugar, flour and oats.

Anyone wishing to make a donation is asked to contact the Westmount Rotary Club office at 935-3344 or Christine Pickrell at 488-9121 for further details.

Westmounters stay away from Tremblay rally

Martin C. Barry

If any proof of Westmount's indifference to Montreal's first megacity election were needed, here it was.

Alone in a section of seats reserved for Westmounters at a Montreal Island Citizens Movement's rally last Sunday sat François Larochelle. Well, he was sort of a Westmounter. He used to live at the Plaza Towers, he later told The Examiner.

That left one Westmounter attending the congress organized for megacity mayoral hopeful Gerald Tremblay's party—Michael Polak, a former Côte des Neiges resident who moved to Westmount last year. For reasons of his own, though, Polak opted to sit in the Côte des Neiges section. Of all the future boroughs of Montreal, Westmount by far had the poorest representation, although people turned out from nearly all other districts across the island.

In politics these days, many are those who claim Peter Trent as a friend, and

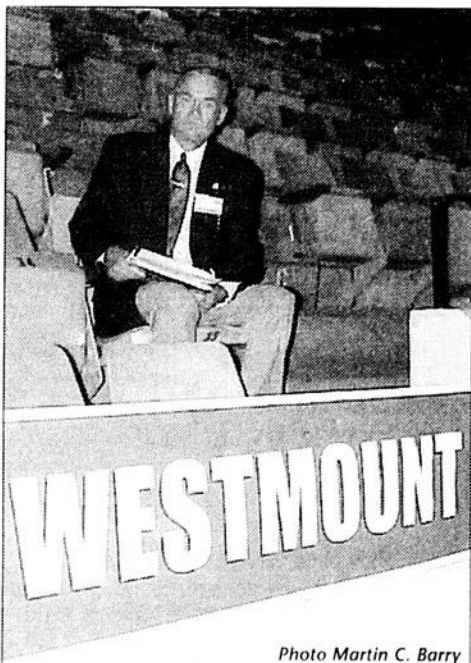


Photo Martin C. Barry

François Larochelle sits in the otherwise empty Westmount section at last Sunday's rally.

Larochelle was no exception. "He is my friend," he said, admitting a little later that he'd only recently met Westmount's mayor. Larochelle actually worked for the Tremblay party's Ville Marie borough committee. He said he was told to go fill space in the Westmount section.

Former Westmount city councillor Peter Duffield didn't attend the convention, but said in a phone interview that he has been working behind the scenes for Gerald Tremblay. "I've known Mr. Tremblay for a long time," Duffield said. "I'm fully supportive of what council and Peter is trying to do in terms of the merger."

Duffield added that if it's a question of who's best for Westmount, if the forced merger can't be stopped, it should be Tremblay who's elected. "I think even Peter Trent came out in support of Tremblay in a roundabout fashion when he said anybody but Bourque, and right now there's only one person except Bourque and that's Tremblay."

Duffield said he didn't believe his helping Tremblay, whose views on the

Montreal megacity have been described as ambiguous, constituted a conflict with Westmount city council's objectives of fighting the merger.

Duffield speculated that when the megacity election is held Nov. 4, Westmounters may end up voting for the Westmount councillors who are running as independents and for Tremblay as mayor.

"I don't think Mr. McConomy has much of a hope here," he said of Team Bourque candidate Richard McConomy's chances. "I think people will strongly support Karin Marks, so therefore I don't think it's going to be to Mr. Tremblay's advantage to run anybody here."

The Westmount Municipal Association has yet to take a position on the megacity election. "The WMA's position on the election isn't clear yet," said WMA board member Don Wedge. He added, however, that "the Tremblay position on mergers is clear and we don't want that."

Youth shoots at PSO

Westmount Public Security and MUC police are maintaining a strong presence in the area of King George Park following a case last week where an unidentified youth shot at a Public Security officer.

The incident occurred early last Wednesday morning when PSO Sgt. Robert White answered a complaint about a small grass fire in the park, at 2:28 a.m. Upon arrival he spotted a youth by the retaining wall, who ran into the wooded area as he approached. When the youth emerged from the trees, he was holding what appeared to be a handgun, and fired twice in White's direction. He then fled between two houses on Côte St. Antoine Road.



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MUC police soon arrived on the scene with dogs, hoping to follow the suspect's trail. The dogs picked up a scent and led police down Mount Stephen Avenue, but nothing was found.

Public Security Director Richard McEnroe said that although it has not been determined whether the youth did in fact discharge a firearm at Sgt. White—as no spent cartridges were found in the area—the incident has prompted increased patrols in the area. Police believe the weapon may have been a pellet gun.

Although this case is far more serious than most, McEnroe said that trouble with young people in parks increases every year at this time, and the Public Security Unit adjusts its patrols accordingly. "This is a yearly occurrence," he said. "Every summer just before the end of school and again just before the beginning of school we usually see an increase in incidents involving youths congregating in parks. This is nothing new."

Investigation into the case continues, and Station 12 police have released the following description of the suspect: a white male about 20 years old, 5'11" and of slim build. He has short black hair and was dressed in black at the time of the incident. Anyone with information is asked to contact Station 12 at 280-0112.

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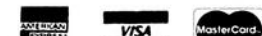
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Firefighters seek 1000th blood donor

Austin Webb

The Westmount Fire Department has announced that its tenth annual blood donor clinic will be held on Friday, Sept. 14—and this time organizers are planning something special.

Not only are the firefighters hoping to collect 125 pints of blood—a significant increase over last year's goal of 110—but since this is the event's tenth anniversary, there is a good chance the 1,000th unit of blood will be donated this year.

"It's especially important for donors to come out this year," said Cpt. Earl Graham, the event's founder and yearly organizer. The person who donates the 1,000th unit of blood will be awarded a special prize. "It's a big secret," said Graham. "Only two people know what it is."

Graham also pointed out that Héma-Quebec has made donor eligibility rules a lot more strict. For example, due to the recent Mad Cow scare, anyone returning from Europe is ineligible. He also warned that anyone with a piercing or a tattoo can't give blood.

The blood donor clinic will be taking place on Sept. 14 between 2 and 8 p.m. at the Westmount fire station, 19 Stanton Street. Prospective donors must be between the ages of 18 and 65 and should bring along identification. Parking will be available in the Selwyn House School parking lot.



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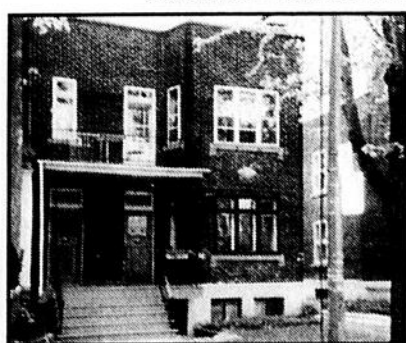
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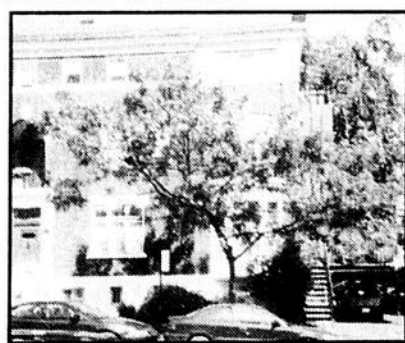
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Ambition and socialism behind megacity — Trent

(continued from page 1)

Another unstated reason behind the merger movement, said Trent, is the socialist belief in big government. "Don't forget, Mme Harel is of the generation and certainly still believes in the idea that somehow socialism can solve our problems," he said. "It's sort of a left-wing paradox (the) idealism that most socialists have—and I know whereof I speak because my mother was

very socialist, in fact she was communist. It's a slow metamorphosis from socialism to totalitarianism."

Trent said he wasn't for a moment suggesting that the government in Quebec is totalitarian. "But it's starting to show some of the signs of totalitarianism," he said. "And that's the problem with socialism. It leads to this eventually because it has this sort of 'father knows best' or 'mother knows best' attitude in the case of Mme Harel. It has this sort of paternalistic approach—we know what is good for you. And that is the whole danger, in my view, of socialism."

Trent noted that Harris is obviously not a socialist despite his work merging cities. "But Harris thought he would save money," said Trent. "When it became apparent he wasn't saving money and he was paying a heavy political price, he stopped them. He certainly didn't do it for social justice reasons or anything else; he just simply thought he would save money. I'm not trying to defend Mr Harris, but certainly his motivations were very different from the ones that you see here in Quebec."

Mayor Peter Trent addresses the Westmount Rotary Club at Victoria Hall last Wednesday.



Photo: Martin Barry

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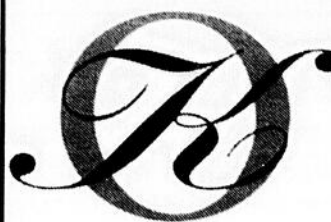
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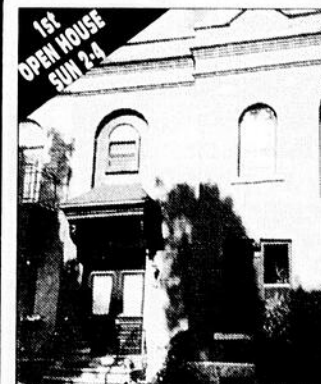
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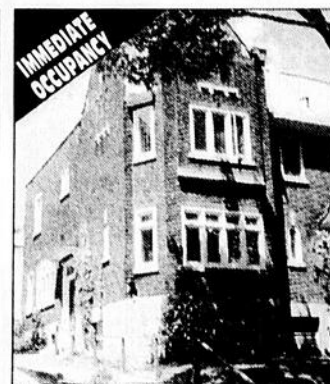
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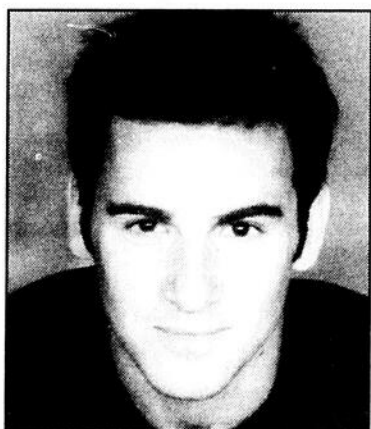
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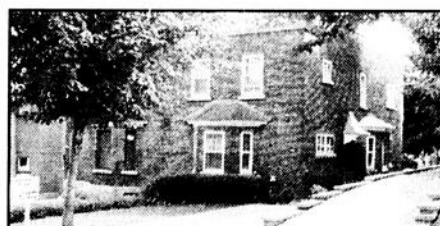
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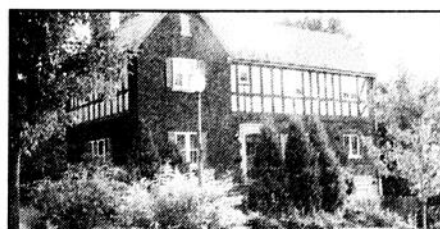
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A shot in the park

Patrolling the streets of Westmount is not generally considered a dangerous occupation, in fact one might fairly assume that these tranquil, elegant parks and avenues would make for a soft beat.

Yes, there are times when one is called upon to deal with a vicious dog or a possibly rabid raccoon, and being first on the scene of a burglary is always chancy—but on the whole, it seems, Westmount's Public Security officers have it much easier than their colleagues in other municipalities.

Commentary

Wayne Larsen



This, of course, is a great misconception.

Last week while working the night shift, Sgt. Robert White, a veteran Public Security officer, answered a more-or-less routine call for a disturbance in King George Park (or Murray Hill Park, if you prefer) involving unruly youths. Nine times out of ten, just the appearance of the familiar yellow vehicle in the park would have scattered the gang, or at worst the PSO would manage to break up the party by reasoning with the youths, perhaps after receiving a barrage of four-lettered obscenities for his trouble.

But this time one of the young revelers pulled out a gun, pointed it at Sgt. White, and fired. One can only imagine what must have been going through the unarmed officer's mind at that instant. Luckily, the weapon in question was probably a pellet gun, and the would-be assailant turned out to be a poor marksman.

Still, there is no escaping the fact that this could just as easily have been a tragedy. That it happened here in Westmount is bad enough, but the idea that Sgt. White—a well-known and respected member of this community—came so close to being shot in the line of duty is absolutely repulsive.

Police officers carry guns and are expected to use them if and when necessary, and are therefore able to defend themselves to a certain degree. Public Security officers, on the other hand, are out there armed only with their wits—and as Sgt. White's recent brush attests, they sometimes find themselves in situations far more dangerous than dealing with a disgruntled motorist who has just been handed a parking ticket.

Yes, they are fully aware of the risks before they take on the job, and they are well trained. But putting themselves in the line of fire is another matter altogether.

Gangs of teenagers congregating in Westmount parks is certainly not a recent phenomena. No doubt there are many grandparents out there who did much the same thing when they were young, smoking cigarettes and passing around a bottle while listening to Benny Goodman or Nat 'King' Cole on tinny transistor radios—and yes, some of their friends may have carried zip guns or knives.

There seems to be a certain attraction between young people and parks after midnight that transcends generations, an attraction so strong that it would take constant surveillance throughout the summer months to keep the parks clear of rowdy teens—an impossibility given the staffing shortages prevalent in law enforcement.

In other words, the problem of noisy, idle youths hanging out in parks late at night is not about to go away, and, given the circumstances, we are powerless to do very much about it. This leaves us with little recourse but to hope that the young man responsible for shooting at Sgt. White is arrested and convicted, if not only for the reprehensible, cowardly act of shooting at an unarmed Public Security officer, but more importantly as a possible deterrent to others who might be entertaining similar ideas.

NEWS ITEM: DARING BURGLARIES IN WESTMOUNT



Letters to the editor

Tax grab just beginning

To the editor:

Now the writing is on the wall. The Transition Committee is pondering adding a water tax on top of the 5 per cent increase in tax rate which suburban taxpayers will be subjected to next year. This is not just unfair, it is highway robbery.

In the case of Westmount, for example, ratepayers are turning over \$1.6 million this year to the City of Montreal for water distribution. This comes to \$80 for every man, woman and child in the city, paid for out of the taxes collected by the City, part of the \$53.4 million budget this year.

Not only would the latest scheme create an extra tax for water services, we have to add the cost of collecting those taxes and determining the best way to charge for them. This might involve preparing a rental value roll (Westmount decided to drop this roll in 1989 and charge for water as a part

of its general municipal tax revenues) or—what would be worse—installing water meters in every building in Westmount.

The proposal by the Transition Committee is just the first in a series of extra taxes to which local taxpayers will no doubt be subjected. In order to discourage use of the Westmount Library by hundreds of thousands of new 'citizens,' we can expect to see user fees or membership costs applied to the library. The same can be said for recreation programs, perhaps snow removal in laneways, extra garbage pickups, use of dog runs, etc. And rest assured that the addition of these 'user fees' for services which are now paid for with tax revenues will not force the Transition Committee or its successor, the new MegaMontreal city council, to pull back on the 5 per cent per year tax increase.

The Great Montreal Tax Grab has just started.

Andy Dodge
Cote St. Antoine Road

WHA initiated projects

To the editor:

It's all fine and dandy for you to give the City the credit for 'Investing in the past' but when all is said and done, two-thirds of the projects that you wrote about were initiated by the Westmount Historical Association. Did you forget this?

One has now been completed, and the other would be the Westmount Heritage Centre if the WHA campaign would have been allowed to continue.

Yes, the station will be getting a new roof. Question: where are these funds coming from? Slate is not cheap. I would have been willing to donate to a campaign, but is this slate roof coming from my tax dollars?

I hope not.

Flora-Lee Wagner
Claremont Avenue

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Old News

(from the examiner archives)



One Year Ago
August 31, 2000:

LEFEBVRE HEADS CIPA: "Margaret Lefebvre has added yet another feather to her cap. The city councillor for Ward 6 was recently appointed president of the Couchiching Institute on Public Affairs (CIPA), Canada's oldest public affairs forum and think tank. 'It's certainly an honour,' Lefebvre said this week. '(The CIPA) is almost 70 years old and I'm the first non-Ontario-based president in its history.' Most of the presidents have been Ontario-based since CIPA's inception in 1931."

Five Years Ago
August 29, 1996:

STOOL CLOSES POOL: "Parents whose families enjoy using Westmount Pool have been turned away twice in recent weeks because of temporary closures brought on by floating feces in the pool. Sports and Recreation staff have been forced to order the pool closed twice in the last ten days after children have done their business in the water. Another closure on the weekend was caused by vandalism. 'It seems every week they have to close down because someone has left a stool in the pool,' Burton Avenue Angie Smith said. Based on past experience, sports coordinator Mike Deegan couldn't say for sure the 'accidents' were really accidents. 'Last summer we had a problem... but we found out it was the same 8-year-old boy who was purposely contaminating the pool.'"

Ten Years Ago
August 29, 1991:

CUTLER SLAMS SEPARATISM: "Mayor May Cutler launched a blistering attack against separatism last week at a council meeting of the Montreal Urban Community, saying it was driving business out of the Montreal area. No money should be put into attracting new economic development to Montreal until Mayor Jean Doré takes a strong public position against separatism to create a more stable political climate, she said. 'No one will invest in Montreal at this time,' the mayor told The Examiner Tuesday in relating her speech. 'It's time Doré spoke out and did something to stop all the flow of business out of here.'"

Fifteen Years Ago
August 28, 1986:

RESIDENCE PROPOSAL: "A \$15 million luxury senior citizens' residence has been proposed for the St. Catherine street-Hillside avenue area east of Metcalfe avenue. The project, which would see the demolition of the Timmins-Campbell Petro-Canada station on St. Catherine as well as three buildings on Hillside, is at present being reviewed by the city's architecture and planning commission. The Examiner learned this week the residence as proposed would consist of under 200 units in a six-storey structure."

How volunteers help fight the merger

Westmounters have many links to action elsewhere

Don Wedge

On Tuesday, Westmount's lawyers-Gérald Tremblay (the attorney, not the megamayoral candidate), Jean Marois and Julius Grey-will stand in the downtown Court House and explain why the forced merger law should be declared invalid. Three judges of the Quebec Court of Appeal-Gendreau, Boudouin and Forget-will hear their arguments.

No doubt there will be more people attending than usual to give support and to let the judges and advocates know that people are concerned and not only by legal precedents.

In fact, the Westmount Municipal Association encourages as many as possible to attend-but not to demonstrate! This offends court decorum and could upset the judges whose help is needed. The hearings are scheduled from 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Fourteen other cities are appealing, too.

At the July WMA meeting many members were exhausted and needed a vacation! There was some frustration over "Why can't we do more to help?" Of course, volunteers have been very active locally, but not so well known is that individuals have contributed so much more support to efforts across the island and the province.

While council, particularly Peter Trent, has been foremost among the island resisters, citizens have been very busy at the grass roots level.

When the original court case was heard in May, Georgina Saba of Lachine organized a 24-hour vigil outside the Court House. Westmounters, including several councillors, filled at least a quarter of the time slots.

Four years ago, sensing that this fight was coming, the WMA teamed with similar citizen organizations in Town of Mount Royal and Outremont. Citizens from a dozen other cities joined us last summer while the Bernard report was being prepared. However, the subsequent recommendations were regarded by some as an acceptable compromise.

Westmount was not at all convinced and Peter Trent's strong stance last October provided a catalyst for others to look here for leadership. Who can for-

get the power of the Victoria Hall meeting and the passionate intervention of Gisèle Bonnardeaux?

Citizens in Montreal West started their own fight and coined the neat name DémocraCité. Realizing the need to spread their effort, they attended a meeting in the Bonnardeaux home, which led to island-wide growth and links with merger-fighters in Quebec City, the South Shore and Outaouais.

Raymond Proulx, an Outremont colleague for four years, is the president. A former Bloc Québécois riding chief, he tore up his membership card because of the loss of democracy inherent in forced mergers.

Comités de sauvegarde have grown in many cities. DémocraCité links many of their efforts and Kell Warshaw, a volunteer from Montreal-West, operates a superb web site, which is the main information service www.democracite.org. Weekly meetings have helped coordinate many events organized by various local groups across the province.

Westmounters frequently involved in these coordinating meetings have included Gisèle and Jef-Louis Bonnardeaux, Doug McDougall, Councillor Cynthia Lulham, Andy Dodge and Kathleen Duncan.

Incidentally, Jef-Louis Bonnardeaux was last week the co-author of a letter to French president Jacques Chirac about the lack of democracy on the Quebec government's actions.

One of the constant problems is the lack of support the anti-merger forces have in the Francophone media. So when municipal policy expert Andrew Sancton came as guest speaker at the WMA annual meeting in May, a press conference was arranged with our St. Lambert colleagues and weekly paper journalists from across the island and the South Shore.

The recent Westmount council resolution asking Jean Charest to de-merge was begun in St. Bruno by one of our citizen co-workers, Ginette Durocher. It was then taken further in St. Lambert, by our collaborators Mireille Guay and Claude Trudeau.

The WMA asked our own council to pass the resolution and Mayor Trent persuaded his merger-fighting colleagues to do the same. Meantime, a

resident was working with DémocraCité colleagues across the island to let their local councils know that citizens wanted the de-merger commitment.

The "Je me souviendrai" sticker came out of St. Bruno followed by the idea of towing it as a banner from an airplane. It is an expensive project, particularly if the slogan is to be flown over the remotest regions where critical by-elections are upcoming. Three WMA members have set out to raise funds and may be knocking your door.

In fact, raising money may become an increasingly important part of the anti-merger fight. If the three appeal judges do not reverse the Legacé judgement, the mega-city will go ahead until we get the Supreme Court ruling or Jean Charest gives us the opportunity to de-merge. Meantime, there may be no municipal support of our efforts from the mini-councils, particularly as so many mayors are lining up with the other Gérald Tremblay to form the mega-city.

The WMA would then face new challenges as a center of volunteer activity in our city. We already have an outline for a community Plan B and we will be inviting comments on it after the appeal.

What can we do? Well, there is plenty, particularly to help outside our borders. There is a great anger across the province over forced mergers, large and small. There is a great feeling of isolation. Few are well informed on the issues and the chances of de-merging. We have to spread the word.

On Monday of last week, there was late-evening news coverage of the demonstration-in-the-rain in Montreal East. A woman was speaking forcefully in their city hall as the council prepared to vote on the Charest de-merger request. That was Gisèle Bonnardeaux again.

Last winter the WMA suggested that Westmounters become merger-fighters and persuade friends in other cities to become active. It is still necessary. We may have a long fight ahead of us. Volunteers are going to have to carry more of the load.

Don Wedge is a director of the WMA, which can be reached at Box 653, Station Victoria, Westmount, H3Z 2Y7.

Common sense for avoiding burglaries

Bridget Blackader

Guess what? I have a new broken record to play, and it doesn't concern dogs!

With 10 or more break-ins within a block of me during the last year, I'm thinking many of us could use a quickie refresher course on quick, easy and cheaply applicable home security.

Four useful outlooks to keep in mind are:

1. Professional thieves after seriously valuable loot are a) difficult to deter if determined, and b) definitely want no contact with occupants.

2. Casual, opportunistic burglars a) want a quick grab and run of easily fenced objects to support drink and drugs; b) often carry weapons to help them deal with their panic should they

encounter residents, and c) can frequently be denied access with relatively little effort on our part.

3. Neighbours who consistently leave their homes open to easy access threaten our homes as well. (Now there's a thought, eh?) A street or a block gets to be known as having easy targets.

4. There ain't no such thing as a home too modest to be burgled. Yep. Your TV, your good-but-maybe-not-movie-star-jewellery, Aunt Bessie's sterling silver gravy bowl, your CD's, the \$200 emergency cash in the top drawer, are all as easily fenced as anyone else's, making them equally prime targets. (The Picasso in the dining room is for the crew in point 1).

So, what to do for peace of mind and affordable insurance premiums? The short answer is: apply a little common sense. The idea is to make your home

always look as it's occupied, according to your routines and habits. For example: if you seldom use the formal living room, then do not leave a solitary lamp burning there 24 hours a day while you're away. Whenever you will be away from the house for more than a day:

- confirm your newspaper will be collected from the front stoop daily, or stop delivery.

- confirm that the front walk and the driveway will be cleared, and the car brushed off in winter. (A few sandy footprints on the front steps or car tracks on the driveway are nice touches). Or, ask a neighbour with on-street parking to use the driveway during your absence.

- confirm the lawn will be minimally maintained in summer.

(continued on page 12)

Nina Favata brightens kids' hospital visits

Eliot Buchan

Westmount artist Nina Favata has just completed her latest mural—and her mission to convert the drab clinics and wards of the Montreal Children's Hospital into a brighter atmosphere is one step closer to completion.

Favata, a resident of Parkman Place, recently adorned a corridor with African butterflies and vines to lift the spirits of the long queues of children waiting for MRI tests.

"Kids in these lines can become so nervous about these tests to the point of nausea," Favata said, adding that her aim is to reduce the anxiety of these kids by grabbing their attention, stimulating their imagination and making an unpleasant process a lot less intimidating.

For more than two years now, Favata has been using the Montreal Children's Hospital as her canvas. A trained commercial artist who wanted "to do something for children with my artwork," Favata initially became involved with the hospital as a volunteer, but was so taken by the

cause that she turned the project into a full-time labour of love. While juggling the demands of single-handedly raising a child, she has painted nearly 20 different images in more than a dozen rooms in the hospital.

Favata is not the only Westmounter who has devoted her energies to sprucing up the Children's Hospital. Arlington Avenue resident Mary Catherine Carmel has also been working to that end through her organization Room For Change.

One part of the hospital, the medical imaging area, was once a place where a waiting child could focus only on the equipment and tests awaiting them. Now, two curious zebras peer into the waiting room through an imaginary window, while giraffes, ostriches and gazelles roam an African savannah behind them.

The same transformation has taken place in the chemotherapy ward, but this time small yachts sail upon a gentle breeze in a beach-fringed seascape. The palliative care room now hosts a springtime scene filled with busy birds, soft light and green buds emerging on the tips of

trees. The day surgery recovery room is beautifully filled with vibrant fish and water plants, as if a 20-foot long aquarium had magically been inserted in the wall.

Manon Champagne, a childlife specialist for nine years in the haematology and oncology day centre, glows about the new presence of Favata's work. "It tells the children that they are in a place that cares for them," she said. "It makes them feel calmer and much more welcome. The children always choose the beds close to the paintings. One mother said recently that they wanted to be on the beach and that's why they sat close to the seascape painting."

Favata's work has had a considerable impact on the hospital, but there is still much that needs to be done. Asked about further potential canvases both in the hospital and other needy institutions, Favata replied, "You couldn't do it in a lifetime."

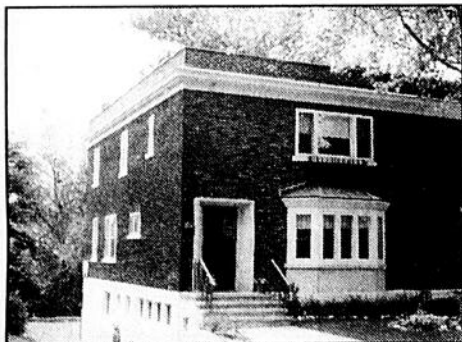
The compassion Favata feels for her audience has revealed a new-

found depth of creativity in her art. "I'm inspired in a way that I never thought I could be," she said. "I'm reaching far, far out with my work. There's no end to the ideas and possibilities, here or at other places."

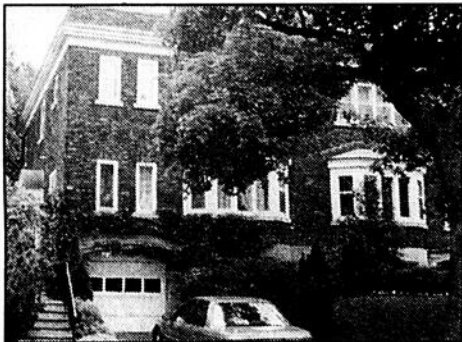
Funding is completely through community and business generosity and is an endless campaign, but is something Favata works hard at because she is passionate about what she is doing. "Nobody loses here, everyone wins," she pointed out. Indeed, she finds that sponsors are most satisfied with the tangible results of her work, both on the wall and (mostly) in the moods of the children.

Donations can be made out to the Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation and should indicate that they are intended for the Nina Favata Creations for Children Fund. The MCH Foundation office is at 1 Place Alexis Nihon, Suite 1420, Montreal Quebec, H3Z 3B8. Telephone (514) 934-4846. Nina Favata can be contacted at (514) 486-0802.

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No Early Birds is vintage Phillips

Wayne Larsen

About a year ago, I bumped into Ted Phillips at a local literary gathering and we paused to chat. In the course of our conversation, I ventured to ask one of the questions most often put to authors: Do you have a new book coming out soon?

Although writers are generally loathe to discuss any work in progress, the familiar white-haired gentleman—whose formidable literary reputation has been built largely upon witty satires set in his beloved Westmount—could not help but enthusiastically.

"I'm working on a new novel," he offered. "It's about three middle-aged women in upper Westmount who hold a garage sale."

That was it. No long-winded descriptions of plot or character—just a one-sentence synopsis, and it already sounded funny.

For those who have delighted in any or all of the author's previous novels—especially the acclaimed Geoffrey Chadwick mysteries—'No Early Birds,' the much-anticipated tale of "three middle-aged women in upper Westmount who hold a garage sale," offers another peek at this city's vanishing breed of WASP matrons through a deft combination of compassion and humour, all in Phillips's trademark brand of breezy, lighthearted prose.

Set above The Boulevard on fictional Mayfair Crescent, 'No Early Birds' examines the intricate threads that make up the interrelationships of its three main characters as they gather to prepare for the sale in a series of brief scenes fuelled by wine, Scotch and the witty repartee typical of those who populate Phillips's fictional world.

Comic touches abound, particularly when the women take to bullying overzealous browsers—refusing to do business with dealers, keeping 'early birds' at bay, and, since the proceeds are earmarked for charity (a fact neither reader nor browser is ever allowed to forget), refusing to budge on the set prices.

But despite the inherent humour, those expecting a rollicking, all-out satire on Westmount and its perceived stereotypes will be a bit disappointed on that front. Aside from dabs of local colour such as threatening to call Public Security to remove an unwanted guest or worrying that a summoned cab might not find its way up the hill, this is not a novel specifically about Westmount—nor does it pretend to be. It is almost entirely about its characters, most of whom happen to live here, and it could just as easily have been set in any affluent neighbourhood with the same resounding

success—a sentiment no doubt echoed by the author's many readers across the country who would not be expected to get the subtle local references.

The main thrust of the novel lays in the observation that even the most solid, lifelong friendships can be built on a fragile foundation. In this case the fatal

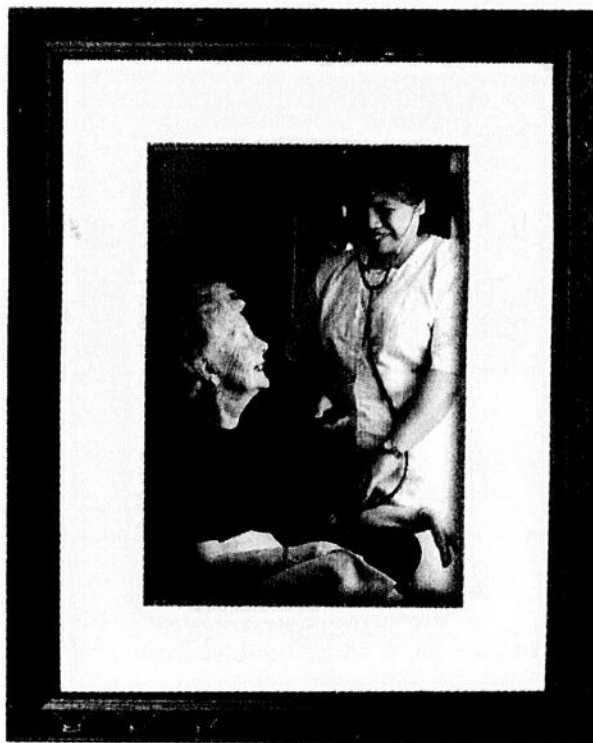
crack appears with the chance discovery of a relic accidentally included among the garage sale items—a small book bearing an extremely personal inscription.

A few weeks ago it was announced that Phillips has moved out of his favourite literary stomping ground in favour of an apartment downtown. He has, however,

indicated that he has no intention of abandoning Westmount as the inspiration and setting for his delightful novels—of which 'No Early Birds' is a perfect example.

'No Early Birds' by Edward O. Phillips is published by The Riverbank Press and available at most bookstores.

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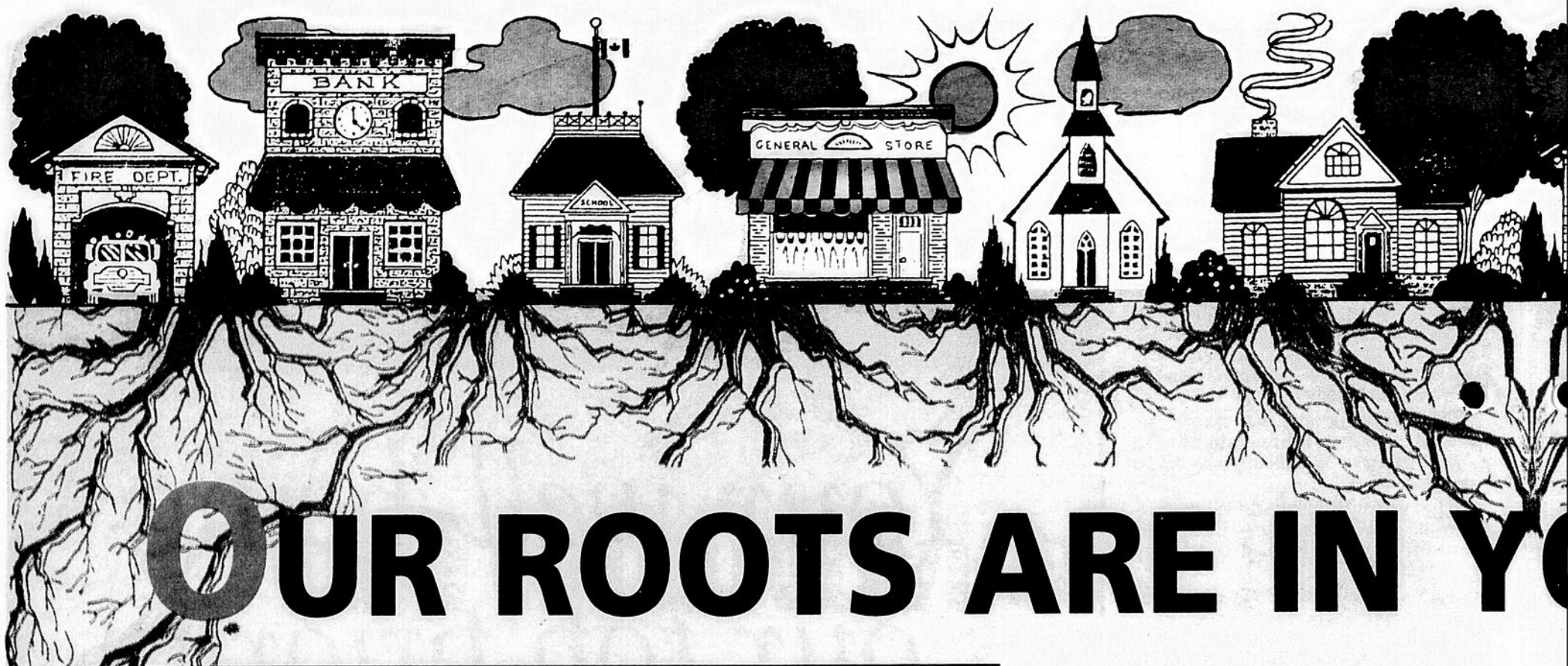
NO EARLY BIRDS

a novel

Edward O. Phillips



Edward O. Phillips's latest novel



A letter, from the mayor of Westmount

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The merchants represented on the following pages have developed deep roots in the community by virtue of their many years of service to Westmount residents. So it is with pride that I salute these participating businesses and wish them continued success in the future.

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(continued from page 7)

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The selection can vary from one location to the other. The photograph may not portray exact sale items. While quantities last.

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- 815 patients en attente
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Président des gouverneurs
Président



La Fondation
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du Québec

Thierry Vandal
Vice-président
exécutif, production

Hydro
Québec

Benoit Larocque
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GROSSE ÎLE

The Quarantine Station

«We cannot change the past - but we must not forget it.
Let us ensure that the tragedy of Grosse Île, the bravery
of Grosse Île is never forgotten and never denied.»

Her Excellency Madam Mary McAleese,
President of Ireland
During a visit to Grosse Île
October 11th 1998

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World War. In 1847, it was the site of a tragedy when more than
5,000 immigrants, for the most part Irish, fell victim to typhoid.

VISIT • The Celtic cross
• The Irish cemetery
• The Irish Memorial
• The disinfection building
• The first-, second- and third-class hotels
... and much more by trolley train !

FERRIES Regular departures from May to Mid-October,
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Grosse Île and the Irish Memorial
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA

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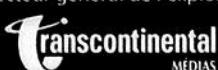
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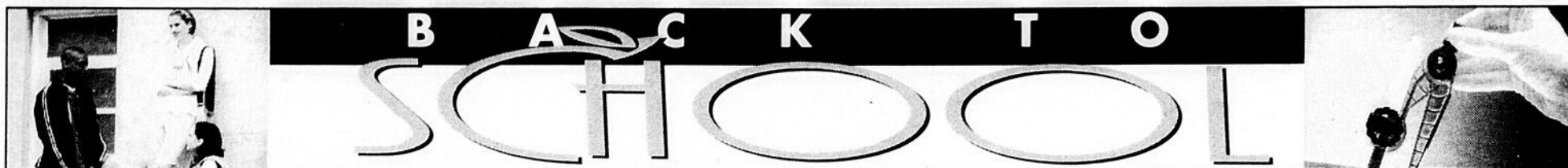
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Finding the right school bag

It goes without saying that kids will be a lot happier if they are able to choose a school bag that they like. Like adults, current trends often dictate their choice of style and colours. In fact, for many kids, identifying with a certain group might play a bigger role than personal taste when it comes to such types of decisions.

But a school bag is more than just a fashion accessory, it's also a school item that should above all be practical. It should also be fairly durable and resistant. What's more, it should be large enough to accommodate all the books and school materials that your child will have to lug around every day. And naturally, opting for a waterproof material will pay off in the long run.

But there's also a question of ergonomics. Your child will be carrying this same bag for approximately the same amount of time each and every day. This will obviously have some type of impact on his or her body. A heavy bag carried on just one shoulder requires the body to compensate by leaning. That's why it's best to choose a bag that can easily be worn on both shoulders, such as a backpack, which is designed so that it won't cause injury to the body. Of course, if your child has developed a bad habit of carrying his or her backpack on only one shoulder, the benefits of this type of bag are eliminated. So don't forget to encourage your child to carry his or her backpack properly.



FORTUNATELY, it's possible to find backpacks that have both the features parents want and the styles children will love.

What's for lunch?

When it comes to the lunch your child takes to school, above all it must be healthy. The nutrients found in a healthy meal will help keep his or her energy levels up and prevent fatigue from setting in during the afternoon.

The best time to plan lunches is when you do your weekly grocery shopping. The first step is to find out what you already have in your cupboards. Then check your weekly flyers for specials. At the supermarket, stock up on fruit juice, fresh fruit and vegetables as well as dried fruit and crackers.

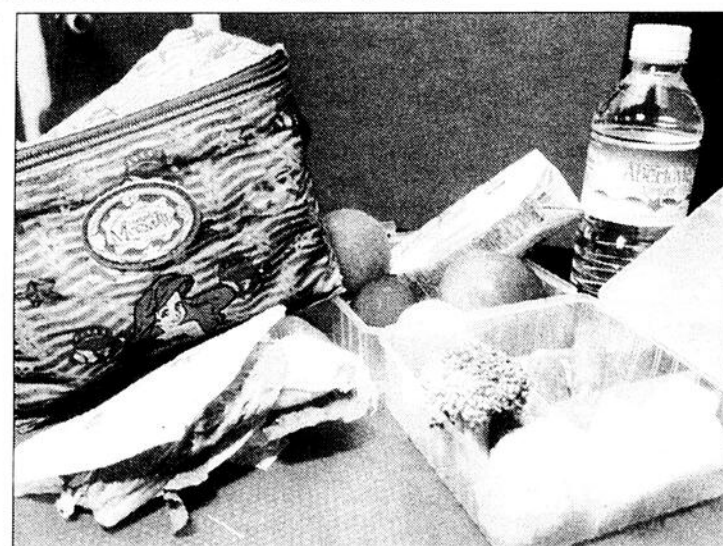
At home, you can save time by preparing enough raw vegetables in advance to last the entire week. And when you bake, freeze cookies, muffins, etc. in individual portions. That way your kids will be able to enjoy lunches that are both nutritious and delicious all week.

Research shows that a healthy, balanced lunch improves performance at work and at school. In order to

create a lunch for your child that provides all the necessary nutrients, select from fruit, vegetables, cereal products, meat, poultry, fish, dairy products, eggs, beans, nuts and grains.

Once you have decided on the right balance, don't forget to add variety to your child's lunch. To avoid monotony, change the bread you use for sandwiches, such as pita, Kaiser, bagel, pumpernickel or whole grain breads. You can also alternate the fillings, such as cold cuts, cheese, egg, fish or veggie pâté. You can also prepare salads for your child's lunchbox, such as bean, spinach or pasta salads. The possibilities are endless.

Finally, children who have a variety of food tend to get more fiber in their diet and eat less fatty foods, sugar and salt.



TURN YOUR KIDS' humdrum lunches into something healthy and delicious by keeping things varied.

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Start the day off right!

Eating a healthy breakfast is especially important for children. Studies show that children who eat breakfast have more energy, get more vitamins and minerals in their diet and are more attentive in school compared to children who skip this meal. Cereal and milk, toast with cheese or peanut butter and a glass of juice or fresh fruit are common ingredients to a healthy breakfast.

Fortunately, most children love cereal. But how can you make sure your child's cereal is nutritious? Many manufacturers add vita-

mins and minerals to their cereal to make up for any nutritional losses occurred during production. But that doesn't mean all cereals are the same. When choosing cereal, consider its sugar, fat and protein levels. To be considered a good source of complex carbohydrates, cereal should have at least 10 mg of starch per serving. To be considered a good source of fiber, cereal should have at least two grams of fiber per serving. In addition, each serving should have about three grams of protein and no more than five grams of sugar.

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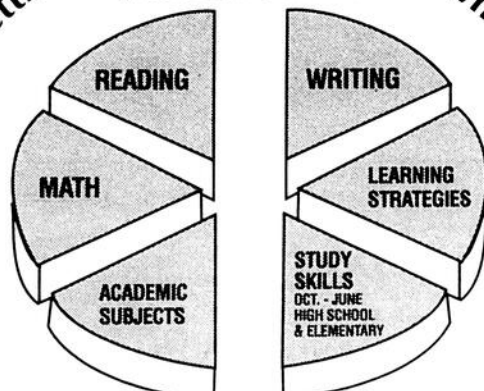
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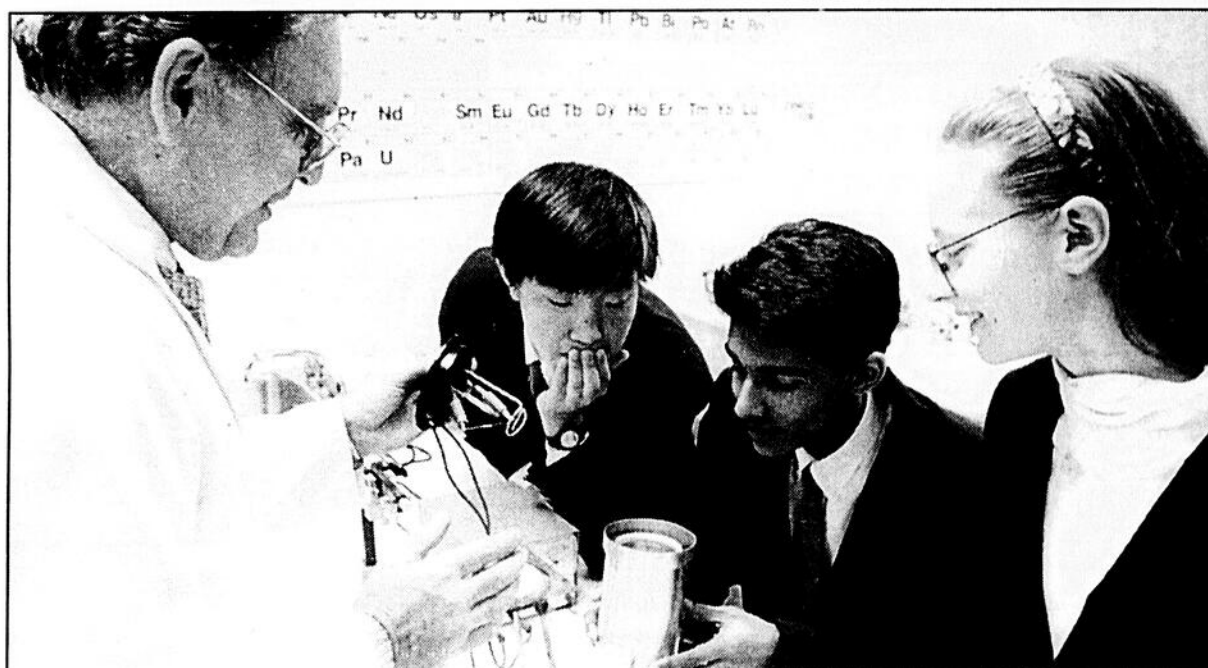
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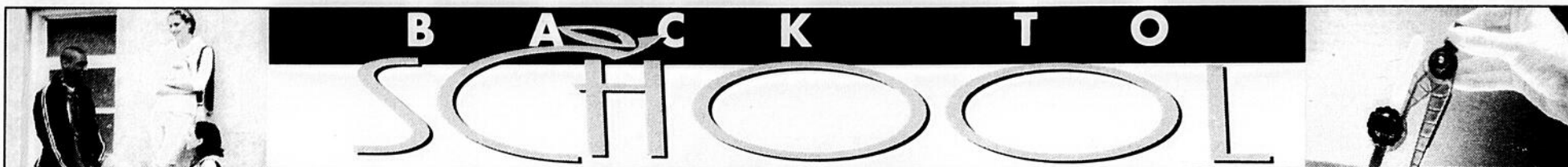
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If the shoe fits...

It's back to school time and that means stocking up on school supplies and new school clothes for the kids.

But don't forget about new shoes! And as every parent knows, kids are just like adults; they have their own

preferences when it comes to choosing styles and colours. Parents also know that an entire industry has been built around kids' shoes. But when it comes time to buy, don't just focus on the latest styles; make sure the shoe fits!

Pediatricians and chiropodists agree: children should wear properly fitting shoes from the time they first learn to walk. This means staying away from shoes that don't fit well, hand-me-down shoes from older siblings and shoes of poor quality.

Shoes should always fit properly: not too loose and not too tight. They should be both soft and hard at the same time; soft enough so that they don't squeeze the foot and prevent it from growing properly, but hard enough to provide support. They should also have anti-slip soles to prevent acci-

dents. Kids grow quickly and so do their feet! It's important to make sure the shoes they wear are appropriate.

So who decides which shoes to buy? Most parents find that around the ages of six or seven, children want to start making this decision themselves. Once kids hit adolescence, peer pressure starts to play a larger role.



THIS SCHOOL YEAR, make sure your kids are comfortable by buying quality shoes that fit well.

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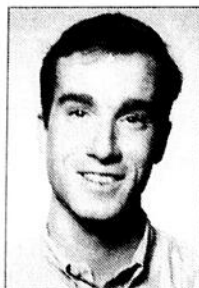
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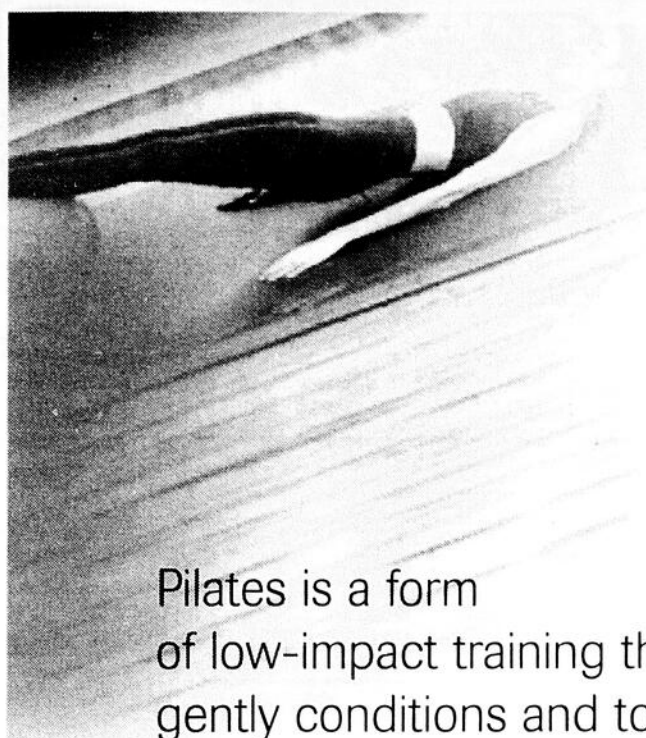
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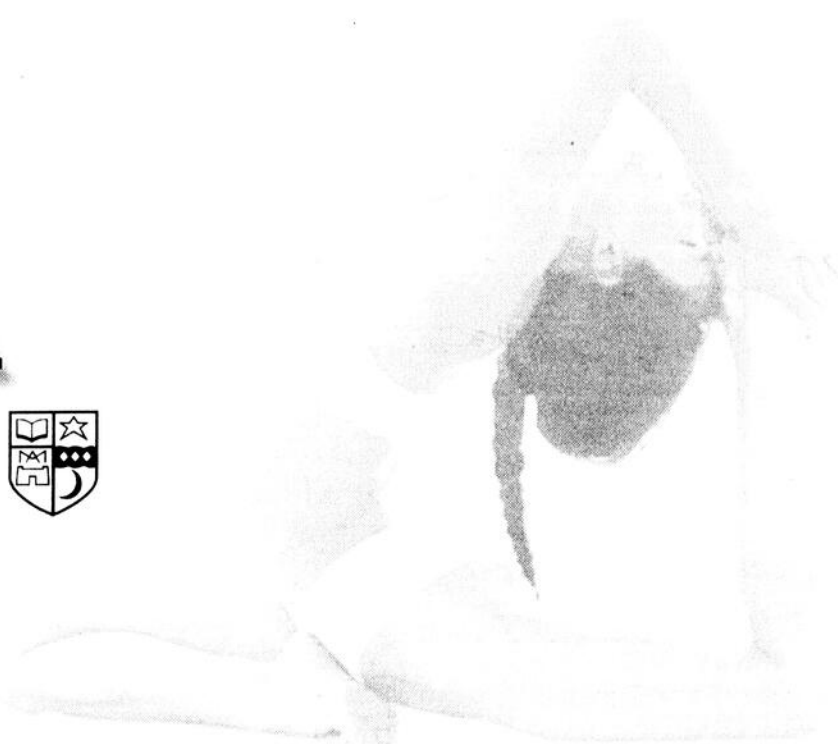
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Discrimination is unlawful. Positions advertised in these columns are offered equally to men and women.

AVIS
Nous désirons aviser notre clientèle que le centre d'appels des annonces classées sera fermé:
LUNDI, 3 SEPTEMBRE 2001

ADVICE
We would like to advise our clientele that the classified ads' calls center will be closed on:
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3rd 2001

105 Properties for sale
DUPEX 7-rooms Bathroom. Basement. Bruce street \$325,000. Upper for rent \$1,100/ month (514)933-2357

120 Open houses
WESTMOUNT Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. bright gray stone cottage with apartment, separate entrance, authentic renovation, immediate occupancy, \$399,000, 4172 Dorchester, corner Greene Avenue, call: (514)938-1264

130 Properties wanted
HOUSE wanted, couple interested in purchasing property privately: cottage, duplex or coach-house. Linda (514)989-2221

140 Businesses for sale
WELL established audio/ video service center in BC. Excellent earning record, rapid service growth, several contracts with major manufacturers. Substantial loyal client base and walk-in traffic. Price \$695,000.00 buildings & service vehicles extra. Call 604-737-2850 or accounting@telus.net

160 Lots for sale
TERRAINS 2500\$, 0.07\$ pi.ca., St-Zénon, financement 0%, accès lac. (450)884-1515

205 Flats/apartments for rent
WESTMOUNT: 3-1/2, heated, beautiful sunny large apartment, facing a park. \$675 per month, (514)939-0613

250 Nursing/retirement homes

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240 Rooms for rent
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260 Cottages for rent
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285 Garages/parking for rent
COVERED parking space: lane below Dorchester/ Greene Avenue, monthly, (514)933-6219

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310 Miscellaneous for sale
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Bulletin Board

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

Tuesday, Sept. 4

Girl Guides registration from 7 to 8 p.m. at St. Andrew's-Dominion-Douglas Church, Lansdowne and The Boulevard. Female volunteers 18 and over are also sought to help with activities. Info: Julie Demole at 574-6653 or Joan Dickson at 487-2947.

Marriage Information Meeting at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, 395 Elm Ave., at 5:30 p.m. Couples considering intermarriage or conversion by one partner before marriage are invited to learn of Temple's policies and practices. Info: 937-3575.

Wednesday, Sept. 5

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Information Night at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, 395 Elm Ave., at 7:30 p.m. Info: 937-3575.

Thursday, Sept. 6

'Conservatory', an exhibition by Doreen Lindsay, opens in The Gallery at Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke, with a vernissage at 6 p.m. Exhibition continues through Oct. 10. Info: 989-5226.

Westmount Scouting registration from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Westmount Park Church, 4695 de Maisonneuve, for all groups (2nd Westmount, Westmount Park, Tamarack Venturers (Fire Department), Phoenix Rovers and St. Andrew's Rover Crew). Fees are \$65 per person. Scouting is co-ed, which means girls can also join all sections for the exciting program offered by Scouts Canada. The age groups are: Beavers (5-7 years), Cubs (8-10 years), Scouts

(11-13 years), Venturers (14-17 years), Rovers (18-26 years). Contact Shirley Carreiro at 486-8681 or 486-9825 and leave a message

Saturday, Sept. 8

The Westmount Youth Orchestra holds auditions for new musicians at Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke. New season includes works by Holst, Dvorak, Elgar, Stravinsky and Weber. For information contact artistic director Mark Simons at 248-9074.

Selichot Study 'Everything You Always Wanted to Know About the High Holydays: Tradition Spirituality and Song,' at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, 4100 Sherbrooke, at 8 p.m. Info: 937-3575.

Tuesday, Sept. 11

Westmount Horticultural Society meets from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Westmount Room, Westmount Public Library, 4574 Sherbrooke. Mark Pantrey will speak about 'Making an Attractive Winter Garden' with tips and suggestions. Annual membership \$15; guest fee \$5. Info: 989-7939

Entre Nous Senior Group at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, 395 Elm Ave., presents 'Rediscovering the Jewish Artist in Modern Europe, 1870-1920', a fascinating discussion with Dr. Loren Lerner. Brown bag lunch at noon, program at 1 p.m. \$1. Info: 937-3575.

Intro to Judaism: A 15-week course

taught by Rabbis Lerner and Bykova at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom begins at 5:45 p.m. Open to the entire community. Info: 937-3575.

Ongoing

Sue Rusk's fitness classes are back at St. Andrew's-Dominion-Douglas Church, Lansdowne and The Boulevard, with Norma Sherman on piano. Classes are Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., beginning Sept. 10. Info: 934-5083.

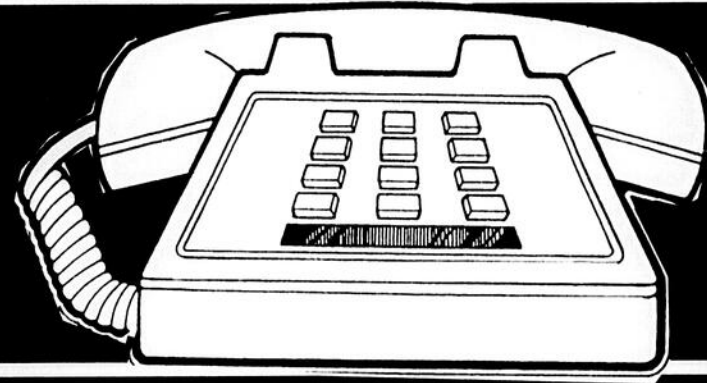
Aimeriez-vous chanter dans un chœur local? Le Chœur Saint-Léon de Westmount recrute de nouveaux membres pour la saison 2001-2002. Renseignements: Chantal Rioux (450) 653-0037.

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

Do you have historic photos? Westmounter Janet MacKinnon is working on her Masters thesis on the development of Côte-St-Antoine, and is looking for historic photographs of the area. Of interest are the early houses and farms in Westmount. Please contact Janet at janetm@total.net.

Balady dance classes at Centre Greene: Beginner and advanced, morning and evening classes. Registration has begun for Fall 2001 session. Info: 931-6202 or 483-0972.

CLIP & SAVE



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Be prepared! Clip and save this handy reference guide of useful numbers and important emergency services.

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Householders are notified that there will be
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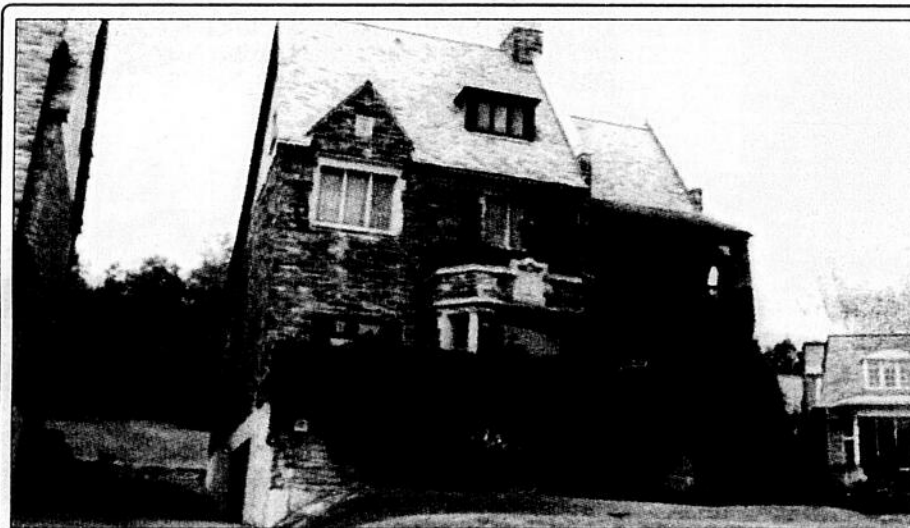
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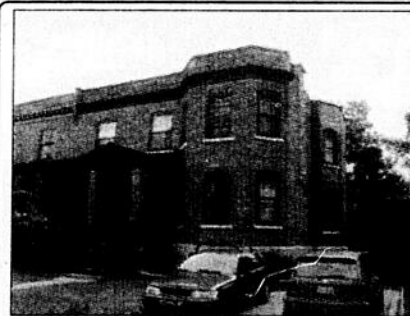
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