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# Examiner

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Vol. LXVIII

Westmount, Quebec, Thursday, May 2, 1996

No. 18

## Electricity bills set to increase 2.5 per cent

City looking for new deal with Hydro

By Michael Bourguignon  
The Examiner

If you're planning on doing your laundry, loading up the dishwasher and putting dinner on the stove while your children watch television tonight, think again.

Westmount council Tuesday approved an average utility rate increase of 2.5 per cent, based on the new fee schedule imposed on the city by Hydro Quebec. The increase takes effect May 1.

People who use less electricity, say 900 kilowatt-hours for the month, may see an increase of less than one per cent. High-end users, however, those who use an average of 10,000 kilowatt-hours, will see an increase of as much as 4 per cent.

Director-general Bruce St. Louis said the city is compelled by law to charge the same rate Hydro Quebec charges other residential customers. "Whether you live in Westmount, Montreal West or Chibougamau, (residential customers) all have to pay the same rate."

(See BILLS, page 8)



### Mirror, mirror

Antique hunters Chris Brown (sampling top hat) and Shelby Goodman of Côte St. Luc check their reflection in a mirror at the Westmount Antique Show and Sale held on the weekend at the Westmount Arena. The pair were checking out items in the booth of Jill Marvin, who sells antique linens and lace.

Photo by CLIFF SKARSTEDT

## Fewer PSOs on night patrol

'Shuffle won't hurt safety': director

By Michael Bourguignon  
The Examiner

Westmount's public security department has cut one officer from its night patrol to serve the new role of community relations officer, but the reduced surveillance doesn't mean Westmounters are any less protected, says public security director Richard McEnroe.

"We have a minimum manpower of two, although in some cases we will have four officers on duty," McEnroe explained. "Two is sufficient because if a major event is occurring, [one officer] has the other as a backup, and if need be, he can call Station 23."

### Two on shift

McEnroe said three PSOs usually patrol the night shift, from 11 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. It used to be four, but the city cut one position, replacing it with a full-time community relations officer whose duties also include foot and bicycle patrols.

The night shift can sometimes be reduced to two officers during holidays or if one of the officers on duty calls in sick.

Last winter, merchants met with MUC Police Station 23 and

Westmount city officials to discuss concerns over a rash of break-ins and armed robberies on Greene Avenue.

Kathleen Duncan, coordinator of the Greene Avenue Merchants' Association, said the situation has improved greatly in recent months, mainly because of stepped-up patrols on the part of police from Station 23.

She said if fewer public security officers are on duty at night, the fact more MUC police patrols are on the road tips the balance against any potential problems.

"Police surveillance has been increased on Greene Avenue, and by and large, the merchants are very happy about it," she said.

While the night shift for Public Security can sometimes end up with just two officers, McEnroe noted the community relations officer can be called in to work the night shift if need be.

"We can call upon him if we have to, because his primary function is that of a public security officer." Also, the city uses police technology students from May 15 to the end of August. They do foot patrols, but McEnroe said a crossover between shifts sometimes places them on night duty.

## Lansdowne family finds furry friend

Squirrel a cordial critter, but needs to be released: group

By Michael Bourguignon  
The Examiner

Michel Fortier was engaged in the solitary task of painting his car Monday afternoon when he unexpectedly made a friend.

"I was doing some body work on the car when I first saw him. I looked down, and he was just there, watching me paint."

It was an unusually friendly and fearless squirrel.

"He started following me around; he was always within a few inches of my feet."

Fortier figured he had stumbled on an orphan, or rather, an orphan had stumbled onto him.

'Surprise,' as his wife, Paz, dubbed their visitor, was not the first squirrel to cross his path—or his threshold.

"I had a squirrel a few years ago for 10 days," Fortier said. "I had an old, 20-pound cat who was a hunter, and he got this squirrel.



Michel Fortier holds Surprise, a tame squirrel.

The thing was in shock for 24 hours." When the animal later tried to escape, the cat killed it.

One of the Fortiers' current cats, the 17-pound Rasputin, had a different reaction to Surprise.

"He just backed away," and the

squirrel actually chased him."

Surprise was only around a couple of hours when the Fortiers decided to consult a vet about what to do. They were told to call Urban Animal Advocates, which rescues, cares for and releases wild animals in distress.

UAA spokesman André Malouf cringes when he hears tales of people taking in wild animals as pets. "Well-meaning people hand-

(See SQUIRREL, page 5)

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Westmount

**INFORMATION**

**SÉANCES PUBLIQUES / PUBLIC MEETINGS**

Lundi le 6 mai 1996 / Monday 6th May 1996  
 Séance régulière du Conseil - 20 h 00  
 Regular Council meeting - 8:00 p.m.  
 Hôtel de ville / City Hall  
 4333 Sherbrooke  
 Pour renseignements / For information 989-5318

**TRAVAUX PUBLICS/PUBLIC WORKS - COMPOSTEURS DOMESTIQUES/ BACKYARD COMPOSTERS**

La Ville offre aux citoyens de Westmount deux modèles de composteurs: • L'Enviro-Cycle rotatif à 30,00 \$  
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 POUR RENSEIGNEMENTS: 989-5268

The City of Westmount is offering to residents two types of composters: • rotating Enviro-Cycle at \$30.00  
 • stationary Earth Machine at \$20.00

They can be purchased at City Hall where they are readily available to pick-up or they can be delivered to your home.

FOR INFORMATION: 989-5268

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**19H00 À 20H00**  
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Le produit de cette vente sera remis à la bibliothèque de Westmount pour l'achat de livres ou de vidéocassettes de jardinage.

Pour plus de renseignements, communiquez avec Hélène Mitko au 989-5276.

**Horticultural Advisory Committee**

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 PLANT DROP OFF - A voucher will be given for each plant (Please limit to three plants of each variety)

**THURSDAY, 16 MAY 1996 - 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.**  
 PLANT PICK UP - Vouchers will be redeemed

&  
 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.  
 The remaining plants will be sold.

Proceeds will be donated to the Westmount Library towards the purchasing of gardening books or videos

For additional information, please contact Hélène Mitko at 989-5276.

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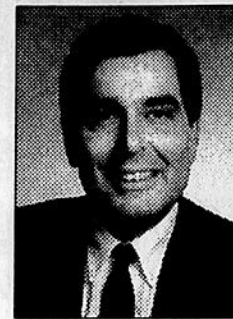
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Michael Lally

**Westmount Community Calendar**

**Thursday, May 2**

**Book Fair at Selwyn House School**, May 2 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., May 3 from 8 a.m. to noon. In support of Books for Belize Project run by library.

**Student Film Fest at St. George's School**, 3100 The Boulevard, May 2 and 3 at 7:30 p.m. Films produced, acted and filmed by students, from experimental, documentary to traditional narrative. Tickets \$4 in advance, \$5 at door. 937-9289.

**Red Cross Blood Donor Clinic at Montreal General Hospital**, 1650 Cedar Ave., Livingston Hall Lounge, May 2, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Refreshments, door prizes.

**Friday, May 3**

**Spring and Summer Bazaar at St. Leon de Westmount Church**, 310 Clarke Ave., corner de Maisonneuve. Friday, May 3 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday, May 4 from 9 a.m. to noon. Clothing, picture frames, books, garden accessories, luggage and bags, and more.

**Storytellers Guild of Montreal** meets May 3, 8-10 p.m. at Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater Ave. Listeners, tellers welcome. \$3, \$2 students, seniors. 486-1791.

**Temple Emanu-El: Mark Rosenblum**, founder & political director of Americans for Peace Now, will speak on The State of the Peace Process in the Middle East on May 3 at 8:15 p.m., 4100 Sherbrooke St. W.  
**Craft Fair at Lower Canada College** on May 3 from 3 to 7 p.m. & May 4 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 4090 Royal Avenue, N.D.G.

**Saturday, May 4**

**Black Watch** presentation of Breath of Scotland concert at Westmount High School on May 4 at 8 p.m. Tickets: 685-0858.

**Book signing** by Ahmad Bedier (of Eddie Coiffeur) and John Worrall, authors of Rage in the Heart, at the Double Hook on May 4 from 2-4 p.m.

**Tuesday, May 7**

**Entre Nous Group** of Temple Emanu-El presents Lucille Rouleau-Ross, president of the Osteoporosis Society, on May 7. Noon-brown bag lunch, 1 p.m.-program. 395 Elm Ave. 937-3575.

**Thursday, May 9**

**Open Gate Gala Fundraiser**, an evening of supper and bridge, on Thursday, May 9 at 6 p.m. at Shaar Hashomayim Synagogue. Proceeds to support Open Gate, a weekly day-out program that meets needs of frail and isolated elderly with transportation, painting and handicrafts, bingo, hot lunch. Gala tickets: Mavis Solloway at 486-0458 or Elsa Hoffman at 489-3372.

**Saturday, May 11**

**Spring Rummage and Bake Sale**, Church of the Advent, corner de Maisonneuve and Wood, opposite Dawson College, Saturday, May 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Clothing, furniture, books, jewellery, toys and fresh-baked goods.

**Miss Edgar's and Miss Cramp's School Rummage Sale**, Saturday, May 11, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Donations accepted May 10 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Info: 935-6620.

**HEALTH NOTES**

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# Resident wins regional gardening prize

Linda Seltzer's love of gardening has earned her the Regional Quebec Gardening Prize for the Island of Montreal and Laval.

The Edgehill Road resident won top honours in the category of Grand Prix du Jardinage Québécois — plants, flowers and gardening.

Seltzer's garden, which has won numerous prizes in Westmount's Maisons Fleuries contest including an Award of Excellence last year, represented the Island of Montreal and Laval at the provincial finals.

The contest was organized by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Foods of Quebec, in collaboration with Flowers, Plants and Gardens.

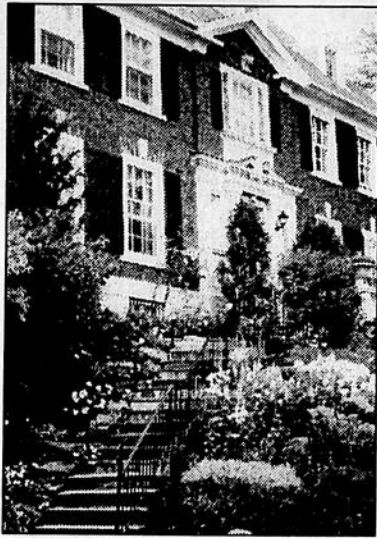
"I didn't really think about winning," Seltzer said Tuesday. "I just do it because I like it."

She has been gardening most of her life. The garden that has won her so many prizes has been a work in progress for the past eight years.

"I've been developing it," she said. "It's the same garden, but I add to it every year."

She admits to sometimes coming home from work at 11 p.m. and, on warm nights, puttering in the garden for half an hour.

According to the judges, Seltzer's garden, which she said consists mainly of perennials, stands out because of its contrasts. On the front slope of the garden,



Edgehill Road home of Westmounter Linda Seltzer.

Seltzer has created an enormous rock garden, every inch of which is covered with either rocks or plants.

The judges also took note of how well the various flower beds go together.

Seltzer's garden was nominated by Hélène Mitko, an assistant in the director-general's office of the city of Westmount, and a coordinator of this year's Maisons Fleuries contest.

"We were asked to nominate someone, and we thought she had the best garden," Mitko said.

Representing the city of Westmount in a provincial competition was the greatest honour,

## Maisons Fleuries judges waiting for better weather

Spring gardeners have a few weeks' grace to get their gardens up to snuff for the Maisons Fleuries contest, and they have rotten weather to thank for it.

"The judging has been put off because we don't have any flowers," said Hélène Mitko, one of the contest's coordinators. "We're going to wait until the weather is better and the gardens are ready to judge."

The original deadline to enter the Spring Garden category was April 12, but Mitko said organizers will continue to accept application forms for about another week and a half.

"The judges will probably be going out in two weeks," she said.

The situation doesn't affect the contest's two other categories, Summer Garden and Secret Garden, which will not be judged until July.

Seltzer said.

The contest was created to recognize those who have contributed to the beautification of Quebec.

Nearly 150 gardening enthusiasts participated in the inauguration of this contest.

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## Police launch safe cycling campaign

MUC police plan to keep a close eye on the riding habits of cyclists over the next month and will hand out warnings and even fines if the rules of safe cycling are not obeyed.

"At Station 23, we're going to focus particular attention on making sure the rules are respected,"

## Car crashes into porch

Westmount police and fire crews were called to the scene of a car accident at 450 Claremont on Thursday, April 25 shortly past noon.

A car driven by an 85-year-old male crashed into and demolished the porch of the house, which is on Claremont just above Sherbrooke. No one was injured.

In another incident, a 1990 Mercedes suffered about \$20,000 damage when a fire broke out under the dash. The car fire occurred at 345 Redfern Ave. on Tuesday, April 23 at 3:30 p.m.

said crime prevention officer Lise Bergeron. The campaign, which runs until May 31, is intended to reduce the number of traffic accidents involving cyclists.

In 1995, 1,260 cyclists were involved in collisions with automobiles and six cyclists died in such collisions. That compares to 1,267 cycling-related accidents and seven deaths in 1994.

Police want to remind cyclists that they are subject to the same traffic rules as motorists, who will also be closely watched during the campaign to ensure they respect their obligations toward cyclists.

Police will enforce the Code de la sécurité routière (CSR).

In cases where the code is contravened by a cyclist under the age of 14, police will issue a verbal warning and send a letter to parents. Those aged 14-15 will receive a warning in the form of a ticket, while anyone aged 16 and over will receive a ticket and fine, the amount of which will vary depending on the nature of the infraction. A 48-hour warning will be issued to anyone 14 and over who is riding a bike that does not conform to safety standards under the CSR.

## No helmet crackdown planned for Tour

Westmount Public Security will not attempt to enforce the city's mandatory bicycle helmet bylaw during the Tour de l'Isle, public security director Richard McEnroe says.

With more than 40,000 cyclists expected to travel through Westmount for the June 2 event, McEnroe said it would be impossible to enforce the year-old bylaw.

Even if only one per cent of the cyclists were to go without a helmet, that would be 400 to 500 riders to chase after in one day. Instead, the city has urged Tour organizers to inform participants of the Westmount bylaw, and to use common sense and wear a helmet.

Riders will travel along Sherbrooke Street and make their first rest-stop at Westmount Park.

A critic of the Tour de l'Isle, Murray Levine, raised the issue of helmets in a letter to the editor sent to THE EXAMINER in April. Levine has also criticized the Tour for not allowing riders to raise money for charity.

— Bernie O'Neill



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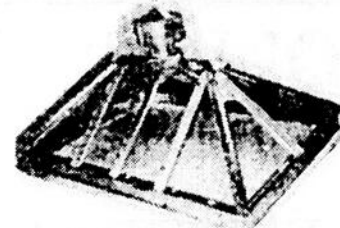
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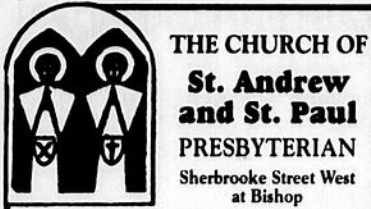


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**Station 23  
police log**  
By BERNIE O'NEILL

**Helmet, traffic  
tickets given to  
teen rollerbladers**

Two young rollerbladers will appear before a judge after giving local police a workout last Thursday.

The youngsters, one 15-year-old from N.D.G. and a 17-year-old from Westmount, reportedly drew the attention of police while skating in traffic on Melville Avenue last Thursday. Neither of the youths was wearing a helmet. It is against municipal bylaws to inline skate on Westmount streets.

Police went by in their car and tried to stop the youths, but the rollerbladers took off, leaving police to try to chase them down on foot.

Two police officers were joined by a third and caught up with the 17-year-old about a block away at Park Place and Academy Road, next to Westmount Park School.

The 15-year-old didn't stop, however. Police went looking for him. He was found shortly afterward hiding in the lobby of an apartment building on St. Catherine Street.

Both teens were issued \$40 tickets for rollerblading on the street.

They also were issued a summons to appear in Youth Court for not wearing a helmet. The minimum fine for the second offence is \$35.

Crime Prevention officer Lise Bergeron said the youths have received no additional charge for trying to elude police.

**Another shopper's  
purse picked**

A local woman told THE EXAMINER this week that her wallet was taken from her purse while she shopped at the Metro store last Thursday, and she wants to warn others.

The woman said two men were coming toward her. They bumped into her while trying to get by and asked her for help in passing something to them. "I should have just bowled my way through," she said. "But then you want to be polite." Her purse was on her shoulder at the time. The wallet was later found under a car on Côte St. Antoine Rd. While the money had been taken, a medicare card and other cards were left alone.

Both men were in their late 20s with short, dark hair and were English speaking.

The incident is identical to two thefts reported at the city's two big grocers in recent weeks. An 84-year-old woman reported her wallet stolen April 12 from the Metro store. A 46-year-old woman's wallet, containing about \$500 in cash, was taken from her purse at the 5 Saisons store at Greene and de Maisonneuve on April 14.

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# Battery bags to energize recycling

By Michael Bourguignon  
The Examiner

Westmount's recycling program will get a boost in the coming weeks as battery-recycling bags are distributed to every Westmount home.

The bright orange bags are intended to be used to store common household batteries, including disposable, rechargeable and button batteries.

They can then be taken for recycling to one of Westmount's permanent battery depots, or to the Household Hazardous Waste Collections (HHW), which this year will be held July 6 and Oct. 17, according to coordinator Maureen Lafrenière.

"We chose a thick plastic bag for storage so it won't break and people will reuse it," she said.

Mayor Peter Trent said the idea for a battery-recycling program goes back a couple of years, and is



Mayor Peter Trent displays handy battery recycling bag.

Photo by MICHAEL BOURGUIGNON

meant to reduce the amount of toxins in the waste stream.

"I've been putting my batteries in a yogurt container," Trent added. "But now I'm going to put

them in this nice bag and take them to the waste yard."

Public Works director Fred Caluori said all the bags should be distributed by the end of May.

## Squirrel not a good pet...

(Continued from page 1)

raise them and then release them, thinking they're ready, but what you end up with is human-made animal orphans," he said.

When the UAA picked up the squirrel Tuesday, they found it lacked the 'nervous instinct' it needs to survive in the wild.

Malouf and his team of volunteers must now keep the animal for as long as it takes to teach it to be a squirrel again.

"We're going to join it in a group of other squirrels we have," he said. "By being in a group, they develop the behaviour that's natural to that particular species. We'll then release it in the wild if we find it's developing normally."

Aside from the danger of upsetting the balance of nature, taking in wild animals as pets carries with it certain risks for humans, such as the potential for disease, warned Malouf.

Fortier himself is no stranger to urban wildlife. He has shooed away his share of raccoons, and wisely steered clear when a family of skunks marched in single file through his backyard "like a parade."

Malouf recommends that wild animals—no matter how cute and cuddly—be left alone.

"If it's injured, it should be brought to a rehabilitation centre," he said. "Don't feed it, because improvised diets do more harm than good."

If squirrels, birds or other forms of wildlife invade your home, says Malouf, buy a chimney cap and call a professional.

And don't take in everything the cat drags home.

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# Real Estate

By Reg Morden

### AVOID SURPRISE LIENS

Whenever a contractor makes building improvements or constructs a new building -- such as house -- for you, you should always require him to furnish proof that he has paid the businesses furnishing supplies and labor for the job. Otherwise, the unpaid suppliers or sub-contractors could file a statement of lien against your property for the money owed to them.

Even if your general contractor gives you a "waiver of lien" for the work he has done, you are not protected from sub-contractors and suppliers if they have not been paid. They could still get a valid lien against your property if they follow the proper procedures.

More than one property owner has found himself having pay suppliers and sub-contractors even after he has paid the general contractor. Of course, the general contractor is liable to the owner because of this extra payment, but recovery from him can be expensive, difficult, and sometimes impossible.

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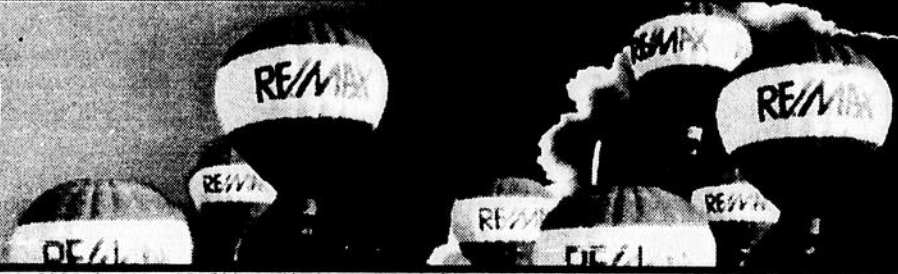
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# THE WESTMOUNT *Examiner*



Published by  
Publications Dumont (1988) Inc.

DUMONT  COGECO

**Publisher:** Robert Fisher  
**Editor:** Bernie O'Neill  
**Staff Reporter:** Michael Bourguignon  
**Circulation & Office Manager:** Stacey Nesmith  
**Advertising Director & Sales Manager:** Peter Yakimchuk  
**Advertising Consultants:** Harvey Aisenthal  
Sandy Cobrin  
Janice Proctor  
**Production Assistant/Distribution:** Louise Pomerleau

210 Victoria Avenue,  
Westmount, PQ H3Z 2M4

Page 6 - Vol. LXVIII, No. 18 Thursday, May 2, 1996

## Hated GST has made liars of us all

It is surprising the level of resentment generated by Sheila Copps with her admission that she was only spouting the usual political BS on the GST back when she was trying to get herself re-elected two years ago.

I mean, you'd think we were taking these politicians at their word, or something. Silly us. What were we thinking?

The fact is we've seen this kind of nonsense before, from every political party in the country. We shouldn't have expected any different from Copps.

Pre-election: "On my word, this government will do this (insert empty election promise here) within the next two years or, or... or I'll resign, by golly! Yes I will! With God as my witness!" Sounds good. So we vote for them. We're not quite sure why. We hope that, yet again, the joke won't be on us.

Fast forward two years. The election promise is broken. Only the politician hopes we've forgotten her pledge to quit. "Who, me? Resign? Why I, er, or, I, hmm, uh...erff, pfff..."

The fact that Sheila Copps was simply yanking our chains two years ago seems worse because this government, more than any in recent memory, got in on a pledge to return some integrity to Ottawa. Now that has all been brought into question, with Copps taking the brunt of it. "But poor Sheila," you might say. "She has bills to pay, too, just like anybody else; it was important for her to get back in there and bump up that MP's pension." Which brings us to another broken Liberal pledge. But that's another story.

Yes, Copps will need that pension, once the humble voters put her out to pasture. But until that day, she's not leaving, even though she promised she would leave if the GST were not scrapped. And they're not scrapping it, Finance Minister Paul Martin revealed in his budget. (John Nunziata voted against the budget and got the gate.)

Since then, the only fun has been watching Copps trying to explain the difference between her statements of yesterday and her actions of today.

Clearly, what us common folk don't seem to understand is that, at the time those promises were made, Sheila was trying to toss out those no good, evil, cheating, lyin', stealin' (did I say lyin'?) Conservatives, who would say anything to get re-elected.

Now it appears the Liberals would say anything, too.

Still, let's not be too hard on Sheila Copps. I mean, since the GST turned us into a country of liars and tax cheats, you might say she is merely acting as a representative of the people; that she is a 'typical Canadian' who finds herself in the position of being forced to lie in order to live with the GST and still make a decent living.

"Lied schmide. Everybody's doing it!" could be her motto.

Everybody gets roofing jobs or car repairs under the table and pays no GST. Everybody hides part of their income from the tax man. Everybody declares expenses they've never really spent. Everybody's cheating the government every day! Or almost everybody. It's a new Canadian pastime, something that's been growing, you might say, ever since the introduction of the GST in the 1980s. "Why should I be any different?" says Copps. "I am simply 'representative of the people!'"

While it's sad to say it, she really is.

That's why, while federal finances are in bad shape and the treasury needs all the tax revenue it can get, doing away with the GST and returning to a hidden tax would have had much merit. Most of all, Canadians would no longer have been reminded of the government every time they made a purchase or looked at a receipt. This might have reversed the trend that has turned so many Canadians from honest, hardworking taxpayers into cynical citizens who almost feel it is their duty to do whatever they can to keep the government's mitts off their money. Even if it means bending the rules to the point of breaking them.

It also would have kept up the faith many people have in the Liberals, a faith that despite this episode, they may still have in the years that lie ahead. (There's that word "lie" again. Oh, dear.) It's interesting that they broke their GST promise to us, just days before we were to file our income-tax returns. Let's hope we were all completely honest.

Copps' final, pathetic spin on the whole episode ("Drop that GST or I'll Resign — Not!") is that if she were to keep her word and quit, it would cost the government a hundred thousand bucks just to hold a by-election to replace her. So you see, she is actually saving us money, in case we didn't realize.

Unfortunately for the Hamilton-area MP, some pesky taxpayers have started sending money to the returning officer to help pay for the vote! It's nice to see people getting involved for once.

Perhaps they could try selling bumper stickers. Charge, say \$2, plus GST, of course, for stickers saying, "Sheila—She lied!" "GST = Get Sheila Turfed," "The Great Canadian Copp-Out," "Copps 'n' Robbers," and so on. Crude but effective. You read it here first.

— Bernie O'Neill



## You Say

### Should we sneeze at unpasteurized cheese?

Letters pages across the land are awash with expressions of anguish over reports the government intends to bar the importation of cheese made with unpasteurized milk because of the threat of a deadly disease. Purists and connoisseurs fear the exquisite taste of fine cheese will be lost forever.

Even politicians, including separatists, have gotten into the act, seeing it as a threat to Quebec's individuality—or something. One Westmounter told the media that Ottawa's ban was a threat to life as he has known it. A Toronto microbiologist, however, has aimed his guns at protesters, citing the most horrible things that might happen if microbes run rampant in unpasteurized cheese. Pregnant women are in particular jeopardy.

I'm in a quandary: My wife and I are planning a dinner party that would include the serving of wine and later cheese and biscuits. Should we tell our guests that the

wine is pasteurized?

Few people seem aware that France showered its highest honors on Louis Pasteur for saving the wine industry of France by coming up with a method for killing microbes at an early stage. This led later to a similar treatment of milk.

(One anguished reader asked in the Gazette: "What next, pasteurized mother's milk?" We already have it: It's called Liebfraumilche and has been sold at Quebec liquor stores for as long as I can remember.)

Living in a city that once rioted against smallpox vaccination and as recently as 40 years ago accepted the Salk vaccine with great reluctance and refuses even today to fluoridate its drinking water, I feel extremely vulnerable.

Should we order pizza—all dressed?

Edward W. Barrett  
Kensington Ave.  
WESTMOUNT

## Library a jewel to discover

It is strange that not all residents of Westmount are members of their municipal library. Last week, I had the opportunity to visit the library with Mrs. Louise Agar, one of the 1995 trustees, along with the assistant to the chief librarian (who unfortunately was ill that day). All Westmounters, actually all Montrealers, should be proud of this true jewel. The Victorian architecture has been renovated and the marriage of the new wing with the century-old section of the library is remarkable.

The municipal council, then under the direction of Mrs. May Cutler and now under Mayor Peter Trent, can boast of not only having saved a historical monument but also of giving Westmount a library with modern, computerized equipment, while keeping the intrinsic qualities of a library whose book collections must cover children, young adults and adults.

There are 130,000 books in total, without counting magazines and periodicals, just waiting for the free spirits to come and read them. Yes, Westmounters are very lucky to have such a wonderful treasure. Good for them!

Let's not forget, however, the difficulties which residents of Little Burgundy face. They are protesting to keep their

## Our MNA

Jacques Chagnon  
says...



neighbourhood library which is very interesting, even if it does not have the Westmount library's extensive book collections.

A neighbourhood or municipal library is an oasis where students can do research and study in peace in a calm and tranquil environment. Children can be initiated into the joys of literature (you can find reading hours now in practically any library) and their imagination can be developed and encouraged.

Adults can also benefit from such a place. They can make the intellectual choices that suit their characters or their tastes at their leisure.

In short, the rejuvenated Westmount library, its personnel and its volunteers, is waiting for you so that Westmount may become the city in Quebec with the highest number of books loaned to its residents (at pro rata to its population).

Meanwhile, we are all waiting for the Quebec government to elaborate on a real policy on establishing municipal libraries.

## Organizational overkill

Whenever government thinks it has a problem, or whenever voters tell politicians they must "do something" about something, officials often fall back on a time-honoured nostrum: the creation of a nice new structure. They'll give the new body some highfalutin generic name such as Agency, Council, Board, or Commission. The voters are happy because the "problem is being addressed." The politicians are happy, as it gives them another soapbox from which to remind the public that "something is being done." And the bureaucrats are happy, as they have yet another opportunity for promotion, new titles, more control...and, therefore, pay raises.

Sometimes, a new organization is the right answer; but the agencies, councils, and commissions that were created by previous responses to "do something" about the same problem are still very much with us. And each body winds up being run by bureaucrats. A board of directors is often a nice touch which lends the appearance of public control and accountability.

The absurd notion shared by the electorate and politicians alike that governments can

actually "create jobs" has led to an orgy of creating structures with precisely such a Pollyannaish goal in mind. The only thing these bodies accomplish is a convoluted form of income redistribution—after, of course, skimming off a goodly amount for operating costs.

An example of such a body is the Regional Development Council of the Island of Montreal. Put together a few years ago to act as a socio-economic planning device and to dispense government hand-outs, the CRDİM wasted no time in building up the requisite encrustation of bureaucrats. It costs them \$1.4 million to give out \$5.1 million of largesse—often to smaller organizations doing the same thing. Apathy at the top level has been such that they had to reduce quorum to only one-third of their 52 council-members. And I'm vice-chairman of this thing!

But I was supposed to talk about the MUC (of which I'm also vice-chairman). While nobody denies the need for an island-wide structure to furnish some common services, the MUC is a rather heavy-handed and sclerotic body that suffers from

### Our Mayor Peter F. Trent says...



a structural overburden. It is also beset with appendages such as public commissions more noted for poor attendance and little media coverage than for any meaningful debate.

Stripped to its essence, the MUC provides police services. Its sister (daughter?) organization, the MUCTC, provides mass transit services. Aside from the \$300 million pass-through the MUC contributes to the MUCTC, the latter is a stand-alone body, with its own chairman and public meetings. Speaking of standing alone, the MUC Police is also pretty much an autonomous body that would still function even if the whole MUC apparatus that sits on top of it were to disappear tomorrow morning.

Is that all the MUC does? Well, not really. Next week, we'll talk about what else it does, and what it should become.

The Westmount Examiner

## EXAMINING THE FILES

55 years ago  
May 1, 1941

**PATRIOTIC PANTY HOSE:** "New types of stockings are beginning to appear in the shops these days, made partly of silk, with a substitute material such as rayon or lisle added. The new hose is the war's latest effect on Milady's wardrobe but, thanks to Canadian manufacturer's ingenuity and adaptability, it is smart and serviceable. A reduction in the use of real silk is being undertaken by Canadian mills in order to save on vital foreign exchange."

45 years ago  
May 4, 1951

**NEW APARTMENT PLANNED:** "Passing citizens who have been wondering about Westmount's current eyesore will be relieved to know that it is about to be demolished—completely. The eyesore, an ancient, decrepit looking mansion bordering on Sherbrooke between Rosemount and Mountain avenues, is to be replaced by a new super-deluxe apartment house. This rather tired looking mansion, badly in need of a coat of paint, falling apart from lack of repair and rot, was of the Victorian style complete with gingerbread frills. Citizens who have remarked that it would have been better to leave it intact rather than in a state of half demolition will be glad to know that there won't be a brick left standing by the end of the week."

35 years ago  
May 5, 1961

**SELWYN BUYS SENIOR HIGH:** "Sale of the Westmount senior high school building, Côte St. Antoine Rd., to Selwyn House School was disclosed Monday by John G. Bourne, 25 Ramezay Rd., chairman, Selwyn board of governors... The private day school for boys admits only that it paid more for the Westmount property than it got from the sale of the school at 3458 Redpath Street to McGill University..."

25 years ago  
May 6, 1971

"Westmount Park School, following several years of mounting parent pressure, finally is to get French immersion instruction. The Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal has announced, following its April meeting last week, that Westmount Park is to be one of six additional elementary schools under its jurisdiction to be granted French immersion in kindergarten in the 1971-72 school year. The move finally puts Westmount Park on the same track enjoyed by Roslyn School for the past four years."

15 years ago  
May 7, 1981

**HEDGE BYLAW:** "Citizens now must apply for permits before planting hedges or building fences on their properties, thanks to a new 'fence and hedge' bylaw approved by city council Monday evening. The city reserves for itself the right to decide on each individual case what is a 'reasonable' hedge at the corner of a property. The bylaw also gives council the power to 'authorize any modification of the height and/or location of a fence,' if it deems the fence unattractive or hazardous."

## Mad Cow disease made me a vegetarian years ago

Talk of 'sponge-like holes in brain' will do it to you

"That Mad Cow disease is going to everyone's head," said my friend in London when I phoned her recently. The Brits are abandoning their traditional penchant for roast beef and Yorkshire pudding for much more exotic fare. Chalked up on a board outside a Norfolk butcher's last week was the following message: WE NOW SELL KANGAROO. EMU. TRY SOME! NEXT WEEK - CROCODILE TAIL."

Butcher Michael Wilby has become accustomed to the lame jokes his customers are making since selling kangaroo meat six months ago.

"Bet it's got aphrodisiac qualities, nudge nudge, give it to a girl and she'll leap on you, ho ho..." However, kangaroo, pre-packed and imported from Australia, is selling well enough in Wilby's shop for him to have the last laugh. You can choose from rump kangaroo steak, diced kangaroo, rolled kangaroo leg and 'roo sausages—and a free recipe leaflet thrown in telling you how to cook kangaroo in chilli-plum sauce or kangaroo stir fry. At \$9 per pound, it's only about 40 cents dearer than beef. If you can find anyone left who's still eating beef.

Even Oprah announced on the air that she wouldn't eat any more beef; the research had really turned her stomach. Urrrrgggh! I know how she feels. I haven't eaten beef for about a decade, around the time when I first heard about mad cow disease, following a report in a British newspaper that this bizarre disease was responsible for putting sponge-like holes in the brains of cows...and possibly humans.

At that time several cases of the rare brain disorder, Creutzfeldt Jakob disease, were being linked to Mad Cow disease—or to give it its proper name, bovine spongiform encephalopathy—which many scientists in Britain believe began when food companies polluted the food chain by feeding cows with sheeps' brains contaminated with scrapie. Then I read about the cannibals of New Guinea being struck down with an epidemic that resembled Mad Cow disease.

It was believed to be spread by the tradition of eating dead tribe members' brains and their fondness for nibbling grey matter. It was enough to put me off steak and kidney pudding for life!

Actually, I can see the sound business sense behind the seemingly crazy idea of selling kangaroo meat. Butchers like Michael Wilby are keeping one jump ahead of their competitors, as the very idea of eating something that might eventually cause the brain to erode with sponge-like holes, would make the most dedicated carnivore give up their juicy piece of rump steak. That, added to the fact that the once stringently conservative British palette has changed irrevocably over the last few years to the extent that its collective willingness to experiment with exotic food has reached dizzying heights, means that the selling of unusual culinary delights is up for grabs.

Also, the boom of foreign travel in the past two decades has whetted their appetites. A Brit who sampled parrot fish on a beach in the Caribbean, for example, might be tempted to try it back home.

### Lots to chose from

My friend told me that in a London supermarket the choice of fruit and vegetables is mystifying. At her local Sainsburys (one of the largest food chains in the country), she found fruits such as kumquats, paw-paws, guavas, starfruits, prickly pear and physalis—the latter fruit she thought sounded "like a disease, but tasted really nice." The veggies sounded even odder: kohlrabi, karelas, gisodas, galangal, dasheens and eddoes. Cook them? I couldn't even spell them! I was about to ask my friend what exactly one would do with the things, when I remembered that I was paying for the transatlantic call. Instead, I thanked her for all the fascinating facts she had supplied me with, and after she hung up I cast my eye over a food article that appeared in the Observer newspaper's Life magazine, which carried an interview with a landlord of a pub in a Kent village, in

### Beside the Point

JAN  
KALUZA



which he espoused putting wild boar, shark and sword fish on the menu.

"People want to eat something they wouldn't have at home," he told Life. "And once they've tried, say, wild boar, and it doesn't get up and bite them, they'll try anything." Even crocodile! Although, seeing that crocs are farmed in Zimbabwe, suppliers in Britain are having difficulty securing regular delivery. Wild boar and venison, both farmed in Britain, are proving such a huge hit with Joe consumer that a supermarket chain now stocks them in a hundred of its stores.

Fishmongers face a particular problem with an increasing shortage of fish in British waters. Cod is in long-term decline because of over-fishing, and the industry is desperate for an alternative. Ling, a fish apparently similar to cod, and caught in British waters, is reputedly selling "like hot cakes."

There's also the exotic fish, the tilapia, which is very pretty and looks rather like the family goldfish. It is now being farmed in Britain and is giving the good old trout a run for its money. Some marine biologists believe that in time it could become the aquatic answer to chicken.

Actually, I find it all a trifle stomach-churning. Emu steak in red wine with chopped bacon, onion and garlic might taste as succulent as fillet steak, (and with a fat content of less than 3 per cent and fewer than 150 calories per 100 grams, a healthy alternative).

I just wonder what kind of nouvelle cuisine we'll be tucking into in the future. A surf 'n' turf of hedgehog and snook? Stag beetle and bat brochette?

As the buddhist monk said when he ordered a pizza to go: "Make mine one with everything!"

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## Bills to go up...

(Continued from page 1)  
In the meantime, the city is lobbying for changes in how it is classified as a Hydro customer. The city runs its own electrical utility, Westmount Light and Power, and buys power wholesale from Hydro Quebec before reselling it to residents.

The city can't control how much power its residents use the way other large power consumers do, and penalties start to kick in when the projected level is exceeded.

Last year, a single 15-minute overload during peak hours, between 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. cost the city \$250,000.

While this doesn't show up on Westmount utility bills, it can affect the profitability of Light and Power, and city finances, and could bring an increase in property tax bills.

"We're classified as a large power consumer," said St. Louis. "But we're very different from the average large power customer, such as an industrial plant. When the temperature is minus-30, they can shut down production lines. We can't go around turning off the power in Westmount. It doesn't work like that."

"I would like to see a special rate [for municipalities]," said St. Louis. "If they would get rid of the penalty clauses, or at least be more reasonable with them, that's all we would be asking as a starting point."

Mayor Peter Trent plans to discuss the issue with Municipal Affairs Minister Rémy Trudel at a May 23-24 retreat on decentralization.

Dr. Maureen Kiely, membership chair of the Westmount Municipal Association, understands the city's hands are tied when it comes to electricity rate increases.

Kiely agrees a new pact with Hydro is essential in the long run, but if Westmounters are to be asked to cut down on energy consumption in the meantime, the city will have to do a better job of it this time around.

"It's got to be pushed; people need to be more aware," she said, bemoaning what she considered a lack of publicity surrounding last year's campaign.

She further understands how such a campaign may not sit well with Westmounters.

"When you come home exhausted, and you have to worry about whether this is the day you can put your oven on, it's pretty tough," she said.

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- 6 What word is misspelled in our ad?
- 7 Our piano bar has music from what years?
- 8 Our party room can accomodate how many people?
- 9 How much is the mother's day special?
- 10 What country does the art originate from?

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*Michael D.*

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## Gymnasts turn in strong routines at provincials

By Bob Oliver  
*Examiner Special*

Westmounters Leah Blank and Lindsay Woods wowed the local crowd with stellar performances at the provincial gymnastics championships on the weekend.

Blank, an 11-year-old Grade 6 student competing at the novice III level, left the Gadbois complex sporting gold, silver and bronze medals. She tied for third-place in the horse event, and picked up a second-place finish outright in the floor exercise. She rounded off the

three-day event with a team gold medal, competing with partner Stephanie Carle.

"I had trouble with the beam (event)," said Blank, who landed a difficult back-flip and then moments later fell off doing a routine back roundoff to finish in an uncharacteristic 20th spot. "But apart from that, I was really happy with my performances."

Woods, a 9-year-old Grade 4 student competing at the moustique level, didn't get a medal in her first-ever appearance at the

provincial championships, but many among the capacity crowd felt she deserved at least one.

"Lindsay had an absolutely beautiful performance in the floor exercise and the crowd was cheering her on throughout the event," said her mother, Liz. "Unfortunately, the judges didn't see it the same way."

"The first day is particularly hard on the nerves," coach Rony Jackson said. "But the girls did what we expected of them and in that respect we hit the bullseye."



Leah Blank gets a hug.

## No more makeup games in baseball

By Michael Bourguignon  
*The Examiner*

When senior baseball teams hit the diamonds this month, they'll be hoping extra hard for a rain-free season.

In an agreement reached recently between team representatives and the Sports and Recreation Department, the traditional week of play that made up for rained-out regular season games will be nixed this year.

Instead, the top teams will be decided according to percentage of wins. That will free up an extra week in August for playoffs, officials say.

The decision was made during a meeting with representatives of fast-pitch teams.

"The reps felt there should be more playoff games, because they're obviously more important," sports coordinator Bruce Stacey said. "In the past couple of years, there have been just so many rain-out games, and sometimes you can't make them up in a week."

Sheldon Morgan, manager of the Senior B Green Sox, called it a "fair tradeoff," and predicted it will give more teams a chance to win the playoffs—which his team has done three of the past four years. The only real concern, he said, is the danger of having too many rained-out games. "If we get rained out all summer, we won't have a season."

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## Soccer openers washed out

Soccer players are keeping their fingers crossed in the hope play can get under way this Saturday, despite the rain and wet fields.

Opening practices were cancelled last weekend and Bruce Stacey of the Sports and Recreation Department said more could be on the way because the wet fields are dangerous to play on.

Along with the start of soccer, a myriad of other sports is scheduled to start this week. Atom and mosquito baseball, peewee and adult rollerhockey were slated to start Monday evening. Peewee baseball and atom rollerhockey were set to go on Tuesday, while inter-city baseball starts this Saturday.

— Bob Oliver



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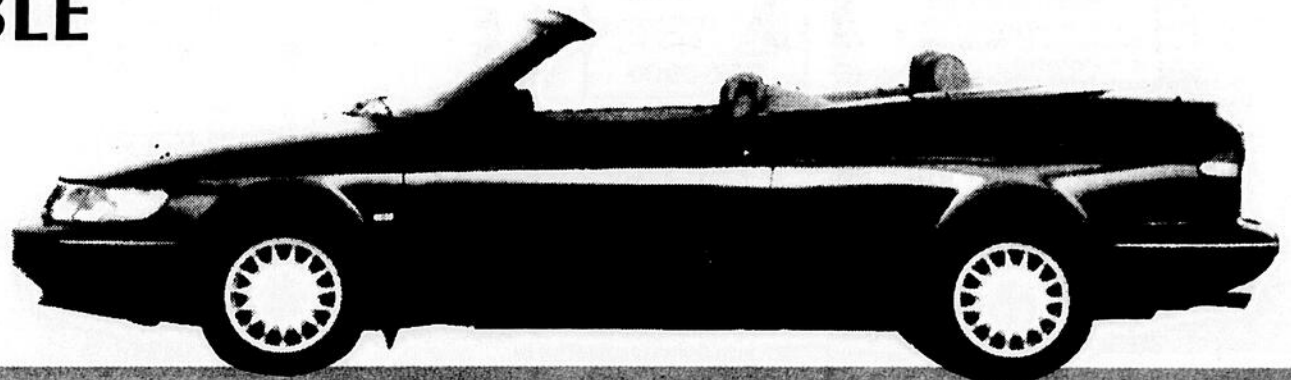
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