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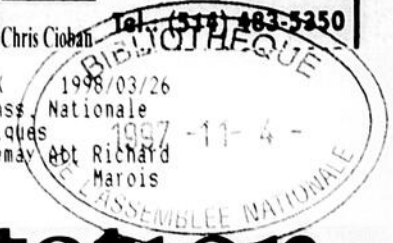
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Vol. LXIX

Westmount, Que., Canada, Thursday, October 30, 1997

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CP wants to donate train station

History group could get 90-year-old building if townhouse development goes ahead

BY SARAH MUSGRAVE

The Westmount train station may get a new lease on life once ground is broken for a residential

development slated for the land at the base of Victoria Avenue.

Canadian Pacific wants to donate the building to the Westmount Historical

Association, spokesman Michel Spénard confirmed this week.

"Since the beginning we wanted to give it to the city. But it's premature to say what will happen

now because it's based on whether the development project goes ahead," he commented.

Although the proposed housing project near the station has yet to

get the final stamp of approval from the city, the fate of the heritage building now appears to hinge more on advance sales of

(See DONATION, page 11)

Write on

Local scribes round up award nominations

This year Westmount can count a number of local writers among the finalists for two literary awards taking place next month.

The Quebec Society for the Promotion of English Language Literature honours talented writers of poetry, fiction, non-fiction and those who have published their first book.

This year's short list includes Irene Burstyn, who was profiled in THE EXAMINER in September for her book of short stories called Picking Up Pearls. The St. Catherine Street resident came to writing late in life, after a highly successful career as a designer of haute couture hats in the 1950s and 60s. Now 81, Burstyn is presently working on her second literary offering, memoirs of her fascinating life which covers adventures in three continents.

Maurice Podbrey was nominated

(See BOOKS, page 12)



Photo by SARAH MUSGRAVE

Fire Chief for a Day Danielle Barrs of St. George's Elementary School manages to keep smiling despite her many responsibilities as head of the Stanton Street fire department.

Meet our new fire chief

Local youngster does one-day tour of duty

BY SARAH MUSGRAVE

A crowd of elementary-school students assembled outside at 3 p.m. last Thursday to wave goodbye to a very lucky classmate. They chattered energetically, straining to catch a glimpse of the shiny red fire truck parked out front.

"This is very exciting. We got a call from the fire department

saying they need someone to help!" school director Beatrice Lewis told the youngsters. "And do you know who that is?" "Danielle Barrs!" came the chorus of replies.

A blonde sixth grader at St. George's elementary school on The Boulevard dislodged herself from the crowd and shyly donned the yellow helmet of the Westmount Fire Brigade, before

being whisked away to her duties as Fire Chief for a Day.

Eleven-year-old Danielle is the grand-daughter of city councillor Herbert Bercovitz, who was on hand to witness the fun. Her younger brother Jeremy, 3, also made an appearance, carrying a toy firetruck in his hands.

About 2,000 fifth and sixth graders in Westmount schools

(See FIRE CHIEF, page 5)

Hall users may face rental fee

BY SARAH MUSGRAVE

Plans for a major refurbishment of Victoria Hall will be unveiled this week, to go hand in hand with revisions to policy for using the premises.

Among the suggestions being discussed is charging Westmount organizations for use of the hall for fundraising events.

"The pricing structure is still being deliberated. There is some question about charging the fee for a full day if an organization was only going to use the hall for a few hours," community events coordinator Jane Needles said.

The \$700 fee, which covers the overhead costs of running the building and staffing it for the event, is relatively low compared to other venues like theatres, she noted.

Although weddings have been off-limits for some time, religious events may not be accepted at the hall. This is in keeping with the idea that as a community centre, it should be open to everyone, Needles said. Political groups can apply to use the hall based on approval by city council.

The building has also served as overflow for the YMCA on occasion in the past. This too, may be restricted although the nearby centre appears to be bursting at

(See VICTORIA, page 12)

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Community Bulletin Board...

Thursday, Oct. 30

An International Criminal Court—
A Desperate Need, Is it in Sight? Lecture and discussion by Westmount resident Prof. Bill Hartzog, Thursday, Oct. 30, Unitarian Church, 5035 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West, 7:30 p.m. Info: 935-7119.

Friday, Oct. 31

Halloween Organ Recital on Friday, Oct. 31 at midnight, Westmount Park Church, 4695 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West, corner Lansdowne. Scary organ works by Bach, Buellmann, Mulet and others by organist Lenore Alford. \$5 (includes hot apple cider). Info: 937-1146.

Contemporary Explorations in Polymer Clay will be topic of discussion lead by Tory Hughes at the Visual Arts Centre on Friday, Oct. 31 at 7:30 p.m. \$5 for non-members. 350 Victoria Ave. Info: 488-9558.

TAG Halloween Dance at Centre Greene, 1090 Greene Ave., Friday, Oct. 31, 8 p.m. to midnight. Costume prizes, refreshments, music. Tickets \$4, \$5 at the door. Info: 989-5252.

Saturday, Nov. 1

Westmount Park United Church will hold a fundraiser dinner on Saturday, Nov. 1 at 5 p.m. to replace its kitchen stove. Adults \$20, children 5 to 12 years \$10. 4695 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West, corner Lansdowne. Info: 937-1146.

Sunday, Nov. 2

Book review: Kathy Diamond, librarian and leader of a monthly book discussion group, reviews 'Fugitive Pieces,' a novel by Canadian writer Anne Michaels, which tells the story of a Jewish lad from Poland who is rescued from the mud by a Greek and brought to Toronto. Sunday, Nov. 2 at 12:30 luncheon at the Leisure Institute of Congregation Shaar Hashomayim, 450 Kensington Ave. 937-9471.

The Enchanted Forest, fundraising concert featuring musicians from MSO and McGill, to celebrate 50th anniversary of West End Daycare. Concert to be held at the Congregation Notre Dame Mother House, 4873 Westmount Ave., on Sunday, Nov. 2 from 4 to 5 p.m. General admission \$10. Children under 2 free. Information and reservations 488-8880.

Tuesday, Nov. 4

Chiropractor Dr. Sima Goel will speak on "Stress and its effect on the body," on Tuesday, Nov. 4 before the Entre Nous Seniors Group of Temple Emanu-El-Beth Shalom, 395 Elm Ave. Noon brown-bag lunch, 1 p.m. program. All welcome. 937-3575.

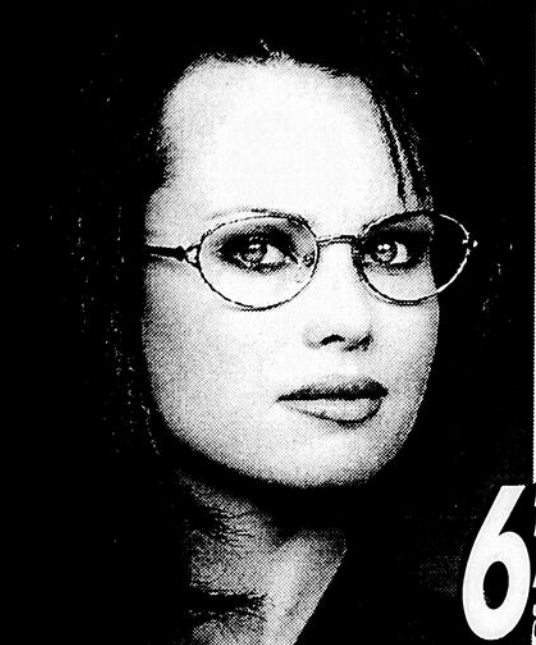
Selwyn House School Library holds 16th annual book fair on Tuesday, Nov. 4 and Wednesday, Nov. 5 from 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the library, Lucas Building, 3rd floor, 95 Côte St. Antoine. Donations to the library are welcome.

Wednesday, Nov. 5

Author Mary Soderstrom will read from her latest novel, 'Finding the Enemy,' at the Double Hook Book Shop, 1235A Greene Ave., on Wednesday, Nov. 5 at 7:30 p.m.

(See MORE, page 9)

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Lundi le 3 novembre 1997
Hôtel de ville - 4333, rue Sherbrooke Ouest
Séance régulière du Conseil - 20h00
Pour renseignements 989-5318

COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, 3rd November 1997
City Hall - 4333, Sherbrooke West
Regular Council meeting - 8:00 p.m.
For information 989-5318

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Playground gear ordered for parks

BY SARAH MUSGRAVE

The younger set will have new challenges to climb when playground equipment is replaced in Staynor and Westmount parks in the spring.

Extensive use and the abrasive surface of the sand in the play area have taken their toll on the existing wood structures, Westmount horticulturist Claudette Savaria said.

"It has gotten to the point that we cannot maintain it properly. There are splinters and nails popping out," she said.

Unlike the metal play structures installed two years ago, this equipment will be a mixture of wood, galvanized steel and plastic. Plastic-covered surfaces should be safer and softer on the knees for crawling children.

The wood element will be more present so that it will integrate with the surroundings, she said. The climbing equipment is designed for children aged 4 to 12.

Savaria said city officials looked at various proposals before settling on the design, which still has to be approved by city council before it is purchased.

All Westmount equipment meets or exceeds norms set by the Canadian Standards Association, she added.

Last week, a coroner's report following the death of a 2-year old boy in Laval who got his head stuck between the bars called for a safety inspection of play structures. As it stands, playgrounds in municipal parks and daycare centres are not regulated by the province.

Nevertheless, even complying with national standards for safety doesn't guarantee that children won't be injured in public parks.

In 1994, the city faced a potential lawsuit on the part of a local parent whose 6-year-old boy sustained head injuries when he fell near a newly-installed swing in Westmount Park. The swing set was removed.

Saved from the fire

Stuntman David Rigby has scaled the heights and plumbed the depths of filmmaking's fast lane

BY MARILYNN VANDERSTAY

When David Rigby was a boy, he used to ride his bicycle over to the quarry in Delson to practice death-defying feats, riding down the embankments and jumping over piles of gravel.

He loved the thrill, but he never imagined he would someday be a professional stunt man who would pioneer the stunt industry in Quebec—and both literally and figuratively walk through fire.

An industrial engineer by trade, Rigby as a young man used to leave the regulated work world in the summer and go to play at his passion: driving stunt cars in shows such as crash derbies. "I would do the same stunts that other stunt men like Evil Kneivel and his son Barry 'The Bomb' Koski, were doing in the States."

In 1978 he went on the road with his own show. He built a \$15,000 automobile jumping ramp that was pulled by a \$10,000 crew cab truck. He also bought an exhibition dragster with a J46 Westinghouse jet engine. "It looked like a rocket!" he remembers, "a lot of noise and fire! The car was able to go from zero to 250 miles in six seconds!"

A year later, while getting some repairs done on the ramp, he met Jim Arnett, a Los Angeles stunt coordinator. Arnett was impressed with Rigby and his equipment and recruited him to do a stunt on a movie he was filming on Beaubien Street.

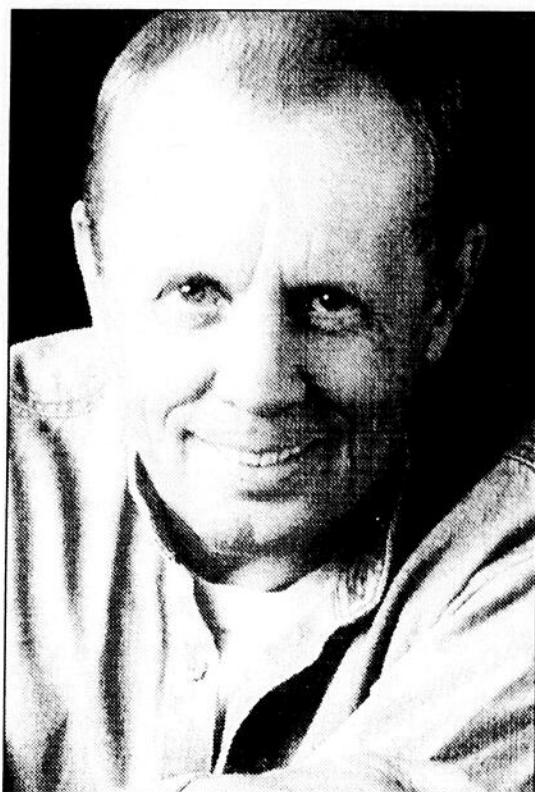
Hanging out with celebrities

"The stunt was to jump over a transport," Rigby recalls. The movie, *Gas*, was just that. Besides getting to schmooze with stars like Howie Mandel, Helen Shaver and Donald Sutherland, he got paid to do it.

Rigby was sold. He gave up everything else, including his day job, to concentrate on film.

At the time there were only five stuntmen in Quebec. Production companies had to fly them in from Los Angeles, an expensive deal. Rigby was much in demand and he was developing both his career and his skills. A quick study, Rigby was soon coordinating his own stunts. He would later be hired as a stunt coordinator and a second unit director for action, which he still does today. To date he has been in more than 200 films. No stunt was too difficult for him. He was even set on fire.

"The stunt called for an 11-second burn," Rigby explains. "Using only chemicals for protection, the stunt starts with Nomex fireproof



Rigby pioneered stunt work in Quebec.

underwear that has been soaked and frozen in plastic bags on ice for four hours so that it absorbs the cold. Ten minutes before the shoot, the underwear is taken out of the ice and the stuntman is dressed by an assistant. More of the fire retardants are smeared on and the stunt begins.

"It was a slow stunt, and I was more worried about hypothermia from the cold of the chemicals than from burning. Basically, I didn't feel the heat until the end. The noise of the flames was distracting, and I was also worried about doing the stunt right the first time. After the time was over, assistants grabbed me and rolled me until I was no longer burning."

Rigby's success helped him develop the stunt industry in Canada, especially in Quebec.

But with the success came the fast-paced, high-pressure lifestyle that soon spilled into his private life.

"Work became my fulfilment. I was losing my identity and found myself in what I was doing, not in who I was. I guess I never knew who I

(See *STUNT*, page 10)

WMA renews call for library improvements

BY SARAH MUSGRAVE

Local bibliophile John Johnston is continuing his call for improvements to the Westmount Public Library, with an action plan to be put together by several members of the municipal association.

"We will be meeting as a group to discuss what further approaches we can use. The most important thing, in my view, will be to have ongoing meetings with the library committee," he said.

A list of concerns making the rounds at the monthly WMA meeting included the weeding process whereby books are discarded from the collection, lack of exhibition space and not offering books for sale to residents before they are sent elsewhere.

In the spring the WMA called for a moratorium on the discarding of books until the public was informed about the fate of more than 10,000 books stored in the library's basement. Despite assurances that valuable books were not being tossed out, concerns still remain about historical volumes acquired over the library's almost 100 year existence.

Other issues like signage, the need for more visible noticeboards and extended hours of operation have been addressed. However it took more than six months for community billboards to be approved, WMA members commented. Noticeboards have finally gone up, but information is kept behind glass under lock and key.

Similarly, lack of exhibition space has been a complaint from photographers, post card collectors and artists who have been turned down for displays. "It is not a warm and welcome place. The other library was crowded to the gills but you walked in the door and it was full of notices. It oozed charm and warmth. But now people are perceiving these problems," WMA director Maureen Kieley commented. All this lends to the feeling that the library is on display, president Bridget Blackader

(See *LIBRARY*, page 14)

Early snowfall buries hopes of beating snow budget

BY SARAH MUSGRAVE

The latest dump from above didn't come from Quebec City, but the snow could have an effect on Westmount's finances. City officials were hoping Mother Nature would be kind this winter, but the two early snowfalls seem to indicate she just isn't cooperating.

Heavy snows last winter already ate up the entire snowclearing budget for 1997, plus some, leaving city officials hoping for a mild season.

"We had our fingers crossed," commented city councillor Tom Thompson as the first rumours of early snow circulated last

week. "Particularly when you look at the figures and you see, whoops, we're over budget \$465,000 and we still have October, November and December to go."

Since 1941, only three years have surpassed the snowfall from January to April of this year. At 305 cm, the total snowfall for 1996/1997 was almost twice the year before, which measured in at 189 cm.

It's the kind of fluctuation that windfalls and downfalls are made of.

Last year for example, the city was \$700,000 under budget. However, municipalities can't carry surplus money in a snow fund into the next year. So this year's winter season kicks off at less than zero.

"Obviously the city will have to find some way of paying. Some accounts end up lower and others higher. If we have a normal winter from now until the end of the year we should be able to make it," Public Works director Fred Caluori said.

Salt also adds up

The average snowfall for October is 2.5 cm, driven up by two 20 cm dumps in the last 30 years, he added.

About \$2 million or 7.5 per cent of Westmount's local spending goes to the snow fund. Of that amount, salt alone cost \$400,000 in 1997 because it's too dangerous to skimp on Westmount's hilly terrain.

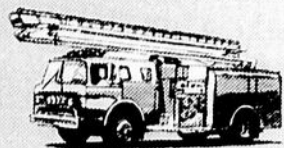
The price has since gone up an additional 5 per cent, as the resource market changes.

In the early part of the year almost 230,000 cubic metres of snow were carted away.

Compare that with only 20,000 cubic metres for the same period the year before and a normal volume of about 130,000 cubic metres and it's no wonder the budget is on thin ice.

Caluori will discuss this annual dilemma later this month when he outlines the history of snowclearing in Westmount. The lecture, organized by the historical association, takes place at the library, Thursday, Nov. 20.

Fire calls



From the fire hall

Monday, Oct. 20

11:22 a.m. 4463 Sherbrooke: Call for carbon monoxide detector activated turned out to be odour from floor drain in bathroom; no carbon monoxide readings in the premises and occupant advised to flush drain.

5:10 p.m. 19 Stanton: Unidentified caller to MUC Police said a bomb had been planted in a police station on the island of Montreal; the entire building was searched and nothing suspicious was found.

Tuesday, Oct. 21

3:38 p.m. 5785 Parkhaven: Cancelled en route.

6:01 p.m. 694 Aberdeen: Smoke detector set off by burnt food.

Wednesday, Oct. 22

7:31 a.m. Rear of 46 Aberdeen: Two primary electrical wires broken; Westmount Light & Power notified.

3:29 p.m. 5785 Parkhaven: Cancelled en route.

6:54 p.m. 607 Roslyn: Problem with a gas stove; resident said pilot light was on but burner wouldn't light; power to oven shut off; no gas was leaking; resident advised to call a serviceman.

Thursday, Oct. 23

10:01 a.m. 1 Rosemount: Alarm set off by plumber soldering.

11:25 a.m. 4998 de Maisonneuve: Water leak due to overloaded washing machine; building maintenance staff said they would

clean up the scene.

Saturday, Oct. 25

12:48 p.m. 2300 Tupper: Heat detector activated due to workers doing renovations.

8:03 p.m. 6519 Bailey: Cancelled en route.

11:38 p.m. 6519 Bailey: Cancelled en route.

Sunday, Oct. 26

12:16 a.m. 3225 The Boulevard: Defective smoke detector.

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Sunday, November 2nd

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Station 12 police files

By DAVID GOLDBERG and BERNIE O'NEILL

Crafty break-in attempts fail

Two men ringing apartment buzzers and either offering free Gazettes or "looking for Mr. Fernando" were arrested last week following a number of break-in attempts at a Melville Avenue apartment building.

Station 12 constables, with the help of Westmount Public Security officers, arrested two men after Sgt. Bob White of the Public Security Unit was flagged down by the building's janitor at 5:15 p.m. on Oct. 20. One of the suspects was seen acting suspiciously in a laneway.

Sgt. White called 911, as well as for back-up, and detained two suspects.

The area was searched, and officers found a make-shift screwdriver under a fire escape.

Police say the suspects rang buzzers in the building's lobby. When someone answered, they would either say they were giving away free Gazettes or they would ask for Mr. Fernando. When no one answered, the suspects allegedly took note of the apartment numbers and then knocked on those doors.

Police say there were scratch marks on several doors and door frames, but it doesn't appear the suspects were able to gain entry into any of the apartments.

Arrested were a 25-year-old male with no fixed address and a 34-year-old male from Pierrefonds.

They are expected to be charged with several counts of attempted breaking and entering.

Determined thief gets in

A determined thief finally found a way to break into a home on Belvedere Place the evening of Oct. 22.

Police say the suspect used a ladder from a neighbouring house to scale the west-side wall of the home sometime between 7:25 and 7:40 p.m. The suspect then jumped onto the balcony, which led to one of the home's bedrooms. After an attempt to smash through a window failed, police say the thief used a crowbar to pry open a patio door.

The bedroom and bathroom drawers were searched, but it's not clear what was stolen.

Armed men rob bank

Three masked men armed with handguns pulled off a daring holdup at the Bank of Commerce at Sherbrooke and Victoria last Friday getting away with an undisclosed amount of cash. The robbery was over in a matter of minutes and no one was injured.

The men were described as in

their 20s or 30s and French-speaking. They entered the bank at 11:45 a.m. and shouted for everyone inside to not move. They then went behind the counter and looked through the cash drawers.

They left by the back door and were spotted heading on foot toward Prince Albert Avenue.

Cars vandalized on Springfield

Six cars on Springfield Avenue and two more on Metcalfe Avenue were the targets of random vandalism between 9 and 10:30 p.m. on Oct. 20.

A witness on Springfield Avenue said she saw two youths, both white males about 16 to 18 years old, vandalizing a car in front of her house and called police. She

said it was hard to see, but the young men looked familiar from the neighbourhood.

One had a white shirt and shoulder-length brown hair. Both wore dark jackets and bell-bottom pants.

Windshield wipers were ripped off, mirrors removed, antennas bent and gas caps stolen.

Pontiac stolen

A 1997 Pontiac Grand Prix was stolen at around lunchtime Friday on Wood Avenue. The car had Ontario licence plates. Also on Friday, a doctor's black bag and prescription pad were stolen from a car parked at Melville Avenue and Sherbrooke Street. The items were stolen from a red Volkswagon Golf by breaking in through a window. Total value of the items was \$1,250.

On Sunday, two cars parked in garages were broken into. In one case, thieves made off with a knife and two bottles of cognac from a Chrysler New Yorker parked in a garage on the 200-block of Olivier Avenue.

Fire Chief for a Day evacuates building

(Continued from page 1) were quizzed on their knowledge of fire safety during Fire Prevention Week earlier this month. Of those who correctly located fire hazards and the placement of a smoke detector in a home, one name was randomly chosen for the coveted position.

Danielle's first task was to evacuate an office building on Weredale Park. Then it was back to Stanton Street where she got a tour of the protective services building which has been undergoing more than \$2 million worth of renovations for several months.

Firefighters were scheduled to move back into their quarters this Monday after a brief delay while a final coat of paint was applied.

"It's starting to look a lot better now. Morale is starting to lift," Fire Chief Jim Adams commented. He wasted no time putting Danielle to work at his desk signing request forms.

"You have to do a lot of work because you earn a big salary as chief," he quipped. Adams explained that the fire department has evolved a lot over the years. Now the focus is on fire prevention, but it used to concentrate on

suppression—going around putting out fires. These days the majority of fires are caught in the incipient stages, he said.

"The days of the major blazes are gone but we still must train men to make sure they are at the ready," Adams said.

Since the brigade lost three veteran firefighters to retirement in the last two months, it may soon be looking for new talent.

There are no female firefighters in the local brigade at this time. However, Danielle, an active gymnast, said she hasn't made a career choice yet.

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Real Estate

By Reg Morden

APPRAISAL FOR SELLING PRICE?

While most home sellers rely on recommendations from agents to set the selling price, this may not work in all cases. For example, three agents may come up with three values several thousand dollars apart. Which is the right one for your property?

In such a case, it might be worthwhile to hire a professional appraiser, one who has met standards of experience, study and achievement and is a member of a national appraisal society.

Cost-wise, you should agree in advance exactly how thorough an appraisal you need. Some reports run for 30 pages, including photographs of the neighborhood and floor plans of each room. Explain that a simple letter report will be sufficient, and that you are simply seeking an estimate of fair market value.

An appraisal can sometimes be a valuable bargaining tool during negotiations. Although it is simply an estimate - albeit an informed, skilled one - the buyer will usually accept it as impartial proof of value.

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EDITORIAL

Liberals have to act like government-in-waiting

If you'll allow a look at the provincial scene in this instalment, it's interesting to note the relative lack of glee and the shortage of people doing cartwheels across busy intersections in this neck of the woods with the release of a poll that shows the Liberal Opposition gaining support at the expense of the Parti Québécois, and support for separation fizzling. This kind of news used to get people crowing, but no more. Why?

A couple of reasons. For one thing, nobody wants to underestimate the Comeback Kid in Lucien Bouchard. If anyone thinks after a few bad polls Bouchard and the Parti Québécois are simply going to fade into electoral oblivion and not mount an effective re-election campaign, then they didn't learn anything from the referendum when the Yes side was down by about 10 points and almost pulled it off a month later, losing by a percentage point.

But the other thing that makes news of such polls pass almost unnoticed is that the Liberal Party—remember the Liberal Party?—hardly seems to act these days like it is the government-in-waiting, preferring to lay low and hope the PQ will hang itself (figuratively speaking) and continue to lose popularity. Let's hope they don't wait too long. The last thing the Liberals need is for their platform to be "suddenly revealed" just months or even weeks before the vote thereby giving the Parti Québécois something to hammer away at, leaving the Liberals on the defensive and the tide rising, as it naturally would, in the PQ's favour on the eve of polling.

That's the risk the Liberal Party runs as it seemingly sleepwalks toward the next Quebec election, that they are counting on nothing more than being the beneficiaries of a protest vote, and everything is left in the PQ's hands to either fumble or hang on.

If the Liberals have nothing more to offer than the same budget-cutting being served up by the PQ—and perhaps the fiscal reality in Quebec dictates such measures—then voters should be told this now, so they have time to accept the idea and move on to other issues. There are still many reasons why the Liberals under Daniel Johnson would be a better option for Quebec, not the least of which is the economic stability a Liberal government might bring. But let's here about their plans before the election rather than after.

Like the vague promise of constitutional accommodation that was put forward in response to a plea from Daniel Johnson just days before the 1995 referendum—one can hardly recall what that eleventh-hour Hail Mary Pass even contained—Distinct Society recognition in Parliament?—a list of promises dragged out just before the election will look just like that: campaign promises the Liberals might keep, or might not keep. It's a question of credibility, and they've got to start speaking up now if they want to have any.

Keeping quiet on the tough questions and leaving its fate to the success or failure of the PQ is not only risky business—it's the sign of a party not ready to rule.

What are the key questions that need answering? Here are a few.

Would Daniel Johnson, as premier of Quebec, sign his name to the Canadian constitution as it is now written, or with the Calgary Declaration attached to it. Polls show majority support for accepting and signing the constitution. It would be a great step toward bringing the country together. Or, would the Liberal Party continue its mission, as it did under Robert Bourassa, to try to wrest more power from the hands of the federal government? Would it use the threat of referendums or separation to do it? Or would it chart a course for stability and harmony with Ottawa and the other provinces.

Would the Liberals take greater care and direct more resources toward the Health Ministry, perhaps the most important provincial government ministry, providing one of the most crucial services government can offer. Do we have the money? If not, is there a plan to maintain a quality, universal system with fewer resources?

These are just a couple of the questions the Liberals have to start answering now if they want to enter the next election campaign looking like a united, prepared, credible political party with transparent policies, ready to rule this province.

—Bernie O'Neill



The Church of the Three Georges

Montreal's economy was on the rebound. Sir John A. Macdonald's party was back in power, the great transcontinental railway was on track once more with Montreal the hub of the nation's business.

The farmland surrounding St. Matthias' Church was being turned into avenues of homes. But the ambience of a country village persisted. One parishioner recalled, "We attended St. Matthias', a wooden, clapboard building with tubular chimes in the belfry." These chimes were saved from an ice palace built in Dominion Square during a winter carnival. When the structure was demolished, the chimes were carried off and installed in St. Matthias' belfry. The chimes were made of a group of hollow boards attached to a rope. When the rope was pulled, a hammer struck the bars in a musical sequence "which would be heard very far away on a quiet Sunday."

Close beside the church grew the fruit trees of the Raynes' 'Forden' estate. "From midsummer well through the autumn there were for the picking St. Lawrence, Fameuse and Russet apples. Also, we could duck out of the low church windows and pick sickle pears and damson plums. Since the usual Sunday apparel was a sailor suit or dress, the blouse of which was ideal for storing away fruit, these could be

Know
Your
Westmount
By Aline
Gubbay



tucked out of sight to be eaten on the way home from church or choir practice."

As the community continued to grow, new religious affiliations



Photo from the NOTMAN ARCHIVES

Sporting their 'Man-of-War Suits' in Westmount on June 23, 1909, are youngsters Vennor and Alfred Roper. The usual Sunday apparel was a sailor suit or dress, the blouse of which was ideal for storing apples.

were established.

On the initiative of Alexander Hutchison, a councillor and a devoted Presbyterian, Melville Church was built at the northwest corner of Stanton Street and Côte St. Antoine. It had a capacity for 200 members, larger than St. Matthias'. Temperance was a major issue at Melville, one that was later to erupt in a serious confrontation and split the congregation in two.

Another church, a modest affair, suddenly appeared one Sunday in 1885 in a remote corner of the village. One week earlier this had been the site of an untended field of weeds and wild grasses. Now a steady file of worshippers was seen entering a completed building.

It transpired a few Methodist families had recently arrived in the village and decided to build their own chapel. The group was led by the Rev. George Douglas, George Vipond and George Bishop, and from the hauling of the lumber to the nailing of the last roof tile the little church was completed in the brief space of seven days.

It was christened 'The Tabernacle,' but was often affectionately referred to as the church of the 'Three Georges.' From its modest beginnings, this little community went on to play an increasingly important role in the religious life of the whole district.

THE WESTMOUNT
Examiner

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Old News

(from the examiner archives)



Five years ago
October 29, 1992

COP SHOP CANNED: There was no 11th hour reprieve for Station 23. The Montreal Urban Community approved a sweeping \$33-million plan to redraw the police map and close 10 police stations last week, including Westmount's Stanton Street station. "The overriding strategy that we're adopting now is delay," said Mayor Peter Trent. "(Police Chief Alain) St. Germain is quite open to moving us lower on the list. It's just a matter of presenting good and valid reasons." Westmount's station is due to be merged with downtown Station 25 in 1994.

Fifteen years ago
October 28, 1982

TRIPLEX BURNS: A spectacular fire Saturday afternoon estimated to have caused more than \$200,000 damage to a row of four-storey dwellings across from the Westmount CPR passenger station is being probed for arson, fire officials said. Police are looking for suspects in the blaze which started in sheds around 3 p.m. and quickly gutted the top two floors of one building under renovation at 4825-4827 St. Catherine St. just east of Victoria Avenue.

Twenty-five years ago
November 2, 1972

'HALLOWE'EN HUSSLE: In a little over an hour and a half Tuesday night, Westmount police received complaints from parents of seven youngsters out on trick or treat rounds having UNICEF boxes containing cash stolen from them by marauding youths. In two instances the children were assaulted.

Forty-five years ago
October 31, 1952

FIRST CROSSING GUARDS: The City of Westmount has taken a step forward in insuring parents of the district more protection for their youngsters on their way to and from school. In a move to prevent traffic accidents to school children, the city is presently looking for five "guardians" to assist children in crossing busy streets. City Hall is especially looking for pensioners, housewives and janitors who are living in the vicinity. They are equipped with cap, raincoat and belt, with small arm-band and white shoulder strap. A hand operated stop sign is also supplied to the guardians.

Fifty-five years ago
October 29, 1942

GO WEST, YOUNG MEN: John Mappin and Colin Elder, both students at Westmount High School, proved themselves recently worthy of their Alma Mater whose sturdy upstanding sons have made their way in every field of endeavour across Canada as well as the United States. They were members of the contingent of college and high school students who acceded to the request of Ottawa to lend a hand to harvest wheat crops in the West. They found the work in the harvest fields "swell."

Immigration builds country

Last week, I tabled in the House of Commons the 1998 Immigration Plan entitled A Stronger Canada. This plan is based on the humanitarian values of welcoming and caring that characterizes us. It also reflects our desire to make the most of the undeniable economic and cultural benefits that newcomers bring to this country.

Canada's strength, for me, rests in the common vision that we share for this country's future. From one end of the country to the other, we share the same values concerning justice, equality, liberty and prosperity. We value sharing, entrepreneurship and openness to the world as well as innovation and a thirst for knowledge.

These are the same values that permitted the government to work with the people to accomplish an unprecedented economic turn-around and to give the country the financial means to realize its goals without sacrificing social services and our quality of life.

This immigration plan shows our willingness to accept, for humanitarian reasons, the largest number of refugees possible; our concern that we accept a percentage of new arrivals that is good for Canada and Canadians; and our desire to benefit from the expertise and competence of new citizens who can help us achieve our objectives of economic prosperity and social development.

MP
Lucienne
Robillard



These professionals, these skilled workers, who will be knocking at our door in 1998 attracted by a vibrant Canadian economy, contribute directly to our success through their competence and dynamism. The presence of their families by their sides, a presence that is crucial to their personal well being, will help to encourage them to work with us, over the long-term, to build a prosperous country that is concerned about the sustainable development of our planet.

The Immigration Plan for 1998 sets 200,000 - 225,000 as the overall range of immigrants and refugees which is 5,000 higher than the levels announced in the plan for 1997 (195,000 to 200,000). The 1998 number includes 175,900 - 192,700 immigrants and 24,100 - 32,300 refugees. For more information on these figures do not hesitate to contact my constituency office at (514) 283-2013.

Let me stress that these are not arbitrary numbers. The decision to raise the levels was made after careful consideration with a view to establishing the number of new-

comers who will benefit Canada and Canadians. This increase from last year's forecast is reflective both of Canada's flexible immigration policy and the fact that our strengthening economy is attractive to immigrants. Our actual figures for 1996, compared to the forecasts for that year, are tangible proof that the government does not follow a quota system in our immigration planning. The Immigration Plan for 1996 had set 195,000 - 220,000 as the overall range of immigrants and refugees. The actual number of landings exceeded that plan, totalling over 225,000 immigrants and refugees.

In conclusion, I would like to point out that immigration has always been a source of economic and social strength for Canada. It will continue to be vital to the future of our country. In addition to their hopes and dreams, immigrants bring with them rich human experience, expertise and initiative, as well as willingness to help us build a stronger Canada for ourselves and our children.

Note: The Liberal Association of Westmount—Ville-Marie will be holding its fundraising dinner on Nov. 10. The guest of honour will be my colleague, the Honourable Stéphane Dion, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs. If you are interested in attending, please contact us at (514) 283-7553 for further information.

Victoria Hall Community Centre

In a column last January, I described the plans and processes under way to determine how to successfully bring Victoria Hall back as a vital community and cultural centre for the use of the citizenry of Westmount. After much research, discussion, debate—more research, more discussion, more debate, a plan has evolved. By now you should have received Mayor Peter Trent's letter that outlines the project, including the costs and an interior sketch of the proposed link. This project responds to the criteria set by Council (compiled from citizen consultation) with regards to the building's physical arrangement, heritage value and aesthetics. A presentation of the plans will take place on Monday, Nov. 3 at 7 p.m. prior to the Council meeting. So I'll leave the "bricks and mortar" discussions and questions till then.

At the start of Council's current mandate, a workshop was held, to set goals to "create a long range plan for the improvement of services and facilities towards fostering a greater sense of community." Linking the library, palm court and Victoria Hall offers the ability to create a true cultural complex, a venue for our community to come together. The operation of the facility must also be "commu-

COUNCILLOR
Cynthia
Lulham



nity building" so policy changes have been adopted with regards to rentals and such, to return the primary functions of the buildings to community use.

A community/cultural centre's activities and programs should reflect the particular interests, pastimes of that community. They will also be influenced by current recreational styles. Much research and public consultation (since 1989) has gone into the proposed plans for Victoria Hall so that the building will be able to serve the current community needs and be adaptable to further changes. The decision that all rooms in Victoria Hall be multi-purpose in function was made for this reason and also to allow as much use of the space as possible. The building is not so large that spaces could be dedicated without taking away from another group or program. Thus the Ward Room will be renovated to better accommodate its current usage, e.g., dance room, music room,

meeting room—but will have the flexibility in design to be easily transformed as an art display area during the summer months when there is little programming in Victoria Hall. An art display area and a café have been included in the link. This area is intended for Westmount artists' works and would be open year round.

Victoria Hall allows us to come together as a community under one roof for a variety of events, from public meetings on special issues, Annual Flower Shows that welcome new residents and thank volunteers to Vin d'Honneurs.

It is our hope that more citizens will become involved in organizing and participating in citizen-driven events such as Westmount Creates, the Santa Claus Parade (Kathleen Duncan) and Smart Living Day (Barbara Moore). So on Monday night while you are viewing the proposed plans, think about programs, events and activities you would like to have take place in Victoria Hall Community Centre.

They could be big, small, a new program or bringing back an old one. For then, we will have the place, the policies and the people.

The lines are open daily at Victoria Hall—give a call at 989-5226.

Letters welcome

THE EXAMINER welcomes letters to the editor and every effort will be made to print them, space permitting. The more concise the letter, the better its chances of being printed. Letters must be signed and bear the writer's address and telephone number. Write to: The Editor, 210 Victoria Ave., Westmount, Que., H3Z 2M4, or fax 484-6028.

Music promoter follows family trend

Justin West, 16, producing rock show at the Spectrum

A mania for music has led one local teen to follow in his father's footsteps when it comes to promoting local talent.

Justin West will be taking a big leap on the road to big business when he produces his first rock show next month at the Spectrum. West recently started his own company, Dragon Fly Productions with Annie Wiggins, 17, of Hudson.

The move mirrors his father's career in the music industry. Jim West of Lansdowne Avenue owns Justin Time Records, a well-known jazz and blues label. This summer he opened Just a Minute, a label dedicated to alternative rock.



Justin West

It was just one of a chain of coincidences that led 16-year-old West to his current vocation. "The first band they signed was Slaves on Dope, which I think is one of the best bands around. Then I thought they should have a chance to play on a big stage. That's really what got me going," he said.

West got his feet wet over the summer working behind the scenes at shows in the Montreal area.

But backing his own show is a big step for the high-school student, especially because renting and staffing a venue like the Montreal Spectrum demands a considerable cash investment.

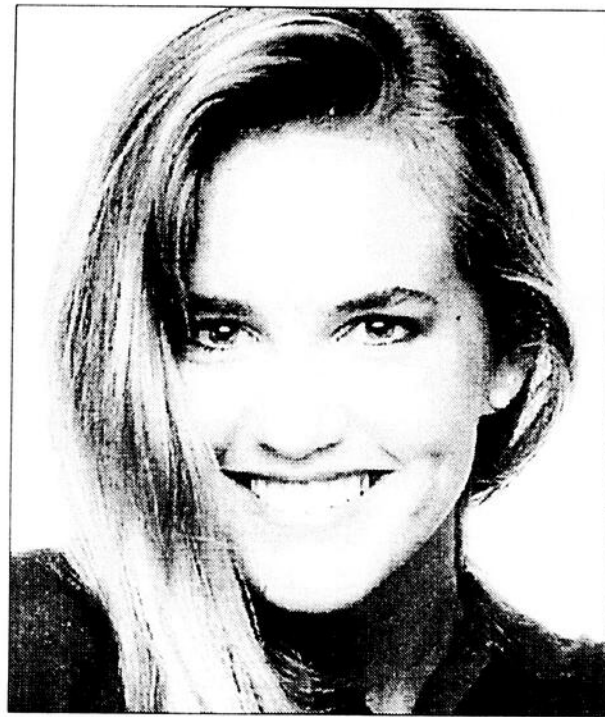
He borrowed the money from an aunt, and made the arrangements while his parents were away on vacation. He spent a recent weekend plastering posters around town to promote the show. He's also keeping an eye on tickets sales, which are going well so far.

He'll have a chance to work out

some of those break-even jitters on stage as a guitarist with his own band, Dogs Playing Poker, where he'll be joined by fellow Westmounters Simon O'Leary

and Nick Velan.

The show begins at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 7 at the Spectrum. Tickets are available by calling 790-1245.



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Young people chair auction

Three local residents will head up Federation CJA's Young Adult Division charity auction being held on Saturday at McGill's Pollack Hall, 555 Sherbrooke Street West.

Evelyn Jerassy, Lorne Smart and Heather Adelson Zipkin are co-chairs of the event, which is back after a three-year hiatus.

Patrons at the auction will be eligible for a variety of prizes, including a trip to Israel, and weekend getaways at Stowe and Mont Tremblant. The grand prize is a week's trip for two to the Half Moon Golf, Tennis and Beach Club in Montego Bay, Jamaica.

Money raised at the auction will be used to benefit the needs of Jews in Montreal, Israel and in distressed lands around the world.

Tickets are \$50 and are available by calling 345-2656.

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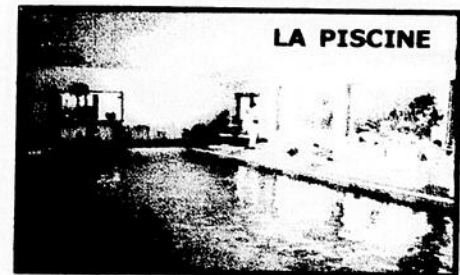


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Bulletin Board...

(Continued from page 2)

Thursday, Nov. 6

Contactivity Centre annual bazaar on Thursday, Nov. 6 from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Webster Hall, 4695 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West. Crafts, gifts, baking, handknit sweaters and more. All welcome. Refreshments served throughout. 932-2326.

Cooking classes: Liz-Anne Stirling cookery workshops at Centre Greene beginning Nov. 6, from Canapés, Hors d'oeuvres and Party Essentials to Chocolate. Eight persons per class. Info: 369-7797.

Saturday, Nov. 8

Pianist Ian Hominick performs Wednesday, Nov. 8 at 8 p.m. at Church of the Advent, 4119 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West, corner Wood Ave., as part of Westmount Concerts 1997-98 season. Mendelssohn, Chopin, Haydn. Tickets \$17. Info: 481-9133.

St. Margaret's Home Auxiliary bazaar Saturday, Nov. 8 in day centre and activity room, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., 50 Hillside Ave. Crafts, Christmas decorations, knitted goods, jewellery, baked goods and more. Coffee and donut \$1. Info: 488-5649.

Monday, Nov. 10

Chad Norman will be reading from his recently published book of poetry, *The Breath of One*, on Monday, Nov. 10 at 7:30 p.m. at the Double Hook Book Shop, 1235A Greene Ave.

Randonée Aventure, a cross-country ski club for adults, holds an information and sign-up evening with presentations on Monday, Nov. 10 at 6:30 p.m. at the Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater Ave. Info: 489-0339.

Westmount Municipal Association general meeting Monday, Nov. 10 at 7:30 p.m. at Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke St. West. Info: 485-6346.

'Beyond the Borders'

Atelier Graphia open house and sale of original prints and related works on Thursday, Oct. 30 from 4 to 8 p.m. at 6300 Park Ave., corner Beaubien.

St. George's Church Christmas Shopping Sale, Thursday, Oct. 30, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Parish Hall, 1101 Stanley (opposite Windsor Station). Lunch between 11:15 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Christmas Sale of Lakeshore Weavers and Claycrafters at Stewart Hall, 176 Bord du Lac, Pointe Claire, Oct. 31, 7 to 9 p.m.; Nov. 1, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Nov. 2, 1 to 5 p.m.

Super Bazaar '97 at Paroisse Notre Dame des Neiges, 5320 Côte des Neiges Rd., church basement, Friday, Oct. 31 from 3 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 2 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Don't miss Friday night auction at 7 p.m. All welcome. Info: 738-1987.

JHUST (Jews for a Humanist Secular Tradition) hosts an Oneg Shabbat Friday, Oct. 31 at 7:30 p.m. at 4077 Decarie Blvd. to discuss: "What is a Jew? Our way or their way." Humanist Shabbat blessings and songs. Non-members \$3. Call 484-5033 for more information.

Morgan Arboretum's November Craft Fair and Bake Sale, Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 1 and 2 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Conservation Centre. Free admission to the arboretum that weekend. 150 Chemins des Pins, Ste. Anne de Bellevue. 398-7812.

'Radio-tracking Harlequin Duck in Quebec' will be the subject of a talk to be given by biologist Serge Brodeur to the Province of Quebec Society for the Protection of Birds, on Monday,

Nov. 3 at 8 p.m. at the Fraser Hickson Library Auditorium, 4855 Kensington Ave., N.D.G.

"Dirty Fighting: An Advanced Strategy for Ruining Your Relationship." is the title of a free public lecture by Eli Rubinstein on Tuesday, Nov. 4 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the Montreal General Hospital, 1650 Cedar Ave., Osler Amphitheatre, 6th floor. Info: 934-8034.

Guild of the Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul annual craft fair Wednesday, Nov. 5 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Kildonan Hall, 3419 Redpath St. Preserves, home baking, plum puddings, books, plants, jewellery and more. Luncheon \$7 at 11:45 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 1:15 p.m. Proceeds to charities and community projects.

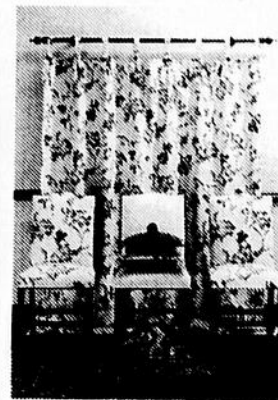
'What are people for?' is topic of talk by Prof. Douglas Hall of McGill University on Wednesday, Nov. 5 at 7:30 p.m. at Dawson Hall, 1435 City

Councillors, around corner from main entrance of St. James United Church. Info: 288-9245.

Royal West Academy hosts fundraising auction on Nov. 7 at 7:30 p.m. at 189 Easton Ave., Montreal West, for the Grade 9 France Exchange. Items included are golf tickets, dinners, ski trips and more. Plus door prizes. Tickets \$5, includes wine and cheese. Info: Sydney Westlake, 489-8454.

JHUST (Jews for a Humanist Secular Tradition) will host an Oneg Shabbat on Friday, Nov. 14 at 7:30 p.m. at 4077 Decarie Blvd. for a report by Irwin Block and Barbara Moser on: Colloquium '97 of the International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism on "Reclaiming Jewish History," held in Detroit Oct. 23-26. Bring a dish and a question on the real history of the Jews. Non-members \$3. Call 484-5033 for more information.

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Stunt expert hits rock bottom before rebuilding life, career

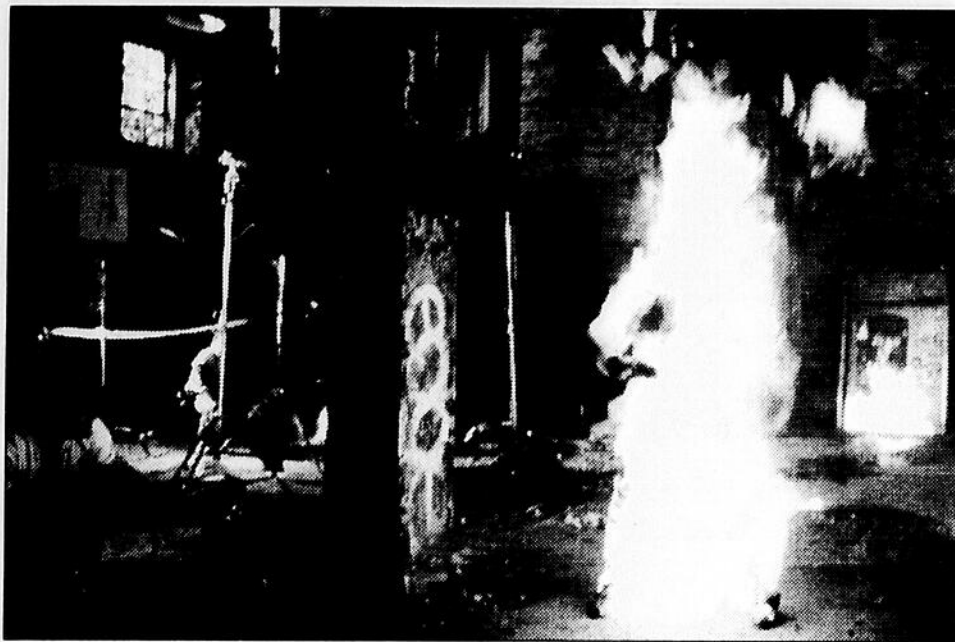


Photo by LAURENCE LABAT

Rigby wore chilled fireproof underwear for stunt in which fear of hypothermia from protective chemicals was as much a concern as the flames. The fire burned for 11 seconds.

(Continued from page 3)

was." In 1984 he started abusing substances to calm him down. The addiction rapidly developed.

Six years later, in 1990, the worst became reality. Weighing only 118 pounds, Rigby hit rock bottom. He couldn't eat, he couldn't work. "I lost everything: my money, my possessions, my self-respect, my dignity." Finally, in a last-ditch effort to save himself, he checked into Addington House, a rehab centre in N.D.G.

"I spent the first six months getting straight and learning to live again," he remembers solemnly. "I realized that if I was ever going to get better, I would have to change everything in my life, especially me. I made the quality decision to live life in a more spiritual way. I chose to focus more on the person I am—and what I think of me—than what others think of me. I started redeveloping my character and my values."

It wasn't easy but Rigby persisted and walked through the fire that was all around him and in him. After six months he graduated from the intensive rehab program and

started working at the centre as staff helping others. But the love of the stunt industry continued to draw him back, and he boldly returned to his passion.

It has been six years since that crash. Today, at 52, the Mount Stephen Avenue resident is actively involved in his community. He is on the ACTRA board of directors and the Board of the Westmount YMCA, and is a certified fitness instructor.

Later this month he will start work on "Cinq Minutes d'Attendre," the first movie to be produced by his 30-year-old son, Michael. Later on in Halifax he will do an acting stunt where he plays a bus driver who swerves to miss a deer and careens down a road to crash into a river. In a stunt he is coordinating for the movie "Hyper Allergenic," he will be running Genevieve Bujold over with a car.

In his spare time, Rigby continues to give back to the community. "I spend a lot of time helping kids and young adults get off drugs by dealing with their self esteem. I am learning to give back without expecting it to come back to me," he smiles. "It already has."

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<p>BRIDGESTONE BLIZZAK</p> <p>SNOW TIRES</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <th>First Quality</th> <th>Sugg.</th> <th>Super Sale</th> </tr> <tr> <td>P155/80R13</td> <td>111.10</td> <td>\$64.43</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P175/70R13</td> <td>140.20</td> <td>\$81.31</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P185/75R14</td> <td>145.50</td> <td>\$84.40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P185/70R14</td> <td>157.00</td> <td>\$91.06</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P205/75R15</td> <td>162.50</td> <td>\$94.25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P205/70R15</td> <td>177.60</td> <td>\$103.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P205/65R15</td> <td>201.80</td> <td>\$117.04</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P205/60R15</td> <td>207.60</td> <td>\$120.40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P215/65R16</td> <td>226.90</td> <td>\$131.60</td> </tr> </table> <p>SAVE 42%</p>	First Quality	Sugg.	Super Sale	P155/80R13	111.10	\$64.43	P175/70R13	140.20	\$81.31	P185/75R14	145.50	\$84.40	P185/70R14	157.00	\$91.06	P205/75R15	162.50	\$94.25	P205/70R15	177.60	\$103.00	P205/65R15	201.80	\$117.04	P205/60R15	207.60	\$120.40	P215/65R16	226.90	\$131.60	<p>BRIDGESTONE POTENZA</p> <p>All Season RE 900</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <th>Sugg.</th> <th>Super Sale</th> </tr> <tr> <td>P175/70R13</td> <td>126.20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P185/70R14</td> <td>144.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P195/70R14</td> <td>152.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P185/60R14</td> <td>155.50</td> </tr> </table> <p>SAVE 45%</p>	Sugg.	Super Sale	P175/70R13	126.20	P185/70R14	144.80	P195/70R14	152.00	P185/60R14	155.50	<p>Firestone WINTERFIRE</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <th>Super Value Snow Tires</th> <th>Sugg.</th> <th>Super Sale</th> </tr> <tr> <td>P155/80R13</td> <td>88.20</td> <td>\$48.51</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P165/80R13</td> <td>114.00</td> <td>\$62.70</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P175/70R13</td> <td>110.00</td> <td>\$60.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P185/75R14</td> <td>115.90</td> <td>\$63.74</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P195/75R14</td> <td>121.40</td> <td>\$66.77</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P205/75R14</td> <td>128.30</td> <td>\$70.56</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P205/75R15</td> <td>133.40</td> <td>\$73.37</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P215/75R15</td> <td>140.80</td> <td>\$77.44</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P225/75R15</td> <td>147.20</td> <td>\$80.96</td> </tr> </table>	Super Value Snow Tires	Sugg.	Super Sale	P155/80R13	88.20	\$48.51	P165/80R13	114.00	\$62.70	P175/70R13	110.00	\$60.50	P185/75R14	115.90	\$63.74	P195/75R14	121.40	\$66.77	P205/75R14	128.30	\$70.56	P205/75R15	133.40	\$73.37	P215/75R15	140.80	\$77.44	P225/75R15	147.20	\$80.96
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Donation hinges on success of development

(Continued from page 1)

the condos that would be built next to it.

Presales of 26 low-rise condominiums have been under way since developer Jerome Winikoff set up a trailer on St. Catherine Street earlier this month. He said there has been a "good turnout" of people inquiring about the units, which will sell for about \$175,000 each. "I have sold a few, but I want to reach 18 so I can start building next month," he said. The entire development should be signed, sealed and delivered by the end of the spring season, he added. "It's also in my interest to get this station situation resolved. I don't want a garbage heap behind me either."

The legacy of the station house would be a blessing and a burden for the local historical association.

"There is a good deal we could do if we could spread a bit. With the space it could be a centre for historical research on the district, getting schools involved on all levels," WHA president Aline Gubbay mused. "It would most certainly be a great addition to community life."

However the 2,000 sq. ft. structure, built in 1907, would require a fair amount of restoration before it could be transformed into a combination of offices and museum. Winikoff had said he would spruce up the exterior of the building, but if it's donated it will be up to the WHA to finance repairs.

"It's all very iffy right now but we're certainly thinking ahead. We would have to immediately launch an auction and major fundraising events to cover the necessary repairs and the work that has to be done," Gubbay commented.

A fund for ongoing maintenance would also be necessary.

"The station needs some help, there's no denying that. But every time one project is completed it helps convince other municipalities that it's worth it," Spénard said, pointing out that Montreal West residents rallied to fix up the CP block tower on Westminster Avenue for the town's centennial celebrations this year.

If the deal does materialize, it would mark the end of a long saga for the station which has been in limbo since it fell into disuse 15 years ago. Recently protected under the Heritage Railway Stations Protection Act, it was incorporated into a variety of ideas for the site which have fallen by the wayside, including a protective services centre and seniors residence.

Winikoff is proposing to name the laneway running through the development after heritage activist Alice Lighthall, who founded the WHA in 1944.

The organization promotes an interest in local history through research, lecture series, and preservation projects. Once housed in the turret of the original library building, then temporarily in the janitor's closet in Victoria Hall, the WHA now calls a room in the library basement home.



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Victoria Hall plans on view prior to meeting

(Continued from page 1)
the seams. None of the suggestions have been finalized yet, Needles emphasized.

Community groups, like the stamp club, bridge club and children's chorus continue to use rooms for meetings and practices free of charge.

Revenue generated from renting the premises won't make much of a dent in the renovations budget, according to Westmount director-

general Bruce St. Louis. "We're talking nickels and dimes compared to hundreds of thousands of dollars," he commented. The total cost of the project is \$3.8 million. Some work on the interior will begin this year, however the bulk of the refurbishing, including a \$1-million link to the library, will likely be slotted into next

year's budget. The hall should be fully operational as a community centre in time for fall programming in 1998, St. Louis said.

A public viewing of the plans will take place at City Hall at 7 pm. this Monday, Nov. 3, prior to the city council meeting.

See Councillor Cynthia Lulham's column, page 7.

Books up for QSPELL, Prix Parizeau

(Continued from page 1)
for his first book titled Half Man, Half Beast. The memoirs by the director of the Centaur Theatre tell his own story and how he came to found the Montreal institution. Podbrey left his post at the helm of the theatre last summer after 28 seasons. At the time he said he planned to sell his house on Lorraine Avenue and spend part of his retirement in South Africa, where he grew up.

City Unique: Montreal Days and Nights in the '40s and '50s by William Weintraub is in the running for a \$2,000 prize for non-fiction work. The celebrated author will discuss the grand old days of Montreal at the Westmount library on Thursday, Dec. 11 as a guest lecturer in a series by the local historical association.

Winners will be announced at the 10th anniversary QSPELL awards on Thursday, Dec. 4 at Place des Arts. Tickets are \$10. For more information call 933-0878.

In the meantime, the second edition of the Prix Parizeau takes place Nov. 7. The \$3,000 award was founded by novelist Mordecai Richler to honour fiction writers of non-French Canadian extraction. Irene Burstyn is nominated, as well as T.F. Rigelhof of Grosvenor Avenue, who launched his new book, Badass on a Softail, last week at the Double Hook Book Shop.

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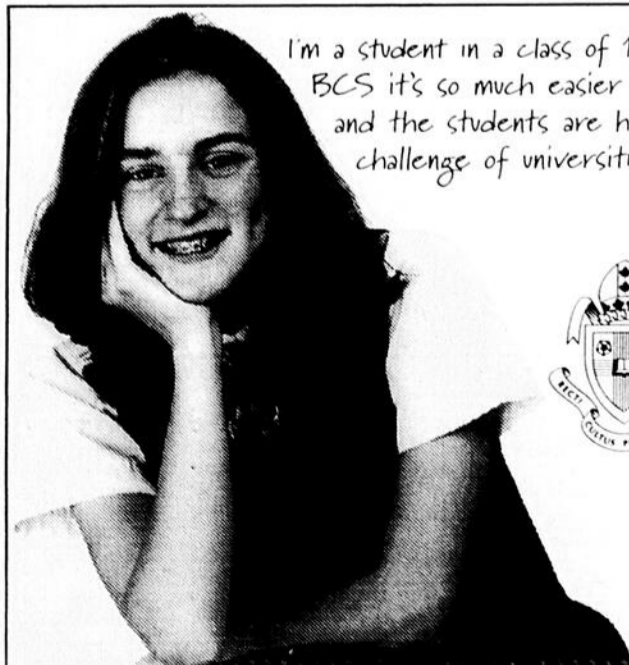
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ECS set for night of dreams auction fundraiser

Volunteers are hard at work transforming the Miss Edgar's and Cramp's school gymnasium in preparation for a gala auction and dinner tonight.

The ECS 'Soirée de Rêves' auction is being co-chaired by Julia Reitman and Jennifer Rowntree. It's the school's first major auction since

1989. "It's a tremendous event, with more than 80 volunteers," Rowntree said, noting everyone from students to Old Girls to teachers and parents are taking part.

Timothy Duggan of Chicago will conduct the silent and live auctions featuring European and North American trips, vacation homes, art

and antiques, innovative class projects, wines, sportswear, computers, and a myriad of other prizes. A total of 84 'packaged' items donated by area businesses will be sold to the highest bidder. A five-course meal will be catered by Rene Pankalla. Errol Pereira of Ogilvy's will transform the school gym with a blue and silver celestial theme.

Funds raised will go to the school's Innovation 2000+ Program targeted at integrating computer technology throughout the curriculum.

Creativity focus of symposium

Dawson College will be the site this weekend for a mental health conference that promises to get the creative juices flowing among its participants. "It's really for everyone," said organizer Eileen Ramos, who is hoping for as many as 200 participants.

Under the theme, "Creativity and Play," the second annual Hearts and Minds conference takes place Saturday from 8:45 a.m. to 5 p.m., organized by the Westmount-based Argyle Institute of Human Relations.

Workshops have been designed to stimulate creativity to help individuals look at important issues in a new way.

Workshop titles include Managing Daily Stress Naturally and Understanding the Destabilizing Effects of Downsizing.

In total there will be 21 workshops to choose from, given by some of Montreal's top mental health professionals.

The Argyle Institute is a non-profit organization that professionally counsels individuals, couples, and families on a sliding fee scale.

There is a fee to register for the conference, either in advance or for same-day registration at Dawson College, 3040 Sherbrooke St. West. To register, call Eileen Ramos at 938-4743.

Library...

(Continued from page 3)
agreed. Johnston also questioned the results of a \$23,000 customer satisfaction survey carried out over the spring which showed that 90 per cent of residents contacted were satisfied with the institution's services. Although professional consultants compiled the results, the poll was carried out via telephone by some city employees, raising questions of conflict of interest, he said.

An internal report, also carried out by Copenrath and Associates, revealed that employees suffered low morale, due to in part to lack of leadership. "Everyone barring one person felt that communications with management were deficient," the report stated.

Former city councillor Peter Duffield has since been brought in to coach library director Caroline Thibodeau on management practices, Johnston noted. Duffield was retained as a management consultant by the city in June for a total of \$17,000.

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SPORTS

Hockey players hit the ice after brief technical difficulties

By Bob Oliver

After some necessary technical adjustments to the ammonia cooling system that caused a delay in preparation of the Westmount rink, the ice surface is now intact and ready for a full season.

"We're about three weeks behind our normal schedule but there's no problem," said Westmount Sports and Recreation director Bob Aiken. "We plan to extend the ice removal date at the end of the year. All the scheduled winter programs will get in."

Following an afternoon free-skate last Tuesday, the Senior 'A' and 'B' teams faced-off in the first official Westmount hockey league games later that evening.

In the inaugural game between the Whalers and the Canucks of the Senior 'A' league, the two teams skated to a 2-2 tie. Brian Anderson was credited with scoring the first goal of the year on the freshly surfaced ice. His marker at 12:06 of the opening period gave the Whalers a 1-0 lead. Murray Brown and Chris Chapman recorded the year's first assists,

helping out on Anderson's goal.

The Whalers made it 2-0 in the second period on a goal by Shawn Rourke, but the Canucks battled back to even the score in the third. Mike Schultz got his team on the board with just over four minutes to play. The tying goal, less than one minute later, was scored by Neil Beauchamps.

Phil Pedicelli registered the first shutout on Westmount ice this season, holding the Blues off the scoresheet in a 6-0 Rangers victory. Hunter Scott—who watched the 1996-97 Canucks-Whalers

championship final from the stands—exploded for three goals. Kavind Puni added two goals in the winning cause. Neil Wensley also scored for the Rangers.

Right after the two Senior 'A' games the Senior 'B' league hit

the ice with the Devils and Leafs skating to a 3-3 stalemate. David Mashaal, Lloyd Cooper and Mark Lezare scored for the Devils. The Leafs' three goals came from the sticks of Mike Lee, Doug Leahey and Gael Gravenor.

Midget squad upbeat in defeat

CHATEAUGUAY - The WHS Knights midget girls soccer team had a tough season, but somehow they didn't seem to mind.

After winning one game all year—a defaulted game against Laval Catholic High School two weeks ago—they dropped their final season game 6-1 to Howard S. Billings High School last week, but kept smiling. "This year has been a tremendous learning experience for us" said Knights stalwart sweeper Gayle Rawlins. "I'm proud of our team for always playing their hardest."

Westmount fell behind 1-0 early in the contest. But with less than five minutes remaining in the half, the Knights went wild. After a

brilliant save by goalkeeper Yaelle Wittes, forwards Ayisha Issa and Samatha Jones got the ball from the Westmount defenders and worked it into Billings zone. Laura Feiner subsequently pounced on a loose ball and scored the team's first and only goal of the season.

At the conclusion of the game with all the high-fives, the hugs and the teams vociferous smurf-cheer, one would have thought Westmount, under coach Angela Corinthios, came out on top.

Rounding out the Westmount side were Livia James, Elizabeth Yardley, Alie Cabelli and Jacqueline Morrison.

— Bob Oliver

WHS softball, soccer squads hot

By Bob Oliver

After winning the league title earlier this fall, the Westmount High School Knights juvenile softball team added the playoff championship crown to their credit last Thursday with a 14-12 victory against Rosemont High School.

Playing in cold conditions at the Westmount Athletic Grounds, pitcher Dinbaz Ullah battled a case of frigid hands to register the win. Brock Bradley and Ben Zoldan provided the key offensive punch, getting two hits each and scoring four runs. Jesse Bienstock

had a hit and scored twice in the winning cause.

"It's the first time we've won the championship and everyone's feeling pretty good about it," Knights manager Keith Mills said after the win.

Rosemont led 2-0 after the first inning but Westmount exploded for eight runs in the bottom of the second. Things got a touch hairy for the Knights in the top of the last inning leading 14-8. Rosemont scored four runs and had the tying run on second base. With two out, Ullah got the last Rosemont batter to pop out.

Meanwhile, the Westmount juve-

nile boys soccer team gave the school another regular-season title, beating Centennial Academy 2-1 last Wednesday at the Athletic Grounds, earning home-field advantage for the semi-final. Heading into the game down by one point to CA in the standings, it was win-or-finish-second for the Knights.

After trailing 1-0 early in the game, Kaan Saldiraner scored to tie it up 1-1 eight minutes before the half. With just four minutes remaining in the game the Westmount contingent went wild when Dallas McKenzie scored the winner.

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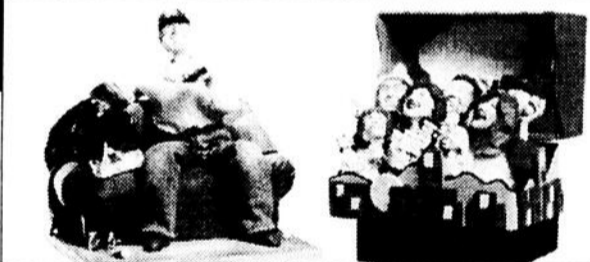
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