



COMMUNITY LIFE SEASONAL SONGS

The Westmount Youth Orchestra teams up with Connie Kaldor and Hart Rouge for a holiday concert.

Page 18

REAL ESTATE NOVEMBER DROUGHT

Only two Westmount homes sold last month.

Page 30

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Transcontinental Vol 73, no 48 • Thursday December 11th 2008



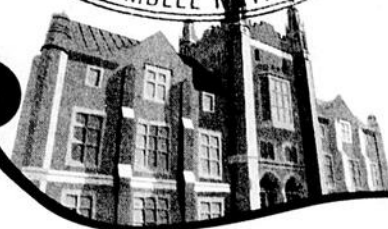
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this week.

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SWAT turns 20

The Westmount Old Timers presented their 20th annual fundraising tournament at the Westmount arena Nov 27-30, and this year the Yukon Gold team came out on top. Standing (left to right) are Pat Harroch, Brian MacDougall, Mark Finkelstein, Eris Salvatori, David Abracen, Ed Harvey, Mike Auerbach; kneeling (left to right) are Andy Zeidel, Bruce Campbell, David Margo, Dominic Agostino, Marc Doré and Pierre Arsenaault. See page 22. Photo: Ralph Thompson, PhotoImagerie Inc.



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Chagnon breezes to victory in Westmount

Liberal incumbent elected to seventh consecutive mandate

Patrick Lavery

By 8:30 p.m., it was all over and people were ready to celebrate. Liberal MNA Jacques Chagnon was easily re-elected to the seat he has held since 1985, winning close to 75 per cent of the vote (11,041 votes) in the riding of Westmount—St. Louis.

His closest rival was 18-year-old Parti Quebecois candidate Daniella Johnson-Meneghini. She won just over 10 per cent of the vote (1,525 votes).

"I am extremely happy right now," Chagnon said after he thanked supporters who gathered at his Guy Street campaign office to watch the poll results come in. "I am grateful and thankful for the confidence the

voters have shown in me by re-electing me. I am really happy but modest by this result."

Chagnon said he is now looking forward to returning to Quebec City, where he says the Liberals will get to work on preparing themselves to head a renewed majority government lead by Jean Charest.

Continued on page 7

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LOCAL NEWS

City council to study health effects of wood-burning stoves

Martin C. Barry

Westmount mayor Karin Marks says city council will be studying suggestions made by a Pointe Claire woman who has appealed for assistance in a research campaign she is conducting on the environmental and health effects of wood-burning stoves.

Addressing council on Nov. 24, Stella Haley said she wants to examine the ambient air quality in Westmount with regards to wood burning. "I have researched this and we have over 3,000 studies that indicate that children are at very high risk," she said.

"In view of the fact that we have significant evidence that the EPA wood-burning certified stoves emit much higher dioxin, much higher furins in independent research, and this is associated with breast cancer, I ask if you would consider obviously adopting even a stronger approach."

Citing environmental and health concerns, the Town of Hampstead recently decided to pass a bylaw cracking down on the use of wood-burning appliances. The by-law defines such appliances as "a fireplace insert, wood stove, central furnace or similar device, including a pellet stove and any outdoor solid



Pointe Claire resident Stella Haley discusses the dangers of wood-burning stoves during Westmount's November city council meeting. Photo: Martin C. Barry

fuel combustion appliance," although it does not apply to barbecues.

Saying she was the mother of a child who had cancer, Haley added, "I see an opportunity to prevent unnecessary exposure risks to these clearly high carcinogenic emissions. So I would appreciate if you could look at that and take it very seriously."

Marks said the matter had been added to the agenda for city council's environmental

committee for further study. "We will be looking at it," she said.

Councillor Tom Thompson, who chairs city council's Healthy City Project Steering Committee, said Bruce Walker, a longtime Montreal environmental activist, had spoken to the environmental committee on the issue.

"He made a wonderful presentation," said Thompson. "We are encouraged to be looking at more of the details and some of the research you have been referencing, because there are some units through research that are good and effective in certain conditions for burning, but not with wood. And we're looking at the implications long-term for even people who are building a house in the future."

While he was less concerned about the

burning of wood pellets, Thompson said he had serious reservations about the burning of wood. "You have to look at the pellets and the other things that they're experimenting with in Europe and other places," he said. "But wood-burning I have yet to see that, and we're looking at it very carefully."

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OPINION

Stéph and Mario step down

If anyone doubted it before, Monday proved it absolutely — life is cheap in politics.

The biggest casualty of the provincial election was Mario Dumont, whose meteoric rise to fame and power reached a premature zenith less than two years ago. This week's poor showing of his Action Démocratique party has been so devastating that he promptly announced that he was stepping down as leader.

Gleefully leaping into any and all issues that promised to win him popularity, and staying well away of any that didn't — the municipal demergers instantly attracted him to Westmount — he played the game as best he could, and it paid off handsomely for him in the 2007 election. But perhaps it was all too much too soon for the charismatic young fellow from the sticks whose promises ultimately outnumbered his abilities. Perhaps he was a victim of his own giant ego, which had him promoting himself above the party, adding his name to the official party title ("Equipe Mario Dumont" — even Duplessis never did that!) and travelling around in a campaign bus sporting a bigger-than-life image of himself that looked like a billboard ad for a crooner's greatest hits album, complete with MARIO written in a fancy flourish.

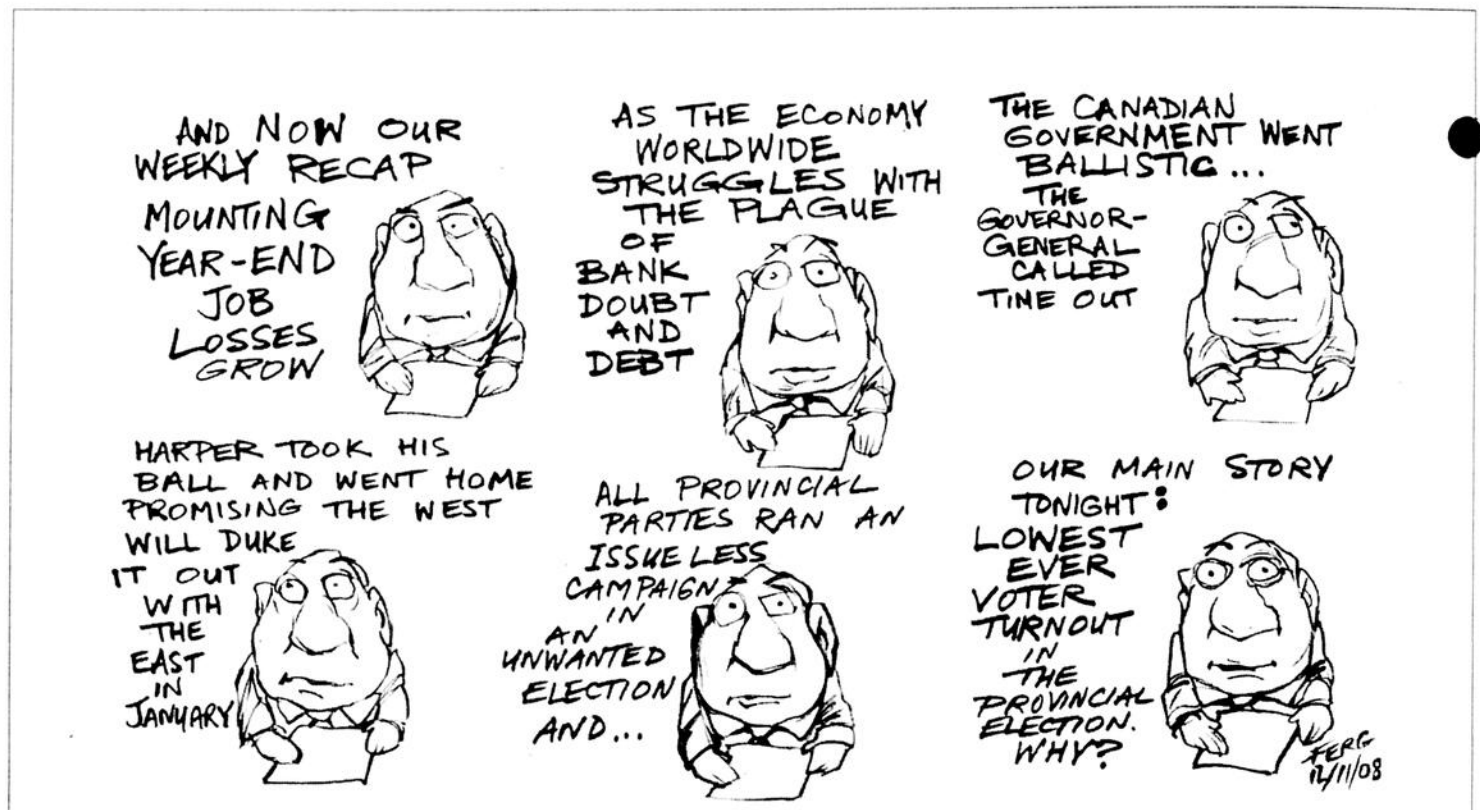
Well, he's had his day.

Jean Charest and Pauline Marois both have much more experience in the political arena and know better than to present pop-star images of themselves over and above the party as a whole. They know very well that one person does not make a party, and Dumont must learn this if he is planning a comeback.

Over in the federal camp, Liberal leader Stéphane Dion announced that he too will step down as soon as a successor is chosen. This comes during a particularly sordid period in the Liberals' history — one that was supposed to end two years ago with the Liberal leadership convention in Montreal. That was not only an excruciatingly dull and pompous affair, but it also proved to be a huge waste of time and money. Choosing Dion was acknowledged by many as a mistake at the time, and that has been reiterated by the simple fact that two of his main opponents were once again poised to take the helm — Michael Ignatieff and Bob Rae.

Dion may have had the best of intentions for his party and his country, but he was given to losing his temper and spewing overly hateful rhetoric against the Harper Conservatives. Some would say the last straw was last week's video, which was so badly produced that the very fact it was released showed fatally poor judgement.

But at least he didn't try to rename the Liberals "Equipe Stéphane Dion."



Westmount's tunnel of love



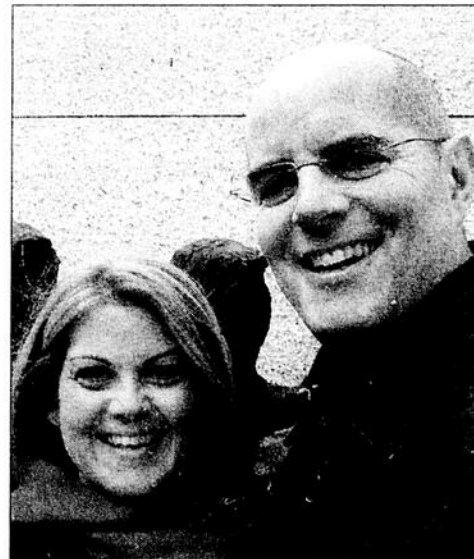
MEDIA
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WAYNE LARSEN

Keir Cutler is best-known as an acclaimed stage and TV actor who makes us laugh each year at Fringe festivals across the country. But now, thanks to computer technology, he has yet another distinction — pickup artiste extraordinaire.

The man who teaches us revisionist Shakespeare and plays a variety of other eccentric characters is also a prolific filmmaker whose short comic videos have won a small but devoted cult following on the internet. He has now used this medium to take the old-fashioned boy-meets-girl scenario and turn it into a work of post-modernist seduction — the stalker as documentary filmmaker, if you will.

The premise is simple enough: Every day at exactly the same time, he would notice the same woman pass through the pedestrian tunnel linking Westmount Square to the Atwater metro station. One day, the smitten actor finally summoned up the courage to break the ice and speak to her — with his trusty video camera pointed straight at her the whole time.

The resulting conversation, which lasts the full duration of their long walk together through the deserted tunnel, is a masterpiece of discomfort, for the poor girl is clearly not cool with being singled out and chatted up by



Keir Cutler and Evelyne Soulard put a new spin on video dating.

a six-foot six-inch bald man wielding a video camera.

Talk about pushing the boundaries! True to his cutting-edge style, Cutler thumbs his nose at contemporary taboos and plunges boldly ahead through the treacherous waters of stalking and harassment, putting his own irreverent spin on an otherwise serious issue. The viewer understands he means no harm — but the girl doesn't.

Though Cutler titled his video 'Life Before Stalkers', it could very well have been called 'How I Met My Girlfriend'. Yes, believe it or not, this outrageously unorthodox pickup technique may have actually worked, for

Cutler is now dating Evelyne Soulard, the unwitting subject of his risky video experiment.

Reaction to the video has been largely incredulous; the two must have staged the whole thing. It *had* to be staged, you think — until you see the actual video. Soulard is not an actor, and she is genuinely creeped out, big time!

Is 'Life Before Stalkers' a scripted performance piece, complete with the inevitable Citizen Kane shot as they pass those facing mirrors in the pedestrian tunnel, or an honest example of quirky cinema-verité, Keir Cutler style? You be the judge. The video is posted on the Just For Laughs website at: <http://www.justepourrire.com/videos/show/9014-life-before-stalkers?>

Send us your letters

The Examiner welcomes letters from readers on issues of local interest. Letters should be sent to larsenw@transcontinental.ca (preferable), by fax to 514-484-6028 or by mail to Letters to the Editor, The Westmount Examiner, 345 Victoria Ave. suite 508, Westmount, Qc. H3Z 2N2. Only letters bearing the writer's full name, address, and a daytime contact phone number will be considered for publication. Hand-written letters will not be accepted. Letters may be edited for length and/or clarity.

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LOCAL NEWS

Old NEWS from the archives 1935-2008

One Year Ago
December 13, 2007

MAJOR FUNDRAISER: "The Westmount Youth Orchestra recently celebrated its 10th anniversary with an elegant gala at the Mount Royal Centre, and ended up receiving a special birthday present — more than \$175,000 in donations. Chaired by Brian and Mila Mulrone, co-chaired by Gérard Charlebois and hosted by Ben Mulrone, the event featured baritone Russell Braun and soprano Tracy Smith Bessette. About 500 guests, including Premier Jean Charest and his wife, Michèle Dionne, mingled at the cocktail, silent auction and concert of opera excerpts under the baton of artistic director Scott Gabriel. "It was a thrill to have such a festive crowd support the Orchestra," said Gabriel, "This provides the Orchestra with a new capital of supporters for the decade to come." The WYO has been much appreciated in the Montreal community in recent years, "I am so grateful to the generous donors who bring the orchestra the support it needs to reach new heights," said Mila Mulrone, who was actively engaged in the promotion of the gala. "The volunteers of the gala committee have done a tremendous job."

Five Years Ago
December 11, 2003

TRENT VS. BOURQUE: "If it wasn't the

first time Peter Trent and Pierre Bourque were meeting publicly to compare the pros and cons of the megacity, it was certainly their first chance since both got tossed out of office. Addressing a lunchtime meeting of the Canadian Club of Montreal at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel last Monday, the former Westmount mayor — who is seen as the main force behind Quebec's decision to allow municipal demergers — and the former mayor of Montreal — who is often described as the 'father of the megacity' — took turns at the rostrum. Trent's term came to a premature end in 2001 when Westmount was forcibly merged with the City of Montreal. Bourque, on the other hand, failed in his bid

to become the first mayor of the megacity he was largely responsible for creating. A group of Westmounters and friends of Trent — including the borough's three councilors as well as Victor and Barbara Drury, Kathleen

Duncan, Doug McDougall and Don Wedge of the WMA, and former Westmount city councillors Jim Wright and Margaret Lefebvre — reserved a table for more than \$800 so they could offer support."



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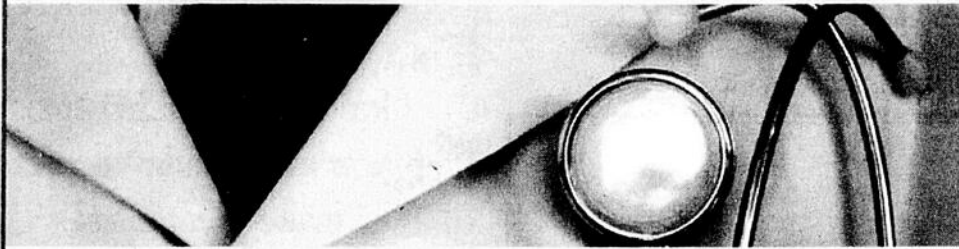
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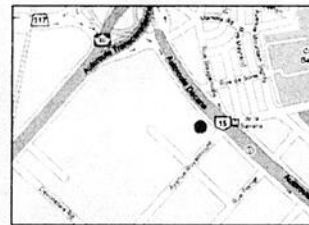
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Next week, The Examiner's Best of Westmount series concludes as we reveal the best hot beverage in the city. Who has the best cappuccino? Who offers the best latte?

Readers are invited to submit their nominations by calling 514-484-5610 ext. 22 or sending an email to editor Wayne Larsen at larsenw@transcontinental.ca. The deadline for nominations is Friday, Dec. 12 at noon.

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LOCAL NEWS

Continued from CHAGNON, page 1

"We'll do what we've been elected for," he said, referring to the Liberals campaign theme of the economy and the need for stable government to lead the province through tough times. The party will start by putting together a new cabinet. Chagnon was uncertain what his role would be in the new government, aside from representing his riding. When the National Assembly was dissolved for the election, Chagnon held the post of Deputy Speaker of the Assembly.

"I love my role as Deputy Speaker," he said. "But I don't know what will happen. I know I will do what I've done for the past 23 years, and that is work in the best interest of the voters of Westmount and downtown Montreal."

Elections Quebec noted that voter turnout for this election was close to the lowest ever, and the lowest since 1927, with roughly 57 per cent of voters showing up at the polls. In Westmount — St. Louis, the turnout was even lower, with less than 37 per cent of voters casting a ballot.

Green Party candidate Patrick Daoust was disappointed by the low turnout and the results.

"I think this is a very cynical victory for Mr. Charest," he said. "The voter turnout for this riding was incredibly low. You had less than one-third of the voters vote for the winning candidate, but they made up 75 per cent of the vote."

Daoust, who placed second to Chagnon in 2007, finished third this time around, winning 7.4 per cent of the vote, or 1,090 votes. Daoust has been leading a court



Jacques Chagnon thanks his staff members shortly after being declared the winner in Westmount — St. Louis.

challenge to change the electoral system, and he said this election exposed the flaws inherent in the system.

The two other candidates running in the election, Nadia Alexan of Quebec Solidaire and Leonidas Priftakis of the ADQ, finished well behind the other candidates. Alexan finished fourth, with about four per cent of the vote (641 votes). Priftakis finished last,

receiving only 438 votes, or about three per cent of the vote.

Overall, the Liberals won 66 seats with 42 per cent of the vote, increasing their total by 18 from the 2007 election. The seat count assures them a majority government. The PQ

saw renewed support catapult them back into the role of the Official Opposition, winning 51 seats and roughly 35 per cent of the vote.

The Action Democratique Quebec party was decimated, taking a little less than six per cent of the vote.

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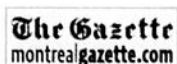
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HOLIDAY Gift GUIDE

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HOLIDAY *gift* GUIDE

Lawn Bowlers mark the festive season



Stanley Baker

The Westmount Lawn Bowling Club held its annual Christmas party last Sunday, Dec. 6, with about 50 people in attendance. The gourmet cooking was provided by Odette Pilon and Ron Léfevre and served by

head waiters Shikego Betts and Irene Menear. Tobi Klein and her accordion entertained and accompanied the Christmas sing-along.

Seen here is club president Doris Branscombe, in festive attire, with member Evelyn Lodge.

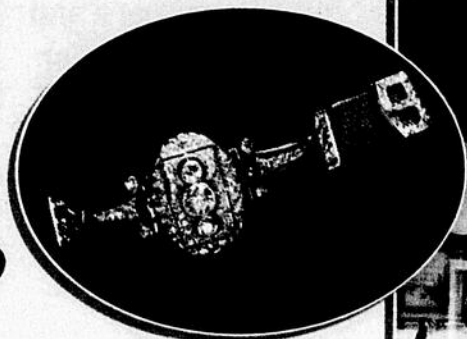


The City of Westmount officially welcomed the holidays with the traditional lighting of the Christmas tree in front of City Hall on Tuesday evening.

Photos Martin C. Barry

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HOLIDAY *gift* GUIDE

Thoughtful and frugal at the same time

Shopping for the holidays in the West End

Elysha Krupp

The holiday season can be a rather hectic time of the year—so many people to shop for, so little time and so very little money. But just a little bit of time and research can mean an efficient and budget conscious holiday.

There are hundreds of great gifts you can purchase for around \$25—gifts that are both thoughtful and frugal at the same time. Put them in an inexpensive basket or wrap them with a pretty ribbon and you'll truly have a beautiful gift—without breaking the bank!

It's easier than it sounds. Local Montreal stores offer so much variety that you're certain to find something for everyone on your list.

Got someone on your list who wants a pampering wash but doesn't have time for a prolonged bubble bath? How about a scrubber and luxury soap in one handy handful? At **Sabon**, a specialty bath products store at 5033 Sherbrooke St., they not only offer specialty loofas and specialty soaps—they have

soap loofas in lychee, lemon ginger, amber and lavender. The loofa bristles are dried in the soap, creating a natural sponge. As a skin conditioner the texture of the loofa stimulates circulation and removes dead skin cells and leaves you skin glowing. Slices of the loofa soap can be cut while you watch from their original cylindrical states shipped all the way from Israel for \$7 for 100 grams or three different scents in one bundle for \$21.

If that doesn't hit the jackpot, they offer body butter for \$13.50 per 100 grams, made with shea butter, cocoa butter and beeswax. The product comes in a recyclable tin can so you can carry it in your purse and use on the road on your lips, cuticles, and hands no matter where you are. Gift baskets range from \$24 to over \$100 and you can mix and match items. A soap loofa set and body butter combo would make any woman's skin tingle.

With ski season fast approaching and cold weather already here, cozy earwarmers and socks are good stocking stuffers. At **Lmnop**, a children's clothing store for sizes 0 to 18

years at 4919 Sherbrooke St., Turtlefur earwarmers and Hot Chilly's socks are both under \$15 and the perfect size for stocking stuffings. There are adorable winter hats for infants by Beba Bean in light pinks and blues for \$17 that come with optional matching blankets. If you're looking for something pre-packaged, My First Rubber Ducky kit comes with four wash-cloths and a rubber ducky in either green, blue, pink and purple for \$25.

If you're looking to warm up some bigger hands, **Vive La Difference** at 5525 Monkland Ave., has 100 per cent wool hand knit gloves from Newfoundland. Wisps of raw wool knitted into the pattern with fluff on the inside help the gloves to form to your hands and give you that extra bit of comfy protection. The design, originally from Nova Scotia and Newfoundland fishermen, is called "thrummed," and helps your hands stay warm even when the wool is wet. They come in various colors and designs for \$30 a pair.

If you're not likely to get halfway across

the world to shop, **Vive La Difference** is the place to go for other gift ideas as well. Silver hammered costume jewelry from Greece and Turkey, ceramic bowls and plates from Mexico, batiked African mud clothes and cloisonné ornaments from China make wonderful holiday options. Delicate bells made in the style of cloisonné, an ancient metalworking technique with multi-step enamel processes, are \$12 and make beautiful unique ornaments—just make sure to keep them separate from the rest of the gifts or they may break!

You can also find an eclectic mix of hand made cards here that are gifts in and of themselves. Ranging from \$2.50 to \$6.50, hand made cards made by various artists also support fundraising projects based in India, China and Zimbabwe. From golden threaded designs to Christmas trees painted on flattened bottle caps to attached embroidered ornaments, these cards add a heartfelt touch to any gift that double as a much needed contributions to important international human services.

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Never leave burning candles unattended.



Get rid of stored newspapers and other trash which could start or spread a fire more quickly.

Never store highly flammable liquids, like paint thinner or gasoline, inside your home.

Never smoke in bed. Matches and lighters should be stored safely out of children's reach.

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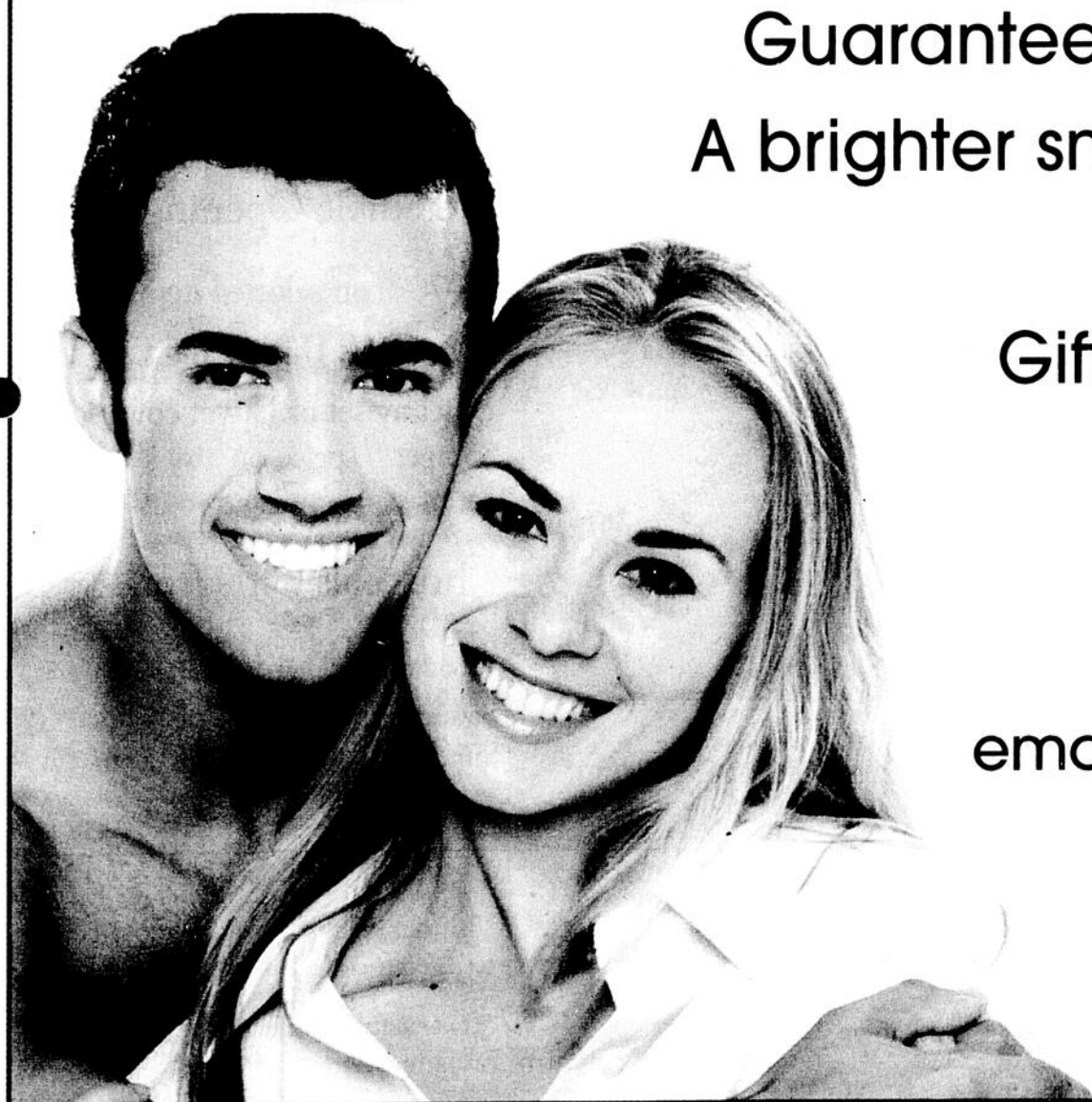
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HOLIDAY gift GUIDE

Rekindling that holiday feeling

Marilyn Smith Carsley

This year could be quite revolutionary in the celebration venue. In order to become distracted from all the commercialism, maybe a little old-fashioned sentimentality and more of a traditional, creative touch should be a priority. In reality, we may not have any alternative but to embrace some novel objectives in our planning, as the economy is spiralling downward with no redeeming finale in sight.

This is the opportune occasion to revert back to the spirituality of our existence. Perhaps a religious and charitable venue will be more of a focus, and ultimately, isn't that what these times are all about? If we really exert the effort and some imagination, this monetary negativity pervading the world could, ironically, evolve into a special blessing, leading us towards recapturing the meaning of these forthcoming holidays.

For the past few years, society had been flourishing on technological overload, both in the workplace and in our lifestyle. Yearly, there are so many amazing advancements that it is not feasible to keep ahead. Toys are more computerized, cell phones are with replete with a multitude of features, computers are thinner, more efficient and portable, and of course televisions have become more streamlined and visually captivating. By the

time I acquired a flat screen, the plasma was gaining popularity and LCDs were moving. Eventually, I capitulated and resigned myself to the fact that I shall always be trailing behind technology. Somehow, we do become so meaningfully defined by our possessions and how technologically current we are. Perhaps in the process of high aspirations and numerous unnecessary acquisitions, we have misplaced the importance of tradition in our lives.

With Hanukkah and Christmas around the calendar's corner, our mindset is in full gear on how to generate exceptional holidays without going overboard with pricey gifts. Every year, the Christmas hype is financially stressful, but this is the year where budgeting may intervene more prominently. In our family, an annual event is the Hanukkah dinner, which transpires during one of the eight days. When assemble, we give money (gelt) to the children and dine on the ritualistic foods, notably potato latkes. Our Hanukkahs never really revolved around gifts, as they were always the minimal tokens compared to the anticipated distinctive symbols; the menorah, the dreidals, the history of the holiday, and chocolate money.

For me, the weeks surrounding the holidays should be more inclusive in regard to it being an initiation towards a time of togetherness and reflection. Children should

Continued on page 15

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HOLIDAY gift GUIDE

Continued from
HOLIDAY FEELING, page 14

be exposed to lessons denoting thankfulness and be open to discover the traditions of Judaism, Christianity and others. Demonstrate that the candles lit on Hanukkah symbolize the light of the Creator and that the Christmas wreath is a symbol of the eternal circle of life. Children should comprehend the idea that the presents for Kwanzaa represent the deep connection between parents and children but most of all everyone should try to appreciate all the beautiful miracles in their own lives. This gratitude for their blessings can be expressed by participating in a toy drive, a food drive or any type of charitable act, and can provide an alternative pleasure in just giving to others. Encouraging gifts from the heart such as writing a story, painting a picture, organizing a photo album, or creating a scrapbook are so much more meaningful and are treasures that last forever.

A few years ago, towards the end of November, I was asked if I would like to do some gift-wrapping to raise money for The Starlight Foundation. At first I was not quite sure if I could spare the hours, but then I decided that I would make time. In addition, I encouraged my youngest daughter to accompany me for those five hours. We were slightly concerned, as both of us were not experienced gift wrappers, but I was determined to try, and although my daughter was reluctant, I believed that she should join me in learning an unselfish lesson.

The day before Christmas we went to



Alexis Nihon Plaza and we learned, on the spot, how to gift-wrap. Truthfully, we had a wonderful time although we lacked the packaging expertise. Everyone was beyond generous and the joyful spirit was memorable. We had the opportunity to talk to all kinds of people who lined up very patiently (we were slow and somewhat clumsy) to have their presents wrapped. We received numerous extraordinary donations beyond the wrapping fee by people who could have used the money. Since that time, we have repeated the experience for other organizations. We still reminisce about that first occasion when we witnessed the real gift of giving and we felt privileged to share in that spirit of goodwill.

Today's society focuses too intently on possessions and the intensity in maintaining that technological pace that we often neglect the beauty of capturing moments of simplicity. Spend the holidays taking a walk to admire the Christmas and Hanukkah scenery, go skating and visit with family and friends. May all the holidays be one of togetherness and hopefully there will be a desire to replicate this heart-warming trend in 2009..... and beyond.

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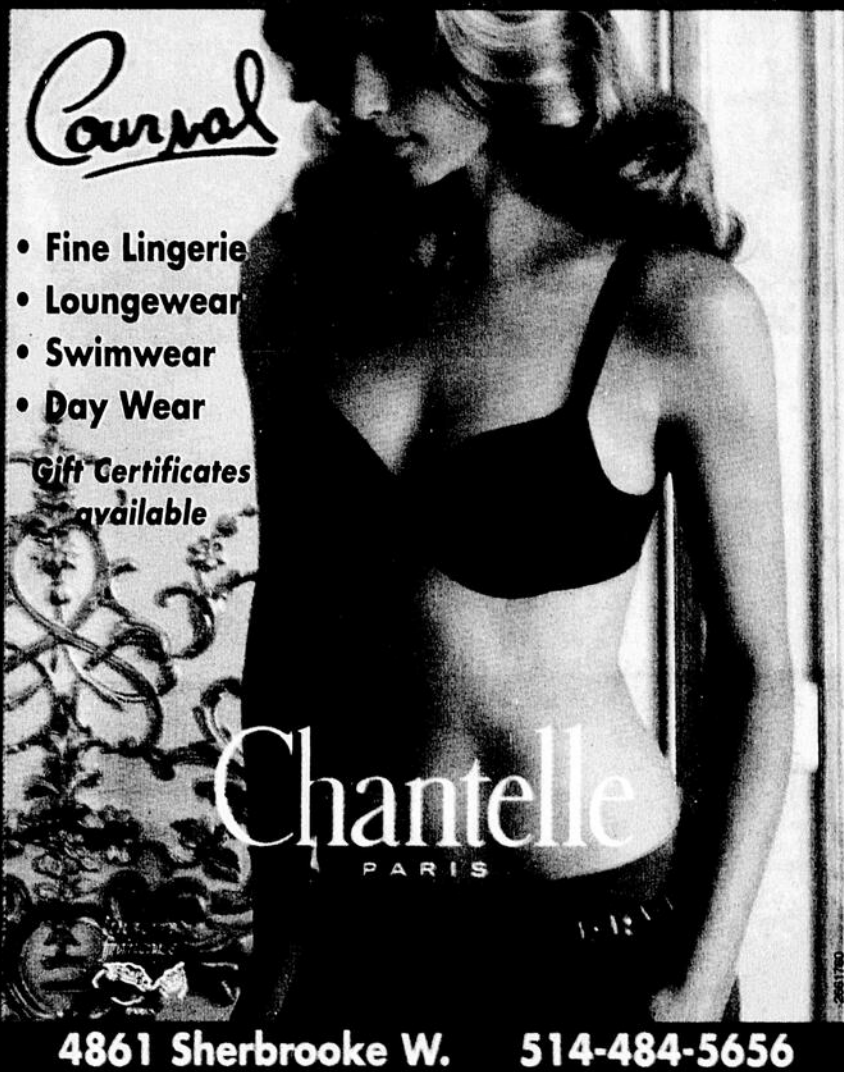


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HOLIDAY gift GUIDE

WYO decks the halls with Hart Rouge and Connie Kaldor

Martin C. Barry

Members of the Westmount Youth Orchestra were joined by Juno Award-winning vocalist Connie Kaldor and Canadian folk group Hart Rouge at McGill University's Pollack Hall last Saturday night for a benefit concert of seasonal music that ranged from traditional carols to Jingle Bell Rock.

Under the musical direction of conductor Scott Gabriel, the WYO performed the French Christmas hymns *Il Est né* and *Venez divin Messie*, as well as the English Christmas favourites *Twelve Days of Christmas* and *Silent Night*.

In a program segment entitled a "Walk Through Montreal," the WYO was joined by Kaldor and Aleksis Campagne of Hart Rouge to perform a number of folk tunes, including the *Point au piq Reel*, *Rêve du Diable* and *Kolomayke*. This was followed by the much more recent Christmas favourite, *Jingle Bell Rock*.

Kaldor, a native of Saskatchewan who lives in Montreal, has toured the globe with her original compositions, such as 'Wood River' and 'Skies are Bigger' about her native province. She has 13 albums to her credit,



The Westmount Youth Orchestra performing at Pollack Hall last Saturday. Photo: David Babcock

three award-winning children's CD/books, and there have been numerous arrangements of her songs.

Hart Rouge, also from Saskatchewan, sing original and traditional French folk songs. Kaldor is married to Hart Rouge member Paul Campagne. The members of the group grew up in Willowbunch, a Francophone community of the province, where they were introduced to French culture by their father.

While the band started performing out west, their career widened with their move to

Montreal. Hart Rouge has gone on to produce award-winning children's albums with such Quebec stars as Gilles Vigneault, Martin Léon, Mara Tremblay and Michel Rivard. They have also represented Quebec internationally.

A skilled musician experienced in a wide range of repertoire, Scott Gabriel has lived and worked in Montreal since 2000. In addition to being artistic director at the WYO, he is assistant music director of the *Petits Chanteurs du Mont Royal*, choir director at

St-Laurent Church, and chamber music instructor at the McGill Conservatory.

On top of teaching trumpet and music theory privately, he has worked with innumerable student and professional ensembles and has played with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. He has also premiered the works of several Canadian composers, directed the Gregorian Chant Choir of Calgary, and founded the Friends of Gravity, an experimental theatre and music ensemble in Toronto.

The fundraising event, which was attended by about 400 people — including Mila Mulroney, who presided over last year's big fund-raising gala, and local MNA Jacques Chagnon, who took a break from his re-election campaign.

"Connie Kaldor's warm rapport with the audience and the kids' enthusiasm came together to make the evening a very special experience," said Gabriel. "This was the first concert in the 12-year history of the WYO programmed for the full membership of all three of our orchestras on stage at once. It was a special event for all our members, aged 8 to 20. Net proceeds from the concert, cocktail and silent auction are expected to be in the vicinity of \$12,000."

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Shaar's honorary presidents pass the torch

Bram Eisenthal

Congregation Shaar Hashomayim's Annual General Meeting, held on Nov. 24, was not only a way to usher in a new slate of officers as required by the 162-year-old synagogue's bylaws. The session is also an opportunity for the outgoing board members to welcome new ones, a "passing of the torch" ritual the historic institution has been holding far longer than most other institutions have been in existence.

While celebrating the addition of new leaders to its Board of Trustees, as well as a new president every several years — beauty product entrepreneur David Cape has just assumed this mantle — the AGM is one of the rare opportunities for surviving former presidents (known as honorary presidents at Shaar Hashomayim) to greet one another "en force."

They come from near and far for this important occasion, from as nearby as Montreal West, the home turf of out-going president Alvin Fagen, C.A., Westmount,

where two groundbreaking former female presidents, Mildred Lande and Sylvia Schneiderman, reside, to as far-off as Israel, where Charles Solomon, president of the Shaar in the late 1960s, now lives.

It is as inspirational a gathering of leadership as you will find anywhere.

"It is a humbling experience to look around the room as you are about to accept such an honoured position of leadership and witness this gathering of remarkable men and women who have been there before you," stated the newest president, David J. Cape.

Cape's father, Michael Cape, was president in the mid-1990s and is still actively involved in the Congregation.

The position of president at Shaar Hashomayim is a voluntary role, as it is at many other non-profit institutions. But at the Shaar, every president is remembered for the mark they have left, using their personal and business acumen toward the betterment of the Congregation and its membership, which numbers more than 1,400 families. Accountant Alvin Fagen, previously the synagogue's treasurer, oversaw the most

ambitious project in Shaar Hashomayim's history, the completion of a \$15 million Capital Campaign and renovation.

"I certainly have big shoes to fill, but I am

also thankful to have such an esteemed group, including my father, to call upon for guidance," added Cape, a resident of Westmount.

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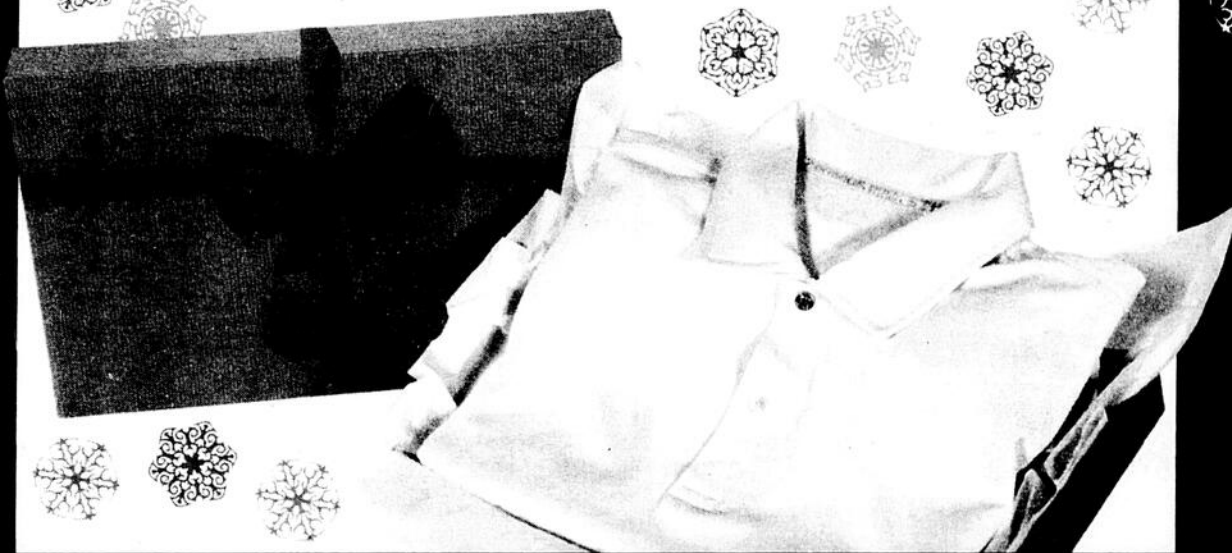
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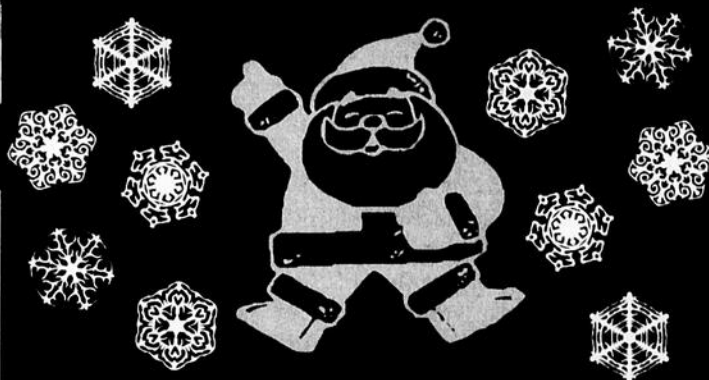
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HOLIDAY gift GUIDE

SWAT players raise funds for children's hospitals during 20th annual hockey tournament

Martin C. Barry

While the name "old timers" might leave the impression of a group of people who are waning in energy, any such notion was quickly dispelled during the 20th annual Westmount Old Timers Hockey Tournament, which was held over the Nov. 27-30 weekend at the municipal arena.

In all, eight teams of players aged 45 years and older from Westmount, Kirkland, Town of Mount Royal, Pointe Claire and Ottawa took part in an event which has become an annual tradition.

Nicolas Matossian, whose late son, Nicolas Jr., was the inspiration for the first SWAT tournament, was awarded the 2008 Ken Sinclair Sportsmanship Award, which recognizes sportsmanship, team spirit, selflessness, leadership, responsibility and commitment to fundraising within the community.

A former Westmount city councillor, Matossian Sr. has been a member of the SWAT team for the past 25 years and an ardent supporter and tireless contributor to

the tournament since its beginning two decades ago.

"Whether it's organizing hockey clinics for us, setting up hockey/lobster tournaments in Maine or negotiating with City Hall to maintain SWAT's communal goodwill, Nic has always been there for us," said Jon Feldman in presenting the Ken Sinclair Award to Matossian. "I am personally honored to have been chosen to present this award to Nic who is, without question, meritorious and deserving of it. Ken would be proud of us today."

While afflicted with brain cancer at age 15, Nicolas Jr. had decided to do something for future children by raising funds for Hôpital Sainte-Justine the Montreal Children's Hospital. Over the past 20 years, about \$200,000 of tournament funds have been contributed to the two hospitals, in the name of Nicolas Jr., to further cancer research and to enhance survivorship probabilities for children with the disease.

"It was started by the SWAT team the year after my son had passed away, and it wasn't really my initiative — it was the team that decided we should do something to raise

money for the children's hospitals," said Matossian.

Many of the donations for silent and live auction segments held as part of the tournament were made possible with the support of the many dedicated Westmount retailers who provided program advertising and supplies. There were also contributions from advertisements, donations and products from numerous corporations and professionals.

"The tournament itself is always competitive," said Howard Hoppenheim, a tournament co-chair, noting the enthusiastic level of play.

"SWAT would like to thank the many Westmount merchants, and numerous other Tournoi supporters and advertisers, who, in these difficult economic times, continued their unconditional support of our Tournoi and the Montreal Children's and Ste Justine hospitals," said Hoppenheim, SWAT treasurer.

He added that this year's success was also thanks to the following individuals and organizations: "Norm Richer, co-chairman, who ensured that the myriad of tasks were planned and implemented,

Doug Price, who attended each of the 15 games and ensured that the statistics were properly and timely posted, Adam Cutler, who produced a quality Tournoi brochure, Claude Bismuth, who effectively conducted the silent auction, SWAT members Alain Elbaz, Nic Matossian, Leo Cauzo, Vahe Djourian, Laurent Dionne and co-chairman Jim West, all of whom carried out their numerous functions in a timely and proficient manner, Mike Deegan and Dave Lapointe of the Westmount Recreation Department, the numerous rink attendants and Andrew Blankfort, whose assistance was, once again, simply outstanding, Jim Atchison, Rick Hogan, Larry Montreuil, Steve Downie, Dan Montford, Brent Young, Peter Shore and Glen Wightman of the North Shore Referees Association, Westmount referees Casey Auerbach, Rod and Ralph Leider and Simon Rodenchuk, all of whom graciously provided their services free of charge, and Wayne Larsen of the Westmount Examiner, whose annual support continues to be unwavering."



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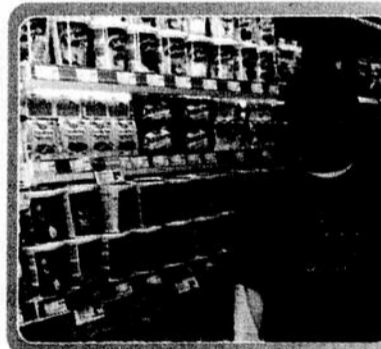
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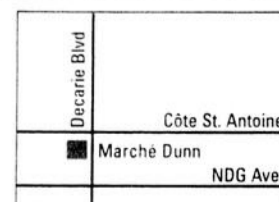
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HOLIDAY gift GUIDE

Music can be more powerful than words

Marylin Smith Carsley

The humanity stirring within a synagogue's walls are the true catalysts for instilling the beliefs in its community.

All the clergy, and volunteers at the Shaar Hashomayim are exceptionally dedicated towards the continual enrichment of Jewish awareness and observance, and this is apparent through the services and educational activities.

The Shaar has become renowned in Westmount and beyond for its musical renditions of the many harmonious and historical tunes. The entrance of a young Cantor five years ago is one of the reasons, as his vocal eloquence is hypnotizing. In addition, the inspiring clergy — Rabbi Scheier, Rabbi Wolfson and Rabbi Berman — all work together and their efforts are vividly demonstrated during all synagogue occasions.

Cantor Gideon Zelermyer is a man of diverse talents, and since arriving at this Westmount synagogue he has made a profound impact. His rendition of prayer, partnered with esteemed musical director



Cantor Gideon Zelermyer

Steven Glass and the outstanding choir, demonstrate a combined repertoire commemorating the rituals of Judaism.

The cantor's office, located on the upper floors, displays a mélange of his diverse interests. Photos depict special occasions and a love of baseball. Shelves display information about his family while certificates verify his accomplishments. He sincerely appreciates the qualities of life worth striving for in spirituality, community and above all, family. During his 33 years, he has certainly traveled a fascinating sojourn to have finally reached his Montreal home as the cantor of Congregation Shaar Hashomayim.

An early love of opera

On a chilly November afternoon, I met with Cantor Zelermyer. No matter how many times that I have entered the Shaar, I remain in awe of the architectural beauty and that sense of committed continuity due to the longevity of generations of members. Although this Cantor may be young in years, his dedicated command of his position belies this youthfulness. As the son of a Rabbi, he was destined to follow the same path as his father. Growing up in West Hartford Connecticut, Gideon recalls his musical home, and his Mother's opera influence, which eventually led to Gideon's love of the art. In fact, at the age of five, Gideon attended his first performance, Carmen, and although he did not quite connect with it, the music had an impact.

"At a very young age, I was able to distinguish between Beverly Sills and Joan Sutherland's voices, but the appreciation really began at the end of high school." Today he owns close to 2,000 CDs, which he listens to frequently.

For Gideon, at that time, singing was a hobby, but he always participated in choirs. He attended George Washington University

and studied Judaic Studies, with a minor in religion, with plans upon graduation to go to Rabbinical School in New York. During that

Continued on page 25

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Continued from CANTOR, page 23

time, the cantor at his father's synagogue had departed and Gideon was asked to fill in.

While studying at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, he would return home to act as the cantor during the High Holidays and eventually on the weekends as well. It was around that time that a self-realization occurred.

"I grew up in the synagogue and so many of the people there were like my other grandparents," he says. "The things I loved most were all the rituals, and each one of these rituals had music attached. At that point I began to understand that music could be more powerful than the words."

He had begun to love his weekends, but it was when he encountered a certain individual that he knew that he had to follow what was in his heart.

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- The candidate must:
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 4. demonstrate solid abilities in interdisciplinary team work and communication skills
 5. have demonstrated the capacity to carry out physical examinations for the following systems: respiratory, muscular skeletal, neurological, cardiac, ENT, gastro-intestinal, reproductive, skin and tegument
 6. have a sound knowledge in pediatrics and prenatal care
 7. having demonstrated an interest and abilities in dealing with psychosocial problems
 8. have experience in telephone triage
 9. have sound knowledge of the community resources
 10. have the ability to intervene with risk clientele
 11. have functional knowledge of information systems
 12. be bilingual
 13. have judgement
 14. have autonomy

All interested applicants to call 514-481-4343 or send resume to: Queen Elizabeth Urgent Care Clinic, 2111 Northcliffe Ave., Montreal, QC H4A 3K6 Attention: Cynthia Poirier

Neighbours alarmed by cutting of trees on Lexington

Martin C. Barry

The cutting of a large number of tall trees at a home on Lexington Avenue had a group of nearby residents sounding the alarm in city council.

"Is council aware that trees at the home at 750 Lexington were all cut down?" said Linda Stein of Upper Belmont Avenue.

"There's not a tree left — it looks like a bomb has fallen on it," added another resident, describing the effects of the cutting, which took place over the past month.

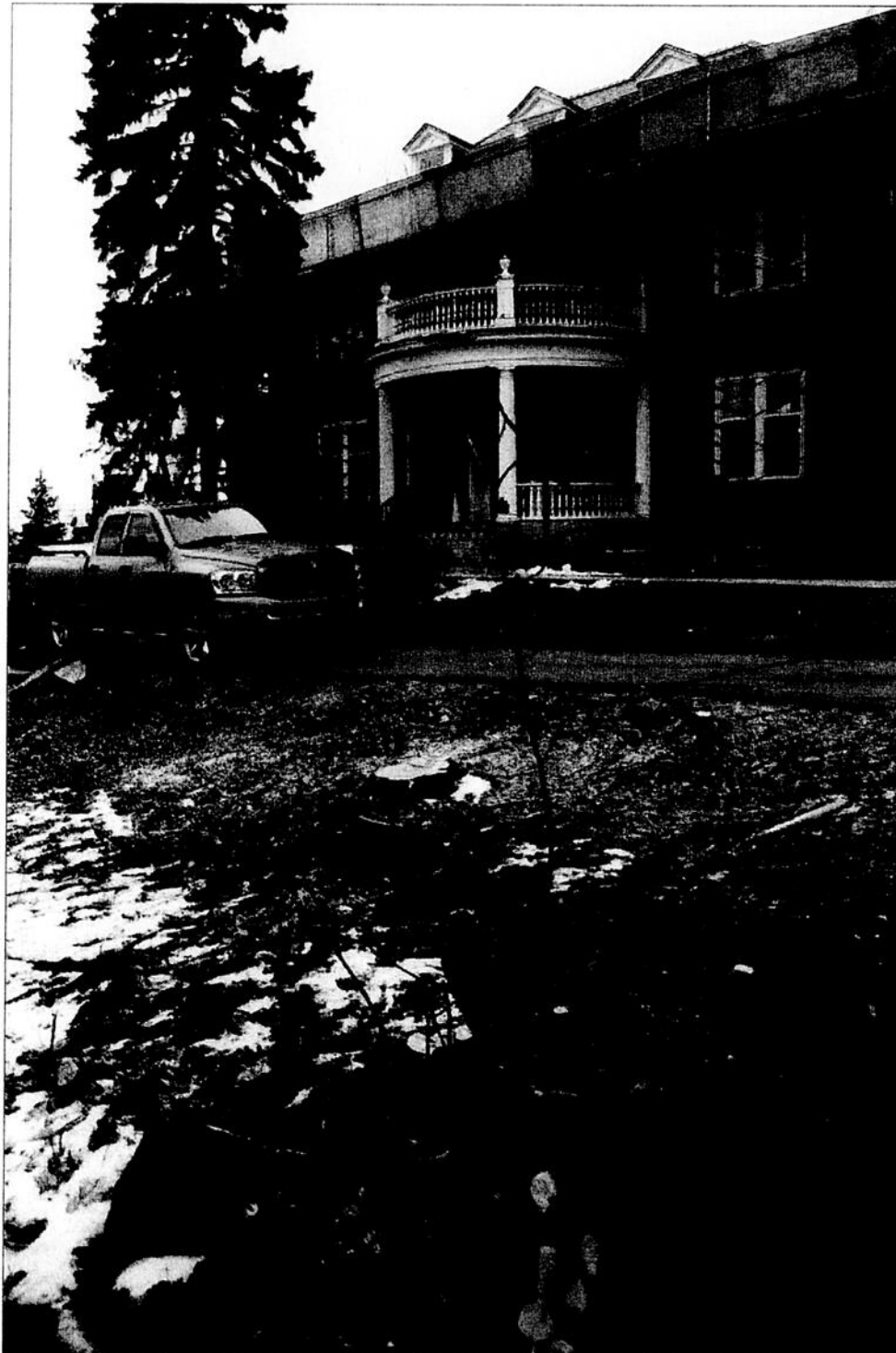
"Is council aware of the fact that this home is a Category-One home and the first objective according to the bylaws of the City of Westmount is to maintain and enhance our distinctive character, to preserve buildings and building features which include landscape?" said Stein.

"Our neighbourhood, our street ... has totally been changed. Beautiful trees have been ruined and we've been made aware of the fact that this particular home is planning a major extension to a heritage home."

According to Stein, who researched the house's origins, it was built in 1928 and "should not be altered" because of its heritage classification. "This gentleman homeowner does not have any permits to cut down those trees."

Citing a section concerning landscape in Westmount's architecture and planning code, she said, "the cutting of mature trees is strongly discouraged anywhere in the city. 'The cutting of any city tree is forbidden, unless authorized by the city.' This man had no authorization ... Did the city give this gentleman permission to disturb the landscape? I mean, the landscape is all part of Westmount. This is our environment."

Lesley Aiton, who lives in a house next to the property, said the tree cutting has left her home fully exposed. "It was evident that something was going to be done to that property starting a year ago," she said, adding



she found it difficult obtaining information from city hall.

"I think that it imposes so much on my family's life that we should have a right to have some information, that this should not be kept secret ... I'm being told by the workmen they're doubling the size of the house and it's going to come right up to the property line, looking directly into my entire house. That gravely concerns me."

"Generally the bylaw specifies that we have control over the trees that are on city property, and this is not a tree on city property. It's a tree on private property," replied Mayor Karin Marks, who insisted the law restricts Westmount in the amount of information about building projects it is permitted to divulge.

"We've been grappling with this for a long time," she said. "The problem is that the law does not allow us to just make public the information until a permit has been given, and then it is public information ... The trees are not part of the permit. The permit is for building."

In the meantime, another nearby lot, believed to be one of the city's largest and most valuable remaining pieces of vacant property, also had trees cut on it over the last few months in preparation for subdivision and the construction of three new houses.

Until recent years the large rear lot was part of 80 Sunnyside Avenue, a stately Gatsby-esque mansion built during the 1930s by the McConnell family. It was sold in 2001 for more than \$6.5 million, which set a real-estate record for Westmount. The back yard, with its sweeping lawn, was later sold separately from the house.

"The McConnells had huge garden parties there," said Examiner real-estate columnist Andy Dodge. "This is the most succulent real-estate that you can get in Westmount as far as I'm concerned. It is reasonably flat. It is all ready to go and it's in a prime, prime location as far as prestige goes."

Welcome to Wallpaper 101

Second of a three-part series on the effective use of wallpaper

Eros Greatti

Let's say you are working with a wall that measures six feet in length and nine feet in height, you would be covering 54 square feet of wall and, if you purchased a European roll you would

assume that one (double roll) would do the job.

Well, think again!

If your paper has no pattern on it, your wall is absolutely perfect, as is each cut you make (try and use a newly snapped blade when making each single cut) and the glue

you use is perfect for the job, then maybe this can be achieved. But I have yet to experience the perfect case scenario.

Papers with no repeat are those offering the same pattern or print running along the paper without any stop to the sequence, this is the case of solid coloured papers or those

printed or dragged with vertical stripes, in this case calculating how many rolls are necessary is a bit easier but, once again, you should use the services of an expert wallpaper hanger. Hiring one is an expense that can save you a lot of money!

Continued on page 27

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REAL ESTATE



Continued from WALLPAPER, page 26

Printed papers are trickier. The repeat must be considered, calculated and tested to see if it fits the project. Printed papers are great to use, if you run short, you can most probably get more printed in identical colors. Hand-blocked, hand-painted or hand dragged papers on the other hand can never offer, with certainty the reproduction of the exact colors. So if you chose to work with one of these categories, make sure to buy enough and hire a professional wallpaper hanger who can do the calculation as to how much you need.

I have worked with wallpaper and the best trade professionals for installation, for many years now and have learned a great deal from their expertise. When choosing a paper I always consider the quality of the actual paper (keep in mind that price and quality are not always related), beauty of the design, durability, maintenance, cost, dimensions and appropriate glue. In most cases heavy

paste acid free glue is what I chose for my projects.

As rule of thumb, acid-free glue is a good choice to make when buying the materials necessary to install wallpaper. Keep this in mind, not all wallpapers are pre-pasted. This is a process usually related only to North American-made papers. Pre-pasted papers could yellow with time; this is because the glue used in the manufacturing process is plastic based and reacts in a negative way when exposed to direct natural light. I like to use Shurstick 111 heavy paste glue, always with great results. Others have had success using Stik-Tite WP-201, Muralo Adhesium, Golden Harvest #14 and Wall Tite 300. If you are using an unfamiliar product, or product combination, it may be a good idea to test it first.

My clients who have used wallpaper can tell you how gorgeous and spectacular the final results always are!

• Look for part three of Wallpaper 101 in next month's Real Estate section. Eros Greatti is Canada's Top Interior Designer® 2006 and 2007. For more information or to suggest topics, he can be reached at 514-272-3767.

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Julia Daniels

*Let me take this
opportunity to thank
all my clients, friends and
family for making
2008 a special year!*

*May 2009 bring you
all good health,
much happiness and
lots of success.*

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www.westmountexaminer.com Thursday, December 11, 2008 27

THANK YOU

FOR AN ACTION-PACKED 2008

sold louis leaves lansdowne for lovely st. lambert sold the jones enjoy arlington while awaiting aberdeen sold jeanie barry & gypsie retreat from reliable roslyn to respectable rental sold joanne & geoff buy a beauty on belfrage sold karine & mindo have a wonderful wedding & wind up on westmount ave sold the leddys' tenants take off so vendome est vendu sold jill & steve bail on boisfranc pour vivre sur victoria sold the emblems pack up the munchkins and move from marlowe to murray hill sold jan & emilie embark with alcan to australia sold pierre & christianne take no time to take over prince albert townhouse sold susan & buster pack it in at the POM for an adventure on Arlington sold lyn leaves claremont casa for something great on grosvenor sold the liddys roll off of redfern for a residence in rye sold brian & paul lend helen a helping hand when she leaves leafy lansdowne sold the price-gallaghers go for groovy on grey with gargantuan garden sold the vaillancourt-richards move to montreal & make their mark on melrose sold mary jane ramsay rolls downhill from roslyn to corner of clarke & st.catherine sold the nicols say adios to argyle & make the move to melbourne sold fang finds favourable feng shui in abode on argyle sold the schwartzs cash out of claremont & settle on sherbrooke sold the goyettes of grosvenor land lovely lodging on Lansdowne sold kate peter & kids create cocoon on claremont sold the pamaris move off mountain & pack it in to india sold maureen & jp move off murray hill to chill out at the checkers sold the ross family ditches their duplex for rockin' residence in montreal west sold the o'donnells depart ndg to reside on roslyn sold the laffeurs leave legacy on memory-filled metcalfe sold gloria & jean embark on major marlowe makeover sold sylvia sells in le chateau so margaret makes her move sold the hacks hightail it to harvard sold the maheo-andersons leave lowney loft & get into grosvenor sold jeremy & anthea welcome their gem jasper on grosvenor sold lori & the girls get set to exit elm & move to melrose sold douglas & joanne prepare to pack up on prince albert sold the poritts pop another bun in the oven & plan for move to mount pleasant sold david susan & sara pack for pennsylvania congratulations to all my kind & courageous clients & thank you for your continued confidence in christina!

christina miller

Affiliated Real Estate Agent - RE/MAX Westmount Broker
#1 Agent RE/MAX Westmount 2007 & 2008

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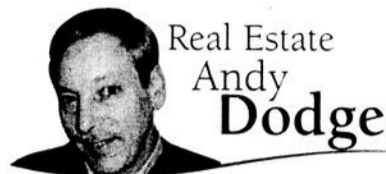
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REAL ESTATE

Lower Westmount highlighted in August sales



Real Estate
Andy Dodge

Westmount home prices held their own among sales which closed in August this year,

with more than half the sales in the lower Westmount region, that is, south of Sherbrooke Street and Côte St. Antoine Road.

The highest price in August was \$2.3 million for 356 Redfern Avenue, only the third Westmount house "on the flat" to sell for more than \$2 million, following the November 2007 sale of 351 Redfern for \$2.5 million and of 21 Grove Park in May, 2005, for \$2,280,000. Other nearby sales took place on Melbourne, Metcalfe and Grosvenor Avenues and two each on Roslyn Avenue below Sherbrooke Street and Chesterfield Avenue, as well as a duplex on Hallowell Street. The lowest price involved 12 Chesterfield for \$572,000.

Overall there were 15 sales of one- and two-family dwellings which closed in August — and the list includes one more sale for July, at 4345 Westmount Avenue. Only five of the 15 had prices over \$1 million, but the others were high enough that the average price in the month stayed above \$1 million, at \$1,056,533. With an average markup of 33.5 per cent, it can be said that the 'typical' Westmount house with a valuation of \$998,480 would have a value of \$1,332,708.

Biggest markup in the August sales was 63.8 per cent, for 621 Victoria Avenue which brought \$1,211,000. The lowest ratio was still above valuation, involving the only full

Continued on page 30

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Our sincerest wishes for a Happy Holiday Season.



*May Health, Happiness and Prosperity
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to thank all of our clients, past and present,
for making 2008 a record breaking year.*



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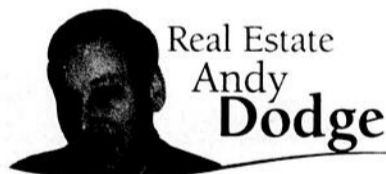
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HOME TRANSFERS IN AUGUST 2006

ADDRESS	FROM	TO	PRICE	2004 VALUATION
54 Aberdeen	Pamela Fyon	Marc Miller & Elin Sandberg-Miller	\$1,390,000	\$961,600
491 Argyle	Caroline Dillon & Charles Nicol	Fang Liu	\$890,000	\$806,600
12 Chesterfield	Victor Naday	Ilan Gewurz	\$572,000	\$495,000
70 Chesterfield	Josianne Colette Comin & Annabelle Attia	Claude Fiore Lucente & Susan Holley-Jameson	\$810,000	\$641,400
310 Grosvenor	Irena Socha	Samuel Schaffer & Maria Grisell Vargas	\$840,000	\$565,000
612 Grosvenor	Jacob Levy	Victoria Naday	\$815,000	\$681,900
24 Melbourne	Richard Cherney	Caroline Genevieve Dillon	\$1,450,000	\$999,600
353 Metcalfe	Jean-Pierre Picard & Susan Schloen	Gail L. Tolhurst Johnson	\$825,000	\$731,300
356 Redfern	John Liddy & Christine Worounig	Allan Kobelansky & Audrey Juras	\$2,305,000	\$1,564,000
306 Roslyn	Robert C.L. Charbonneau	Rény Fortin & France Desharnais	\$640,000	\$472,300
377 Roslyn	James Rusnak & Ann McMahon	Christopher Richter & Cara Cameron	\$830,000	\$648,600
686 Roslyn	Gwen Elizabeth Polowe & Paul A. Planet	Berverley Webster & Jean-Marc Leblanc	\$1,700,000	\$1,186,600
744 Upper Roslyn	Christopher Zahovskis & Lynda Symonds	Amirali Zolfaghari & Afrouz Tavakoli-Khou	\$960,000	\$800,700
621 Victoria	Guy Rodomista	Peter Lindley & Catherine Megias	\$1,211,000	\$739,300
4345 Westmount Ave.	Marlene Asselin & Normand Lussier	Karine Toledano & Armindo Fernandes	\$1,130,000	\$1,031,800
DUPLEXES				
73-75 Hallowell	Mitchell Melnick & Glenda Rother	Steven N. Joo & Julie Laurin Robitaille	\$610,000	\$579,600
CONDOMINIUMS				
3 Church Hill	Nicholas Farkas & Leslie Ann Symansky	Sandrine Ferst	\$505,000	\$410,000
4500 de Maisonneuve, #22	estate Cecily Davies	Gautam (Gotham) Hooja	\$295,000	\$83,500
1 Wood, #1205	Jack R. Lazare	Libby Dina Sedlezky	\$1,400,000	\$1,230,900
COMMERCIAL & OTHER BUILDINGS				
4779-85 Sherbrooke	9166-7907 Québec Inc.	3856941 Canada Inc.	\$2,000,000	\$1,478,400
4051 St. Catherine	Daniel B. Louin	Les Entreprises Shanny B. Inc.	\$120,000	\$120,000
4545 Sherbrooke,				
414-16 Mount Stephen	May Ebbitt	9181-3402 Québec Inc.	\$1,700,000	\$826,700
330 Victoria	4075820 Canada Inc.	4438663 Canada Inc.	\$765,000	\$511,000
SHARE SALES				
464-68 Victoria, 37.16%	Bartholomew Crago & Martha Borgmann	Bradley Malmberg & Luis Ramon Lasso Meza	\$340,000	\$222,254a

aValuation is 37.16% of \$598,100. Exclusive use of 468 Victoria.

Almost no sales in November



Real Estate
Andy Dodge

Westmount real estate agents should prepare themselves for a cold winter, if November sales volume is any indication.

Only two single-family dwellings sold in Westmount last month, compared to a November average of 16 in the past dozen years, when previously the lowest volume was 10 sales. Buyers are waiting until after the elections, or waiting for interest rates to drop further, or for prices to drop further, or simply for one more shoe to drop as news media buzz about the faltering economy.

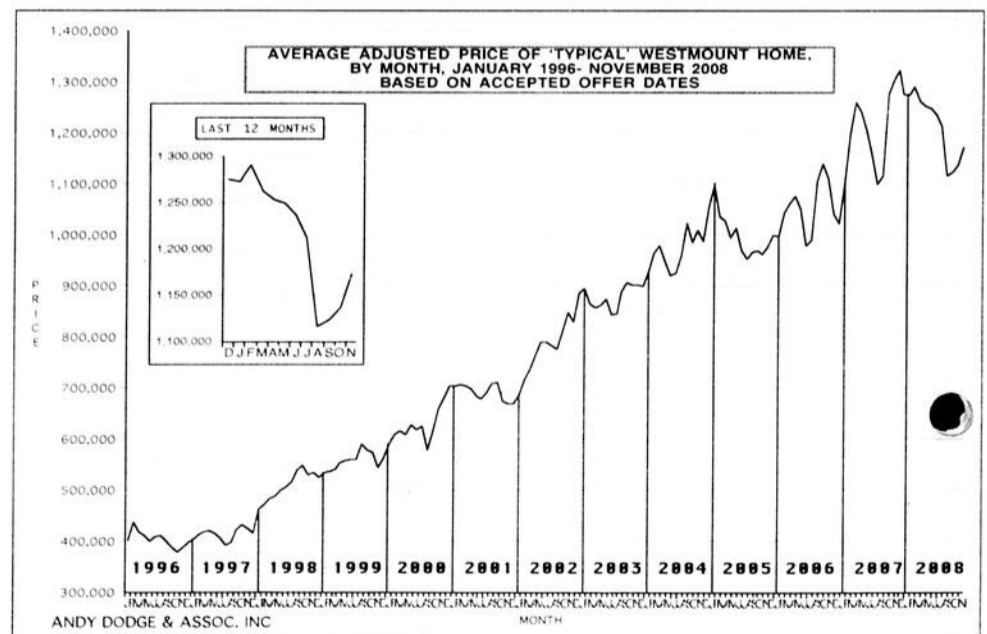
There is still plenty of inventory in Westmount and new listings are being added to the list every week. Many of those will be anticipating a stronger spring market and are getting a head start on the post-holiday season; hopefully a bit of political turmoil will have settled by then and we can see where

the economy is going.

The two sales represented the full range of Westmount values, with prices of \$810,000 and \$1,975,000. The average markup was just under 30 per cent, which is slightly higher than September or October, but with only two sales it is statistically insignificant. While the graph indicates a slight upswing in prices, it is important to note that only 35 sales have been recorded since June, compared with 67 between July and November last year.

Only three apartment transactions were logged in November, including one condominium and two co-op apartments, for prices ranging from \$330,000 to \$402,000, so we cannot suggest that buyers are concentrating on that sector of the market, either. Two single-family houses just west of Westmount and two condominiums just east of the city limits made up the adjacent-Westmount market, where there are, again, plenty of listings still available for anyone who is looking.

As we enter the holiday season we should all sit back and take a deep breath, and hope things get better in the new year.



The following article relates to offers to purchase Westmount residential dwellings which were reported by the local real estate agents as having been accepted in November, 2008. Because they are not final registered

sales, the addresses and prices cannot be made public, but give a good idea of current trends in local real estate activity. The graph above offers a picture of these trends over time.

Continued from AUGUST SALES, page 27
duplex to sell in August, 73-75 Hallowell Street, which went for only \$610,000.

Condominium sales included a 12th-floor apartment at 1 Wood Avenue for \$1,400,000, by far the highest price in the month, while one of the burned-out units at 4500 de

Maisonneuve Boul., corner Melville, sold for \$295,000 and included \$10,000 for reconstruction, according to the deed.

Other sales in August included the two commercial premises plus apartments at the corner of Grosvenor Avenue and Sherbrooke Street, 4779-85 Sherbrooke, and the onetime

home of Tundra Books, 4545 Sherbrooke at the corner of Mount Stephen Avenue, owned for more than 20 years by former Westmount Mayor May (Ebbitt) Cutler. Also, a commercial condominium in the 1 Wood Avenue building with an address of 4051 St. Catherine Street West sold to the owner of

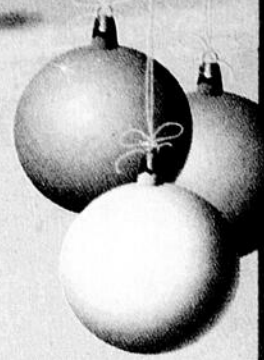
much of the neighbouring property, which he had purchased back in 2001.

The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in August 2008, provided by City officials. A list of sales can be found above.

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