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LOCAL NEWS

The end of an era

Art dealer Paul Kastel closes his Greene Avenue gallery after 45 years.

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ARTS & BOOKS

Dual exhibition

Local artists Susie Fairbrother and Homeira Mortazavni show their work at Victoria Hall.

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COMMUNITY LIFE

Tops in robotics

Selwyn House students come first in major competition.

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Local author Melanie Watt had a captive audience of young fans when she dropped by Oink Oink on Greene Avenue last Saturday to read her new book, 'Scaredy Squirrel'.

Westmount's not to blame for tax tangle: Bowser

> Martin C. Barry

There's no point blaming Westmount... That was the reaction of acting mayor George Bowser to remarks made last Friday by City of Montreal executive committee chairman Frank Zampino.

Bowser, who is replacing Mayor Karin Marks while she's away on a rest break, said the accusing tone of Zampino's comments was not what Westmount and 14 other demerged cities had in mind when they recently challenged Montreal's administration of the Agglomeration budget.

"Westmount has always paid its fair share and we know that," said Bowser. "The world outside maybe doesn't know that, but we do. And we're always prepared to pay our fair share. The question of what constitutes our fair share is a reasonable question. I would have liked to hear Mr. Zampino say, 'let's look into it.' I'd like to hear that there's cooperation coming, not confrontation.

"I heard a very strident counter-attack, which I suppose

is to be expected, but it's not ideal," he added. "We're going to have to work together, and I'm hearing a lot of kettle drum and brass over there and it's drowning out the sweet harmony we'd like to get going.

"It's a long process. It's a new system. We didn't ask for it. There's no point in blaming Westmount for fighting the forced merger. We didn't want it. It wasn't our idea ... This isn't a name-calling thing. We have to work together. The process allows for the demerged cities to question what they've been charged."

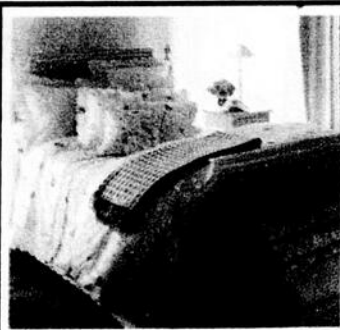
During a press conference at Montreal City Hall last week, Zampino said the City of Montreal had learned details about the "motivations" behind the decision by the 15 mayors of the demerged cities to contest Montreal's management of the Agglomeration budget.



Frank Zampino

Photo: Martin C. Barry

Continued on page 29



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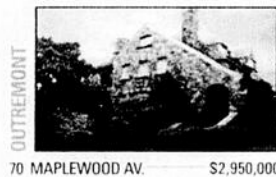
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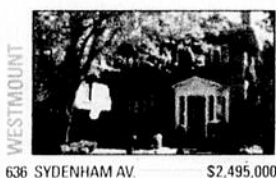
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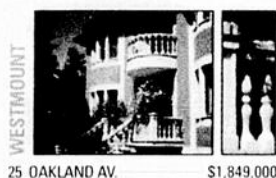
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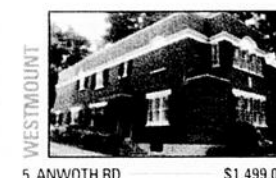
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New float blends past with present

Westmount's entry in this year's St. Patrick's Day Parade will have a whole new look

> Charles Montgomery

St. Patrick's Day may fall on March 17, but for some Westmount residents, there will be no time for Irish coffee and pints of the dark stuff. Instead they'll be scrambling to put the finishing touches on this year's float for the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, to be held on Sunday, March 19.

This year's float features the theme Westmount Then and Now. Although it is mounted on the same structure that the City has been using since 1999, Community Events Coordinator Maureen Lafrenière says, "It's very different. It's not really the same float with different pictures. It's a whole different look."

The theme was inspired by an exhibition of the same name that was on display at Victoria Hall. The float will show photos of Westmount scenes as they were long ago, next to images of the same scene in more recent years. Many of the photos come courtesy of the Westmount Historical Association.

Director General Bruce St. Louis, who is trained as an engineer, and Road Superintendent John Monteiro, who is an accomplished carpenter, have put a lot of



Westmount's old float has been retired after several years of service.

time and effort into designing the float's structure.

Although the float has been planned out already, Public Works will not be able to begin work on it until March 15, when the

trailer that it is built around, is dropped off at the Public Works yard.

The day before the parade, more volunteers will join in the work effort, adding the final bits of flare—balloons, streamers, etc.—

onto the float.

You can expect to see all your Westmount elected officials riding the float on St. Pat's Day, as well as a combo of musicians playing traditional Irish tunes.

There's room for residents as well. "Tickets to ride on the float will be available Monday (March 6) at Victoria Hall," said Lafrenière. There will also be space to walk next to the float, which Lafrenière reckons is just as much fun, if not more.

Over \$1,000 was raised for the float at last month's Raven and the Rose pub night at the Westmount Winter Carnival. The rest of the cost is paid for by the City.

The St. Patrick's Day Parade starts at noon on Sunday the 19th. It will begin at the corner of Ste. Catherine and Fort Streets, and continue on to St. Urban street.

For tickets to ride on the float, contact Victoria Hall: 989-5226. For more information on the parade, including a route map and biographies of this year's Grand Marshal, Parade Queen and princesses, go to the United Irish Society website at <http://www.bar-resto.com/uis/>.

Hockey equipment program hits funding snag

> Martin C. Barry

Two brothers from Westmount who have been collecting hockey equipment for players in an impoverished former Soviet nation have a hurdle to overcome—shipping the gear to its destination.

Since last September, hockey players from Westmount have been donating their skates, skate-sharpening rocks, gloves and Habs paraphernalia for export to Tajikistan.

Located north of Afghanistan, Tajikistan is the poorest nation of the former Soviet Union. Surrounded by high mountains, it is also one of the most remote places on earth because it can only be reached by air. The country's citizens are also big fans of hockey.

Matthew and Jonathan Gray, who lived most of their lives on Academy Road next to the Westmount Arena, created the donor program. Matthew, the older of the two, is currently working in Tajikistan for the United Nations.

Sixteen bags of hockey equipment are



Jonathan and Gerry Gray with hockey gear they hope will soon be bound for Tajikistan.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

under the patio deck of the Gray home, waiting to be shipped by UPS. Two bags of equipment were previously taken into the country

by Matthew, who paid the freight charges out of his own pocket.

According to their father, Gerry, the load Matthew transported weighed 187 pounds. "He took six planes to get back to Tajikistan and he slept in two airports overnight with the equipment," he says.

But now, says Jonathan, they're having problems sending the rest of the gear because of a grant they failed to obtain from a local service organization.

"Westmount Rotary almost promised us about \$3,000 to pay for shipping and at the last minute they backed out because they said it didn't fit their international funding program," he says. "My brother could only take two with him, so we still have the 16 bags."

Jonathan maintains they approached the Rotarians last fall, but were initially turned down. He says the club then appeared to have reversed its decision after their story received the attention of CJAD Radio locally, and then

nationally through Canada AM on CTV.

Andy Durso, chairman of the Westmount Rotarians' welfare committee, says they looked at the Grays' application but never made a final decision. He says Westmount Y director Gary White, another Rotary Club member who was on the committee, was supposed to be handling the matter. White was unavailable this week to comment.

"I think they collected a lot of equipment, but basically I never heard back from them or from anyone for that matter, and that's basically where it is," says Durso. "I know we had another meeting after that and there weren't any new developments."

However, Durso says the decision was never considered final and that the Grays can always reapply.

"I think we could reconsider," he said. "I don't think it was really turned down. We just wanted to get more information. But what they can do is come back to us."

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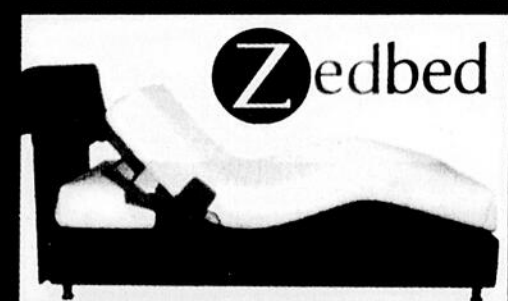
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Window-smashing spree ends in arrest



On the Scene

Jessica MURPHY

Last week, Westmount police arrested a suspect who was breaking into cars. The suspect, a male in his mid-40s, was smashing car windows with a rock along Greene Avenue, below Sherbrooke Street.

When the police arrived on the scene at around 11:30 p.m., he was gone, and four cars had been broken into. Police canvassed the area, and stopped a man who matched witness descriptions walking along Sherbrooke near Elm Avenue.

They searched him, and found a bag with a rock in it. The suspect also had a bloody hand and was in possession of four pairs of sunglasses, and a cell phone with a bag.

"He was just shopping in cars," said Station 12's Constable Adalbert Pimentel. "The only cars he picked on were the ones that had something valuable (in plain sight). Nothing of value should ever be seen."

Even though the items were returned to the owners, they still had to pay for the broken car window, he noted.

Thieves pose as Hydro workers

Montreal police are warning citizens of suspects who gain entry into homes by posing as workers from Hydro Québec. Once inside, they steal items and sometimes tie up their victims, who are often elderly.

There have been over 30 events like this across the Island of Montreal, although none have been reported in Westmount—where the local utility work is carried out by Hydro Westmount.

"Don't feel obliged to let (Hydro or other workers) in right away," said Pimentel, noting that the thieves wore Hydro uniforms. "If someone like this arrives unannounced, a homeowner should call Hydro Québec or any other organization they claim to be from to confirm their identities."

High winds cause damage

Hi-speed winds on Friday Feb. 10 didn't cause much damage in Westmount, but not everyone was spared. A tree fell on a car on Somerville Avenue, the branches breaking the vehicle's sunroof.

"There were no injuries, thank goodness," said Public Security Director Richard McEnroe, noting the wind speeds came close to hurricane force. Also, 20 feet of roof came off the office building that houses *The Examiner* offices at 245 Victoria Ave. Again, there were no injuries.



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Westmount rates will rise along with Hydro Québec's

> Martin C. Barry

Westmount Hydro customers who now pay about \$100 a month for electricity will be forking over an extra \$5 because of a hike in the rate announced in February by Hydro Québec.

Any rate adjustments that Hydro Québec makes are immediately passed onto Hydro Westmount clients, says Westmount Director General Bruce St. Louis.

"We will have to pay about 5.3 per cent more for the purchase of power from Hydro Québec," St. Louis said this week.

"As a consequence, our retail rates, in other words the rates we charge our customers, will be identical those that are charged by Hydro Québec. We've always operated in that fashion."

In another recent development concerning Hydro Westmount, the utility released its annual list of accounts which had to be written off because they couldn't be collected. There were nearly \$76,000 in bad debts dating back to the year 2000. The utility, which furnishes all electric power in Westmount, has a revenue of \$25 million annually.

The largest of the debts, for \$3,772, was for an unidentified client at 103 Westmount Square. In releasing the list, the City of

Westmount no longer identifies the former residential and business clients by name as once was the practice.

Since Hydro Westmount's uncollectible debts have ranged from \$70,000 to \$90,000 a year in the past, this year's were "a little bit on the low side of the average," said St. Louis. He emphasized that for accounting purposes, the City writes the debts off, but they're never forgotten.

"If, in fact, any of these former clients move back to Westmount or if Hydro Québec is able to find them, we will certainly pursue the matter. We have a collection agency that we work with, as well. But, as I say, the difficult part is that many times when people move they also put their new accounts or their new hookups with Hydro Québec under a different name and that makes them that much more difficult to trace."

In a bid to improve its rate of debt recovery, Hydro Westmount hired a full-time collection agent two years ago. Prior to that, bad accounts were dealt with by the City of Westmount's central finance department. However, shortly after merger with the City of Montreal, the department lost a number of personnel.

Liberals honour local riding association



Casper Bloom (far right) is joined by (left to right) Employment and Social Solidarity Minister Michelle Courchesne, Irene Sideris, Nancy Pierre, Premier Jean Charest, Connie Placido and Sadrine Simard.

During last month's Quebec Liberal Party General Council in Laval, Westmount—St. Louis Liberal Association president Casper Bloom and several members of the association were honoured for their achievements in obtaining their 2005 membership and fundraising objectives.

To mark this occasion, Bloom was invited onstage to receive a commemorative plaque from Quebec Premier and Liberal Party leader Jean Charest.

"I am very proud of the cooperation of each and every one of our active members," said Bloom. "This milestone demonstrates that my fellow citizens remain strong supporters of the Quebec Liberal Party. We can be very proud of our party."

The riding's MNA, Jacques Chagnon, warmly congratulated the president of his riding association on attaining these crucial objectives.

"Casper, we do not tell you often enough that it is because of your leadership and your dedication that we have been able to implement our plans, keep our campaign promises and improve the quality of life of our fellow Quebecers," Chagnon said.

Over 800 members from across Quebec attended the Laval General Council. Representatives of the Westmount—St. Louis Liberal Association enjoyed discussing issues such as the state of public finances, debt financing and health care delivery with other party members. They also helped to adopt resolutions that set out the Quebec Liberal Party's position on the role of Quebec within the Canadian federation, suicide prevention programs for young people, education, justice, the environment, immigration and the integration of cultural communities within our society.

Pompili passes away at 48

The Examiner has learned that Westmount chef and teacher Max Pompili, husband of City Councillor Cynthia Lulham, passed away on Tuesday.

Although details were not available at press time, the City of Westmount issued the following statement yesterday:

City Council members and staff were both shocked and deeply saddened upon hearing of the sudden passing of Max Pompili, husband of Councillor Cynthia Lulham and father of Harris, on March 7. As of this date, funeral arrangements are still pending but an announcement in this regard will be made available as soon as possible.

Max, age 48, was a well-known and popular figure in the Westmount community and will be dearly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with Cynthia, Harris and their family during this time of sorrow.

Details of funeral arrangements will be published on The Examiner's website (www.westmountexaminer.com) as soon as they are available.

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Fighting the consequences



Commentary

Wayne
LARSEN
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Westmounters and many of their fellow residents of demerged cities across the island are fuming over their recent property tax bills. Meanwhile, mega-Montreal officials are waving their fingers self-righteously at the protesting cities, defending the tax increases with that dreaded phrase, "We told you so!"

Yes, they *did* tell you so.

Montreal Mayor Gérald Tremblay and Premier Jean Charest—both of whom were elected to office as the more reasonable alternative to their hard-line pro-merger predecessors—were quite blunt in those tense, angry and ultimately exciting days leading up to the demerger referendum in 2004. They repeatedly stated, in no uncertain terms, that Westmount and the other demerging cities would pay dearly for their decision to leave the Montreal megacity. They warned that several services would not be restored and that taxes would go up.

And now, true to their word, they have relinquished control of the former boroughs with restrictive conditions and, worst of all, imposed unreasonable—some would say absurd—property-tax increases on the unwitting citizens of the demerged communities. But simply warning everyone of the consequences certainly does not make those consequences right. In fact, they remain fundamentally wrong and can never be justified by a politician shrugging his shoulders and saying, "Well, you were warned." What kind of justification is that?

Defenders of the Agglomeration's tax hikes are going to have to do much better than this feeble attempt to dodge the wrath of injured citizens by claiming they brought it on themselves by opting out of the megacity. Instead, they should be spending more time trying to explain exactly why some people have seen their taxes rise by more than 13 per cent.

In this good guy/bad guy scenario, both parties seem utterly convinced that they are the good guys. But all it takes is a quick look back at the origins of this mess to put that argument into proper perspective. Bill 170 was fundamentally wrong from the beginning and has inflicted much damage on the economic and social fabric of Montreal—and the passage of time does not make things right. Those who perpetuate this farce should not consider themselves working for the greater good of their fellow citizens.

They said there would be consequences when people were fighting to get their cities back; now it's a matter of fighting those consequences.



Where is Harper on health care and education?



MP

Lucienne
ROBILLARD

Since he was elected, we have seen evidence of Stephen Harper's willingness to change his mind about different issues. Will it be the same for health care and post-secondary education systems?

As we all remember, Mr. Harper co-wrote and signed the Conservative election platform which declared, "We are committed to a universal, publicly funded health care system that respects the five principles of the Canada Health Act." Last week, Alberta Premier Ralph Klein announced controversial health care reforms in his province. The plan would allow queue jumping while permitting the doctors to practice in parallel private and public systems. The Premier said Medicare plans may violate the Canada Health Act and he would not shy away from a fight with the new Conservative government.

In the mean time, the PM and his health minister remain silent. Where are they now? Where is Stephen Harper when Canadians want him to react to Ralph Klein's proposals? Where is Federal Health Minister Tony Clement when Canadians expect him to live up to the CHA and its principles? We all remember that five years ago, Mr. Harper was

co-author of the notorious 'firewall' letter demanding greater autonomy for Alberta. So, it will be very interesting to see where he stands now.

We believe, to protect our health care system and as official opposition, we will hold the government accountable for ensuring the enforcement of the Canada Health Act. If Stephen Harper can see that Quebec's recent proposal in response to the Supreme Court of Canada decision in the Chaoulli case respect the CHA and its principles, why can't he see that Ralph Klein's proposals do not?

Let's now look at how the government reacts to the Provinces priority: the increase of funding for Post-secondary education. Last December, the Council of the Federation, an organization created by the premiers to promote inter-provincial cooperation, invited the leaders of the federal political parties to its Summit on Post-Secondary Education and Skills Training. The Summit brought together university and college officials, students, labour groups, and others to ensure there is common ground among those who have a stake in education and skills training, and the politicians who fund it.

As Deputy Leader of the Official Opposition, I was very pleased to attend the event in Ottawa on Feb. 24. I had the chance to meet and chat with McGill Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Heather Munroe-Blum, Concordia President and Vice-Chancellor, Claude Lajeunesse and Roch Denis, the Recteur for Université du Québec à Montréal, as well as many other participants.

What a surprise for me to find out that the Conservative government totally ignored the event. The Summit, the first of its kind to bring together decision makers in Canada's education sector, was not important enough in Stephen Harper's eyes to send Human Resources and Social Development Minister Diane Finley or Intergovernmental Affairs Minister Michael Chong. It was an incredible opportunity for them to meet with many Premiers and provincial education ministers. Is it the new open federalism that Mr. Harper spoke about in the campaign?

I hope not. Post-secondary education is too important not only for our citizens but also for the future of Canada that I hope our students, our professors, our researchers will be well supported not only by the provincial governments but also by the federal government. I hope post-secondary education and skills training are priorities for this government.

As Member of Parliament for Westmount—Ville-Marie, a riding with universities and numerous other post-secondary institutions, I am very disappointed that the Conservative cabinet was not represented.

Let's now see how the new government will fulfill their promises on fiscal imbalance and the international role of Quebec. Don't hesitate to contact me through my riding office or my web site to share your reactions.

• Lucienne Robillard is the Liberal MP for Westmount—Ville Marie.

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245 Victoria Ave., Suite 10
Tel: (514) 484-5610 Fax: (514) 484-6028
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Regional Manager: Gordon Brewerton
Publisher: Debbie Dore
Editor: Wayne Larsen (484-7523 ext. 32)
larsenw@transcontinental.ca
Advertising Consultants:
Harvey Aisenhal,
Arleen Candiotti,
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Freelance Contributors:
Martin C. Barry, George Bowser,
Megan Breckenridge,
Marylin Smith Carsley, Andy Dodge,
Ferg Gadzala, Charles Montgomery,
Jessica Murphy, Ben Raby,
Matthew Surridge,
Marilynn Vanderstay,
Don Wedge, Ted Wright

Photographers: Martin C. Barry,
Charles Montgomery
Web Site Manager: Henri Richard
Production Manager: Jean Gauthier
Graphic Designer: Emanuela Niculescu

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President: Marc N. Ouellette,
Senior Vice-President
www.medias-transcontinental.com



OLD NEWS from the archives

1935-2006

Five Years Ago
March 8, 2001

STICKER CAMPAIGN: "Nobody ever said that fighting for your city's survival would be easy. Just ask Jane Martin and Kathleen Duncan. As the two stood at the corner of Sherbrooke and Victoria last Saturday selling yellow anti-merger stickers at \$1 a piece, not all passersby were understanding. 'I'm for Westmount merging with Montreal; make the rich pay,' said a 30-something man making his way east on Sherbrooke with a companion. Duncan was puzzled. 'Unfortunately, he got into his car, because I was about to ask him why he'd be in favour of the merger, what there would be to gain,' she said later, wondering about the man's motives. Despite the few who say they favour the merger, Duncan estimates that more than 80 per cent of the people they encounter are against Westmount's being forced to amalgamate with the City of Montreal. However, stereotypes about Westmount being an enclave of wealthy anglophones persist, she added."

Ten Years Ago
March 7, 1996

SOUND BARRIER NIXED: "Westmount won't be building a 20-foot-tall sound barrier along the Ville Marie Expressway after a recent survey showed no clear majority in favour of the plan, according to city officials. Instead, the city will consider creating a visual barrier, perhaps by planting trees along the expressway. The trees would hide the highway from sight without affecting the overall view. 'The evidence shows clearly that this is not an issue with a majority view,' said councillor John Bridgman of Ward 8, one of two wards affected by traffic noise."

Fifteen Years Ago
March 7, 1991

SCHOOL DUMPS TOYS: "A family on Hillside avenue was horrified and delighted when St. Andrew's pre-school, across the street, loaded its garbage container full of toys, clothes, books, plus some furniture, black-and-white televisions, air conditioners and humidifiers on Saturday morning. The children were delighted, gleefully trying on designer label clothes, choosing what to keep from the pile of toys. Their parents were horrified that so much was simply put out as garbage. For two days, the community raided the dumpster. Now, they say, everyone living on the street has something that St. Andrew's threw away."

Twenty-Five Years Ago
March 12, 1981

CANNON STOLEN: "One of Westmount Park's two prized cannons, cast in England in 1810, was captured from Westmount Park in the early hours of last Thursday morning by four University of Montreal law students as a prank which won them first prize in their faculty's winter carnival. Dodging park security patrols and cruising police, the four young men struggled through the night for more than seven hours Wednesday and into the dawn Thursday to move the two-ton brass gun and wheelcarriage from its anchorage in the park and into the modern law faculty building."

SEND THE EDITOR AN E-MAIL:

larsenw@transcontinental.ca

\$105 million — It was only 3 percent!



Civic Alert

Don WEDGE

Why did it take so long for the Tremblayites to respond to the demerger mayors' revelation of the \$105 million switch in the mega-budget? The mega-mayor has a huge staff available for spin-doctoring to ensure that any bad news very quickly gets sugar-coated.

It did not happen with the \$105 million, which has resulted in the extra three percent on tax rates.

Everything about the Agglom has a surreal quality. Three percent was not very much, according to Frank Zampino, Gerald Tremblay's principal accomplice. Did he forget that the property tax increase of just one percent in Tremblay's first budget was enough to send it back?

No one challenged the \$105 million figure as being wrong. "Montreal pays 80 percent itself," Tremblay pleaded.

"We caught them with their hands in the cookie jar," said Montreal-West Mayor Campbell Stuart. "They thought we would not have the resources to investigate, but we found the resources!"

Fight to keep the tax grab

The mega-mayor was slow to respond to the revelation of the \$105 million transfer, but has not been slow to persuade the Ministry of Municipal Affairs that the tax increase is all the suburbs' fault.

Now the ministry wants to know about the budget making and setting mill-rates in the 15 new cities. Taking a cue from Tremblay, the objective is to blame the cities, local tax rates for being inflated, not the centre-city.

The mayors—those not on vacation—will meet in Pointe Claire today (Thursday) to consider this latest threat.

Stiffing the new cities

"They have just stiffed the demerged cities \$3,000 each." So was summarized the Agglom vote at last Thursday's meeting on the idea that the suburbs should pay for the development of the megacity's proposed 311 phone answering system. The 15 mayors fought it and voted futilely against as the dummies assembled on the other side of the chamber looked the other way.

In the first two meetings, only Gerald Tremblay, Frank Zampino and, occasionally, Alan Da Sousa, spoke on anything. The other dozen Tremblayites sat mute and useless.

Officially, they cannot say anything being bound by the 'orientation' set by the Montreal council controlled by Tremblay.

Quote of the week

"There are two phrases you never hear any more. One is, 'economies of scale.' The other is, 'everyone is doing it.'" — Pointe Claire's Bill McMurchie in the Gazette.

Closed bid for water equipment

The whole Agglom process has a ludicrous air about it. Equipment from Tremblay's international water games last summer was taken over by Claude Robillard Arena. It had been offered to boroughs for their pools, but they had been out-bid.

No one asked why the same equipment was not offered to the demerged cities, even though they are expected to fund the Robillard purchase.

Most outrageous is the cost of garbage collection in downtown, which is being charged to the Agglom. Tremblay claimed was 'fair' to charge it to the suburbs.

Petition organizer is determined to succeed.

Michael Lifshitz was on vacation last week, but his automated petition against the Agglom taxes continued to collect signatures. Westmounters' names had not been very frequently listed among the supporters, but they picked up following council's support.

It came as a surprise to Lifshitz when he returned from vacation on Saturday to learn that Westmount was sponsoring his effort and had also provided a French translation of his original text.

A life-long resident of Côte St. Luc, he had been in touch with his mayor, Anthony Housefather. "He said that he would talk to the other mayors about the petition and we have been getting signatures from virtually every one of the demerging cities," Lifshitz reported.

An accountant currently working at McGill, where he's also in the MBA programme, Lifshitz is one of those computer literate 30-year-olds who think it nothing abnormal to be running three web-sites as a hobby.

His interest in the Internet led him to the petition system, which, though American-written, is applicable to Canada. It requires that those signing give their email addresses. These are used for verification and are not published although telephone numbers are optionally listed.

I signed on even though I'm worried about petitions after Pierre Bourque's effort during his merger election campaign was ridiculed for its falsehoods. The e-mail verification Lifshitz uses gives a level of protection from abuse.

"Many people still do not have e-mail and so some supporters have made conventional petition forms that can be used with the same message," Lifshitz explained.

He is a determined citizen. Apart from his work, study, hobbies and perhaps political career—he ran unsuccessfully for Côte St. Luc council last November—he is writing an inspirational book, 'Sure I Can', based on his own life.

Born with Multiple Congenital Musculoskeletal Abnormalities, he has gone through nine surgeries, including removal of a foot. He walks with a cane but needs an electric cart for longer distances.

He lives alone and has just bought a condo. It was the unexpected tax bills—18 per cent more than last year—on this that prompted him to start his petition.

"For 29 years, I listened to people saying I can't do things. Well I'm here to say: 'Sure I Can.' Give people with disabilities the opportunity to shine and they may just surprise you."

Lifshitz has surprised himself and many Agglom fighters with the success of his petition, which now has over 4,200 signatories. You can see them and add your own at www.PetitionOnline.com/DemAggl/petition.html or <http://www.petitiononline.com/DemAggl/petition.html>

If only Nathalie Normandeau read Henry Aubin

"Key decisions would be different if only Nathalie Normandeau were bilingual. Then she could read Henry Aubin."

That was the sad comment of a francophone acquaintance who labored for half his career in the bureaucracy to get a sensible structure for Montreal.

In his Gazette column last Friday, Aubin summarized the results of the forced merger

in 2002, concluding it was "a failure on almost all accounts."

Some highlights:

Megacity expenses increased by 16.7 percent, compared to the Quebec government's 8.6 percent, and inflation of 6.7 percent.

Instead of the number of city jobs shrinking by a forecasted 1,260 people, the number of full-time positions, including contract staff, increased by 330. The number of 'working' staff has been reduced by 2 percent, with managers and supervisors increasing by 9 percent.

Average property taxes increased 12.5 percent, almost twice the rate of inflation.

Despite the reduction in the number of councillors, the salaries and benefits for those elected increased from \$7.9 million to \$8.7 million. There were additional costs of political staff, and these have ballooned again in recent weeks.

John Sewell wants re-think

John Sewell, the former Toronto mayor and opponent of mega-mergers, saw Aubin's article and wrote, "These kinds of results have also been evident in large cities where the Ontario and Quebec governments decided to force mergers."

"It is a sad commentary that neither provincial government is willing to seriously rethink the mess that has been made at the local level."

The demerged mayors could do worse than have such expert commentary translated for Normandeau's benefit.

Bowser stands in for the mayor

Somehow there seems to be a moratorium on municipal life this week. After a possibly unprecedented pressure period which began with Westmount's futile elections, and finished with the third, futile Agglom council meeting, Karin Marks took off for a vacation in the sun.

You can't keep a keen mayor down. The CBC phone-in on Friday was about the forced mergers and who should be one of the callers but Karin Marks, not in the office, but at home, supposedly packing for a vacation!

"Karin told me she had signed and done everything she could think of, so that I would have nothing to do," said George Bowser. As pro-mayor, he is deputized to act in emergencies and, as in all he does, Bowser takes his responsibilities very seriously.

Despite the most atypical professional career imaginable as preparation for municipal duties, Bowser seems totally in place in the council chamber, committee room or with city staff and, most of all, constituents.

His big discovery? Probably the effect of an intervention at a council meeting. "It is amazing how the whole apparatus of the City responds. If you want something done, that's the place to go and get it started."

I hope he will write about his new, surprising life in his *Examiner* column.

As pro-mayor, he was intending to visit City Hall daily for briefing by Bruce St Louis and be "ready to answer questions."

If there was a major fire, or other disaster? "Then I will be there."

Citizen activist Don Wedge can be contacted via CAAlert@web.net. His articles are archived at www.westmountexaminer.com under 'Opinion'.

What's selling?

Read Andy Dodge's analysis of the Westmount market in *The Examiner's* monthly Real Estate section.

Historian Williams unearths cases of slavery in Montreal

Local high school students learn little-known facts at Atwater Library lecture

> Kristine Berey

Brutality that goes on for centuries leaves a psychic dent in society that needs to be addressed. In order to do that, the first step is to allow access to complete and accurate information. The second is to promote dialogue.

In her talk on slavery in Canada under French and British Colonial rule, Montreal author and historian Dorothy Williams did both, by covering 200 years of Quebec history that isn't usually part of Montreal students' homework.

"I didn't have a prepared talk for the event," Williams said the next day. "But when I heard the high school students were coming, I felt they needed more specific information, so I wrote some notes up in the morning. I wanted to give a pedagogical message,

that slavery existed in Canada."

The group of nearby James Lyng High School students, including kids both black and white, came because they chose to do so. They sat in front on the right, in the packed auditorium at the Atwater Library.

They listened quietly as Williams talked about the fact that native people were also enslaved, and that black slaves in Quebec were considered more exotic because they came from farther away. They learned that May 1, 1689 is considered to be the birthday of African slavery, when King Louis of France gave his permission to "import" African slaves.

"It became part of the accepted order of New France," Williams said. "Most homes had one slave. Some had as many as 30."



Dorothy Williams

become "just like me." Oliver said to the priest: "I will have to take off my skin to be like you."

The audience heard that Montreal had a whipping post, and that slaves were sold alongside cattle, unlike in the States, where they had slave markets. "Slavery was not a benevolent institution, despite the rhetoric you may have heard," Williams said.

Students discovered that the first underground railway, before Harriet Tubman's, ran south instead of north, Canadian slaves escaping to the northern states where slavery was not institutionalized.

One dramatic story that emerged from this period was that of Marie Joseph Angelique, a slave who was married and the mother of two children. She was also having an affair with the white overseer. When threatened with being sold, on April 10, 1734, she is said to have set Montreal's third major fire. She was convicted of the crime and executed, although her innocence continues to be debated.


"What makes her story significant," said Williams, "is that she had a legal right to appear in court. Under Catholic tradition, slaves were people. There was a fine line between labour being part of the slave package and the essence of her humanity."

African slaves came into Canada with very needed skills. "At that time you needed candlestick makers, you needed to make soap, butter, cheese, you needed to know how to cook," Williams said. "Slaves were purchased from the US specifically for these skills."

The students also learned, that there were some, like Justice Monk, after whom Monkland avenue is named, who refused to compromise their own humanity by denying someone else's. When the audience heard how Monk refused to re-enslave a runaway, there was a rousing "Yeah!" from the right hand corner of the room.

You got the feeling that these students really learned something. Perhaps they discovered that, maybe, when all Canadians' experience comes to light, Canadian history isn't so boring after all.

• The Atwater Library Lunchtime Series continues through March 24. Info: (514) 935-7344.

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The first known Canadian slave on record, Oliver Lejeune, was a young child from Guinea, Williams said. The students listened closely and burst into laughter at Oliver's answer to the priest who assured him that if he would become a good Catholic, he could



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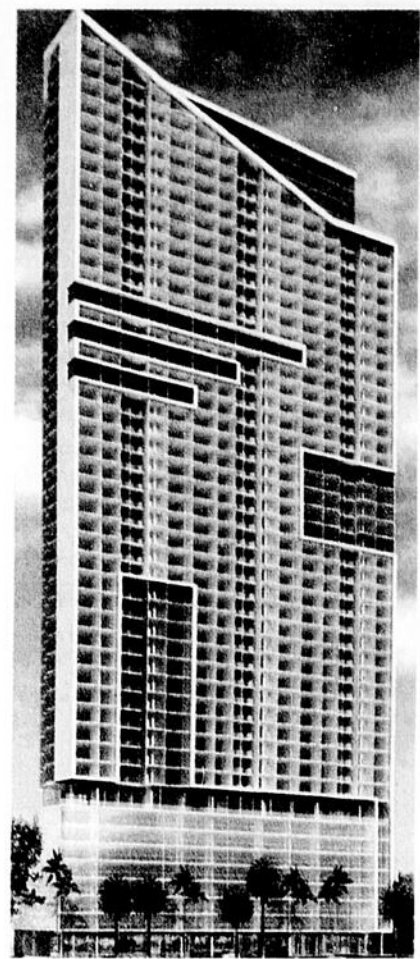
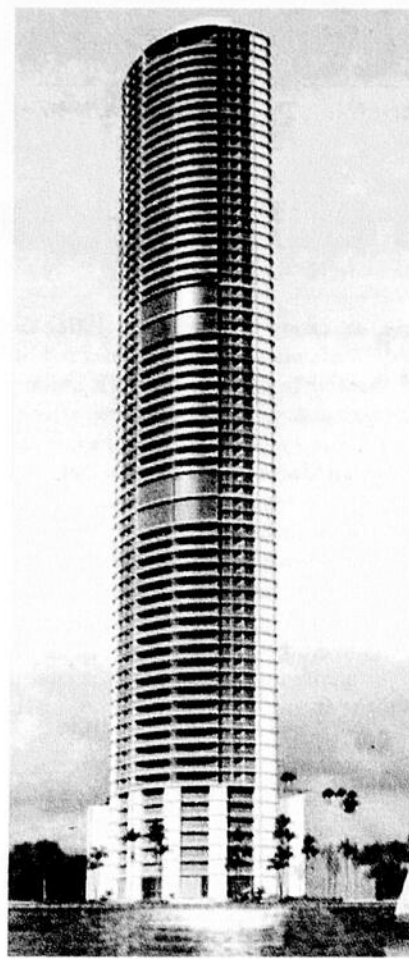
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February Sales: Not so bad

(NOTE: 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 January. 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 on page 16 offers a picture of these trends over time.)

Real estate agents are suggesting that the Westmount market this spring will be much softer than it was last spring, though our statistics indicate a 10-percent drop after peaking very early last year; the same may happen this year, but at least for now signs are good that the market will hold its own in terms of prices, even if volume is still somewhat weak.

So far this year agents report 17 one- and



Real Estate

Andy DODGE

two-family homes sold in Westmount, seven of them above the \$1 million mark. The average price was far stronger in January than February, but the 'typical' Westmount house value kept moving upward at least for the time being. Last year's total volume was the lowest in Westmount since 1995, and volume for the first two months of this year is well below average, though we may get reports of more February sales in the next few weeks.

Figures for February show three sales in the low \$1 million range and another four over \$800,000, markups as high as 68 percent and one house that sold for just under its municipal evaluation. Several of the sales were holdovers from last year's listings, thus the average time on the market moved up from an average 81 days to 97 days.

The surprise, though, is the condominium market, which is extremely strong. So far this year four condominium sales have been reported, all high-rise apartments, two of which went for more than \$1 million and another in the \$900,000 range.

The average markup is 51.7 percent, only slightly higher than the 49.2 percent for all of last year, but the average price of \$1,086,750 is way above the \$609,146 average for 2005. Thus it seems the buyers who once snubbed condominiums are beginning to think of them not just as a living alternative but an investment alternative as well.

The Côte des Neiges and Trafalgar-Daulac sectors of adjacent-Westmount have been quite busy in the first two months with average prices of \$531,286 in seven sales and \$840,500 in four sales, respectively.

There were no home sales in either Shaughnessy Village or the eastern section of Notre Dame de Grâce, and only two in the 'Golden Square Mile', including one on Redpath Crescent.

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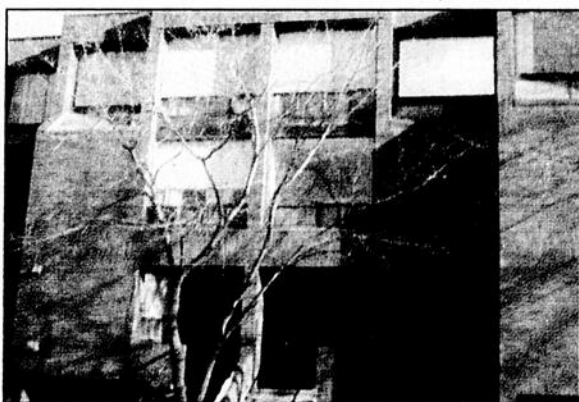
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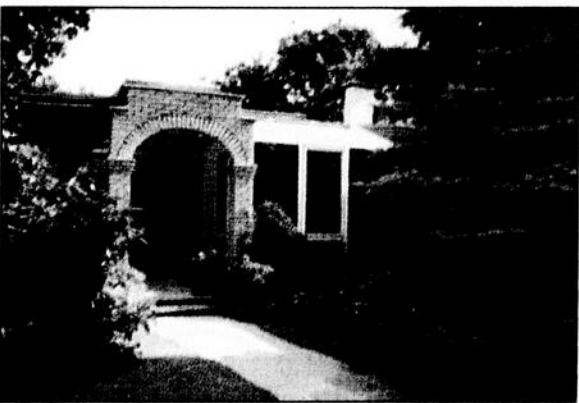
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Know Your Wrights

Ted WRIGHT

Hi Ted,
I was reading an article you wrote on www.westmountexaminer.com. I am a new landlord and I hope you can help me out. I am looking for the form that I have to send to my tenant to let them know what portion of the municipal taxes are theirs for their own personal income taxes. I'd like to send it to my tenant as soon as possible as I suspect she will not be renewing for June so I'd like to get the most time to find a tenant. Also, I used the RDL website to give an estimate of the increase but I only used estimates for property and school taxes because I haven't received those numbers yet—when should I expect them? I want to be as accurate and fair as possible to the tenant, but none the less we are talking at least of a \$50-\$70 a month increase as we heat her apartment by oil central heat.

Thanks for any information you could provide.

A.M.

Dear A.M.
Thank you very much for taking the time to ask about a legal rent increase.

It is important for all persons to note that the 'Rent Increase Adjustments 2006' put out each year by the Régie du logement are only guidelines. These figures are not carved in stone.

Rent Increase Guidelines 2006, once again, are as follows:

- Dwelling heated by the tenant (in addition to the rent): 0.9 percent.
- Dwelling heated by electricity (included in the rent): 1.1 percent.
- Dwelling heated by gas (included in the

rent): 1.6 percent.
• Dwelling heated by oil (included in the rent): 4.3 percent.

As you can see, these rates are variable to reflect the reality of different buildings, different costs, etc.

We must also mention, for everyone, that additional costs may be added to these percentages. If taxes have increased (please stop laughing, our wonderful demerger costs have given many landlords unpleasant surprises which will be passed on to tenants) these increased taxes can be another real, present cost that can be a part of the rent increase in 2006.

I want each reader to know clearly that rent increase amounts are variable for each residence. For A.M., it is very possible that a legal rent increase of \$60 to \$70 is your particular truth. Your tenant must also accept the fact that you as landlord have the obligation to care for the building and as such certain cost can and will be an integral component of the increase.

Both parties should consult the form 'Calculation 2006' on the Régie du logement website (www.rdl.gouv.qc.ca) or call (514) 873-2245.

Another form for the landlord is the 'RN Form'. It must be asked for at the front desk of the Régie. The form, used to assist the 'Fixation of Rent' at court (Rental Board), in English or French, allows a landlord, in conjunction with the 'Calculation 2006' to be much more certain of the exact rent increase.

Remember that many other costs and information are required in order to know accurately the rent increase. Revenu Québec and even the City will have more documents to assist. When a landlord or tenant asks, I can prepare a small package of approximately 60-70 pages to help everyone know the laws, their options to ensure the better financial viability of their building, and the actual deductions and obligations available. It is long but can save you money and allow true legal deductions.

Continued on page 18

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Can you price this home?

Guess the price of this **NEW** listing at 446 Mount Stephen

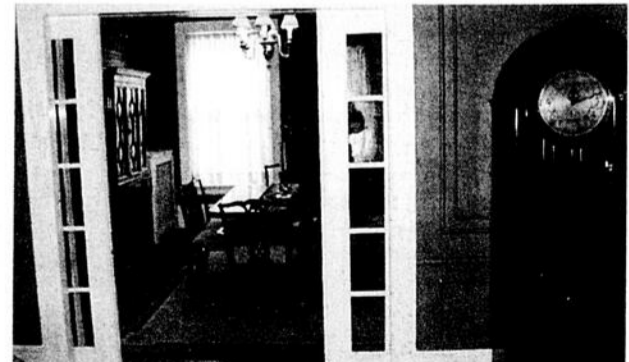
TAKE THIS PROPERTY PRICING TEST

A property can languish on the market, not attracting offers and running the risk of becoming "stale". As the seller keeps lowering his list price, his property loses valuable time; selling agents lose interest and the listing agent loses his time and probably the listing. Everybody loses. So take this test in proper pricing to see how well you can do. Your subject is a recent listing on 446 Mount Stephen.

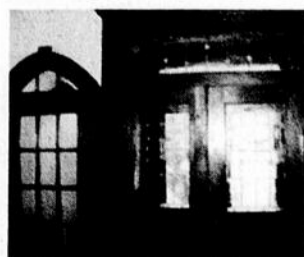
Read the description, then take a guess at its list price. I am the listing agent. The property is a semi-detached Victorian cottage with 2-car parking and is located on Mount Stephen, mere steps from the YMCA, Westmount Park, Murray Hill Park, and Village shopping. It's a great location on a premier street. The house has a lovely stained glass wooden door entry. There are also: 4+1 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms and a ground floor powder room. The eat-in kitchen is large and overlooks a deck and garden.



Read the article, then guess the price of this new listing. Call Barry 514-781-2425 for the answer.



Dining room entry is via sliding wood and glass pocket doors. The ceiling has wood beams and the walls have unique moldings. The basement has a large bathroom and a teen suite.



Stained glass door entry



2nd floor library



The living room has impressive moldings, a fireplace and bay window.

Realizing that some buyers could want to alter the house to suit their taste, the owners priced the house realistically. It's well-maintained (new roof in 2004; new oil tank, updated wiring). Now, can you guess the price? **HINT: a house a few doors away, about equal in size, sold for \$830,000 in 2003.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT THE OPEN HOUSE THIS SUNDAY, MARCH 12th, 2-4 pm or call Barry 514-781-2425

Home decorating styles change with the times

There was a time when home decorating meant picking out a paint or wallpaper, and finding a good match for the trim color.

These days walls and trim, furniture and floors can take on any one of dozens of faux finishes and decorative painting techniques.

Colorwashing, woodwash, decoupage and crackle glaze are just some of the techniques that can turn an ordinary room into a nostalgic retreat or an exotic sanctuary.

There's no great cost involved and the work can be carried out with a minimum of fuss.

If you've just moved into a new home, give yourself some time to settle in before you start experimenting with glazes and sponges, feathers and plastic bags - items which can all be used in inventive paint jobs.

Watch the light in the rooms during the day to see if a particular spot might highlight a faux finish. Maybe you'll discover the kitchen's too dark for the colors you had planned, and you'll want to rethink your scheme.

For walls and ceilings, color washing adds depth and subtlety to paints with a pre-tinted, water-based glaze. It can be applied straight to plaster, even rough plaster, which tends to take the look of the room back a century or two. You can buy ready mixed color washes, or make your own.

Woodwash gives an old look to new wood, and kitchen cabinets, plate rails, window frames and new and used furniture take the treatment well.

Create what looks like a cracked, worn surface with crackle glaze. Small items like

jewellery boxes can be given a novel new look, and decorating something that size lets you practice before you move on to bigger pieces like dressers.

Vines and flowers can trail elegantly down a door frame, or individual figures cut from wallpaper designed for a child's room can become part of a mural.

Sponging adds depth to paint color through a layering process and gives a soft, attractive finish.

The walls should be painted with latex if you want to sponge on latex, or with an oil-based matte eggshell if you want to sponge in a glaze or an oil-based paint. Besides using

sponges to put on or take off color, you can use soft cloths, plastic bags and stipple brushes, to name a few, for different effects.

Stencilling is another way to add decoration to a plain paint finish. You must use materials with the right consistency for a successful job.

Anything too thick, thin or slow drying will tend to ooze under the stencil frame, or start to spread when the stencil is removed. Natural wood, wood finished with a water- or oil-based eggshell paint or matte varnish should take stencilling well.

Decorating options these days are as limitless as the imagination.



Announcement



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We are pleased to announce that Christina Miller has joined the RE/MAX Westmount team of real estate professionals.

Il nous fait plaisir d'accueillir Christina Miller au sein de notre équipe de professionnels de l'immobilier.



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Sylvie Lafrenière

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509-D Claremont
Spacious 4 br S/D cottage in quiet country setting steps from Victoria Village. Fireplace, 2+2 baths, large eat-in kitchen, fin. bsmt, double garage, pkg & garden. **\$729,000**

136 Clandeboye
Renovating not for you? This magnificently restored Victorian beauty is the one you've been searching for! Steps from Greene, architectural details, moldings, woodwork, skylights, 3+1 brms, 2+2 baths, fin. bsmt, private deck, garden & parking. **\$795,000**

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Congregation works to secure church's future

> Charles Montgomery

After two years of planning and waiting, the Church of the Advent, at the corner of de Maisonneuve and Wood Avenue, has officially become the property of the House of Prayer for All Nations.

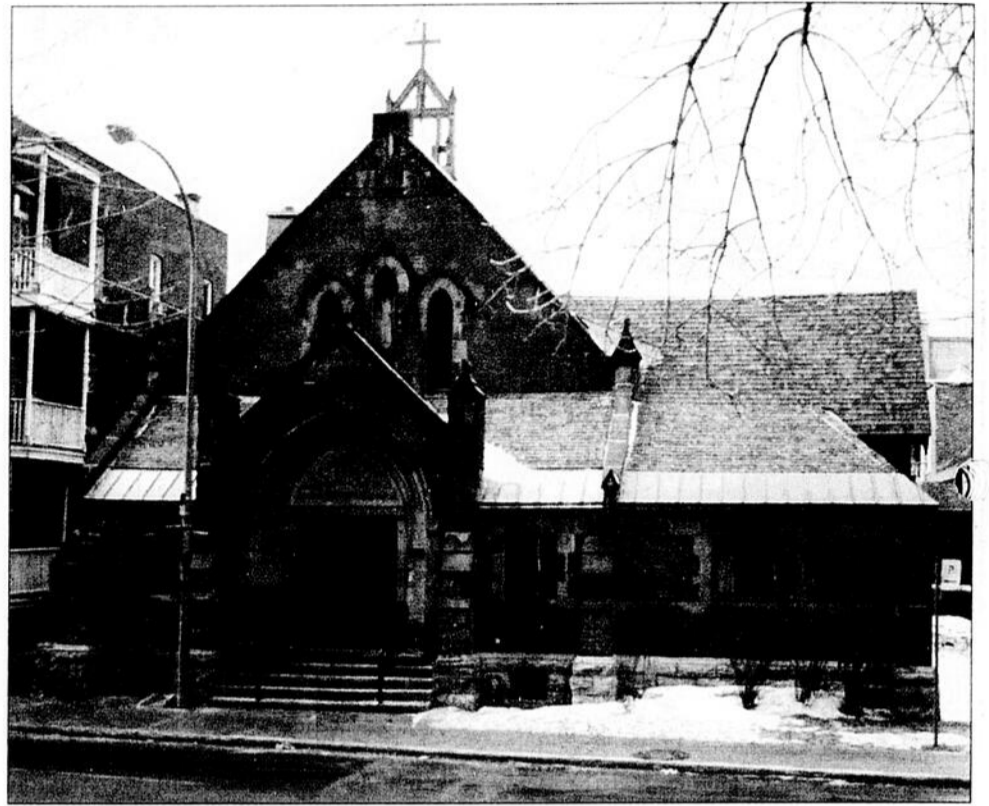
The House of Prayer congregation moved in last February, but it wasn't until this past October that the transaction was finalized.

Former Church of the Advent treasurer Tom Burpee laid out the sale's chronology for *The Examiner*: "The offer was made in June 2004. We didn't get the bishop's agreement—which was necessary—until October 2004. And we didn't get paid, which was a big thing,

until October 2005."

The Church of the Advent parish have now joined with St. George's Anglican Church downtown. "It was a very small congregation. They were dwindling in numbers. They couldn't really warrant continuing as a congregation because they did not have enough people," said the Rev. Dr. Lawrence Mascarenhas, who was the minister at Church of the Advent until it closed.

"We moved out in September 2004," said Burpee, reminiscing over the church's final service. He continued, "There was a joint service where all the people from St. George's came up and the service started at the Advent



The Church of the Advent: recently bought by the House of Prayer for All Nations.

Photo: Charles Montgomery



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and then half way through the service everybody jumped on a bus went down to St. George's, and the service was finished down there."

The church was sold for \$580,000. If the property were to have been sold commercially, Burpee estimated that they could have raised approximately \$2 million, but that was not the wish of the outgoing parish. "When everybody in the parish agreed to sell they said 'we want to sell to another Christian group,'" said Burpee.

The Anglican Church of Montreal has also reserved the right to make the first offer, should the church go on sale again in the next six years. This would prevent a group from flipping the church into commercial property.

The bidding for the property started as low as \$200,000, but after a while there were five different groups interested in the church. The House of Prayer for All Nations approached them without an agent, with an offer of \$580,000 and according to Burpee, "we said okay, that's fine, because that's about the equivalent of \$620,000 without any payment to an agent, so that's the one we went for."

A 2004 valuation of the building set its worth at about \$579,000, though the building will need extensive repairs and maintenance.

"Before we sold it, we had an architect

come in and do a review and he estimated that there were about \$250,000 worth of things (to be repaired)," said Burpee.

Another request made by the Church of the Advent, was that the new tenants keep up the onsite community services. The church is home to a soup kitchen, refugee center and activities like ballet classes. "We didn't force that on them, we just asked them, 'would you be prepared to?' and they definitely said yes," said Burpee.

Rev. Mascarenhas also felt strongly that these services continue, especially the soup kitchen, which had just started to settle in after moving from St. Stephen's Church at the corner of Dorchester and Atwater.

"These homeless people—really they have been shunted around from place to place, so I thought it would be fair (for them) to have a place to go to," said Mascarenhas.

"It's not a problem because it's a Christian organization and the work they are doing there is the same thing we also do to help other people," said Pastor Alex, the minister at the House of Prayer for All Nations.

According to Pastor Alex, his congregation is enjoying their new location, although he acknowledged that they were faced with heavier gas bills than anticipated.

The House of Prayer for All Nations had spent the previous seven years at a location on Côte des Neiges Road near Plamondon.



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 WESTMOUNT - METCALFE - Asking \$1,195,000	JUST LISTED  OLD MONTREAL - ST. PIERRE - Asking \$1,195,000	 TMR - BEVERLEY - Asking \$1,295,000	 MONTREAL WEST - BROCK S. - Asking \$1,395,000	 TMR - HIGHFIELD - Asking \$1,395,000
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 WESTMOUNT ADJ. - JEAN GIRARD - Asking \$1,395,000	 WESTMOUNT - CEDAR - Asking \$1,995,000	 WESTMOUNT - ROSLYN - Asking \$1,998,000	 WESTMOUNT - MONTROSE - Asking \$2,650,000	 DOWNTOWN - REDPATH CR. - Asking \$2,650,000

HOME TRANSFERS IN NOVEMBER 2005

ADDRESS	FROM	TO	PRICE	2004 VALUATION
HOMES				
310 Côte St. Antoine	Wen-Ying Chan	Yury Arutyunov	\$950,000	\$893,900
210 Edgehill	Eliahou Moulavi & Shulamit Sayegh	John Antoniou	\$1,950,000	\$1,517,200
665 Grosvenor	Sylvie Mercier & Binh Nguyen	Edward Harman & Nancy Heath	\$666,000	\$494,700
312 Lansdowne	Lise Casgrain	Deborah Oakes	\$762,500	\$535,800
644 Lansdowne	Claire Margaret Fripp & Nicholas Krnjevic	Marie-France Lacoste & Denis Pottie	\$665,000	\$628,700
730 Lexington	Jacqueline Wright	Hugo Sarrazin & Mili Choi	\$1,562,500	\$793,900
4451 de Maisonneuve	Joan Price	Christos Constantatos & Parissa Alagheband	\$695,000	\$622,900
4832 de Maisonneuve	Virginia Teres Cox	Luc Bedard & Manon Lalancette	\$350,000	\$365,700
634 Murray Hill	Beverley Anne Wilding	Nathalie Haccoun	\$715,000	\$641,300
9 Rosemount	Sophie Desmarais	Philippe Dandurand	\$1,850,000	\$1,300,000
87 Sunnyside	Scott Trasler	Olivier Court & Paola Fata	\$975,000	\$632,100
619 Sydenham	Marie-Anne Tawil & Michel Vennat	Jean-Guy Desjardins	\$5,590,000	\$2,400,000
3660 The Boulevard	Deborah Oakes	Alan Desnoyers & Shelley Barton	\$1,100,000	\$691,000
742 Upper Roslyn	Brian Sackman	Ayal Twik & Erin Michaels	\$795,000	\$568,400
617 Victoria	Nathalie Haccoun	Claudine Couture Trudel	\$625,000	\$415,800
DUPLEXES				
29-31 Bruce	Nadia Zouaoui	Christian Dominique	\$585,000	\$434,900
CONDOMINIUMS				
200 Lansdowne, #404	Joan Brown	Dorothy Finestone	\$420,000	\$334,800
4216 de Maisonneuve, #201 Mark Azeff	Ovadia Shebath & Katy Nathaniel		\$392,300	\$240,200 ^a
1 Wood, #180	Ville de Montréal	André de Sousa	\$10,000 ^b	\$52,200
10 York, #204	Barbara J. Leiter	William Girvan & Joyce Girvan	\$368,000	\$288,700 ^c

a Valuation is combination of \$223,200 for apartment and \$17,000 for garage.
 b Price does not include GST and QST which add \$1,502.50.
 c Valuation is combination of \$267,900 for apartment and \$20,800 for garage.

Sydenham sale tops November's list



Real Estate

Andy DODGE

(NOTE: The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in November, 2005, filed at the Montreal Registry Office. A list of sales can be seen above.)

The elegant mansion at 619 Sydenham Avenue changed hands in November for well over \$5 million, top price in Westmount since the \$6.501 million sale of 80 Sunnyside Avenue in May of 2001 and the second-highest price for a home in Westmount's history.

The house, which contains some 6,400 square feet in floor area and sits on a lot of 13,668 square feet, drew a price of \$5,590,000 which is 2.3 times its municipal evaluation, by far the highest markup over valuation for some 16 one- and two-family sales in the month. Though the sale was the only one over \$2 million, it brings to 15 the number of sales in that category during 2005, along with

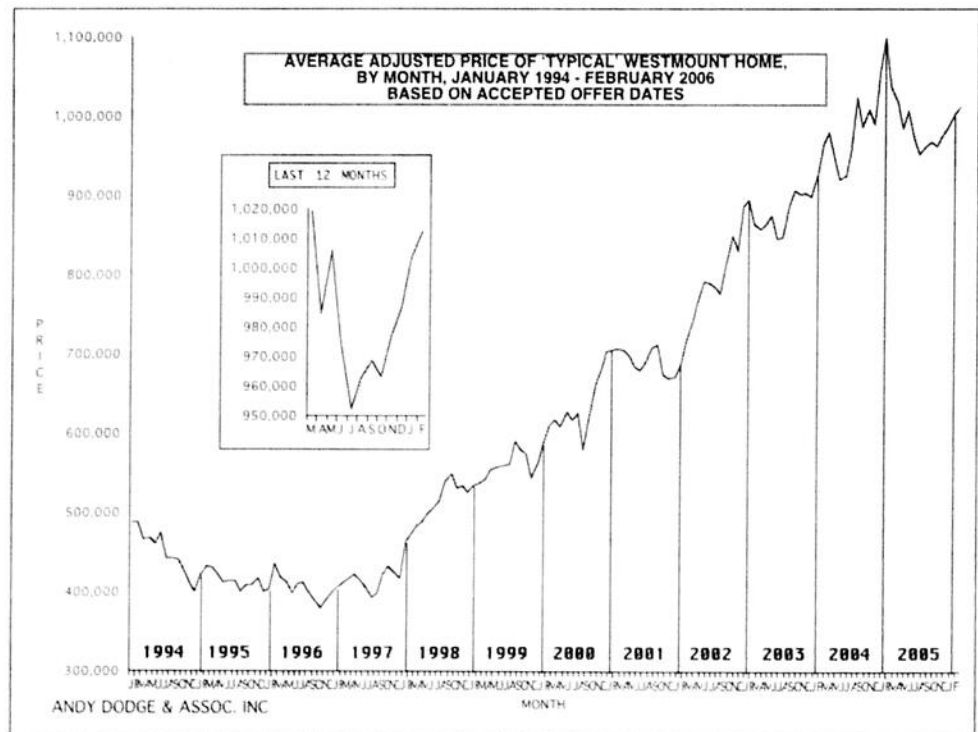
39 in the range of \$1 million to \$2 million. In November there were four sales in that range, including 210 Edgehill Road which neared the upper limit at \$1,950,000.

On the low side was one of the lowest prices for a single-family home this year, as 4832 de Maisonneuve Boulevard sold for only \$350,000, slightly less than its municipal evaluation. The small detached house is just west of Grosvenor Avenue. Next-lowest was the duplex at the bottom of Bruce Avenue, 29-31 Bruce, which sold for \$585,000.

Three residential condominiums sold in November, all within a fairly tight range between \$368,000 and \$420,000 and all apartments of various ages. Perhaps more interesting was the commercial condominium space at 1 Wood Avenue, of relatively little use because of its configuration, which was sold by the City of Montreal (before demerger) for non-payment of taxes back in 2002.

That sale was confirmed in November after the previous owner relinquished his rights to reclaim the property, meaning the new owner gained full title to space evaluated at \$52,200 for the sum of only \$10,000.

The one commercial condominium was the only non-residential sale reported in November.



Check out our Real Estate Section

The Westmount Examiner



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Continued from **KNOW YOUR WRIGHTS**, page 12

Hello Mr. Wright,
I read your article in the Westmount Examiner and I was wondering if you could help me out. I received a rent increase of 5 per cent, even though the recommendation is 1.6 per cent (gas heated). On the letter, it is indicated: "due to higher energy costs, the following rental increase will be non-negotiable."

There have been no major repairs, and I will examine the taxes shortly, but my question is the following. Since he is stating that the increase is due to energy costs, can I fight this, since he is supposed to offer only 1.6 per cent? The wording implies that the increase is not due to other factors. If that is the case, his 5 per cent increase is exaggerated. Am I correct?
S.M.

You are partially correct. Your landlord is partially correct as well.

Unfortunately, though, you seem to be receiving a threat in the guise of a rent increase notice. Just because a landlord says in her notice that something is "non-negotiable" does not mean that it (the threat) has any legal value.

No person—tenant or landlord—can be certain that simply by adding the statement of non-negotiability a judge will do anything but roll her eyes or ignore the words completely.

Of course you can refuse the increase demanded and dismiss, on some level, the non-negotiability. The law is the bottom line. We may find out that the landlord was all "bluster and ignorance." Then again, you may

receive an unpleasant surprise, based upon your own ignorance of the applicable laws.

Both tenant and landlord should use the 'Calculation 2006' form and place the true costs in the appropriate boxes and complete the calculations. You will then find out your legal increase, free and clear from "bluster and ignorance."

Many landlords, when oil or other costs rise unexpectedly, want to recover the increased amounts right away. The law does not function in this fashion. There is often a time lag. And please never forget that if energy costs go down, due to market fluctuation, this lowered cost should also be passed on to the tenant. It works both ways. The law is there to ensure financial viability of a building, help protect housing stock and make

sure that one party cannot abuse another as whim dictates.

So, Mr. S.M., you can fight the higher increase, but if your landlord uses the correct forms and can justify a 5 per cent rent increase, you will be forced to pay it. Please, both of you, use the Rental Board forms, fill them in correctly, provide necessary proofs, and live happily ever after... Well maybe not the last part, but both parties will be content in the knowledge that they are receiving the correct rent increase..

* This is a general overview only. Please seek legal and or expert advice as necessary. Ted Wright is coordinator of the Westmount Legal Clinic, every Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. at the Westmount YMCA, 4585 Sherbrooke St. W.



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Carol A. LaRonde McGarry
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It's time for March holiday madness

Two very different traditions, Purim and St. Patrick's Day, offer a lot to keep us busy



Kidzness

Marylin SMITH CARSLY

Holidays evoke lasting memories. Through the years those sentiments are the ones that nourish the soul enabling us to face life's challenges.

When reflecting back, we can reminisce about those gatherings when the table was laden with symbolic foods and we celebrated the many religious rituals. In addition, we can recall that energized preparation beforehand while eagerly anticipating reunions with family and close friends.

Annually, March carries many exceptional dates. When the Jewish holiday Purim emerges, my late grandmother's memory is vibrant as she once embodied that Purim

spirit. As a little girl we would often bake together for many occasions, but Purim was absolutely my favorite event in her kitchen. We spent hours making hamentaschen (cookies stuffed with fillings) as she carefully instructed me on the art of folding the dough into triangular shapes. Carefully, we would select fillings such as poppy seed, but I loved prune the best and to this day there isn't a bakery that can produce any semblance of her wonderful recipe.

Purim commemorates a time when the Jewish people in Persia were saved from extermination about 2,400 years ago. In the Biblical book of Esther, the heroes of the story are Esther, a beautiful young Jewish woman, and her cousin, Mordecai, who raised her as a daughter. Esther was taken to the house of the King of Persia, Ahasuerus, who loved her and crowned her queen, but he never knew that she was a Jew, as Mordecai told her not to reveal her identity.

The villain of the story was Haman, an arrogant, egotistical advisor to the king who was plotting to destroy the Jewish people. Mordecai persuaded Esther to speak to the king on behalf of the Jewish people. Esther's bravery saved the Jews and Haman was hanged by his ears on the gallows. What is quite notable was that the book of Esther is the only book in the Bible that does not contain the name of G-d. In fact, it includes no reference to G-d. One important message that is derived from this fact is that G-d often works in ways that are not always apparent.

The holiday is celebrated on the 14th day of Adar of the Jewish Year 5766. This will occur from March 13, to March 14, 2006. On the 13th day of Adar, Haman chose to exterminate the Jews and it was also when the Jews battled their enemies. On the 14th they celebrated their survival. The word 'Purim' means 'lots' and refers to the lottery that Haman used to choose the date of the massacre. Since then Jews are told to be merry with carnival-like celebrations, and masquerades. Gifts of charity are encouraged and the treats enjoyed are triangular fruit-filled cookies representing Haman's three-cornered hat (or the shape of his ears) known as Hamentaschen.

Wearing the green

The colour green and much joviality characterize this other March holiday, St. Patrick's Day.

St. Patrick, who became the patron saint of Ireland, was born in Wales about AD 385. Until he was 16, he considered himself to be

a pagan. When his village was raided, he was sold into slavery and during his captivity he became closer to G-d. He escaped and went to Gaul where he studied for 12 years in the monastery under St. Germain. There he became aware that his calling was to convert pagans to Christianity and he has been credited with bringing Christianity to Ireland.

St. Patrick's Day is associated with everything Irish; shamrocks and luck. For those who rejoice, it is intended for spiritual renewal worldwide. It takes place on March 17, the day St. Patrick died. Since the holiday originated in Ireland, the Irish have been responsible for spreading the customs worldwide. The first St. Patrick's Day parade was held in the United States in 1737, and not in Ireland, but everyone loves to partake in the festivities no matter what religion they may be.

Much Irish folklore surround St. Patrick's Day but not much of it is substantiated. Some of the lore believes that St. Patrick raised people from the dead. There is also a belief that he gave a sermon from a hilltop that drove all the snakes from Ireland. One traditional icon of the day is the shamrock. This stems from a tale that tells how Patrick used the three-leafed shamrock to explain the Trinity. His followers adopted the custom of wearing the shamrock on his feast day. This day's tremendous popularity may be due to the fact that it takes place a few days before spring and represents the first true greenery of the season.

March can certainly be viewed as the month of uplifting possibilities with two distinctive holidays leading us to the finale of winter towards the warming days of spring.



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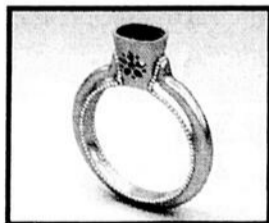


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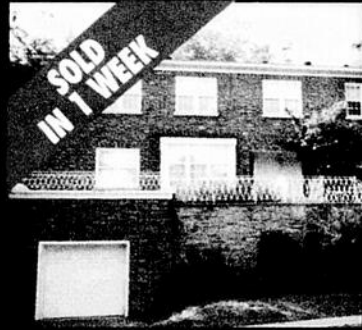
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Business & Professional Women honour Aitken



Around Westmount

Marilynn VANDERSTAY

Sally Aitken, former Westmount city councillor but still a community activist, will be honoured for her lifetime of achievement at the Business and Professional Women Montreal's annual Woman of Achievement dinner Wednesday, May 15.

The event will take place at the St. James

Club, 1145 Union Ave., starting with a reception at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 6:30. Sally will be the keynote speaker after dinner.

The event is open to the public and the cost is \$42. If you would like to join in lauding Sally, reservations can be made by calling Joan at 769-9023 or e-mailing jmacklin@videotron.ca. BPW Montreal is part of the BPW Canada, the national organization in Canada whose primary concern is the education, employment and economic status of employed women.

German Consulate sponsors WYO concert
The Consulate of Germany in Montreal will

sponsor a special concert this month at Victoria Hall.

The programme will feature the Westmount Youth Orchestra under the baton of Scott Gabriel, with solo violist Birte Altendorf. The orchestra will be accompanied by the McGill Conservatory Choir, directed by Erica Phare, in a programme of classical works by Stamitz, Tchaikovsky, Bizet, Leoncavallo and Mozart. The concert will take place this Sunday, March 12 at 2 p.m. at Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke W. Tickets are available at the door, \$5 and \$12 for students and seniors and \$15 and \$20 for adults.

18 at 8 p.m.

In addition to choreographing the production of modern dance, Mappin will be accompanied by Erick Kory, cellist and composer, and Michael Slobodian, photographer. For more information go to www.agoradance.com or phone 525-1500

Wagner exhibits at tearoom

Westmount artisan festival co-organizer Flora Lee Wagner launched a four-week exhibition of some of her latest works in her home fashion line, table runners, at the Gryphon Tea Room, 5968 Monkland Avenue, last week.

Other items include her colourful floor cloths and place mats. The exhibition continues until the end of March. For more information phone 485-7377.

Mappin choreographs dance presentation

Choreographer and former Westmount resident Jane Mappin's dance company will present Pale Fire at Agora de la danse March 14 to

Concert traces history of music for youth

If parents of older children are looking for an indoor activity during the March break, Victoria Hall is presenting a fun concert of brass instruments designed to introduce youth 12 years and up to the history of music.

The dynamic and entertaining group, Buzz Cuivres Farfulus takes you on a journey through the ages showing the origins of modern music. The 75-minute concert is a humorous and entertaining introduction to the main advancements of music through the ages.

Westmount Community Events Service, in conjunction with the Conseil des arts de Montréal, is pleased to invite the community

to come and enjoy this excellent quintet of musicians. The concert is designed to intrigue, interest and introduce children from age 12 and up to the various styles of music and how modern music evolved.

From the classic world of the Romans to Baroque opera via bicycle helmets and noodles, Buzz Cuivres Farfulus has put together a program that is sure to entertain even non-musicians.

The concert will be held in Victoria Hall this Friday, March 10 at 10 a.m. The concert is free but reservations should be made by calling 989-5265 at the Community Events Office, 4626 Sherbrooke W.

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General assembly and elections for the St. Mary's Hospital Center Users' Committee and In-Patients' Committee

Persons or the representative acting on the person's behalf who have received services from St. Mary's Hospital Center are invited to the general assembly of its Patient's Committee and In-Patients' Committee where a minimum of 5 members will be elected for each committee.

The general Assembly and the Elections will be held on :

Tuesday, March 21, 2006 at 12 :00 p.m. at St. Mary's Hospital Center located at 3830 Lacombe Avenue, Montreal in the Auditorium, Room B-309

The functions of the Users' Committee and In-Patients' Committee are mainly directed towards the protection and the respect of patients of the institution's rights.

For further information, please contact **St. Mary's Hospital Center by phoning : (514)-345-3511 extension 3301.**

Ville de Westmount
City of Westmount

AVIS DE DEMANDE DE PERMIS DE DÉMOLITION

AVIS PUBLIC est par les présentes donné à l'effet qu'une demande de permis de démolition a été déposée relativement à la propriété située au **83 Summit Crescent**.

Tous les documents afférents à cette demande peuvent être consultés du lundi au vendredi de 8 h 30 à 16 h 30 au Service de l'aménagement urbain de la Ville de Westmount situé au 4333, rue Sherbrooke Ouest à Westmount.

Toute personne voulant s'opposer à la délivrance de ce permis, ou désirant faire toute autre intervention à cet effet, peut le faire en transmettant son opposition ou son intervention par écrit au bureau de la sous-signée situé au 4333, rue Sherbrooke Ouest à Westmount, H3Z 1E2, dans les 10 jours du présent avis ou à défaut, dans les 10 jours suivant l'affichage installé à cet effet sur la propriété en question.

De plus, les personnes ayant transmis l'opposition ou l'intervention précitée seront avisés par écrit, de la tenue de la séance de consultation publique au cours de laquelle le comité de démolition étudiera le projet de démolition, ainsi que son programme préliminaire de réutilisation du sol. Seules ces personnes, ou leurs représentants autorisés, pourront faire une intervention auprès du comité lors de cette séance.

Soyez également avisés que la séance de consultation publique relative à ce projet se tiendra **le mardi 4 avril 2006 à 17h** en la salle des délibérations du conseil située à l'adresse précitée.

DONNÉ à Westmount, ce 9^e jour de mars 2006.

Lucie TOUSIGNANT, avocate
Greffière de la municipalité

NOTICE OF DEMOLITION APPLICATION

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the City of Westmount has received an application for a demolition permit with respect to the property located at **83 Summit Crescent**.

All relevant documents concerning this demolition application may be consulted Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the Urban Planning Department located at 4333, Sherbrooke W. in Westmount.

Any person wishing to oppose the granting of this demolition permit or to make any other submission regarding this application must make his objections known in writing to the undersigned at 4333 Sherbrooke W., Westmount H3Z 1E2 within ten (10) days of publication of this public notice, or failing such notice, within ten (10) days following the posting of the notice on the concerned immovable concerned.

Those persons having filed such opposition or submission will be notified in writing of the Demolition Committee public sitting during which the application and the preliminary programme for the reutilization of the vacated land will be submitted for consideration. Only those persons or their representatives duly authorized in writing may be heard by the Committee at the public sitting.

Also be advised that the public consultation meeting regarding this application will be held on **Tuesday, April 4, 2006 at 5:00 p.m.** in the Council Chamber located at the above-mentioned address.

DATED at Westmount, on this 9th day of March, 2006

LUCIE TOUSIGNANT, LL.B.
City Clerk

Dealer Kastel closes landmark art gallery

> Martin C. Barry

Paul Kastel, founder of the Kastel Gallery, a Greene Avenue landmark, has closed his business after 45 years.

Kastel's reputation as an expert in Canadian art turned the Kastel Gallery into a gathering place for artists and collectors from all over the country. But after suffering a stroke nearly six months ago, he decided on the advice of his doctor it would be best to retire. The shop closed a few weeks back after Tony Nevin, his business partner for the past 35 years, also developed a health problem.

"The gallery was known across Canada," Kastel said in an interview with The Examiner. "We dealt with clients from St. John's to Vancouver and even a lot of Americans bought paintings from us."

Although he may no longer be a fixture on the street, Kastel plans to remain active as an art dealer and collector. Once a regular at art auctions across the country, he admitted that "recently the prices in auctions are so high that I couldn't buy anything."

Kastel noted that he sold his first A.Y. Jackson in the late 1950s for \$275. The same painting today is valued at \$20,000. Despite the soaring prices, Kastel does not consider the cost of Canadian art to be inflated.

"Canadian art was undervalued for so many years," he said. "I wouldn't say it is inflated. Actually, it might even go higher. We are living in an inflationary world."

Explaining how he first opened his business in 1960 when Greene Avenue wasn't the upscale commercial district it is now, Kastel,

who is self-taught, said he had just finished remodeling the gallery's building.

"I had all these spare walls and I knew a lot of artists, like Fritz Brandtner, Sam Bornstein, Jori Smith—all the painters who were around with us," he said. "They said 'Paul, you love art so much. Why don't you start a gallery?'"

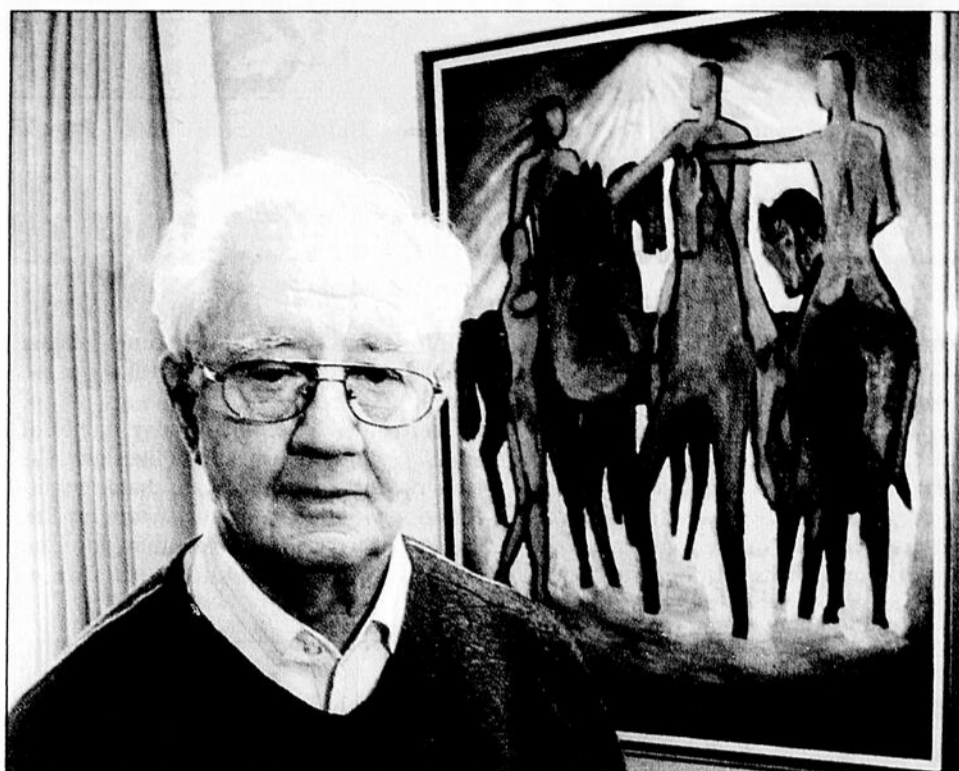
The Kastel Gallery was also an avid supporter of the Beaver Hall painters.

Kastel has resided in Westmount since immigrating in 1950 from Germany to Canada. He hopes to continue living in his home, although he has concerns about skyrocketing municipal taxes. Kastel said the annual tax bill for his home amounts to nearly \$20,000.

As a longtime champion of Brandtner's work, the walls of Kastel's home are graced by a number of paintings by this modern expressionist artist. Like many artists from central and eastern Europe who arrived in Canada during the inter-war period, the copious European references in Brandtner's works provided the country's art milieu with fresh sources of inspiration.

"He was actually the first painter who painted abstract art in 1928 in Winnipeg," Kastel said. "He introduced German expressionism into Canada. He was a man whose work was very avant-garde ... Every artist who knew him admired and respected him ... A very knowledgeable man ... Still very underestimated."

Following his death in 1969, Brandtner left behind an estate with as many as 1,000



Paul Kastel with the Fritz Brandtner canvas 'Blue Horses'.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

paintings, to be handled by Kastel's gallery. "That was a favourite medium for him. They were mostly coloured ink," said Kastel. Chinese coloured ink."

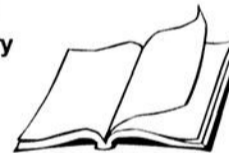
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Carolyn O'Neill at 483-5604



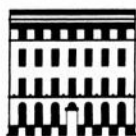
14 AU 18 MARS 2006, 20 H

PALE FIRE JANE MAPPIN DANSE



PHOTO: MICHAEL SLOBODIAN

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INTERPRÈTES_SUSAN GAUDREAU, MARIO RADACOVSKY, JANE MAPPIN
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Arts & Books

www.westmountexaminer.com The Westmount Examiner Thursday, March 9, 2006 Page 26

Visual narratives highlight Vic Hall exhibition

> Marilyn Vanderstey

If a picture is worth a thousand words, then the works that make up the duo exhibition at the Gallery at Victoria Hall speak volumes.

Artists Susie Fairbrother and Homeira Mortazavi have both articulated stirring stories of people, feelings and life, using their own distinct styles in their vibrant exhibitions of recent works. Not only do they tell the stories, however, but both draw the view-

er into interaction with the scenes leaving them with their own stories to tell about the works.

Fairbrother's colourful naïve scenes of lower Westmount where she lives give the viewer stories to identify with: characters sitting outside the Copoli restaurant on Ste. Catherine Street, an old Westmount house on Hillside Avenue, a woman outside of Clifford's.



A local scene by Susie Fairbrother

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Her exhibition, titled *Inside Out*, features colourful narratives of what people are thinking and feeling as they go through daily events as mundane as climbing stairs or sleeping or at social events such as weddings.

Mortazavi begins with a realistic image deftly painted with careful attention to detail. A young girl climbing stairs. Beside that image, however, overlaid in thick almost childlike paint, are the feelings the girl is experiencing.

"I wanted to encourage

In her more stylized works that include scenes and memories of Rawdon and Maine, Fairbrother shares with the viewer her family and friends and the scenery she loves. Her scenes of the Lachine Canal viewed from her studio share with the viewer her life today, where she creates and paints. The recent freezing cold of a bright but frosty day is captured in the hopeful January thaw in which she depicted as if in a photograph, the cold yet beautiful scene of the river highlighted by the sun, the trees and the snow.

"I do not consciously choose the style I am going to work with before I start painting from one of my rough sketches," she says. "It depends on the day and what I am feeling like."

A constant in all her works, however, is the ever-present image of at least one blackbird, which Fairbrother says represents her family and especially her father. During her father's funeral in Maine, Fairbrother was watching the children playing in the fields. "They looked like crows in the fields and I realized the blackbirds represent for me a family por-

the viewer to become aware of how many hours a day we live in our thoughts, not now and in the present but in our thoughts," says Mortazavi. "What are we going to eat? What are we going to do? It is important to see what those inside thoughts look like. To pay attention to them."

Some of Mortazavi's stories are happy. Two sisters enjoying each other's company are reflected in the inlay of a flower. 'Dreaming in Red' features a little girl sleeping peacefully on the outside and the inside, her inner peace represented in colourful, peaceful birds. Conversely, 'Combat' features a young woman standing calmly against a wall. Yet inside there is a lot of resistance going on, indicated by the inlay.

The two collections work together to create an interesting and exciting storytelling event. Viewers should see the show when they have time to sit and reflect and perhaps discuss the stories the images tell. The dual exhibition continues at the Gallery at Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke Street West until March 18. Info: 989-5226.

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Homeira Mortazavi and one of her paintings

From Tibet to France

Library lecture series takes an eclectic cultural tour

> Matthew Surridge

On Wednesday, March 15, the Westmount Public Library will host its inaugural Cultural Lecture of 2006.

Stephen Schettini will talk about Tibetan Buddhism. Schettini, who studied under a Tibetan master, will discuss the growth of Buddhism in the west, the nature of Buddhist practices and teachers, and why he eventually left the Buddhist tradition. The lecture will be given in the Westmount Room.

Subsequent talks in the Cultural Lecture Series will be delivered each month through the year. On April 12, Denis Briard will present a slide show of a 1,000-kilometre long bicycle ride through southern France, which will include views of the Lascaux cave paintings and the Bordeaux wine festival.

On May 17, art historian Michel Brunette will host a visual presentation of art from the time of Louis XV. Finally, on June 14, photographers Ian and Angela Plomley will present their work and discuss techniques of nature photography. The lectures in April and May will be given in French. Each of the lectures will be followed by a question-and-answer session in which questions may be asked in either French or English.

The Cultural Lecture series was begun in 1999, the centennial year of the Westmount Public Library. Each year, four lectures are given on a variety of cultural subjects.

According to Outreach Librarian Donna Lach, the lectures focus on "topics that are current with what people are talking about ... We know in this community that art,

music, and travel are extremely popular subjects. The nice thing about [the lectures] are that they're free and they're open to everyone." Anyone interested in attending the events may sign up for one or more at the library's circulation desk.

The library hosts a range of lectures. Regular presentations include not only the Cultural Series but also the 2 O'Clock Series, which are held on Wednesday afternoons once a month. These lectures range in subject, with a general focus on culture and self-improvement. Like the Cultural Series, the 2 O'Clock series is held in the Westmount Room. The next lecture in the series will come on March 29, when Gazette columnist Howard Richler will present 'The Joy of Lex', an entertaining discussion of the peculiarities of the English language.

Westmounters who have a presentation they wish to make to the public are welcome to approach the library, who will work with them to arrange a time. Usually, these speakers are scheduled as part of the 2 O'Clock series, but occasionally a stand-alone special event will be arranged. Says Lach, "I really try my best to give the community an event that is informative, interesting, and entertaining."

Lach hopes that lectures and other events will encourage people to visit and become familiar with the Westmount Library: "I think it's important that people in the community get to know the people who work at the library and get to feel welcome here."



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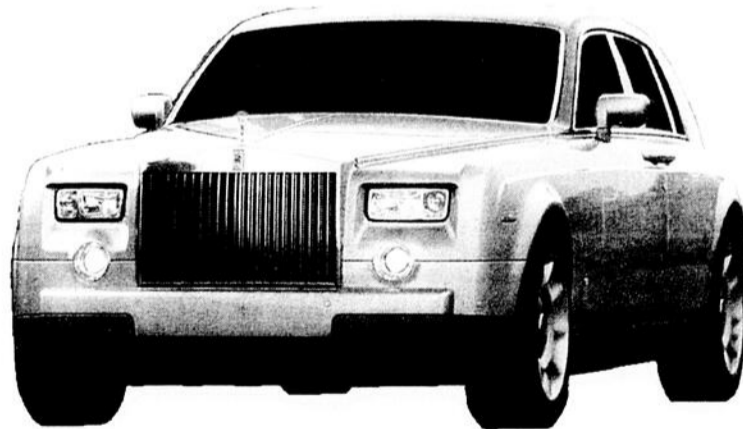
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Century 21 Immo-Plus

Selwyn House team tops in robotics competition

Selwyn House School won first place overall out of 18 local high schools and CEGEPs in the CRC Robotics Challenge at Collège Regina Assumpta in Ahuntsic last week.

The local boys' school began taking part in robotics competitions 11 years ago. Each year, CRC organizers devise a new game to test the skills and imagination of competing students.



Grade 11 students Vincent Hodder (left) and Tom Nation preparing the frame of their entry in the recent Annopoly robotics competition.

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Each year, competitors must design and build a new robot capable of performing tasks specifically tailored to the game of the year. The structure and rules of the game are not announced until approximately two months before the competition.

This year's game was called Annopoly. The playing field was a 16- by 24-foot rectangle divided by a wall. Atop the wall was a four-foot by eight-foot teeter-totter, on which a robot could cross from one half of the field to the other.

Each heat began with three robots standing on the playing field with a variety of

objects strewn about them, including pillows, beach balls, towels and buckets weighted with cement. The idea was to present the maximum challenge to a robot's ability to pick up objects of widely varying sizes, shapes, weights, textures, etc.

Unlike previous CRC games, in Annopoly all the robots on the field during a heat worked in cooperation. The object was to collectively pick up as many objects as possible and keep them off the floor, either by placing them on the wall or teeter-totter, or in a robot's own on-board storage container. Each object—as well as the robot itself—was counted as a scoring piece. Each object that was off the floor at the end of the four-minute heat added to the shared score of the robots participating in that heat.

The Selwyn House robot employed rotating brooms to sweep the objects into a basket. Another popular design used large tongs to pick up the scoring objects.

With coloured lights flashing, loud music pulsating and crowds of excited fans cheering from the bleachers, the atmosphere at a Robotics Challenge is more like a rock concert or a three-ringed circus than a science fair.

The drama carries on in the pits between heats, as team members frantically execute last-minute repairs and modifications to keep their team in the running.

"In accordance with CRC's goal to create a project where science, math, multimedia, language arts and computers are integrated, the robot is only one of four main components of the competition," states the CRC rule book. In addition to designing and building their robot, each team is required to create a bilingual video, a Web site, an information kiosk and a 12-page bilingual journal describing their school and the design and construction of their robot.

Selwyn House was able to win first place overall, even though the on-field portion of the competition was won by the robot from Howard S. Billings High School. Selwyn House came in fourth in the on-field competition, first in journal, and tied for third in the webpage design component. Selwyn House made the finals in every other component of the competition, which gave the school an overall point standing only one point ahead of the team from the host school, Regina Assumpta.

Twenty-five students from grades 9-11 made up the Selwyn House team. They conceived, designed, built and operated the robot and carried out all aspects of the competition.

The robots are powered by portable drill batteries, and must use identical motors supplied by the organizers of the meet. Teachers act as advisors only and do not have any hands-on involvement in the planning, building or operation of their team's robot.

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Continued from page 1

"With the rationale that they had been invoking, one has to ask one's self whether the reconstituted cities are, in fact, trying to pass on this \$15 million bill to City of Montreal taxpayers," he said, adding that the suburbs had only themselves to blame for increased taxes.

"If anyone has a political responsibility in all this, it is the officials who lobbied for demerger. It was stated on numerous occasions that there would be inevitable tax increases as a result of the demerger legislation."

The demerged cities are accusing the City of Montreal of inflating Agglomeration expenses. They allege City of Montreal expenses have been transferred to the Agglomeration by Montreal city council, which controls both budgets because of its 87 per cent voting majority on the Agglomeration Council.

Zampino said the suburbs claim that taxpayers in the 15 reconstituted cities will be left to foot the \$105 million bill "is completely false ... The City of Montreal pays for 80 per cent of all Agglomeration expenses based on its proportionate share of property values.

"Consequently, even if these assertions were correct, the impact on the overall tax burden of the reconstituted cities would be \$50 million, and certainly not \$105 million, representing an impact of no more than 3 per cent."

Despite Bowser's conciliatory message, City Councillor Tom Thompson said Westmount and the 14 other demerged cities still want serious changes made to the structure of the Agglomeration Council.

"That's our goal," he said. "Our mandate is to end up with an equitable and fair system that would replace the present circumstances in the Agglomeration committee."

Taking Agglomeration reform a step further, Thompson suggested that the Communauté Métropolitaine de Montréal (CMM), the regional authority that administers shared municipal interests over a wide radius of the Montreal region, could also be developed.

"You have the CMM, which should be a strong organization for the good of all the Montreal island residents, (and) instead it's just a shadow and it's not going to have the right impact," said Thompson. "When you get into the Agglomeration committee, where you have a voting system which doesn't respect the people who are paying taxes into the Agglomeration work, then it's not functional."

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Prenez avis que Ramzi Hagob Ferahian, dont l'adresse du domicile est le 4998, boulevard De Maison-neuve Ouest, appartement 1416, Westmount, présentera au Directeur de l'état civil une demande pour changer son nom en celui de Ramsey Hagob Ferahian.

Westmount, le 6 février 2006
Ramzi H. Ferahian

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Bulletin Board

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Thursday, March 9

Contactivity Centre invites everyone 60 and over to enjoy a hearty lunch for \$4, followed by 'Weekenders' Spring/Summer Fashions' presented by Donna Pidoux; 1 p.m. at 4695 de Maisonneuve W., corner of Lansdowne. Info: 932-2326.

Nicholas Hoare, in association with the Westmount Public Library, presents an evening with Katherine Barber, 'CBC's Word Lady', to launch her new book, 'Six Words You Never Knew Had Something To Do With Pigs' at 7 p.m. at Westmount Public Library, 4574 Sherbrooke St. W. Free admission. Info: Nicholas Hoare at 499 2005 or 933 4201, or the Westmount Library at 989 5386.

Saturday, March 11

Lunch and Study with Rabbi Leigh Lerner at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, 395 Elm Ave. Learn Zohar, Jewish ethical teaching in a class entitled 'Mysticism, Musar and Me'. Lunch at noon (\$5 charge), study at 12:30 p.m. RSVP at 937-3575 by March 8.

WARM Writers presents guest speaker Alexander Fodor, Russian studies expert and Tolstoy authority, who will present the lecture 'Tolstoy and his Wife: Her Role' in honour of International Women's Week, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Masonic Temple, 2295 St. Marc St., Rm 703-D, corner of Sherbrooke W. Free to WARM members, \$5 donation for others. Reservations are not required. Info: Jeanette Paul at (450)651-7044.

Sunday, March 12

The Westmount Youth Orchestra, conducted by Scott Gabriel, presents a concert in collaboration with the McGill Conservatory Youth Choir, directed by Erica Phare, featuring works by Tchaikovsky, Bizet, Mozart, and featuring German soloist Birte Altendorf in the Stamitz Viola Concerto, Op.1 in D major. 2 p.m. at Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke W. Tickets range from \$5-\$20 and can be purchased at the door. Sponsored by the Consulate General of Germany.

Steri-Animal is holding a cat/kitten adoption clinic at the Naturanimal & Pawtisserie, 4932B Sherbrooke W. from 1 to 4:30 p.m. Foster homes are needed. Info: 859-9008.

Monday, March 13

The Montreal camera Club presents its fourth pictorial competition meeting at 7:30 p.m. in Westmount Park Church, 4695 de Maisonneuve, rear entrance. Info: John Surridge at 933-6332.

Tuesday, March 14

The Women's Art Society of Montreal pres-

ents artist Sarah Valerie Gersovitz, who will deliver the lecture 'Conceptual Art: An Oxymoron?' at 1:30 p.m. at the McCord Museum, 690 Sherbrooke W. Following the lecture, there will be a short play reading by Sarah Gersovitz and Sam le Marquand. Guest fee is \$8. Info: 737-7268.

Wednesday, March 15

The University Women's Club of Montreal, 3505 Atwater Ave., presents guest speaker Dr. Heather Munroe-Blum, principal and vice-chancellor of McGill University, at their dinner meeting. Cash bar at 6 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m. Reserve by March 10 at 934-1362.

Thursday, March 16

Contactivity Centre's Spring Course Registration takes place from 10:30 a.m., to 12:30 p.m. at 4695 de Maisonneuve W. Proposed courses for people 60 and over are Stretch to Music, Intermediate Bridge, Advanced Bridge, Tai Chi and the 'Historical Biography' lecture series. Info: 932-2326.

The Westmount Historical Association presents Université de Montréal architectural historian Claudine Deom, who will give the illustrated talk 'The Public Face of Findlay: Findlay's Municipal Buildings' from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Westmount Room of the Westmount Public Library, 4574 Sherbrooke Street W. Admission is free for WHA members, and \$5 for non-members at the door. Info: 925-1404 or 932-6688.

Friday, March 17

The Atwater Library presents 'St. Patrick's Day: Irish Music and Literature' featuring harpist Meta Epstein and Dana Hearne of the Concordia Canadian Irish Studies department at 12:30 p.m. in the Atwater Library Reading Room, (main level), 1200 Atwater Ave. Feel free to bring your lunch! Coffee and tea will be available. Info: 935-7344.

Sunday, March 19

Jews of the World on Sunday Morning, under the leadership of Kalman Samuels, QC., features Mr. Hans Möller, who will speak on 'The Rescue of the Jews from Denmark, 1943' at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, 395 Elm Ave. 9:30 a.m. for breakfast, 10 a.m. for discussion. Open to all, free of charge. Info: 937-3575.

Thursday, March 23

Symposium on Human Trafficking—Slavery in the 21st Century: Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, 395 Elm Ave., presents guest speaker Victor Malarek, award-winning CTV journalist and author of 'The Natashas: Inside the

New Global Sex Trade', who will discuss human trafficking at 7:30 p.m. He will be joined by Prof. Irwin Cotler, who will take us inside the trafficking network and its practices. Open to the public at no charge. Info: Peggy at 937-4531 or Rhona at 937-3575 ext. 212.

Saturday, March 25

Books Roadshow: Wondering what your special book is worth? Come to the Atwater Library Reading Room, 1200 Atwater Ave., for a professional opinion from antiquarian bookseller Wilfrid de Freitas from 1 to 4 p.m. Fee is \$2 per book and all proceeds go to the Atwater Library. Info: Tanya Mayhew at 935-7344.

Ongoing

The Gallery at Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke W., presents the exhibitions 'En route' by Susie Fairbrother and 'Inside Out' by Homeira Mortazavi from Feb. 23 through March 18. Info: 989-5226.

The Women's Art Society of Montreal's annual juried art show and sale is being held from March 16 to 23 at Ogilvy's Tudor Hall, 1307 Ste. Catherine W. with artworks represented by 48 artist members Info: 299-3307.

The McClure Gallery of the Visual Arts Centre, 350 Victoria Ave., presents 'Between Self and Other', an exhibition of photography by Chantal Gervais, from March 3 to 25. Info: 488-9558.

Volunteers needed: The Montreal Children's Hospital is looking for volunteers for its third annual Radiothon, March 8 to March 10, to call past donors. If you have three hours to give, contact Stacey at 483-1865.

Breast Cancer Action Montreal needs volunteers to put up posters to publicize an upcoming event. Must be bilingual, independent and enjoy working outside. Contact the Volunteer Bureau of Montreal at 842-3351.

Manior Westmount's Handicrafts Group is looking for a volunteers to assist with crafts projects and some supply shopping. Assets would include experience with handicrafts and working with seniors. If interested, contact the leisure department at 937-3943.

Halte Garderie: Centre Greene, 1090 Greene Ave., provides a safe and friendly halte garderie/drop-off day care, staffed by warm, qualified child care givers. Arts and crafts, story time, gym games, healthy snacks, etc. Mondays and Wednesdays 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Fridays 9 a.m. to noon. Only 10 children per day; \$25 per child. Info: 931-6202.

Looking for Perls of Wisdom? Come and join the knitting/crochet group at Chateau Westmount every Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. Newbies and experienced knitters, bring your yarn and have some old-fashioned fun, tea and talk. Info: Salvina at 369-3000.

The Caregiver Support Centre of the CLSC René-Cassin will be starting a support group for couples in which one member has a chronic illness. Info: Norma at 488-3673, ext. 1518.

Friends of the Westmount Library ask that you think of them if you have any books you wish to donate to the library. They are currently accepting quality hardcovers and paperbacks in reasonable condition, on all subjects, for their upcoming sale on April 22-23. Please drop off your books at the library circulation desk, 4574 Sherbrooke W. Info: 594-4975.

The Atwater branch of the Montreal Children's Library, 1200 Atwater Ave., presents the weekly program Fun with Arts and Crafts each Monday at 4 p.m. for ages 6 to 12. In English, French and Chinese. Info: 931-2304.

Westmount Toastmasters: Take the fear out of public speaking every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke W.

The Rotary Club of Westmount meets each Wednesday at Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke W., at 12:30 p.m.

Mary's Recovery, a non-profit, bilingual self-help group for people seeking help in dealing with fear, anger, stress, depression, anxiety, panic attacks and phobias meet every Tuesday and Thursday. Info: 485-2194.

The Montreal Children's Library presents a Chess Club for ages 6 to 12 on Fridays at 4 p.m. at the Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater Ave. Info: 931-2304 or e-mail info@mcl-bjm.ca.

Seniors' Luncheon at Centre Greene: Monthly on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month, we serve a delicious home-cooked three-course luncheon in a warm and friendly environment. 12:15 to 2:30 p.m. at 1060 Greene Ave. RSVP at 931-6202.

Volunteer needed: Person required to read and discuss poetry with a group of seniors in a Westmount nursing home, twice a month. Info: Millie Karpman at 369-3000.

Tumbling Tots: Come join us in the gym at Centre Greene, 1090 Greene Ave. on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Loads of fun things to do. Tumbling mats, book corner, animated sing-along and much MUCH more. Drop-in. \$3.25 per child, \$5.50 per family per morning. Info: 931-6202.

Notez-le à votre calendrier!

Le nouveau répertoire des activités culturelles, sportives et de loisirs sera livré à votre porte dès **LE JEUDI 16 MARS.**

Obtenez tous les détails sur les programmes de loisirs offerts et les activités et événements à venir à la bibliothèque, l'aréna et au Victoria Hall.



Westmount

Sports, loisirs et événements communautaires
Sports, Recreation and Community Events



Make a note on your calendar!

The new Culture, Sports and Recreation Activities Guide will be delivered to all Westmount residences beginning **THURSDAY, MARCH 16.**

Get all the details on Westmount recreation programmes and upcoming activities and events at the Library, Arena and Victoria Hall.

Info : (514) 989-5200
www.westmount.org

DATES IMPORTANTES

le 20 mars 2006

Des exemplaires du répertoire des activités culturelles, sportives et de loisirs seront disponibles dans l'un des immeubles municipaux de Westmount.

les 27, 28 et 29 mars 2006

Période d'inscription au Victoria Hall pour les activités offertes par le Service des sports et loisirs.

IMPORTANT DATES

March 20, 2006

Copies of the Culture, Sports and Recreation Activities Guide are available in any Westmount municipal building.

March 27, 28 and 29, 2006

Registration for activities offered by the Sports and Recreation Department takes place at Victoria Hall.



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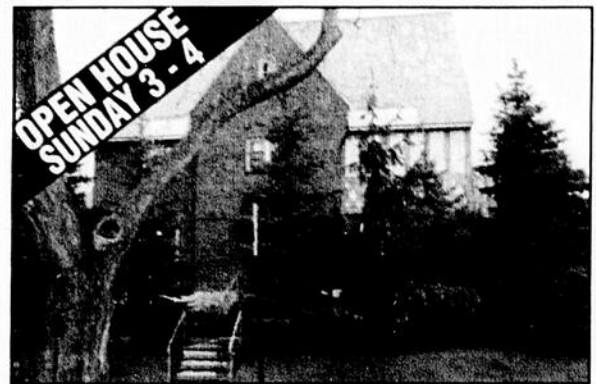
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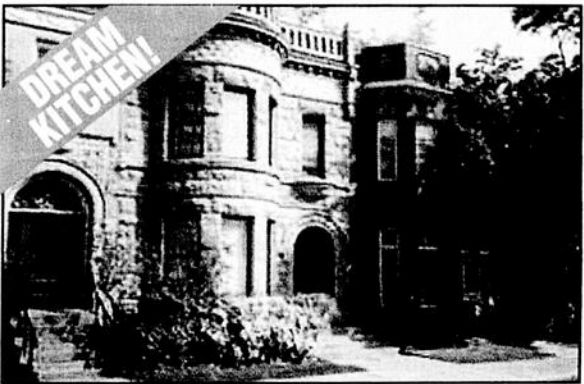


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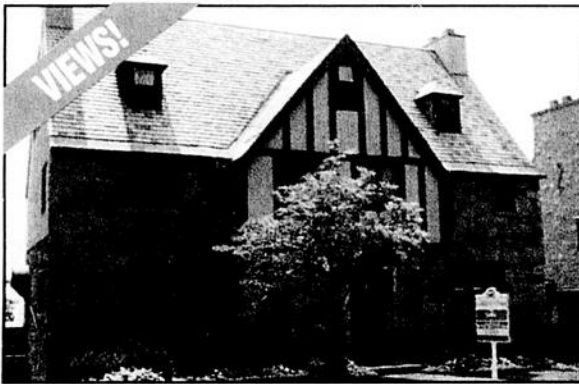


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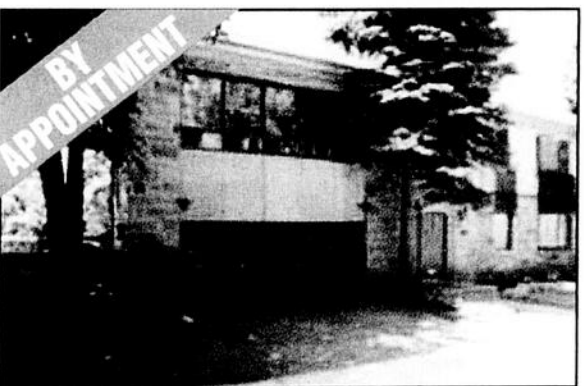
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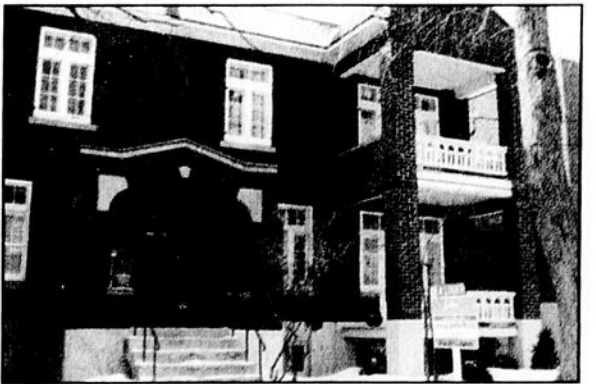
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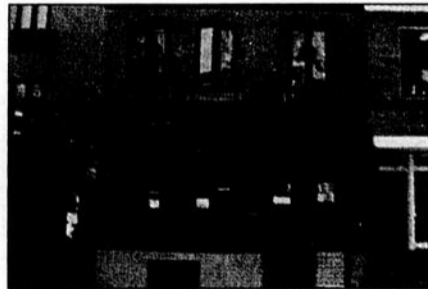
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