

Richler deserves more than a gazebo... See page 4

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The cast of Bowser & Blue's hit musical Schwartz's are hoping to repeat this spring's success with a return engagement of 21 more shows at the Centaur Theatre this summer. See story on page 10. Photo: ©lucetg.com

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Local News ■ A ST. JEAN FAMILY COMEDY

Rainy weather forced Westmount to hold a scaled-down version of its usual Fête St-Jean festivities last Thursday, but inside Victoria Hall the spirit was kept alive by members of la Compagnie Artiflette, who presented 'La Famille Fanelli,' a circus musical comedy that enchanted the children and raised a few chuckles among the adults.



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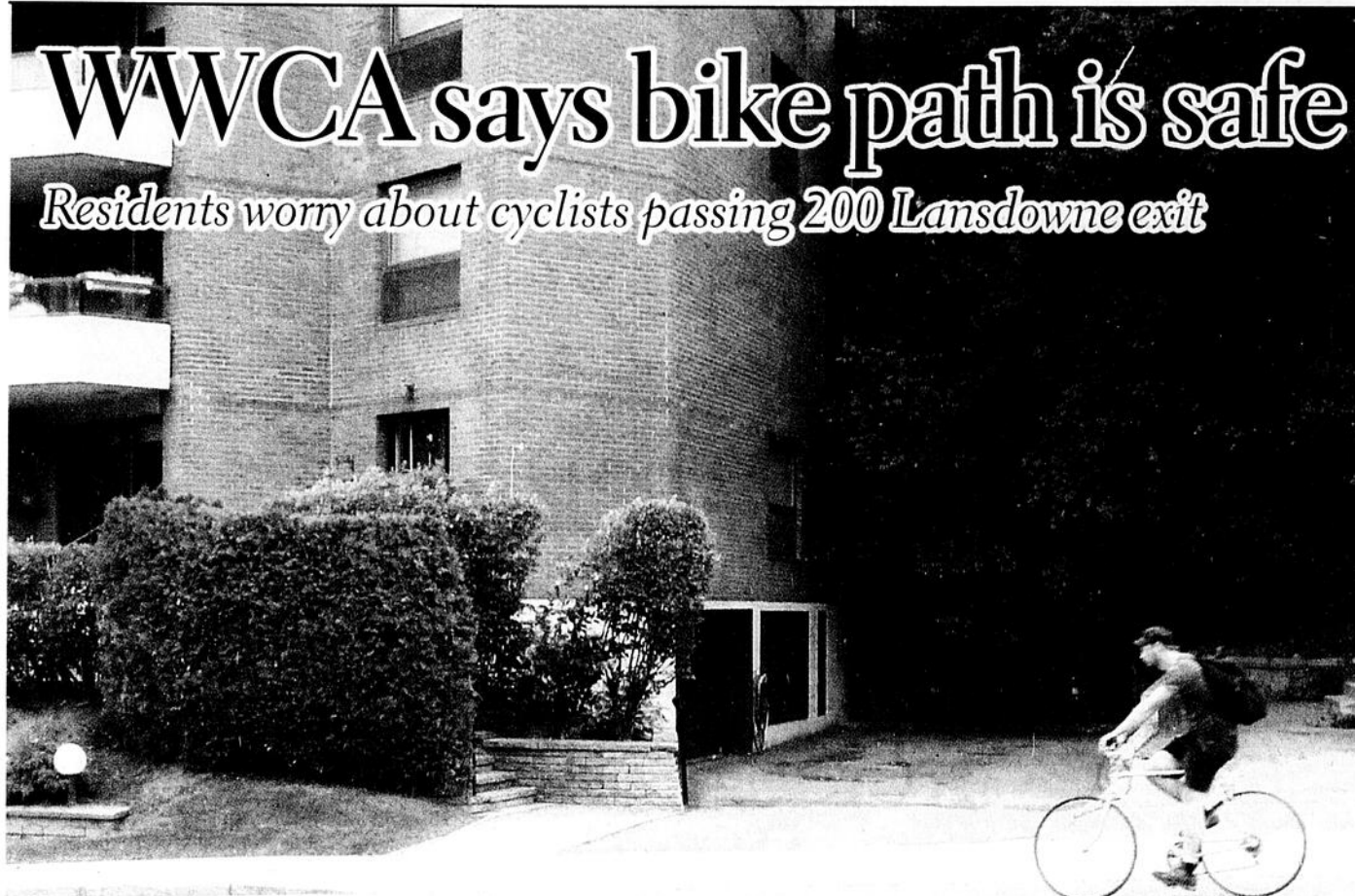
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WWCA says bike path is safe

Residents worry about cyclists passing 200 Lansdowne exit



Cyclists heading downhill on the new bike path must pass the parking exit of 200 Lansdowne – a situation that worries residents of the building.

Photo: Wayne Larsen

cyclists over the last four or five months is largely due to the weather getting nicer," said Lambert.

As for the charge that cyclists are slowing down motorists at the 200 Lansdowne parking exit, the WWCA takes these concerns seriously, but says its research shows otherwise. "We went during rush hour mornings on a couple of occasions, and observed the traffic," says Lambert. They found an average of 10 cars per hour exited the driveway, an average of one car every six minutes. The number of cyclists per hour, during what Lambert described as "fairly nice" weather, averaged 20 – or one cyclist every three minutes.

Lambert's association also examined how the cyclists and drivers interacted, checking traffic safety. He says tests his group ran showed minimal risk.

"A cyclist traveling at 30 kilometres an hour – which is a good clip – takes six seconds to go from becoming visible to the point of interaction, which is a long time," says Lambert. He says drivers and cyclists are visible to each other from a range of 50 metres away.

The debate over traffic at the intersection comes at a time when the City of Westmount is undertaking a large-scale traffic study. Lambert says he may send the City the results of his research.

Overall, Lambert hopes the City keeps a positive attitude towards cycling and bike paths. He says promoting biking is a great way to make a city more livable. "And the only way the City is going to do that is by creating more safe bicycle paths," he said.

ELISABETH FAURE

Members of the Westmount Walking and Cycling Association say concerns over the bike path running along Lansdowne Avenue to Glen Road are unfounded.

Residents at 200 Lansdowne have raised concerns at city council meetings about the path. They argue there has been a recent increase in

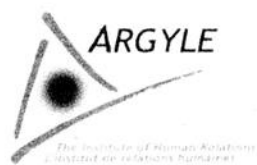
traffic on the path, and that cyclists block motorists trying to exit the building's parking garage.

"There's a lot of traffic," said Andrew Liebmann, who lives at 200 Lansdowne, the large apartment building at the corner of Ste. Catherine Street and Lansdowne Avenue. "Traffic has increased tremendously in the last four to five

months."

Dan Lambert, president of the Westmount Walking and Cycling Association (WWCA), said he thinks the recent increase in traffic is normal, since the bike path only opened last autumn and there was naturally less cyclist traffic over the winter.

"I think we could explain that an increase in



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Editorial

Cyclists seem to love Bixis

The recent fallout over Montreal's huge Bixi bike infrastructure (which seemed to explode shortly after Westmount finally joined the network this spring) has raised many questions about the bike-sharing system's financial feasibility.

It has become a hot issue at Montreal City Hall, and last week there were rumblings from south of the border that the Montreal operation may come under the wing of a U.S.-based company — a move that could possibly solve some of the financial woes and save Montreal taxpayers a lot of money. If that were not enough, in the midst of all this it was also revealed that even the Bixi name had never been properly registered and the name actually belongs to a former Montreal city councillor who noticed the oversight early on and slyly registered the name for himself.

The rapidly shifting developments in this sorry saga are such that the average news consumer might have a difficult time keeping up with them. Most would agree that the whole thing has been a major embarrassment for Montreal, and will continue to be so unless a viable solution is reached soon.

But there is a positive side to this story, one that has been largely overlooked in favour of all the official statements, financial reports and verbal volleys. Far from the boardrooms and press conferences, down on the streets and bike paths where the Bixi bike actually exists in its natural environment, all would appear to be going very well. The casual observer would have every reason to believe the program is working beautifully.

One only has to stroll down de Maisonneuve Boulevard, say between Victoria Avenue and Guy Street, right next to the main bike path, to see first-hand just how many of those distinctive Bixi bikes are actually being used by cyclists. You can't miss them — from the tiny bright blue light in front to the advertisement toward the rear — and the next thing you will notice is the sheer number of them. It's true — depending on the time of day, as many as one half of the cyclists who pass through Westmount are riding Bixis.

This speaks volumes about a system that cannot seem to hoist itself out of a bureaucratic quagmire.

Sometimes the best-laid plans and carefully managed programs fail to catch on with the public; in this case it is clear that the complete opposite is true.

Richler deserves much better

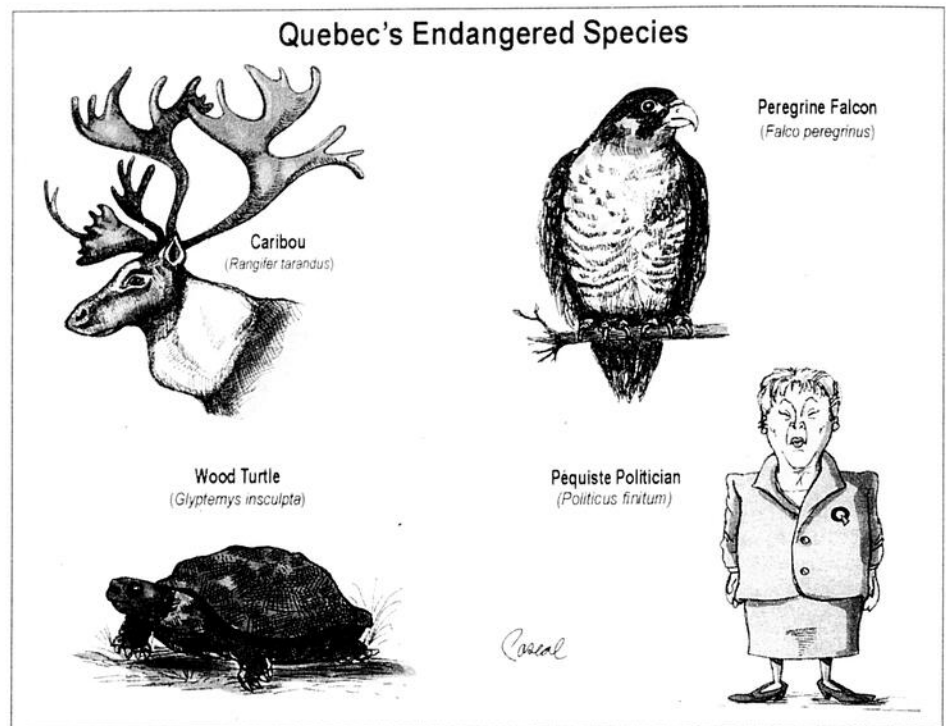
The late Saul Bellow lived to see his name grace the municipal library in his native Lachine, even though he spent 80 years of his life as an American and was identified much more closely with Chicago than Montreal. The late Mordecai Richler, on the other hand, does not merit such a lofty, noble honour, according to the City of Montreal.

No, the *enfant terrible* of Canadian letters and curmudgeonly critic of Quebec language laws who did much to put Montreal on the literary map will be remembered by a gazebo — a graffiti-covered, outdoor flophouse for transients, not far from the St. Urbain Street stomping grounds of Richler's youth and the setting of many of his most beloved works.

What is wrong with this picture?

While Richler never won a Pulitzer or Nobel Prize, as Bellow did, he certainly was bestowed with Canada's highest literary honours. It may also be argued that Henderson, Herzog and Augie March are venerated denizens of American literature — but they are not a part of Montreal's cultural fabric on the level of Duddy Kravitz, or even Barney Panofsky.

Richler's public tangles with Quebec nationalists in the 1990s might challenge the political correctness of honouring his memory with anything so prestigious as a Montreal library, but let's face it — a mere gazebo is an insult. Perhaps Westmount should step in and create a suitable honour for this former Edgemoor Road resident who created many memorable Westmount characters and set so many scenes in this community.



Letters to the Editor

Cycling issues must be resolved

To the editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to address some key issues in the Westmount community:

Item #1: Westmount Park

After many pleas, our Council seems to be unwilling to slow down the transient cyclists to protect the safety of children and adults. Originally de Maisonneuve (formerly Western) was a roadway that was blocked to enhance the Park. Recently, at a Council meeting, it was stated that the path through the Park was to be part of a "bike path thruway" with little regard to pedestrian safety.

Children attending the swimming pool are protected from automobiles by the placing of concrete barriers, but Council is unwilling to erect gates at the bike path to offer some semblance of sanctuary.

Item #2: Original concept of de Maisonneuve bike path was for recreational purposes. Children could safely learn to ride and others in wheel chairs (motorized or pushed) could safely avail themselves of it. Patient and courteous biking riding was a requisite.

Item #3: Winter maintenance cost of bike

path

Don Taddeo wrote that the loss of revenue from parking meters between Atwater and Greene would amount to \$120,000 (not including snow removal costs and great inconveniences to many citizens). He was rebuked by two letter writers who were ignorant of official published facts. In fact, prior to closing the meters for last winter it was stated at Council that the revenue loss would be \$75,000; since then, the meter fares have doubled; thus, I would guesstimate that the revenue shortfall would be \$150,000. Don Taddeo also mentioned the survey results that showed the winter usage of the bike lanes was minimal; I would add, what percentage of the riders were residents of Westmount?

Item #4: Bixis!

Recent reports expose the financial >>>

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The Examiner welcomes letters from readers on topics of local interest. While we only publish the writer's name and street, all letters must include the writer's name and address, as well as a daytime phone number for verification. Letters may be sent by mail to: Letters to the Editor, The Westmount Examiner, 245 Victoria Ave. suite 210, Westmount, QC. H3Z 2N2, by fax to 514-484-6028 or by email to larsenw@transcontinental.ca. We look forward to hearing from you!

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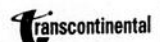
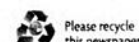
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boondoggle. If the Bixi directors ever presented their financial plan to astute investors or financial brokers, they would be laughed out of the meeting. I ardently wish I am mistaken and the project will succeed. Westmount has spent over \$200,000 for installation and usurping the use of space. As well as media reports, one only has to note "letters to the editor" as to the opinion of the "silent majority."

The Council is continuously lobbied by a bicycle group that propounds their desires without much consideration for the public or the public costs. They gang up at Council meetings with prepared questions and loud cheering. Unfortunately, with all their badgering and noise, they represent a miniscule portion of our citizenry. Insofar as Westmount Park is concerned, our councillors seem to be unwilling to inconvenience the lobby. Many communities put up methods to slow bikes down. The City of Montreal, often in summer, unashamedly, blocks off or diverts bike paths for the numerous festivals.

For the sake of safety, impositions such as mid-block stop signs, speed bumps, concrete barriers at Academy Road., deliberate slowing of traffic on Ste. Catherine Street, placements of concrete flower boxes, etc., are used to restrain auto speeds. Impediments to enhance safety for others are resented by many cyclists.

What is often ignored by self-serving types is that many people cannot or do not wish to cycle. Many need cars as the only practical method to get to work; many require cars to attend hospitals, social functions, shop or attend other functions. Many people, because of age, disabilities or other inconveniences, must rely on automobiles.

We live in a densely populated community. In a civilized society, we must be tolerant of others and exude patience and understanding.

By the way, contrary to some particular letter about me, I am not anti-bike. I am an ardent recreational cyclist and I also bicycle for many errands.

Stan Grossman,
De Maisonneuve Boulevard

An open letter to Mayor Trent

Monsieur le maire,

Il y a un an, vous avez écrit à tous les résidents de Westmount (dont nous faisons partie) pour obtenir leurs commentaires concernant le projet du nouveau centre récréatif. Nous avons grandement apprécié la transparence et l'honnêteté d'un conseil municipal qui se donne la peine d'envoyer un document de huit pages pour informer les citoyens des tenants et aboutissants d'une situation.

Apparemment un quart des Westmountais se sont donnés la peine de vous répondre, mais si l'on pense que ceux qui se font entendre sont généralement ceux qui s'opposent, les résultats ont été éloquentes : 83 % se sont déclarés en faveur du projet dans la forme sous laquelle il leur était présenté.

Dans le but de satisfaire à la loi, les résidents

ont été invités à signer un registre pour réclamer un référendum sur la question s'il en percevait la nécessité. Alors que la loi requiert 500 signatures à cette fin, il n'y en a eu que 114.

La conclusion qui s'impose est donc que la grande majorité des électeurs de Westmount est satisfaite de la façon dont se déroule le projet du centre récréatif.

Par conséquent, nous vous demandons, Monsieur le maire, de continuer dans la même direction et de procéder avec la construction de ce centre récréatif, tout en nous tenant au courant bien sûr de son évolution, compte tenu qu'il y aura indubitablement en cours de route des correctifs à apporter et des choix à exercer.

Il existe partout et dans tous les domaines des minorités mécontentes dont, hélas, les voix sont généralement plus tonitruantes que celles des majorités satisfaites. Il faut apprendre à « faire avec », comme on dit, et à poursuivre la voie qu'on s'est tracée, sans se laisser divertir par ces « terroristes » à la petite semaine. Soyez assuré, Monsieur le maire, que nous sommes nombreux ici à Westmount à apprécier votre travail, votre intégrité et votre bonne foi.

Carole Garcia et Jaime Rodrigues,
Rue Irvine

Shakespeare in the Dungeon

To the editor:

Isn't it depressing how the "Arena/pool" project, which is what it was called for three years, is now being called the "Recreation Centre," thus forcing the city council to keep coming up with new ideas to brainwash us into believing that what is being built is not really an underground ice hockey palace?

One of the latest new uses for the underground hockey bunker is Shakespeare in the Park, an annual outside fresh-air event which can now be held deep under the ground on one of the free hockey surfaces when the weather gets a little inclement. Previously, all that was necessary was to cancel the event for another evening when the weather improved. It was Councillor Cynthia Lulham, the consensus-building councillor, who mentioned this novel idea to those who attended the Victoria Hall "progress report" meeting. For those who forgot, councillor Lulham is the same councillor, along with a few others, who at one time suggested the Westmount Athletic Grounds (WAG) as a better site for the project, but who quickly backed off when the WAG people came out in force and angrily said "not in our back yard."

Once upon a time

BY C.L. PASS

There thrived a magical kingdom called Westmount:-

The magic of the kingdom radiates from a beautiful garden in the heart of the land

With falls and ponds and ducks - boys set out their sailboats in the pond -

And, most wonderful of all, there is the wedding tree!

Everyone comes from far and wide to have their photos taken on their wedding day by the wedding tree and all the public oohs and aahs nearby, wishing the lucky couple,

A most happy and healthy marriage and prosperous family with many children.

This abides even while a gloomy, forsaken, foreboding era lurks and looms in the wings.

The tender beating magic heart of the kingdom hangs under grim threat.

It would be frozen, solid, hard and cold.

The beautiful garden would not auger

bleeding of idyllic blissful fertility.

Rather it would emanate chilling freezing frigidity.

The centre of the once-wholesome family park,

Is it now to reflect out from a brutal, stultifying, icy radix?

That would arise, arresting the magic kingdom rich in heavenly dreams attached?

What inexorability is there for frozen battlefields to invade a once charmed pacific land!

With clamouring and clashes to infect where once music joyously rang!

How then would a wedding couple mistake to venture to the dread 'no more magical' park

No safe harbour for treasured dreams of warmth and flowing water and welcoming family environments

Once upon a time, there was yet a glorious magical kingdom with its axis, Westmount Park!

Is its special destiny Doomed to be 'No More'? Lest it may, for all our sake, Prevent.

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Telephone scam targets seniors

Phony bail bond request may sound plausible

■ MARILYNN VANDERSTAAY

So there I was, in the middle of contemplating my Around Westmount column for the week, emailing and organizing speakers for the Rotary Club of Westmount, emailing my kids about the pending birth of my fifth granddaughter, and just generally involved in work — when I get this long-distance phone call from someone who does not say he is Travis, my son-in-law, but was smart enough to pick up on it and use it... saying "Hi Gramma!"

I thought it was Travis, calling to say my daughter Sandra and new baby Olivia were both well. The con picked up on it and said no, the baby isn't due for a couple of weeks, which is true, but that he was in Ottawa for his best friend's wedding and was picked up the night

before for driving under the influence — just .01 over the limit. He passed the phone to his public defender, a Mr. Kennedy, because he had to post \$4,500 bond and because Sandra was due he didn't want to call her and upset her. In fact he was so embarrassed he didn't want me to tell anyone... that it would be our secret.

That was too plausible a story. Although he lives in London, I knew Travis had been at a wedding in Ottawa a couple of weeks earlier and that Sandra is too big to travel such a distance. But I had reservations, so I asked for the public defender's whole name and phone number. The call did in fact originate from a Toronto number, but he explained it was a Toronto cell, which was also plausible. I was concerned and embarrassed for my purported

son-in-law.

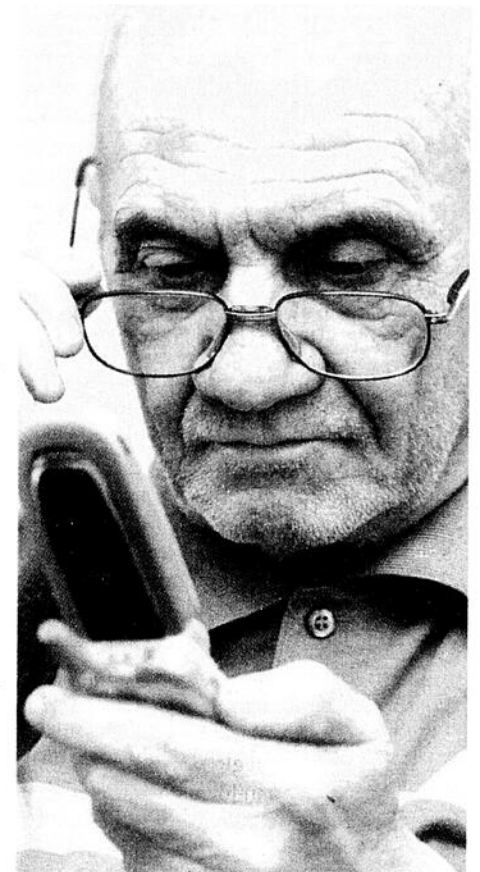
But something wasn't right. The "lawyer" told me "Travis" had been picked up around 12:30 a.m. and had been arraigned in court in Ottawa. Bail was \$4,500 and a court date of early October had been set. But I was wary, and asked for the lawyer's phone number. I wanted to be able to call him back after the conversation to confirm his number. The lawyer wanted me to go to a Western Union — armed with my postal code, he was able to tell me which one to go to — and send \$4,500 to the Ottawa Court House, a number he would give me. I could not pay with a cheque, only cash, and since I was in Montreal, Western Union would be the fastest way to get my son-in-law out of jail and back home to southwestern Ontario. I told him I would have to have time to put the money together and I would call him back. Could I please speak with Travis.

Click.

I phoned my son-in-law in London to confirm that I had not left him in jail, and then phoned 911 and started telling my story — when the operator completed my sentence and told me this is a scam and gave me the number of the RCMP, 514-939-8304.

The RCMP operator listened to my story, took down both the phony cell number and the number left on my phone with caller ID. She suggested I visit the site of the Canadian Anti Fraud Centre at www.phonebusters.com, where in black and white was the script for the conversation I had just had.

Called the Emergency Scam, the con is targeted at grandparents. Although barely a grand mother, my oldest grandbaby doesn't even drive yet, I was fortunate I did not get scammed. I had the presence of mind to ask



immediately for the lawyer's name and a call back number. But the RCMP told me the court never allows someone to phone for bail money; that is dealt with by the courts. Also, a public defender would never phone for bail money.

Westmount and NDG are home to a large senior population, and as such are particularly vulnerable to this scam, which, although it has been going around since the late 90's, is making a comeback. If you receive such a phone call do not do anything until you ascertain your grandchild or whoever is not involved. Try to get the incoming phone number by pressing *67. Then phone the toll free number 1-888-495-8501.

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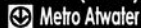
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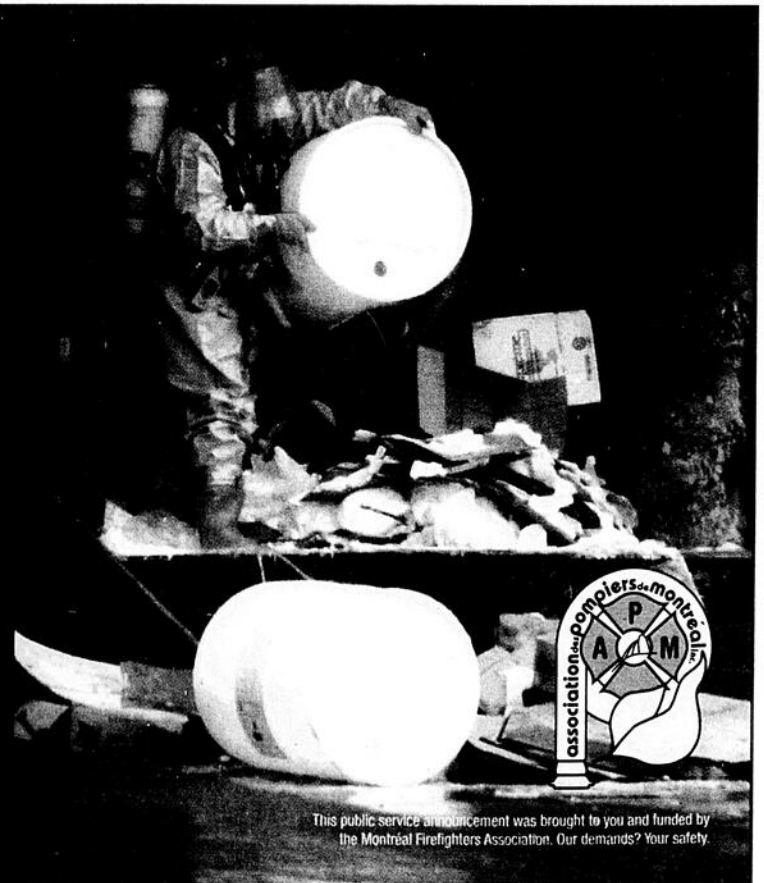
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Westmount Recreation Centre

Swimming pool will accommodate young and old, recreational swimmers, competitive teams and more

This is the fifth of a series on the progress of the new Westmount Recreation Centre, provided to The Examiner by Westmount City Council.

Close your eyes and imagine a swimming pool.

Chances are, one of two kinds of images came to mind. The first is of an Olympic-style swimming pool with lanes and a flight of competitive swimmers in bathing caps and Speedos hitting the water off the starting blocks almost simultaneously.

The second is more idyllic. Maybe it involves grandparents lounging on a terrace as some of their charges frolic in the shallow end, while an older brother or sister practices a swan dive off the low board. Maybe it involves a hiatus moment for a gaggle of teens who have come together for an in-town summer getaway: no teachers, no homework and especially no parents — but supervision nevertheless. Maybe it involves a group of seniors, some lounging, others cooling off from the summer heat with a quick dip. Imagine the competitive swim meet indoors. No problem. Now imagine those dog days of summer taking place indoors. Not going to happen, right?

Reconciling these two very different uses was an important factor in determining that

Westmount needed a new outdoor pool first. It didn't mean that Westmount shouldn't have an indoor pool. It simply meant that if both kinds of activities were to happen, they had to happen in the summer, outdoors.

Of course, cost and logistics were an important factor as well. Indoor pools are more expensive to build than outdoor pools and operating costs are very high in comparison. An indoor-outdoor pool was ruled out for cost reasons, but also because of the footprint it would take and the parkland it would reduce. An indoor-outdoor pool was ruled out for cost and practicality, but also because of the parkland it would reduce and the extra parking needed.

The new recreation centre pool will accommodate both recreational and organized swimming programs and more. It was unthinkable that a community of 20,000 would not have an outdoor pool, with the country club atmosphere that surrounds an outdoor pool, outdoor terraces with both sun and shade, access to clean showers and changing rooms for both men and women as well as for families. The list of must-haves is long: a kid's pool and water-play area, access to all areas of the complex for the mobility challenged, capacity for 300 that



would be impossible indoors.

Which doesn't mean it should not accommodate competitive swimmers. Our swim teams like to practice and compete outdoors, they tell us. And so they will get a pool that meets their needs too, with additional lanes and starting blocks that are the norm in other municipalities, and they will get all the facilities they should expect from their city, including changing rooms and places to socialize both in fair and foul weather.

Nobody should be excluded from active enjoyment of life, whether they are seasoned athletes, tyros just starting out or are simply in it to have a good time. That is the Westmount way.

In upcoming articles we will look at other components and features of the new centre. In the meantime, we welcome your comments and suggestions. Email us at westmountrecreationcentre@westmount.org

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|---|---|--|--|---|
| VERSION FRANÇAISE | | LE SENS DE L'HUMOUR WED-THUR: 1:10-3:25-7:10-9:25 | TRANSFORMERS 3: LA FACE CACHÉE DE LA LUNE 3D EVERY DAY: 12:35-1:05-3:35-4:05 6:35-7:05-9:35-10:05 LATE SHOW FRI-SAT 11:45 | TRANSFORMERS 3: LA FACE CACHÉE DE LA LUNE EVERY DAY: 12:50-3:50-6:50-9:50 |
| LES BAGNOLES 2 3D MOVIES FOR FAMILIES SAT-SUN: 10:30 EVERY DAY: 1:00-3:25-7:00-9:25 | LES BAGNOLES 2 (NUMÉRIQUE) EVERY DAY: 1:10-7:10 | SALE PROF EVERY DAY: 1:15-3:15-5:15-7:15-9:15 LATE SHOW FRI-SAT 11:15 | GERRY FRI TO TUE: 6:50-9:25 LATE SHOW FRI-SAT 12:00 | |
| M. POPPER ET SES MANCHOTS MOVIES FOR FAMILIES SAT-SUN: 10:30 EVERY DAY: 1:00-3:00-5:00-7:00-9:00 LATE SHOW FRI-SAT 11:00 | STARBUCK COMING SOON | SUR LE RYTHME COMING SOON | APOLLO 18 COMING SOON | |
| VERSION ANGLAISE | | MONTE CARLO EVERY DAY: 1:15-3:30-7:15-9:30 LATE SHOW FRI-SAT 11:45 | LARRY CROWNE EVERY DAY: 1:00-3:05-5:10-7:15-9:20 LATE SHOW FRI-SAT 11:25 | TRANSFORMERS: DARK OF THE MOON 3D EVERY DAY: 12:30-1:00-3:30-4:00 6:30-7:00-9:30-10:00 LATE SHOW FRI-SAT 11:50 |
| TRANSFORMERS: DARK OF THE MOON (DIGITAL) EVERY DAY: 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:45 LATE SHOW FRI-SAT 11:55 | CARS 2 3D MOVIES FOR FAMILIES SAT-SUN: 10:30 EVERY DAY: 1:05-3:30-7:05-9:30 | CARS 2 (DIGITAL) EVERY DAY: 3:35-9:35 | BAD EVERY DAY: 1:10-3:10-5:10-7:10-9:10 LATE SHOW FRI-SAT 11:10 | BAD TEACHER EVERY DAY: 1:10-3:10-5:10-7:10-9:10 LATE SHOW FRI-SAT 11:10 |
| GREEN LANTERN EVERY DAY: 1:15-3:35-7:15-9:35 LATE SHOW FRI-SAT 11:55 | MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS MOVIES FOR FAMILIES SAT-SUN: 10:30 FRI TO TUE: 12:50-2:50-4:50 | X-MEN: FIRST CLASS (DIGITAL) EVERY DAY: 12:55-3:30-6:55-9:30 LATE SHOW FRI-SAT 12:05 | THE HANGOVER 2 EVERY DAY: 12:50-3:00-5:10-7:20-9:30 LATE SHOW FRI-SAT 11:40 | |
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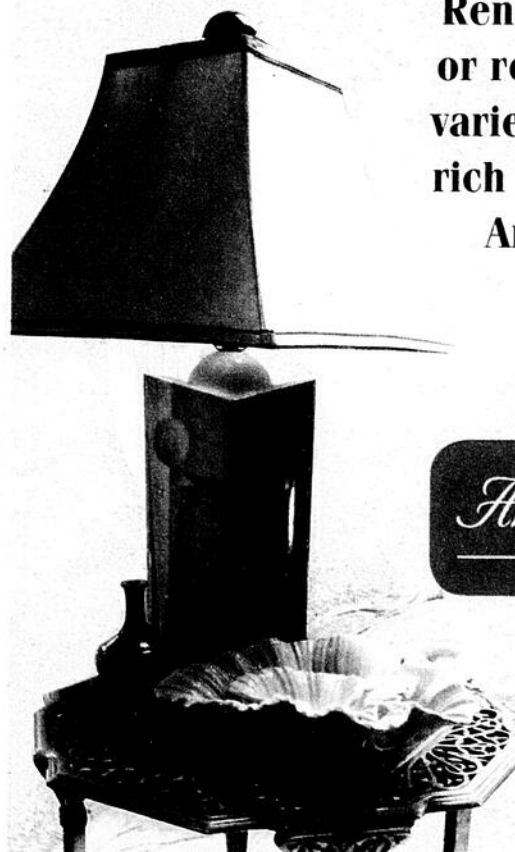


An energetic group of RBC employees recently participated in the annual Pedal For Kids fundraiser to benefit the Montreal Children's Hospital. On June 13, bank employees from across the many RBC branches in the downtown region rallied behind RBC Westmount Square manager Jason Christiano to participate in the cycling event, and managed to raise \$15,000 in donations in the process.

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Schwartz's makes a comeback

Hit local musical returns this summer

With the lineups at the Centaur box office nearly as long as the daily queue in front of the crowded little deli on St. Laurent near Pine Avenue, it made perfect sense for producers to bring back the hit musical Schwartz's for a three-week summer run.

Written by well-known comedy duo Bowser and Blue, the musical homage to Montreal's

most famous delicatessen will be back at the Centaur Theatre for 21 performances between July 20 and Aug. 7, hoping to repeat the success it enjoyed during its initial run this past March and April.

"We are thrilled to follow up on our six-week, sold-out run of Schwartz's by reuniting the incredibly talented original cast for the

summer," said director Roy Surette, the Centaur's artistic and executive director. "Schwartz's and summer, how perfect is that?!"

Back on the stage this summer will be the multi-talented cast of actors and musicians comprising of Chris Barillaro, Rick Blue, George Bowser, Jim Cahill, Vito DeFilippo, Bruce Dinsmore, Holly Gauthier-Frankel, Dominic Lorange, Stephanie Martin, Gordon Masten, and Felicia Shulman, who play a wide variety of characters ranging from Toronto executives to Schwartz's owners, staff and loyal customers from over the years.

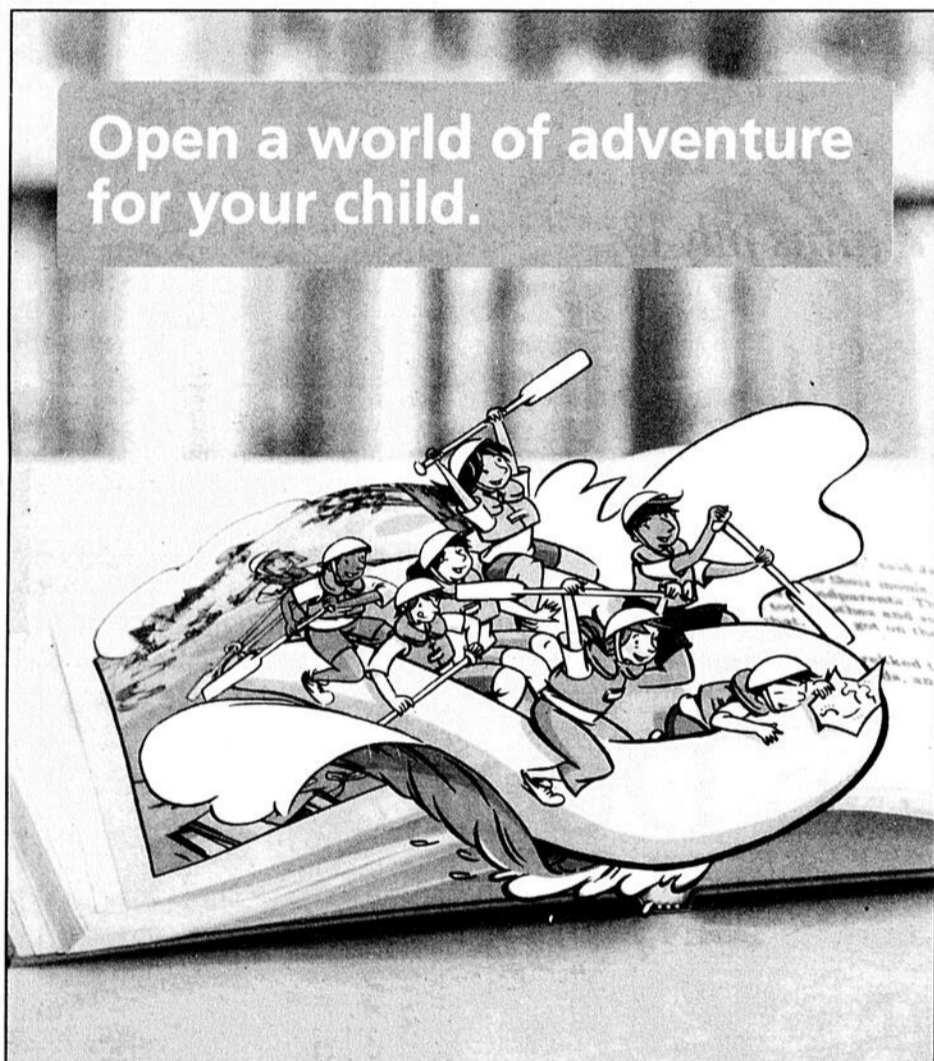
The show will be presented every evening at 8 p.m. (except Monday, July 25 and Monday, Aug. 1). Matinees will be held on Saturdays (July 23, 30 and Aug. 6) at 2 p.m. and on Sunday, July 24 at 2 p.m.

As an added feature, Schwartz's smoked meat sandwiches will be sold on Wednesdays (July 20, 27 and Aug. 3) from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Centaur's Seagram's Gallery. This is especially appropriate because, in the words of Ben, the head waiter, "I believe the problems of the world could be resolved over a smoked meat sandwich."



Vito DeFilippo and Stephanie Martin in Schwartz's the Musical. In the background are George Bowser and Rick Blue.

Photo: @lucetg.com



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Summer sale at Contactivity



Members of the Contactivity Senior Centre were in front of Westmount Park United Church on Monday, selling baked goods, jewelry, crafts, toys and baby items. All items for sale are made by the seniors throughout the year. Weather permitting, they will be at the table throughout the summer from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Career Day on July 6 at our offices

For those in search of a job at a weekly newspaper, I will be pleased to welcome you to our office at 8770 Langelier Boulevard, Saint-Léonard, on Wednesday July 6, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

On this occasion, at least 15 positions will be available in sales, administration, editorial and computer graphics at our local offices in Dorval, Saint-Léonard and Saint-Laurent. The development of our products, the growth in business, the many ventures and the

challenges which the Web presents, has led us to offer these positions and to recruit candidates in search of a stimulating career that has the possibility for advancement and improvement.

The Career Day on July 6 will make it possible for candidates to have an interview on the spot, to visit our offices in Saint-Léonard and to meet several of our managers. Applicants will have to bring a resumé. They should have at least a Diploma of Collegial Studies or an equivalent experience in the field of media, have knowledge of the Web and new technologies and be bilingual.

Let's meet!
Stéphane Vinet,
Regional Managing Director,
Montreal Island
Newspaper Division, Quebec and Ontario
Transcontinental Media

Shaar garden tour returns July 13

The Sisterhood of Congregation Shaar Hashomayim has announced that its popular Summer Garden Tour will take place again this summer, on Wednesday, July 13, beginning at 9:30 a.m..

Back for its fifth year, the tour will visit some of Westmount's most beautiful gardens at the height of their bloom.

A map showing all the gardens will be available to participants, who can purchase tickets through the Shaar for \$45 each. The price of each ticket includes a continental breakfast and a catered lunch.

Due to the popularity of this annual event, space is limited. Those interested in participating in this year's tour are asked to make reservations by calling the Shaar at 514-937-9471.

NOTICE REQUEST FOR A NAME CHANGE OF AN ADULT

Take note that Tamar Dina Amor which the residence address is 376 Redfern ave. apt. 5 Westmount (Quebec) H3Z 2G5, presented to the directeur de l'état civil a request for a name change to Tamara Dina Pressman, Montreal, June 17th 2011

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How to Get to Knowlton

Knowlton and the area around Lac Brome is just a pleasant 75 minute drive from Montreal, via the Champlain bridge and the Eastern Townships Autoroute. To get to Knowlton, take exit 90 from the autoroute and follow route 243 South on a scenic 15 minute drive along the lakeside.

Knowlton House and Garden Tour Wednesday July 13

A day in the country and a chance to enjoy the beautiful homes and gardens of Knowlton, whilst supporting English language theatre in Quebec. This self-guided tour of exceptional homes is consistently sold-out, so don't delay! ▶▶



48 Ch. Tibbits Hill - Lac-Brome - Beauty and nature at its best, 20.5 acres with view of the mountains, pond, wooded, very private. Open concept home with high ceilings, 3 bedrooms, room on 3rd floor ideal for home office, magnificent terrace suspended over pond, detached garage. \$599 000



14 Rue Sinclair - Lac-Brome - Lac Brome, Warm old fashioned cottage situated on a landscaped lot, mature trees, stone retaining walls, flower garden, in ground salt water pool, 3 bedrooms, veranda, wine cellar, large kitchen, fireplace. Equipped with everything to please you! \$559 000



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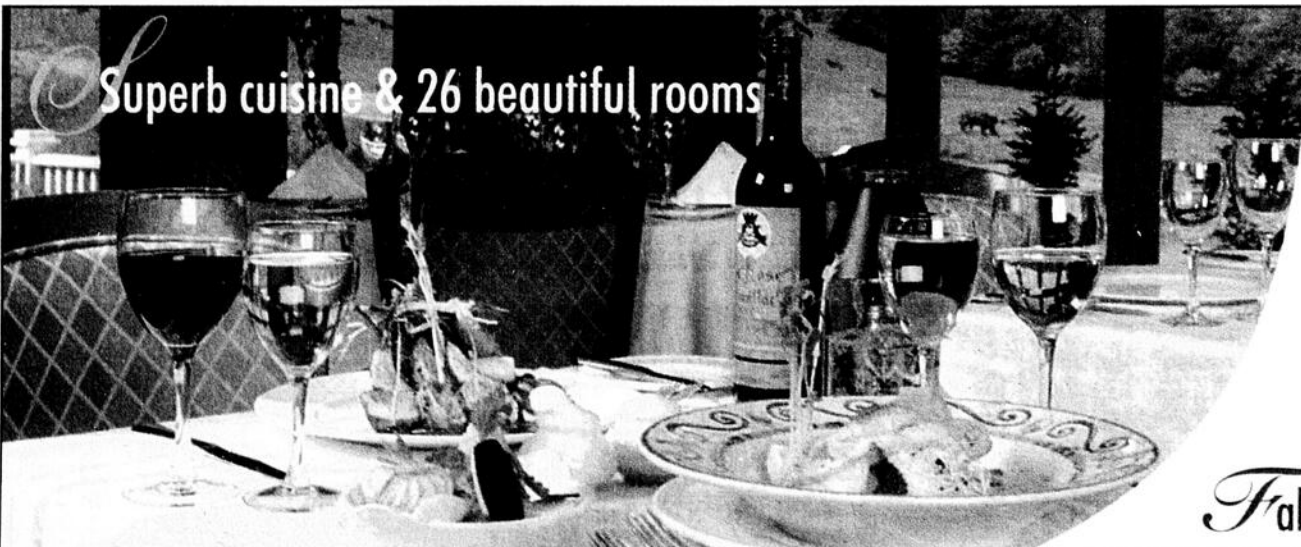
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Art Now to feature artists Merrill and Tondino



MARILYNN VANDERSTAAY

AROUND WESTMOUNT

Westmount artists Michael Merrill and Tristan Tondino will present a talk and some of their striking multimedia works next week at the next Art Now event.

Art Now, a group dedicated to the discussion of contemporary art, will meet in the Westmount Room of the Westmount Public Library on Tuesday, July 5 at 7 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, phone organizer/sponsor Pierre Le Courrière, owner of Avenue des Arts, 328A Victoria Ave., at 514-843-1881.

Times are a changin' at Rotary

Victoria Hall rocked with the familiar sounds of Neil Young, Paul Simon, The Beatles, Cat Stevens, James Taylor, Bob Dylan, and so much more last week as the Choir Boys performed folk rock classics at the past-presidents luncheon of the Rotary Club of Westmount.

Rotarian Gary White, aka director of the Westmount Y Centre, on acoustic guitar, vocals, and harmonica, and Denis Ducharme on keyboards, lulled the membership and guests into a time warp of the easier days of the late 1960s and early '70s.

And a secret as to just how much the times are a changin' at Rotary, starting in September the doors of Victoria Hall will be open each Wednesday at noon so the public can enjoy a buffet luncheon and a speaker with the members. Recognizing that with work schedules and lifestyles, much of the community appreciate the work of the club and the quality of its speakers, but are not in a position to make a commitment to membership, outgoing president Merle Binnore and incoming president Ralph Thompson made a plan to open meetings of interest to the public.

Build your brain power

For those who enjoy ongoing learning but don't want to commit to a university course, the McGill Minis are registering now for their fall sessions.

This term the program is offering a new panel discussion format for Mini-Law and a new joint format that brings together Mini-Med and Mini-Pharma. Participants will stretch their grey matter while being intrigued and entertained, learning new information about formerly inaccessible topics. There are no prerequisites, no homework and no exams.

The cost for either is \$114, or \$68 for students and seniors. Registration is on a first come first served basis. For further information phone 514-398-2111 Lectures will be presented in English, but questions can be posed in French.

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WELCOMING NEWCOMERS



Marie-Josée Plouffe

Photo: Alarie Photos

When she was young, Marie-Josée Plouffe was always the first person to go say hello to the new neighbours in her neighbourhood. It was important for her to help them acclimate and to help them in any way that they needed. It's not surprising then that today, she works at an organization that helps new immigrants integrate into their host society. Work councillor at the Support Centre for Immigrant Communities (CACI) in Bordeaux-Cartierville, Plouffe helps new immigrants find jobs.

"The particularity of this clientele is that they arrive with big dreams, shoulders high and are usually very educated," she said. "Unfortunately, this group gets disillusioned rather quickly, living with the shock of finding a job and somewhere to live. We have to work with shifting their attitude and help them understand the network and techniques of finding a job."

For Plouffe, in her relationship with the newcomers, it is important to welcome them as they are.

"I am very spiritual and it allows me to not judge the person, no matter their baggage or state when they arrive," she confided. Plouffe holds an undergraduate degree in physical education and has worked in a prison environment in the past.

"Life has brought me many places," she said. "I have changed professions several times but what attracted me to work with an immigrant clientele was my love of new Quebecers."

In the past two years, Plouffe has been the counselor for around six groups of newcomers aged between 16 and 30. This experience was one she really enjoyed. Her challenge was to facilitate their entry into school or to have them integrate into the job market without much education. She has been fully invested in this project, to the point of recruiting her own candidates in some neighbourhoods.

"What I love is to watch the day-to-day evolution of these young people who didn't have much self-esteem and to help them realize that they have a place in society," she said.

For her, this program works. The proof? Of the 40 young people she counseled, 85 per cent returned to school. Among them, five of them didn't know how to read and now three of them can.

The only thing missing is funding from Service Canada so that the project can continue for two more years. Plouffe only hopes.

Véronique Leduc
veronique.leduc@transcontinental.ca

Marie-Josée Plouffe in three questions

- 1 Who is your role model?
Mother Theresa. She is generous, sharing and non-judgemental.
- 2 What is your best accomplishment?
My son.
- 3 If you could change one thing in the world, what would it be?
That people, no matter their origin, could communicate without judgment and never hesitate to help each other.

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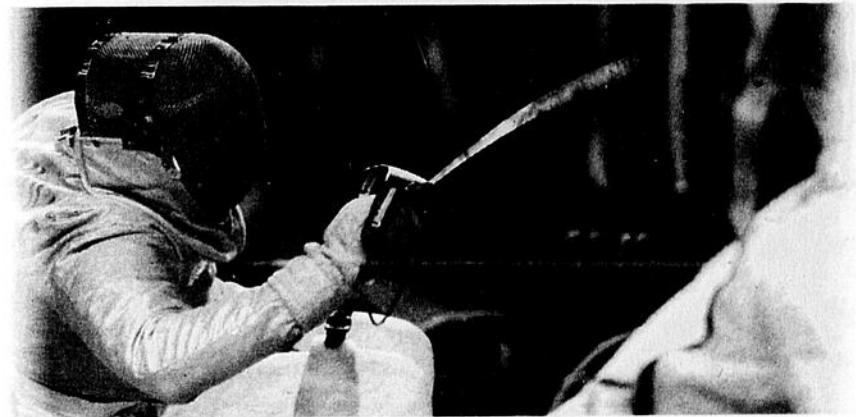
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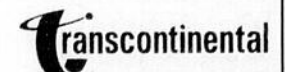


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