

The Westmount Examiner

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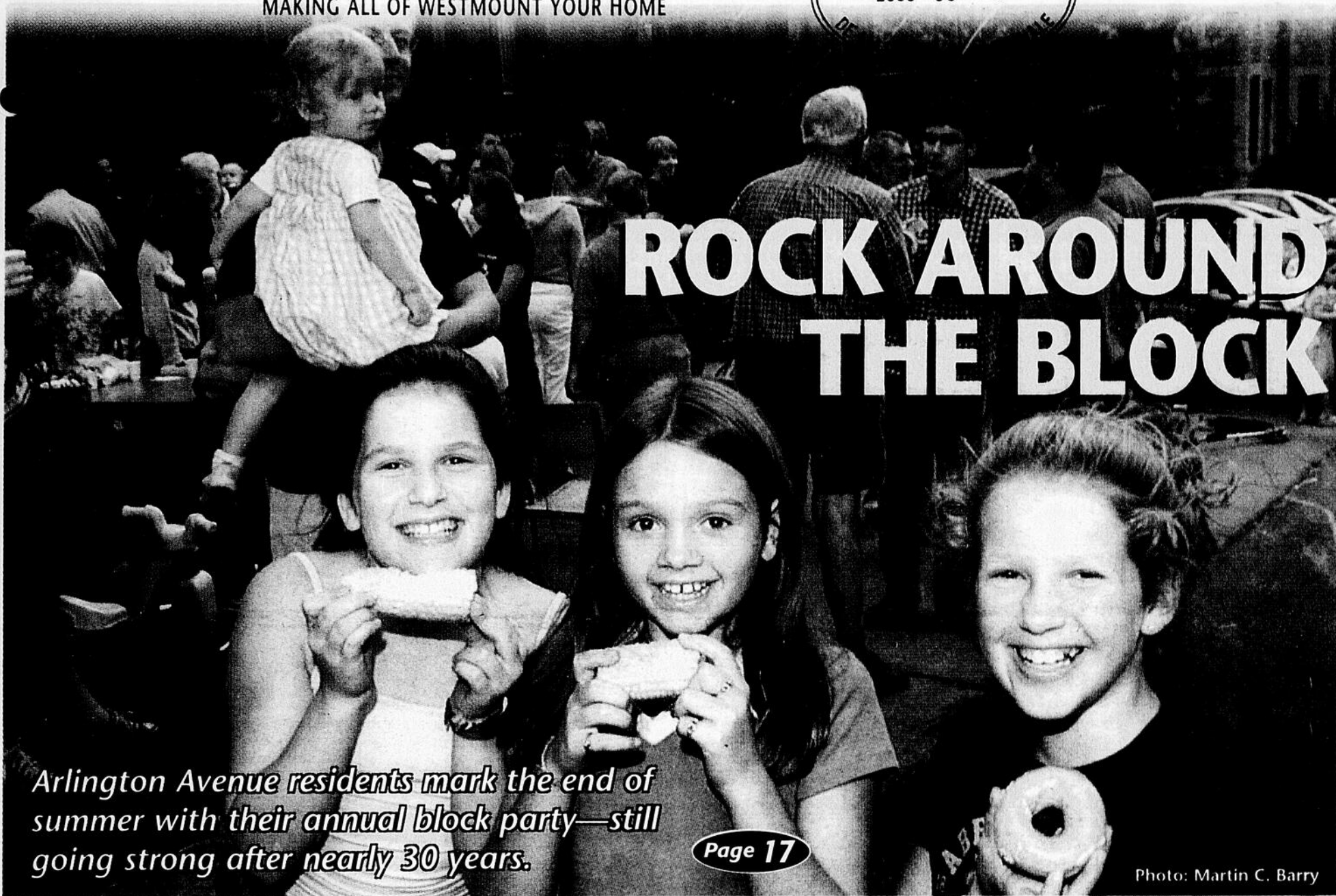
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ROCK AROUND THE BLOCK

Arlington Avenue residents mark the end of summer with their annual block party—still going strong after nearly 30 years.

Page 17

Photo: Martin C. Barry

Local News

Service cuts likely in next budget

Martin C. Barry

With a reduction in the Borough of Westmount's 2004 budget expected from the Centre City, cuts in local services are going to be inevitable, says Borough President Karin Marks.

Addressing borough council last week, Marks said that Westmount officials, who were at Montreal City Hall in late August presenting the borough's funding requirements for next year, deliberately requested an

amount exceeding by \$500,000 the City's recommended amount, which was 1.47 per cent less than the budget Westmount was granted last year.

Marks said the additional amount was requested to pay for service "equal to—but by no means superior to," what Westmounters received before merger with the City of Montreal. "It is unlikely that we will get all of what we were asking for," she said. "And this is going to bring us to the place where we have always said we expected to be in, but hoped we wouldn't."

"At this point, if we are forced to cut any more from our budget, we will have to start cutting services," said Marks.

She also pointed out that the borough council is counting on the help of Westmount residents in deciding on the cuts. "It's clear that as elected officials we'll be called to make the decision," she said.

"But we feel that it's really important for us to hear from the citizenry what they think of the various options.

At the beginning of October, council will hold a public meeting during which members of the community would be presented the options, and where comments would lead to an informed decision about what services the population of Westmount may be willing to do without.

(continued on page 3)



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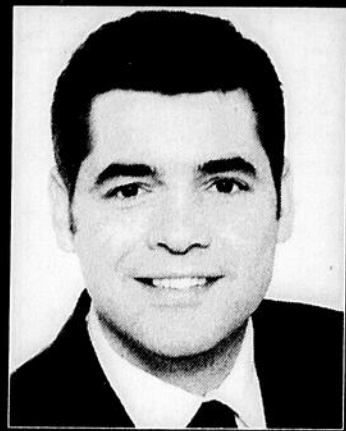
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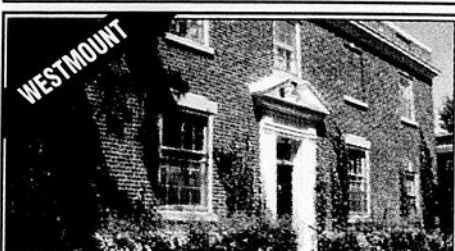
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New property valuations available online

Westmount property owners will be able to view their new valuations on a special Website after noon tomorrow, Sept. 12, Borough Director Bruce St. Louis announced early this week.

"Some residents may see a huge increase in their valuation," St. Louis said, "but that doesn't necessarily mean their property taxes will be going up."

For those who do not own a home computer, research on the 2004-06 valuation roll can be done at computer work stations set up in the council chamber at the Westmount Borough Office, 4333 Sherbrooke W., which will be available during regular business hours. For those who cannot make it during that time, St. Louis said, a computer will be available at the Westmount Public Library, which closes at 9 p.m.

Unlike in previous years, there will be no paper copy of the new roll available at the borough office. Instead, all Montreal properties—residential and commercial—can be researched online at www.evalweb.cum.qc.ca

The new valuation roll comes into force on Jan. 1, 2004. Its impact on Westmount will be discussed in next week's Examiner.

Terry Fox Run goes ahead this Sunday

When local runners lace up their sneakers for the second annual Terry Fox Run this Sunday afternoon, Sept. 14, they will be hoping to top last year's impressive achievement—\$13,000 for cancer research, the third-largest amount raised by a community in Quebec.

The run begins at 1 p.m. on the Sherbrooke Street side of Westmount Park, near the cannons. The route has changed considerably from last year's winding trek through the streets of Westmount; runners will now follow a course around the park. Because of this change, organizers are allowing only walkers and runners (no bikes or roller blades) in order to avoid congestion. People can circle the route as often as they like, and all ages are welcome.

Pledge sheets are available at local banks, the Westmount YMCA, and at several businesses along Greene Avenue and Sherbrooke Street. However, pledges are not required and anyone is welcome to come out and run. Registration takes place at the park, or participants can also register online at www.terryfoxrun.org.

Neighbours buzzing over wasp increase

Martin C. Barry

An invasion of wasps—the flying, stinging kind—appears to have overtaken Westmount.

"I was here last summer and there were a few—but nothing like this summer," said Dorchester Boulevard resident Ann Powell, who has lived in lower Westmount a little over a year.

An altogether different variety of wasp used to inhabit the area, Stayner Avenue resident Ray Walder noted somewhat mischievously. Walder's backyard and other surroundings have been infested with the pesky and potentially painful insects lately.

In other parts of Westmount, wasps have been causing problems, too.

"Everybody I talk to is having a problem and people don't want to eat outside," said Caroline Hornyak of Arlington Avenue just above Sherbrooke Street. "I was having lunch up at a friend's on Upper Belmont the other day and we must have had 10 wasps around us. We weren't eating anything particularly sweet. It just really is stopping us from eating outside."

There have been numerous wasps—"to the point of being absolutely terrifying to some people, myself included," Powell said, adding that they can't be avoided when she takes her dog out for walks on Prospect, Greene and Clondeboye avenues in the lower part of Westmount.

Last week, as she was trying to hang some of her husband's laundered shirts out on the backyard clothesline, Powell reached up for a clothespin when "under my nose came a wasp—and he was about this far away from my face," she said, indicating a few inches.

Over the next few minutes, she had to retreat into her house three times before finally getting all the laundry up to dry. Although there have been no reports so far of any serious stinging incidents, Powell agreed with Hornyak that the wasps are preventing many people from going about their lives normally.

Some residents, such as Walder's



Photos: Martin C. Barry

Nests like this are now a common sight in Westmount

wife, Penny, have set up special traps in their backyards, made out of plastic containers filled with sweet liquid, to attract and hopefully drown the wasps.

"It's a case of just evacuating the garden very quickly every time they come out," she said, adding that she suffered a serious allergic reaction to a wasp's sting a few years ago, which left her apprehensive. "My face swelled up, my arms swelled up, my neck," she said.

Since then, she's carried prescriptions of adrenaline and antihistamines as antidotes. "I really don't know where they're com-

ing from, but they seem particularly bad this year." Going into the fall season, Powell added, "they become crazy for no reason at all."

Marianne Zalzal of Westmount's Public Works Department wouldn't confirm whether wasps were particularly troublesome this season, although she said that the borough's chief horticulturalist, Claudette Savaria, had acknowledged the problem. Public Works Director Fred Caluori, on vacation for a month, was unavailable for comment.

"There are a lot this year," Zalzal said of the wasps, adding that an outside extermination contractor was recently hired.

Last Monday, according to Zalzal, the contractor was out working on a case of wasp infestation at one home in Westmount. "The calls have been coming in, from what I know, since just last week," she said. "It's a recent problem. It's happening and we're taking care of it at the moment."

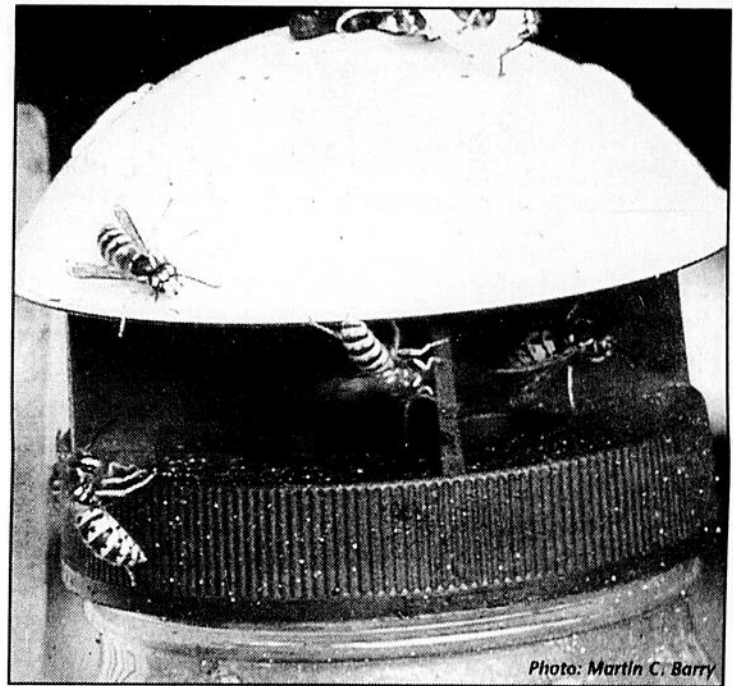


Photo: Martin C. Barry

A homemade device for trapping wasps

Westmounters may have to decide which services can be reduced

(continued from page 1)

Marks said it will be vital that as many Westmounters as possible participate in the public meeting on possible service cuts. "We are a community; we have to act as a community and we have to really look at what this is doing to our community," she said. "It's only by getting a lot of people involved that we will be able to find the best possible solutions to what is currently a very bad situation."

Marks said tomorrow's release of a new property valuation roll for the megacity could aggravate the budget situation by raising property values in Westmount by nearly a third.

"We know that in Westmount the likelihood is that we will have gone up

some 30 per cent," she said. "We're now getting to really usurious amounts that we are being asked to contribute, and at some point as a community we have to figure out what we are going to do."

Marks said that Westmount still suffers from the stereotypical image of its residents being all independently wealthy. "We all know that this community is not what people like to presume it is—all people who can just continue to dig deeper into their pocket for another \$5,000 and another \$7,000 in taxes," she said.

"This community is also largely made up of people on fixed incomes, who bought their homes and were lucky enough to buy them at a time when they were affordable, and for whom those increases in taxes may

mean they may have to sell their homes. And we're not prepared to just sit here and say that's acceptable."

One of the options borough council is considering involves the demerger referendum Westmount plans to hold eventually. "We will hope that we can get a lot of people out participating in something like this, where we can hold an honest discussion," Marks said.

"We don't hold the monopoly on good ideas and strategies and options," she added, noting the limitations of Westmount's reduced three-member council. "We would hope that in a community like ours, where we have so many very capable and knowledgeable people, that there might be other ideas, that there might be some things that we haven't thought about—and we're certainly open to hearing them."

TeamWork

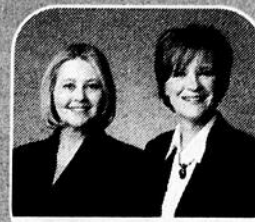
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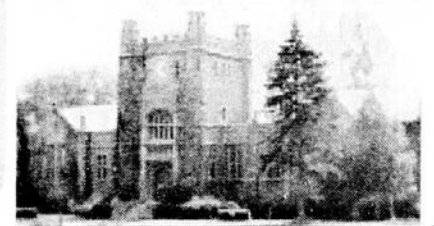
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Bureau d'arrondissement Rôle d'évaluation

Le nouveau rôle d'évaluation 2004-2005-2006 sera déposé et mis à la disposition du public dès midi, le vendredi 12 septembre. Les résidents de Westmount peuvent consulter en direct un extrait du rôle à l'adresse evalweb.cum.qc.ca ou en utilisant un des postes de travail dédiés à cette fin se trouvant au bureau d'arrondissement et à la Bibliothèque publique de Westmount.

Il est à noter qu'il n'y aura aucune copie papier du rôle disponible aux fins de consultation. Info : 280-EVAL (3825).



Événements communautaires Opération patrimoine Concours pour enfants

Les enfants de 4 à 8 ans sont invités à participer au concours *Défi architectural de Westmount* en soumettant un dessin de leur maison. Les dessins seront exposés dans la section des enfants de la bibliothèque. Les formulaires de participation sont disponibles au comptoir des enfants de la bibliothèque de Westmount. La date limite pour remettre le formulaire dûment complété est le vendredi 10 octobre. Les noms des gagnants du concours seront dévoilés le 14 octobre. Info : 989-5229.

Candidat(e) recherché(e)

Le Service des événements communautaires de l'arrondissement de Westmount est à la recherche de candidats pour combler le poste temporaire d'adjoint(e) à la coordonnatrice à temps plein. Le ou la candidat(e) doit posséder au moins deux années d'expérience dans un poste similaire, des aptitudes en communication ainsi qu'un sens poussé de l'organisation du travail. Une connaissance approfondie du milieu socioculturel de Westmount est également essentielle. Veuillez soumettre votre candidature avant le 26 septembre. Par la poste au 4333, rue Sherbrooke O., Westmount H3Z 1E2. Par télécopieur au (514) 989-5484. Par courriel au rh-hr@westmount.org.



Bibliothèque Conférences d'automne

Helen Humphreys, auteure de *The Lost Garden*, *Leaving Earth* et *Afterimage*, lira des extraits de ses livres le mercredi 24 septembre à 19 h 30 dans la salle Westmount de la bibliothèque. Info : 989-5386.

Dates à retenir

Le 13 septembre - 14 h
Fête du Club de lecture des vacances, Victoria Hall

Le 14 septembre - 13 h
La journée Terry Fox
Parc Westmount

Le 15 septembre - 11 h
Séance spéciale du conseil d'arrondissement
4333, rue Sherbrooke Ouest

Le 16 septembre - 19 h
Club de lecture anglaise
Crow Lake de Mary Lawson
Bibliothèque

Du 18 septembre au 10 octobre
Barbara Asgary et Alison Sorbie
La Galerie du Victoria Hall

Le 24 septembre - 19 h 30
Conférences d'automne
Helen Humphreys, Bibliothèque

Le 27 septembre - 19 h 30
Contra Danse, Victoria Hall

Le 6 octobre - 20 h 00
Séance du Conseil d'arrondissement
4333, rue Sherbrooke O.

Club de lecture pour les 9 à 12 ans

Le Club de lecture pour les enfants de 9 à 12 ans se réunira dans la salle de conférence de la bibliothèque le jeudi 25 septembre de 16 h à 17 h pour discuter du livre *Stravaganza: City of Masks* de Mary Hoffman. Veuillez vous inscrire au comptoir des enfants. Info : 989-5229.

Comité de la bibliothèque publique

Le conseil d'arrondissement est à la recherche d'un(e) citoyen(ne) désirant devenir membre du comité de la bibliothèque publique.

Nommé(e) pour trois ans, le candidat ou la candidate retenu(e) devra consacrer bénévolement son temps et ses compétences afin d'aider le comité à remplir son mandat consistant à veiller à ce que la bibliothèque respecte son énoncé de mission et conserve sa liberté et son indépendance intellectuelles.

Toute personne intéressée à relever un tel défi est priée de soumettre sa candidature par écrit à la conseillère Cynthia Lulham, aux soins du bureau d'arrondissement, 4333, rue Sherbrooke Ouest, Westmount (Québec) H3Z 1E2.



Borough Office 2004-2005-2006 Valuation Roll

The new valuation roll will be released and made available to the public as of noon, Friday, September 12. Westmount residents may obtain an extract of the valuation roll online at evalweb.cum.qc.ca. Designated computer stations will also be available at the Borough Hall and at the Westmount Public Library for that purpose.

Residents should note that there is no paper copy of the new roll available for consultation. Info: 280-EVAL (3825).



Community Events Opération patrimoine Contest for Children

Children 4 to 8 years of age are invited to enter the 2003 *Westmount Architectural Challenge* contest by making a drawing of the building where they live. Entries will be displayed in the Children's Library. Contest forms are available at the Children's desk of the Westmount Public Library. The deadline for submitting a completed form is Friday, October 10, 2003. Contest winners will be announced on October 14. Info: 989-5229.

Candidate wanted

Westmount's Community Events office is looking for a temporary, full-time Assistant Coordinator. The candidate should have at least 2 years experience in a position of similar responsibilities and have excellent organization and communication skills. An in-depth knowledge of the Westmount Community is required. Please submit your resumé by September 26. By mail to 4333, Sherbrooke Street W., Westmount H3Z 1E2. By fax at (514) 989-5484. By E-mail to rh-hr@westmount.org.



Library Author Event

Helen Humphreys, author of *The Lost Garden*, will give a reading in the Westmount Room of the library on Wednesday, September 24 from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Info: 989-5386.

Book Club for 9 to 12 year olds

The Book Club for 9 to 12 year olds will meet in the board room of the library on September 25 from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. to discuss *Stravaganza: City of Masks* by Mary Hoffman. Refreshments will be

Datebook

September 13 - 2 p.m.
Summer Reading Party
Victoria Hall

September 14 - 1 p.m.
Terry Fox Run
Westmount Park

September 15 - 11 a.m.
Special Council Meeting
4333 Sherbrooke West

September 16 - 7 p.m.
English Book Club
Crow Lake by Mary Lawson
Westmount Library

September 18 to October 10
Barbara Asgary and Alison Sorbie
The Gallery at Victoria Hall

September 24 - 7:30 p.m.
Author Reading
Helen Humphreys
Westmount Library

September 27 - 7:30 p.m.
Contra Dance
Victoria Hall

October 6 - 8 p.m.
Council Meeting
4333, Sherbrooke Street W.

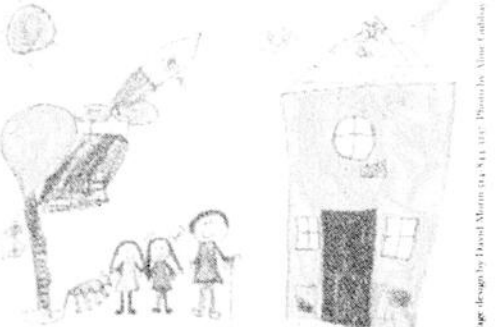
served. Please sign up at the children's desk. Info: 989-5229.

Public Library Committee

Borough Council is looking for a new Westmount "citizen" member for the Public Library Committee.

Appointed for a three-year term, the successful candidate is expected to volunteer his or her time and expertise to help the Committee with its mandate to ensure that the Library complies with the terms of its Mission Statement and that it maintains its intellectual freedom and independence.

If such a challenge is of interest to you, please submit a written application to the attention of Councillor Cynthia Lulham, Borough Hall, 4333 Sherbrooke Street West, Westmount, Quebec H3Z 1E2.



TAXPAYERS TO PAY EVEN MORE FOR MUCH LESS

With soaring property valuations and a further cut in borough budgets looking in 2004, the megacity is costing Westmounters "a great deal more" for fewer services, Borough President Karin Marks informed the borough council meeting Sept. 7. "There are no economies of scale."

And the trend of the past two years is expected to escalate with the megacity directive to boroughs to cut another 1.47 per cent off this year's budget for 2004, she revealed. "We are not prepared to do that".

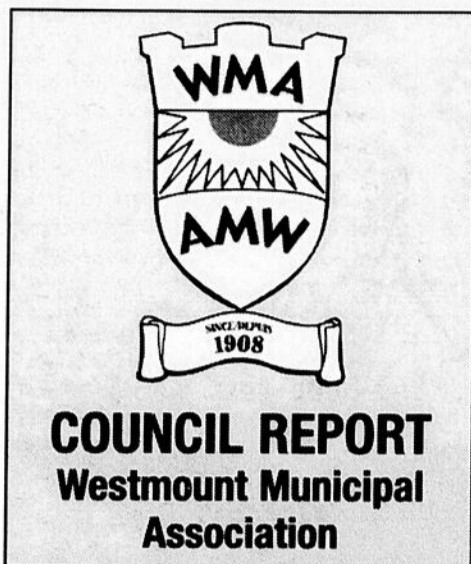
The budget crunch and other shortcomings of the megacity, along with Montreal's "frighteningly" vague plan for decentralization, dominated the opening of the borough meeting.

Marks also summarized Westmount's brief being presented this week to Quebec government hearings on Bill 9, which provides for the possibility of demerger.

She also noted she had participated in the preparation of a brief from former elected officials across Quebec dissatisfied with the new megacities.

The Westmount Municipal Association also had deposited a brief.

The borough's brief focuses on several basic elements resulting from the megacity structure, Marks said. These include the erosion of participatory democracy, bureaucratic delays, difficulties encountered by local elected representatives in fulfilling their roles, the feeling of a loss of ownership of institutions; and the myth of



economies of scale.

"Our fervent hope," she said, is that the government will listen to these concerns and go through with the process of letting citizens decide to demerge. "We all love Montreal... but we need to be more efficient and effective."

Mayor Gérald Tremblay's decentralization plan in response to Bill 9, has cost a lot of money and is short on detail, she said.

"It's frightening because everyone can interpret it as they wish, so we're very skeptical about what's being proposed."

This includes increasing the size of borough councils, giving the borough president the title of borough mayor; allowing boroughs to levy additional taxes, set capital works budgets, and

hire and fire personnel.

But, to illustrate how deceiving the proposal is, she said, boroughs would still not have the power to hire their own director.

As well, she said, it is an insult to believe that it will make a difference by calling the borough president 'mayor', as if decentralization "is all about names and hierarchy."

She also pointed out that boroughs already have the opportunity to levy additional taxes as a sort of local improvement tax, such as building a new facility, for example. One, she added, that would end being open to everyone on the island. Imagine trying to levy additional taxes on top of the 18 per cent increase in taxes that the owners of single-family dwellings in Westmount have already paid since the forced mergers.

Under the Tremblay plan, she explained, a portion of some additional revenues boroughs might generate would be returned to the borough, "and that's touted as local control".

Marks further decried the hasty megacity vote on the decentralization plan and the lack of opportunity for public consultation. Five information sessions last week immediately prior to the vote were held in Pointe aux Trembles, St. Leonard, the Plateau, LaSalle and Pierrefonds.

The Tremblay "people" (councillors) have been "brought into line" to support the plan, she said. "The rationale is that they can still vote for demerger afterward. But I feel, let the people who want out, get out, and

decide (on decentralization) later. And I think we're quite comfortable getting out."

Budget cuts

Westmount was the first borough to make its budget presentation for 2004 to the megacity's finance committee Aug. 28, Marks said. This year's guidelines of a 1.47 per cent cut had to be made without cutting services. "You can have one or the other, but not both!"

Because Westmount had already trimmed its fat on entering the megacity, it has nothing to cut without reducing services, she said. In fact, the borough requested an additional \$500,000 simply to maintain the current level of services "but it is unlikely we'll be getting it."

As a result, Westmount will hold a public meeting in early October to ask citizens what services they would be prepared to cut and what options they can suggest. One, she said, "is the referendum option."

Valuation roll

On top of the budget crunch, the borough also faces a property valuation increase of 30 per cent under the new roll, and "there's no guarantee it won't kick in on top of the 18 per cent (hike in taxes already experienced)." That could cause the many Westmount citizens living on fixed incomes to sell their homes.

(continued on page 8)



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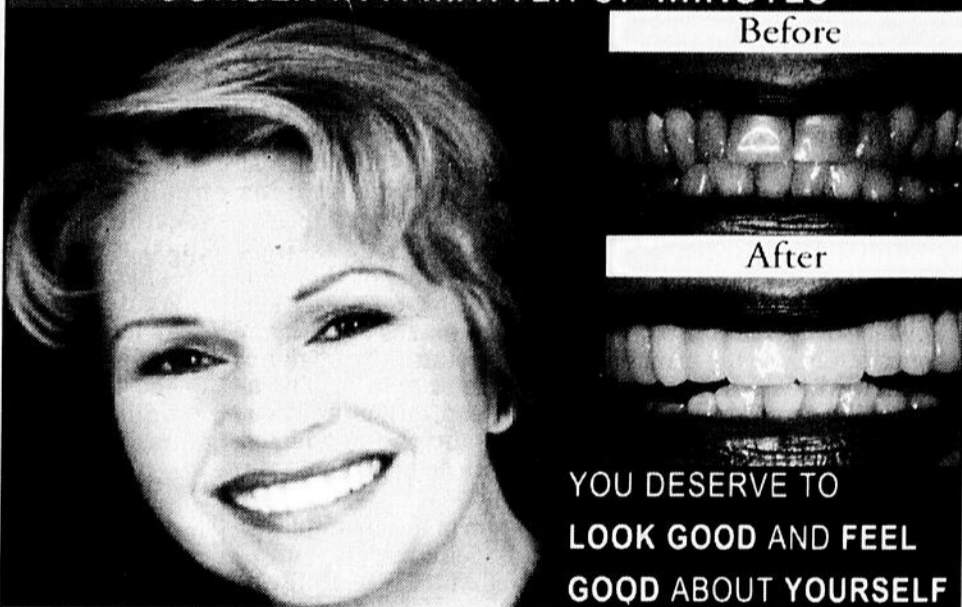
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Local residents receive the Order

I was very pleased to learn recently that Her Excellency, Governor General Adrienne Clarkson, announced 109 new appointments to the Order of Canada. Of these new selections, five local residents have been invested to the Order.

The Order of Canada was established in 1967 to recognize outstanding achievement and service in various fields of human endeavour. It is Canada's highest honour for lifetime achievement and this year's recipients are perfect examples of the generosity and social involvement that Canadians are so well-known for.

MP

Lucienne Robillard



Captain Marc Garneau: A pioneer in the Canadian Space Program, he is a role model for our youth, and his accomplishments have done our nation proud. He is veteran of three flights aboard the space shuttles Challenger and Endeavour, and has logged nearly 700 hours in space. Despite his many many responsibilities as the President of the Canadian Space Agency, he has always generously donated his time to raising awareness of science and technology among students across Canada.

Boris G. Levine: Considered a legend in Montreal's Jewish community, he has given himself for decades. His long service with the Allied Jewish Community Services of Montreal culminated in the role of President. He has also been active with many other organizations, including the Canadian Jewish Congress and Centraide. He is a mentor who has inspired many young people to serve others.

Heather Munroe-Blum: An epidemiologist, she is one of Canada's most influential spokespersons for universities in matters of research strategy and policy. Promoting the development of effective public science policy, she is the principal author of a highly regarded report on the role of university research. A former dean of the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Toronto, she has also taught at McMaster and York universities and is currently Vice-Chancellor and Principal of McGill University.

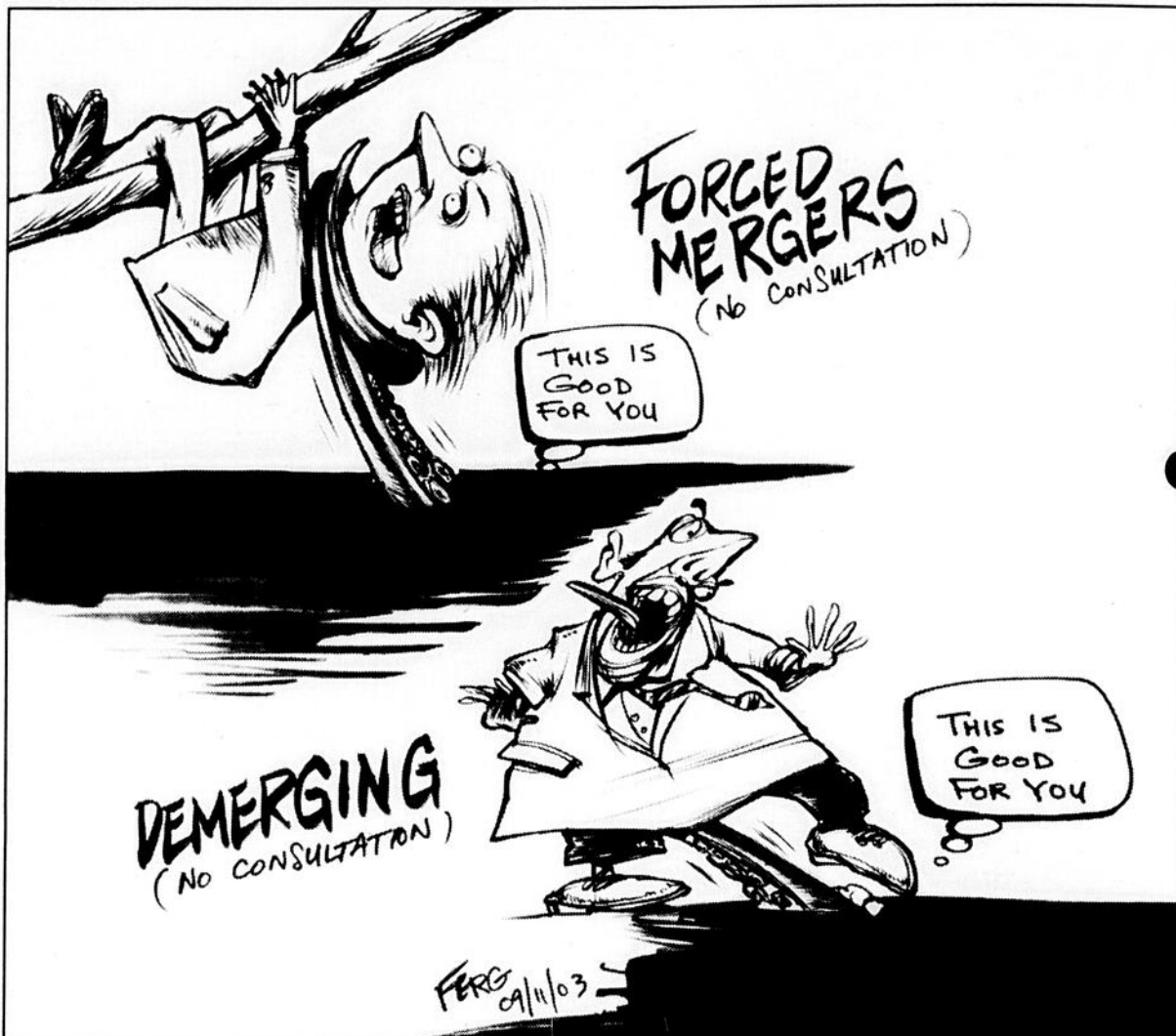
The Honourable James Andrews Grant: A lawyer by profession, for decades he has served his community as a deeply committed volunteer. Chairman of the Montreal Youth Network, he has headed numerous youth-oriented agencies and has made major contributions to the development of child welfare services. Organizations such as CARE Canada, the Centaur Theatre, the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, McGill University and the Montreal General and Children's Hospital have benefited from his extraordinary leadership abilities and his concern.

André Desmarais: Many social causes have benefited from the administrative talents and generosity of this eminent Canadian. President and co-CEO of his family's firm, Power Corporation of Canada, he also makes significant contributions to the promotion of our country through his philanthropic and volunteer commitments to organizations like the Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation, the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts and the Fondation Baxter & Alma Ricard demonstrate his desire to help the community as a whole.

I salute these individuals for they are prime examples of extraordinary citizens and they truly demonstrate the values and traditions of being a Canadian citizen. Congratulations!

Any group or individual is welcome to nominate an exemplary citizen as a candidate for an appointment to the Order of Canada. If you would like more information concerning the nomination process, I invite you consult the Governor General's website at www.gg.ca or by phoning my riding office at (514) 283-2013.

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



Letters to the editor

We're paying for unsupervised courts

In the hopes that not enough has yet been said about the necessity of properly regulating the tennis courts, I would like to add my two cents' worth.

While everyone I know has been frustrated for years regarding all of the issues outlined in the recent letters by Stephen Takacsy (Aug. 21) and Margaret Lemay (Aug. 28), this year has been that proverbial straw as, theoretically, the use of the courts required buying a membership which required lining up for hours.

As Ms. Lemay points out, manners and tranquility do indeed reign at the clay courts when Dave sits in attendance; however, when he is not there many of the same problems that occur at Murray Park can be encountered here as well. Old passes frequently appear on the board, and the holders of these outdated cards are often regulars who have been around the courts for years.

Confrontations with these

individuals invariably get ugly because there is certainly a sense of entitlement on their part. In many cases there are no cards at all or cards are spread out to cover more time than is allowed. Again, the offenders are often regulars who should know better.

It is not acceptable to charge for memberships and not adequately supervise the courts. Bigger, colourful signs that clearly outline the main rules and indicate that public security will be called if people do not comply would be helpful for enforcing the rules during off hours.

Dave should be given a bonus by the recreation office.

Linda Tracey
Arlington Avenue

A view from Pointe Claire

Since the bill on demerger tabled by the Liberal government includes a provision stating that boroughs that vote to demerge will continue to contribute to Montreal financially, some of you may wonder why

Mayor Tremblay is fighting so hard to block any attempt at a demerger.

Well, here is my take on this as it affects my town of Pointe Claire.

All taxes are collected by the megacity and boroughs are given money to operate. If we take back our town and collect our own taxes in Pointe Claire, we will know the amount of revenue produced within our borders and we will also be able to tell our citizens how much we are sending to the megacity. These are numbers the megacity wants to keep hidden, as they currently are. The average citizen will be stunned when they learn how much a town of 30,000 residents like Pointe Claire is being taken for, and that number will only go up every year as taxes go up.

I'm convinced that making public the amount of money the megacity is taking from us will help to keep that figure lower by millions of dollars.

Jacques Labbé
Former city councillor,
Pointe Claire

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I'M LOSING TOUCH AT WINNER'S

Uncensored



Tommy Schnurmacher

I am going cold turkey. While I have managed to stay clean for about a week, I'm still terrified of relapse. This has nothing to do with drugs or alcohol. Nor do I have to quit smoking since I never started.

We're talking about a very special disorder.

Just as powerful as the others, this cursed addiction does have one redeeming feature. It keeps the economy going.

I confess. My name is Tommy and I am a shopaholic.

My hands are shaking as I type as I know that I could be out checking to see if there's anything new that has

come in at Winner's, which sells everything at a discount.

While I am pouring my heart out about my sad affliction, I jump every time the phone rings waiting to hear from my lawyer.

I plan to sue Winner's because I blame it all on them.

Before I knew about that place, I was just fine. I would shop only when I actually needed something.

All right, perhaps I did go overboard on occasion. It was usually confined to the Dec. 31 sale at the Ralph Lauren factory outlet in Knowlton or the early January clearance at Holt Renfrew.

I can even recall more innocent days when I would actually pay retail, but those days are long gone. Thanks to Winners, my life is in complete disarray. I show up at there more often than some of their staff.

Their ads say, "You should go." I do. I go all the time.

Do I go to one particular store? I go

to the one downtown. But I also frequent the one in Decarie Square. I have been to the store in St. Laurent many times and I have dropped a bundle at the one on Kirkland. Often.

I have purchased enough socks and shorts on sale to start my own store.

On some outings, I have walked in and promised myself that I just want to find one dress shirt and that's all.

Two hours later, I don't have the shirt, however I have elbowed unwary housewives aside to grab a last set of place mats. I am also out of breath pushing an overloaded shopping cart toward the cashier.

Still in need of the dress shirt, I become the proud owner of a totally useless desk pen set marked down three times. Enough gift-candle sets to see my entire neighbourhood through the next blackout. My cart also contains twin-bed sheets even though I don't own a twin bed.

In anticipation of my own holidays and those of every other religious

group, I have snapped up enough boxed stationery sets to correspond individually with the entire population of Prince Edward Island.

I even manage to snare a superb set of of Italian cookbooks although my culinary expertise has never required the use of any cooking utensil other than a can-opener.

A friend recently advised me not to buy anything unless I really loved it. That suggestion has helped cut down on the photo albums and chafing dishes.

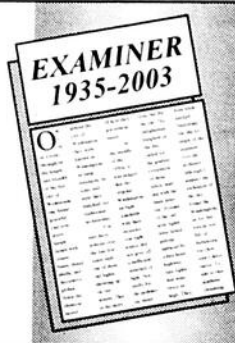
She also counselled me to try to go two weeks without buying anything.

I sure hope it works. Gotta run. I'm heading over to one of the malls, but I promise not to buy anything. I just want to see if anyone's still buying retail.

Tommy Schnurmacher is heard weekdays 9 a.m. to noon on CJAD 800 Radio. His e-mail address is tommys@total.net.

Old News

(from the examiner archives)



One Year Ago
September 5, 2002

PUBLIC SECURITY STAYS: "Despite mounting pressure from Montreal's police union to have Public Security forces on the island placed under police control, Westmount Borough President Karin Marks says she is optimistic that the value of Public Security will be recognized and its role maintained. The question of Public Security's future arose in recent weeks because of views expressed by the Montreal Police Brotherhood that Public Security should be under their direct control. The union representing members of the Montreal Police force is one of a number of interest groups who will be submitting ideas to a megacity commission that will eventually be making recommendations on Public Security's future on the island. Marks said she is hopeful that Public Security forces will remain in place. She pointed out that megacity budget constraints would be the most important factor in deciding the Public Security's future, but that the police union's views could also be influential. 'We feel that Public Security has always been independent and has

worked very closely with the police and with fire—and we feel that's an excellent model,' said Marks. 'If there are areas where (public security) has not worked as effectively as we feel it has worked, then the police may feel they have needs to take it over. So both of those could be reasons for concern. But we truly believe that if people see this model and understand it, that it will be seen as something that is helpful to the police and is cost effective.'"

Thirty Years Ago
September 13, 1973

NEW POSTAL CODES: "You are no longer an upper or a lower Westmounter. You now live in H3Y or H3Z. You have been reclassified. This time by the Canada Post Office which, by the way, puts the dividing line as Sherbrooke street, as heretofore, with 215 and 216 below, and 217 above. The city itself, two years ago, in setting up wards for municipal elections, put the old class... er, we mean geographical border, at de Maisonneuve boulevard—with Ward 3 below and two upper Westmounts, Wards 1 and 2, above that artery. Now, by their mail we shall continue also to know them."

Forty Years Ago
September 13, 1963

LESS HOURS: "After a year of waiting, Westmount firemen next month begin a work week reduced to 42 hours from 56 in an arbitration board ruling, but they will need 16 more men to maintain a standard work force. The additional men were engaged last week and are currently undergoing extensive training in all phases of firefighting and rescue work. The Fire

Department compliment is now 69. The trainees, aged 21 to 25, are being instructed by Captain Ryan and other members of the department and attend daily films and lectures. Firemen won the 42-hour week through the decision of an arbitration board in June, 1962."

Fifty Years Ago
September 11, 1953

LAST FARM: "Plans are reported nearing completion in a move that will see the disappearance of the last farm in Westmount, the last large tract of undeveloped property on the lower level of the city and the beginning of an exceptional commercial development. The farm is on the one opposite the Westmount Athletic Grounds, in the block bordered by Western, Clarke, Redfern and St Catherine street. Owned for decades by the Grey Nuns and valued by the city at \$298,400 for tax purposes, the property has been acquired by a syndicate, it is reported, and offices, stores and apartments will be constructed on the site."

Sixty Years Ago
September 9, 1943

WAR EFFORT: "Salvage is still being continuously collected throughout the city and all citizens are being asked to redouble their efforts in the collection of salvageable materials. The following is a list of materials and articles which are most urgently needed: paper, scrap iron and steel, metals, fat and bones, rags, bottles and jars of all kinds, rubber. Among miscellaneous items are: old automobile batteries, coat hangers and phonograph

records. Magazines and all reading materials are also collected. If, after searching the house from attic to basement, a householder finds he has two or three small cartons or bundles of salvage he should place these beside his garbage cans on collection day and they will be taken directly to the salvage depot."



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(continued from page 5)

Marks hoped that with so much expertise in the community, citizens might be able to provide options and ways of dealing with the situation. "We have to act as a community to find solutions for the community."

Going once, going twice...

After 128 years of successfully selling off - usually at auction - found bicycles and other unwanted items, Westmount lost that right with the creation of the megacity. But now, the borough has regained the right from the centre city council, Marks said. "They now believe we can manage that on our own!"

But there's still an exception: the sale of motor vehicles can now be sanc-

tioned only by Montreal's executive committee, she added. "So while we talk about decentralization on one hand, this is what's going on, on the other."

Back-to-school safety

September means back-to-school and citizens are reminded to be particularly vigilant about traffic regulations around schools, Borough Councillor Cynthia Lulham said. "The Public Security Unit and police will be very visible around schools."

They will be cracking down on speeding, school bus safety, idling engines, double parking, and other violations including the unsafe driving practices of some parents when they drop off and pick up their children.

Remembering George Payne

Condolences were given to the family of the late police Constable George Payne, who died recently.

A longtime resident of Westmount, Cst. Payne was retired from the MUC force after serving his entire career at the Stanton Street station, originally as a member of the Westmount Police Force. Through the years he had been a well-known figure at city council meetings and at Westmount's annual cenotaph service for Remembrance Day, where he raised and lowered the flag for many years.

"Tragically, George is gone," Councillor John de Castell said. "But he has passed the torch to his son Steve Payne, a Public Safety Officer, so it's fitting that we recognize his heroics at this time."

Recently, de Castell said, PSO Payne heard breaking glass at the Oink! Oink! Shop on Greene Avenue and spotted a suspect carrying merchandise. He pursued the suspect and, with the assistance of Sergeant Greg Cockerell, apprehended the individual. They handcuffed him and turned him over to police.

Construction schedule

Reconstruction of the Lansdowne Avenue - Ste. Catherine Street intersection starts the week of Sept. 15 with completion slated for the end of October.

Garbage campaign

Westmount is mounting a campaign this month to impress on residents the importance of not putting out garbage and blue boxes before collection days. Information and reminder notices will be issued as part of the Keep our Borough Clean Program.

"People have the opportunity in Westmount to put out their garbage beside their house, and not on the street," Marks pointed out. "So let's take advantage of it."

Presented by the Westmount Municipal Association to keep the community informed on issues relating to Westmount's changing complexion as a borough within the megacity of Montreal.

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Trent weds in military ceremony

Martin C. Barry

It was a wedding worthy of royalty—by Westmount standards, at least.

Former mayor Peter Trent was married last Saturday to Kathryn Stephenson, his companion for several years, in a stirring ceremony at St. Andrew's-Dominion-Douglas Church on The Boulevard.

Dressed in full uniform as honorary colonel of the Royal Montreal Regiment based in Westmount, Trent passed with Stephenson, in a simple white wedding gown, through an 'Arch of Swords' formed by an honour guard of RMR members outside the church entrance.

Carol Stephenson was matron of honour, while Claude Dupont, a well-known Montreal lawyer, was best man. The wedding service, performed by the Rev. Dennis Dwyer, an honorary lieutenant colonel in the regiment, was attended by more than 100 of the couple's close friends. The ceremony is believed to have been a Canadian first: an honorary colonel, still in office, married by an honorary lieutenant colonel of the same regiment.

Among the guests were constitutional lawyer Julius Grey, Trent's close friend and political confidante Victor Drury, Westmount borough

president Karin Marks, borough councillors Cynthia Lulham and John de Castell, former Westmount city councillors Gérard Limoges and Herbert Bercovitz, and Borough Director Bruce St. Louis.

The afternoon service began with a procession—Marc-Antoine Charpentier's majestic Te Deum—played on the organ by Rafael de Castro. Hymns sung later by the congregation included William Blake's visionary 'Jerusalem', and 'Hymn to Joy', set to the choral passage of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony.

Psalm 23 was read by Geneviève Beullac, while Enrico Quilico, Stephenson's son, recited a passage from Lord Tennyson's 'Ulysses'. Her daughter, Sofia Quilico, read an untitled sonnet on love by William Shakespeare. In one of the service's more moving moments, she could scarcely contain her emotions long enough to complete the reading.

Before proceeding to the reception held at the Mount Royal Club downtown, Trent and Stephenson stopped to be photographed in Westmount Park, a traditional destination for newlyweds from all over Montreal. The two are spending their honeymoon at a rural retreat in St. Andrews, New Brunswick.

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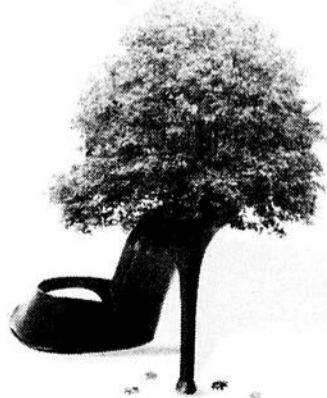
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Offer valid September 15 to September 28, 2003.

WESTMOUNT'S AUGUST SALES: TIGHTENING UP

Andy Dodge, CRA

(NOTE: The following article relates to offers to purchase Westmount residential dwellings which were reported by the local offices of Sutton and Royal LePage Realties as having been accepted in August. 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 this page offers a picture of these trends over time.)

The Westmount real estate market took a sharp upward swing in August, though volume was at its lowest level this year.

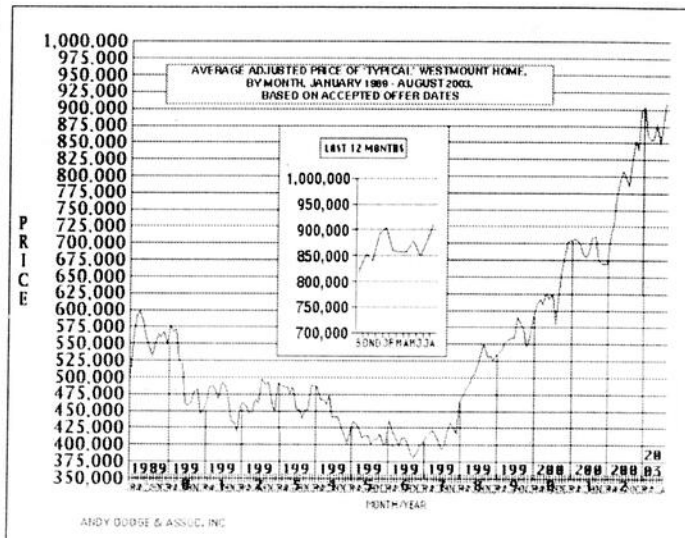
Only eight residential sales were reported in August, but the average price of those eight was just over \$1 million, and four of the eight prices were more than double their municipal assessment. The lowest price in the month was \$495,000 and the highest over \$2.5 million, though these days even that price is not astounding. Of the eight, three had been on the market more than 100 days and four for less than 20 days; three sold at or above asking price.

Once adjusted to municipal evaluation, the "typical" Westmount house's price went back over \$900,000 for the first time since January. Again, there appears to be little to hold back the market, though the presentation of the new municipal assessment roll this month might bring a shift in emphasis between various locations or types of houses. Many overblown asking prices are coming down to realistic levels now in the hopes of clearing out the inventory before the end of the year. There is still a shortage of houses, but agents are working on developing listings

for the early 2004 spring market.

The eight sales reported in August is down from 13 last year and is in fact the lowest number of sales for an August since 1994, the year which had the lowest volume on record in Westmount.

Condominiums were slow to move, as well, with only two sales reported in August. Coupled with only one in July, the three sales compare with an average 12 in the previous two quarters. Volume is much stronger, however, in the Côte des Neiges area just north of Westmount and in most of the downtown area, where already the number of sales equals the total number reported for all of 2002, both in terms of condominiums and single-family sales. Things are slower in the eastern sector of Notre Dame de Grâce, at least as far as single-family homes are concerned, and prices are up only some 14 percent year-to-year, while in the other adjacent-Westmount areas they are up between 25 and 30 percent.



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MY RESULTS SINCE JANUARY 2003 TO NOW

TRANSACTIONS = 79

SALES VOLUME = \$62 MILLION
 (\$61,994,000 approx)

\$3 million to \$5 million	2	\$500,000 to \$700,000	12
\$1 million to \$3 million	23	\$300,000 to \$500,000	13
\$800,000 to \$1 million	16	\$200,000 to \$300,000	2
\$700,000 to \$800,000	6	\$200,000 and less	5

SOME RECENT SALES

WESTMOUNT ADJ. - VICTORIA -
 Lower pied-a-terre with 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, renovated 2002. Asking \$159,000.

DOWNTOWN - PINE AVE. -
 "Le Noble" - Spacious, renovated, sun-filled condo. 2 bdrms, 2 baths, hardwood floors, doorman, pool, close to University & Hospital, garage. Asking \$479,000.

WESTMOUNT - CHATEAU WESTMOUNT SQUARE -
 Spacious & luxurious condo in "Chateau Westmount Square". 2 bdrs, 2+1 baths, indoor pool, A/C, garage. Great security and services. Asking \$559,000.

OLD MONTREAL - DE LA COMMUNE -
 Ultra modern loft-style condo located directly facing the waterfront and the "Old Port". 2 bdr, 2 baths, garage, balcony. Approximately 1750 s.f of luxurious appointed space. Asking \$599,000.

WESTMOUNT - BRUCE -
 Charming Victorian style cottage, 4 bdrms, parking, situated on quiet street, great potential. Asking \$429,000.

WESTMOUNT - THE BOULEVARD -
 Large det. traditional home, exquisite woodwork and details, 4+1 bdrms, 3 1/2 baths, ground floor den and solarium, large separate apartment w/private entrance, 2 garages, 2 parkings. Asking \$698,000.

WESTMOUNT - CLAREMONT -
 Magnificent Victorian-style townhouse. Beautiful architectural details. Impeccably renovated 3+1 bdrms, 2+1 baths, garage. High ceilings and woodwork. Asking \$799,000

WESTMOUNT ADJ. - JEAN GIRARD -
 Sumptuous townhouse close to Greene Av. Spacious sun filled LVR & DNR. Open plan, galley style kit. w/FMR. Large outdoor deck. 3+2 bdrms, 3+1 baths, 2 garages. Asking \$999,000.

WESTMOUNT ADJ. - JEAN GIRARD -
 New construction (2002) - Luxurious townhouse on 3 levels, 3+2 bds, 3 1/2 baths, family, office, hardwood floors throughout, central air, intercom, large terrace, 2 garages. Asking \$1,150,000.

WESTMOUNT ADJ. - PICQUET -
 Executive residence with luxurious appointments, close to schools & transportation. 3+1 bdrms, 3+1 baths, C/A, 2 garages. Asking \$1,350,000.

WESTMOUNT ADJ. - ST. SULPICE -
 3 det. homes app 5,000 sf of luxurious living space, 4 bdrs + den, 4 baths, large kitchen w/incorporated family room w/trpl, double garage, C/A. Asking \$1,600,000.

WESTMOUNT - ARGYLE -
 Magnificent Victorian style manor, 3 storey plus exceptional renov. bsmt. Approximately 8,300 sf of beautiful living space, completely renov., on 18,750 sf of manicured land. Asking \$2,880,000.

HOME TRANSFERS IN MAY 2003

ADDRESS	FROM	TO	PRICE	2001 VALUATION
HOUSES				
39 Barat	Eleanor Lucia Nicholls	Brigitte I. Burdman	\$650,000	\$406,300
615 Clarke	David Grosvenor & Katalin Marta Strasser	Mark Smith	\$2,270,000	\$1,397,000
578 Côte St. Antoine	Barry Engel & Harriet Wagner	Wagdi Sioufi	\$753,500	\$388,700
4714 de Maisonneuve	Lynda Zuliani	Alain Filion & Louise Guimond	\$560,000	\$343,600
59 Forden	Benoit Chotard	Rosemary Clarke	\$1,210,000	\$593,600
345 Lansdowne	Elizabeth McDonald	Ashraf Ismail & Sandra Meehan-Penney	\$600,000	\$436,900
585 Lansdowne	Claire Pelletier, Dr. Conrad Pelletier, Monique Pelletier & estate Lucienne Rochette	Marc Mintzberg	\$597,000	\$407,900
807 Upper Lansdowne	Dr. Michel Emond & Marie Senecal	Sylvi Plante	\$1 ^a	\$684,400
323 Melville	Paul James Langdon	Marie Brouillet & François l'Heureux	\$500,000	\$408,300
365 Metcalfe	Jacques Fournier & Victoria Koronowski	Jacques-Hervé Roubert	\$940,000	\$540,600
4342 Montrose	Lugo Properties Ltd. (Frederic Binder)	Isabelle Le Gouar	\$630,000	\$530,500
17 Surrey Gardens	estate David Rosenstein	Lynda Reid	\$860,000	\$700,000
662-64 Victoria	Francine Gratton	Evik Asatoorian	\$950,000	\$558,700
4687 Westmount Ave	Andrew Dalglish & Tamara Lynch	Philippe Guizard & Véronique Avril	\$810,000	\$472,500
44 Windsor	David W. Johnson & Edna Mae Gaede	Eva Gina Siliuskas	\$485,000	\$225,600
DUPLEXES				
46 Arlington	John Arevian	Tobias F. Gittes & Liane Miller-Gittes	\$635,000	\$307,700
61-63 Hallowell	Chester Chi Wa Lo & Jennifer Keav Taing	James Yang & Rosa Yao	\$450,000	\$272,400
CONDOMINIUMS				
448 Argyle	Fred Ribkoff & Karen Mackay Ribkoff	Teena Fazio	\$837,500	\$240,000
399 Clarke, #7B	Eileen Connolly & Thomas Egger	Sarina Altman & Henry Katz	\$317,000	\$152,200
200 Lansdowne, #901	Esther Rossi Katz	Olivera Massif	\$690,000	\$312,000
CONDOMINIUM GARAGES				
4700 St. Catherine, garage	Corinne Withenshaw	Stanley Lyon Selinger	\$26,000	b
1 Wood, garage	3377172 Canada Inc.	Trust 2000	\$5,500	\$25,300
SHARE SALES				
123-25 Irvine, 50%	Emanuel Klaesi & Colette Dansereau	Annette Duval	\$233,000	\$101,300 ^c
238 Redfern, 25%	Alain Poirier	Junji Atsumi	\$55,000	\$61,275 ^d
1-5 York, 34%	Darren Reid & Hildegard Fuchs Fox	Samira Sakhia & Virginie Lamotte	\$295,000	\$76,500 ^e

a Price was "\$1 and other considerations;" the value of the consideration was declared as \$925,000.
b Valuation for garage not determined separately.
c Valuation is 50% of \$202,600.
d Valuation is 25% of \$245,100.
e Valuation is 34% of \$225,000.

Slow volume in May sales

Andy Dodge, CRA

(NOTE: The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount real estate sales in May, 2003, filed at the Montreal Registry Office. A list of sales can be seen above.)

Fairly slow volume and slightly lower markups featured May's list of real estate transfers in Westmount, with two sales over \$1 million and only two under \$500,000.

The list, which involves sale prices agreed to mostly between January and March, indicates that the majority of Westmount houses now are worth between \$500,000 and \$1 million. The two lowest prices involve 61-63 Hallowell Avenue, a duplex very close to the CPR tracks, which sold for

\$450,000, and 44 Windsor Avenue, an attached house, which went for \$485,000. Highest price was registered for 615 Clarke Avenue, north of The Boulevard, which sold for \$2,270,000, while 59 Forden Avenue, semi-detached but nicely renovated, changed hands for \$1,210,000.

Three of the sales had prices more than double their municipal evaluation, topped by 44 Windsor which had a valuation of only \$225,600. Lowest markup of 18.8 percent was recorded in the sale of 4342 Montrose Avenue which brought \$630,000.

Usually, May, June and July are the biggest months for registration of property transfers, with an average of 22.5 for the past ten Mays. The 17 one- and two-family dwellings sold this May is well below the 27 in May, 2002, but not the lowest volume of the past

decade. The average markup of 59.4 percent is down from 72.4 percent in April, but otherwise it is the highest since last November's transfers.

Three condominiums were transferred in May, two for more than double their municipal assessment, including Apartment 901 at 200 Lansdowne Avenue, which went for \$690,000, 121 percent above its assessment. Also, flats at 1-5 York Street and 123-25 Irvine Avenue sold in May, as did a 25-percent share of a duplex at 238 Redfern Avenue. Finally, a garage space at Westmount Park Towers, 4700 St. Catherine Street, went for \$26,000 while another at 1 Wood Avenue, evaluated at roughly the same price, sold for only \$5,500.

As with April, no vacant land or commercial property sales were registered in May.

Check out our Real Estate Section

Examiner

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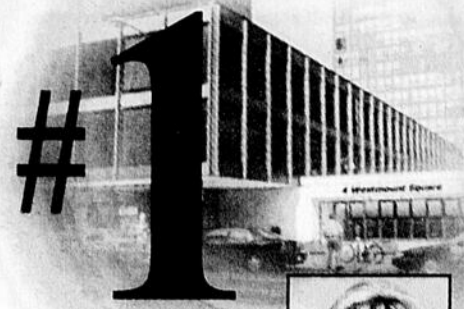




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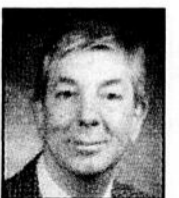
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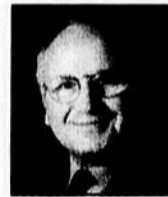
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Don't get swept up by scammers

With the cold weather just around the corner, thousands of residents will have their home chimneys swept, but unfortunately, there are scammers out there looking to bilk home owners out of their money.

It is not well-established companies' policy to advertise door-to-door. Their usual way of conducting business is based on customers contacting the company themselves and making an appointment in order to have their chimney cleaned.

Moreover, for their business to be legitimate, companies that provide chimney sweeping services must be accredited by HPA (Heating Professional Association), and their employees must always carry their accreditation card, so they can produce it upon any customer's request. Companies must also have a licence from La Régie du bâtiment du Québec (RBQ), and the licence number must be easy to read on the invoice.

Apart from this number, the following should also be found on the bill:

- Tax registration number (GST and QST).
- The company's phone number.

- The company's full address.

Various chimney-sweeping companies have told police that:

- For a chimney-sweeping of an oil and/or gas heating system, the job takes approximately 20 to 30 minutes and the fee should be about \$55.

- For a chimney-sweeping of a wood stove and/or a fireplace, the fee varies from \$85 to \$95 and this kind of job takes 45 minutes to an hour to accomplish.

Usually, a chimney-sweeping business will not ask for an advance payment. The invoice will be issued on job completion only.

To obtain a chimney-sweeping licence, the service provider must warrant an amount that, among other things, will be used to partially refund customers who have been defrauded.

Always ask the employee who visits you to show you both the HPA and RBQ licences before he or she undertakes a job. If you are not sure, call the RBQ at 873-0976 to ensure that the company is legitimate.

Here are some tips for customers to ensure a good job has been done:

- You must always verify that the employee has taken of all remnants of rubbish from the chimney base, inside as well as outside.
- Remember that an employee who works for an established company will always drive to your home in a vehicle bearing his company's logo and/or name.
- Never do business with a salesperson and/or repair person without verifying all the required papers and the company's references prior to the work being done.

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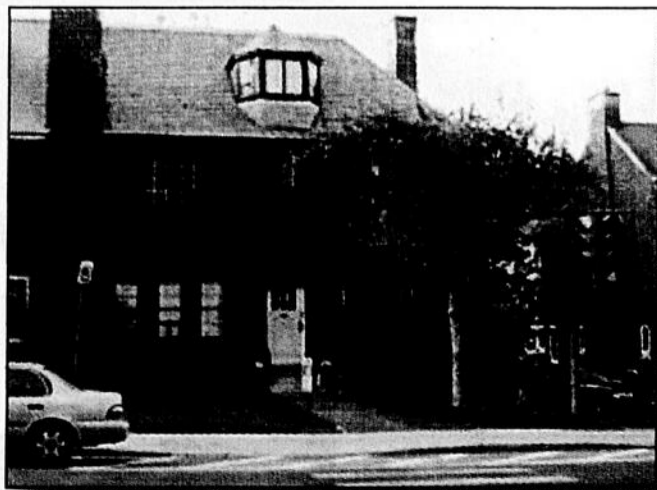


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IS JUSTICE REALLY BEING SERVED?

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Ted Wright



Mr. Wright,

We recently had a case at The Rental Board (Court) in which it was clearly shown that the landlord did not follow the law, and even though it was not shown in court, some threats of various legal natures were expressed. The initial decision of The Rental Board (Court) was in our favour but then an Application for a Retraction (Revision in English) was made and won. We had our witnesses and would have proven that the landlord acted very illegally. What happened and is this really justice?

K.L.

I have had several conversations with K.L. over the period in question. The case is still before the courts. Identifying factors have been changed to protect the innocent. The reader should note that "(Court)" appears after The Rental Board. Everyone should be aware that even though the Rental Board is a tribunal, appeal is not automatic and it is most prudent to regard it as the final decision. Be totally prepared, always.

A Revision (Retraction in French) is a procedure, in court, whereby instead of resorting to an appeal, it is legally recognized that something

unforeseen may have occurred, such that justice was prevented from happening. There are very strict guidelines. And a successful Revision is not guaranteed.

The general criteria for a Revision (Retraction) are the following:

One party was prevented from furnishing proof by surprise, fraud or some other reason that the commissioner (régisseur) considers as sufficient.

The commissioner has omitted to rule on a particular part of the original application (demande) or ruled over and above what was legally asked.

This case had a very unusual motive. Both parties received the notice. Both parties were at the Rental Board. Both parties, according to evidence, made their presence known. The landlord did not go to the hearing. What happened? Where does justice begin and manipulation of the court system begin?

The landlord's claim:

a) Arrived at court 2:20 p.m., 10 minutes before hearing.

b) Made presence known to clerk.

c) Told by clerk it would take another 30 minutes before case,

d) No room to sit down. Chose to wait in hallway.

e) Checked every 3-4 minutes as to when hearing would start.

There is more, but I will not go into the legality of the claim made. The reason for the decision in the landlord's favour is important.

Above all, justice must be served. It may seem, given evidence and witnesses available, that justice did not and cannot be expected to happen.

In this case, evidence and witnessing are not of primary importance. Eventually, but not right now.

The landlord's claim is that he did not hear the call to the hearing given by the commissioner over the speakers. Is this plausible? Unfortunately, yes.

There is a speaker grid installed by the Rental Board. It is a part of the justice system.

However, the Rental Board is located in the old CBC building on René Levesque Boulevard near Guy Street. It is a commercial building.

Contract law gives many and varied rights to a commercial tenant. Speakers in a common shared hallway are not usually one of them. A commercial entity does not have the automatic right to potentially disturb others. A loud-speaker going off every five minutes, eight hours a day, is very likely an illegal disruption to other commercial tenants.

Every person has the right to justice. If anything should occur which stops justice, procedures exist which assist the application of the law. Here it is Revision.

The Rental Board does not have control over its complete environment. If the simple, but very important notice to come to your hearing is not heard, and is truly outside your control, then justice is denied.

This column is not dealing with the truth of the claim. The case will be started once again. Evidence will be presented. Witnesses will be called. Justice will be served. A little late perhaps, but it will be complete.

If the landlord was lying and it could

be proven. Abuse of Legal Procedure, Perjury, Damages and Interest, are potential legal recourses. The landlord's legal history may be examined to determine if past actions show other legal transgressions or manipulation.

But, justice was served. The other party will have a second "kick at the can." Proof and justice does not disappear. It only slows down.

As a sidebar, there is proof available that other illegalities have since been attempted.

My fervent hope is that all parties will follow the law. Justice, is after all, for everyone.

The Rental Board could reduce problems like this by adding a warning to the Notice of Hearing, telling each person individually, putting up signs, scrolling names on an exterior electronic billboard. Signs on or above exterior seating would help.

Just a thought.

• Ted Wright is Coordinator of Westmount Legal Clinic, every Wednesday at 3:30 pm at The Westmount YMCA, 4585 Sherbrooke West. He may also be heard on Know Your Rights - Legal Show, Saturday 2:30 pm, Radio CINQ-FM, 102.3, Cable 88.3. General info only. Please consult a legal expert.



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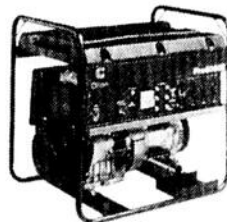
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Nun's Island

Impeccable condo on three floors. 3 bdrms, 1 1/2 baths. Private entrance, hardwood floors in living room & dining room, bay window in dining room, frpl. in living room. Etched glass panel separating the kitchen and dining room. Large balcony off kitchen. Completely finished bsmt. Garage + parking. Asking **\$225,000**.



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GOOD TIMES ROLL ON FOR ARLINGTON RESIDENTS

Martin C. Barry

There was a lot of food and fun last week at one of the friendliest neighbourhood gatherings in Westmount—the annual Arlington Avenue Block Party.

Once a year at the end of summer, street barriers are put up at each end of Arlington Avenue, hot dogs and corn are roasted, and neighbours gather outside to talk and relax for a while.

Like a smaller and more intimate version of the Borough of Westmount's annual Family Day, the Arlington block party has its own balloon toss contest and prizes are given away.

Frisbee tournaments are also known to break out spontaneously, and the kids hold downhill skateboard races on the traffic-free street.

The block party has been a tradition in Westmount since the mid-1970s and is believed to be the borough's longest-running annual event organized entirely by residents.

"It's really been a community effort," said Caroline Hornyak, who along with several neighbours, including Mark Peacock and Dru Spencer,

helps organize the party each year.

The idea for the first block party was conceived by local children, albeit with the help of their parents. The kids' street party eventually underwent a transformation into the adults' block party of today.

Caroline's husband, James Aitken, was a preteen when he and a few other kids hatched the idea for an event that would draw everyone on the street together. Nearly thirty years later, it's still going strong.

"It's a great tradition that we're trying to continue," she said. "The winter is long and during the summer everyone's away, so it's a great opportunity to meet people we never get an opportunity to meet on this street."

This year's block party, as it turned out, was held a few weeks later than usual because many residents were still away on vacation. At the last minute, there was also concern it might be cancelled because of rain.

"But we have been blessed with beautiful blue skies," Caroline exclaimed, looking up at the clear firmament.



Photo: Martin C. Barry

The ever-popular water balloon toss

"I must admit I missed the party last year," said Dana Evans, another Arlington resident. "When I heard about it, I said this year I'm not going to miss it. But it seems to be a party that is full of children and parents. It's such a lovely community that I thought I'd come and see."

Rebecca Etingin, 11, had memories of Arlington block parties held over the past four years. "It's really fun and we have it every year and we eat a lot of corn and we chase each other on the street," she said. This year, her father's contribution was a few dozen Krispy

Kreme donuts.

Catherine Brissette-Lalonde, Rebecca's friend, also 11, said: "We have this, like, every single year and it's been here for a really, really, really, really long time."

However, asked whether she gets as excited about the block party as she does about Christmas, Catherine replied: "Not really."

Organizers acknowledged the help and sponsorship of several local businesses, including the Oink! Oink! toy store, which sponsored the water balloon event.



Photo: Martin C. Barry

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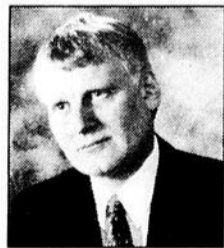
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WHA lectures focus on the arts

The Westmount Historical Association has announced the schedule of its popular fall lecture series, and this time the Thursday evening talks will centre around Westmount residents who have made a huge impact on our cultural life and helped to shape Canadian identity.

Entitled 'Words and Images', the series will feature lectures on Leonard Cohen, A.Y. Jackson, Mordecai Richler, and Mary Meigs.

Prepared by Doreen Lindsay and Caroline Breslaw, the series begins on Thursday, Sept. 25, with 'Leonard Cohen's Westmount'. Terry Rigelhof, professor of Humanities at Dawson College, novelist, critic and author of seven books including 'This is Our Writing', takes an in-depth look at one of Canada's most venerated poets and singer-songwriters.

Before attending McGill University from 1951 to 1955, Cohen grew up in the family home on Belmont Avenue. He attended Roslyn School and

Westmount High, where he was student council president. He was also a member of Congregation Shaar Hashomayim, where his grandfather had been its youngest president and his family were prominent members. Using 'The Favourite Game', Cohen's first novel, along with his other writings as guides, you will be taken on a tour of Cohen's hometown.

The second lecture in the series takes place on Thursday, Oct. 16, with 'A.Y. Jackson in Westmount'. Wayne Larsen, editor of the Westmount Examiner, part-time professor of Journalism at Concordia University and author of 'A.Y. Jackson: a Love for the Land', will trace the local roots of Canada's most beloved landscape painter.

While young A.Y. Jackson was struggling for acceptance as a modern landscape artist, his permanent address was 69 Hollowell Street—his family's home from 1904 to 1922. Hollowell Street remained Jackson's home base before he settled in Toronto as a founding member of the Group of Seven. An oil sketch 'St. Henry from Hollowell Avenue' (sic), which he painted from the railway tracks near his house, hangs in the National Gallery of Canada.

On Thursday, Nov. 20, guest speaker Joel Yanofsky, literary journalist and author of 'Mordecai & Me: An Appreciation of a Kind', will give the lecture 'Mordecai Richler was here'.

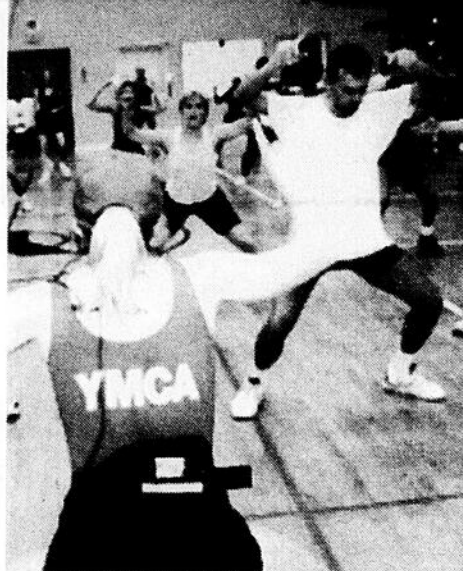
In 1951, when he was just twenty years old, Mordecai Richler left Montreal and the St. Urbain Street neighbourhood he would eventually make famous. When he came back from England in 1972, he lived with his wife and five children in a large three-level house at the corner of The Boulevard and Edgemoor Avenue until the early 1980s. There he wrote 'Joshua Then and Now', and his most ambitious novel, 'Solomon Gursky Was Here', was inspired by one of Westmount's most famous families.

The series winds up on Dec. 18 with Ann Pearson, photographer and professor of Humanities and Creative Arts at John Abbott College, who will speak on 'Mary Meigs: Painter and Writer'.

Mary Meigs is known to many as one of the women in the National Film Board's 1999 film 'The Company of Strangers'. Mary was also a visual artist and a writer. Her first published book, at the age of 64, 'Lily Briscoe: A Self-Portrait', was followed by five others, all characterized as autobiographical writings. She lived on Grosvenor Avenue from 1984 to 2002 and filled her home with her own artwork as well as that of many others.

All lectures in the series will take place in the Westmount Room of the Westmount Public Library, 457 Sherbrooke W., from 7 to 9 p.m. Free admission for WHA members, \$5 for non-members at the door. For more information, call 925-1404 or 932-6688.

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SCHOOL DAYS *are here again!*

Westmount teen devotes time and muscle to U.S. volunteer program

Claire Parois

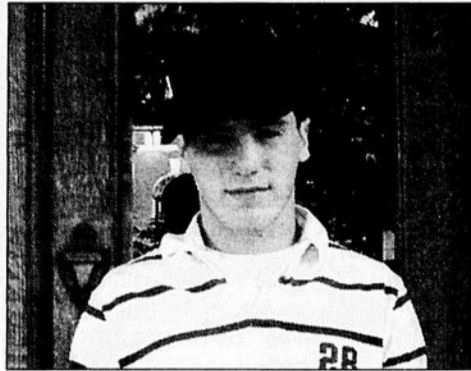
As part of the service program Landmark Volunteers, Westmounter Justin Moretti-Monpetit, 16, spent two weeks of his summer planting trees and clearing trails at the Golden Gate National Recreation Area of San Francisco, California.

"It was fine," said the athletic student of Selwyn House School. "I was with people my age, and I got to see the city. There was always something to do."

His mother, Nanci Moretti, recalls that they came across the website of Landmark Volunteers while looking for volunteering opportunities on the Internet. After a competitive selection process, Justin found himself the only Canadian in a group of 13 other high school students from all over the United States.

For the past 10 years, the Massachusetts-based organization has offered opportunities for teenagers to perform community service at one of 65 historical, cultural, environmental or social service institutions throughout the country.

The Golden Gate Recreation Area



Justin Moretti-Monpetit

was Justin's first choice "because that was the only one on the beach," he admitted with a smile. Previously a military post, the vast park which includes Alcatraz Island, is now a coastal reserve. The shoreline comprises tidal marsh once important to Native Americans, as well as rare and endangered species.

Restoration of habitat and access to the area were the focus of Justin's group from July 28 to August 10. Under the supervision of the park officials and led by a 23-year-old university student volunteer, they dedicated more than 90 hours to replacing non-native vegeta-

tion with native vegetation from the Native Plant Nursery. They cleared walking paths as well, working on bridges and staircases.

At night, they were housed in one of the 500 historic buildings of the Presidio, a military post from 1776 to 1994. The volunteers were each allocated a room and were required to cook their own meals.

"Justin is a very good cook," said his mother. Entertainment facilities were available there or, when they wanted to see other parts of the city, their group leader would drive them around.

Justin came back to Montreal with a lot of memories and new friends with whom he keeps in touch by e-mail. Next year, he said, he would consider renewing the experience in New York City, where "they have a location right in Manhattan."

"If I was allowed to do it again," said Justin, referring to the fact that volunteers are encouraged to reapply, but not at the same location. "I would definitely return to San Francisco."

For more information on Landmark Volunteers, visit the website at www.volunteers.com or e-mail landmark@volunteers.com. Telephone (413) 229-0255; or mail to Landmark Volunteers, PO Box 455, Sheffield, MA 01257, USA.

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Montreal: A hundred years later

Modern photographer follows Notman's footsteps to chronicle changes in urban landscape

Darlene Cousins

Tracing the changing face of a city through photography is not a novel idea, in fact it is safe to say that every major city has been depicted to some degree in a series of before-and-after images of the same street corner or public square.

Montreal is no exception, as most of us are familiar with old photos of Ste. Catherine Street crowded with horse-drawn wagons and rickety streetcars, juxtaposed with brand new photos from the same intersection showing a line of modern cars amidst a blur of neon signs.

The latest effort to show the evolution of Montreal has arrived in the form of Andrzej Maciejewski's new bilingual book, 'After Notman: Montreal Views—a Century Apart' (Firefly Books), a companion piece to the current exhibition at the McCord Museum. Photographer Maciejewski spent years putting this project together, and the result is clearly a labour of love that easily surpasses all previous

efforts to rephotograph the local urban landscape.

Maciejewski takes us back to turn-of-the-century Montreal through the eyes of Scottish-born Montreal photographer William Notman and his employees.

Notman, whose Bleury Street studio was the hub of photographic activity in Canada from the mid- to late 1800s, was noted not only for his portraits of prominent Montrealers, but also scenes of his adopted city. Maciejewski selected a series of images from the McCord Museum's extensive collection of Notman plates and set about rephotographing them to show the changes over the past century.

But instead of simply finding the exact spot on which Notman set up his tripod and setting up his own, Maciejewski studied the original image to determine as closely as possible the season and time of day at which the original photo was taken. He accomplished this by paying close attention to details such as the exact angle of shadows. In some cases he was able to calculate the precise minute at which

the Notman photographer opened his shutter.

From the McGill campus to what is now Old Montreal and the busy waterfront, the 19th-century comes face-to-face with the 21st, and the results are always intriguing; some even startling—either by the extent of changes over the century or by the amazing lack of changes. The fir trees may be gone, but Ravenscrag—the famous home of Hugh Allen in 1901—is shown as virtually unchanged from its current state as the Allen Memorial wing of the Royal Victoria Hospital. And the Mount Stephen Club Lounge—in Notman's day Mrs. George Stephen's living room—remains as lush and ornate in 2000 as it was in 1884.

On the other hand, the familiar slope of Mount Royal in the distance provides the only constant visual element in both Notman's and Maciejewski's twin views of downtown Montreal from the tower of Notre Dame Cathedral.

But this book provides much more than fascinating images. For those interested in trying their hand at

rephotography, Maciejewski includes extensive notes and tips on how to produce an absolutely accurate modern-day replica of an old photo.

Nora Hague, curator of the McCord's Notman Collection, writes an in-depth and concise essay about Notman's climb to fame at the onset of the last century in Montreal—resulting in his being named 'Photographer to the Queen' in 1862.

As well, Martha Langford, founding director of the Canadian Museum of Contemporary Photography, provides a more technical view of the dynamic Maciejewski faced in the project.

The McCord also provides an online exhibition titled 'Urban Life Through Two Lenses,' and has digitalized more than 30,000 Notman photos, but for sheer visual impact the exhibition and book 'After Notman: Montreal Views—A Century Apart,' is the best chronicle of Montreal we are likely to have for quite some time.

• *'After Notman: Montreal Views—A Century Apart' by Andrzej Maciejewski is published by Firefly Books and currently available at most bookstores.*

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Bulletin Board**Saturday, Sept. 13**

WARM Writers presents award-winning columnist and author Henry Aubin, who will speak on 'Writing Regional Affairs' at 2 p.m. in the Westmount Room of the Westmount Public Library, 4574 Sherbrooke W. Free to WARM members, \$5 donation asked of non-members. E-mail: warmwriters@canada.com

The Ascension Parish Social Committee hosts a spaghetti dinner followed by dancing at 7 p.m. at Centre Greene, 1090 Greene Ave. Tickets are \$20, and will be sold after mass. Raffle tickets will be sold at the event. Prize for best disco attire. A limited number of tickets are available, so purchase yours now! All ticket sales are final. Info: 935-3403.

Sunday, Sept. 14

Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom's Sisterhood / Brotherhood Bagel Breakfast features Dov Okouneff, who will present his film 'Montreal Jewish Memories: Stories of the '20s.' Short service at 9:15, breakfast at 9:30 and program at 10 a.m. \$3 contribution is requested. 395 Elm Ave. Info: Heather at (450) 672-9788.

Westmount's second annual Terry Fox Run for cancer research takes place in Westmount Park, starting at 1 p.m. Register at the park, or online at www.terryfoxrun.org. Info: 499-9747.

Tuesday, Sept. 16

The University Women's Club of Montreal holds its opening meeting with buffet from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Atwater Club, 3505 Atwater Ave., Tickets are \$27.50 including tax and service. Info: 934-1362.

Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, 395 Elm Ave., presents a screening of the film 'Relentless: The Struggle for Peace in Israel', moderated by Gil Troy. Free of charge. Info: 937-3575 #212.

The Westmount Public Library's English Book Club meets at 7 p.m. to discuss the novel Crow Lake by Mary Lawson. All welcome. 4574 Sherbrooke W. Info: 989-5386.

Wednesday, Sept. 17

Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom's Book Lovers Forum II Fall 2003 Series presents Dr. Victor C. Goldbloom, who will review 'Isaiah Berlin' by Michael Ignatieff. Coffee at 9:30 a.m., book review at 10 a.m. 395 Elm Ave. Info: 937-3575.

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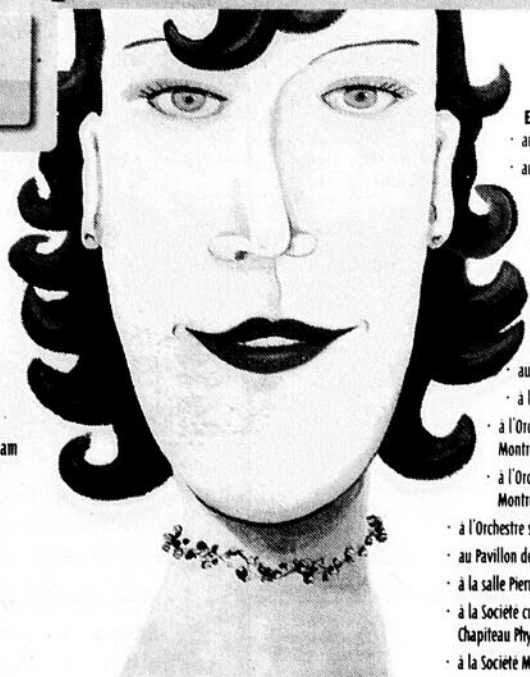
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- à l'Opéra de Montréal
- à l'Orchestre de chambre I Musici de Montréal
- à l'Orchestre Métropolitain du Grand Montréal
- à l'Orchestre symphonique de Montréal (OSM)
- au Pavillon de l'Entrepôt
- à la salle Pierre-Mercure - Centre Pierre-Peladeau
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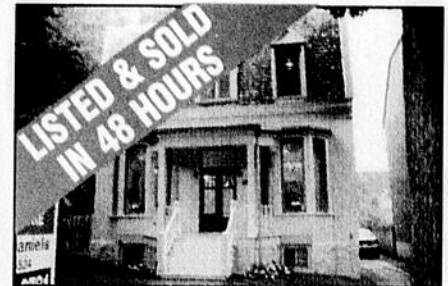
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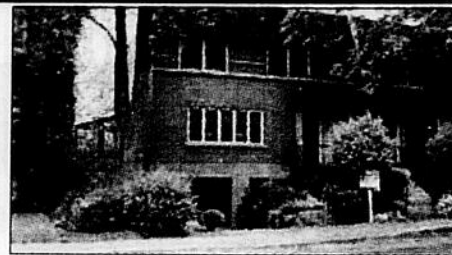
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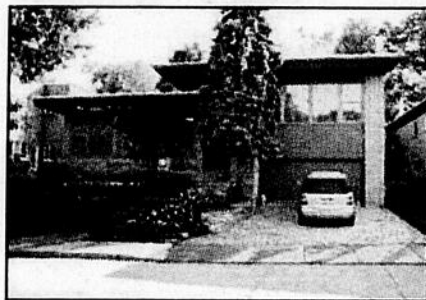
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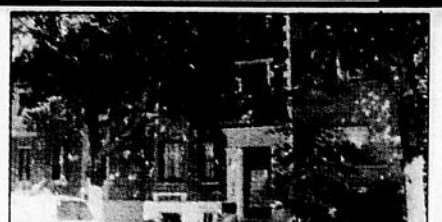
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