

# Westmount EXAMINER

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**COMMUNITY LIFE**  
Caroline Breslaw explores historic intersection  
Page 5

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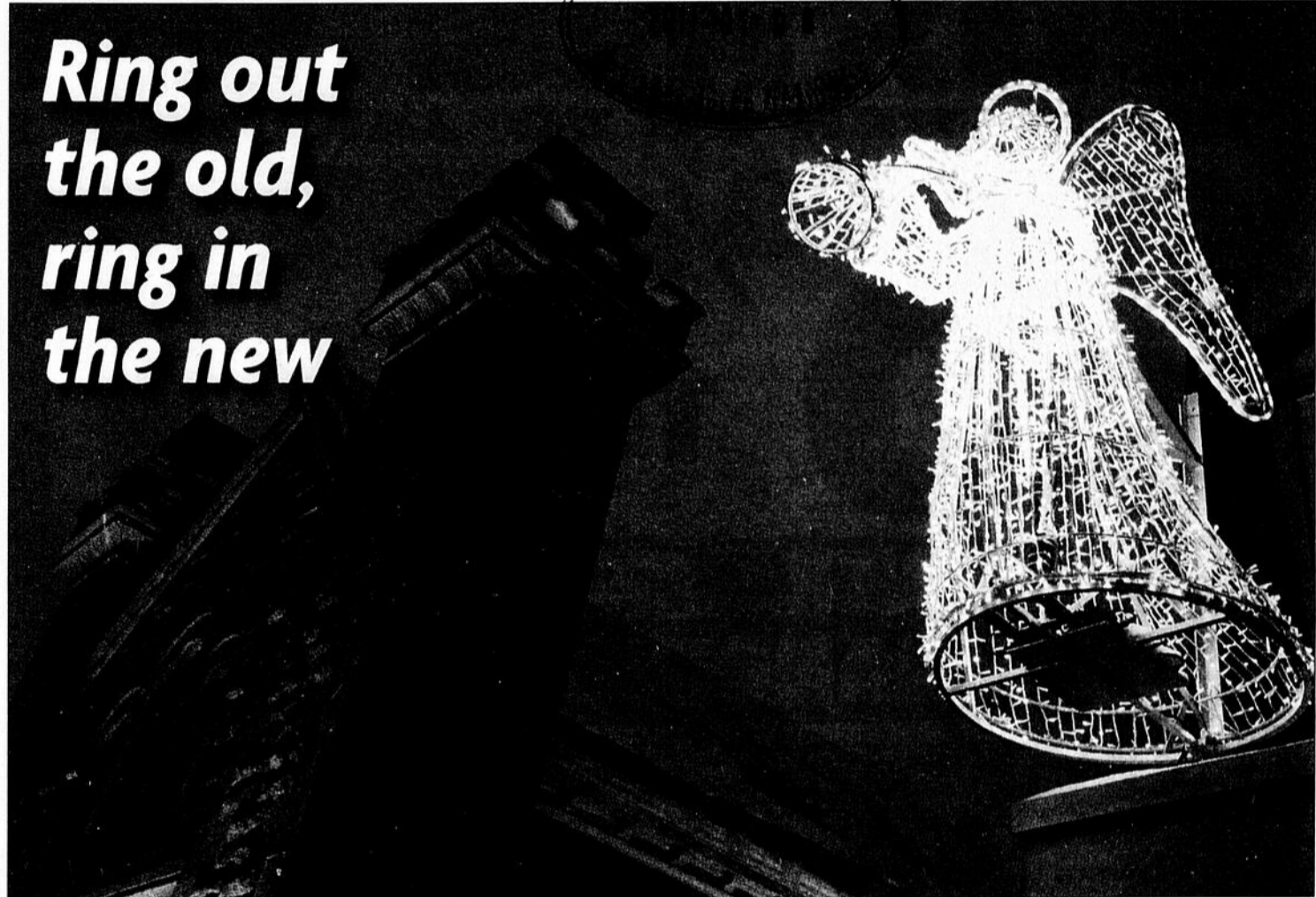
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"Time has no divisions to mark its passage; there is never a thunderstorm or blare of trumpets to announce the beginning of a new month or year. Even when a new century begins it is only we mortals who ring bells and fire off pistols." Thomas Mann  
The Best of Holidays and a Happy New Year to all Westmounters! Photo: Jacques Pharaud

## Efficient snow removal requires citizen cooperation

Wayne Larsen

**C**learing the streets of snow both quickly and efficiently is a tradition in which the City of Westmount's Public Works Department takes considerable pride — but despite following a process that has been honed and perfected over the years, it still takes a lot of planning and effort to get the snow off the street.

It also takes the cooperation of residents. With the official arrival of winter last week,

the City has issued a plea to all residents for their ongoing cooperation in the snow-removal process.

Drivers are asked to ensure that they check for orange signs when parking on the street. Advance warning of a snow removal operation and when it will be carried out, will be indicated by orange lights (either flashing or fixed) on Westmount's major thoroughfares, and by highly visible plastic signs attached to existing signs on side streets.

City workers will have these signs in place

at least 12 hours before the ploughs arrive, which should give motorists more than enough time to move their vehicles. The new plastic signs have now replaced the old orange sandwich board-style signs in most parts of Westmount.

"Westmount depends on the cooperation of all drivers in the city to ensure that snow is removed quickly and efficiently throughout the winter," states the City's message to residents.

Continued on page 3

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## BOXING WEEK

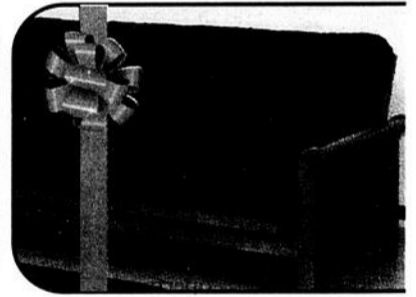
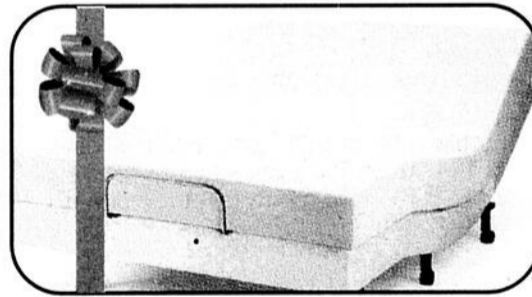
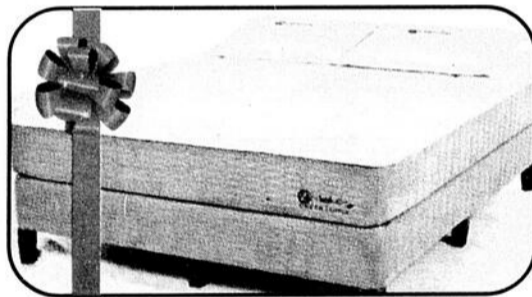
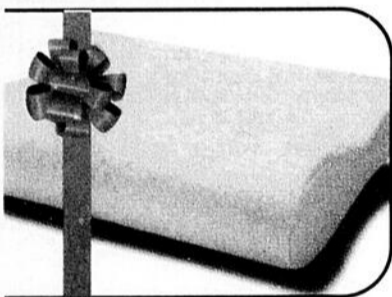
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Tuesday, Dec. 28	9:30am-6pm	Saturday, Jan. 1	CLOSED
Wednesday, Dec. 29	9:30am-6pm	Sunday, Jan. 2	10am-5pm

# Matelas BONHEUR

Since 1986

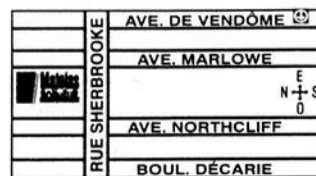


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## Efficient snow removal requires citizen cooperation

Continued from page 1

"The next time it snows, look up and check carefully for orange signs. Vehicles blocking snow removal operations will be towed."

### Residents shovelling snow onto the street is a major problem

Westmount's Public Security Unit has announced that it intends to have additional patrols on the streets during and after each significant snowfall to ensure that the parking regulations are observed, as well as to keep an eye out for residents shovelling snow from driveways and walkways onto the street, sidewalk or into lanes — one of the biggest headaches for work crews.

"All snow removed from private property must be deposited on an existing snow bank as created by city ploughs," states the City's message to residents. "The snow pushed out from private property should be spread out along the snow banks to prevent creating one large mass of snow opposite the driveway from which the snow was removed. Under no circumstances should the snow removed from one driveway be



City crews rely on residents' cooperation for efficient snow removal.

placed on the street in front of any neighbouring driveways. The blockage of any street, sidewalk or lane by snow removed from private property shall not be tolerated."

The City will impose a fine — \$144 for

the first offense — on any resident and/or contractor who violates these regulations.

Blue recycling boxes can also be an issue on days when snow clearing is in progress. Residents are advised to keep their blue boxes off the sidewalk, out of the path of the sidewalk ploughs.

### Snow removed in three phases

Once a snowstorm hits the area,

Westmount's streets are cleared in three phases, which are carried out around the clock. First, while the snow is still falling, the roads and sidewalks are ploughed and the snow is left at the side of the road. Salt and sand are distributed on the ploughed areas.

"We go through a lot of road salt — 7,000 metric tonnes," Marianne Zalzal of the Public Works Department told the Examiner last year. In order to spread efficiently, she said, the salt is pre-wet with calcium chloride.

Second, the snow left by ploughs at the side of the roads is picked up by blowers and dump trucks. This phase can last up to three days, with an average of three crews working throughout Westmount. Some of the side streets may wait until the end to be cleared, as the City must first pay attention to its four priorities: the main arteries (such as Sherbrooke Street, Ste. Catherine Street and The Boulevard), school zones, commercial areas and fire routes.

For the third phase, once most of the snow has been removed and dumped, crews return to the streets and pick up any bits of leftover snow that may have been missed by the ploughs and blowers.

For more information on the City's regulations concerning snow removal, call 514-989-5311.

## Christmas tree collection starts Jan. 5

Christmas is over, and many families will be taking down their holiday decorations over the next few weeks.

For those who purchased a real tree this year and are wondering how to dispose of it, the City of Westmount's annual Christmas tree collection will begin on Wednesday, Jan. 5 and continue throughout the month.

All you have to do is place your tree outside, right behind the sidewalk, at the front of your property. This can be done at any time between next Wednesday and the end of January.

Disposing of your tree this way is not only convenient, it's also environmentally friendly, for all trees collected will be

composted. The only condition for pick-up is that all decorations, tinsel, etc., be removed, as well as any wrapping such as plastic bags.

The City of Westmount is asking residents to please be patient if their tree has still not been collected after a few days. The city-wide collection is ongoing and it may take a while before crews get around to picking up your tree. This is especially true during periods of snow removal.

For more information on Westmount's annual Christmas tree collection, call 514-989-5311.

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# COLLECTION OF NATURAL CHRISTMAS TREES

## TAKING PART IS EASY!

To participate, please remove decorations and hooks from the tree before you put it out at the curb for the collection service.

To know the collection dates for your locality  
Please contact your Borough, City Hall, Accès Montréal office or dial 311

ville.montreal.qc.ca/environnement

# Montréal

www.westmountexaminer.com Thursday, December 30, 2010 3

3718344

# OPINION

## A time for new beginnings...



Toula FOSCOLOS  
toula.foscolos@transcontinental.ca

### TOULAS 'TAKE'

"I'm not the same one... see what the time's done..." sings Faith Hill from "The Grinch who stole Christmas" soundtrack. It's a simplistic phrase, yet the lyrics reveal a universal truth.

People say that time changes us, but time really has nothing to do with it; it's our experiences over the course of our lives that change us and make us who we are.

The pain and happiness we experience over the years mold us like a potter's wheel, shaping us into something other than what we were when we started. We're still made from the same clay, but our shape shifts. Whether change is for the better or for the worse, one thing is certain: it takes place. So, perhaps the only thing that's in our power is to determine how we react to it.

New Year's resolutions are always a popular song and dance during the holiday season. In some ways, blank slates give people hope. They can say: "This year, things will be different! I'll lose 10 lbs, I'll start exercising, I'll quit smoking, I'll be better with my finances, I'll be a better parent, spouse, etc". Resolutions hold the promise of perfection, if only, for a little while.

Most of the time, of course, people's "resolve" dissipates just as quickly as it appeared and they feel disappointed in themselves and their lack of willpower. It's not really their fault. New Year's resolutions, not properly defined, are destined to fail. After all, what's so different about January 1st? At the end of the day, it's just another day in the calendar, right? The point is to actually *do* something to make our resolution come to being. By that token, any day is a good day to make the decisions that will alter the course of our lives.

I suspect that the fundamental mistake most people make is trying to define "happiness" as a perfect to-do list. "Achieve ideal body weight... check. Achieve promotion... check. Achieve Zen-like nirvana... check." People talk of happiness as something attainable in the future, *only* if certain requirements are met. But, once you spend a few solid years on this planet you soon realize that happiness can appear in the strangest and most unexpected places and sometimes the things we strived for so hard

gave us very little pleasure in return. It's important to redefine and refocus as we change and evolve.

Let's face it... dreams don't come in "one size fits all". This year, as people rattle off resolution after resolution, leave the specifics to others and resolve to listen to your inner voice and your true self.

Writer Ellen Goodman once said: "We spend January 1 walking through our lives, room by room, drawing up a list of work to be done, cracks to be patched. Maybe this year, to balance the list, we ought to walk through the rooms of our lives... not looking for flaws, but for potential." Sounds like a good way to make a new beginning.



Nat LAUZON  
Natterings

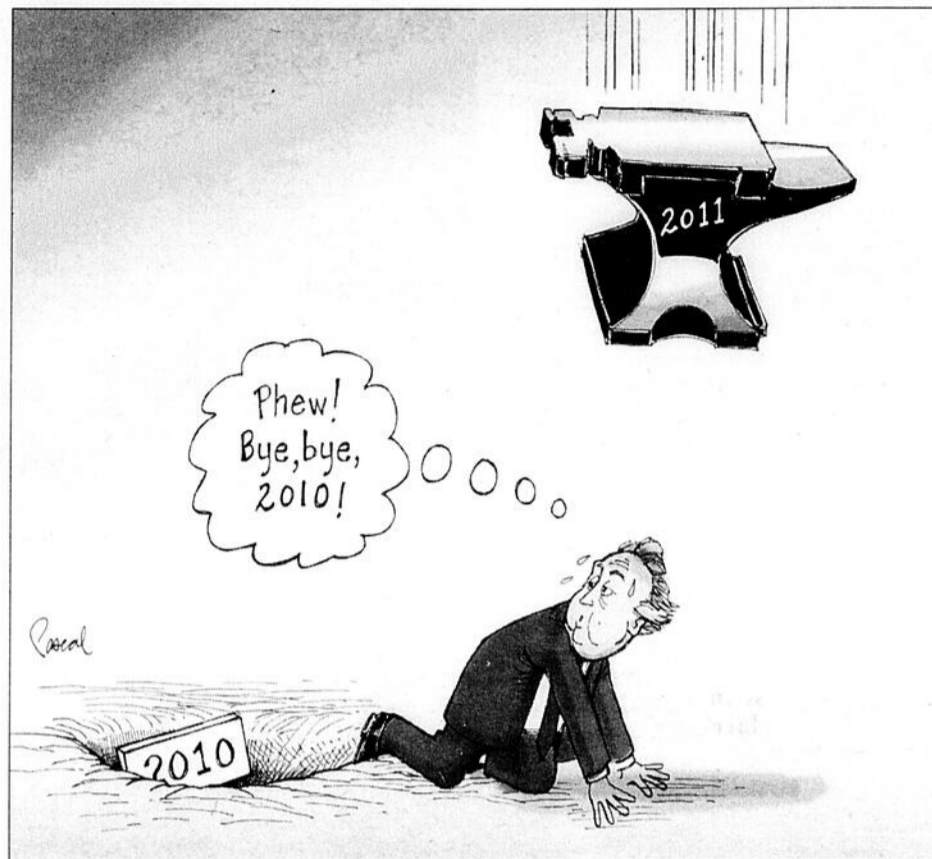
n.lauzon@virginradio.ca

I'm guessing that by now, your dog has pooped out it's seasonal tinsel quota. So it's too late to tell you not to use tinsel on the tree if you have pets.

Tinsel is shiny, pretty and cut into perfect bite-size strands. How could you NOT want to eat it? I googled "tinsel" out of curiosity just now. I thought it must have some other use. According to Wikipedia (which I realize is a collection of sinister untruths but I'm not a deep digger), tinsel has no other purpose but to decorate Christmas trees and beautify pet vomit.

We don't have tinsel on our tree. Firstly, because we have dogs. Secondly, because not even tinsel could make our tree look good.

As a kid, I remember nothing but pretty trees in our living room at Christmas. We



## My fake fir

always had real ones. The crisp, clean smell, the magical feeling it created when it was decorated and ready for Santa. As an adult, I still appreciate real trees but I hate the upkeep. Besides that, I feel bad seeing all the dead ones dumped on garbage piles after the holidays, still clinging to their last bits of garland. Believe it or not, there are companies that will bring a live tree to your house (roots and all) and pick it up to replant after the holidays. I love that idea - but not for me, because if it's green and leafy, I'll kill it. If I got a live Christmas tree on Dec 24th, it would be kindling by morning. I suck at plants. I'm better at dogs.

So, back to my ugly tree. "Ugly" could be forgivable if it was a real tree. Real trees are expected to have imperfections and sometimes suffer from things like needle loss, root rot and brown spots (hey, we've all been there.) But I would expect my machine-manufactured tree to display all the stereotypically perfect elements of a textbook Christmas tree. A fake tree should scream Norman Rockwell. Unless you go fishing at the end of season sale and refuse to spend more than 40 bucks, tops.

Well, you get what you pay for. And it's

never how it looks on the box by the way. The picture on the box depicted a lovely couple sipping their hot cocoa and admiring their beautiful, lush Christmas tree, pre-lit with twinkling white lights. What we found ourselves with was a wobbly metal post with sparse, unnaturally green spokes thrusting out at odd angles. And a clunky electrical cord snaking up through the branches. No hot cocoa. No turtlenecks. No Norman Rockwell moment. And it's hard to class up an ugly tree. Especially when your ornaments include a flamingo in a tutu, the Pillsbury doughboy and a plastic pickle.

It's like beer goggles in a bar. In order for the ugly to appear attractive, the right elements must converge at once. Booze, obviously. But also, the room should be dark, you should be at least six feet away and it would be helpful if you had cataracts. Unlike the beer goggle hook-up though, this tree is sticking around all month.

Nat Lauzon can be heard weekdays from 9-1 on Virgin Radio and wishes you a non-ugly holiday season.

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# Breslaw explores historic intersection

Doreen Lindsay

Now was blowing outside the large leaded glass windows of the Westmount Public Library on Thursday evening, Dec. 16, but 33 history buffs braved the cold to hear Caroline Breslaw deliver the final installment of the Westmount Historical Association's fall lecture series.

This time the focus was on the historical intersection of Victoria Avenue and Sherbrooke Street and how those four storied corners have developed over the past 100 years. Presenting photographs from the WHA Archives, the McCord Museum, and old newspapers from 1912 and 1913 to illustrate her findings from Lovell's directories, Breslaw pointed out that the first shops opened close to the corners after Sherbrooke Street was extended west in 1893 from Greene Avenue to Claremont Avenue, and streetcar service began.

By 1910, a total of 30 buildings were constructed on Victoria Avenue. By 1911, the population in Westmount was close to 15,000. The Royal Bank, on the

northeast corner of Victoria and Sherbrooke is the oldest surviving commercial establishment in this area. It opened in 1907 with living quarters for Mr. Lindsay, the manager, on the top floor, as was common at that time. Everyone walking past today can see his residence in this 103-year-old original bank building with additions and alterations.

### Three banks and a liquor store

The southwest corner has been occupied by the Canadian Bank of Commerce since 1925. The building was modernized and remains today as CIBC. The southeast corner was C.E. Box Grocers from 1890 until the early 1940s, when it and some houses were demolished and the City and District Savings bank opened in 1951. They changed their name to Banque Laurentienne du Canada in 1987 and remain today in a much newer building.

When Breslaw mentioned Macy's (the Old Colony Pharmacy and Restaurant) being on the northwest corner from the 1920s, many audience members remembered going there after

school for sodas. After it burned in the early 1970s, Cantors moved in. In 1984, they were replaced by the SAQ. This year Hogg Hardware has replaced the SAQ.

The audience of 33 knowledgeable history buffs was also delighted to listen to the familiar song "I Live in Westmount," written and sung by Bowser and Blue, after which many contributed stories of their own memories

of the famous corners.

Breslaw is vice-president of the Westmount Historical Association and has been co-organizer of the lecture series for many years. She is deeply interested in history and architecture and is now concentrating on research.

*Doreen Lindsay is president of the Westmount Historical Association.*



Ville de Westmount  
City of Westmount

## Services municipaux période des Fêtes 2010

Pendant la période des Fêtes, l'horaire des services municipaux de la Ville de Westmount sera modifié comme suit :

### Bureaux administratifs

Les bureaux administratifs situés à l'hôtel de ville, à Hydro Westmount, au Service des travaux publics, à la Sécurité publique (y compris le bureau des permis de stationnement) et à l'Aréna de Westmount sont fermés :

du 24 au 28 décembre; et  
du 31 décembre au 4 janvier

### Conservatoire et serres

Ces installations sont ouvertes au public selon l'horaire suivant :

Du 21 au 23 décembre de 10 h à 21 h  
Le 24 décembre de 10 h à 14 h 45  
Le 25 décembre - Fermé  
Le 26 décembre de 10 h à 17 h  
Du 27 au 30 décembre de 10 h à 21 h  
Le 31 décembre de 10 h à 14 h 45  
Le 1<sup>er</sup> janvier - Fermé  
Le 2 janvier de 10 h à 17 h  
Les 3 et 4 janvier de 10 h à 21 h

### Bibliothèque publique de Westmount

Fermée du 24 décembre au 26 décembre, et du 31 décembre au 2 janvier.

### Centre communautaire Victoria Hall

Fermé du 23 décembre au 4 janvier inclusivement.

### Patinoires de l'Aréna

Les patinoires de hockey et de patinage libre sont ouvertes selon l'horaire des Fêtes disponible sur notre site Web. L'Aréna est fermé les 25 décembre et 1<sup>er</sup> janvier.

### Services de cueillette

Veillez noter que les collectes de résidus verts, de matières recyclables et d'ordures auront lieu selon l'horaire normal au cours de la période des fêtes.

## Municipal Services 2010 Holiday Period

During the holiday season, the City of Westmount has modified operating schedules for services and municipal buildings, as outlined below:

### Administrative Offices

Administrative offices in City Hall, Hydro Westmount, Public Works, Public Security (including the Parking Permits office) and in the Westmount Arena will be closed:

December 24 to December 28  
December 31 to January 4

### Conservatory and Greenhouses

These facilities are open to the public according to the following hours:

December 21 to 23 - 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
December 24 - 10 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.  
December 25 - Closed  
December 26 - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
December 27 to 30 - 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
December 31 - 10 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.  
January 1 - Closed  
January 2 - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
January 3 & 4 - 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

### Westmount Public Library

Closed from December 24 to December 26, and from December 31 to January 2.

### Victoria Hall Community Centre

Closed from December 23 until January 4 inclusively.

### Skating Rinks at the Arena

The rinks for hockey and general skating will open to the public according to the holiday schedule available on our Web site. The Arena will be closed December 25 and January 1.

### Collection Services

Please note that collection of kitchen waste, recycling and garbage will take place according to the regular schedule throughout the holiday season.

## MUSÉE D'HISTOIRE D'HARCÈLEMENT PAR WESTMOUNT

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# Transcontinental Media wraps up best earnings year in history

The Examiner's parent company announces earnings records

The Examiner – making all of Westmount your home since 1935 – and its parent company, Transcontinental Media, enjoyed one of the best years in its history in 2010.

Transcontinental increased its profitability in the fourth quarter compared to a solid fourth quarter in 2009 and, for fiscal 2010 as a whole, had the best operating performance in its history.

"I am very proud of our results for the fourth quarter and all of fiscal 2010, as they clearly show that we have the strategy, the disciplined management, the financial

foundation and the people we need to continue our growth," said Westmount resident, François Olivier, President and Chief Executive Officer of Transcontinental.

"I am very optimistic about the future," Olivier said. "Having started printing *The Globe and Mail* on our new Canada-wide network of hybrid presses in October, the three major capital projects in which we have invested some \$700 million since 2007 are now fully operational. This will lead to significant cash inflows in 2011 and thereafter. We will use this to further reduce our debt levels and continue investing in the

development of new digital and interactive marketing services."

## Financial Highlights

In the fourth quarter, which ended Oct. 31, Transcontinental's consolidated revenues were stable at \$570 million despite a strong fourth quarter in 2009, with organic growth of 1.3%. For the 12-month period ended October 31, 2010, the Corporation reported organic growth in revenues of 1.2%. This growth stems from new printing contracts and a recovery in advertising spending in its newspapers and magazines.

Westmount Examiner Publisher Denis Therrien was excited about the strong results to close out 2010 and was optimistic about the futures of both the voice of Westmount and newspapers in general.

"Of course, we are always trying to maintain a strong financial footing but for The Examiner what is most important is keeping our place at the top of the community media in Westmount, which is a well-educated, vibrant population base that demands strong editorial content and holds community journalism close to their hearts, and we thank them for that."

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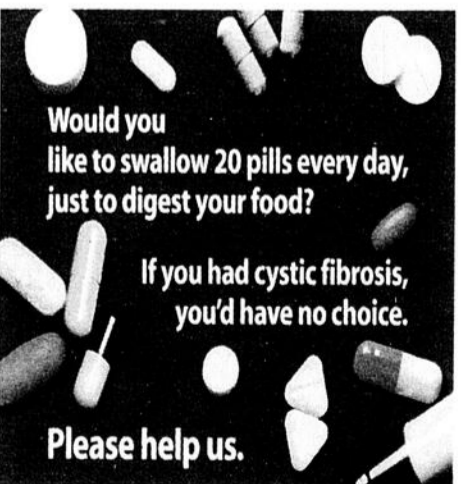
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# Trinity Church: Some answers, please

Robert N. Wilkins

A recent item in *The Gazette* causes many yet again to question the appropriateness of the imminent demolition of the old Trinity Church that has stood majestically at the corner of St. Denis and Viger Streets since its construction in 1864-65.

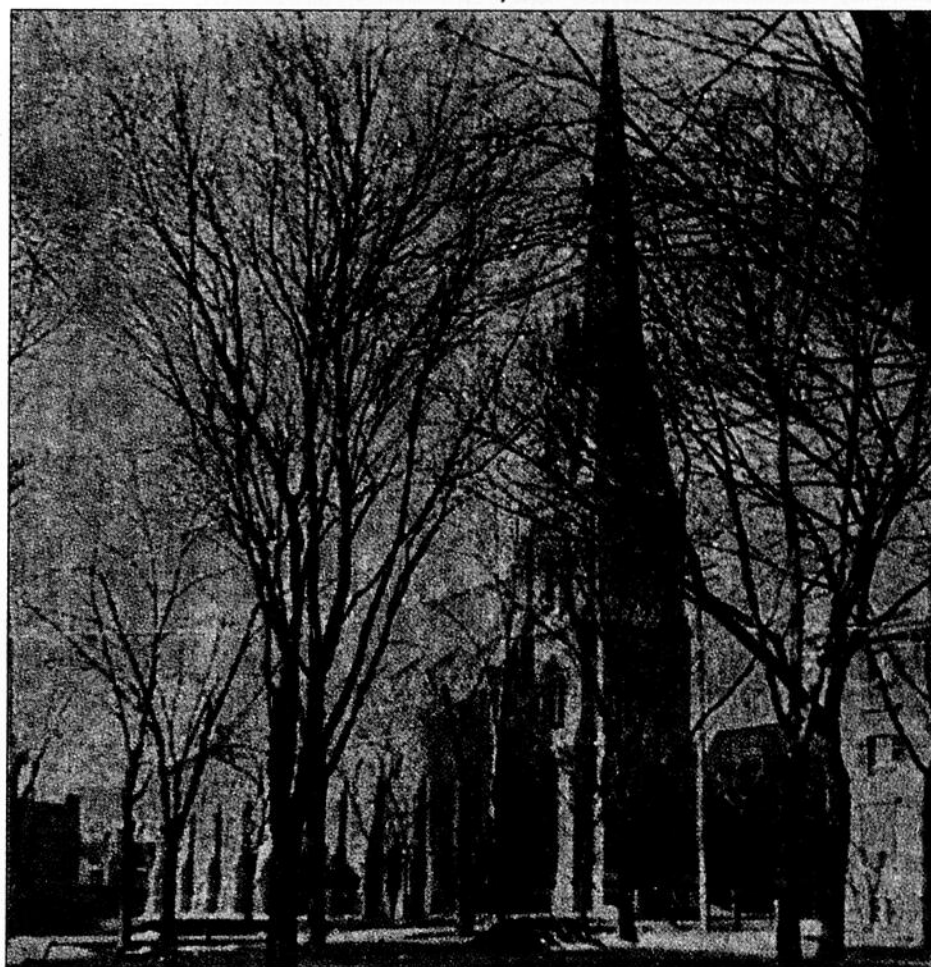
"A church 'brought to its knees'" (*Gazette*, Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2010, A-3) raises the whole issue of the deconsecration of deserted churches and their adjacent burial grounds. In the case of St. John's Shrewsbury Anglican Church in Gore Township in the lower Laurentians, both the church and the graveyard, according to the article by Lynne Moore, are reported to have been deconsecrated.

In this regard, what is known about Trinity Church? Was it in fact ever 'desanctified' by either of its previous owners? The Anglican congregation abandoned the old ecclesiastic edifice on Dec. 6, 1922. At that time, it was sold to a Middle East Catholic community who re-named it St. Sauveur.

Much more disturbing, however, is the possibility that there may be individuals buried within, or around, the old pre-Confederation structure. Although it is not common knowledge, many Montreal houses of worship, for various reasons, interred some of their parishioners within the walls of their church or nearby grounds.

For instance, in July 1903, human remains were unexpectedly unearthed during the demolition of the old St. Gabriel's Presbyterian Church that stood for well over a century on St. Gabriel Street in Old Montreal.

There are other examples, some more recent. When St. Ann's Roman Catholic Church in Griffintown was torn down in 1970, an extensive network of burial vaults was found beneath the main floor of the



Trinity Church, as it was in the 1920s.

doomed structure. Human remains are also known to exist today within the old St. Luke's Anglican Church (today the Russian Orthodox Cathedral of St. Peter and St. Paul) on Champlain Street in the city's East End.

In more contemporary times, many churches, including those in the city centre,

have taken to burying the cremated ashes of various individuals known to the congregation. This is certainly the case with the Church of St. John the Evangelist (the church with the red roof found immediately behind Place des Arts) where a tiny cemetery garden of cremated human remains is found next to its President Kennedy Street entrance.

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In this regard as well, what do we know about the old Trinity Church on St. Denis Street? Has any serious study been conducted on what might be found within and around the historic building? For instance, in the nineteenth century, time capsules were frequently placed in strategic corners of an edifice under construction. Is it known if such were the case with Trinity?

The City of Montreal itself had, for the longest time, classified this same Victorian grey-stone temple "of significant historic interest", a categorization that, to the best of my knowledge, has never been retracted by City Hall. Indeed, various municipal administrations had demanded of earlier bidders to the ownership of the sacred edifice that they, under all circumstances, respect its patrimonial integrity.

Why the change of heart? Is the French language super hospital (CHUM) too powerful an entity to be dictated to, as others were in the past? Are both the Tremblay Administration and the Quebec Government 'talking to the gallery' when they speak so piously about the importance of protecting our collective religious heritage? Such would certainly seem to have been the case now when one considers the fact that the municipal authority disingenuously lamented the loss, due to fire, of the old Franciscan Church last February.

The Trinity Church building is among the oldest ecclesiastic structures left standing on the Island of Montreal. There very well may be human remains in and around it. The almost ancient temple, and our heritage, deserves a better fate than what is being prepared for it.

Does any one at the decision-making level care?

Robert N. Wilkins is a local historian and freelance writer. He can be reached at [montreal\\_1900@hotmail.com](mailto:montreal_1900@hotmail.com)

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