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# The Westmount **Examiner**

Transcontinental

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## Local News

### Demerger efforts downplay Westmount

Martin C. Barry

**L**ocal organizers of recent demerger campaigns are planning on launching a new one on a province-wide scale, while downplaying the issue in Westmount—where near-unanimous support is virtually guaranteed.

"Westmount will vote for demerger—there is no doubt in my mind," said former City of Westmount mayor Peter Trent, who has spearheaded many of the anti-merger and pro-demerger efforts in the past few years leading up to and following Westmount's forced amalgamation with the City of Montreal.

"It's far more important for Westmounters—especially me—to get involved in pan-Quebec activities," he added. Trent said that one of the reasons he will be focusing more on Quebec than on Westmount is that Westmounters voted in an anti-merger referendum two-and-a-half years ago and are aware of what's going on as a result.

"What is important is that we vote for a law that we can live with and this is why we have to improve on Bill 9," he said, referring to Quebec's pending demerger referendum legislation.

Trent said he spent most of this past summer helping to set up an ad-hoc pro-demerger citizens' group, the Comité des Élu(e)s pour Recréer les Municipalités Fusionées, right across Quebec. In addition, he wrote an 80-page brief in collaboration with mayors across the province, presenting the case for demerger to provincial hearings on the issue which will be starting in September.

Trent said the provincial pro-demerger group's campaign, set to start in late September or early October, would assume a

(continued on page 2)



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# COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM

Page 3

Judges Luc Dethier and Kathryn Carnegie were in Westmount last week to check out local flora and services for this year's competition.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

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## Province-wide demerger efforts will downplay Westmount's involvement

(Continued from page 1)

form similar to the campaign the City of Westmount held leading up to the referendum on forced mergers. "There may be a fundraising side to it—we still haven't decided that," he said, adding the main emphasis would be to set up 'block captains' in communities across Quebec to coordinate the effort.

Trent said he wants to distance Westmount from the demerger issue as much as possible because of negative perceptions some people across the province might have. "We want, to the extent I can all over Quebec, to de-Westmountize the case because of the stereotypical image it conjures up in the minds, especially of francophone media," he said. "I've tried to play it down a bit. So this is why it's a very delicate thing."

Trent said he would prefer that any demerger campaign directed specifically at Westmounters remains the focus of community newspapers here.

"I would rather keep it in Westmount," he said.

"Rather than getting front page of The Gazette, rather than getting front page of La Presse, it should be front page of The Examiner. Any effort we do in Westmount to get out the troops and vote for demerger should be a local issue to the extent we can. I don't think it should be front page of La Presse."

"Westmount has led the demerger movement from the beginning, but it's always been a cross we've had to bear because of the image that we have as both anglophone and supposedly wealthy," Trent said. "It just reinforces the stereotypical image that only Westmount and the anglos want to demerge—which is wrong. There's a lot of people across Quebec who want to demerge who are not anglos."

"What should be front page of La Presse is the fact that La Baie in the Saguenay is probably going to vote for demerger," he added. "That's what we

want to do. That's the kind of message we want to get across... As far as I'm concerned, the demerger effort in Westmount should be local in nature."

Kathleen Duncan, president of the Westmount Municipal Association, said the WMA will soon be launching a local demerger campaign.

"We have been amassing over the past few months lists of at least 100 names of people who are interested in helping the demerger cause," she said. "If anybody is interested in calling and adding their name to the list we'd be very happy to have them."

While acknowledging that the campaign in Westmount will probably be more subdued than in the past, she added: "That doesn't mean we're not working towards getting people together or we're not mobilizing people. We certainly are."

Borough Council President Karin Marks pointed out that a demerger meeting, held by the WMA at the Westmount Lawn Bowling Club

several months ago, began the groundwork for the demerger referendum, such as the requirements for a names register which will be needed, and succeeded in recruiting volunteers.

"We certainly have a group of people who are willing to work," she said.

"The WMA is in the process right now of trying to set up a structure for that which would be put in place prior to the signing of the register and for the referendum," she added. "And we, of course, as always work with the WMA in any way we can. We're in fairly frequent communication and we provide them with anything they need in terms of information and certainly our own personal support."

Anyone who would like to join the WMA's demerger campaign should call 989-9752.

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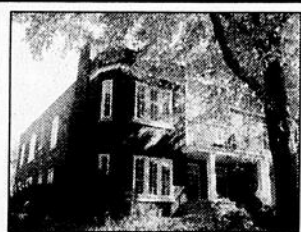
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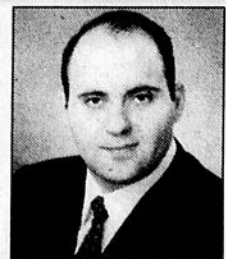
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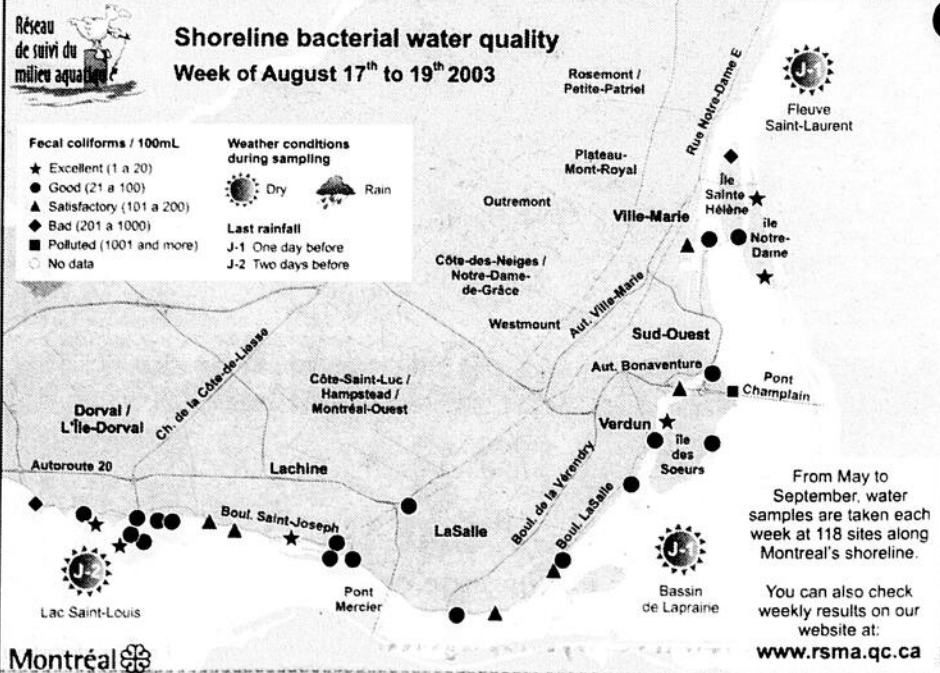


### Shoreline bacterial water quality

Week of August 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> 2003

- Fecal coliforms / 100mL
- ★ Excellent (1 a 20)
  - Good (21 a 100)
  - ▲ Satisfactory (101 a 200)
  - ◆ Bad (201 a 1000)
  - Polluted (1001 and more)
  - No data

- Weather conditions during sampling
- ☀ Dry
  - ☁ Rain
- Last rainfall
- J-1 One day before
  - J-2 Two days before



From May to September, water samples are taken each week at 118 sites along Montreal's shoreline.

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[www.rsma.qc.ca](http://www.rsma.qc.ca)

## Trent traces demerger gains to Poitras Report

Martin C. Barry

**T**he Poitras Report, a 110-page document released by merger opponents just before the provincial election which argued convincingly for municipal demergers, was the only reason demerger stayed alive as an issue, says former Westmount mayor Peter Trent.

"The Poitras Report was the only reason that we now even have a possibility of demerger—in my view there's no doubt about that," Trent said in an interview this week. "If it weren't for the Poitras Report we wouldn't even be talking. The Poitras Report, while my initiative, it was something that took fire right across Quebec."

Released last March, the Poitras Report, written by retired Quebec Superior Court Chief Justice Lawrence Poitras, was commissioned by a coalition of six pro-demerger groups across the province, including the Association of Citizens for the Preservation of Westmount. The report said that savings could be achieved by Quebec by allowing amalgamated former cities to de-merge.

"If it weren't for the Poitras Report we would not have Bill 9," Trent said, referring to Quebec's municipal demerger referendum legislation, a pledge which the Liberals had made before and during the election.

"If it weren't for the Poitras Report it wouldn't have become an election issue and you wouldn't have even the possibility of demerger right now," he said.

"Because of the Poitras Report, the whole discussion of demerger became their election issue.

"I can tell you one thing," said Trent. "The Liberals didn't want it to become an election issue and I forced it to become an election issue, and they won anywhere from a dozen to 18 seats because of that - at least a dozen seats across Quebec because of their demerger promise.

"The Liberals clearly didn't want it to become an election issue. They were upset, in fact, that we made the Poitras Report public. So I'm fond of saying that we helped the Liberals in spite of themselves."

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## Competition promotes community spirit

Martin C. Barry

**O**fficials of Communities in Bloom, a competition which promotes the quality of life in towns and cities across Canada, stopped by Victoria Hall last week while conducting an evaluation of Westmount.

"Communities in Bloom is more than a beauty contest," said Borough Councillor Cynthia Lulham, reiterating a phrase used in the contest. "It's always unfortunate that the judging takes place in August, when most of our civic involvement is on vacation," she added jokingly. "But they work so hard the rest of the year."

Municipalities across Canada participate in Communities in Bloom, which measures their enhancement of green spaces, heritage conservation, community involvement and environmental awareness. Judges for the competition visit communities across the country, taking into account the efforts of the entire community—municipal, private, corporate and institutional.

Participating cities and towns are judged based on a list of eight criteria, including, but not limited to, urban forestry, floral displays, heritage protection, cleanliness, environment and citizen involvement. There is also an international level.

Two of the national judges, Kathryn Carnegie of Ajax, Ont. and Luc Dethier from Laval, were guests at a luncheon held by the Borough of Westmount last Friday, attended by more than 20 borough employees and representatives of local community organizations.

After lunch, they continued their visit of parks and neighbourhoods throughout Westmount. The visit included meetings with Westmount's elected officials and municipal direc-

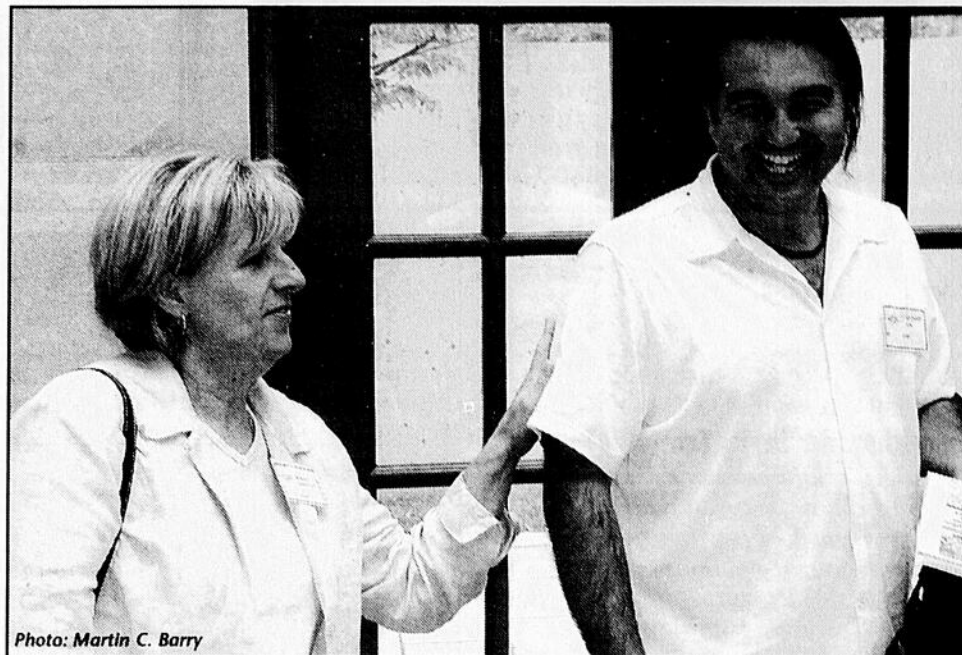


Photo: Martin C. Barry

### Communities in Bloom judges Kathryn Carnegie and Luc Dethier

tors to hear presentations about programs and services here.

In each of the eight criteria used in making an evaluation, "we look at the municipal aspect, the commercial aspect and the residential aspect," said Dethier. Westmount is entered in the category for communities with 20,000 to 50,000 population.

"The whole idea of the program is to bring your community together and to have the people who live here work together," said Carnegie, adding that the judging grid, based on the various segments of the community, is designed to have them work more closely together.

As Lulham pointed out, by the time Dethier and Carnegie had finished their visit to Westmount, they would

still have more work writing a report. Winners will be announced by the end of September.

Communities in Bloom started around 1995 in Quebec. The competition, which was held only within the province the first few years, eventually became national. The program is sponsored entirely by "environmentally friendly" private corporations, said Carnegie, without any government funding. Home Hardware and WestJet were two of this year's sponsors.

Communities pay an entry fee based on the size of their population. A total of 104 judges travel through Canada's provinces each summer. "There are about 30 judges doing the nationals this year," said Carnegie, who was busy touring Westmount with Dethier all day.

## Miranda/Tremblay split was inevitable — Marks

Martin C. Barry

**T**he abrupt resignation of Ville d'Anjou city councillor Luis Miranda from Montreal Mayor Gérald Tremblay's party couldn't have been avoided, says Westmount Borough President Karin Marks.

"I think it was inevitable," Marks said following Miranda's departure last week, prompted by his disagreement with Tremblay's decentralization plan.

"I think that Mr. Miranda, along with many others who are currently in Mr. Tremblay's party, said both prior to the merger and since that this was not something that was good for their citizens," Marks said about the Tremblay plan.

"What it took for them to be able to agree to this was the power of taxation and legal status and the ability to control all of their hiring and firing." As the decentralization outline now stands, according to Marks, very little in it deals adequately with the hiring and firing issue.

"We have not been given the power

to tax, we have not been given legal status, and therefore I think it is completely consistent that Mr. Miranda said these were the conditions to even consider staying in the city," she said. "Those conditions have not been met."

Before making his decision, Miranda said he was told by Tremblay to either rally behind the mayor's decentralization plan or "think about his political future" — comments which prompted at least one city councillor, Marvin Rotrand, until now close to the Tremblay administration, to suggest Tremblay was breaking his own democratic principles and becoming intolerant.

Marks didn't disagree. "When Mr. Tremblay started out saying we can accommodate all points of view, he also started out saying, 'I will not go against anything that the government allows as part of the democratic right of expression,'" she said.

"I think his point of view on both of those has changed. He certainly is fighting against the right of referendum of community and trying to persuade the government that this is not a good idea—and certainly not a good

idea in the way in which they're doing it. He has clearly said to members of his own caucus, 'If you're not in agreement with me and you can't go out and sell the proposal that we have come out with, you're out.'"

Asked if she saw these developments as symptoms of the megacity finally falling apart as anti-mergerists have long predicted, Marks replied: "I think they are continuing evidence that you can't have autonomy and centralization at the same time. And when Mr. Tremblay or his executive committee says the decentralization process will give you all that you want, it won't give you what you want.

"Because unless you have the ability to make decisions yourself as a community, to look at the people who live in the community and to look at the elected officials who are there and say what is it that is best for our community within the construct of what we can do, unless you have that ability you're not autonomous and you can't act in the best interest of your citizens. It's a very different thing when the Centre City is saying, 'sure we'll give you the right to do whatever you want'—as long as we agree with it."

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## Événements communautaires

### La journée Terry Fox

Participez à la journée Terry Fox pour la recherche sur le cancer en marchant ou en courant une distance de 1 à 5 kilomètres le dimanche 14 septembre à 13 h au parc Westmount. Procurez-vous un formulaire de promesse de don à l'aréna de Westmount, à la bibliothèque, au Victoria Hall, au Bureau d'arrondissement et dans les magasins du quartier. Les promesses de don peuvent se faire également en ligne à [www.journee-terryfox.org](http://www.journee-terryfox.org). Les dons recueillis seront octroyés à la recherche sur le cancer. Info : 499-9747.



## Travaux publics Collecte d'ordures

Veruillez noter qu'il n'y aura pas de collecte d'ordures lors de la fête du travail le 1 septembre. Info : 989-5311.



## Sports et loisirs Inscriptions automne-hiver

Veillez noter que toute inscription après le 28 août doit se faire à l'aréna de

## Dates à retenir

**6 et 7 septembre - 10 h**  
Auditions, Orchestre des jeunes de Westmount, Victoria Hall

**Mardi 9 septembre - 19 h**  
Société d'horticulture  
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**13 septembre - 14 h**  
Fête du Club de lecture d'été  
Victoria Hall

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

Westmount, 4675, rue Ste-Catherine O. Les inscriptions pour les non-résidents d'arrondissement débuteront le 9 septembre à l'aréna. Info : 989-5353.



## Bibliothèque Plongez dans la lecture

Venez fêter la fin du Club de lecture vacances le samedi 13 septembre de 14 h à 16 h au Victoria Hall, 4626, rue Sherbrooke O. Les membres du Club sont invités à se procurer des billets gratuits auprès du comptoir des enfants de la bibliothèque. Info : 989-5229.



## Community Events

### Terry Fox Run

Everyone is invited to run or walk 1 to 5 km in the Terry Fox Run for Cancer Research on Sunday, September 14 in Westmount Park beginning at 1 p.m. Pledge sheets are available at Westmount Arena, Victoria Hall, Westmount Library and the Borough office, as well as in local shops. Pledges can also be placed online at [www.terryfoxrun.org](http://www.terryfoxrun.org). Funds raised go to cancer research. Info: 499-9747.



## Public Works

### Garbage Collection

Please note that there will be no garbage collection on Labour Day, Monday, September 1. Info: 989-5311.



## Sports & Recreation

### Fall & winter registration

Please take note that all registration after August 28 takes place at Westmount Arena, 4675 Ste-Catherine W.

## Datebook

**September 6 and 7 - 10:00 a.m.**  
Westmount Youth Orchestra  
Auditions, Victoria Hall

**Tuesday, September 9 - 7:00 p.m.**  
Westmount Horticultural  
Society, Westmount Library

**September 13 - 2:00 p.m.**  
Summer Reading Club Party  
Victoria Hall

**September 14 - 1:00 p.m.**  
Terry Fox Run  
Westmount Park

Registration for non-borough residents begins September 9 at the Arena. Info: 989-5353.



## Library

### Dive Into Reading

Come celebrate the end of the Summer Reading Club on Saturday, September 13 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke St. W. Summer Reading Club members may pick up their free tickets at the Children's Desk. Info: 989-5229.

## Découvrez votre arrondissement

Saviez-vous que Westmount ne compte pas moins de sept édifices municipaux, chacun avec une vocation bien particulière? Au cours des prochaines semaines, cette chronique vous brosera le portrait de ces édifices et des services aux résidents qu'ils abritent.

### Le bureau d'arrondissement (4333, rue Sherbrooke Ouest)

Cet édifice de style Tudor, érigé en 1922 avec une tour centrale carrée qui lui donne un air médiéval, abrite le Bureau d'arrondissement. C'est ici, dans l'ancien hôtel de ville, que vous pouvez payer vos comptes de taxes et vos constats d'infraction, consulter les avis publics et les règlements municipaux ou déposer une réclamation. Vous y trouverez également le Secrétariat d'arrondissement (l'ancien Greffe), les bureaux des conseillers et la salle du conseil.

De plus, l'édifice abrite le Service de l'aménagement urbain et des services aux entreprises. Ce Service veille au respect des normes de construction et de sécurité et évalue la qualité du design des projets proposés. Vous pouvez y déposer une demande de permis de construction, de réparation ou de démolition avant le début de vos travaux extérieurs et intérieurs. Vous y obtiendrez également les directives « Rénover et construire à Westmount » qui traitent de tous les aspects de la conservation du patrimoine architectural de Westmount et de l'aménagement paysager. D'autres permis et licences (chiens, bicyclettes, enseignes, etc.) sont également émis par ce Service.

Le Bureau d'arrondissement - votre porte d'accès 989-5200.

## Get to know your borough

Did you know that Westmount's services are provided from a total of seven municipal buildings? In the coming weeks, this column will feature a description of each of these buildings, and will highlight the services available in each one.

### Borough Hall (4333 Sherbrooke West)

Formally Westmount's City Hall, this Tudor-style building was constructed in 1922, sporting a medieval look with its square central tower. Today, it houses the Borough Office. On the first floor, you can pay your tax bills and fines, consult public notices and by-laws or file a claim. The Borough Secretariat (the former City Clerk's office), the councillors' offices and the Council Chamber are also located in this building.

In addition, the building houses the Urban Planning and Services to Business Department. This department evaluates the design quality of construction and renovation projects and ensures that building and security standards are met and. It is this department that issues all permits for construction, renovation and demolition work. You can also obtain a copy of the "Guidelines for renovating and building in Westmount" describing all aspects of the preservation of Westmount's architectural and landscape heritage. Other permits and licences (dogs, bicycles, signs, etc.) are also issued by this department.

The Borough Office -  
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# It's back to school for teachers, too



## Kidzness

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**O**ne good teacher can make a major difference in a young student's life. Although inspiration can emanate from one special individual, it takes so much more to get the learning process flowing.

The educational system has altered drastically and without a functioning team of teachers sharing and working together, knowledge does not prevail. Teamwork in the school environment is essential, but the process commences with committed leadership with many dedicated teaching leaders living the responsibility. School may have been out all summer but what do many teachers do when school closes their doors at the end of June? Do they just bask in vacation sunshine? Some do for the first month, but others become school focused by August.

First of all, let's clear up that misconception that shorter hours and summers off suggests that teachers have erased classroom thoughts. For many, the job is year round and yes even during off hours! I can vouch for this, as I was a teacher. During my enthusiastic years, my work trailed me home. During vacations and in the

evenings I was always trying to uncover something stimulating to teach my students. Certainly summers did involve some relaxing but frequently with a folder of ideas for the forthcoming school year by my side. I can recall many shopping trips to stock up on stickers, interesting workbooks and novel ideas.

Preparing for each new school year is a major undertaking and commences before the year begins. When school closes for the summer, all educators feel tremendous relief and exhaustion. That end of June scene filled with farewells is still so vivid in my memory. You utter the last goodbye with fondness, and hope that those children who spent more time with you than (for some) their parents, will have benefited from the year. Your feel tenderness in their hugs, but at that point rest is your primary focus.

But it's not too long before the wheels are turning towards future academic endeavors. For many, summer is an opportune time to gather your thoughts and reflect on some innovative improvements, as each new school year should offer a fresh start.

During July and August, some schools are painted and remodeled. Equipment is ordered and distributed, desks are repaired and textbooks are organized. Principals do not take too much time off and may be interviewing new staff, filling out forms and just overseeing anything related to the school. Training workshops occasionally occur now and many do attend to

reeducate themselves with current programs.

Westmount resident, veteran teacher and coordinator of Solomon Schecter Academy's preschool program, Sheryl Gilman, rarely obliterates school from her mind. The month of August already has her in deep planning mode. She teaches in a unique project-based child centered preschool program modeled after the Reggio Emilia approach to learning in Italy. Many young students, when spotting Miss Sheryl on the streets of Westmount enthusiastically greet her, as her expertise is renowned in preparing children for elementary school. But her popularity revolves around her dedicated behind-the-scenes planning which commences during July.

"A lot of organizing goes into a smooth school transition especially for the little ones," she says. "The first two weeks are crucial so I over-prepare. The classroom needs setting up to make it inviting as getting back into the school routine is really hard for kids after the summer."

She also reads constantly, searching for new ideas. With an ever-changing program, especially with the new

reform, she admits that she cannot sit back and try to do it all in the fall when the kids are there. "There just isn't time," she says. "The teacher, as a facilitator, in this child-centered environment, must be more prepared than ever."

With all her knowledge, Sheryl is nervous and anxious every new year. "Many kids don't realize that fact," she admits. "I worry about the kids integrating into one community and at the same time meet all their needs. Today, with more issues such as divorce, allergies, blended families, there are so many details to contend with besides teaching." Teaching is so multi-faceted that you must be ready to incorporate life skills along with an academic program.

Westmount High School teacher Brenda Bourdeau utilizes the summer months to prepare and read. "My teaching focus is secondary English, so I must be familiar with the materials. I don't like teaching the same things twice. If I'm excited about what I'm doing, my students will feel it and want to learn. I try to ignite that feeling."

Brenda says that the first week  
*(Continued on page 12)*



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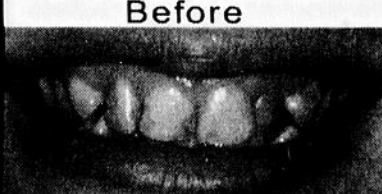
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## A dangerous defection

To borrow an expression from Monty Python, there must have been a great deal of car-door slamming in the streets of Ville d'Anjou last week, when it was announced that Luis Miranda — the former mayor and hitherto borough president of that sleepy east-end neighbourhood — had quit Mayor Tremblay's party over the touchy issue of decentralization.

He was leaving the Montreal Island Citizens' Union, he said, because he could not bring himself to support the mayor's current plan to decentralize many of the megacity's functions to the boroughs.

As a former mayor, Mr. Miranda knows that economical power is the cornerstone of any municipality. Without it, there is no real independence, so any other powers bestowed by the Centre City are largely meaningless. With that, he left the party to sit as an independent councillor, and threw himself wholeheartedly behind the demerger movement. He is now in the same boat as Westmount's Karin Marks, who has been sitting as an independent, demerger advocate since the beginning of the megacity.

While it might appear that another influential voice has crossed over to the demerger side, likely to bring with him hundreds — if not thousands — of demerger votes in next year's proposed referendum, Westmounters might not be cheering too loud.

With the loss of this MICU councillor, the balance of power at City Hall is shifting dangerously closer to Pierre Bourque's Vision Montreal party, which has shown no signs of backing away from its long-held commitment to maintaining the megacity.

It must be remembered that Pierre Bourque has every reason to hate Westmount. It was thanks in great part to the work put in by so many Westmounters and their mayor that he lost his bid to rule an island-wide megacity. And if he were to find his way back into power thanks to more councillors leaving Tremblay's party, there's no telling what he might do.

With his current program of decentralization on the table, Mr. Tremblay is at least moving in the right direction. It may not be to the complete satisfaction of hardline demergerists, but it is far superior to the harsh, confused conditions that have long been promoted by Mr. Tremblay's counterpart.

Pierre Bourque may be a gentleman and a scholar, as they say, and as a professional politician he would be expected to declare that he bears no grudge against the people of Westmount for any nastiness that may have occurred here during his 'One island, one city' campaign. But if the demerger effort fails, and Mr. Bourque makes a triumphant return to the mayor's seat at City Hall, the economic consequences for his least favourite borough could be significant. On the other hand, even if Westmount does secede from the megacity, Mayor Bourque would still be in an excellent position to avenge himself by imposing harsh user fees taxes for all City services. Either way, Westmount stands to lose.

The only way to avert such a political fiasco is to ensure that Mr. Bourque remains firmly on the Opposition side of the council chamber. And with the next municipal election still at least two years away, the only way of keeping him there is to keep any more MICU councillors from jumping ship.

Mr. Miranda's defection from the Tremblay fold may have been carried out with the very best of intentions. It was a noble, positive step for Montreal's future — but any more like it could prove disastrous to the very cause it seeks to promote.

Commentary

Wayne Larsen

e-mail: [larsenw@transcontinental.ca](mailto:larsenw@transcontinental.ca)



## Letters to the editor

### Tennis courts need better supervision

To the editor:

I thoroughly agree with the letter from Stephen Takacsy (August 21) concerning rage on the tennis courts of Westmount. He is right to single out Murray Hill as particularly unpleasant. My friends and I never go there after 5 p.m., when the "masters of the universe" arrive to display the same brash rudeness they revel in during the business day. They scream, they curse, they arrive on your court ten minutes before the time limit and dare you to continue playing. I am told that their high anxiety is likely due to heavy bets riding on erratic serves and iffy backhands. At the pass board, it is war: insufficient passes, outdated passes, passes with the wrong photo, passes with no photo at all. The attendants, teenagers whose only training is a rule book they are supposed to read, quite naturally cower.

While the attendants hide in the shrubbery, I have encountered women at Murray Hill playing in high heels, family groups including baby carriage and dog, and one foursome that included an infant about 11 months old who toddled along the base line as balls flew. If that kid survives to adulthood, it will have terrific reflexes.

But for real brutishness, you have to go to Upper Westmount, to a place we call The Park of the Spanish Nannies, where there is one court and no attendant at all. There, people believe they don't need no stinkin' pass. When they want

to play, they come on court and yell until you leave. One European gentleman explained that he did not need to post his pass because "my presence is sufficient." Of course, when he finally produced a pass, the photo was a woman, but this may have been a cultural issue. One fellow of considerable notoriety has evinced grown men from the court with his world-class whine. He says he doesn't need to show a pass because he lives just down the street.

I think that some people didn't bother to stand in line for an hour and a half to purchase a pass, as my friends and I did, because they believe they have a universal entitlement to anything they want. Hence the connection between passlessness and boorish behavior.

The one place when manners and tranquility reign is on the clay courts behind the library, ruled in the evening with a firm but diplomatic hand by Dave, an attendant so talented we call him the Overlord. He checks for proper footwear, give doubles priority during peak hours and watches the card rotation like a hawk. It also helps that he is six feet tall, broad-shouldered and plays rugby. They should clone Dave, make him twice as big, and send him up to Murray Hill.

Margaret Lemay  
Windsor Avenue

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# The world is playing political pretend

**Uncensored**

Tommy Schnurmacher



**L**et's play 'let's pretend'. A very simple game, it's politically correct and the rules are easy. Just examine current events, deny the obvious and turn your back on the facts.

We can start by pretending that George W. Bush's dead-on accurate assessment of Iraq, Iran and North Korea as an 'axis of evil' was misguided even though this week's news stories prove him right.

In Iraq, we have already conveniently forgotten the mass graves of thousands of murder victims tortured to death by Saddam Hussein.

We can now play 'let's pretend' with

the bombing of the unguarded United Nations compound in Baghdad. Ignore the basic fact that terrorists responsible, whether they were Saddam loyalists, members of Al-Qaida, or some loathsome combination thereof, slaughtered innocent people who were there to help them.

If that's not evil, what is?

Let's move on to Iran which remains one of the world's leading sponsors and exporters of international terror. One of its citizens, Hadi Soleimanpour, has been in England for the past year and a half on a student visa. Quietly working as a modest research assistant at Durham University, Hadi has apparently changed vocations. Less than a decade ago, he worked as a top diplomat serving as Iran's ambassador to Argentina.

Hadi was arrested last week at the request of the Argentinean government for his involvement in the deadliest anti-Semitic incident since World

War II. Argentinean authorities allege that he and other Iranian officials were involved in planning and commissioning a 1994 bombing at a Jewish community centre in Buenos Aires. He is accused of providing information about the location and timing of the attack which killed 85 people and injured more than 200.

At the time, Iran was mighty miffed that Argentina had bowed to pressure from the United States and refused to sell the nuke-hungry ayatollahs in Teheran the material they needed to generate nuclear power. For 'electricity', undoubtedly.

Speaking of nuclear-power plants, North Korea as well as South Korea, the United States, China, Russia and Japan are all supposed to get together this week to ease nuclear tension.

We can pretend they will come to an agreement and that North Korea will abide by its word. That's what we did in 1994 when Bill Clinton offered the

Communist slave state an endless supply of fuel oil and billions of dollars to build nuclear power plants provided they didn't make any nuclear weapons.

North Korea immediately tossed the deal in the trash. It was so eager to build nuclear bombs that it had no compunctions starving its own people in order to do so.

Terrorism is closer to home than we would like to imagine, but we can pretend otherwise. We can always make believe we don't have to worry about the 19 students and other immigrants from Pakistan detained two weeks ago in Toronto.

Some of these men were interested in explosives. Two of them were strolling around the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station outside Toronto at 4:15 a.m.

Apparently they were in contact with folks who had access to nuclear gauges that contain small amounts of materials that can be used for making crude nuclear explosives.

Some people collect stamps. Others are fascinated with explosives and flight paths over Pickering.

Let's not worry; let's pretend.

Let's pretend it's a coincidence.

• Tommy Schnurmacher is heard weekdays 9 a.m. to noon on C/JAD 800 Radio. His e-mail address is [tommys@total.net](mailto:tommys@total.net).

**Old News**

(from the examiner archives)



**One Year Ago**  
August 29, 2002

**M.U.H.C. PLANS:** "The head of the Côte des Neiges-Notre Dame de Grâce borough council says he wants the McGill University Health Centre to consider relocating vehicle entrances at the megahospital's Glen Yards site, given that none are in Westmount based on the current plan. CDN-NDG borough council chairman Michael Applebaum told The Examiner that after Westmount's involvement in discussions with the MUHC over a period of years, all of the projected megahospital's vehicle entrances were located on St. Jacques Street and Decarie Boulevard in NDG. Applebaum said he may ask the MUHC to go back to the drawing board, so that some of the traffic that would be directed through NDG be redirected elsewhere. 'I think that what we have to find here is the proper equilibrium between the boroughs in order to make sure that there isn't one borough that is receiving the whole impact of traffic,' said Applebaum. 'If you look at Claremont, at first they were going to have an entrance for vehicles onto the site from Westmount. Westmount has negotiated with them for so many years, where now Westmount doesn't have any access onto the site except by foot.'"

**Twenty-Five Years Ago**  
August 31, 1978

**DIGEST PRESIDENT RESIGNS:** "E. Paul Zimmerman, president of Reader's Digest Association (Canada) Ltd. for the past 18 years, resigned suddenly last Thursday, citing 'pressing family matters' as the reason. Mr. Zimmerman, who brought Reader's Digest to Westmount in 1960 and oversaw the building of its empire here (it now owns two buildings and rents space in two more), turned down a request for an interview at this time. Staff at Reader's Digest said the resignation was not entirely unexpected,

but admitted it was quite sudden."

**Thirty Years Ago**  
August 30, 1973

**MOUNTIES MOVE:** "The move of the Montreal divisional headquarters of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police from Wood avenue and St Catherine street to its new building on Dorchester boulevard and Greene avenue is expected to take place about the end of the year or early in 1974, it was learned in Ottawa yesterday. The contractors have proceeded apace with the exterior appearance of the building, including landscaping, conveying the impression it is nearly ready for occupancy. However, it is understood that interior finishing is yet to be completed, along with the installation of communications and other crime-fighting gear as well as furnishings."

**Thirty-Five Years Ago**  
August 29, 1968

**BACK TO SCHOOL:** "Both Roman Catholic and Protestant schools in Westmount, as in the whole of Greater Montreal, will reopen Tuesday. Many Roman Catholic students, however, won't be attending school in Westmount. As a result of reorganization following the merger of the St. Leon de Westmount with the Montreal Catholic School Commission, all English-speaking Roman Catholic seniors, and some French-speaking seniors, will travel outside the city to school."

**Forty-Five Years Ago**  
August 29, 1958

**NEW POST OFFICE:** "The recently completed postal station at the corner of Prince Albert and Sherbrooke will soon be in full operation. Though the supplementary station on Sherbrooke between Victoria and Grosvenor will then be closed, the new building will serve residents of the area more efficiently as the second central post office in Westmount."

**Fifty Years Ago**  
August 28, 1953

**WESTMOUNT RESERVOIR:** "The City of Montreal has called tenders for the construction of a 3,000,000 gallon water reservoir in Westmount, to serve the local area and bolster the reserve water supply of its system

generally. It is highly possible start of the work will be held over until the spring of '54. The reservoir will be constructed in Summit Park, immediately behind the Westmount Lookout, and will be to the east and north of a 40,000 gallon reserve tank that is now located in that general area. The reservoir will be completely underground, will cost about \$650,000 to complete and will probably be about a year and a half in the building. Pumps at the McTavish pumping station will be adequate for getting the water to the reservoir, Montreal city officials state."

**Fifty-Five Years Ago**  
August 27, 1948

**EARWIG MENACE:** "Westmount, aided by eighteen Japanese beetle traps loaned to them by the department of Agriculture, is trying to find the epicentre of the Forficula Auricularia, better known as the Earwig. This ferocious bug is described as one of the lower order of insects by the department, who also says that it eats flowers and foliage. 'The chief objection to this insect lies in its habit of invading houses. Because it lives in drains, and then crawls over food and hides in bedding, it is also a menace to health,' the agriculture department says."

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## German tour enriches WYO musicians

Darlene Cousins

**W**hile many young people their age have been idling away the long hot days of summer, members of the Westmount Youth Orchestra seized the opportunity of time away from school to promote Canadian culture abroad.

The WYO recently embarked on a successful musical and cultural



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exchange with the Jungend-Symphonie-Orchester Braunschweig (JSOB) in Germany. Forty-four of the 60 musicians from the WYO left Montreal on June 28 for Hannover, Germany and headed to the nearby city of Braunschweig. Accompanied by WYO artistic director Mark Simons and four parent chaperones, the musicians were billeted by German families and stayed at youth hostels during their two-week stay. The trip provided the musicians the chance to rehearse and perform with the Braunschweig Youth Orchestra as well as an opportunity to lay the groundwork for friendship between the two cultures.

Simons was more than impressed with the trip which has been planned since late 2001. "It was fantastic, just amazing," said Simons, who has been the artistic director of the WYO for more than six years. "It was great to keep up the relationship [between the two orchestras] over the year."

The WYO had worked hard at fundraising in order to lower the cost of the trip for the young musicians and the 'Allemagne 2003' trip committee—Agnes Menzel, Veronica Pemberton, Birgit Baasch and Sandra Hunt—sacrificed many hours in order

to prepare and design the trip's itinerary.

The only disappointment was the cancellation of the Braunschweig Youth Orchestra trip to Canada as part of the exchange. "They cancelled early on due to the threat of SARS," said Simons. The orchestra was scheduled to arrive in Montreal August 5 and perform a concert with the WYO at Victoria Hall on August 17 before returning to Germany the following day.

But this did not deter the WYO from enjoying their tour of Germany, which included touring many historical sites, castles and an entertainment park. The WYO visited Berlin as well as the medieval town of Goslar where Simons took the musicians on a tour of the town's 1,000-year-old mines. Simons said the musicians were fascinated by the excursion that took them inside the mines for a look at the water wheels and various methods of mining used in the mines, which only closed in 1995.

A highlight of the trip was a visit to the town of Leipzig where Johann Sebastian Bach lived and worked from 1723 until his death in 1750. Home to the historic St. Thomas Church (Thomaskirche) where the WYO was

privileged to hear a Baroque organ recital.

"The musicians were all extremely well behaved," said Simons. This is not surprising, given the level of professionalism of these young musicians who, over the last few months, have performed at Victoria Hall, Pollack Hall, Lanaudière and in Germany.

Simons and the WYO are looking forward to their upcoming season and encourage young local musicians to come to Victoria Hall on Saturdays between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. to hear the WYO rehearse. Auditions will be held on Sept. 6 and 7, and younger musicians are welcome to join the Westmount String Ensemble without an audition. For more information on auditions, contact Francine Homzy at 489-0418.

## Poetry event rescheduled for tonight

Due to bad weather, the Poetry in the Park event scheduled to take place this past Tuesday evening in Westmount Park was cancelled.

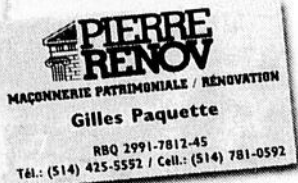
According to organizer John Fretz, it has been rescheduled for tonight, Aug. 28, at 7 p.m. in the same location—by the lagoon. Featured performers include Fretz, Anne Cimon, Ian Ferrier, Ila Grayland, Victor Yelverton Haines and student winners of the McEntyre Essay Competition. The event will be hosted by George Bowser.

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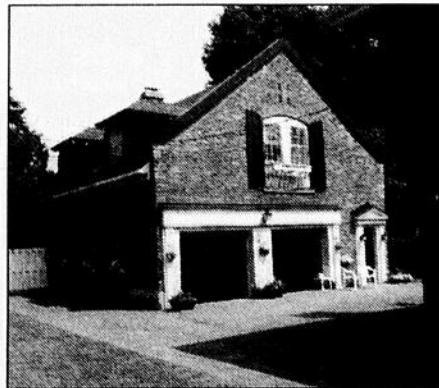
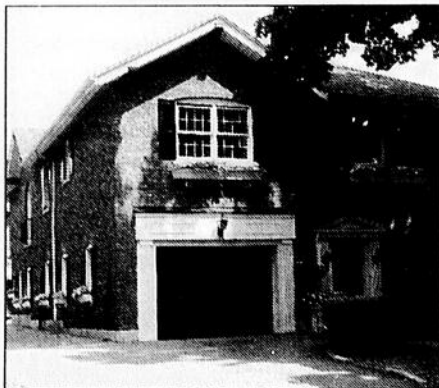
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# Hapless hero highlights new Johnson novel

Stéphanie Verge

**N**obody ever said that embarking on a campaign of self-discovery in a foreign country would be easy. Yet one is constantly amazed by the protagonist's talent for haplessly muddling through his life in Robert Johnson's new novel, 'Tables for One'.

It is unusual to read a book where the main character is almost completely disconnected from himself, but somehow remains oddly winsome throughout it all. Breezy and entertaining, this is nevertheless the kind of novel that charms you with its woeful ways, rather than in spite of them.

Written in the form of journal entries, the voyage begins in the autumn of 1985 as Roberto, our luckless Canadian hero with an adopted Spanish name, is on a plane headed for Catalonia. Upon his arrival, Roberto settles in the city of Sitges, 25 miles south of Barcelona, to finish writing his novel about a circus. After spending ten years of his life attempting to complete his opus, justifying his transcontinental getaways and lack of tangible results to family and friends is proving increasingly difficult.

Johnson, 52, is quick to own up to the autobiographical nature of his work. Like his protagonist, he is a native Montrealer who has lived much of his life abroad, working in California, London and Spain. There are striking similarities between the author's life story and that of Roberto's, despite a certain artistic licence. The journal format seems a natural choice under these circumstances, though Johnson admits to having been leery of it in the past. "I felt that writing journal stuff was the equivalent of writing in the third division. I've done a lot of other things and yet it's what I keep doing and keep enjoying, so I figured that I had better just own up to it," he confessed.

This is not the story however, as one might be led to believe, of one man's attempt to write a novel. It is, in fact, the story of how not to write a novel. These are the musings of a solitary man caught in the clutches of an utterly paralyzing case of writer's block. Plagued by a queasy stomach and a pervasive sense of rootlessness, most of our hero's time is spent unsuccessfully trying to make sense of Spanish social conventions.

"In Canada, things are different. In Canada, one is happily more distant," Johnson explains. "You can sort of just look around and intellectualize everything. In Spain, things are intense and in your face all the time. It's not a bad backdrop for a novel," he admits.

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Roberto's quixotic pursuits get him into all kinds of trouble, with disconcertingly hilarious results. (The absurd recounting of an unfortunate incident involving the tinfoil lid of a yogurt container alone is worth the read.) He flees any woman who demonstrates an interest in romance, all the while searching for his elusive true love. He is unable to forge any solid friendships, but is forever mourning his singular state. A true hypochondriac, Roberto's body rebels violently at the slightest upheaval, while his mind fixates on such topics as "the fear of being buried alive in error." His speculations on his virtual non-existence in the world are punctuated by thoughts of his novel in arrested-development. Populated by colourful characters like midgets, lion-tamers and a tattooed lady, the spectre of his life's work follows him around Spain like an albatross around his neck. Unable to buckle down, Roberto hides in cafés, strolls down familiar streets, and wanders through cities he has already visited in an attempt to escape his own ineptitude.

'Tables for One' isn't your classic novel. There is no standard story arc, no traditionally contemplative narrative. This is a collection of whimsical insights into the peculiar psyche of a man on a peculiar journey... it is best to just sit back and enjoy the ride, Spanish style.

'Tables for One' by Robert Johnson is published by Price-Patterson Ltd. and is currently available at the Double Hook Book Shop and Nicholas Hoare on Greene Avenue. It will also be on sale shortly at Indigo and Paragraphe bookstores.

## Tables for One

A Spanish Journal



Robert Johnson

### Canadian Department of Auction

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Borough President

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# SCHOOL DAYS *are here again!*

## It's back to school for teachers, too

(Continued from page 5)

before the kids arrive is spent in meetings and setting up the classroom, but she is truly looking forward to another challenging year with great expectations. "I'm not really nervous about beginning," she says. "It's more excited anticipation." Brenda is a teacher who has gone that extra distance stimulating her students to reach beyond

the school borders to broader experiences.

There are teachers who truly pour their hearts into what they do and nothing is too much for their pupils. Roslyn School teacher Arlene Rill has been checking out the Internet for some new possibilities to add to her program. She begins early so that she is equipped with something different.

"I love the summer routine as I'm exhausted by June," she says. "During July and August, I recharge myself physically to regain my strength. So much energy is necessary and I really get involved with my students."

Due to the set-up of the new educational reform, Arlene will be welcoming back many of the same students from last year, which will ease the transition. But her teaching methods involve her complete immersion as she teaches with her heart and instills in her kids the belief that they can and should be the best they can be. Communication with the parents is also ongoing for Arlene, and not only scheduled at specified times. "I love working with kids and by the end of the year, we're like family."

For too many, the classroom is the

safest haven a child may have. It becomes a home away from home and the teacher becomes that second parent or special confidante. As with other professionals, there are individuals who are more dedicated than others but overall, the majority of teachers that I have taught with and met at workshops and through research, take their responsibility seriously. They would go that extra mile for a child.

So to all those teachers who watched the summer calendar flip time away so rapidly, it seems as if your work is just continuing. As you commence your schedule and decorate for your new group of children, remember that your input is what truly makes a difference in a child's life. And now, maybe more people may realize that a teacher's job is never done.

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Wednesday, St. Malachy's Church, 5330A Clanranald, Côte St. Luc

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For more information call Bonnie at **683-3800**



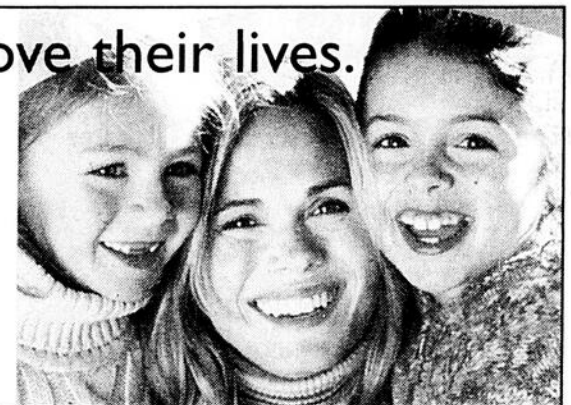
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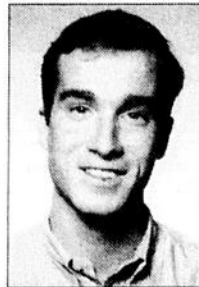
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# SCHOOL DAYS *are here again!*

## New head of school at The Study

Claire Parois

**T**he Study gets an invigorating academic year start with the appointment of Elizabeth Falco as the new Head of School.

"I look forward to working with The Study's dynamic team of educators to nurture students' self-confidence, leadership skills and awareness of themselves and their potential role in today's world," said Falco, who officially started on July 1.

The announcement of the replacement of Mary Liistro Hebert, who has retired after six years in the position, was made by Peter J. Malouf, chair of The Study's Board of Governors, last week.

Today is big day for The Study, as students will assemble for half a day of introduction, Friday being the first regular school day. "I'm excited that they will finally arrive," Falco said. "I had July to orientate myself, but it doesn't really feel like a school until the students are here."

The highlights of Elizabeth Falco's professional resume include over nine years of teaching Physical and Health Education and French, as well as a position of administrator at both




Elizabeth Falco

Trinity College School in Port Hope, Ont, and St Michaels University School in Victoria, BC.

Originally from Southern Ontario, Falco moved for the first time to Montreal last June. "I really like its European, multicultural flavour," she said enthusiastically. "There are a lot of things to do here and great outdoors right outside the city as well. It is a good balance for me."

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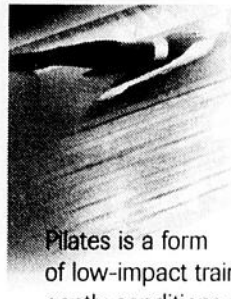
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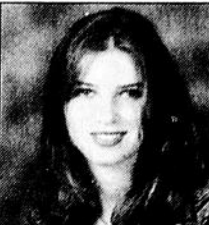
**Intermediate/Advanced Classes:**  
Tuesday, Thursday  
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**Advanced Pilates on the Ball:**  
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# SCHOOL DAYS *are here again!*

## When parents get involved, children succeed!



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40355178

Parents often complain that they don't get to play an important role in their children's education. And yet, most schools enthusiastically welcome any parent who wants to get involved—whether it is in the education of students or in the decision-making process.

Depending on the school's particular needs, parents can get involved during the day through special projects in the classroom, in the library, during lunch hour or during field trips. These activities don't require a lot of time and generally only take place on occasion. Some parents are happy to participate in just one event each year, while others who may have more free time might decide to become more involved.

Whether you have one hour a year to give, or one hour each day, parental involvement is not just encouraged, it's extremely important! Parents who get involved also show their children just how interested they are in their children's learning experience and life outside of the home.

If your schedule prevents you from being involved in school activities, there are also parent committees that you can participate in. Generally, these committees meet in the evenings. During this time, parents, teachers and school officials discuss various projects such as fundraising activities or the annual schoolyard cleanup. Financial, administrative and pedagogical decisions may also be made during these meetings.

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Eye fatigue can result in redness in the eyes, stinging and tearing. It can also cause headaches. To minimize eye fatigue, adjust the intensity of the screen's brightness to that of the lighting in the room. The picture scanning frequency should be set between 75 and 90 hertz. When working with text documents, make sure your children use a font size larger than 7 points. Also encourage them to rest their eyes from time to

time. For example, they can rub both hands together and then place their palms gently over their closed eyes, holding them there for a few seconds. The warmth and darkness provided by the hands helps the eye muscles to relax. Alternatively, they can blink their eyes and gaze at a distant object. To prevent muscle stiffness, encourage your kids to take regular breaks and do a bit of stretching to relax their back muscles. Teaching your children how to sit properly in front of the computer will also help prevent back pain associated with poor posture. The general rules of thumb are:

- The back should be kept straight against the seatback.
- The forearms and hands should be kept parallel to the hips.
- The computer mouse should be placed near the keyboard.



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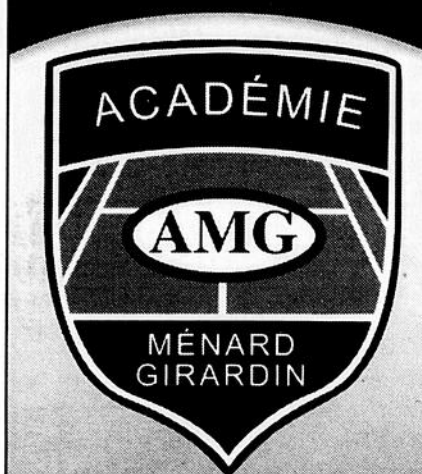
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### OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2003 9:00-Noon

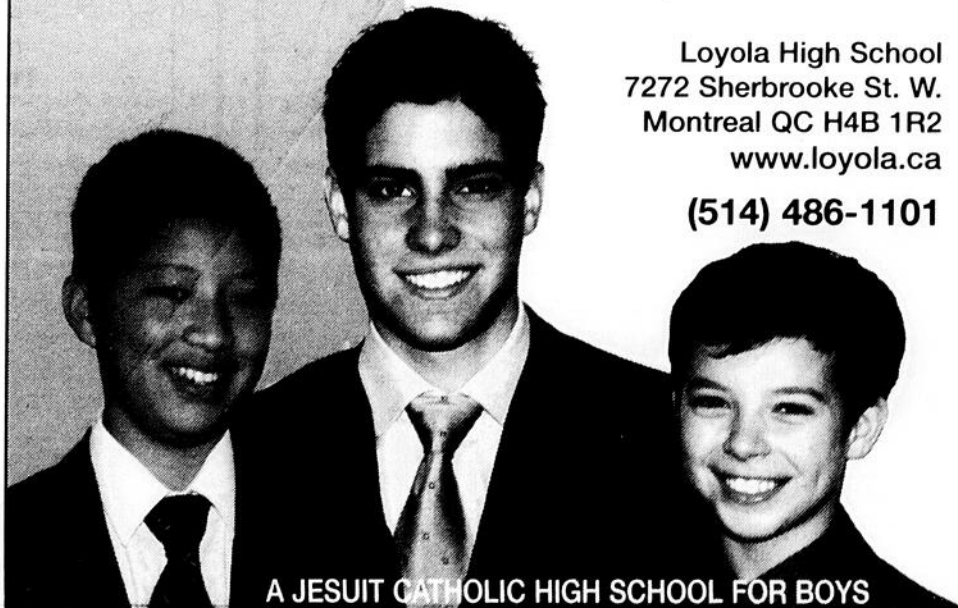
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# SCHOOL DAYS *are here again!*

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It's a well-known fact that succeeding at school requires an ability to concentrate. But some kids have more difficulty than others when it comes to developing this important life skill. Studies have shown, however, that most sources of distraction tend to come from within the

person rather than from external sources. That would explain then why some children struggle to read an entire page of notes, but never have any difficulty concentrating on their Nintendo game—no matter how many people are talking all around them.

Where can internal distractions come from? Worrying about personal problems, fatigue and nervousness are just a few things that can affect a child's ability to concentrate. So can overeating—or even not eating enough!

What can you do as a parent to help improve your child's ability to concentrate? First, make sure he or she gets a good night's sleep and eats a healthy, balanced diet. Be close to your kids and talk to them about what's going on in their lives. That way they'll be more likely to open up about any problems they may be going through. Also, make sure your kids get enough social interaction with others their age. Playing sports can also help kids improve their concentration skills. In fact, martial arts have shown to do wonders for many kids with concentration problems.

There are also a number of techniques that you can teach your kids which can help reduce stress and improve their concentration levels. For example, encourage your kids to study at an appropriate time of the

day when they'll have sufficient energy to concentrate on what they're doing. Also, give them a quiet place that's reserved for their school work. Reading aloud can help immensely when it comes to memorizing facts, so put their school work area somewhere in the house where your kids won't be too self-conscious to do this. If your kids work on a computer, make sure they take regular breaks to stretch, get up, get a drink of water or look out the window to rest their eyes. As an extra tip for boosting concentration: If your kids are preoccupied with something in particular, have them write it down on a piece of paper. The simple act of doing this can help clear the mind so that it can focus on other things—like studying for tomorrow's history exam!

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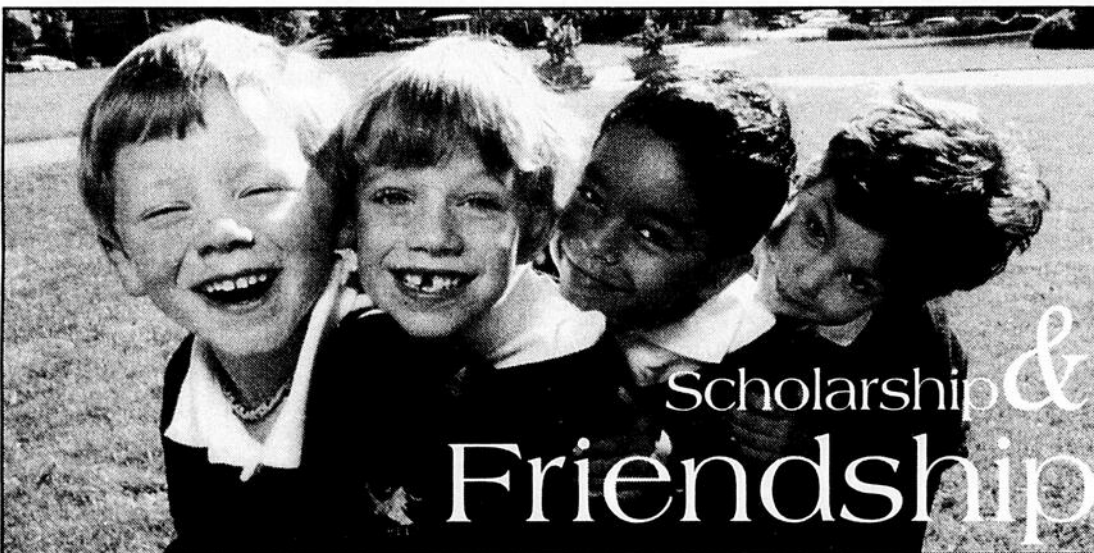
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# SCHOOL DAYS *are here again!*

It's time to stock up on school supplies



Back to school means back to the store to stock up on school supplies.

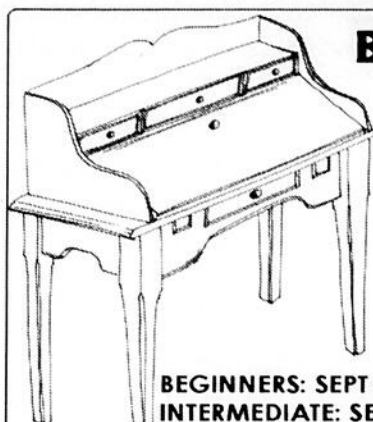
**B**ack to school season is upon us and that means it's time to hit the stores for school supplies. Many parents complain about the cost of binders, markers and calculators, but stocking up on school supplies doesn't always have to put you in the poorhouse. The amount you end up forking out will usually depend on the age of your kids and how "cool" they want their school supplies to be.

Obviously, elementary school students require fewer and less expensive items, whereas high school students generally require more costly items like mathematical calculators, which can sometimes cost a small fortune. Fortunately, schools still cover the costs of textbooks!

Most students will need the obvious items like notebooks, colour markers, loose-leaf paper, binders, etc. You may also need to budget in items like arts supplies, an ID card, lock, recorder and school agenda. Some schools also charge additional fees for lunch supervision and require a security deposit on textbooks that are lent out to students at the beginning of the school year. And don't forget about a new lunchbox, book bag, clothes and shoes. After all, each year brings a new set of styles and fashionable pop stars.

Before your kids start picking out the items they absolutely must have, check if the teacher has suggested a particular brand. Either way, insist on function rather than fashion. A trendy eraser that's made of poor quality could end up leaving pages covered in black smears and those cheap pencil crayons could break every time the tip hits the paper. On the other hand, there's no need to spend extra money on loose-leaf paper. A good rule of thumb is to look for quality items that are on sale.

There is certainly no lack of stores that offer school supplies these days—from department stores and pharmacies, to bookstores and stationery stores. Even office supplies stores and specialty boutiques offer a wide range of items to choose from, so finding sales shouldn't be too difficult. However, that popular boy-band book bag your teenage daughter insists on having might not go on sale for a while!



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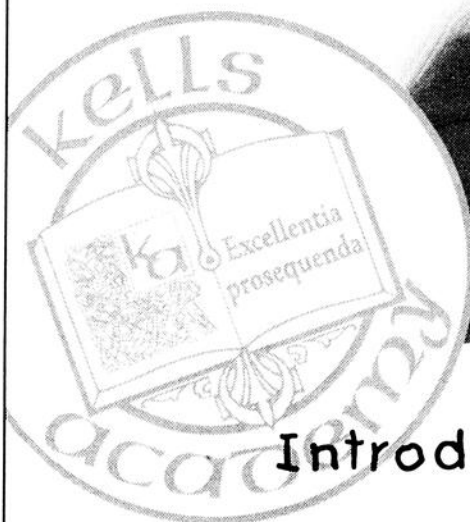
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# Bulletin Board

Deadline for submissions is Monday at noon preceding the next publication. No exceptions. Submissions may be edited or omitted for space.

## Thursday, Aug. 28

Rosh Chodesh Women's Group at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, 395 Elm Ave., welcomes the month of Elul with Rabbi Elina Bykova, who will discuss 'Unlocking the Principles of Reform Judaism: Where We're Going and How We Differ' at 7:30 p.m. Info: 484-7826.

## Tuesday, Sept. 2

Girl Guides of Canada registration takes place from 7 to 8 p.m. at St. Matthias' Church, Côte St. Antoine entrance, for Sparks, Brownies, Guides and Pathfinders. Also looking for women 18 and older to serve as volunteer leaders. Training is provided. Info: Joan Dickson at 487-2947.

## Wednesday, Sept. 3

The Atwater Library presents Alan Cumyn, who will read from his new book 'The Sojourn' at 7 p.m. 1200 Atwater Ave. Free admission. All welcome. Wine and cheese at 6:30 p.m. Info: 935-7344.

## Sunday, Sept. 7

The Leisure Institute of Congregation Shaar Hashomayim presents author and lecturer Joe King, who will discuss and autograph his latest book, 'The Case for Israel: Background to Conflict in the MidEast' at a 12:30 p.m. luncheon. 450 Kensington Ave. Info: 937-9471.

Congregation Shaar Hashomayim presents an Open House and BBQ for its Youth and Education Department to kick off its Youth Programming activities, from 5 to 7 p.m. at 425 Metcalfe Ave. RSVP at 937-9471 ext. 109.

## Monday, Sept. 8

Marriage Information Meeting at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, 395 Elm Ave., at 5:30 p.m. Couples considering intermarriage or conversion by one partner before marriage are invited to learn of Temple's policies and practices. Rabbi Leigh Lerner and Temple administrator

Ron Boro will explain. Info: 937-3575.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Information Night at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, 395 Elm Ave., at 7:30 p.m. Everything you need to know about education, facilities, calendar dates and more. Meet Rabbi Leigh Lerner and Torah School staff. Info: 937-3575.

Hebrew Literacy Crash Course for Beginners begins at Congregation Shaar Hashomayim, 425 Metcalfe Ave. from 7 to 8 p.m. Course for intermediates also begins tonight.

The Westmount Quilters Guild holds its regular meeting at 7:15 p.m. at Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke W. Program includes show and tell, group projects, quilting technique demonstration, fabric exchanges and more. Our guild meets on the second and fourth Monday evenings of each month throughout the year, except July and August. Annual membership dues are \$5. Info: 989-7939.

## Wednesday, Sept. 10

The Atwater Library's Book Discussion Group, led by Mary Soderstrom, will discuss and review 'The Hours' by Michael Cunningham and 'Mrs. Dalloway' by Virginia Woolf at 7:30 p.m. Free for members, \$3 for others. 1200 Atwater Ave. Info: 935-7344.

## Ongoing

The Westmount Youth Orchestra is holding its 2003-4 auditions, Sept. 5 and 6. Rehearsals are held on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Victoria Hall. Exciting new season includes intensive weekend workshops. Repertoire includes works by Bruckner, Dvorak and Shostakovich. Info: 489-0418.

Sue Rusk's fitness classes are back again this fall with Norma Sherman at the piano. Classes begin Monday, Sept. 15. Enjoy a low impact, energetic workout to keep fit and trim without strain.

Classes are Monday, Wednesday and Fridays from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. at St. Andrew's-Dominion-Douglas Church on The Boulevard between Lansdowne and Roslyn Ave. Info: 934-5083.

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PUBLIC WORKS  
DEPARTMENT

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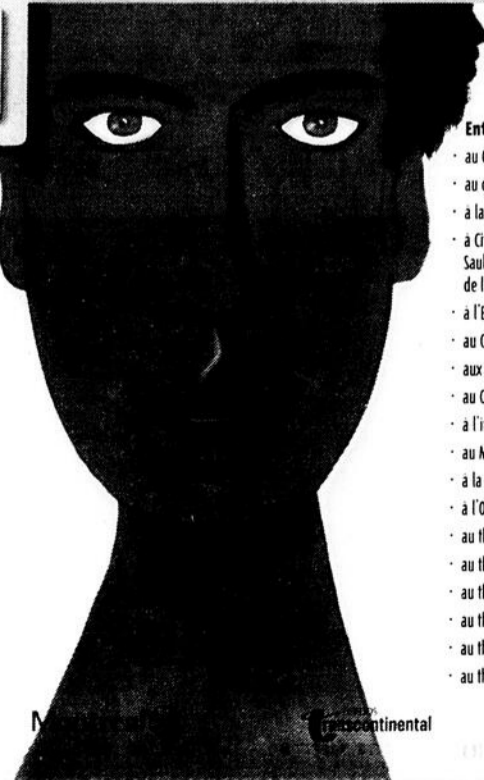
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- aux Grands Explorateurs
- au Groupe de la Veille/Théâtre Prospero
- à l'Infinithéâtre
- au MAI (Montréal, arts interculturels)
- à la Maison théâtre
- à l'ONF Montréal - CineRobo-thèque
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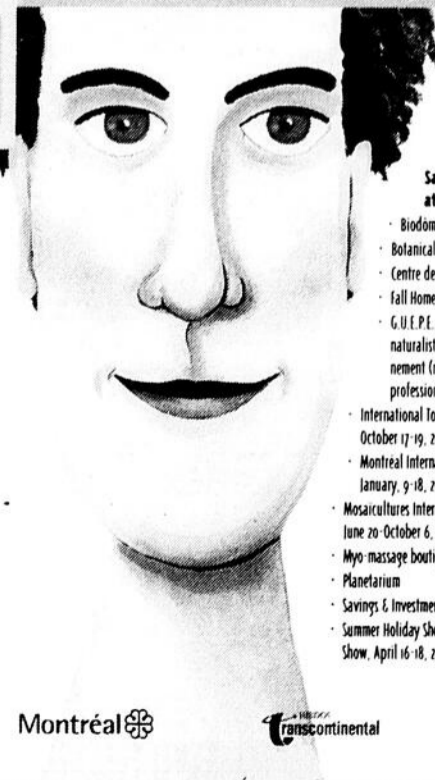
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- Botanical Garden and Insectarium
- Centre des sciences de Montréal
- Fall Home Show, October 1-5, 2003
- G.U.E.P., Groupe uni des éducateurs naturalistes et professionnels en environnement (naturalist educators and environment professionals group)
- International Tourism and Travel Show, October 17-19, 2003
- Montreal International Auto Show, January, 9-18, 2004
- Mosaicultures Internationales 2003, June 20-October 6, 2003
- Myo-massage boutique and the Institut Kiné-Concept inc.
- Planetarium
- Savings & Investment Marketplace, February 6-8, 2004
- Summer Holiday Show and Flower, Plant and Garden Show, April 16-18, 2004

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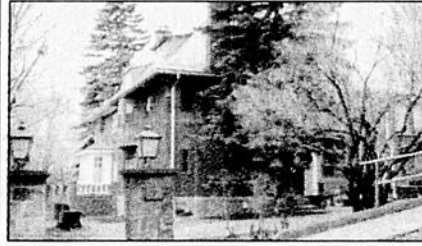



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