BIBLIOTHEQUE
ASSEMBLEE

Tax rate lower than last year's:

Local expenses cut in new city budget

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

WESTMOUNT'S 1989 municipal budget reduces local spending for the first time in many years and curbs the whopping tax hikes of the past.

The $40.8 million budget, tabled Monday night, eliminates the 1988 heritage payments program and lowers the general tax rate to $1.40 per $100 of property valuation, a 30-cent cut over last year.

It holds the line on last year's budget by reducing local spending 2.7 percent to offset increases in payments to the MUC and rising costs of water from Montreal.

Mayor May Cutler hailed the new budget as turning the tide on escalating municipal spending and called the minimal cuts "a change in direction."

City council was immediately congratulated for making "a start" on cutting costs by both the Westmount Municipal Association and the Westmount Finance Action Committee (see separate story).

This year's budget projects a 17.1 percent increase in revenues from sources other than property taxes, said Councillor Phillip Aspinall in reading the budget address. This will require the city to raise $28.9 million in real estate tax and lower the mill rate.

What effect the lower mill rate may have on taxpayers depends on the amount of individual property valuation increases over 1988, the finance commissioner explained.

"The lower the valuation increase, the greater the benefit."

For more budget coverage, see pages six to eight.

No heritage payments

Many homeowners, though they may receive lower tax bills this year, will end up paying out more money to the city because of the elimination of the heritage program payments.

The increase in total payout on this year's average single-family dwelling valuation of $380,939, for

Continued on page six

THE WESTMOUNT
Examiner
Making all of Westmount your home

Vol. LXI, No. 4 | Westmount, Quebec, Thursday, January 26, 1989 | 50¢



FOR THE BIRDS: The Rotary Club had three special guests to lunch last week. **Derin Henderson** of the Macdonald Raptor Research centre brought with her **Nina**, a peregrine falcon, and a saw-whet owl, Hercules (see story page 22).

Rotary to buy back Unity Club building

By CHARLES MAPPIN

The Greene avenue Unity Club building is on the verge of becoming a community centre, thanks to the combined efforts of the Rotary Club of Westmount and local residents.

A tentative agreement has been reached whereby the Rotary Club will purchase the building at 1090 Greene from the Unity Boys' and Girls' Club for $1 and considerations.

Rotary will maintain ownership of the building — which it erected in 1949 on land donated by the city and gave to Unity — while turning over day-to-day management to a new board that will run the facility as a community centre, Rotary president James Griffin said Tuesday.

The board, to be formed in the coming weeks, will be made up predominantly of local residents with some representatives of Rotary.

The new entity will lease space to various community organizations, including one or two full-time core groups and several part-time ones.

"The purpose of Rotary buying the building is to provide residents with a community centre. Rotary will own the building and oversee its management, but it will be run by a community group," Mr Griffin said.

All building operating expenses will be passed on to the users. Rotary will neither make money from the operations nor be required to spend money on them. Mr Griffin said the club was "not in the business of subsidizing" other organizations.

A part of the money charged to tenants will be put into a capital improvement fund to cover major building repairs in the future.

The deal still needs to be signed and given formal approval by city council before the property is handed over. A clause in the deed prevents any sale without the city's blessing. Mayor May Cutler said she expects council will give its approval once all the paperwork is in.

"We're delighted with Rotary's offer and we'll do whatever we can to facilitate the transition," Mrs Cutler said, remarking on the number of families living in the southeast sector of the city.

Greene avenue resident Diane Russell said she's "absolutely thrilled" about the news. Mrs Russell is one of the local residents who has pushed hard over the past few

Continued on page 22

Most homeowners will have tax bill increases less than 7%

THE effect of this year's 30-cent reduction in mill rate on real estate tax bills for single-family dwellings has been compiled by city officials based on the 1989 valuation roll's average increase in single family dwellings of 14.9 percent.

The comparison with last year's tax bill, however, does not take into account this year's elimination of heritage payments ($400-$800).

The mill rate's reduction to $1.40 per $100 of property valuation means that:

- 68 percent of all single-family dwellings will have no increase in the 1989 tax bill or may even have a decrease;
- 18 percent of all dwellings will have an increase of 2.9 percent;
- 11 percent will have an increase of seven percent; and,
- Three percent will have an increase of more than seven percent.

The 1989 total property tax revenue will decrease in 1989 by $2,264,800 or 7.3 percent to $28,912,500 from $31,177,300 in 1988.

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INSIDE...

- Loss of heritage payments changes tax figures 8
- Bankers and brokers listen when Boeckh forecasts 12
- Tenants meet city officials, discuss maintenance by-law 13
- For 'fat damn English women,' language issue is secondary 14

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Council approves hall rental:

Committee 178 plans series of meetings; one to be at Vic Hall

By CHARLES MAPPIN

Committee 178 will hold a series of small meetings in various locations throughout the province leading up to a large rally and demonstration in Montreal in April, organizer Stephen Nowell told THE EXAMINER yesterday.

The change in plans results from problems in finding a large enough venue for a single second meeting, he said.

The regional meetings will be held over the next several weeks in small halls that hold a few hundred people, including one in Victoria Hall. Other meetings are planned for the West Island, the Eastern Townships and the Gaspé, but no dates could be confirmed by press time.

At Committee 178's much-publicized inaugural gathering held in Victoria Hall Jan 8, some 1,400 people showed up to lend support to the ad hoc group formed by Mr Nowell — the owner of Westmount's Magnus Books — in protest of Quebec's Bill 178 regulating the language of signs.

Attempts last week to find a hall for a second meeting were without success.

"I would call places up and they would be prepared to rent me a hall until I told them what it was for," Mr Nowell said. Now that several meetings are planned, the worries seem to have been diffused.

Mr Nowell said he even had problems trying to get Victoria Hall a second time. "The mayor said council had to discuss the issue and come up with a policy," he said.



"I think he means to run away for GOOD this time."

Council gives go-ahead

At Monday's council meeting, Mayor May Cutler said committee of council had discussed the matter and gave its unanimous support to this statement:

"Following a request last Friday from the Bill 178 Committee, the council of the City of Westmount has agreed again to rent Victoria Hall to the committee, subject to the implementation of reasonable measures to

Continued on page 22

Callers will do survey of readers

Two Concordia University students this week will begin a telephone survey of Westmount residents to find out what they think of THE WESTMOUNT EXAMINER.

The students will phone a random sampling of residents in all areas of Westmount. Those familiar with the paper will be asked what features they read most or least, what changes they would like to see in the paper and other information. Answering the queries should only take a few minutes.

The survey is being done as a research project by the students for their graduate diploma program in journalism. Results will be used by THE EXAMINER to plan changes to the paper.

Readers' cooperation in answering the questions will be most appreciated.

CITY OF VILLE DE **WESTMOUNT**

Official NOTICE BOARD

TABLEAU D'AFFICHAGE officiel

WESTMOUNT
BY-LAW 1016

Public notice is hereby given to all who may be concerned that "BY-LAW TO LEVY AN ASSESSMENT TO MEET THE EXPENSES OF THE CITY OF WESTMOUNT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1989" was adopted by the Municipal Council of Westmount at a special sitting held at the City Hall on the 23rd January, 1989.

The object and purpose of this by-law is to establish the rates of municipal real estate tax and municipal business tax needed to raise the revenues required to meet the budgeted expenses of the City of Westmount for the fiscal year 1989.

Details relating to the said by-law are fully set out in By-law 1016, which is open for inspection by all persons interested at the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, Westmount.

GIVEN at Westmount, P.Q., this 23rd day of January 1989.

R. C. Wilkins
City Clerk

WESTMOUNT
RÈGLEMENT 1016

Avis public est par les présentes donné à tous ceux qui peuvent être concernés que le "RÈGLEMENT RELATIF AU PRÉLÈVEMENT D'UNE COTISATION EN VUE DE FAIRE FACE AUX DÉPENSES DE LA VILLE DE WESTMOUNT POUR L'EXERCICE FINANCIER 1989" était adopté par le conseil municipal de la ville de Westmount, lors d'une assemblée spéciale tenue à l'Hôtel de ville le 23 janvier 1989.

L'objet et le but de ce règlement est d'établir les taux de la taxe foncière et de la taxe d'affaires requis afin de prélever les revenus nécessaires pour rencontrer les dépenses budgétées de la Ville de Westmount pour l'exercice financier 1989.

Les détails se rapportant audit règlement sont contenus au complet dans le Règlement 1016, lequel est ouvert pour vérification par toutes les personnes intéressées, au bureau du greffier de la ville, Hôtel de ville, Westmount.

DONNÉ à Westmount, P.Q., ce 23ième jour de janvier 1989.

R. C. Wilkins
Greffier

WESTMOUNT
MUNICIPAL TAX COLLECTION ROLL 1989

Pursuant to Section 503 of the Cities and Towns Act (R.S.Q., chap. C-19), public notice is hereby given to the ratepayers and inhabitants of Westmount and to all whom it may concern:

THAT the Collection Roll of Westmount for the year 1989 prepared by the Treasurer covering the municipal taxes of Westmount, was deposited on the 26th day of January 1989 in the Office of the Treasurer at the Westmount City Hall, 4333 Sherbrooke, where it will remain open for examination by persons interested or their representatives. The tax billing will be sent within the allotted delay and the first instalment, representing 50% of the tax amount, will be payable on or before March 1, 1989 and the second instalment on or before July 1, 1989.

Ratepayers who may not have received their tax notice may obtain a copy at the Westmount City Hall keeping in mind that property taxes must still be paid on their respective due dates whether or not a tax notice has been received.

Given at Westmount, this 26th day of January, 1989.

Daniel G. Décarie, c.a.
Treasurer

WESTMOUNT
RÔLE DE PERCEPTION – TAXES MUNICIPALES 1989

Conformément à l'article 503 de la Loi sur les cités et villes (L.R.Q., chap. C-19), avis public est par les présentes donné à tous les contribuables et résidents de la Ville de Westmount et à tous ceux qui peuvent être concernés:

QUE le rôle de perception des taxes municipales de la Ville de Westmount pour l'année 1989, préparé par le Trésorier, a été déposé le 26e jour de janvier 1989, au bureau du Trésorier à l'Hôtel de Ville de Westmount, 4333 rue Sherbrooke, où il sera à la disposition du public pour fins de vérification par les personnes intéressées ou leurs représentants. Les comptes de taxes seront envoyés dans les délais alloués et 50% des taxes sera dû et exigible le ou avant le 1 mars 1989 et le solde de 50% le ou avant le 1er juillet 1989.

Les contribuables qui n'auraient pas reçu leur avis de taxe peuvent en obtenir une copie à l'Hôtel de Ville de Westmount, tenant compte du fait que les taxes foncières doivent être payées à leurs dates d'échéance respectives, peu importe si un avis de taxes a été reçu ou non.

Donné à Westmount, ce 26e jour de janvier 1989.

Daniel G. Décarie, ca
Trésorier

Weekend snowstorms can cost $3,000/hour

Friday is an expensive day for a snowstorm.

When a Friday snowfall requires weekend cleanup, the overtime labor costs are exorbitant.

Last Friday 9.2 cm of snow fell on Westmount and the rest of Montreal, on top of Thursday's 4.4 cm. Westmount public works director Fred Caluori said snow removal operations didn't get underway until Monday because the amount of snow didn't warrant the cost of overtime work.

"In Montreal, the crews worked Saturday and Sunday clearing snow, but we didn't see the need to work on the weekend," he said, explaining that local streets had been scraped almost bare prior to the storm because of regular upkeep.

Westmount snow crews get paid time-and-a-half for working Saturdays or after 4 pm during weekdays. On Sundays, they get double time. That adds up to a hefty overtime bill when the full contingent is out. Mr Caluori said it costs about $3,000 an hour in labor at double time.

"It's nice to get the snow out of the way, but it's very expensive. There was no justification for spending that kind of money on overtime pay last weekend. If it had been an eight-inch snowstorm (about 20 cm), it would have been a different matter. The men would have been out there," Mr Caluori said.

Since the snow removal crews get paid their regular wage for working Monday to Friday regardless of whether or not it snows, the removal work was put off until Monday.

Snow removers called as needed

This winter Westmount's public works department is calling in extra help only when needed, rather than enlisting a full slate of casual laborers for the season.

Public works director Fred Caluori says the city saves about $5,000 each week the personnel is not required.

In past years, a staff of 10 additional workers was hired from December to March to help with snow cleanup. This year, the city has a list of available persons and it calls them when extra help is needed. That's been only five days to date this winter.

"The advantage is that we're not carrying people during the slack periods," Mr Caluori said. "It makes it a bit more difficult to obtain the help, but we're developing a list of about 20 names so we can always get the 10 we need," Mr Caluori said.

The work includes sweeping city steps, accompanying the snowblowers on foot, and general cleanup. When they are called in, the temporary help get paid $11.88 an hour.

Snowblower fires on car

A snowblower accidentally threw snow and ice onto a car parked Friday in front of 90 Hillside avenue, MUC police report.

Public safety officers, who were flagged down by the car's owner at 7:45 am, notified police as well as the city's public works department. The snow removal was being done by a contractor.

Door damaged

A car backed into a garage door at 80 Summit Circle Friday evening causing over $500 damage to the door, police said. The 1988 Chevrolet sustained less than $500 damage. It was driven by someone living on the Montreal portion of Grosvenor avenue.

Next Scheduled City Council Meeting
Monday, February 6, 8:00 pm

Date de la prochaine séance du conseil municipal
Le lundi 6 février, 20h00

CITY HALL/HÔTEL DE VILLE

4333 Sherbrooke Street West
Westmount, PQ H3Z 1E2

935-8531

Monday-Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm	
Fire (business calls) 19 Stanton St.	935-2456
Police (business calls) 21 Stanton St.	280-2223
Municipal Court, 21 Stanton St.	935-8531 Local 351 or 352
Nights, weekends and holidays	
Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke St. W.	935-2066
Municipal Yard, 14 Bethune St.	935-8037
Light Department, Glen Road	935-8218
Library	935-8444
Public Security Unit	935-1777
Lundi à vendredi, 8h30 à 16h30	
Incendie (bureau d'affaires) 19, rue Stanton	935-2456
Police (bureau d'affaires) 21, rue Stanton	280-2223
Cour municipale, 21, rue Stanton	935-8531 Local 351 ou 352
Nuits, weekends et jours de fête	
Hall Victoria, 4626, rue Sherbrooke ouest	935-2066
Voirie, 14, rue Béthune	935-8037
Service d'éclairage, chemin Glen	935-8218
Bibliothèque	935-8444
Sécurité Publique	935-1777

EMERGENCIES/URGENCES

Fire/Incendie
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Ambulance

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WESTMOUNT Community Calendar

The following events are scheduled in Westmount this week:

Today, Jan 26

☐ **Y teen courses**: Interested teens are invited to telephone for information about courses in babysitting (931-8046) and teaching beinning swimmers (Eileen at the Y).

☐ **Photo exhibit**: By members of Montreal Camera Club at Westmount Public Library to Feb 5 during regular library hours.

☐ **Art exhibit**: Oils and pastels by Eva Prager at La Galerie de 5 Continents, 1225 Greene avenue, until Feb 4. 931-3174.

☐ **Art exhibit**: Recent works of Sindon Gecin at Dan Delaney's Artlenders Gallery until Jan 30.

☐ **Toddler workout**: Hour-long weekly workout for two- to five-year-olds and their parents at 2:30 pm in Victoria Hall. Free. For more information, call sports supervisor Lana Romandini at the Westmount recreation department at 935-8531, local 212.

Saturday, Jan 28

☐ **Feather and fur workshop**: With Sosi Garybian for appiqués on knits at Visual Arts Centre. 488-9558. $

Sunday, Jan 29

☐ **CAMMAC reading**: Canadian Amateur Musicians invites all amateur vocalists and instrumentalists to join in a sight-reading of *Dido and Aeneas* by Purcell, lead by Gaby Billette in the basement of St Matthias' Church from 3 to 5 pm. 352-7499 or 486-5440.

Monday, Jan 30

☐ **Gardening courses**: Registration for courses to Feb 13 at the recreation office in the skating rink. The office is open weekdays from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

☐ **Zen lecture**: And workshop by English philosopher Douglas Harding at Victoria Hall at 7:30 pm. $

Tuesday, Jan 31

☐ **Ikebana lecture**: By Pierre Bourque, director of the Botanical Garden, "East and west: Japanese gardens in the western world." Mrs A. Ikeyama of the Misho school will do the flower arrangements. 1:30 pm in St Andrew-Dominion-Douglas Church, 687 Roslyn avenue. 482-7961.

☐ **Babysitting service**: Offered weekly from noon to 4 pm at Good Shepherd Community Centre, 2338 St Antoine street west, 933-8932.

Wednesday, Feb 1

☐ **Story hour**: Today and every Wednesday, a 20-minute story hour for two- and three-year-olds, followed by a 20-minute story hour for children four to six years old and, after that, 20 minutes of French stories. Story hours begin at 10:30 am and at 3 pm at the Westmount Library.

☐ **Bridge lessons**: At the Leisure Institute of Shaar Hashomayim Synagogue, 450 Kensington avenue. For information, fees and registration call Burt Kirsh at 937-9471 or 488-7437.

COMING UP

☐ **Feb 2**: Place Alexis Nihon will be the site of a one-day Red Cross blood donor clinic on the ground floor, St Catherine street entrance, from 10:30 am to 8:30 pm.

☐ **Feb 6**: Council meeting at 8 pm at City Hall.

w Weekly	Monthly m
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Where were they going?



The following calls were answered by the Westmount Fire Brigade during the past week:

Jan 17

8:22 am: 4450 Sherbrooke, smoke scare, steam from clothes dryer;
9:18 am: 4100 St Catherine, fire alarm activated when workers accidentally cut Bell Canada wire;
10:25 am: 1269 Greene, for smell of gas, all in order;
1:04 pm: 215 Redfern, Readers' Digest, code 3 automatic mutual aid cancelled at 1:16 pm, alarm activated, defective smoke detector in first-floor computer room;
10:11 pm: 5550 Trent, code 3 automatic mutual aid to Côte St Luc cancelled at 10:14 pm;

Jan 18

7:45 pm: Grosvenor and Sherbrooke, first responder unit;

Jan 19

1:26 am: 5760 Parkhaven, code 3 automatic mutual aid to Côte St Luc cancelled at 1:37 am;

Jan 20

9:17 am: 4505 St Catherine, Belvedere Residence, code 3 automatic mutual aid from Outremont and St Laurent cancelled at 9:22 am, smoke detector activated by burnt food;
3:28 pm: Rear of 360 Clarke, blown electrical transformer (see story);
8:31 pm: 4039 Tupper, Reddy Memorial Hospital, code 3 automatic mutual aid from Côte St Luc and Outremont cancelled at 8:57 pm, smoke detector activated on 6th floor, all in order;

Jan 21

10:15 am: 4444 Sherbrooke, apt 102, occasional smell of gas;
11:41 am: 4455 Montrose, burglar alarm;
12:15 pm: 414 Victoria, no power in building;
4:36 pm: Rear of 200 Edgehill, fire on hydro pole (see story);

Jan 22

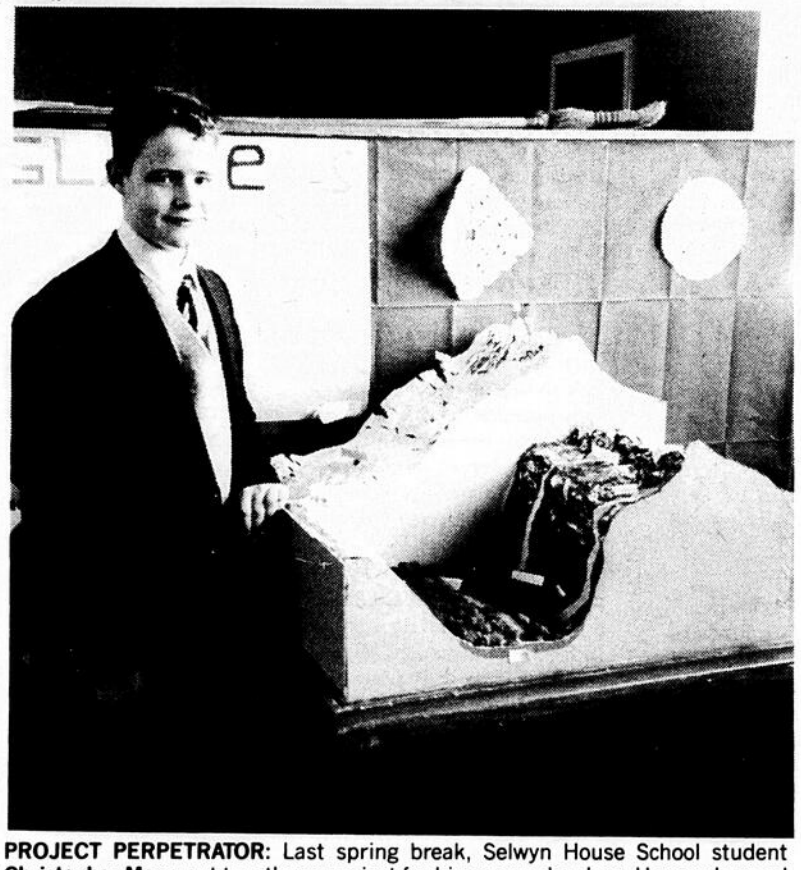
11:45 am: 4150 St Catherine, code 3 automatic mutual aid from Côte St Luc and Outremont cancelled at 11:52 am, flood (see story);
9:30 pm: 400 Lansdowne, apt 304, first responder unit;

Jan 23

8:21 am: 1346 Greene, Tony's shoe shop, smoke detector activated by sweeping of dust on stairs;
12:21 pm: 654 Grosvenor, burglar alarm;
2:20 pm: 3 Westmount Square, code 3 automatic mutual aid from Côte St Luc and Outremont cancelled at 2:27 pm, pullstation on 18th floor accidentally activated by workman removing wallpaper;
6:54 pm: 4375 Westmount, first responder unit (see story);

Jan 24

4:40 am: 4150 St Catherine, code 3 automatic mutual aid to Côte St Luc and Outremont cancelled at 4:47 am, defective alarm.



PROJECT PERPETRATOR: Last spring break, Selwyn House School student **Christopher Mann** put together a project for his geography class. He says he read encyclopedias, referred to books in the adult and children's department of the Westmount Library, and then went to work. He reckons it took him a week of research, about three weeks of building and a couple of days of painting before his glacier was completed. Total cost, not counting materials donated and found (old sponges for trees etc) — $2. He gave his project to the children's department of the library in the fall and it is now being used to illustrate a "How to do a project" display. The staff are ready and willing to lend a hand to students with projects to do and only vague notions of how to begin. The children's department is also in charge of the Westmount essay contest. An essay is a project and, again, the staff are looking forward to being of assistance.

Dual energy poses dilemma for city's power service

Can Westmount afford Hydro-Québec's dual energy program?

Light and power director Bruce St Louis is asking himself that question these days. The city has just received notice from Hydro of a proposed 16.7 percent reduction in the rate dual energy users pay for their electricity, retroactive to Jan 1, 1989.

The price Westmount buys this electricity for won't be going down, only what it can charge when it resells it. And that resale price is already significantly lower than the normal price for electricity, Mr St Louis said. The reduction means Westmount would lose money on the sale of electricity to dual energy users.

"This will require a major study on our part," he said. "We have to talk to Hydro about it to work out the problem. That's all I can say for now."

Mr St Louis will likely confer with officials in Sherbrooke and Joliette, the other two municipalities in the province that run their own utilities.

Westmount has 21 major dual energy users, including the Reddy Memorial Hospital, several large apartment buildings and many municipal buildings. With dual energy, customers use a combination of oil and electricity for their heating.

Notion of motion for the reduction in rates for dual energy customers will be given at the Feb 6 council meeting.

Bill 101 art continues to grace city streets

A rash of language-law graffiti hit a number of stores on Greene avenue as well as St Catherine street early last week, according to MUC police and public safety officers.

A window at the Avenue bookstore was spray-painted with the numbers 101 before the eyes of a salesclerk Monday, Jan 16. The culprit was a young white man on a bicycle wearing a beige and lime green jacket and carrying an orange newspaper bag.

Shortly after midnight, MUC police who were patrolling the area discovered paint damage at five more places. They were listed as Alexander's, the Bank of Nova Scotia, Mink's fabrics, the Bank of Montreal and Cumberland's.

At 2 am, English wording was found painted over at several locations on St Catherine east of Greene: Art Image, the Carriage Trade, Montreal Drive-away and the Subaru Auto Centre.

Young's market on Sherbrooke street near Victoria avenue also was hit by Bill 101 painters over the weekend Jan 14-16, police said.

A threatening letter also was received by Magnus bookshop owner Stephen Nowell Tuesday last week saying he would need a 24-hour security guard if he continued to debate the language issue.

Two hit-and-runs, one number taken

A witness to a hit-and-run accident last Thursday in front of 435 Grosvenor avenue was able to record a licence number, police report.

The incident took place about 6:50 pm when a van hit the front fender of a parked car and drove away. The crash is under investigation.

Another hit-and-run accident was reported the same night at 11 pm at Wood avenue and Sherbrooke street. This time a large, light blue car hit the rear of a 1984 Ford waiting at a red light and drove off. More than $500 damage occurred.

Truck hits car

A city snow removal truck struck the side of a parked car while driving north in front of 755 Upper Lansdowne avenue last Thursday. police said. Less than $500 damage resulted. The mishap occurred about 6:15 pm. The car, a Buick, belonged to a woman from Town of Mount Royal.

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THE WESTMOUNT
Examiner

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4 - Vol. LXI, No. 4,
Thursday, January 26, 1989

We Say

A better budget

CITIZENS will be glad that council and key officials of the city took an extra month before bringing down the 1989 Westmount budget.

There may be other reasons for the delay, but two we can praise: 1) the additional time which could be devoted to trimming expenditures and 2) removal of the bringing down from the hectic pre-Christmas week to a later period in which taxpayers can give more appropriate thought to what their solons have wrought.

In general, this is a good budget; indeed, a better one than we have had for several years.

The cost of local government, both in municipal Westmount and in the metropolitan Montreal Urban Community, continues horrifically high. But the annual upward spiral of most Westmount property owners' tax bills has, at least, abated.

Said quickly, $5,000 does not seem too much in this age of inflation for the taxes on an average Westmount house. But it still is a big slice of the income of the occupants in many cases.

In any event, the era of slipping into budgets all sorts of frills and extras, which the administration of the city previously had got along quite well without, appears to be over. There are too many super-conscious citizens, some with special financial knowledge, looking over the municipal shoulders and ready to question.

Someone has remarked to us that it used to be $80,000 extra for this, $50,000 additional for that and $65,000 for something else which soon added up to a lot of new spending which, on analysis, was padding.

There has been a lot of commendable paring here, cutting there and doing without somewhere else for this year. It should be noted that the savings have been made in purely local services; the MUC still is on a spending jag, of which Westmount has had to take its share with other island municipalities. Would that the new Westmount economy bug could infect the ever-growing urban community, source of so much of our fiscal grief for so long now since the Union Nationale government (remember it?) which started it all.

We have one criticism in all this to direct at Mayor Cutler and her council colleagues. A perfectly logical suggestion, which Her Worship herself brought back from her study of the City of Outremont, has not been implemented: a hiring freeze.

As the finance commissioner, Coun Phillip Aspinall, himself identified in his usual able budget presentation Monday evening, salaries and benefits take the lion's share of the city's spending. More significantly, in 1989 they will account for 59.5 percent of the expenditures, up from 56.2 percent in 1988. However this may be excused, it is unacceptable, on two grounds:

1) There is no reason other than refusal to grasp the nettle, why salaries and benefits must rise year after year, inflation or no inflation. Businesses that find themselves strapped call halts; why must public service be different? and
2) What is wrong with a hiring freeze? If persons quit, retire or are fired for cause we could try getting along without replacing them, doubling up the necessary work and eliminating the unnecessary. There is a great deal more money to be saved in salaries and benefits than in trimming the spending on things. Indeed, the fewer people there are around, the fewer things that are needed.

Happy tax-paying!

Freedom of assembly here

WESTMOUNT city council Monday evening did several right things.

One of these was the firm decision, reportedly unanimous, to rent Victoria Hall once more to Westmount bookseller Mr Stephen Nowell and/or his Committee 178.

Mr Nowell apparently had been attempting, without success, here and elsewhere to hire a place in which to hold a follow-up meeting to the overflow January 8 gathering, also at Victoria Hall. There citizens voiced strong but well-ordered concern about the passage of Bill 178, which has voided the decisions of the Quebec courts, upheld by the Supreme Court of Canada, which found the signs provisions of Bill 101, the provincial language law, unconstitutional.

Various organizations approached understandably but, we think, overcautiously turned him down, presumably because they feared violence and/or damage to their premises. Some simply may not have agreed with Mr Nowell's movement which, at the earlier meeting, had heard suggestions of civil disobedience as a means of fighting the language law.

Churches and other organizations which may be deemed to be private are entitled to their reservations, even if in some instances the denial of use of the facilities may not have been based on well-defined, rational policy. Would any of these places have allowed a meeting of, say, supporters of abortion (or of right-to-life)? Opponents of either cause also are capable of violence. So, for that matter, are chess fans or poetry partisans.

However, Victoria Hall is an entirely different matter. First and foremost, it is a public hall, owned by the public, designed for public use and even free to certain classes of users. Which is as it should be. In fact, it used to be a favorite meeting place for political groups until most of their deliberations in their dullness ceased to be popular events, even for card-carrying members.

Now we have a group, with the undertones if not the outright coloration of a political movement, fervently opposed to an action of the government of the day. It may not yet know where it is going, even precisely who its enemy may be, but it has a cause which it wishes to define and act upon. This is precisely one of the things Victoria Hall is for.

It may not be large enough for Mr Nowell's purpose, but he and his friends should be able to organize their event in such a way as to progress toward an objective. (It also has been suggested that the initial spontaneity and fervor may have been lost and Victoria Hall easily may house the turnout this time, in one sitting as opposed to the two last time.)

City council quite rightly has taken the position that to let the hall to any group does not necessarily spell endorsement. Indeed, the aims and objects of a renting group are precisely none of council's business — unless the solons have evidence from previous performance or documented reputation that the purpose is inimical to the best interests of the city, its citizens or its property.

We have heard concerns that the meeting could be the subject of physical attack. That possibility, of course, always exists. But any unemotional assessment of the possibility suggests the risk is minimal. The yahoos and punks who have been defacing signs, breaking windows or causing other damage around Montreal recently have not been known for their bravery; rather, they have been doing their dubious stuff surreptitiously or under cover of darkness. We believe the MUC police, the Westmount Public Security Unit, our Fire Brigade and our alert citizens are more than equal to these craven agents of Premier Bourassa's "social unrest."

And we have heard also concerns about Westmount's reputation.

Well, what of it? We think it is pretty good. It will do us no harm whatsoever among the decent majority of our fellow citizens anywhere to be known, in addition to whatever else they already may think of us, as a place which is not fearful of shadows.

We are, rather, totally in favor of the right to expression (what the Bill 178 row is really about) and, in this instance, assembly.

It would be totally wrong if Committee 178 was denied the latter right, not by a despicably misled provincial government but by our own municipal government.



our M.P.
David Berger
says...

Concerns need addressing

BILL 178 was not the only blow to minority language rights last year. The governments of Saskatchewan and Alberta both abolished the historic rights of the French-speaking minorities in those provinces after the Supreme Court had confirmed those rights. Yet, apart from a few questions and answers in the question period, Parliament has not debated the significance of these events to the country as a whole.

In reply to a question about developments in Saskatchewan, the prime minister stated that the best way to protect minority language rights is to include guarantees in the Constitution. Yet he seems intent on passing Meech Lake as is, without such guarantees.

It is often asserted that Pierre Trudeau was inflexible. Yet, after making major concessions to the provinces to obtain the agreement to patriate the Constitution, he agreed to further changes to accommodate the three points of contention raised by René Lévesque on Nov 5, 1981. The mobility rights clause was modified; access to English schools in Quebec was limited to children of Quebec residents who had received their primary school instruction in Canada in English; and provision was made for compensation to provinces that opt out of amendments transferring provincial powers to Parliament relating to education or other cultural matters.

Contrast this to the "seamless web" of Meech Lake where the prime minister has up to now insisted that not a single change can be contemplated.

Have recent events not convinced Brian Mulroney that he address the concerns about Meech Lake and make amendments that provide solid guarantees for language minorities throughout Canada?

Editorial Notes

SPEAKING of reputations, something nice happened at the "new" Westmount High School the other day. Kathy Hugessen, our news editor, assigned herself to cover the official ribbon-cutting by Mayor May Cutler and MNA Richard French marking the local institution's reopening as an "alternative school." Came the day and the chief of our news staff found that not only was one of her children ill and could not be left but that none of the rest of her staff was available. A call to the school assured her not to worry. Teachers assured her that the events of the day would be suitably covered. True to their word, in due course the appropriate story was delivered to our office, along with a roll of film which included excellent photographs by student Janet Oh. The WHS Challenge Program has been launched, to enrich student life and curriculum and assure the future mission of the school. So far as we are concerned, the challenge already is being recognized. . . .

* * *

OBVIOUSLY, the four young men arrested in Westmount and now before the courts on charges related to spray-painting various stop signs are, if convicted, only some of the mischief-making vandals at work in recent weeks here and elsewhere. All incidents have not been in the supposed francophone cause, for clearly other senseless persons have been out obliterating French words as well, presumably anglophone titfortatists — a relatively new phenomenon in the language furor. We are amused by some of the work, the end result of which seems to portray a message opposite to that intended. Specifically, the dual-worded signs bearing "Arrêt" with "Stop" underneath have had the latter overwritten with "101," presumably because "Stop" is seen as an English word. In fact, it is French as well and should suffice but for so-called experts who have dictated these things from way back when. In any event, it does not seem to have occurred to the francophone graffitists that the net effect is to turn such signs into "Arrêt 101" or, translated, "Stop Bill 101"! Hardly the intention.


The Westmount Examiner

Westm't Rotary Club Members On Hospital Visit

Introducing The Examiner To The Westmount Public

Examining the files

Forty-five Years Ago
January 28, 1944

"The need for central libraries in Montreal schools was stressed last week by Miss Gwendoline McEwen, children's librarian at the Westmount Public Library. She was speaking at the St Laurent Home and School Association meeting held in the school. She pointed out that the reading ability of children in the same grade varied greatly, and that it was a mistake to confine them to their textbooks and supplementary readers. Miss McEwen advocated setting up libraries in the schools where children could choose their literature according to their reading ability and at the same time round out their education."

Thirty-five Years Ago
January 22, 1954

"...Dr Kilpatrick, principal of the United Theological College, addressed the formal opening ceremony of an eight-room addition to Roslyn School in Westmount.... George Penrose, principal of Roslyn since 1934, said that when the school was opened in 1908, four of its 14 classrooms did not have to be used. By 1924 enrollment had grown so that an extension of eight more classrooms was necessary. In addition to the new extension, renovations in the old part of the building have added a medical room, a principal's office, a staff room and a reading room. The old gymnasium-auditorium has been converted into a visual education room."

Twenty-five Years Ago
January 24, 1964

"The drive to recruit volunteers for training with Westmount's newly formed Civil Protection Organization has met with 'modest success,' a police department spokesman declared Wednesday. Nineteen residents, most of them in their twenties, applied this week to undergo training in rescue work to assist regular municipal police and firemen in case of local disaster or nuclear attack, he said. 'We are gratified to have these,' he said, 'but we must get more without delay as the courses begin on January 29.' The organization hopes to have about 25 men at that time..."

Ten Years Ago
January 25, 1979

"The personal effects and furniture of Mrs Gladys Harvey, owner of the illegally occupied house at 74 Columbia avenue, have been put in a warehouse and many items may have been sold by now.... The action has been taken by the public curator's office with almost no communication with members of Mrs Harvey's family. This information came to light in the wake of eviction from the house of Mr and Mrs Ivar Rushevic, a couple who paid the back taxes, made renovations and moved in in 1977. On Jan 12 Judge J. Brendan O'Connor ruled they had no right to occupy the house and ordered them to leave."

One Year Ago
January 21, 1988

"Tenants in some of Westmount's largest apartment buildings appear to have emerged as winners in the 1988 valuation crisis which has shifted the tax burden even further onto the shoulders of homeowners. The effect of the city's reduced mill rate on only slightly higher apartment building assessments has actually reduced tax bills by 12.9 percent in the case of 1-3 Westmount Square. According to tax bill information provided by city officials, annual levies are down at (several) large complexes.... Although tenants of these buildings may be able to use these reductions to fight for lower rents... their gain has to be picked up by the owners of single-family dwellings."





our M.N.A.
Richard D. French
says...

Trial by media

THE policeman's job is not an easy one. Its rigors lead policemen to believe that only other policemen can be fully trusted, and often not even then. It goes without saying that "civilians" will take the police for granted if they perform well, and criticize bitterly otherwise.

To at least one policeman in the SPCUM (Service de Police de la Communauté Urbaine de Montréal), Royal Orr forfeited his personal right to fair treatment when he criticized the slowness of the investigation into the arson of Alliance Québec's headquarters. That criticism, plus the fact that Mr Orr is the head of an English-rights organization, was sufficient for a campaign of leaks to the media which has blackened Mr Orr's reputation and probably irremediably compromised the ongoing investigation.

This vicious trial by media reproduces the classic phenomenon of "blaming the victim," a phenomenon that blacks or women's rights activists know only too well. Unless the real perpetrator of the crime is tried and convicted, Royal Orr will be the police-approved scapegoat for the whole sorry chapter in Quebec's history.

Perhaps the most positive elements in an otherwise sombre picture were the expressions of support for Royal Orr from the Parti Québécois language critic, Claude Filion, the president of the CNTU, Gérald Larose (himself a one-time victim of the same tactics) and various other francophones who by no means share Alliance Québec's positions.

It is reassuring to know that some things are beyond party and beyond language as a political issue. What a shame some parts of the police force don't seem to have understood.

You Say

MP Berger, MNA French 'cannot be tolerated'

Sir: David Berger, member of Parliament? For what good reason, if any?

Richard French, member of the National Assembly? For what good reason, if any?

THE WESTMOUNT EXAMINER and other vehicles of the fourth estate, that so-called last line of defence for democracy? For what good reason, if any, do the media exist?

These questions all deserve consideration in light of the forcible removal of a language community. They have for too long a time gone begging for a profound answer.

A language community is being liquidated via racist and unconstitutional decrees; you, THE WESTMOUNT EXAMINER, and your peers in the media have remained totally silent regarding those elected representatives who, by their silence, have betrayed that language community into virtual extinction.

How do you reconcile yourself to the fact that a subsidized pipsqueak mercenary of a political party is permitted, without question by the media, to purport to represent and speak for that persecuted language community?

All the while that this affront to a democratic system of government is being perpetuated, the elected and re-elected (by a politically illiterate and uncaring electorate) David Berger and Richard French remain totally in breach of faith to their sworn duties and responsibilities.

These elected representatives have never spoken out loudly and clearly and constantly against the evils of a provincial government gone berserk with its nationalistic fervor. That these elected reps permit a situation to exist, where their constituents continue to be misled by vacillating architects of capitulation such as Alliance Quebec is something which must be declared unacceptable.

At the very earliest moment, a movement of removal against David Berger and Richard French should be instituted. Their type of elected representative cannot be tolerated any longer. That is, of course, unless we wish to accept that we are not any longer Canadians but that we are tolerated second-class citizens of the State of Quebec.

Reuven Carin
2036 Guertin street
MONTREAL PQ H4L 4E4

'Mass hysteria created' over threat to French

Sir: It is my opinion that the language issue needs to be examined very carefully by all Canadians. It seems that there has been a mass hysteria created in Quebec regarding the fear of the loss of the French culture. Have not the Jewish people kept their culture with dedication over the years? They have not done this at the expense or disregard of the average citizen no matter where they lived.

The French authorities in Quebec are denying the average citizen th chance to learn English, the basic universal language. In the meantime, the official elite send their children to the best private schools where they will become articulate in speaking English.

As well, it is unfortunate for the many immigrants who will be forced to live in Quebec under the present immigration laws and forced to learn French as a second language with no choice in the matter.

Is this a sample of where our society is heading if we allow any more French nationalist authority to prevail?

Whether the rights of people are collective or individual in a society, it seems that as far as French culture is concerned, fear is overpowering wisdom in the official seat of Quebec.

It is hoped by many that wisdom will be the major key to solving language problems in our society with the utmost respect and concern for the whole.

Vona R. Mallory
PO Box 100
BARRIE ON L4M 4Y5

I am an atheist still, thank God.
—Luis Brunuel

Critics praise budget, still want hiring freeze

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Citizens wasted little time in expressing favorable reaction to Westmount's 1989 municipal budget.

"A wind of change has swept over our municipal administration," said Rolland Benard, chairman of the Westmount Finance Action Committee.

"The operating budget of the city has not only been not increased but, to some small extent, reduced. This is no mean feat. The ship has not only stopped but has reversed engines after years of runaway increases."

All is "still not perfect," however, he said, pressing again for a hiring freeze that would reduce the complement of city workers.

Mr Benard was the first to speak during a brief question period following the special city council meeting Monday night for presentation of the budget. The session was attended by 13 local residents.

Donald Ross, president of the Westmount Municipal Association, also congratulated city council members.

He then asked why no appropriation to the 1989 budget had been made from last year's surplus.

Councillor Phillip Aspinall replied that surplus from 1987 had been appropriated to the 1988 budget to offset the effect of taxes "because we were faced with such horrendous valuation increases."

At the end of the 1988 fiscal year, however, more than $1 million from surplus had been used by council to write off loan by-laws, he recalled.

Dr Rod Guthrie also called on city council to reduce the number of employees asking, "Think how much could be saved by a hiring freeze."

Both Mr Benard and citizen Peter Margo asked that further computer expenditure be curtailed, saying that some of the city's present software had yet to be put into service.

Councillor Daniel Tingley told citizens the matter would come under "*very* close scrutiny." Mayor May Cutler echoed his assurance.

BUDGET . . .

Continued from page one

instance, works out to be 6.6 percent higher than the net payout on last year's average assessment of $341,357 (after receipt of an $800 heritage payment).

The new business tax rate, which is tied to the mill rate, has been set at 6.93 percent on assessed rental values (versus 8.58 last year).

Property tax bills are being sent out this week and will be payable in two installments due March 1 and July 1. Business tax is due March 31.

The city's three-year capital expenditures budget also was presented Monday night, projecting $6.6 million in spending for 1989 (see separate story).

A breakdown of the 1989 budget shows the city's share of MUC costs ($15.3 million) gobbles up 37.5 percent of the entire budget. These costs are up 4.4 percent over last year.

Water costs more

The purchase of water from Montreal, another uncontrollable cost, is up 10.3 percent from last year at $1.7 million.

The budget's remaining $23.8 million goes for maintaining the local operation, a decrease of 2.7 percent (see separate story).

The new budget of $40,789,600 compares with last year's budget of $40,666,900, exclusive of the heritage payment program which added an additional $2,900,000 to the 1988 budget. About 82 percent of this was actually reclaimed by property owners.

This year's budget contains no appropriation from the previous year's surplus as in recent years to swell revenues and lessen the amount of required property tax.

Such was not deemed necessary this year owing to increased revenues, Mr Aspinall explained.

One such increase comes from the city's electric utility which is projected to provide a net profit to the municipal operating fund of $1,071,700 (some $800,000 over last year).

The budget was prepared, Mr Aspinall said, with the following guidelines:

- That there be no increase in the 1988 budget (allowing for an inflation factor of 4.4 percent and collective labor agreements being negotiated);
- That all controllable items be budgeted with a reduction; and,
- That there be no increase in personnel complement.

CITY OF WESTMOUNT
STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

REVENUE	BUDGET 1988	BUDGET 1989
TAXATION		
General Property	$ 31,177,300.	$ 28,912,500.
Business	3,125,000.	3,083,500.
	$ 34,302,300.	$ 31,996,000.
COMPENSATION IN LIEU OF TAXES		
Government of Canada	$ 367,900.	$ 324,400.
Government of Quebec	1,342,500.	1,322,200.
Other	70,000.	139,500.
	$ 1,780,400.	$ 1,786,100.
SERVICES TO OTHER MUNICIPALITIES		
Fire Protection	$ 6,000.	$ 2,000.
Montreal Urban Community	193,800.	125,000.
	$ 199,800.	$ 127,000.
OTHER SERVICES		
Victoria Hall	$ 54,200.	$ 60,000.
Arena, Playgrounds and Swimming Pool	38,000.	45,000.
Library	55,000.	55,400.
Parking Lots	675,000.	700,000.
Recoverable and Other Revenues	228,800.	320,100.
Rental of City Owned Properties	13,300.	14,100.
	$ 1,064,300.	$ 1,194,600.
OTHER REVENUE FROM LOCAL SOURCES		
Licenses and Permits	$ 83,000.	$ 103,400.
Duty on Transfer of Immoveables	805,000.	830,000.
Amusement Tax	227,000.	185,000.
Court Fines	1,560,000.	1,750,000.
Interest on Short-Term Deposits	1,175,800.	1,219,100.
Interest on Tax Arrears	243,600.	200,000.
Sale of Capital Assets	40,700.	40,700.
Net Revenue from Utility Operations	271,500.	1,071,700.
Transfer from Sinking Fund	50,000.	49,900.
Special Compensation in Lieu of Taxes	208,400.	173,200.
Other Revenues	0.	7,700.
Appropriation from Surplus	1,500,000.	0.
	$ 6,165,000.	$ 5,630,700.
CONDITIONAL TRANSFERS		
Quebec Library Grant	$ 55,100.	$ 55,200.
Other Subsidies	0.	0.
	$ 55,100.	$ 55,200.
TOTAL REVENUE	**$ 43,566,900.**	**$ 40,789,600.**
EXPENDITURE		
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION		
Legislation - Council	$ 189,100.	$ 221,100.
Law Enforcement - Municipal Court	425,800.	504,600.
Finance and General Administration	1,794,900.	1,672,000.
City Clerk	460,300.	471,100.
Human Resources	392,100.	406,300.
Administration Buildings	365,600.	292,500.
	$ 3,627,800.	$ 3,567,600.
PUBLIC SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY		
Police Building	$ 147,900.	$ 146,800.
Public Security	1,330,600.	1,423,900.
Fire and Civil Protection	3,635,700.	3,406,200.
	$ 5,114,200.	$ 4,976,900.
ROAD TRANSPORT		
Administration	$ 537,000.	$ 572,200.
Streets and Sidewalks	1,596,600.	1,477,300.
Snow Removal and Disposal	2,344,600.	2,409,300.
Street Lighting	384,700.	550,700.
Traffic Control	329,000.	300,700.
Parking Lots	105,200.	110,900.
	$ 5,297,100.	$ 5,421,100.
WATER AND SANITATION SERVICES		
Water purchased from Montreal	$ 1,507,100.	$ 1,662,000.
Sewer System Maintenance	215,600.	213,600.
Garbage Collection and Disposal	922,900.	883,300.
	$ 2,645,600.	$ 2,758,900.
ZONING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES		
Urban Planning and Zoning	$ 597,700.	$ 628,800.
Municipal Housing - Shared Costs	17,600.	15,800.
Heritage Preservation Programme	2,900,000.	0.
	$ 3,515,300.	$ 644,600.
RECREATION AND CULTURE		
Administration	$ 323,200.	$ 339,900.
Victoria Hall	238,400.	226,600.
Arena and Skating Rinks	478,900.	454,600.
Swimming Pool	165,800.	160,800.
Parks, Playgrounds and Greenhouse	1,827,400.	1,804,600.
Library	1,031,300.	1,086,500.
Grants to Non-Profit Organizations	52,000.	40,000.
	$ 4,117,000.	$ 4,113,000.
OTHER EXPENDITURES		
Debt Service and Other Financing Costs	$ 3,721,300.	$ 3,147,500.
Capital Expense Charged to Operating Fund	30,000.	30,000.
Bad Debts & Prior Years Tax Adjustments	315,000.	140,000.
Montreal Urban Community		
Transit Commission	4,120,400.	4,284,000.
Administration, Security and Other	10,542,500.	11,016,000.
Recoverable and Other Expenses	520,700.	690,000.
	$ 19,249,900.	$ 19,307,500.
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	**$ 43,566,900.**	**$ 40,789,600.**

Included in the budget for general administration is the finance department ($685,500, decreased from $831,000) and the data department ($280,400 decreased from $345,200). Legal costs are included in the budgets of the city clerk's office, municipal court and human resources. Salaries are charged separately to each department.

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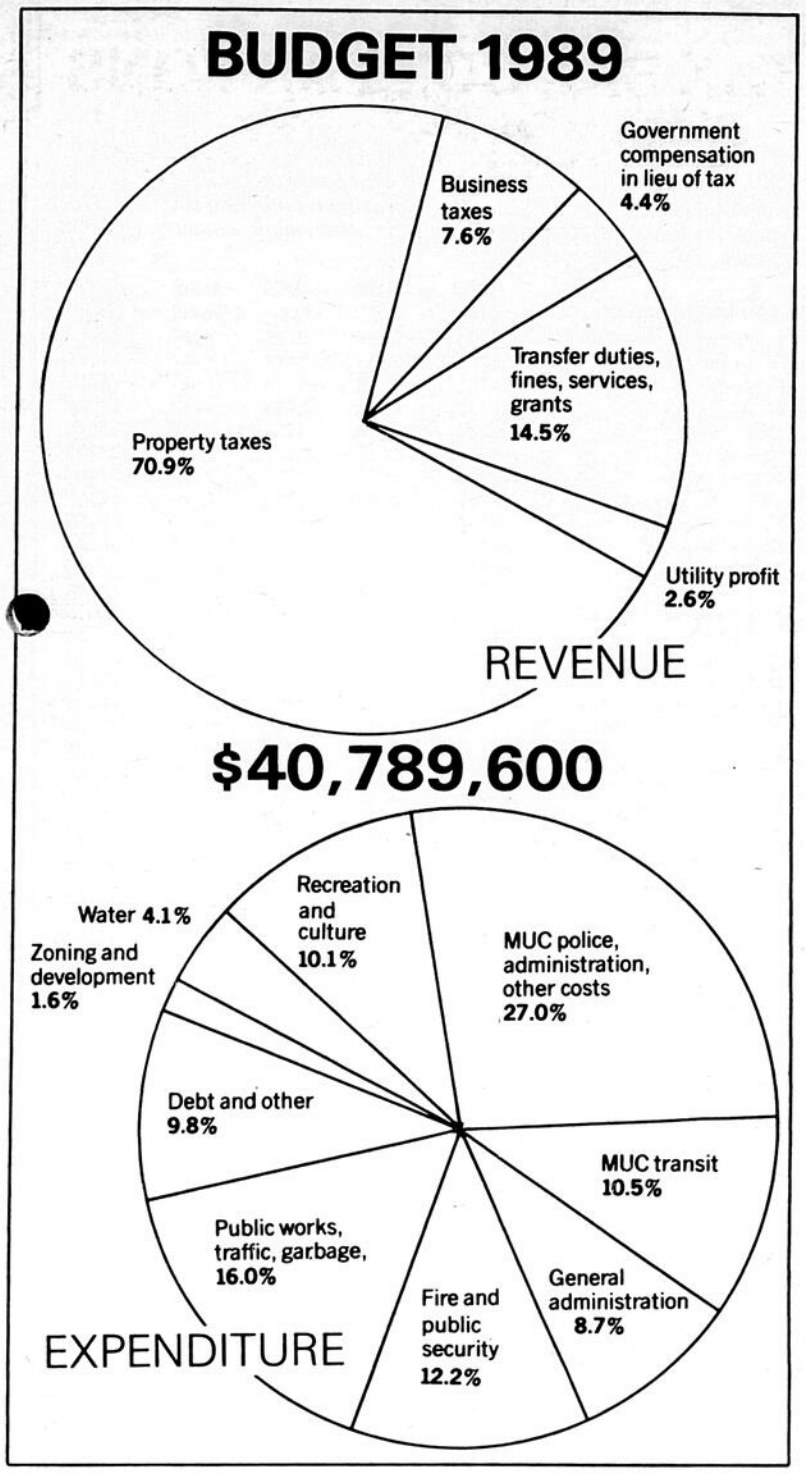
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Capital expenditures budgeted:

City plans to replace or rebuild vehicles, streets, tennis courts

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Funds have been allocated this year for the replacement of PCB transformers, repairs to city buildings, upgrading of Westmount Park and replacement of adult tennis courts.

The city also plans to replace 17 vehicles and reconstruct Westmount avenue, Devon avenue, and portions of Belvedere, Olivier and Claremont.

These are among the projects earmarked for 1989 in a $6.6 million capital expenditures program tabled Monday night by city council along with deposit of the city's operating budget.

Some of the capital expenditures would be financed through long-term loans, some from the working fund and others from funds generated by cadastral operations.

Although money has been budgeted for these projects, all would be reviewed and studied again before receiving approval by city council, explained finance commissioner Phillip Aspinall, who presented the plan.

One such item, in particular, is an amount of $303,700 to enhance the city's data processing system.

"We are going to take a hard look at this in coming weeks," Mayor May Cutler assured citizens who raised concerns about the city's computer operation. Councillor Daniel Tingley said it would come under "*very* close scrutiny."

Although capital expenditures budgeted for the years 1990 and 1991 were not detailed, their total proposed costs were tabled at $8 million and $2.7 million respectively.

Among those proposed for 1989 at a total cost of $6,602,200 are:

- Repairs to administration buildings, $290,000;
- Road and sidewalk reconstruction, $1,073,000;
- Street lighting, $800,000;
- Traffic lights for The Boulevard at Belmont and at Renfrew, $190,000;
- Renovation of arena offices, $75,000;
- Repairs to arena heating, $75,000;
- Replacement of 17 vehicles, $763,000;
- Electric utility upgrading, $2,195,000;

Money to run Westmount goes mainly to employees

SALARIES and benefits will take the lion's share of the cost of running Westmount's own operation in 1989.

A sum of $14.2 million has been set aside for workers in 1989. That's 59.5 percent of local municipal expenditures, excluding payments to MUC for regional services and to Montreal for water.

Although employee costs continue to rise, this year by 3.1 percent, the city has budgeted less for its own operation.

This year's $40.8 million budget, approved Monday, designates $23,827,600 to run city hall, pick up the garbage, clear the snow, operate the library, clean the streets, put out fires, etc.

Here's where it goes (last year's cost and percentage change in parentheses):

Salaries and benefits, $14,188,400 ($13,761,300, up 3.10 percent);
Snow removal, $2,409,300 ($2,344,600, up 2.76);
Financing, $1,607,400 ($2,495,900, down 35.60);
Working fund reimbursements, $1,540,100 ($1,225,400, up 25.68);
Garbage, including $100,000 for recycling, $883,300 ($922,900, down 4.29);
Municipal electricity, $442,200 ($416,200, up 6.25);
Contingency, $390,000 ($390,000);
Insurance, $201,600 ($399,900, down 49.59);
Legal costs, $188,300 ($161,000, up 16.96);
Other, $1,977,000 ($2,379,700, down 16.92).

For costs of specific departments, see accompanying budget.

Council opts to freeze property valuations

Property valuations in Westmount have been frozen for three years at their 1989 assessment, it was announced Monday night.

The freeze was chosen by city council as being more beneficial to the majority of homeowners than amortizing the difference between 1988-1989 valuations over the next three years.

The option was council's under Bill 90 which came into force Dec 23.

The big effect of the bill was to permit cities to amortize the increase or decrease in valuations, explains city treasurer Daniel Décarie.

"We chose not to because any benefit to single-family dwellings would have been lost by the benefit to multi-dwellings and businesses."

The only two cities Mr Décarie knows to be using the averaging option are Montreal and Outremont.

This year the average increase in valuation for single-family dwellings of 14.9 percent is not considered by Mr Décarie to be "that drastic a jump." Last year's average was 50 percent.

The 1989 valuation freeze is subject to change under certain conditions, he explains. These include decreases in the case of fire, for instance, or increase if improved by renovation.

Overdue taxes will be charged at same 15%

The city's interest rate for overdue tax bills and other accounts (excluding electricity bills) will remain at 15 percent per annum for 1989, city council agreed Monday night.

Late tax bills will bear an additional penalty too.

If the first installment is not paid by March 1 this year, the second installment will immediately become due and also subject to interest.

This year's tax bills are being mailed out this week, a month later than usual because of the delay in presenting the budget.

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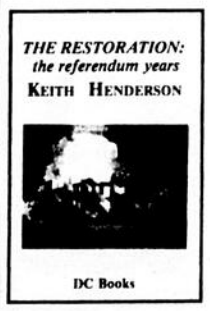
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Loss of heritage payments changes figures on tax hike

While Westmounters have not been hit by property tax increases of the magnitude recorded last year, most residents still face significant increases in their 1989 tax bills.

By CHARLES MAPPIN

The drop in the mill rate from $1.70 per $100 of valuation in 1988 to $1.40 per $100 in 1989 is generally offset by increased valuations and elimination of heritage payments this year.

The picture is not quite as rosy as councillor Phillip Aspinall painted Monday night in presenting the city's budget for 1989.

Mr Aspinall said 68 percent of single family dwelling owners have "no increase or may even have a decrease" in their 1989 tax bill, 18 percent of owners face a 2.9 percent increase, 11 percent face a 7.0 percent increase, and only three percent have an increase of more than 7.0 percent.

These figures are correct based on the actual tax bills residents will be receiving. But in 1988, all homeowners were eligible to receive heritage payments of between $400 and $800. These were effectively tax rebates. In 1989, there are no such rebates and Mr Aspinall's calculations ignore this.

A clearer picture

In an EXAMINER sample of real estate tax bills for all types of properties ranging from single-family homes to apartment and commercial buildings (see accompanying table), a clearer picture of what people will be paying is revealed. (On Sept 22, 1988, THE EXAMINER provided the 1987, 1988 and 1989 valuations for the same list of properties.)

A comparison of the 1989 tax bills of the properties listed in the sample with their gross 1988 bills — i.e. before taking into consideration last year's tax rebates — shows 51 of the 72 had reductions and 21 had increases.

When the heritage payments are considered, the numbers are different. Comparing the 1989 bills with the net 1988 bills reveals only 12 of the properties have reductions while 60 have increases. And more than half of these increases are greater than 10 percent.

The owner of 124 Clandeboye, for example, will receive a 1989 tax bill 6.10 percent below his 1988 bill. When the $600 heritage payment is considered, his 1989 bill is actually 9.57 percent higher than last year's.

The duplex at 3101-03 St Antoine street appears on the surface to have a tax bill increase of only 1.04 percent. When that property's $400 heritage payment is considered, the bill is actually 91.54 percent higher.

The tax bills of large buildings and some of the more expensive houses are affected less by the influence of the heritage payments.

A few of the largest tax bill increases, such as that of 119-21 Irvine, are the result of the property owner refusing the board of revision's 1988 decision. When this happened, the 1989 increase was added to the original 1988 valuation.

For next three years

Westmount real estate consultant Andy Dodge says local property owners should think about their 1989 valuations now because they'll be stuck with them for the next three tax years because of Bill 90.

The provincial board of revisions has set April 30, 1989 as the deadline for property owners to file a protest claim about their 1989 valuations. If no claim is filed by that date, the board assumes the 1989 valuation has been accepted for the next three years. Owners should file a claim on their 1989 valuation even if no decision has yet been reached on last year's claim.

Mr Dodge said council's statement about the tax bill reductions might hurt. "I think council is going to mollify some people too much at a time when they should be taking a serious look at their valuations," he said.

Residents with hefty increases will no doubt be dismayed to see Westmount Square has a 1989 tax bill almost 20 percent less than its bill of two years ago. The bill has dropped from $1,254,600 in 1987 to $1,008,165 this year.

Nevertheless, some residents have seen their tax bills drop over the two years as well, because their valuations have risen less than their neighbors.

TAX BILL COMPARISONS

Following is a comparison of the 1987, 1988 and 1989 Westmount and MUC taxes payable on a sample of Westmount properties. The 1988 amount is the net amount after deducting heritage grants to homeowners ranging from $400 to $800, depending on valuation. The information is provided courtesy of real estate analyst Andy Dodge, specialist in Westmount property valuation appeals.

Single-family homes:	1987 tax	1988 tax	1989 tax	% diff 88-89	% diff 87-89
70 Bruce	3292	2487	2715	9.17	-17.54
124 Clandeboye	2276	3596	3940	9.57	73.09
59 Prospect	4742	3606	4004	11.04	-15.56
164 Hillside	1602	1982	2036	2.72	27.07
351 Olivier	3268	4148	4351	4.90	33.15
340 Wood	4878	6728	6241	-7.23	27.95
344 Metcalfe	2912	4584	5957	29.95	104.57
242 Redfern	3362	2760	2943	6.61	-12.47
307 Grosvenor	2380	2862	2947	2.96	23.82
355 Lansdowne	2440	3249	3822	17.64	56.64
371 Claremont	2408	2017	2577	27.76	7.03
226 Prince Albert	2260	2594	3160	21.83	39.81
71 Arlington	3178	2899	3457	19.25	8.77
9 Lorraine	2842	2984	3241	8.63	14.04
481 Prince Albert	2212	2757	2904	5.32	31.27
464 Roslyn	4908	4603	5435	18.08	10.73
11 St. George's Place	2146	2502	2689	7.49	25.32
490 Cote St. Antoine	7060	9657	9360	-3.07	32.58
24 Anwoth	4100	4493	4697	4.54	14.56
18 Forden	6992	7460	7832	4.98	12.01
18 Grenville	4890	3784	4294	13.46	-12.19
623 Sydenham	6694	9723	10489	7.88	56.69
30 Thornhill	3768	4511	4687	3.91	24.39
645 Grosvenor	4812	4056	4539	11.90	-5.68
636 Lansdowne	2804	4684	4780	2.04	70.46
31 Barat	4122	4000	4813	20.32	16.77
50 Holton	4124	6087	5825	-4.29	41.26
4306 Montrose	6302	9426	8103	-14.03	28.58
26 de Ramezay	6468	5750	6369	10.76	-1.54
37 Rosemount	3542	5121	5009	-2.19	41.42
3202 The Boulevard	3482	4381	4865	11.05	39.72
3781 The Boulevard	7600	7537	8667	15.00	14.04
110 Bellevue	4496	5704	6104	7.01	35.77
59 Belvedere	8128	6840	7812	14.21	-3.89
758 Belmont	4872	5220	6014	15.23	23.45
90 Sunnyside	3500	4255	4689	10.19	33.96
Duplexes, triplexes:					
4266 Dorchester	3014	2769	3023	9.17	.29
69-71 Hallowell	3732	2208	2709	22.70	-27.41
3101-03 St. Antoine	1166	447	855	91.54	-26.64
119-21 Irvine	1920	1432	4425	209.01	130.49
15-15A Winchester	3168	2745	3076	12.05	-2.91
430-32 Mount Stephen	3272	4104	4571	11.38	39.70
107-11 Cote St. Antoine	3284	4420	4658	5.38	41.83
3453-57 St. Antoine	1456	952	1113	16.97	-23.56
25-29 York	1860	2327	1868	-19.74	.41
17-19 Chesterfield	3576	3861	4253	10.16	18.94
Apartments:					
100-110 Hillside	18420	28624	30016	4.86	62.95
331 Clarke	22404	22374	24528	9.63	9.48
239 Kensington	55890	50311	49780	-1.05	-10.93
4560 St. Catherine	17626	16548	15896	-3.95	-9.82
3055 Sherbrooke	19438	19814	21006	6.01	8.06
4435 Sherbrooke	5294	5577	6405	14.85	20.99
200 Knsgtn-201 Metcalfe	124000	200970	206758	2.88	66.74
Condominiums:					
399 Clarke, Apt. 204	2684	2984	3451	15.67	28.58
399 Clarke, Apt. 603	2254	2614	2902	11.02	28.76
4855 de Maisonneuve #102	890	421	769	82.52	-13.64
4855 de Maisonneuve #504	2636	2054	2486	21.07	-5.68
Commercial:					
4050 Dorchester	2928	3499	3864	10.44	31.97
351-53 Victoria	3150	2964	3503	18.17	11.20
4858-66 Sherbrooke	7732	12212	12859	5.30	66.31
4356-60 Cote des Neiges	7240	6566	6791	3.43	-6.20
1231-33 Greene	3492	7227	7055	-2.39	102.02
1358-60 Greene	3556	5300	6490	22.47	82.52
386-90A Victoria	2816	5589	5593	.08	98.62
4840 Sherbrooke	31740	27913	30198	8.19	-4.86
4670 St. Catherine	11990	12327	11693	-5.15	-2.48
4479-81 St. Catherine	2730	1823	2555	40.15	-6.41
4113-17 Sherbrooke	61960	56286	57473	2.11	-7.24
4026-32 St. Catherine	21740	20720	19566	-5.57	-10.00
Westmount Square	1254600	1092271	1008165	-7.70	-19.64
Old Post Office	20580	18526	20307	9.62	-1.33
Reader's Digest	92970	87962	91729	4.28	-1.33

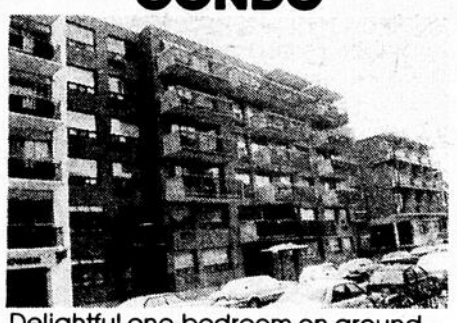
First blackouts of the year caused by squirrel, short circuit

TWO POWER outages in the past week are the first problems Westmount's electricity utility has experienced since Christmas, according to city officials.

Last Friday afternoon at about 2:50 pm, eight city blocks in the vicinity of Kensington avenue and de Maisonneuve boulevard lost power because of the work of a persistent squirrel. The animal is being blamed for eating through a cable near Ecole St-Léon. Temporary repairs were made and power was restored by 4 pm. The permanent repairs were made this week.

At about 2:30 pm Saturday, six blocks in the north central area of the city were blacked out due to a short circuit on Edgehill road. Some residents were without power for five hours. Provisional repairs were made that afternoon. The permanent repairs will be done when the weather warms up, officials said.

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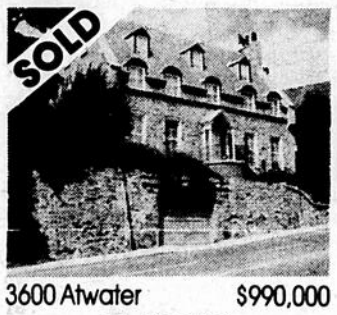
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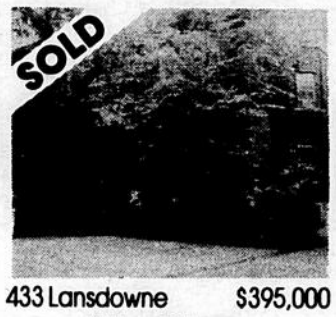
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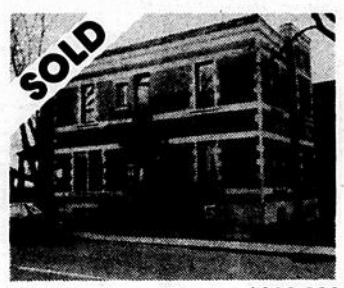
3170 DeLavigne $1,500,000
D. Raich
B. Cayne



621 Carleton $1,300,000
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5 Murray Avenue $3,500,000
G. Kristof



214-16 Prince Albert $299,000
Martha Tsadilas



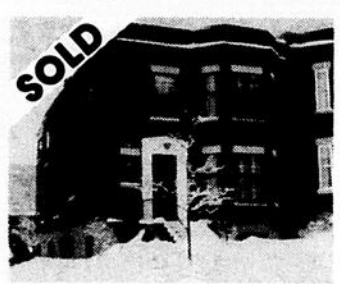
5225 Cote St. Antoine $795,000
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N. Sniatowsky



334 Elm $329,000
S. Whitzman



35 Holton $475,000
D. Raich



638 Victoria $440,000
B. Tilden
B. Firstbrook



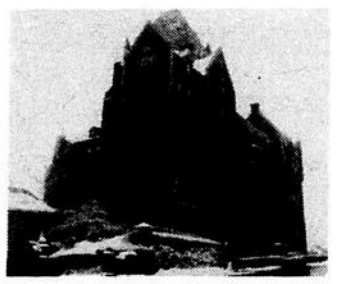
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Bobbie Tilden



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Julie Bourne



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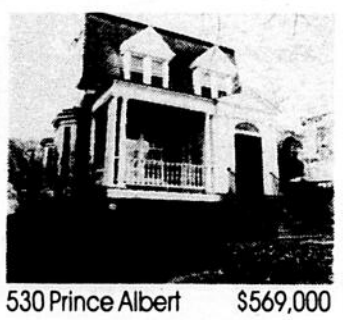
3980 C.D.N. #B96 $645,000
Maria Santini



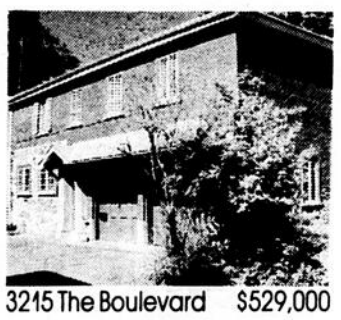
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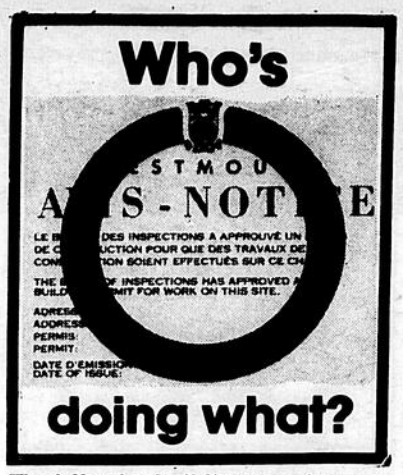
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ERRATUM
The ads in Jan. 19, Westmount Examiner reading Re/Max 555 should have read
RE/MAX westmount inc.
The Examiner apologizes for any inconvenience this might have caused.



The following building permits were issued at Westmount city hall recently:

Jan 17

461 Elm: for C. Letellier by Plomberie Verdun, new water entrance, one fixture, $500;
247 Melville: for Mr Dimio by T.M. Briggs, plumbing, four fixtures, $1,200;

Jan 19

45 Holton: for Serge Lacroix by self, terrace, $3,000;
245 Victoria: for Tiffin Construction by J.C. Lauzon, gas conversion, $1,200;
634 Sydenham: for Mr Rubin by Plomberie Tesolin et Fils, new bathroom, five fixtures, $3,500;
17 Chesterfield: for Mrs Starr by Levine Bros Plumbing, plumbing repairs, 12 fixtures, $2,500;
486 Strathcona: for J. Esdaile by Le Groupe Centco, gas conversion, $3,200;
1 Westmount Square: for Société Immobilière Trans-Québec by self, alterations to mall, $1,000,000.

Alliance Quebec fire discussed at ceremony

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

The attendance of key persons in the Alliance Quebec fire investigation at Tuesday's police swearing-in ceremony ensured that the issue would arise during the event held in Victoria Hall.

Director Roland Bourget, chief of the MUC police force, maintained that he did not believe leaks had come from his department. He was questioned at length about the investigation by reporters.

"There was no official leak," he said. "I don't know where the information was coming from. Most of the information was false anyway."

When asked how much was false, he replied only that "overall, the information that came out was not accurate."

Lachine Mayor Guy Descary, chairman of the MUC's public security commission, created a controversy last week when commenting on the Alliance Quebec issue. He, too, attended the ceremony, often speaking with MUC chairman Michel Hamelin.

Both told THE EXAMINER they were confident that they would find a successor to Director Bourget, who retires Feb 11, from within the force. No search would be made from outside the ranks unless this were not possible, Mr Hamelin said.

Westmount Mayor May Cutler, who declined comment on the remarks of Mr Descary, embraced him outside Victoria Hall while departing from the event.

"Compromised!" said Mr Descary flashing a big smile.

"I have accepted his apology," Mayor Cutler said.

The two then launched into a brief debate on the matter, Mrs Cutler saying she believed a third political party was needed in Quebec. "We're going to form one. We're going to form one," she vowed.

Somewhat ironically, Victoria Hall was the site of the Bill 178 rally Jan 8.

Cut-off driver vents his rage

An angry motorist got out of his car Sunday at Greene avenue and Dorchester boulevard and kicked the fender of another, police said. The man inflicted $500 worth of damage before the victim became scared and drove off.

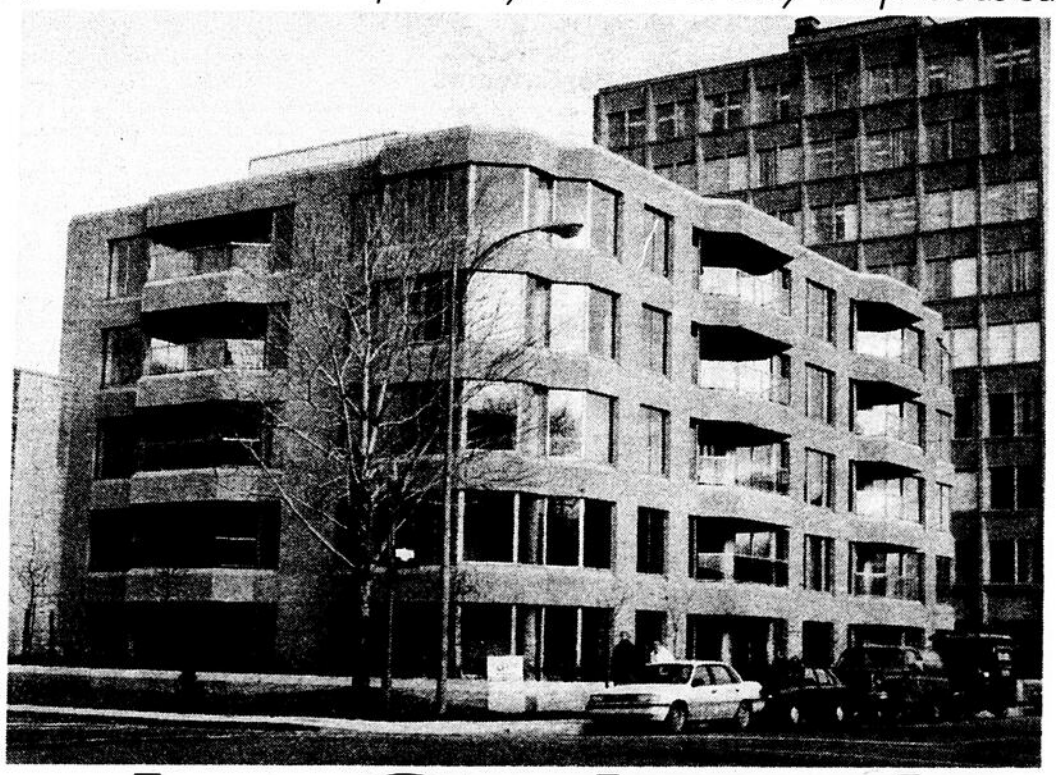
The incident occurred about 4 pm after the victim had apparently cut quickly in front of him at the corner of Stayner street and Greene.

The suspect was described as a white man aged about 25, driving a Camaro or TransAm.

Purse found

A black purse found at the rear of 346 Olivier avenue Friday was taken to local MUC police station 23 by public safety officers, police said. It contained keys and a St Vincent de Paul medal.

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Following in the shoes of her uncle, **Director Pierre Vézina**, chief of Westmount's MUC station 23, **France Bouchard**, 21, was one of those sworn in as a police constable. Did her uncle's police career have anything to do with her choice? "A little," she admitted. "She was exposed to it," added Dir Vézina. The new recruit is the daughter of his sister, Denise Bouchard.



Proud new MUC police recruits surround **Mayor May Cutler, Dir Roland Bourget** and MUC chairman **Michel Hamelin** after Tuesday's swearing-in ceremony at Victoria Hall.

48 MUC police recruits sworn in at Victoria Hall

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Members of the MUC's 64th contingent of new police constables received a special message of welcome from Westmount Mayor May Cutler Tuesday as they were sworn in to their new careers at a formal ceremony in Victoria Hall.

"I don't know any other career that is so diverse as the police," said Mrs Cutler, whose father was a Montreal police officer.

"You are expected to have resistance, resilience and discipline," she told the 48 young police men and women. "It is for these qualities we have so much respect for your work."

Addressing the recruits, their families, suburban mayors and senior MUC officials, Mayor Cutler spoke with emotion and to much applause about police careers.

"I know what the life of the police is. I know the fear of my mother when she was left alone at night with her small children."

She showed them a picture of her father in his uniform in 1909 on receiving of a medal for courage, adding that he earned 10 cents a day in pay.



New police officer **Marianne Rivest** will start work Monday at Westmount's station 23.

The swearing-in ceremony was a special occasion for Westmount. Although the police force holds about 10 each year in different MUC communities, this was the first time Westmount had hosted one.

It was also one of the larger swearing-ins, being the first since the holiday season.

Last for Bourget

This was also the last such ceremony for police chief Roland Bourget who retires as director of the force Feb 11.

The event was attended by members of the MUC's public security commission as well as senior officers of the force, among them those touted as possible successors to Dir Bourget.

Members of Westmount city council were introduced at the start of the ceremony, as were local MUC police director Pierre Vézina of station 23 and his niece, France Bouchard, who was one of the recruits sworn in.

Two former chiefs of the Westmount station, Directors John Dalzell and Gilbert Côté, also received special mention, not for their Westmount connection, but for the positions they now hold. Mr Dalzell heads the department's community and ethnic relations section. Mr Côté is interim chief of the central division.

One of the 12 women sworn in at the ceremony, Marianne Rivest, will start work Monday at station 23.

Another was Micheline Bourret, a 34-year-old mother of two. Aged 7 and 2, the children stole the show on several occasions by rushing over to look at her badge and scrambling onto her lap.

Although several new constables come from varying ethnic backgrounds, none belonged to visible minorities. "I just hope next time we'll have some," Dir Bourget said.

Marble broken after squabble

Damage to a newly-laid marble floor at a construction project was attributed to a dispute between two contractors, police said.

The vandalism occurred overnight last Thursday-Friday in the new condominium building at 4160 Sherbrooke street. Fifteen-foot-square marble tiles were found broken after two contractors were reported to have fought over who would install them.

Postal strike?

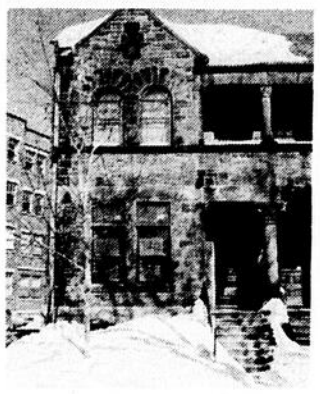
A car and a Canada Post truck collided Tuesday last week at Sherbrooke street and Elm avenue, police said. Each sustained less than $500 damage. The driver of the car, a resident of Summit Circle, was reported to have lost control of the vehicle while making a left turn about 12:50 pm.

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Real Estate
By Reg Morden

BASEMENT - A HELP OR A HINDRANCE

When preparing your house for sale, look at your basement with a critical eye. It gives a far more important impression to a prospective buyer than you may realize. If it is unfinished, people will be looking at it with an eye toward the possibility of making it into a family room or living quarters.

If the basement is musty, buy or rent a humidifier. People are not suspicious of them today.

If the furnace is old, it could probably stand a thorough cleaning plus a coat of aluminum paint, if it's not the asbestos-covered type boiler. Nothing frightens prospects quicker than a furnace festooned with cobwebs.

The hot water heater demands similar attention before a home is ready for the market.

All accumulated paraphernalia (junk) should be neatly stored or, preferably, removed from sight. In a nutshell, make sure your basement is a sales help — not a hindrance.

★ ★ ★ ★

HOME OF THE WEEK

The spotlight focuses on 383 Olivier Avenue in Westmount. A rugged brownstone façade guards an interior of infinite warmth and charm. For those who like the convenience of living close to the shops of Greene Avenue and easy access to Montreal's public transportation system, this house is ideal, since it is literally steps from both. For auto enthusiasts, a 2-car garage at the rear of the property is an unaccustomed Westmount luxury. Empty nesters or a professional couple would find this fine home most suitable indeed as an alternate to high rise condo living. The home offers over 3,000 square feet of gracious living area. As well, an intimate, fenced garden is available in season. Asking price for this fine property is $523,500. To view, please call me for an appointment.

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Bankers and brokers watch forecasts from J.A. Boeckh

What J. Anthony Boeckh thinks about the future could change your whole life.

The economic forecaster says that a recession will hit North America in 1989, probably in the second half of the year although the exact timing is "shrouded in uncertainty."

"A terrible deflationary shock has been building up for more than 40 years," Mr Boeckh says, caused by massive government intervention since the Second World War which has produced record levels of debt and illiquidity in North America.

How bad is it going to be?

"Everybody would like to know the answer, but forecasts are only probability distributions. Before you go into a recession it's impossible to know the extent of the rot in the system. If you go back to the 1970s, nobody was talking then about oil at $10 a barrel."

The probability right now is one in five that the coming downturn will be worse than the 1981-82 recession, Mr Boeckh says, producing a full-blown debt crisis and a shakeout in the business community that would see only the stronger corporations survive.

On a less alarming note, Mr Boeckh says the 80 percent probability is that North America will squeak through yet another deflationary cycle without "extreme financial and economic distress."

With the watchful air of a doctor whose patient is suffering from an excruciating, long-drawn-out malaise, Mr Boeckh says that "most countries around the world are going through the late stages of a credit squeeze. Higher interest rates have begun to bite but they haven't done the job yet. It could be a long and slow process or it could be as sudden and as fast as the stock market crash of October 1987."

Westmount resident Mr Boeckh is editor-in-chief and publisher of the venerable monthly, the *Bank Credit Analyst*, flagship of a tiny fleet of financial forecasting services produced by his firm, BCA Publications.

Housed in an immaculately restored pair of Victorian mansions in Montreal's Golden Square Mile, BCA Publications also brings out the *International Bank Credit Analyst*, a monthly that examines market conditions in Europe, North America and Asia; the *Interest Rate Forecast*, a monthly analysis of bond and money market trends; and the annual *Outlook* at the beginning of each year, which Mr Boeckh writes himself.

By CARA MACNAUGHTON

Look scholarly

All have the look of scholarly journals, crammed with sober text and elaborate charts and graphs.

The editor-in-chief has a PhD from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and served a four-year term directing monetary research and economic analysis with the Bank of Canada. His editorial team includes three economists with graduate degrees from Canadian and Scottish universities.

Although their names are not household words, the editors of BCA Publications run one of the world's most respected English-language forecasting services, with 80 percent of sales going to the U.S. and the remainder evenly divided between Canada and the rest of the globe. Annual subscriptions to each publication range from $545 to $565 U.S.

Get your ear to the ground, though, and you'll notice that the *Bank Credit Analyst* and its editors generate a steady buzz. Bankers and brokers use the BCA forecasts as a bellwether. On the night of the stock market crash in October 1987, the CBC produced two financial experts on the national news to tell numbed Canadians whether the world was headed down the drain. One of the two was Tony Boeckh.

"My clients — bond fund managers — pay a lot of attention to the *Bank Credit Analyst*," says a veteran Montreal institutional bond dealer.

His subscribers are a nervous lot who telephone BCA Publications frequently, Mr Boeckh says, in spite of the fact that the majority are professional money managers.

From all over the world, the calls come in. "They say they're having a meeting at 11 am, they've got to make a decision, what's our view, has it changed," Mr Boeckh says.

The switchboard really lights up when a postal delay coincides with alarming market conditions. "The phone goes nuts. We can get 300 calls. We've got something in the house that we jokingly call the 'telephone indicator.' The more phone calls we get, the closer we are to a market bottom. It's a panic indicator."

A Canadian whose ancestors came from Alsace by way of New York City, Mr Boeckh says it's "only an accident that we're here in Montreal. We could operate anywhere. In the 1970s I moved everything to London, England for a year."

He likes the U.S. and its "free-wheeling financial system" and thinks free trade will be good for Canada. "But Canadians are apprehensive, because free trade means they've got to go back to work. There won't be any more free lunch."

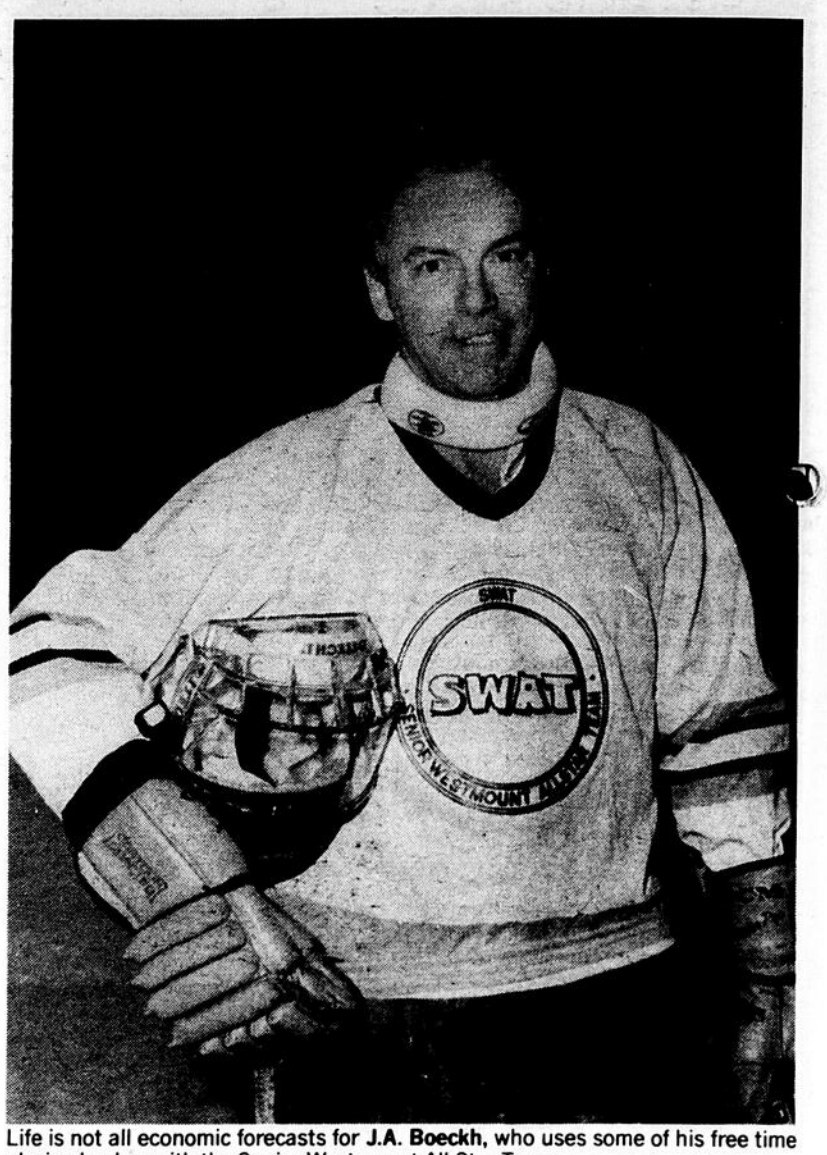
With a staff of 17 and a thriving circulation, BCA Publications was threatening to overflow its original three-storey house on Peel street until last year, when Mr Boeckh bought an identical property next door that was also built in the 1880s.

Restored both

Architect Ken London restored both mansions to pristine condition and joined the two buildings by piercing several doors through the mitoyenne wall. Superb original plaster cornices, elegant Victorian carved woodwork and heavy century-old interior shutters still adorn most of the rooms that now serve as offices.

Mr Boeckh collects art. A large semi-abstract landscape by Westmount artist Desmond Senior hangs in the editorial conference room, which occupies a former drawing room on the second floor.

There's no name on the street door, and nothing at first glance to suggest that the building is not a residence.



Life is not all economic forecasts for **J.A. Boeckh**, who uses some of his free time playing hockey with the Senior Westmount All-Star Team.

Photo by VALERIE TETLEY

"It doesn't look like it from outside, but inside we're very wired up," says Mr Boeckh, who has a DEC mini-computer in the basement with terminals and desktop plotters scattered throughout the buildings, as well as several PCs and an Olivetti word-processing system with a laser printer that's used to set type for the forecasting publications.

Three research assistants prepare the dozens of detailed proprietary charts that are a hallmark of the BCA forecasting service. A single issue can contain 30 to 60 charts, many created with desktop plotters, but others laboriously inked in by hand on a drafting table.

Related streams

The charts display raw financial data plotted on curves, just as one might expect. The BCA editors are fond of relating two streams of data and plotting the resulting ratio. This produces some charts with arcane titles like "France-U.S. inflation-adjusted bond yield differential" and "S&P 400 dividend yield divided by three-month treasury bill rate."

The latter ratio is currently telling an experienced eye that "equity prices will fall unless interest rates decline quickly or dividends rise dramatically," according to the accompanying text.

But what's really going to happen? Will stock prices go up? Or interest rates or dividend yields or consumer debt or money supply or Japanese yen or South African golds or any of the hundreds of streams of financial data tracked by the *Bank Credit Analyst*? Or will they go down?

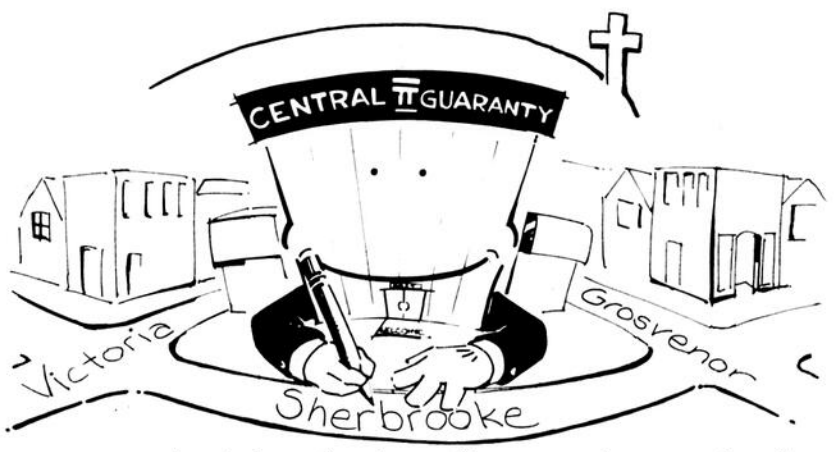
Mr Boeckh laughs. He says that people who look for simple answers "are misusing our publications. They're imputing a false degree of accuracy to forecasting.

"The more I do it, the more I know that perfect forecasting can't be done. If we could be accurate 100 percent of the time, we wouldn't need to publish the *Bank Credit Analyst* — we'd just manage our own accounts."

To subscribers, the BCA editors are suggesting the place to be right now is in long-term bonds and NIC currencies. "Bonds are as undervalued as they have ever been at any time since World War II," Mr Boeckh says. And NIC currencies, which are the currencies of newly industrialized countries like Korea and Malaysia, offer less risk than Japanese yen.

There's only one thing he can predict with certainty, Mr Boeckh says. "The more difficulties there are in the economy, the more demand there will be for forecasting services."

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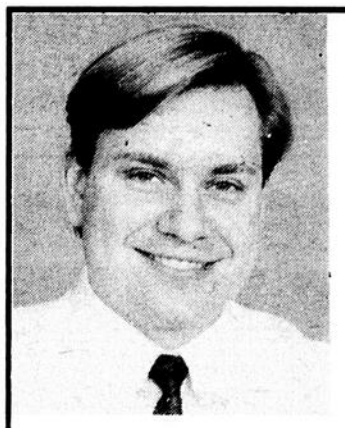
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Laundry, locks and repairs:

Tenants meet city officials; maintenance law discussed

By CHARLES MAPPIN

Westmount tenants may have the benefit of a maintenance by-law by the summer, THE EXAMINER learned this week.

The city has begun work drafting legislation regulating such areas as apartment building security and upkeep. Notice of motion of the by-law may be given as early as March or April.

The by-law and a Victoria Hall tenants' fair were two items on the agenda last week at a closed meeting between city officials and the Committee of Westmount Tenants' Associations (CWTA).

The new by-law will be based on maintenance regulations in the Côte St. Luc building code and zoning by-law. Westmount director of services Bruno Di Lenardo said elements of each will be extracted and put into a by-law amending Westmount's building code.

The by-law will stipulate, among other things, that landlords must keep entrance doors to all apartment buildings locked, maintain mailboxes in proper working order, make repairs within a reasonable amount of time and provide a laundry room in every building.

The latter requirement will be made since Westmount's zoning prohibits public laundromats.

Mr Di Lenardo said a draft will be written up shortly and presented to committee of council next month. The city will then meet with the tenants' group again to go over it. After refinements are made, notice of motion to adopt the by-law might be given at the March or April council meeting. The by-law could be passed at the subsequent meeting.

CWTA chairman Christiane van Renesse said her group is "very pleased" the city is moving in this direction. Mrs van Renesse has been pushing for such a by-law for several years.

The idea for the tenants' fair has stemmed from a request by the rental board for the CWTA to show that it really represents local residents before the board will provide a liaison to the group, Mrs van Renesse said.

A number of booths will be set up in Victoria Hall where tenants will be able to get a range of information and advice from various groups including the rental board, the fire department and the public security unit. There will also be an opportunity for tenants to voice their problems and concerns. The fair is planned for late May or early June.

The CWTA meets with city officials again next month.

Broken pipe causes office flood

A broken pipe caused water to flood from the sixth floor to the ground level of the office building at 4150 St Catherine street Sunday, fire officials said. Damage was reported to ceiling tiles and carpets of offices on four storeys as the water found its way down to the lobby by electrical conduits and vent ducts.

The flood was discovered about 11:45 am when water activated an alarm, bringing out police, firemen and public safety officers. The course was traced to a burst 3/4-inch pipe in the wall of a washroom.

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Greta Nemiroff's new group:

For 'fat damn English women,' language issue is secondary

By JOANN ISSENMAN

Westmounter Greta Nemiroff wasn't really surprised to hear Pierre MacDonald, Quebec's minister of industry and commerce, insult women with his now famous "grosses maudites Anglaises" statement, although she was "saddened." She bristles over Mr MacDonald's subsequent statement that most of the things that were said against anglophones were "unrepeatable," but that he felt he could repeat the "grosses maudites Anglaises" comment.

"Can you imagine the things that were said that were 'unrepeatable'?"

Ms Nemiroff's point is that Mr MacDonald felt comfortable linking the language debate to an attack against women.

"Hidden in the words 'les grosses maudites Anglaises' is a certain drab vision of women." She says it's unconscionable that "the most vulnerable" in our society, in this case a group of women, mostly part-time workers with few institutional defences, get targeted.

"These women live poor and die poor. They build up very little equity in their pensions." She says that it is "distressing" that male politicians feel that they can continue to talk about women "like that," but shrugs and says, "It's rare when people in power are reflective."

After Mr MacDonald's statement appeared in *La Presse* and then in *The Gazette*, Ms Nemiroff and Anne Usher, president of the Canadian Council of Social Development, quickly assembled a group of women to form "Les Grosses Maudites Anglaises." The group held a press conference to condemn Mr MacDonald's remark as "sexist, racist and prejudicial," as well as being untrue. Ms Nemiroff sees the remark as harassment of "front-line workers in the service industry." The subsequent layoff of 900 Simpson's workers, 600 of them part-timers, attests to the fragility of this sector, in her opinion.

Entwined

The language issue and feminist issues are entwined for Ms Nemiroff. The concern of her group is not language per se, but how language is used as a barrier to the other rights and privileges of our society. She believes that many issues that relate to women also touch on language and language training. She points to the example of a CLSC in Montreal North whose clientèle is almost exclusively Spanish-speaking. The CLSC asked permission to provide pre-natal instruction in Spanish. The request was denied by the Quebec government.

She stresses that language courses must be made available to women "in a realistic way." The immigrant woman, for instance, needs language training coupled with day care in order to prepare for assimilation into Quebec society.

"The language issue is very 'nuance'," says Ms Nemiroff, explaining that the debate is not black and white, not sharply defined. "The issue is being polarized by the media."

One of the goals of her group is to



Greta Nemiroff

open a dialogue with francophone women's groups in order to address women's issues together and prevent those issues from getting lost when society talks about language. She's annoyed that the "self-identified English groups like Alliance Québec" are only sensitive to attacks on the language and not to attacks on women, class or age.

"This is the level that the language debate has taken, defenceless women are put in a terrible position. It's yet another example of the negligibility of women's issues. Some in the French press have said that the 'grosses maudites Anglaises' statement was only meant to be symbolic. Yes, perhaps it was symbolic, but when it's you that is the symbol, it's different. You don't live as a symbol, you live as a person. And to suddenly have yourself targeted in this way is very prejudicial."

La Fédération des Femmes du Québec, an association of women's groups with 55,000 members across the province, has supported Les Grosses Maudites Anglaises' demand for an apology from Mr MacDonald, but with a proviso. "On ne touche pas la question de la langue," they said. That doesn't upset Ms Nemiroff because, for her group, the feminist issue is the most important. "I don't think any of us are in this primarily because of the language issue.

Outrageous law

"Sure Bill 178 is an outrageous law. Sure the notwithstanding clause is outrageous. But what's more outrageous is that it got through Parliament, that it got into the Constitution. The notwithstanding clause has been used four or five times in Quebec and each time it's been prejudicial. That's outrageous."

Ms Nemiroff feels the language debate will eventually settle down. Her personal view is that the real debate should not be over the survival of French culture, but whether Quebec will survive as a pluralistic society.

"Will those Vietnamese kids that I hear speaking flawless French on the bus be accepted, not assimilated, into Quebec society?" It is no longer the age of the *pur laine* Québécois. "The faces in the elementary schools are changing." She wonders to what extent and how well Quebec society can impose a culture on a pluralistic population.

Les Grosses Maudites Anglaises plan to get together again sometime in February, probably with a brunch meeting so that all the women who have shown interest in this issue can be heard. In the short term they intend "to be very vigilant" and look forward to opening a discussion with francophone women. "What we are is a loosely associated group of women who are ready to react if we have to react."

Ms Nemiroff, a writer-essayist, teaches English and humanities at The New School at Dawson College. She is also co-director of The New School. In 1971 she taught the first women's studies course that was offered in a Canadian university. In addition to her regular teaching and administrative duties, she gives workshops on work-related issues.

A drop in bucket for wire

While it passed a budget in excess of $40 million at Monday's public meeting, city council made only one of its routine spending approvals.

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Lost its spark

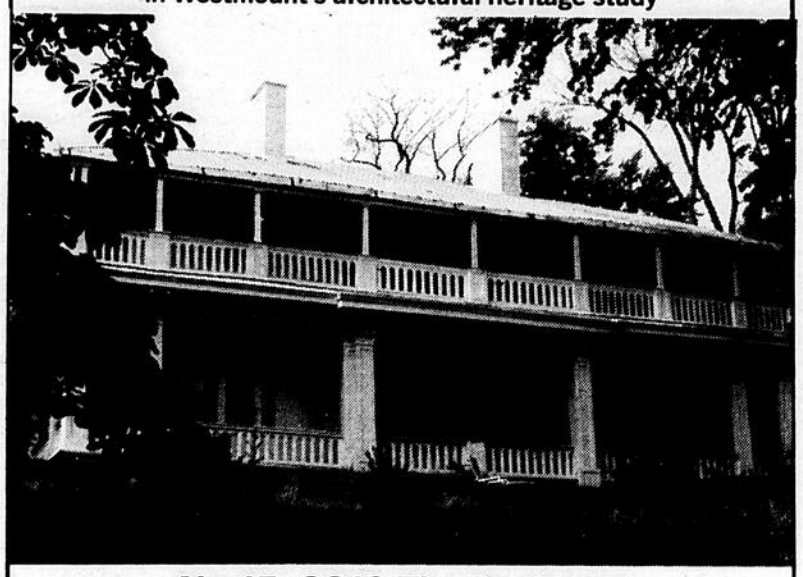
The ignition was stolen from a Jeep parked overnight Friday-Saturday at the rear of 5010 Sherbrooke street, police report. The steering wheel also was damaged in the incident. The vehicle belonged to a resident of the apartment building. Other cars have been reported broken into recently at the same location.

Skis taken

Someone stole skis, boots and poles from a locker in the apartment building at 400 Lansdowne avenue over the past three months, police report. The equipment was valued at $1,800.

WESTMOUNT'S Heritage Houses

A series on the private residences designated 1A in Westmount's architectural heritage study



No 15: 3219 The Boulevard

THIS home, called "Braemar," was built in 1847 in accordance with the plans of William Footner. The owner at the time of construction was John Eadie. The house was erected at the very end of a steep road east of the Rosemount estate which would later become Mountain avenue, Westmount's architectural heritage study explains.

Braemar had a twin called Clareview, built immediately to the east. Little is known about Clareview's fate or when it was torn down.

"From the galleries of both these houses, one could enjoy the country landscape as far as the Adirondack mountains.... The Southern Colonial aspect of Braemar expressed by the Neo-Georgian details of its entrance door, its eaves and its galleries, can be ascribed to a 1924 facelift. Moreover, the Neo-Georgian style is known to have been very popular in Westmount in the mid-1920s.

"If Braemar more than fully deserves to rank with the most interesting Westmount buildings, it is not at all because of its Southern Colonial look, but because of its heroic character as a survivor of the twinned houses, because of the important persons who have lived in it, and because of the exceptional evolutive character of its architecture."

Braemar, originally situated on 10 acres of land, has lost much of its former grandeur. Midst controversy, Westmount city council passed a resolution in 1980 permitting the subdivision of the Braemar property and allowed three houses to be built on its front lawn in advance of the zoned building line.

Hydro gear burns on pole

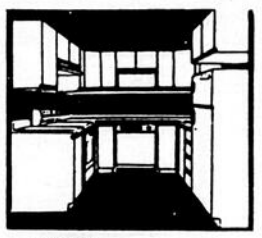
A fire in electrical equipment on a hydro pole at the rear of 200 Edgehill road caused $3,000 damage Saturday afternoon, fire officials report. A short circuit was believed to have caused the pothead to burn.

Fire crews were summoned to the scene at 4:36 pm on the first of several calls received by the fire department. A 1½ line was used to spray the flames before arrival of light and power crews.

A blown transformer at the rear of 360 Clarke avenue the previous afternoon also resulted in a call to firemen when flashes were spotted. Power crews were already on the scene.

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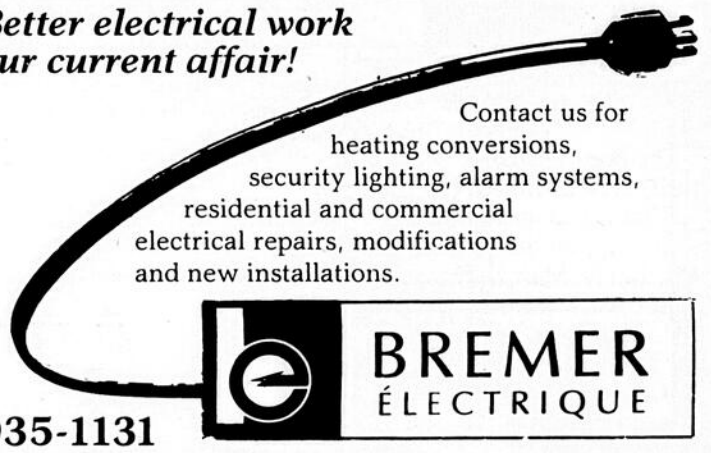
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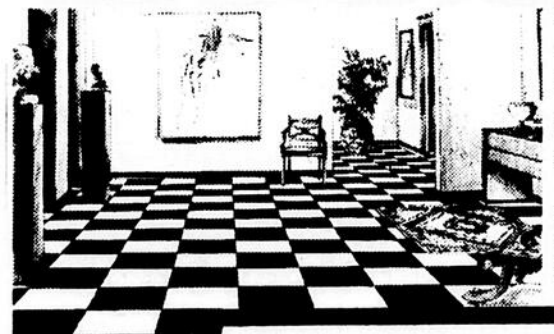
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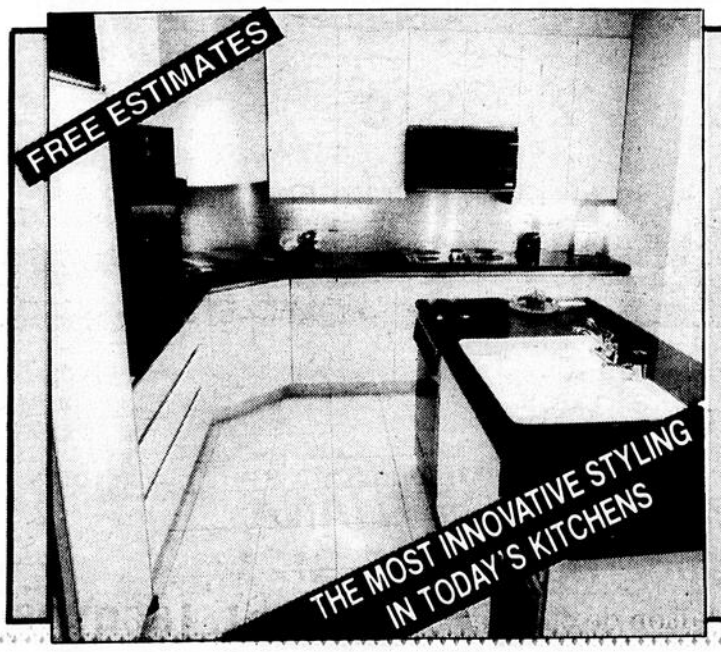
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Saidye Bronfman Centre opens new arts annex

The public is invited to visit the new arts annex of the Saidye Bronfman Centre during the three open houses scheduled for Sundays, Jan 29, Feb 5 and Feb 12.

The first of these is also the date of the VIP ribbon-cutting ceremony which will take place at noon.

During the open house, visitors will see the new fine arts studios in action, with teachers and students pleased to share their enthusiasm and their craft. Visitors are invited to dabble in paint, charcoal or any of the other media being used by the art classes.

There will be free children's activities — a "paint-off" and hands-on ceramic and painting studio classes. A photo-etching exhibition in the annex's main lobby will show works by 15 of the school's teachers and students.

Designer of the annex, Montreal architect Peter Lanken, will give a slide presentation on the architectural theory and historical approach behind his design, on Monday, Jan 30, in the SBC theatre.

Many other events and displays are planned. For more information, call the SBC at 739-2301.

Completing phase III of the Centre's nearly $5-million renovation and expansion, begun in 1985, the new arts annex adds 14,400 square feet of state-of-the-art facilities to the YM-YWHA's arts and culture branch. The work was made possible through a grant from the Saidye Bronfman Centre's founding family.

APPOINTMENT

The Queen Elizabeth Hospital of Montreal



Mr. Ian D. Mair

The Board of Directors of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital of Montreal announces the appointment of Mr. Ian D. Mair as President and Chairman of the Board. Mr. Mair is past president of the Prudential Life Insurance Company Limited. The Queen Elizabeth Hospital is a McGill University affiliated teaching hospital.

Brandis guest of Print Society

Artist Gerard Brender A. Brandis will demonstrate and discuss the techniques of wood-engraving at the fifth meeting of the fifth season of the Montreal Print Collector's Society.

The author of *Wood, ink and paper*, Mr Brandis will have on hand examples of his own work for show and sale.

Mr Brandis was born in the Netherlands and came to Canada in 1947. He obtained his BFA in art history in 1965 from McMaster University. He then set up his own studio in Carlisle, Ontario, where he still lives and works.

These days, Mr Brandis concentrates on smaller formats presented in limited edition books. He typesets, prints and binds these books himself.

The meeting will be held in Kellert Hall, 5500 Westbury avenue, Feb 2, at 8 pm. Price is $5.

For more information, call president Joe Donohue at 481-3884.

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Beyond Westmount's Borders

A random sampler of things to see or do in the bigger city surrounding us

By KARL JAROSIEWICZ

Indian architecture

An outstanding exhibition called "Architecture in India" is being shown at McGill University's recently renovated School of Architecture in the Macdonald-Harrington building. Probably the most comprehensive exhibition on this subject ever assembled, this show provides an opportunity to view the vast range of Indian architecture from the traditional to the contemporary. This exhibit, which was shown at the Festival of India in Paris last year, is being brought to Montreal jointly by McGill, the Shastri Institute and professional architects from Montreal. The show continues until Feb 5 and can be seen between 10 am and 5 pm, Mondays to Fridays. Admission is free and anyone interested is welcome.

A foot in the door

The Periodical Writers' Association of Canada will be bringing together professional writers, editors, a literary agent and a grants officer from Canada Council for a one-day seminar on non-fiction book writing. This seminar, titled "From concept to contract," will explore the world of non-fiction book writing and such topics as basic formulation of ideas, research techniques, how to get funding and how to publish completed works. Speakers will include authors Allan Gould, Barbara Florio Graham, Diana Raab and Kathe Lieber. Also on the roster are Toronto-based literary agent Helen Heller, Canada Council's Claudine Guay and "how-to" author Dianne Thomas. The seminar will be held in McGill University's Bronfman building, 1001 Sherbrooke street west, on Saturday, from 10 am to 4 pm. Entrance fee is $25 and registration begins at 9:30 am. Authors will be available to sign selected works.

Pygmies and streetwalkers

The Liberal Arts College of Concordia University presents a lecture by Sander L. Gilman of Cornell University titled "The Hottentot and the prostitute: race, gender, and difference in Manet and Zola." This timely subject will be presented tonight at 8:30 pm in room H-110 of the Hall building, 1455 de Maisonneuve boulevard west. Prof Gilman's impressive list of credentials includes Goldwin Smith professor of humane studies, professor of Near Eastern studies and director of both the Western societies and Jewish studies programs at Cornell University. Prof Gilman is also the author of more than 100 articles and 17 edited works including his most recent, *Disease and representation: images of illness from madness to AIDS*. For more information, call 848-2565.

Bohemians in Paris

L'Opéra de Montréal presents its third production of the 1988-89 season, *La Bohème* by Giacomo Puccini. Considered by many to be Puccini's best operatic score, this story takes place in the Latin quarter of Paris in the mid-1830s. It tells the tale of the passionate and tragic love affairs of two Bohemian couples. Sung in Italian with bilingual subtitles, *La Bohème* will be performed at 8 pm on Saturday and on Feb 2, 4, 8 and 11, in Salle Wilfrid Pelletier of Place des Arts. For more information, call the PdA box office.

Vocal ensemble

L'Ensemble vocal Les Jamésiens, under the direction of Alice Poulin-Parizeau, presents a concert at St Viateur Church, corner of Laurier and Bloomfield streets in Outremont. The program includes *Gloria* by Francis Poulenc, *Sanctus and motets* by Maurice Duruflé, *Chants de danse* by Lionel Daunais and a collection of Negro spirituals. Tickets are $10, $8 for students. Information can be had by calling 842-5468.

McGill presents...

McGill faculty of music presents several concerts this week at Pollack Hall, 555 Sherbrooke west. Brian McCue on percussion and Michelle Hunchak on piano will perform works by Piché, Feldman, Henze, Deane and Chaitken, Monday at 8 pm. On Tuesday at 8 pm, François Gauthier, a percussionist, leads a group of musicians through pieces by Mather, Hambraeus, Steiner, Kulesha and Adler. On Wednesday, again at 8 pm, Karen Young and Michel Donato perform, respectively, vocals and double-bass for a performance of jazz from their repertoire. Admission is free for all concerts. Call 398-4547 or 398-4539 for more details.

Featuring Forrester

The first concert of 1989 to be given by the McGill Chamber Orchestra will feature one of the foremost contraltos of our time, Maureen Forrester. Ms Forrester, who has performed with virtually every major orchestra around the world, will be soloist with the Orford String Quartet in Respighi's *Il tramonto* and Murray Schafer's *Beauty and the beast*. The Orford String Quartet will also be heard performing Mozart's *Quartet K. 575*, and Beethoven's *String quartet opus 59 No 3*. This concert will be performed on Monday evening at 8:30 pm in Maisonneuve Theatre of Place des Arts. A limited number of seats are available at the PdA box office.

Warm lights

Lakeshore Players present a production of William Norfolk's historical drama *The lights are warm and colored*. The story begins when a group of actors visits Lizzie Borden and conversation turns to the circumstances surrounding the murder of Lizzie's father and stepmother, the crime of which she has been presumed guilty. The play runs from Wednesday to Saturday, Feb 4, at Jean XXIII Theatre, 1301 Dawson avenue in Dorval. Curtain time is 8 pm. Tickets for Wednesday and Thursday are $8, $7 for seniors and students, and for Friday and Saturday are $10 and $8.50. The box office is now open. Call for reservations or information at 631-8718.

A good self-image

The Saidye Bronfman Centre is presenting a group exhibition by 18 of the SBC's photoetching students, in the new arts annex lobby, from Sunday to Feb 24. As one of the special events celebrating the new annex, this exhibition will be on display immediately following the official ribbon-cutting ceremony that opens the annex to the public. "Self-portrayal: a photoetching portfolio" is the brainchild of longtime SBC teacher Doreen Lindsay. The SBC is located at 5170 Côte St Catherine road. Call 739-2301 for more information.

Sacred places

Photographer Normand Rajotte will show his work "Dans les coins oubliés, à la recherche des dieux tranquilles" from Wednesday to Feb 26 at Dazibao, 4060 St Lawrence boulevard, suite 104. Rajotte works within the landscape genre, but instead of shooting just images of grandeur, he chooses places that suggest an archetypal character, sacred and mysterious. This photographer has participated in exhibitions across Canada and other countries since the mid-1970s. For more information, call 845-0063.

CAMMAC prepares Purcell reading

CAMMAC, Canadian Amateur Musicians, invites all amateur vocalists and instrumentalists to join in a sight-reading of *Dido and Aeneas* by Purcell, lead by Gaby Billette.

The reading will be held in the basement of St Matthias' Church from 3 to 5 pm on Sunday, Jan 29. Parts will be provided at the church.

For further information, call 352-7499 or 486-5440.

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THE ART OF RAISING FUNDS: The Westmount branch of the Auxiliary of the Montreal General Hospital is planning a fund-raising reception and exhibition at Dan Delaney's Artlenders Gallery, Monday, Feb 20. Twenty prominent artists, many from Westmount, will display and varied selection of works. At a planning session were, from left, participating artist and Westmount resident **Evelyn Gold**, and committee members **Sue Winsor, Margaret Ross, Ingrid Lenzy, Mary Delaney** of Artlenders, **Susan McElroy, Helgi Soutar** and **Margaret Stavert**. The painting under discussion is a work by John Collins, one of the two dozen artists who will be exhibiting.
Photo by VALERIE TETLEY



ON DISPLAY: Westmount artist **Eva Prager** shows off one of the many works she has created. Mrs Prager has an exhibition of oils and pastels on now at Galerie des 5 Continents on Greene avenue. The show runs until Jan 4.
Photo by VALERIE TETLEY

Montreal Ikebana group has busy schedule till June

Ikebana International, Montreal chapter 155, has several events scheduled to take place in the next few months. Meetings are at 1:30 pm in St Andrew-Dominion-Douglas Church, 687 Roslyn avenue.

A lecture by Pierre Bourque, director of the Botanical Garden, on Jan 31, will deal with "East and west: Japanese gardens in the Western world." Mrs A. Ikeyama of the Misho school will do the flower arrangements.

There will be a social gathering in February. On March 28, Mrs M. Ikegami and Mrs M. Mayeda of the Ikenobo school will give a demonstration and workshop. Another demonstration and workshop, this time given by Mrs M. Watanabe of the Sogetsu school, will take place on April 25.

The group's annual flower show will be held in May, and the annual luncheon in June.

For more information, call secretary Ruth Harris at 482-7961.

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Bridge luncheon benefits MCH

The Auxiliary of the Montreal Children's Hospital will hold a charity bridge luncheon on Wednesday, Feb 15, at noon in Annunciation Church in the Town of Mount Royal.

There will be a duplicate bridge session with trophies for the over-all winners. There will also be rubber bridge. Non-bridge players are invited to make up a table and play any card game they like.

Reservations are necessary and should be made early. Players are asked to bring their own cards. Table and door prizes will be awarded. The cost is $10 per person.

For reservations or for further information, call Joyce Nesmith at 738-6781 or Lucille Leslie at 342-2702.

Westley speaker at lunch meeting

The women's branch of Château Ramezay will hold its next luncheon meeting on Monday, Jan 30, at 12:30 pm.

Guest speaker will be Dr Margaret Westley, researcher, broadcaster and freelance writer. Her topic will be, "After the golden age of English Montreal."

Members and guests of the Antiquarian and Numismatic Society of Montreal are invited to attend.

Results of lupus research presented

The Lupus Society of Quebec invites its members and the public to a conference at the Montreal Children's Hospital, 2300 Tupper, Ross Lounge, at 1:30 pm, Sunday, Jan 29.

Dr John Esdail of the Montreal General Hospital and Dr Denis Choquette of Hôpital Notre Dame will discuss the treatment of lupus patients with the anti-malarial drug Plaquenil and the results of their research.

Admission is free and refreshments will be served following the conference.

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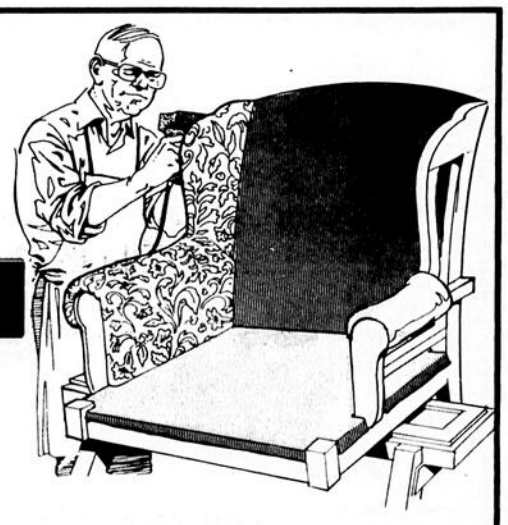


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Funds will help group prevent sexual violence

Le Mouvement contre le viol is holding its seventh annual fund-raising drive until Feb 13.

Public awareness of sexual assault has increased over the past few years. Society has recognized the need for prevention and education programs in the fight against sexual violence.

With this recognition has come an increased need for support services for victims of rape and incest. Public education encourages the victims of these crimes to seek out help and support. Adequate and sufficient services must be there to meet their needs.

In Montreal at present, the demand for support exceeds the services available. The establishment of additional services and the maintenance of those in existence are essential.

With the donations received during its fund-raising campaign, Le Mouvement contre le viol will provide confidential crisis counselling and follow-up; general, legal and medical information; advice and referrals for the victims, their families, friends and for professionals in a position to help. Financial contributions are a way of making a constructive gesture against sexual violence.

Donations can be sent to PO Box 364, N.D.G. Postal Station, Montreal, H4A 3P7. Receipts for income tax purposes are available on request.

Naturopathy topic

Daniel Crisafi, MSc, ND, nutritionist and doctor of naturopathic medicine, will speak to the Entre Nous group at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom on Monday, Jan 30, at 1 pm. The public is welcome.

Blood drive

Place Alexis Nihon will be the site of a one-day Red Cross blood donor clinic next Thursday. The clinic will be held on the ground floor, St Catherine street entrance, from 10:30 am to 8:30 pm.



IN A PASSION: The much-acclaimed *The Passion of Narcisse Mondou* is playing at the Saidye Bronfman Centre until Valentine's Day. Seated are **Huguette Oligny** and **Gratien Gélinas** who star in the production. **Barry Garber**, left, and **Sam Gesser** are assistant producer and producer respectively. The play will have performances in French on some evenings, English on others. For more information, call the SBC at 739-2301. *Photo by OWEN EGAN*

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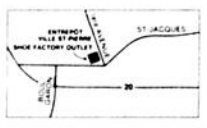
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with

DOROTHY SIROTA



I started a learning log this week, and it's an interesting project.

Inspiration came from a book that Sister Sylvia MacDonald of Marianopolis had given me a while ago. The author, Ronald Gross, titled his book *The Lifelong Learner*, and many of the things he talks about touch a chord in me.

Mr Gross quotes a businessman of his acquaintance who said, "Until I say out loud what I feel and think or fantasize about, I really don't know who I am or who lives in me." So *he* started a journal, not only to focus on books he read and on ideas, but as a personal effort to explore his emotional "inner space."

I like that. It reminds me a bit of the diary I kept as a young girl. I lost that diary long ago, and I never got back into the habit, but I still recall the pleasure it gave me, the utter sense of privacy I felt that was so important to me in my growing up. The questions I didn't dare ask *anyone* were revealed in my diary and, somehow, just recording them seemed to help, to make some sense out of things, as it were.

I'm hoping that my learner's log will give me some of that feeling. I do realize that I ask a lot of questions of myself these days. But they flit in and out of my consciousness and don't really get resolved. Perhaps writing them down will help sort things out. Certainly the questions will be more clearly defined.

I did anticipate a "shaking up" in the moving process. One can't make the major change of moving from Westmount to Cornwall without some psychological, emotional, social upheaval. And the dust hasn't settled.

But I don't really want to be settled till I resolve some of the questions I've been asking myself.

A little planning and organization should help. Even making a list (always one of my favorite activities) of the things that I'm curious about, of the changes and the consequences, might enlighten me about my new environment, my expectations and the things I should be doing.

A Zen proverb, which Mr Gross quotes, states "The way of the masters was to find their own way." So I'm looking at my log as a tool to learning, not only about me and my new life, but about new things I'd like to explore.

Mr Gross talks of a "second education." Somehow, I feel that learning is really a continuous process for seniors, as for all ages, if we choose to make it so. Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "There is a time in every man's education when he arrives at the conviction that envy is ignorance; that imitation is suicide... the power which resides in him is new in nature, and none but he knows what that is which he can do, nor does he know until he has tried."

Still an exciting idea, isn't it?

The Lifelong Learner by Ronald Gross was published by Simon and Schuster of New York.

MAAA hosts naturalist

Michael Runtz, Algonquin Park naturalist, will be the guest speaker at a meeting of the Montreal Zoological Society to be held Monday, Jan 30, at 8 pm at the Montreal Amateur Athletic Association, 2070 Peel street.

Mr Runtz will give a slide presentation focusing on the ecology of wolves and moose in the park.

The public is welcome.

No-nuke benefit

The Health Professionals for Nuclear Responsibility will hold a benefit concert at the Westhill auditorium, 5851 Somerled avenue. The Yellow Door Tabernacle Choir will perform. The concert will take place on Saturday, Jan 28, starting at 8 pm. Price for admission is $10 for adults, $5 for seniors and students. Tickets will be available at the door.

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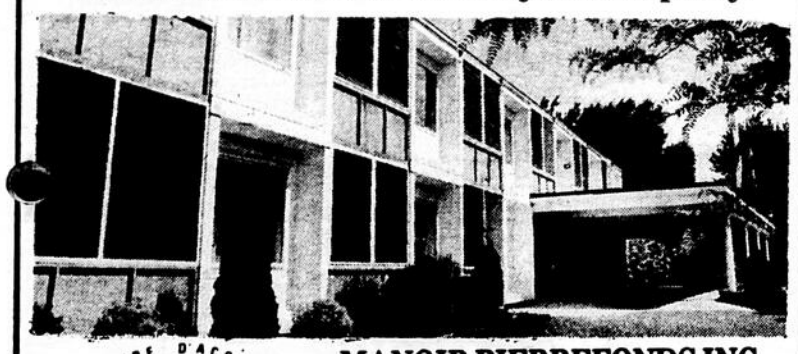
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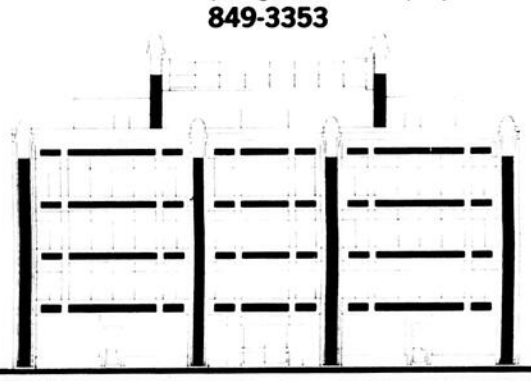
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Well-behaved raptors enchant local Rotarians

Derin Henderson enraptured members of the Rotary Club of Westmount at their regular Victoria Hall meeting Wednesday last week with a presentation on the Macdonald Raptor Research Centre of McGill University.

To illustrate her talk, Ms Henderson brought along a couple of resident birds from the centre. Nina, a falcon, and Hercules, an owl, behaved impeccably throughout the half-hour session.

Ms Henderson works as the centre's education officer while studying for her master's degree in wildlife conservation under David Bird, the centre's director.

Although the centre's goal when it opened in 1972 was to conduct research on raptors, it is now involved with the rehabilitation of injured birds as well. It currently looks after about a dozen different species of handicapped birds, mostly injured ones brought to it from the SPCA.

The word raptor is Latin for "plunderer" and refers to birds of prey. They can be identified by their talons and hooked beaks.

Ms Henderson said raptors have been subjected to a lot of bad press over the years, most of it undeserved.

Not baby-nappers

"Raptors are not animals to be feared. They don't fly around stealing babies as many people believe," she told the Rotarians.

With the peregrine falcon, Nina, sitting calmly on her wrist, Ms Henderson said raptors nest on tall buildings downtown because the structures resemble the cliffs where they nest in the wild.

She explained how peregrine falcons, which are native to Quebec, found themselves on the endangered species list when they began to suffer from reproductive failure in the 1950s.

It wasn't until the 1970s that the source of the problem was discovered. Peregrines were consuming large amounts of the now-banned pesticide DDT in their food. The toxic substance thinned the shells of the eggs they laid. The shells broke when the adults sat on them to incubate them.

By CHARLES MAPPIN

The centre is trying to build up the local population of peregrines by breeding them and releasing them into the wild at a young age. Ms Henderson said the goal is to establist a wild population of at least 20 breeding pairs in southern Quebec. Last summer, the centre released 19 of the birds in the province, she said.

Falconry, hunting with falcons, is against the law in Quebec, but is still permitted in Ontario and some states in the U.S.

Little big owl

Next on the agenda at the Rotary meeting was Hercules. To the layman, Hercules looks like a baby owl. But weighing in at 100 grams, Hercules is a full-grown adult saw-whet owl. The species is so named because its cry is like the sound made when filing a saw.

Hercules is one of the handicapped raptors in care at the centre. The right side of his body is paralyzed, believed to be the result of nerve damage suffered when he flew into a window.

Hercules has a voracious appetite. He chows down two 50-gram mice a day. When he's not particularly hungry, he apparently eats only the heads.

Another saw-whet — named Pee Wee and who could pass for Hercules' twin — was brought to the centre last summer by a Westmount resident after being attacked by a cat.

Other species of raptors at the centre include golden eagles, bald eagles, red-tailed hawks, turkey vultures, gyrfalcons, kestrels, red-shouldered hawks, rough-legged hawks, great horned owls, snowy owls and screech owls.

While raptors' sense of hearing is less developed than humans', their sight is far superior, Ms Henderson said. An eagle flying above the trees can spot a rabbit hopping along two miles away!

Anyone interested in having a tour of the Macdonald Raptor Research Centre can call 398-7930 to make arrangements. In the summer months, the centre is open to visitors every Sunday between 1 pm and 4 pm.

People often have trouble finding it, Ms Henderson said. Here's how to get there: take highway 40 to exit 41. Follow the sign for "Chemin Ste-Marie est." Drive up the hill to the first stop sign. Turn right. Heading south now, take the overpass over highway 40 to the next stop sign. Turn left and go over highway 20. The centre is on the left.

Two purses snatched from women on de Maisonneuve

TWO WOMEN had purses snatched from them on Westmount streets over the weekend, police report. Neither was reported injured.

The first theft occurred at knifepoint Friday at 10:45 pm when the victim, a Westmount woman, was held up by a youth at de Maisonneuve boulevard and Greene avenue.

The robber made off with her purse. He had asked for the wallet but the woman became too nervous to find it. She lost personal papers and $12 in cash. The suspect, who was accompanied by three other persons, was described as a black boy aged about 15, wearing a beige jacket and black cap. The woman, 37, lives on de Maisonneuve.

The second incident took place Sunday afternoon in front of 4000 de Maisonneuve when a woman was pushed off balance from behind, police said.

The robber, a white man aged about 22, grabbed her purse and ran north on Atwater avenue. He wore a beige jacket, black jeans and black gloves. The victim was a 23-year-old resident of St Henri.

UNITY . . .

Continued from page one

months to get the community centre.

"We envision covering the basic running costs of the building by renting out space to tenants whose activities cater to children and youth. On top of that we hope there will be lots of programs initiated by people in the community," Mrs Russell said. "These should cater to a whole range of interests out there."

Possible core users include a day-care centre, a preschool and a theatre group. There would also be space available for rental on a short-term basis for such groups as dance classes or anyone in need of a meeting place.

The "other considerations" in the sale price which Rotary will be responsible for are all outstanding bills and obligations of the Unity Club. These include utility bills, transfer tax on the sale and severance pay for club director Shaun Lynch. The total is expected to be between $15,000 and $20,000, Mr Griffin said.

Unity board treasurer Andrew Dalgleish said the decision to accept Rotary's offer was not forced by mounting bills.

"It was a decision reached through discussion with the city, with Rotary and with the residents," Mr Dalgleish said.

Unity has run into problems in recent years due to a decline in the population it serves. The problems culminated last April when Centraide withdrew its annual $100,000 funding of the club's activities.

Unity then put out an appeal to the community in an attempt to find new funding. Discussions were held with the City of Westmount last summer about the possibility of the club's leasing space to the city's public security unit. The PSU must soon vacate its Hillside avenue premises to make way for a government nursing home.

In September the Unity board put the club building up for sale, claiming talks with the city were going nowhere. Discussion was held with a couple of potential buyers, one a developer who planned to raze the building and replace it with a row of houses.

Word quickly spread through the neighborhood and local residents held a series of meetings. It soon became apparent the residents cared about keeping the facility. As many as 60 people attended one meeting.

The residents presented the Unity board with a proposal in November detailing how the building expenses could be covered by leasing out space to community groups. The proposal lists the annual cost of running the building at about $48,000.

"Until the group of residents came to us, there was a virtual absence of interest from the community," Mr Dalgleish said. "We had no other avenue to explore except the sale of the building."

Initially, the board paid little attention to the residents and continued working towards a sale. Mr Dalgleish said the board had "a brief flicker imagining a large pot of money" could result from the sale and be used to fund programs elsewhere. This idea was soon quashed.

"The city made it abundantly clear to us it would do its utmost to impede any efforts to sell the building as long as there was an interest among residents for a community centre," Mr Dalgleish explained.

Friday offer

The Unity board had resumed discussions with the residents' group when Rotary made the offer last Friday. It was accepted in writing Monday.

Unity board president Dennice Leahey said she and the other board members still want to pursue what they see as their mission: to help disadvantaged youth. Mrs Leahey said the board is looking at setting up Boys' and Girls' Club programs in other nearby communities.

At its meeting Monday evening, Westmount city council passed a resolution to give the Unity club $4,900 to cover its outstanding 1988 property tax bill.

"This is not a precedent we are setting which will cost the city money in the future," councillor Peter Duffield said. "This is a one-shot deal to help with the transition of the building.

"We decided to do this in view of the problems the club has had over the last year because it had no income."

If you are healthy and between age 18 and 65, remember to give the gift of life. Be a Red Cross blood donor.

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Continued from page one

assure the protection of persons and property. While the council does not necessarily espouse the aims or objectives of the groups to whom it rents city property, it does believe in the fundamental freedoms of speech and association."

Mrs Cutler said council was "concerned" by the number of people who attended the previous meeting and the security required.

"If we had to provide extra security on a regular basis, we would consider charging as we do when a film is being made in Westmount," Mrs Cutler said. "Victoria Hall is a losing proposition as it is."

The city had to foot the bill of providing its own public security unit at the Jan 8 meeting. The rest of the security was provided by the MUC police.

Rhéaume will be there?

Concern over a second meeting stemmed partly from threats by Parti Indépendantiste leader Gilles Rhéaume that he'll attend and try to disrupt the proceedings.

Committee 178 is made up of Mr Nowell and eight other family members and friends. The attention the group has received has snowballed since the first meeting.

Mr Nowell is in the process of having Committee 178 incorporated as a non-profit organization. He said several thousand dollars have been donated to date.

The money will cover such costs as holding meetings, printing flyers and making buttons. At a future date, buses may be rented to bring a group to protest in Ottawa. A separate fund is also being established to help storeowners whose shops have been vandalized or who face legal proceedings for defying Bill 178.

Some 2,500 people have given their support to Committee 178 through donations and suggestions, Mr Nowell said.

Shelter skelter

A window was found broken in the bus shelter at Sherbrooke street and Mount Pleasant avenue Wednesday last week, police report. Damage, estimated at about $500, was discovered at 5 am.

Scared off

A burglar was scared away from a house on Hallowell street Saturday night after waking a resident, police said. He fled without gaining entry after breaking a window at 11:45 pm and alerting the woman.

Allowed into building, man assaults tenants

A RECENT assault at 4250 Sherbrooke street proves how wary tenants should be of permitting strangers to enter their apartment buildings, police said this week.

The incident occurred Monday last week when a woman returning home allowed a man to follow her into the lobby after she unlocked the front door at 10:20 pm.

The stranger claimed to be visiting someone whom he could not get to answer the bell.

He followed the woman to her floor and went to knock at the apartment next to hers. As she opened her own door, the man asked to use her phone. The woman refused and was grabbed.

As the man tried to push her inside, she started yelling and awakened her husband who came to the door. The husband was hit in the face by the stranger who then quickly departed.

The woman, aged 51, was not reported hurt. Her husband, also 51, sustained a cut on the upper lip and a red right cheek.

His assailant was described as a black man aged about 20 having short hair and appearing well dressed. He wore a short blue jacket.

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Urgent besoin de cuisinier(ère)s et aide-cuisinier(ère)s à la popote, tous les quinze jours, le mardi ou le vendredi de 8h45 à 10h45 pour préparer des repas faciles à l'intention de personnes malades ou en perte d'autonomie qui ont recours à nous dans l'impossibilité d'obtenir de l'aide rémunérée à la maison. Il s'agit de difficultés de notre époque auxquelles nous nous devons de pallier. Il nous faudrait également un chauffeur (avec voiture) disponible de 10h45 à environ midi.

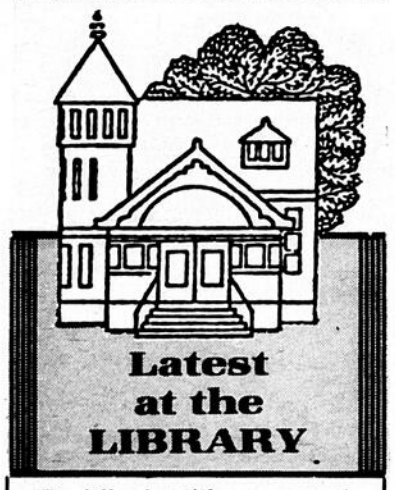
On considère parfois que Dieu nous garde sur terre pour contribuer à son oeuvre, ne serait-ce qu'en de petites choses de la vie de tous les jours. Qui dit que ce n'est pas à la popote qu'Il vous convie? Répondez à son appel sans hésiter, il saura vous en récompenser du reste vous le constaterez, se rendre utile est gratifiant.

Merci d'avance pour votre bonne collaboration. Pour plus de renseignements communiquez au numéro 932-7964 ou au 935-4950.

* * *

Sacrement de l'eucharistie: La catéchèse initiatique pour la préparation des jeunes au sacrement de l'eucharistie débutera lundi soir le 30 janvier à 19h15, salle St-Léon. Tous les jeunes qui sont déjà inscrits entreprennent une démarche de six semaines. Le calendrier des rencontres leur sera remis à l'occasion de la première rencontre.

Un prêtre Zaïrois vient à St-Leon: Les prêtres de la communauté chrétienne de St-Léon se réjouissent d'accueillir Mgr Jérôme Makila qui vient habiter au presbytère pour les prochains mois. Fondateur du Grand Séminaire de son diocèse au Zaïre et vicaire général, M. l'abbé Makila prend une année sabbatique et s'est inscrit à des cours à Montréal. Il participera à la vie pastorale en fin de semaine dans la paroisse. Bienvenue à Mgr Makila.



Latest at the LIBRARY

The following titles are new at the Westmount Public Library:

English non-fiction

Don Bonker, *America's trade crisis*; Stuart Bruchey, *The wealth of the nation*; William Coleman, *Business and politics*; Jocasta Innes, *The Conran beginner's guide to decorating*; Richard Jarrell, *The cold light of dawn*; Harold Klawens, *Toscanini's fumble*; Lynn Leight, *Raising sexually healthy children*; Charles Levinthal, *Messengers of paradise*; Elaine Martin, *Baby games*; *Next: the coming era in science*; Robert Schacter, *When your child is afraid*; *Sex 'n' drugs 'n' rock 'n' roll*; Neil Sheehan, *A bright shining lie*; Jerry Taintor, *The oral report*; Barbara Tuchman, *The first salute*.

French non-fiction

Stephen Calloway, *L'époque et son style*; Roger Lemelin, *Autopsie d'un fumeur*; Pierre Melandri, *Reagan*; *Règles officielles des échecs*; Philippe Scali, *En Guadeloupe*; Marguerite Yourcenar, *Quoi? L'éternité*.

English fiction

Robert Barnard, *At death's door*; Morley Callaghan, *A wild old man on the road*; Richard Condon, *Prizzi's glory*; Robertson Davies, *The lyre of Orpheus*; Howard Fast, *The pledge*; Mavis Gallant, *In transit*; Victoria Holt, *The India fan*; Alison Lurie, *The truth about Lorin Jones*; Anita Mason, *The war against chaos*; John Rizkalla, *The Jericho garden*; Fay Weldon, *Leader of the band*.

French fiction

Pierre Bergounioux, *L'arbre sur la rivière*; Pascal Bruckner, *Qui de nous deux inventa l'autre?*; Catherine Hermary-Vieille, *Le jardin des Henderson*.

Children's books

English: Leon Garfield, *The December rose*; James Howe, *Nighty-nightmare*; Bernice Rabe, *Margaret's moves*; Cynthia Rylant, *Henry and Mudge under the yellow moon*.

French: Chica, *Pique-nique sur la frontière*; M. Company et R. Capdivela, *Les trois petites soeurs connaissent la musique!*; Alain Grée, *Flip et Flap les grenouilles*; Jack Long, *Sur les traces du savant*.

Longtime local resident Elizabeth Bolton dies

Funeral services were held yesterday at the Church of St James the Apostle for longtime Westmount resident Elizabeth Bolton.

Mrs Bolton died Monday, Jan 23, at Pierrefonds Manor. She was 81 years old.

Born Elizabeth Armour Robertson in Montreal on Sept 26, 1907, she was the daughter of Helen Fetherstonhaugh and Andrew Armour Robertson, a doctor at the Montreal General Hospital.

Mrs Bolton attended Trafalgar School and then worked for the department of child study at McGill University.

In September 1935, she married Westmount architect Richard Bolton. They lived for many years in a house at the corner of Montrose and Clarke avenues.

Mrs Bolton was a lifelong member of St James the Apostle where she served in many groups, including the Women's Guild and the Sanctuary Guild. She was involved with Meals on Wheels in its earliest days and was also a director of the Montreal Diet Dispensary, which her mother helped found.

Mrs Bolton is survived by her husband, her daughter, Pamela Margaret Angus of Toronto, and her son, Argyle avenue resident Richard Andrew Bolton. She is also survived by six grandchildren, Helen, Brian and Gillian Angus, and Andrew, Sarah and Philip Bolton.

Mrs Bolton was buried at the Mount Royal Cemetery.

Jewish singles topic of panel

A panel discussion on the Jewish singles scene will take place on Tuesday, Jan 31, under the auspices of the Canadian Centre for Jewish Marriage and the Family, and in conjunction with the Jewish Introduction Service and the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue.

Panelists will be Barbara Wainrib, counsellor and therapist; Mitchell Brownstein of the Jewish Adult Programming Society; and Marlene Rubin, co-ordinator of the Jewish Introduction Service.

The event will take place at the synagogue, 4894 St Kevin avenue, at 8 pm. Admission is $4. Refreshments will be served.

Further information can be obtained by calling the Jewish Introduction Service office, 931-7531 local 253.

Give the gift of life. Be a Red Cross blood donor.

English philosopher Harding to speak at Victoria Hall

A lecture/workshop by the English philosopher Douglas Harding will be given at Victoria Hall, Monday, Jan 30, at 7:30 pm. A $5 donation is suggested.

Born in 1909 in Lowestoft, England, Mr Harding has practised architecture in London, India and his native Suffolk. His real and life-long concern has been to develop a credible, intellectually honest and practical faith. He has written much on the subject, taught comparative religion and philosophy, and currently lectures and conducts workshops in Europe and North America on "seeing who we really are."

The purpose of Mr Harding's workshop is to provide participants with some effective though remarkably simple tools for answering the question, "Who am I?"

These tools have a Zen-like directness and immediacy, but they do not belong to any one religious approach. Their directness is based on the Western scientific method of experimentation and respect for observable fact. Insights gained can be used to elucidate the study of religion, psychology and personal transformation with implications for the issues of identity, nuclear confrontation and death. The experiments explore scientifically the question, "Who am I?"

The answers are both unconventional and surprising.

Mr Harding, the author of *The little book of life and death* and *On having no head*, has been conducting workshops in Europe and North America for many years. He has worked with Alan Watts and Eric Berne. He has contributed to Zen in the West and has lectured for Cambridge University.

Mr Harding is starting his tour of North America and the Far East in Montreal. For further information, call Harold Jacobson at 483-4281.

Book review at the Shaar

For all those interested in the different views of Israel's political and social dilemmas, Catherine Diamond will review the controversial book *The Yellow Wind* by David Grossman. The book deals with the life of the Occupied Palestinians. Reading the book is recommended before hearing Mrs Diamond's talk.

The talk will be given Wednesday, Feb 15, at 8 pm in the Shaar Hashomayim's leisure room I. Everyone is welcome.

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 11 A.M.

11:00 a.m. Morning Worship

Sermon: The Particular

Rev. A.J. Farquhar preaching

Sunday School ***Crib Corner and program for tots***

Coffee Hour following Service

Minister: The Rev Alexander J. Farquhar

Director of Music: Margaret de Castro, M. Mus.

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Sunday, January 29
Fourth after Epiphany
8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Said
10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Sung
Church School and Nursery facilities

During the week, Holy Eucharist will be celebrated on:

Wednesday, February 1 11:15 am

Thursday, February 2 12:10 pm
Presentation of the Lord

Organist and Director of Church Music: Mr Henry Abley

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CONGREGATION SHAAR HASHOMAYIM

450 Kensington Avenue

Sabbath Services
Sabbath Eve: 4:40 pm in the Chapel
Sabbath Day: 8:40 am in the main Synagogue
Sabbath Twilight: 5:00 pm

Daily Services
Mornings:
Sun, Jan 29, 8:45 am
Mon-Thurs, Jan 30-Feb 2, 7:30 am

Evenings:
Sun-Thurs, Jan 29-Feb 2, 5:00 pm

UNITED

WESTMOUNT PARK CHURCH

Lansdowne Avenue and de Maisonneuve Blvd
Andrew Bourne, ARCT, Organist and Choir Director

Sunday, January 29
Fourth after Epiphany
Guest Speaker: Mrs Helen Hanna, student
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10:30 am Choral Eucharist & Annual Address also Sunday School with Nursery

The Annual Meeting takes place after this service

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Mon. 7:30 pm Evensong
Tue. 7:30 am Holy Communion
Wed. 10:30 am Holy Communion & "Coffee Hour"
Thu. 5:30 pm "Weekender's Eucharist"

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Assistant Priest: The Rev. Tim Smart
Honorary Assistant: The Rev. David Oliver
Director of Music: Graham Knott

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Sherbrooke Street West at Bishop

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(Epiphany IV)
Sermon:
"THE FIRE AND CLOUDY PILLAR"
The Minister

Church School, Crêche and Nursery
J.S.S. Armour, Hugh N. Jack, Ministers
Patrick Wedd, Director of Music



PLANTING THE SEEDS: The students and staff of the PALS after-school program at the Shaar Hashomayim celebrated the tree-planting festival, Tu Bishvat, last week. Participants included: **William Rosengarten, Matthew Waxman, Kenny Schachter, Zvi Fleischer, Jason Crelinstein, Anne-Lynn Becker, Elizabeth Marcovitz, Daniel Elkin, Jeannot Adeland, Ilana Fruchter** and **Richard Bubis.**

Photo by VALERIE TETLEY

Voting opens on names for kids' library fish

The children's department of the Westmount Public Library has announced the finalists in the "Name the fish" contest.

Grand winners will be chosen the democratic way — visitors to the library will have an opportunity to vote for the names they like best. Each visitor is allowed a maximum of two votes per day.

The finalists are: Silver suggested by Immanuella Cosimi, Jeorge suggested by Kassandra Joraal, Tiger suggested by Michael Jarrett, and Collage suggested by Celia Adelson.

The names were drawn at random from the many that were submitted. The library staff said there were a lot of other names that they liked. Among these were: Henrietta, Eek, Fishy Fish, Flash, George Bush, Oliver and Fleur.

The library's fish will remain nameless until Feb 10 when the votes are counted.

Study-skills courses offered later

The Lansdowne Centre is offering study-skills courses for high school students and for elementary school students in grades 5 and 6.

Last week, THE EXAMINER incorrectly stated that the courses for the elementary school levels would be starting this week.

High school level courses started this week. Sessions for elementary school students will be held in March, April, May and June.

For further information, please call the centre at 487-6516 or 487-1156.

Parents, staff on Study committee

In last week's EXAMINER it was incorrectly stated that Bruce St Louis, Westmount's director of light and power, and Richard McEnroe, director of the Public Security Unit, are members of The Study's safety committee.

They are, in fact, consulting with and advising the members of the committee: chair Joyce Goldman, principal Eve Marshall, Anne Barnes, Chantal Veilleux and Deborah Cleyn.

Open Mother House

Notre Dame Secretarial College, better known as The Mother House, is holding an open house on Wednesday, Feb 1, from 2:30 to 7:30 pm. For further information, call Laura Aslin at 935-2531.



TALKING LEARNING: The staff of the Lansdowne Centre hosted a small, informal luncheon at the centre on Tuesday. From left are Westmount resident and co-founder **Carolyn Melmed**, guest speaker **Ricki Goldstein** and co-founder **Kay Dila**, also a Westmounter. Ms Goldstein is from RECLAIM, the adult literacy program devoted to combatting adult illiteracy, now epidemic in Canada.

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Whole-language meeting at Roslyn:

Parents voice concern with English-teaching program

By KATHLEEN HUGESSEN

Roslyn School parents have some strong reservations about the whole-language approach now being used in Quebec schools for teaching English (see story Jan 12).

About 75 parents attended a meeting, Wednesday evening last week, organized by members of the Roslyn school committee. Grant Brown, a CEGEP professor and former academic dean at Dawson College, acted as moderator for a panel presentation and question-and-answer period.

The panel of two English language arts consultants from the PSBGM, Elizabeth Johnston and Charlotte Colson, and a whole-language teacher from Weston School, Myrna Guy, began the evening describing the program.

Following their remarks, about 20 parents put questions to the speakers. The principal concerns shown were: Does the program work? Does the program work in the French immersion system? Why is there not *some* structure — correction of errors, spelling, punctuation, grammar? Why were parents not involved in consultations before the program was implemented?

The evening's first speaker was Ms Johnston, herself a Roslyn graduate. "Change in school communities is very, very hard to implement," she said. "Teachers become comfortable with a style, and parents expect their children to do roughly what they did."

But, she said, many Canadian children went through the system and came out the other end illiterate. The whole-language approach has been developed based on 20 years of research into how children learn.

Reading from the ministry of education guidelines she quoted, "The search for meaning is the core of language use." The whole-language approach will "foster engagement in language interactions that are meaningful from the student's viewpoint."

Pilot program

Before the program was implemented board-wide, said Ms Johnston, there was a pilot at each grade level, workshops for teachers, school visits by consultants, articles made available to the teachers. Meetings with and recommendations from the pilot teachers were used in planning the full implementation.

Speaking second, Ms Colson emphasized the research that had preceded development of the program.

"Longitudinal studies show that children know the importance of language," she said. "Children learn when they're interested and when they're actively involved in their learning."

She added, "It takes time and patience and, I suppose, a touch of faith."

Whole-language teacher Ms Guy entranced the assembly with her tales of children in the classroom. She had brought samples of their work: journals, letters, even books they had "published." Obviously enthusiastic about her work and the achievements of her students, she described the day-to-day applications of the whole-language theory.

There is no reader or reading list which the students must work their way through by year's end. The students are encouraged to choose books and write reports. Not all students do similar things.

"You don't all read the same books," Ms Guy said, "and when you've finished one, you don't have to answer 10 questions to see if you understood."

For parents concerned over the apparent lack of correction of grammatical or punctuation errors, Ms Guy said, "They're not writing for marks at the draft stage. I don't look for the spelling errors or grammatical errors, I want them to express. I do teach spelling, grammar, punctuation... just not at that stage."

She closed by saying, "I think if I had to go back to the old system, I would resign, I feel so strongly about this."

Questions

Parents then put their questions to the panel members.

A number of parents were concerned that children in French immersion are being taught French using the "traditional" system. In Grade 3, English is suddenly thrown at them, and with a different teaching system. Further, the whole-language approach seems very demanding of time — time that simply may not be available to French-immersion students.

As one parent put it, "I'm not saying the program isn't feasible, but is it feasible in a French immersion school?"



Panelists at the whole-language meeting held at Roslyn School, from left, **Charlotte Colson, Elizabeth Johnston, Grant Brown** and **Myrna Guy.**

In response, Ms Johnston showed samples of work by a child who had been in just that situation. Over the course of one month, her written work had changed from an illegible (to anyone but the child) melange of (mostly) French and something resembling English, to work, albeit imperfect, in readable English.

Other parents asked that the system not be applied to the exclusion of all others.

"If errors are allowed to stand without being corrected," said one father, "they become fixed in the minds of children. Children learn in different ways, the teachers should use different methods."

Another parent said, "We cannot proclaim one particular approach to teaching — only the eclectic approach is acceptable."

Some good

Not all the parents' comments were negative. "Looking at the things my daughter does," one parent said, "I can see the improvement. I think this program can work."

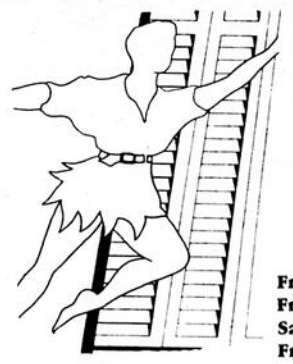
Another said, "I respect the way my child is learning — reading more, using the dictionary. I like the way you do it."

Some parents wanted to know how they could help their children within the program. Ms Guy said, "A lot of reading to children, a lot of responding to their writing, and help with self-correction."

On a different note, one mother voiced her concern that the program had been implemented without consultation with parents. "We're experimenting with our children, with our future," she said. "I just think we need more information. Before implementing something like this we should be told. We need a little bit of reinforcement for us."

Roslyn school committee chairman Adrian Owens closed the meeting at about 10 pm. He thanked the panel and meeting organizers Katherine Snow and Deborah Adler Smith. Several parents remained to chat with the panelists and to examine the work brought in by Ms Guy.

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In the neighborhood

by Kathleen Hugessen

Normand Bélanger — car order attendant

Normand Bélanger, 43, a native Montrealer, has been working at the Victoria and Sherbrooke Steinberg store for almost 27 years. For the last 24 years he has been doing car orders — taking bags of groceries out to waiting cars.

"I know customers who were kids," says Mr Bélanger. "Now they come show me their babies."

He says he started with Steinberg on Sept 10, 1962. Four years later, also on Sept 10, he was married to Lise Leduc.

"It makes it easy to remember," he says. "I don't want to get killed for forgetting!"

They live, with their two sons, a hamster and a budgie, in Laval des Rapides. Mr Bélanger says it takes him about half an hour to get in to work each day.

"I used to live in St Damien de Brandon," he says, sipping a coffee in Miss Westmount. "That's 150 miles round trip. I did that every day for eight years. I stopped eight years ago — I got fed up — I was burning out too many cars."

He says he remembers once driving the 75 miles into town only to find the store closed, no one around. He says he couldn't figure it out.

Turns out it was a Sunday.

Mr Bélanger works five days a week, Monday through Friday, eight hours a day. He says he doesn't mind the weather in winter, that going in and out all the time doesn't cause him problems.

"Summer's harder because of the air conditioning inside," he says. "That's bad for the sinuses."

Good points and bad

His favorite part of the job, he says, is meeting all the people. Some customers are "looking for problems, looking for trouble... they complain," he says. But he figures that, out of about 5,000 customers only 50 to 100 are like that.

There are a few things about his job that he doesn't enjoy.

"I hate Saturday at 5 o'clock," he says. "We close at five and customers still want to get in at quarter to six."

He says he doesn't like the plastic shopping bags. "They hold a half or a third of a paper bag, and they're cheap — they break."

He wears steel-capped boots because, he says, about three times a year someone drives over his foot.

The little car order slip given out by Steinberg stores requests that customers not give tips.

Mr Bélanger shrugs, "I like a tip. About two out of five people tip... pennies, nickels, dimes. I'm lucky if I get a quarter or 50 cents. There are customers who don't tip all year then give a dollar at Christmas. Some people give me their empty bottles. They don't have to take them in and I keep the money."

Union rep

The union representative for the branch's employees, Mr Bélanger says of his fellow workers, "They're nice. The employees stick together, play cards. The ones who aren't married get together and go bowling. I don't have time."

He says the company has been offering tempting sums to get employees with seniority to retire. Such employees are earning more than new or part-time employees would. But Mr Bélanger doesn't plan to leave. He figures he'd just put the money in a pension and then be out looking for a job. With grade 12 and 24 years doing car orders, he knows he's lacking in skills.

He says there's a certain job security — the Victoria-Sherbrooke store won't be sold because it's making money. So, unless someone with greater seniority from another branch wants his job, he'll stay.

As an employee of Steinberg, he gets a 10 percent discount at M Stores, but nothing on groceries. "We tried to get 10 percent four years ago," he says, "but they don't want to give it."

Still, he buys all his groceries at the store.

He brings his own lunch and eats in the upstairs lunchroom with other members of the store's staff.



Normand Bélanger

He says almost all his free time, evenings and weekends, is spent with his family. Sometimes he goes cross-country skiing in Repentigny, and there is the odd fishing trip (to St Damien de Brandon) in the summer.

Mr Bélanger is entitled to six weeks vacation every year. "I usually take four weeks in the summer, one week after Christmas to rest — it's crazy here at Christmas — and another one in February or April.

"I've got one coming up in February. I know what I'll be doing — I'm going to be painting.... I hate painting."

Better late...

Last winter he took his wife to Cancun. "It was for our 20th anniversary, but two years late!"

During the longer summer vacation they usually go camping. Last summer they went to Lac St Jean, New Brunswick and P.E.I.

"I read a lot," Mr Bélanger says, "I've always got a book... Robert Ludlum, adventure... I read those travel pamphlets too — look at the pictures, look at the prices, put them back."

For their 25th anniversary, he'd like to take his wife on a cruise. One week on the *SS Victoria* out of San Juan, Puerto Rico, and another week on the island. He's hoping they'll be able to afford it.

"Anyway, most of life is a dream," he says, looking over at Shirley Blech standing at the Miss Westmount cash. "I'm still waiting for Shirley... hey, Shirley! When are you going to give me a winning 6/49 ticket?"

He taps the printout of winning numbers as he leaves and says, "Not one number."

So... life's a dream. There's always next time.

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Entrance tests will be held on Saturday, February 4, 1989.

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One-goal victory as Guards defeat Dragons

By WARREN VALDMANIS

With a goal and two assists, Matthew Mulligan led the Guards to a 4-3 comeback victory over the Dragons last Saturday in Westmount's novice hockey league.

Twenty-four seconds into the opening period, the Guards had found themselves with a 1-0 deficit. Dragons star centre Robbie Finkelstein dazzled onlookers with an end-to-end rush and a beautiful shot from the slot, beating Guards goalie Michael Goldstein.

The Dragons dominated the play after this morale-boosting goal. Goldstein was called upon to make many a sprawling save before he was beaten once again, this time after Dragons winger Oliver Bowser cashed in on teammate Ben Shingler's rebound to make the score 2-0 by the end of the first period.

What the Dragons had done to the Guards in the first period came right back at them in the second. With help from Mulligan and Damen Farid, Guards winger Jonathan Mitch awakened his sleeping offence by scoring a much-needed goal only 37 seconds into the period. This goal seemed to strike the fuse of a Guards offensive explosion. Only a minute later, Mulligan scored unassisted to tie the game at two apiece.

The psychological war had now turned against the Dragons. Their strong defence, including Anne-Marie Bismuth and Alex Cooper, was now unable to contain the Guards offence. On the other hand, the Guards defence led by Robbie Aiken stifled any further Dragons advances.

By the end of the period, Dragons goalie Oliver Lavery had managed through spectacular play to limit the Guards to only two more goals, one set up by the aggressive winger Thomas Sontag and scored by Farid. The other, a short-handed goal set up by Mulligan and scored by Sontag, completed the comeback.

In the third period, the Guards seemed content with a 4-2 lead, and seemed to channel their offensive energy into running down the clock. This almost proved ill for, with nearly 10 minutes remaining, the ever-dangerous Finkelstein scored to bring the Dragons within a goal of a tie. This, however, was not followed up by an offensive onslaught as in the first period and when the buzzer sounded, ending the game, the score was Guards 4, Dragons 3.

HOCKEY STANDINGS

Following are the standings in the Westmount municipal hockey leagues as of Tuesday Jan 24:

	GS	GP	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
NOVICE								
Guards	22	15	10	3	2	48	30	22
Bears	22	16	10	5	1	52	31	21
Dragons	22	16	6	7	3	43	45	15
Canadiens	22	15	1	12	2	16	50	4
ATOM								
Penguins	22	17	15	2	0	108	57	30
Canadiens	22	15	6	7	2	69	72	14
Nordiques	22	15	4	9	2	50	70	10
Canucks	22	17	5	12	0	49	77	10
PEEWEE								
Canadiens	21	11	10	1	0	51	19	20
Seals	21	14	5	8	1	62	55	11
Capitals	21	12	3	8	1	45	84	7
ALL STAR								
Novice	-	18	15	1	2	141	47	32
Atom	-	21	14	6	1	99	68	29
Peewee	-	11	4	5	2	41	41	10
S.W.A.T.	-	12	3	8	1	45	65	7
SENIOR B								
Hawks	25	17	11	2	4	68	45	26
Fathers	25	16	10	2	4	62	33	24
Devils	25	13	6	5	2	46	40	14
Aces	25	16	4	10	2	48	76	10
Oilers	25	14	3	8	3	55	59	9
Flyers	25	16	3	10	3	48	74	9
SENIOR A								
Wanderers	28	19	16	2	1	88	19	33
Flames	28	17	9	6	2	63	49	20
Stars	28	19	9	9	1	67	69	19
Bruins	28	18	5	12	1	65	85	11
Sabres	28	18	4	13	1	46	97	9

Westmount YMCA News

Hope Korytko
Executive director



At the moment the staff and volunteers at the Westmount YMCA are busy making plans for the opening. These include such things as special social events, open house activities and equipment purchases to outfit the building. The excitement is building every day.

The Y's new babysitting course has been a great success. With the help of Kim, our youth teen co-ordinator and the volunteer teens, qualified sitters are now ready to take up duties. If you are looking for a babysitter, why not call our job bank? We are offering the course regularly so if you are interested in taking the next course phone and leave a message at 931-8046.

Our teen leaders corps is starting another phase of their training in the area of aquatics. If you are a teenager and would like to learn the fine art of teaching beginners how to swim, phone Eileen at the Y.

Fit tip: Take care when shovelling snow. It can be a great cardiovascular workout, but it can be dangerous as well. You could end up with aches and pains, especially in arms and back. If you have not been taking regular exercise, it may cause increased stress on the heart.

Try to shovel when the snow is fresh and not packed down. Push the snow, rather than lifting. Use a small shovel and pick up a little at a time. Go slowly — shovelling raises your heart rate and blood pressure — learn to pace yourself. Warm up before going out and do a few stretches before starting.

Centennial fêtes end of Phase III

Centennial Academy will open its doors to its friends on Wednesday, Feb 1.

The school will hold an open house from 7:30 to 9:30 pm to celebrate the completion of Phase III of a four-year building program. The occasion will also kick off a capital campaign to raise funds for the remainder of the expansion and renovations.

Parents of students past and present, directors of the school, alumni and all friends of the school are invited to attend.

Bike found

A 10-speed bicycle was found at 376 Redfern avenue Monday last week, police report. The blue Peugeot model was turned in at local MUC station 23 by public safety officers.

Gardening courses offered for green thumbs or black

The garden may be covered in a blanket of snow, but Westmount residents can get a jump on spring by taking one of the two four-week gardening courses being offered by the city.

Gardening I, the beginners course, will cover such topics as maintenance techniques for lawns and gardens, testing and improving the soil, feeding and watering, and garden tools and techniques.

Gardening II, for the more advanced green thumb who wants to improve his skills, covers garden layout and design, choosing plants for effect, more pruning techniques, and trying new plants and shrubs.

Gardening I will be held on Tuesday evenings from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm starting Feb 14. Gardening II will be Thursdays from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm starting Feb 16.

Both courses cost $20. Classes take place in Victoria Hall. A minimum of 15 particpants is needed for each group, with a maximum of 25.

Registration runs from Monday, Jan 30 to Monday, Feb 13 at the recreation office in the skating rink. The office is open weekdays from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Stephen Guy new city sports supervisor

Stephen Guy is the new sports supervisor recently hired by the Westmount recreation department to fill the vacancy left by the departure of Danny Reynolds.

Mr Guy is a 26-year-old graduate of the Dawson College three-year community recreation leadership program. He has taken two years of a bachelor in physical education at McGill University and plans to complete the degree at night.

Mr Guy has worked as a sports coach at the St Leonard community centre.

Westmount's other two sports supervisors are Mike Deegan and Lana Romandini.

Registration opens for AquaKIDS program

AquaKIDS is a recreation prom, unique in Montreal, sponsored by the Montreal chapter of the Learning Disabilities Associatiion of Quebec. AquaKIDS is a non-profit service, staffed by volunteers, designed to help those with poor self-confidence due to a lack of fine- or gross-motor skills.

AquaKIDS I is for ages six to 16. Registration will take place at the YMCA, 4335 Hampton avenue, on Friday, Feb 3, from 5 to 6 pm. Sessions will take place from 5:30 to 7:30 pm.

AquaKIDS II is for ages 12 to 16. Registration will take place at the Marianopolis Athletic Complex, 3880 Côte des Neiges road, on Saturday, Feb 4, at 9:30 am. Sessions will be held from 10 to 11 am.

For more information, please call Elizabeth Anglin, 937-4095, or leave a message at the Learning Disabilities of Quebec office, 861-5518.

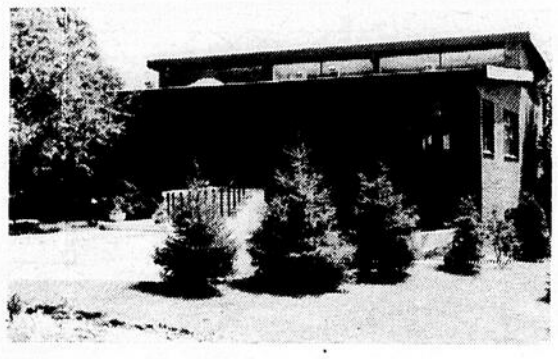
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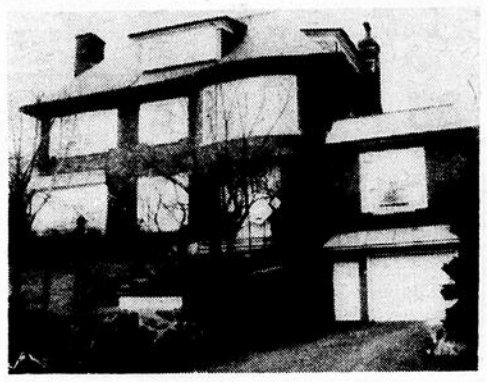
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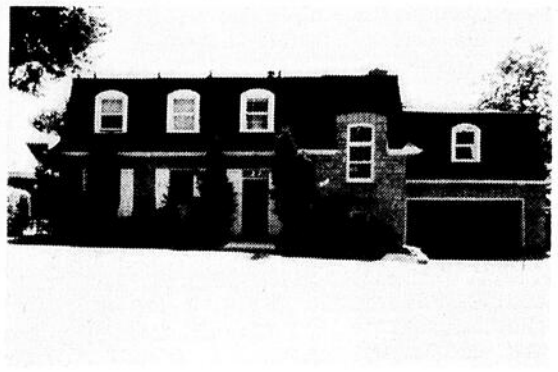
Westmount: Detached bungalow with side entrance glassed in logia, travertine marble beige floors, views & more. $3,500,000.

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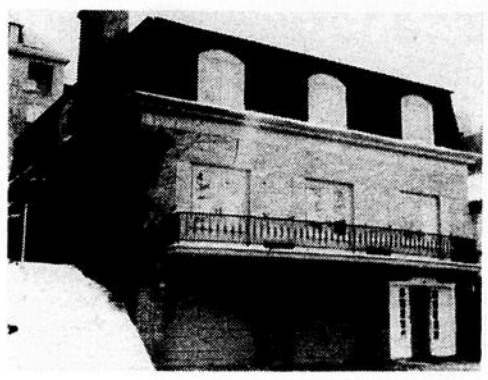
Westmount: $2,300,000. Decorated with best of taste. Spectacular views.

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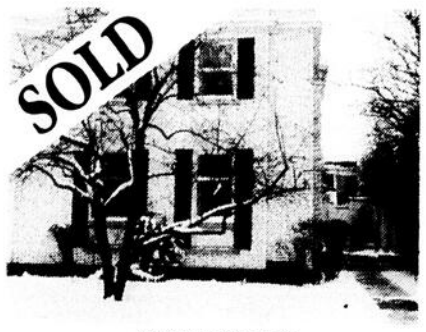
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Westmount. $329,000. Townhouse with original woodwork. Needs updating.

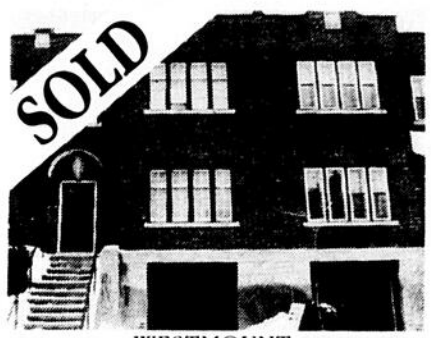
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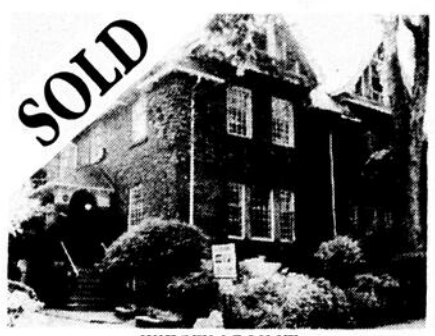
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