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# CELEBRATING WESTMOUNT

Lilian Trudel, Andy Dodge and Annette Wolff open WHA's Spring Lecture Series

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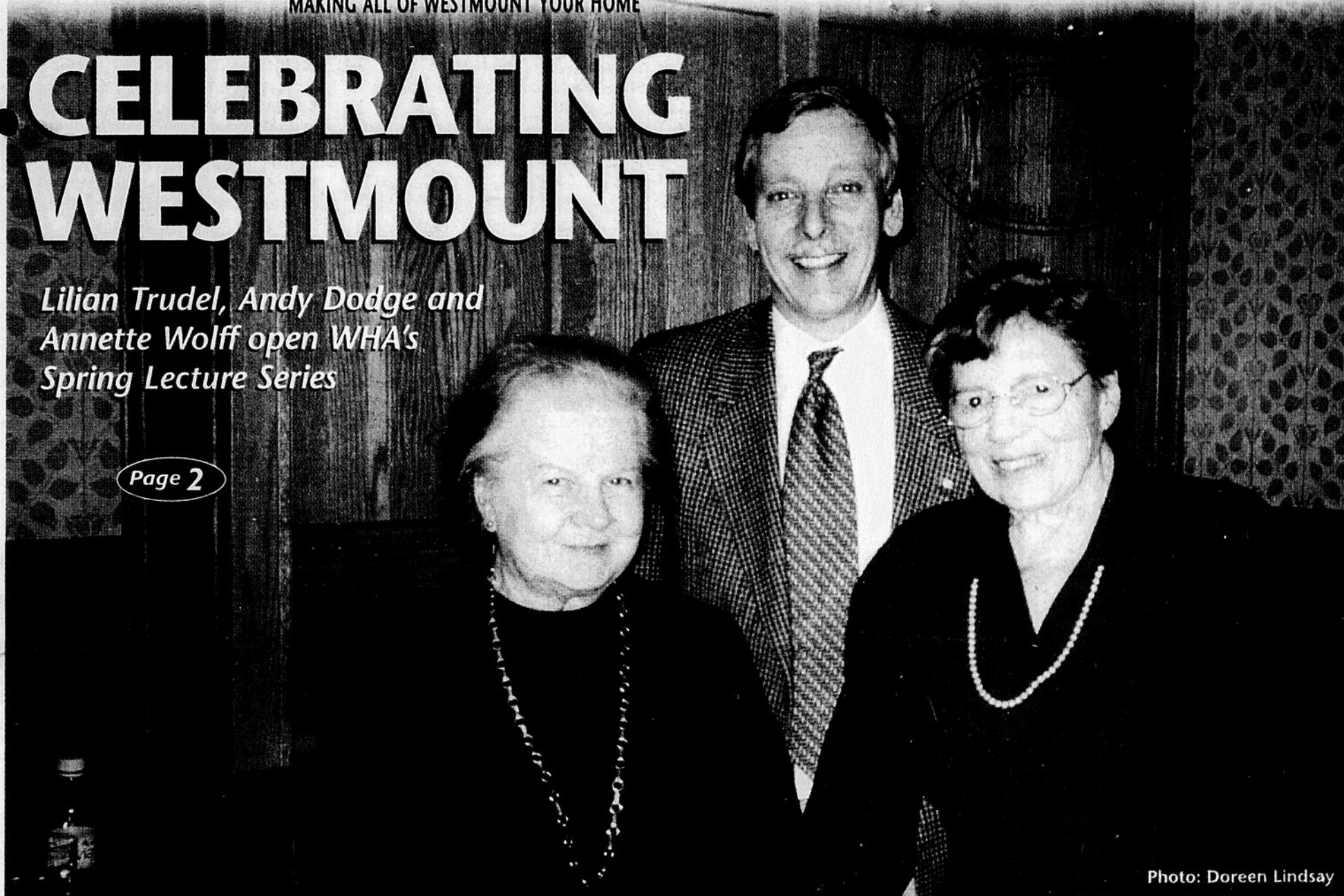


Photo: Doreen Lindsay

## Local News

### Marks unhappy over closed-door Summit

Martin C. Barry

**B**orough council president Karin Marks is moving ahead with preparations for Westmount's contribution to the Montreal Summit—even though she regrets that it will be held behind closed doors.

The idea of determining priorities with citizen input is a very good one, Marks told the borough council last Tuesday evening.

But she added, "We're not happy with the fact that

it excludes some people—and that's not something we would have chosen to do. Unfortunately, within the context of the new city, the way in which it's being done—somewhat encadré or determined by another organization—has made it very difficult. It isn't necessarily the way we would have gone about it."

Marks said Westmount's summit has to fit into the later summit that will be run by the megacity, and the recommendations have to fit into a certain format. She said the borough council and staff had been working hard lately to see that a representative cross-section of Westmounters were selected to attend the summit - which is by invitation only.

"There are categories that have been provided. We had a very brief time to select those people who would participate. We looked at the categories with the borough council and the staff. We tried to seek those who had been involved in those areas, to have a few repre-

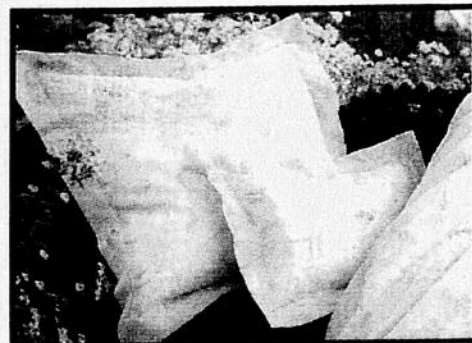
sentatives from each of those areas, and to come up with a list of people who would be a cross-section."

Marks said that in some of the other boroughs where summits are also being held, invitations were sent out primarily to professionals and experts in certain fields, rather than ordinary citizens in the community.

(continued on page 13)



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# WHA lecture celebrates the spirit of Westmount

Marilynn Vanderstay

**T**he Westmount Historical Association began its spring lecture series on March 21 with a celebration of the spirit of Westmount—who we were and who we are.

Program Coordinator Doreen Lindsay explained that the purpose of the series is to bring back and collect information about the uniqueness of Westmount, its personalities and its institutions. Lindsay called on three WHA members to share their memories and experiences of growing up, living, working and retiring in

Westmount.

Resident Annette Wolff began the evening by recounting the story of the 'Wolffs of Argyle Avenue.' She explained that she was one of six Wolff daughters who grew up in the last house on the west side of the street, next to the Westmount Police and Fire departments.

The family moved to 442 Argyle in 1923 when the house was already more than 80 years old. Annette remembers the view from her bedroom window of the apple orchards that were once Murray Hill Park and the boys' play yard at Argyle School, which is now Selwyn House.

Wolff told several anecdotes about how the house was graduated up the steep hill. As a result, the basement was 14 feet deep. She shared how in the winter cars often slid into their front veranda to avoid sliding into students playing in the schoolyard.

Life was friendly and informal. "There was a real sense of community," she said. The Wolff household was always entertaining interesting people. Historian Doctor Lighthall, Professor of History at McGill University used to tell the girls stories about uncovering skeletons in an Algonquin burial ground on Arlington Lane.

"One time a taxi driver knocked on the door and asked my mother if she could help while he helped a lady down the icy hill by sliding her down on a blanket, and then drive the car down." After the ordeal, her mother Irine, a journalist, invited them in to warm up with a cup of tea.

There were two apple trees in the backyard and every year the firemen would come and help get the apples from the top of the trees.

During the Depression years, Wolff explained, the City of Westmount provided work for many Westmount residents including her father, an engineer, who worked on the sewer system.

Artist Lilian Trudel later shared her story about how she and Edythe

Germain co-founded extended that original spirit of community by starting Arts Westmount in 1982. After a successful series of Art in the Park events that started in the late 1970s, the two formed a committee of local artists, musicians, poets, writers and theatre people with a grant from the City of Westmount.

For ten years Arts Westmount held art exhibitions in Westmount Park and in Victoria Hall, produced plays in English and French, poetry readings, and performances by the Operatic Society.

A very special part of the event was the children's program, which included finger painting behind the library and puppet shows and other artistic endeavours. In 1983 the program was expanded to include book and architecture displays.

Notable Westmount artists who participated included Jane des Jardins, Anne McCall, and Cathy Bates. Grandes Ballets ballerina Sheila Laurence participated with dance and Doreen Lindsay exhibited her photographs. Sponsors included past mayor May Cutler, then owner of Tundra books.

Events that highlighted the uniqueness of Westmount were also part of the festivities throughout the years. At its peak a guided bus tour of Westmount under the direction of John Udy was a regular event. An International Festival of food and entertainment was held one year under the direction of Holly Higgins Jones, the daughter of the director of the Betty Crocker Kitchens.

As with too many programs, Arts Westmount was cancelled in 1989 after many of the founding members had moved away and it new blood could not be found.

The lecture's audience of 35 livened up with an animated presentation about the evolution of bathrooms and kitchens in Westmount by real estate appraiser and Examiner columnist Andy Dodge.

"When people buy houses today," he said, "they put thousands of dollars into those two rooms alone."

In the '20s and '30s however, kitchens were relegated to the basement, perhaps in part because of the possibility of flooding from the refrigerators. Every week blocks of ice would be delivered on horse-drawn ice carts. The house owner would have to take the ice and get it to the kitchen on a pan that they would put at the bottom of the fridge. Throughout the week the ice would keep food cool, but would melt onto the pan, leaving that possibility for flooding.

Dodge has seen houses that still have original kitchens in the basement including one on Côte St. Antoine Road Westmount's oldest street. Doctor Wilder Penfield's home also had a kitchen in the basement and a dumbwaiter that took the cooked meals upstairs to the dining room. The dishes would later be washed, however, in the pantry located on the main floor.

Dodge's description of early bathrooms led to an animated interactive discussion about the origins of Westmount bathrooms, including toilet tanks made of wood that tended to crack, original city sewers built of bricks in 1892, and chain-pull toilets.

Today, Dodge is seeing Westmount residents spending amazing amounts of money on bathrooms—including 'his and hers' bathrooms in the master bedrooms, large bathrooms with a view of the mountain and increasingly ornate décors.

The Westmount Historical Association's spring lecture series continues next month with 'The Making of Westmount From 1870 to 1929', with guest speaker Stephen Bryce. This will take place on Thursday, April 18 at 7 p.m. in the Westmount Room of the Westmount Public Library, 4574 Sherbrooke. Free admission for WHA members, \$5 for non-members at the door. For more information contact the WHA at 925-1404.



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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wash windows                                               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Turn on water supply to exterior pipes            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare air-conditioning equipment for a long, hot summer  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare lawn & garden equipment                   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clean and store humidifiers                                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bring out the Bar-B-Q, lawn chairs & the lemonade |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Install de-humidifiers                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Have a great season                               |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check roof, flashings and brick pointing for winter damage |                                                                                       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If necessary, stain/paint decks & balconies                |                                                                                       |

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# RESIDENTS OUTRAGED BY CEDAR BUILDING PROJECT

Martin C. Barry

Several homeowners on The Boulevard are holding Westmount officials partly responsible for failing to control a neighbour's demolition and building project they say has deprived them of a view of the city below, as well as light and privacy.

They also believe the project will ultimately have a serious negative impact on their property values and quality of life.

From the residents' back yards, the size of the massive, block-like structure at 3283 Cedar Avenue leaves the impression of the hull of a large yacht that has been pulled up and docked. The house, almost institutional in its appearance, is said to have a nine-car underground garage.

Construction has ceased for the time being under order from the borough, which revoked both the partial demolition permit and building permit on March 4.

The owner of the mountain-side lot completely demolished a home that is said to have been classified by Westmount as Category One, requiring protection and preservation, not demolition.

In its place, the frame of the building—occupying almost all of the property in direct proximity to four homes on The Boulevard and extending the length of their back yards—has gone up, rising more than two stories and blotting out both views and light for these Boulevard residents, even before the addition of a contemplated six-foot roof structure.

According to some of the affected residents, the Cedar Avenue owner obtained permits from Westmount to carry out the work, including partial demolition of the former house as well as the addition of two extensions at either end. They say they were told repeatedly that it was all in complete accordance with Westmount's bylaws.

Aware of the importance Westmount has always placed on preserving its architectural heritage and the strict-



Howard Hoppenheim shows the extent to which Pat Sheppard's view has been obliterated

ness of its building bylaws, neighbours say they were horrified to see the structure unfold in mid-January.

"How did it ever get through the Architecture and Planning Commission?" asked Howard Hoppenheim, one of the affected residents. "How did it ever get through the bureaucracy before that at City Hall? The required city council reviews and approvals were never obtained. Setbacks and roof irregularities suggest other issues have been discovered."

According to Hoppenheim, the house formerly on the property was supposed to be protected and preserved.

"When you want to get a window replaced in Westmount, you've got to go through approvals to get that done and the regulations are very strict," said Hoppenheim. "You can't change a roof from slate to shingles and certain garages have to remain intact. Well, in this particular case, the requirement and spirit of the bylaws appear to have been just ignored—both from the perspective of preservation of important architecture as well as ensuring appropriate renovation and expansion to

existing properties."

At the home of Pat Sheppard, one of Hoppenheim's neighbours, a pristine view she used to have of the waterfront and beyond has been completely replaced by the sight of a huge wall.

Sheppard said that at no time was she told the degree to which the project would have a negative impact on her home—in fact she said she was never advised on any negative impact.

"I don't think anybody here on The Boulevard realized that this is where it was all going to end up," she said. "Such a grave lack of respect for the rights of surrounding property owners is not supposed to happen in Westmount. It was in the middle of January, during some of the month's colder weather, when the second floor went up in the span of approximately a week, with a large crew working every day. It was at this point that we began to see the full magnitude of what this was project going to be."

According to Hoppenheim, Westmount could have been much more sensitive to residents. "The City had an obligation to protect the rights of not

just the applicant Cedar resident, but equally so its other citizens adversely affected, not to mention the obligation to uphold the consistency, substance and integrity of its own bylaws," he said.

Borough Director Bruce St. Louis refused to comment at length on the issue, as the borough may be sued by both sides in the dispute.

"At this point, because we have been served with a potential legal action by the neighbours on The Boulevard, and we're subsequently facing a second legal action on the part of the owner of the property on Cedar, there's not a whole lot of information I can give at this point in time because either way I have to be careful not to prejudice the City's case," said St. Louis.

"All I can say is that at the outset a permit was issued by the City. The process was followed by the book and went to the proper committees internally and a valid building permit was issued for the work that was started. However, other complications have come along, to the point that the building permit has been revoked.

## Falling light narrowly misses greenhouse visitors

Martin C. Barry

Water leaking through the glass roof of Westmount's Flower Conservatory is believed to have been a factor in causing a light fixture to come loose and crash to the floor, narrowly missing several people.

The incident occurred last Wednesday around 5 p.m., a day after the opening of Westmount's annual Spring Flower Show. Some visitors to the Conservatory are said to have been

standing close to the spot where the globe landed.

The previous evening, as guests had strolled around the Conservatory admiring the spring flowers, wet snow was accumulating on the glass roof and showers of water were streaming in from several points in the greenhouse.

The light fixture "was probably well-secured into place, but there may have been an infiltration of water into it, and with the heat that might have caused it to crack," a greenhouse employee said



this week.

She suggested that the advanced age of the light fixtures in the Conservatory may have also been a contributing factor: The leakage, she said, could probably be blamed on the fact that the glass panes at the greenhouse become loose and need to be resealed once a year, although she added that the Conservatory is overdue for a major overhaul.

"The windows are anchored on their sides, and with the freezing and unfreezing they tend to slide a bit," she said.

"It's not dangerous for their falling, but sometimes there are spaces of a few centimetres between the windows and someone has to come every season to fix them back to normal. In this case, the spaces were causing the leaking."

Even though she said regular maintenance usually takes care of the problem, "I think it's also the age of the greenhouse," she added. "The city has been talking a lot of renovating the Conservatory, because the wood is starting to separate." It's "a little of both" factors that was behind the incident, she said.

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# HOW TO USE WESTMOUNT'S DESIGN GUIDELINES

Mark London

In the first article in this series, I described how our system of Architectural Design Review helps maintain Westmount's distinct character as well as our property values that go along with it. Today, I'll give you a step-by-step guide as to how to use Westmount's design guidelines to plan your project.

For about a century, every building permit application in Westmount that affects a building's exterior has been reviewed by the Westmount Planning Advisory Committee or WPAC, formerly called the Architectural and Planning Commission.

Until a decade ago, the former Commission didn't have any written guidelines. If a proposal was considered unacceptable the owner simply received a letter with the word 'refused', leading to much head-scratching. In order to help citizens better understand the then-unwritten criteria used to evaluate projects, Westmount Council asked the Commission to write down and publish these guidelines, and to clearly explain in its minutes the problems that might have led to a proposal's deferral or refusal.

We are now working with a third generation of published guidelines, adopted in 2001. The current guidelines include a series of pamphlets dealing with the general approach and the specific parts of a building. Also, there are maps and descriptions of



The architectural 'look' of Winchester Avenue

Westmount's 39 Character Areas, groups of streets sharing similar design features.

So before you even start to put pencil to paper, you should pick up a copy of the relevant pamphlets at the counter at the lower level of Westmount's Borough Hall or you can find them on Westmount's web site at [www.westmount.org](http://www.westmount.org). You can also consult the set hanging on the wall just in front of the counter or the one available at the reference desk of the library. Let me run through what they are and which ones you need.

First of all, everyone should get the pamphlet called Obtaining a Building Permit, which explains when a permit is needed and how to go about getting one. If you are planning a new building, an addition, or any renovations that affect the exterior of building (yes, even changing windows or putting up a new fence), you should also get pamphlet 1, General Guidelines, which explains in more detail than this article how the whole system works and the basic criteria that apply to all projects.

Then, you should get the pamphlets

that deal with the part of the building that you are changing, say pamphlet 4: Windows and Doors or pamphlet 6: Fences, Decks and Other Landscaping.

Finally, you should consult the pamphlet on the Character Area in which your property is located. You need at least two key pieces of information: the rating of your building, and whether it is part of an ensemble.

The design guidelines aim to preserve the present character of the more significant buildings in Westmount while leaving more flexibility with respect to the relatively few buildings whose character is less remarkable. So in 1992, in preparing the present set of guidelines, every building in Westmount was evaluated either as:

- Category I - Important, the 990 most significant buildings in Westmount including 47 category 1\* considered exceptional;

- Category II - Significant, the buildings of notable design quality that make up the fabric of most Westmount neighbourhoods; and

- Category III - Neutral, buildings whose design quality is not remarkable.

Many of the guidelines are tied in directly to the category of the building, there being a greater requirement to maintain the existing elements that contribute to the design of the building (character-defining features) for the category II and especially the category I buildings.

(continued on page 13)

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# Celebrating, Remembering and Partying

## Around Westmount

Marilynn Vanderstey



**S**t. Andrew's-Dominion-Douglas United Church will celebrate its 75th anniversary with a special service, reception and of course a birthday cake next Sunday, April 14 at 11 a.m.

Following the union in 1925 of the Methodist Congregationalist Church and part of the Presbyterian churches in Canada, Douglas Methodist Church on Ste. Catherine Street merged with the congregation of Dominion Methodist and started construction of the sanctuary on The Boulevard, next door to the Christian Education Centre. Dominion Methodist had been built a decade earlier. The sanctuary of the newly-created congregation of Dominion-Douglas United Church was officially consecrated on Easter Sunday, April 17, 1927.

"It is with great joy that the present congregation of St. Andrew's-Dominion-Douglas will celebrate 75 years of worship to God within this magnificent legacy," said Rev. John Forster.

### With a little practice

When goldsmith Petra Luz was looking for a non-threatening place to practice her conversational French she came upon Centre Greene's 'Half and Half' program. When the leader moved on last summer, Luz started 'Franglo', a weekly meeting where French and English participants from 20 to 75 get together to practice their language skills while discussing interesting topics. Sessions run for 12 weeks for a cost of \$55. The spring session started Tuesday, April 2, but there is still room for anyone who wants to come out Tuesday evening April 9 from 6 to 9. Call Petra at 843-4038 for information.

### A home-cooked meal among friends

Every second Wednesday Centre Greene hosts a home-cooked, three-course luncheon for seniors from the community at large. Fifteen volunteers prepare the meal that is served at the tables while diners enjoy the social outing. The meal costs \$4 and doggie bags are available for take home for \$2.50. The next luncheon will be Wednesday, April 10 at 12:15.

### Dance at Centre Greene

Former Grandes Ballets ballerina Sheila Laurence teaches beginner and intermediate ladies' ballet and jazz classes at different times throughout the week. Ballet teacher Ora Kozlov offers classes to children four and up throughout

the week. Registrations are being taken now for the Centre's summer ballet camp for children seven years and up that will be held in August. Hopeful ballerinas will enjoy a week of ballet and jazz dance and art.

An evening with Les Ballets Jazz de Montreal will take place next week April 11 at Espace Go on St. Laurent Boulevard as another fundraiser for the Centre. Tickets are \$40 or \$100 for an income tax receipt. Another spring fundraiser will be a gala at the Centaur Theatre, May 7. For more information about any of these programs or events contact the Greene Centre at 931-6202.

### Happy birthday!

Belated birthday greetings to longtime Westmount resident Annette Wolff, who celebrated her 91st birthday on Tuesday, April 2. Annette is an eloquent, fun speaker who continually demonstrates a zeal for life and a passion for Westmount.

### In memoriam

Lifelong Westmount resident William Robert Eakin passed away on St. Patrick's Day, March 17. "Appropriately for a man whose father came from County Monaghan," said his daughter Gael. He worked in the family shipping firm of McLean Kennedy Limited until his retirement when he was in his eighties. During World War II he served with the Victoria Rifles of Canada. During his career he served as a member of the Council of the Montreal Board of Trade and President the Shipping Council of Canada. A McGill alumnus, he became a member of the Board of Governors and later its Chairman. He continued as an Emeritus Governor until his death.

"Throughout his life he brought shrewdness and an Irish wit to business and all human affairs," said Gael. "Though his last years were clouded by Alzheimer's, his sense of humour survived."

Westmount resident Biron Higgenson also died recently, just before his 86th birthday. He is remembered by his neighbours Linda Thompson and husband Mark London as being a very smart man and a people person. Higgenson began his career as a salesperson for Redpath Sugar, where he developed the people skills he would be known for throughout his life. Later he was the assistant to National Hockey League Commissioner Clarence Campbell. "He was a real hockey person," said Thompson. Higgenson never married and spent his life in his family home on Prospect Street. "He was always going to the Forum to visit with friends and with the staff. Biron loved all kinds of people, from senators to the homeless."

Higgenson was an old-fashioned gentleman, always impeccably dressed. The only time he would step out of character was when he would put on old clothes to volunteer in the soup kitchens, so the people there wouldn't feel uncomfortable.

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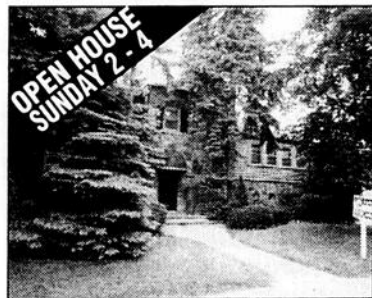
**WESTMOUNT.** Spacious condo in a triple, super location, close to Greene Ave., 4 bdrms, 2 baths, separate living & dining rooms, large kitchen, high ceilings, 1,775 sq.ft., hardwood floors, 1 parking. \$349,000.

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# Notes from an elitist enclave

**W**ell, there you have it... After decades of speculation and suspicion, the truth is finally out: Westmount is an elitist enclave where outsiders are neither welcome nor tolerated.

This rather unsavoury fact has been reported ad nauseum in the mainstream media—in both official languages, no less—

*Commentary*

Wayne Larsen



over the past two weeks. The resulting image is more of a caricature based on negative stereotypes rather than truth, and Westmounters have a considerable task ahead of them if they want to dispel any of these misconceptions.

This landslide of bad press—which was bound to come sooner or later, given the present political climate—began innocently enough when borough president Karin Marks requested funding from the megacity to help finance the hiring of a security guard for the Westmount Public Library.

Seeing as the library's membership has increased dramatically since Jan. 1 and the sudden appearance of new members has raised questions of security, this was a perfectly logical and legitimate request—but the reaction it evoked was not. It was as if everyone was just waiting to pounce on Westmount because of its reputation as an exclusive community where outsiders are treated with such trepidation that their arrival prompts a call for increased security.

Whether or not the library desperately needs guards to keep the crowds under control is a matter of opinion, of course, as some people are desperately uncomfortable with the current influx of non-residents, while others don't seem to notice much change at all. Having dropped by the library at different times over the past three months and witnessed nothing out of the ordinary, I tend to side with the latter camp.

Still, the entire issue was badly handled from the beginning. In requesting increased security, Ms. Marks was doing her job, which is to look after the interests of her tax-paying constituents. On the other hand, had Westmounters not made public their concerns over outsiders coming into their library and dog runs in the first place—thus advertising the merits of these facilities—the issue of library security need never have been raised.



# TAKING A BITE OUT OF EDUCATION

**O**ver the past three years, almost all of Quebec's universities have appeared before the Parliamentary Committee on Education for periods varying from one to two hours. Only one, Concordia University, has yet to be heard, and it will appear before the committee on April 9.

All of this amounts to nearly 40 hours of hearings, presentations and questions. This is an exercise that requires a lot of preparation because each university has its own unique characteristics. However, there is one thing that unites them: they are all under-funded compared to their Canadian counterparts, not to mention their American counterparts.

To talk of under-funding is a euphemism. In fact, from 1995 to 2000,

*MNA*

Jacques Chagnon



Quebec's universities lost 28 per cent of their funding on a recurring basis. This translates into the loss of about 1,000 faculty positions and many management jobs.

The loss of 1,000 professors is about the equivalent of the complete disappearance of the Université du Québec à Montréal. This is the heritage that the current government is leaving us. It is hard to believe that a government which had two professors emeritus (Parizeau and Landry) as Premier

and Finance Minister would be the architects of this devastation of our universities. To put it another way, it is hard to believe that these promoters of Quebec's independence and of the creation of a new country would shamelessly attack the one institution that would be in the best position to support the new country's future by training its brightest people. The PQ policy on university financing has more in common with China's Cultural Revolution than with Quebec's Quiet Revolution.

This could almost be qualified as an act of savagery. The pretext given was that Quebec had a deficit. Although this is true, it is also true that we reduced it in an extremely abrupt manner, at the same time that we received, as you will remember, a considerable and unexpected increase in transfer payments (\$1.4 billion).

We had to wait until the Youth Summit, a highly publicized event in 1999, for the government to begin to reinvest in education. In 2003-2004, universities will be receiving the same amount of funding as in 1994-1995. Imagine for a moment that you have the same salary as ten years ago. After a loss of 30 per cent of your income along the way, you would be feeling poor and with good reason. We can reasonably say that when inflation is factored in, the universities' loss of purchasing power would be in the order of 15 to 20 per cent when compared to 1994-1995.

In Ontario, which faced an \$11 billion deficit, funding for universities was also reduced for several years, but this situation was rectified much more quickly. For instance, in 1994-

*(continued on page 10)*

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## One Year Ago April 5, 2001:

**OPTIMISM AT CITY HALL:** "Mayor Peter Trent is more convinced than ever that Westmount can reverse Quebec's forced municipal mergers. Addressing city council Monday night, Trent's mood was upbeat as he announced plans by the City, without going into detail, for a renewed campaign to convince Montreal's suburbs that the island-wide megacity is far from a done deal. 'We are not fighting against huge odds; we do indeed have a chance of reversing this,' said Trent. Emphasizing that there is a need to overcome a defeatist attitude some seem to take towards the megacity, Trent added: 'We have to change the image of palliative care to one of actually getting rid of our disease.'"

## Fifteen Years Ago April 2, 1987:

**ELECTORAL MAP CHANGES:** "Westmount and Outremont will not be unified in electoral matrimony after all. New proposals for riding boundaries released last week by Quebec's federal electoral boundaries commissioner François Chevalier show Westmount reunited with St. Henri in a riding which swallows the entire downtown past Park avenue to St. Laurent boulevard. 'In view of the unanimity shown, (the commission) has decided to reunite the area known as Saint Henri with the municipality of Westmount,' the commission said in releasing the proposals. The incumbent MP for St. Henri-Westmount, Donald Johnston, told The Examiner Tuesday night he's 'very happy we've been able to keep it intact, especially the St. Henri section.'"

## Thirty Years Ago March 30, 1972:

**LESS STUDENTS:** "Declining enrollment at St. Léon de Westmount elementary school has called the future of the French-speaking, Roman Catholic school into question. Paul Robidoux, director of the Montreal Catholic School Commission's region one in which the school is located, reported that enrollment has been dropping 10 to 15 percent every year and that next September only 237 French-speaking pupils were expected to enroll."

## Forty Years Ago March 30, 1962:

**PIGEONS SHOT:** "Westmount Police have denied reports that chips were knocked off a local building during a recent effort at getting rid of some pigeons. 'We did not hit any buildings,' said Inspector Andrew Lawson, 'but we didn't get any pigeons, either.' According to the inspector, the force uses many methods to get rid of the feathery menace. Reports show everything from cages to .22 rifles to various other equipment. The shooting on this particular jaunt began at 6:15 a.m. when the policemen took aim at a flock of pigeons on an office building at Elm avenue and Sherbrooke street west."

# The flowers that bloom in spring, tra-la!

*Off the Leash*

George Bowser



**I am not much of a gardener. Twice in the past I have decided on the spur of the moment to help out in the garden by doing some weeding, and on both occasions I have pulled up several of my wife's carefully-nurtured shrubs, mistaking them for weeds.**

It's odd, because I thought gardening would come naturally to me. My father always said I was a blooming idiot.

Even an amateur can have some unexpected successes. We returned from one vacation to find that the pumpkin seeds, thrown into the composter the previous Halloween, had produced a creeping, prickly vine that almost buried the deck. And who hasn't, in their student days, waited for an avocado pit to produce a free avocado? Who hasn't tripped on their garden steps and made a face plant? Who hasn't stopped to smell the roses,

only to find they've been led down the garden path?

A relative of ours was always proud of the vegetable garden in her back yard. In one special area, everything seemed especially lush and fruitful. It was the spot directly above the septic tank, of course. That somehow takes all the joy out of a garden-fresh tomato sandwich.

Some people enjoy the tranquility of a Japanese garden. For a little excitement, you can always add a few punk rocks.

I enjoy flowers. The colours, the smells, the way they brighten up the interior and the exterior of a house. The way the wife always greets a gift of flowers with the look that says, "What have you done this time?" She knows, as the late Milton Berle knew, that if a man brings home flowers for no reason, there's a reason. I am always amused by the flowery clock that lies in front of Victoria Hall, the founder of our city. A gentle reminder that life is short, and sooner or later we'll all be pushing up daisies.

While we're on the subject of roses, my sister tells me that a certain American first lady was delighted to know that a certain rose had been

named for her, until she read the description of the plant's characteristics. This particular rose, it was said, was "no good up against a wall, but pretty good in a soft bed."

Flowers are nature's way of encouraging the species to propagate. Any species. The rabbits at the Westmount spring flower show certainly got the message. The male of the species had only one thing on his mind, and it wasn't to stop and smell the roses. The Westmount bunny is a playboy.

It's always bothered me that 'dandelion' is a French word - dent de lion - but the French call it something else. 'Pissenlit'. I don't see that as an improvement.

One of my favorite songs used to be 'An English Country Garden', and I particularly enjoyed a parody version. The only line I can recall now, is: "I see the pigeon droppings on the wall / and then I watch them slowly / harden."

Oh well, they say you can take a horticulture, but you can't make her think.

*George Bowser is one half of the musical comedy duo Bowser & Blue.*

# Frigon Affair is this week's hot potato

Glenn Wanamaker

**So, Groupaction Marketing never ordered a private investigation into the life of Gaétan Frigon, the head of Loto-Quebec. That's what company President Jean Brault said in full-page newspaper ads.**

The Quebec Liberal Party "never ordered, mandated, or paid [for] any report on Mr. Frigon." That's what Leader Jean Charest said.

But somebody did. And M. Frigon, a public servant, deserves to know who and why.

The Quebec Liberal Party knew a report on Frigon had been compiled by a private detective because Charest has admitted it.

Two party officials, Charest's chief of staff Ronald Poupart and party organizer Pierre Bibeau, met with the private detective to discuss it.

Neither Bibeau nor Poupart are talking. And all Charest has said is that "there is someone who claimed to have information and who transmitted it to [people in our party] who didn't find it credible."

"It's like with journalists - people claim from time to time to have information to give you. This is the same thing. When we receive information, we verify it. We verified it and it wasn't credible."

In a brief statement issued after getting a letter from Frigon's lawyer demanding they turn over whatever information they have, Bibeau and Poupart declared none of the information they were given relates to Frigon's private life. Wisely, they have turned over the documents.

The Liberals asked last week in the National Assembly that the government set up an inquiry to investigate. That's right - the Liberals think they themselves should be investigated.

An appropriate first step might be for Bibeau and Poupart to publicly step forward and say who they met, when, why, who paid for the informa-

tion, who ordered it, and why they thought the whole escapade was a smart idea.

If, as reported, the detective himself initiated it and that his handiwork just fell into Liberal hands, then why not say so.

Of course, the Liberal political gumshoes believe that if the Landry government accepts to set up an inquiry into the Frigon Affair, it could hardly continue to reject calls for an inquiry into the lobbyists' affair and other dubious relationships with "friends of the régime".

There are other questions to be clarified about Groupaction, a marketing firm already caught up in the controversy over billing the federal government three times to prepare one report three different ways.

But what concerns us most here is political behaviour. Whether it's the PQ cuddling up with its friends or the Liberals dabbling in clumsy undercover operations, it's unacceptable.

Let there be no general election until we can sort out if either of these two parties deserves to be elected. Meanwhile, it's Jean Charest's responsibility to demonstrate to voters his party is as clean as a whistle. If he can't, then let some heads roll, while we wait for Frigon's possible court action to take care of the rest.

## Sovereignty Studies

One can sympathize with Intergovernmental Affairs Minister Jean-Pierre Charbonneau. Why force yourself to plow through dozens of updated studies on sovereignty issues when no one cares?

Because he had to, Charbonneau tabled the updated reports of 48 of the 79 studies carried out originally for the Bélanger-Campeau Commission in 1991-92.

But with remarkable honesty, Charbonneau said he hadn't read any of them. The great pedagogue, Bernard Landry, surely was not amused.

## Landry repudiates Trudel

As Alliance Quebec President Brent Tyler said, "he didn't say anything controversial, but he didn't say anything objectionable either."

Premier Bernard Landry really didn't say a whole lot in his luncheon address last week to members of the Quebec Community Groups Network, an umbrella group for about 20 English-speaking organizations.

Speaking without notes, he spoke broadly about the richness of Quebec's linguistic mix, saying that what Quebecers have achieved linguistically is a "great accomplishment".

"That's why Quebec society, economically and culturally speaking, is so fascinating," he said. But he did make one commitment when he was asked about access to English-language health services.

All it takes to reconcile the right to access to services in English and the right of francophones to work in French is a "little good sense," he said.

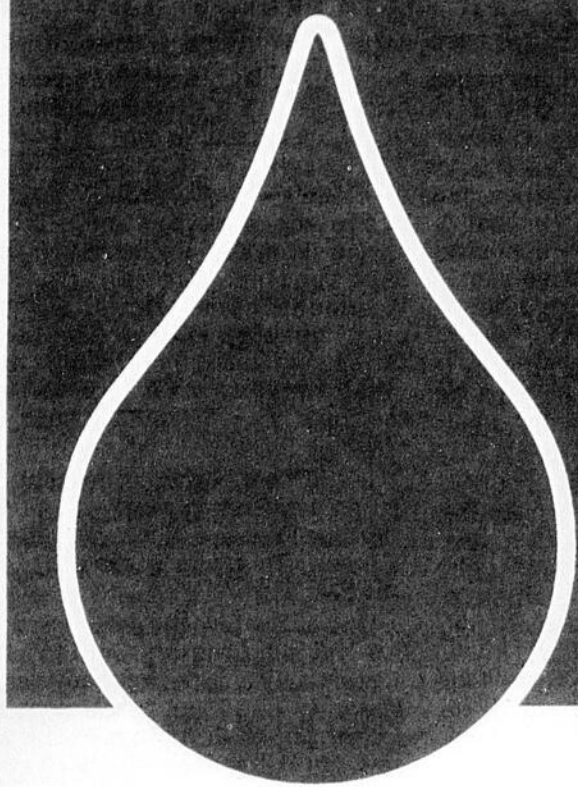
In Montreal, with so many bilingual health professionals, there should be no problem, he said. "Elsewhere, let's use our heads."

"In English Canada, regarding French, they say 'where numbers warrant'. That doesn't apply in Quebec. Here, one is enough, and it will continue like that."

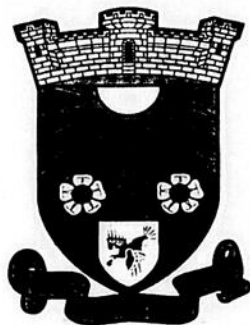
The next day, Health Minister François Legault confirmed he does not intend to revise current practices as set down in regional access plans developed by the community.

Those two statements amount to a repudiation of Legault's predecessor, Rémy Trudel, whose statements about scrapping the plans led to the resignation en masse of the minister's advisory committee on access.

*Glenn Wanamaker can be reached by e-mail at wanamakerg@hotmail.com*



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**Donner du sang, une question de vie**

# Reader's Digest building holds fond memories

Marilynn Vanderstey

**M**urray Lewis, editor-in-chief of Reader's Digest, paid a nostalgic visit to Westmount this week as part of his seven-city tour to celebrate the 55th anniversary of the magazine's Canadian edition.

Now moved to offices downtown, Reader's Digest was a prominent fixture in Westmount for more than 40 years, located across from Westmount High School at Redfern Avenue and Ste. Catherine Street. WHS graduates still use the site as the landmark when talking about the school, and many remember the bomb in the mailbox outside during the FLQ crisis. Even with a new owner and tenants, the building is still known affectionately as the Reader's Digest Building.

Fifty-five years ago the company

started the Canadian version of the magazine that today is read by over 9 million Canadians each month, at its location on Beaver Hall Hill. In the mid-1950s the business was moved into the newly-built building on Redfern Avenue, and a second building on Metcalfe Avenue, now the Vanguard School, was also developed.

By 1998, however, it was realized that the building was growing old and desperately needed some serious refurbishing. The decision was made to move the magazine to the more central and modern location in the former Lavalin building on Peel Street and René Lévesque Boulevard.

It was with mixed emotions, however, that the staff moved away from Westmount. "Besides the employees who had moved to Westmount over the years to be closer to work—and still do in fact live in Westmount—most

of us have noticed a big difference in our Reader's Digest community since we left the Westmount office," said Lewis. "Most notable is the fact that the new building has eight elevators—six more than the Redfern building. Employees who used to ride up and down daily with co-workers can go for weeks or even months without seeing one another. In that way they miss the Redfern location, and each other."

The move has affected Lewis personally, too. Since he took the position of editor-in-chief four years ago this week, he often worked on the tedious job of creating the headline by taking a walk through the neighbourhood. While enjoying the quiet ambience and peacefulness of the Westmount community, he was able to free up his mind to put together just the right words to highlight the monthly issue. And although he still takes that walk in the new neighbourhood, it just isn't Westmount.

"I find myself heading past Redfern in my car on my way downtown from Lachine," he says. "It's the route I know best."

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40338304



# Dental Health for a winning smile

## Gum Disease and Your Health

If you've been reading the health news lately, you may be aware of research that indicates possible links between periodontal infections, also called gum disease, and other illnesses outside of the mouth. These other illnesses are widely varied and include diabetes, heart disease, stroke, low birth weight babies, pre-term labour and others. It seems that these conditions could be more common, or have worse outcomes, in people who also have periodontal disease.

So does that mean that, as a patient, all you have to do is brush and floss and visit your dentist, and you can avoid all of these serious problems?

Unfortunately, it is not as simple as that. In some cases, the link has been clearly demonstrated, with periodontal disease and diabetes, for example. Gum disease makes it harder for cells to take in glucose - this is called insulin resistance. If periodontal disease is treated, studies have shown that the need for insulin is reduced.

But, while research does show a connection between periodontal disease and other conditions such as heart disease or low birth weight babies, it is too soon to tell which is the chicken and which is the egg.

Researchers are not sure whether one condition causes the other, or whether they occur together because of similar risk factors, or if there is another, undiscovered explanation. For example, a person

who smokes is at increased risk of tooth loss due to gum disease, and, at the same time, at increased risk of heart disease. Because many aspects of health are inter-related, the "holistic" (whole person) approach to health care has been adopted by many medical practitioners. In this framework, all aspects of a person's health and well-being are examined together.

The good news is, that just as many illnesses have similar risk factors, there are many positive, preventive steps that are similar for dental and overall health. A properly balanced diet, with limited sugar, is an excellent starting point for overall health. Avoiding tobacco and excess alcohol is also key to general well-being. Prevention has long been the focus in dental care. By following a few simple steps, you can greatly reduce your risk of periodontal disease and cavities. Brush your teeth gently with a soft toothbrush and fluoride toothpaste recognized by the Canadian Dental Association at least once every day. How you brush is just as important as how often - you should use gentle circular motions and not "scrub" your teeth since this can cause your gums to recede. Remember to floss every day. This is the one area that the majority of people miss, but it's a very important step. Try playing music or flossing while you watch TV whatever it takes to get the job done. Finally, visit your dentist regularly for professional care. Brushing, flossing and regular visits to the dentist are the key elements to achieving and maintaining good oral health - which is vital on its own.

And, if good oral health helps you to avoid more serious health problems down the road, you've gotten a terrific bonus. It really is a win-win situation.

### Some facts about oral cancer.

Most dentists today routinely check their patients for signs of oral cancer. These signs show up most often on the tongue, the floor of the mouth, the lips and gums and the soft palate tissues in the back of the tongue. Early detection is key to successful treatment. According to recent statistics from the National Cancer Institute of Canada, in 1999 oral cancer accounted for 2,200 new cancer cases among men and 990 among women.

Anyone can get oral cancer; however, it usually occurs in people over 45 years old. Oral cancer can be serious and even deadly, and since all the causes are not known, it is impossible to eliminate them all. However, known risk factors include smoking, use of alcohol, exposure to the sun and heredity. If you use any product which contains tobacco, like cigarettes, cigars, pipes and smokeless tobacco (snuff), your risk of developing oral cancer is significantly increased. It is especially dangerous to combine smoking and alcohol. Avoiding smoking and alcohol (especially together) will reduce your risk.

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## Taking a bite out of education (continued from page 6)

1995, Ontario gave \$1.81 billion to its universities whereas in 1999-2000, it gave \$2.1 billion. This represents an increase of about 10 per cent (and don't forget that personal income taxes were also reduced by more than 30 per cent over that period). Ontario also balanced its books two years earlier than Quebec.

"So what", you may ask? Well, I should also mention that Ontario de-indexed tuition fees, which has widened the revenue gap between Quebec and Ontario universities.

When they appeared before the parliamentary committee, almost all of the universities admitted that despite the promises made at the Youth Summit, none of them has had their operating costs completely funded. And they are still waiting to receive funding to cover the increase in energy costs.

Hydro-Québec is in the process of canceling its rates for bi-energy, and it is estimated that the burden of this change on the public sector - education and health sectors combined - will be another \$100 million for the coming year. Guess who will be paying for this one? You, of course.

The under-funding of our universities attacks the very core of our society as its poison slowly seeps unseen. It will take another 10 to 15 years to really be able to understand the impact of this under-funding on our youth and their training programs. Unfortunately, it will then be too late for this generation and it will be more and more difficult for our institutions to regain their credibility. Contrary to the health sector where pictures of overflowing emergency rooms quickly make headlines, the deterioration of teaching and studying conditions in our universities is odourless and colourless. Nevertheless, the poison is toxic, if not fatal.

By not investing in our universities today, the government is guaranteeing that we will not be able to fund the future cost of our health care system, which can only continue to rise. To govern is to anticipate and to have foresight. Our government has done just the opposite.

*Jacques Chagnon is the Liberal MNA for Westmount-St. Louis.*

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# Spring Rites & Duvet Duchess Debacles

**Bridget Blackader**

**L**et's be clear about this. Mum swore to me that only two cats were coming to live with us. I think she can't count.

Because, you see, every darn time I turn my head or open my eyes, there's a cat. I scrunch up the duvet for a morning nap? A cat explodes from invisibility. I plump the pillows for a siesta? A cat erupts with hisses and claws. I settle on the sofa for a snooze, and cats streak overhead on their way from mid-stairs to the window seat! UFOs are really unsettling, don't'cha now? Cats peering from pantries, basking on bookcases, slinking under sofas, streaming over chairbacks, cuddled in corners, hunkered in basins, and laying ambushes from behind food bowls. In the evenings, it's even worse. There are disembodied eyes floating on the stairs or suddenly appearing from under the bed. Sometimes, there's only one eye. It's enough to give a properly superstitious Kerry Blue Terrier a bad case of the weeby-jeebies.

And every last one of the two cats is schizophrenic. One moment sucking



## Going to the dogs

up to me with muzzle nuzzles, then as I return a lick, raking a claw across my nose. They take off at speed, tails on high, laughing all the way to the food bowl (which I can't reach)! The final straw is this preening and porno stuff. A hind leg beside an ear, nose buried in privates, then a long supercilious stare. I mean, really, my ears are on straight... I think. All this is followed by a group grope, a squirming mass of intricately woven cat flesh. It looks like the mating frenzy of garter snakes! Mum says to ignore it, but I think we could make money with Grade B porno flicks.

On the plus side, Mum has come up with some tasty stuff to be added to the food bowl. She calls it "roasted roots." Any combo of carrots, potatoes, turnips and parsnips are chopped into small chunks, then

roasted/grilled until the edges are just starting to char. It's all tossed with a touch of olive oil and a generous sprinkling of balsamic vinegar, or, parsley and thyme. Yummy stuff. We both enjoy this.

As the warmer weather is en route, Mum has spoken with a couple of area vets about the leptospirosis situation. This year, there have been no bulletins from the authorities, and no increase in the number of cases in Montreal and region. The available vaccine protects against two of the known six varieties of the disease. Discuss with your vet whether vaccination is appropriate for your woof and its lifestyle.

It is also time to start thinking about heartworm protection. Some vets favour taking the pills May through October, others prefer June through November. Ask about the blood test too. If you've been religious with the pills, and the dog has tested clean before, perhaps annually repeated tests are less critical. Again, the choice is yours.

Remember constant leashing at Summit Park is 15 April through 15 June inclusive. And get your licence

soon! It's still cheaper in Westmount.

And please, folk. New snow does not mean disappearing poo. The snow melts, the poo does not. But, as with innumerable other things, poo collecting is something Westmount does better than almost anywhere else. Yeah team!

*Bridget Blackader is president of the Westmount Dog Owners Association.*

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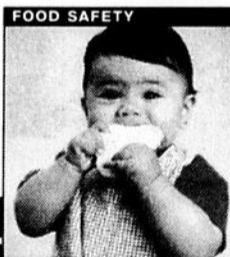
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# YMCA residence makes a smooth transition to former Reddy Memorial Hospital building

Sidhartha Banerjee

**W**ith little fanfare but quite a lot of success, the YMCA residence has moved into Westmount and is quietly settling in to its new home.

The residence relocated from its downtown home last Nov. 1 when director Pascal Alatorre and his staff moved into the former home of Reddy Memorial Hospital on Tupper Street with 300 residents in tow.

The building is still undergoing renovations with an official opening expected sometime in the next month to six weeks.

"It has gone very well, especially considering we moved 300 people with us initially," said Alatorre, who has been residence director for the past seven years. "We have a number of

partners already in the area, including the Atwater Library, which provides books for the children to read at the residence, as well as access to the Internet."

The residence serves as a first home for refugees arriving in the Montreal area from abroad. They live at the residence anywhere from one to three weeks, during which time they become familiar with the city and build a network of contacts. Services offered include a first home for new arrivals, complete with meals, beds, counseling, information sessions and support services.

At the moment there are 120 people living at the residence. Initially, the residence was supposed to have a capacity of 300 beds, but after some discussion with the Montreal Regional Health Board, the size was increased. The residence now occupies two additional floors and its living capacity has increased to 500 beds.

Alatorre said the difference between the Reddy facility and the downtown YMCA is like day and night. "There is no comparison—at the Reddy there is a lot more comfort for the families," said Alatorre. "Each

room has a bathroom, there is a large fully staffed cafeteria and a brand new kitchen area." He added that the staff has also been happy with the new facility.

The transition to the Westmount area has also been seamless. Among the issues that came up during an information meeting at Centre Greene last May was the potential parking problems the residence may cause, but borough president Karin Marks says parking has been a non-issue and there haven't been any complaints about the residence.

The residence employs between 10 and 15 full-time staff members, and parking hasn't been a problem since the Reddy is also easily accessible by bus and is a stone's throw from Atwater metro.

"We knew we wouldn't have any problems with parking because our clientele don't have cars, they usually only come with their bags by metro or by taxi," said Alatorre.

"We just finished the renovations and we are currently decorating and our official opening will occur sometime in the next month or so," Alatorre added. "We are very happy with the move thus far."

# Catch the spring migration on the Summit

Westmounters are invited to witness the first migrating birds to return this spring with a bird-watching course on Westmount's Summit.

Enjoy walks on the mountain, where a whole procession of birds—hermit thrushes, yellow-bellied sapsuckers, scarlet tanagers and colourful wood warblers—stop briefly to rest and feed before continuing further north to nest.

Starting on Wednesday, April 17, the Westmount Sports & Recreation Department is holding a bird-watching course every Monday and Wednesday morning through May 22 from 7 to 9 a.m. When the weather is bad, informal talks will be held in Victoria Hall at the same hour. The birding is led by Elsie Mitchell, a longtime member of the board of the Province of Quebec society for the Protection of Birds.

The first day of the course will be a workshop at 8 a.m. in Victoria Hall. The fee for the course is \$40. To register, contact Esther at Westmount Sports and Recreation at 989-5353.

# Batshaw seeks foster home

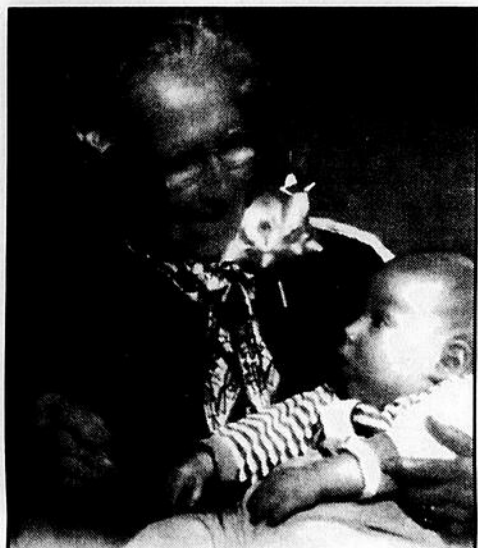
Lia is a 14 year old teenager who is able to express her thoughts and feelings on issues that matter to her. She is eager to learn and applies herself academically, and enjoys gossiping with her peers.

Lia is in a group home where she has made significant progress and has benefited from the structure of the program. Sometimes she can be moody, belligerent or speaks loudly and forgets to listen, but is able to use the skills she has learned from the professionals to correct the situation.

Insightful for her young age, Lia is aware of the challenges of raising a teenager. Thus, she would like to be integrated slowly into a family (two weekends a month) developing a trusting relationship to establish the stability she needs as she struggles with renewed feelings of rejection by her own family. In order to meet her cultural and developmental needs a Black family would be ideal.

For more information please contact Batshaw Homes for children at (514) 932-7161 local 338 or drop in on Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 6 Weredale Park in Westmount.

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## Westmount's design guidelines

(continued from page 4)

The other thing to check for on the Character Area map is whether your house is part of an ensemble, that is several houses built at the same time as part of an overall composition. Sometimes, owners don't notice that theirs is one of several identical houses, until it is pointed out. The guidelines generally require that all buildings in an ensemble be treated in a similar way, irrespective of its category.

The main thrust of the guidelines is to preserve the character-defining features of existing buildings. It is better to maintain original features such as windows, doors and roofs, repairing them as necessary. If replacement becomes necessary, these features should generally be replaced to match the original (for example, replacement windows should be identical to the originals). Additions or other changes should be located and designed so they do not change the character-defining

features of a building.

If you are planning a new building or an addition visible from the street, you should also take home a copy of the Character Area pamphlet. It describes in detail the main design features of each area as well as of specific streets. New projects should harmonize with those features.

If you or your architect plan your project with respect to the design guidelines, clarifying any questions with staff at the counter at Borough Hall, chances are that your project will not only be quickly approved but will truly enhance the unique design qualities that contribute so much to making Westmount the special place that it is.

For more information, visit Westmount's web site at [www.westmount.org](http://www.westmount.org) or come to the Westmount Borough Hall.

Mark London is a former chairman of the Architectural and Planning Commission.

## Marks unhappy over closed-door Summit

(continued from page 1)

"Our choice was to have residents and to try and have them from across the board so that this truly was as representative of our community as it could be," she said.

As many as 60 Westmounters from local groups and organizations will be attending the round-table discussion. Four members of the borough's staff have been working full-time over the past few weeks organizing the all-day event to be held at Victoria Hall.

A summary of the day's discussions will be integrated into a master report of all 27 borough summits and submitted for the megacity summit to be held from June 4 to 6.

In order to allow a greater number of Westmounters—besides those attending the summit—to make their ideas known, Marks released the list of categorized topics to be discussed.

She hopes as many Westmounters as possible will read them and submit ideas by fax and e-mail before April 10. The feedback will be handed over to groups at the summit to be discussed there.

The following nine animated workshops will be held: economic development, social and community development, sustainable development and the environment, partnership and democratic living, housing, public and municipal security, sports, recreation and cul-

ture, infrastructure and public works, and transport and urban planning.

Fourteen 'conditions' have also been established as guidelines to be used at the summit. They are: demographic considerations, economic vitality, social climate, support and community solidarity, commitment towards sustainable development, gateway on the metropolis and the world, cooperation between all parties, civic and democratic commitment, quality of and access to housing, public and municipal security, culture, sports and leisure, infrastructure and urban upkeep, clarity in planning, and delivery of services.

Marks admitted that the method the borough is being forced to comply with is probably not ideal. "For that I can only say I wish there were a better way that we could have everybody who wanted to be there," she said.

"But we spent a long time trying to figure out if there was a better way, and we could not find a way that would still work within the confines and allow people to express themselves. This was one way that we thought at least we could get all of the good ideas that are out in the community and have them being discussed by the people who will be participating in the summit."

Anyone wanting to submit comments related to the topics to be discussed at the summit can send them by fax to (514) 989-5481, or by e-mail to [summit@westmount.org](mailto:summit@westmount.org).

# Bulletin Board

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

### Friday, April 5

Used Book Sale at Centre Greene, 1090 Greene Ave., from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Hardcover, paperbacks, children's books, textbooks... something for everyone. All proceeds will go towards enhancing Centre Greene's programmes and services. Info: 931-6202.

La paroisse Saint-Léon de Westmount tiendra un Bazar de 13h00 à 20h00 dans le sous-sol de l'église, 330 rue Clarke (coin de Maisonneuve).

### Sunday, April 7

Yom Hashoah Seder at Congregation Shaar Hashomayim, 450 Kensington Ave., at 7:30 p.m. Holocaust Remembrance with song, poetry and the ritual commemoration of the Shoah (Holocaust). All welcome. Info: 937-9471.

### Monday, April 8

The Westmount Public Library's English Book Club meets to discuss 'Ahab's Wife' by Sena Jeter Naslund, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the library, 4574 Sherbrooke. Meetings are led by Carole TenBrink. All welcome. Info: 989-5386.

### Tuesday, April 9

The Westmount Horticultural Society meets in the Westmount Room, of the Westmount Public Library, 4574 Sherbrooke West, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Guest speaker will be Rick Fraser, who will give an illustrated talk about "Wildflowers in the Montreal Region." Annual membership fee is \$15; guest fee is \$5. All are welcome to attend. Info: (514) 487-2245 or [w\\_hs@hotmail.com](mailto:w_hs@hotmail.com)

(continued on page 15)

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**580** Occasions/businesses propositions  
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**482** Miscellaneous services  
**LAMAS of OZ 2002 Spring Run-off Llama & Alpaca Auction** April 20, 2002, Noon, Osogode, Ottawa, ON. Silent auction of merchandise, door prizes, lunch, free care seminar April 21. [www.lamasofoz.com](http://www.lamasofoz.com) Email: [lamasofoz@hotmail.com](mailto:lamasofoz@hotmail.com) (613)826-3702

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**515** Specific messages  
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**605** Miscellaneous employment  
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**835** Miscellaneous notices  
**NORAH Lynn MacArthur: it was computer problem only, please call back Robert (o-maximus) (514)524-0244**

**840** Lost/found  
**LOST** 3 strand perl bracelet with clasp near Shaar Hashemeyim Sinagog march 27. Reward, (514)890-1599

**910** Motorcycles for sale

**on the web**  
[www.westmountexaminer.com](http://www.westmountexaminer.com)

**The Westmount Examiner**

(continued from page 13)

**Tuesday, April 9**

'Fruits of the Branch', an anthology of writings by members of the Canadian Authors Association, will be launched at the Double Hook, 1235A Greene Ave., from 6 to 8 p.m. Info: 932-5093.

**Wednesday, April 10**

Power Breakfast at Congregation Shaar Hashomayim, 120 Côte St. Antoine Road, at 8 a.m. Guest speakers are Jack Borden and Howard Blank. Topic is 'Sar-el: A Well-Kept Secret.' Shacharit services begin at 7:30 a.m. Info: 937-9471.

**Thursday, April 11**

Book review Series with Kathy Diamond at Congregation Shaar Hashomayim, 450 Kensington, at 2 p.m. Featured book is 'When I Lived in Modern Times' by Linda Grant. Admission is free and everyone is welcome. Info: 937-9471.

Garage Sale presented by the Auxiliary of the Montreal Children's Hospital, on the second floor B Wing, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Info: Rita at 412-4400 ext. 22384.

**Friday, April 12**

Women's Rosh Chodesh Prayer Service at Congregation Shaar Hashomayim, 450 Kensington Ave., at 8:30 a.m. Women and children welcome. Info: Judy at 484-7862, Shelley at 489-9094 or Barbara at 683-4926.

**Saturday, April 13**

Quality Book Sale in the

Westmount Room of the Westmount Public Library, 4574 Sherbrooke, presented by Friends of the Westmount Library, from noon to 5 p.m. All proceeds will go toward purchasing new books for the library. Info: Derek Walker at 933-0223.

**Sunday, April 14**

Leisure Institute of Congregation Shaar Hashomayim presents 'Homeopathy, Healing and Slowing the Aging Process,' a luncheon lecture by Dr. Daniel Block at 12:30 p.m. 450 Kensington Ave. Info: 937-9471.

**Thursday, April 18**

The Westmount Historical Association's Spring Lecture Series continues with 'The Making of Westmount From 1870 to 1929' with guest speaker Stephen Bryce of John Abbott College, at 7 p.m. in the Westmount Room of the Westmount Public Library, 4574 Sherbrooke. Free for WHA members, \$5 for non-members at the door. Info: 932-1404.

The University Women's Club of Montreal presents a dinner meeting with Dr. Margaret Somerville, founding director of the McGill Centre for Medicine, Ethics and Law, at the Montreal Badminton & Squash Club, 3505 Atwater. Cash bar at 6 p.m., dinner at 7. Tickets are \$26.50, taxes included. RSVP with Gloria Ménard at 937-4309 or Karin Van de Water at 288-1281.

**Saturday, April 20**

Spring Rummage Sale at St. Matthias' Church, 131 Côte St. Antoine Rd. from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Clothing, household items, books, linens and more. Great stuff for all!

**Friday, April 26**

The Westmount Public Library presents 'The Planets, Moon and Stars in the Spring Sky,' a slide presentation by Andrew Fazekas, from 7 to 8 p.m. For children eight and older. Please register at the children's desk at 989-5229.

**Ongoing**

RECLAIM (The Reading Council for Literacy Advance in Montreal) will be holding a tutor training workshop on April 15, 17, 22, 29 and May 1. An information session will be held April 9. Please help an adult learn to read. Become a volunteer literacy tutor. 4350 Ste. Catherine St. Info: 369-7835.

'Watercolours en pleine air' and 'Watercolour Quilts,' a joint exhibition by Gael Eakin and Ilyse Segal, continues at the Gallery at Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke, through May 1. Gallery hours are Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and weekends from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Info: 989-5226.

CHSLD St. Margaret is in emergency need of volunteers to feed elderly residents. 50 Hillside Ave. Please contact Carol Hutton at 932-3630 ext. 3018.

Contactivity Centre is looking for volunteers to help seniors by paying friendly visits, grocery shopping, accompanying them on medical appointments or helping in the kitchen for Thursday lunches. Become a valued asset in our community today. Contactivity Centre, 4695

de Maisonneuve, 932-2326 or 932-3433.

Chateau Westmount: Anyone wishing to do volunteer work with the elderly is asked to contact Millie Karpman at 369-3000. Wonderful opportunity for students; win-win situation for seniors.

Duplicate Bridge: The Shaar Hashomayim Duplicate Bridge Club meets every Tuesday for lunch at 11:45 a.m. and bridge at 12:30 p.m., 450 Kensington Ave. \$7.50 per person. Free valet parking. Money raised goes to Sisterhood's Meals on Wheels program. Info: Barbara at 938-1405.

Talmud Study Session at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, 395 Elm Ave., every Saturday at 9:15 a.m. Rabbi Leigh Lerner and Rabbi Elina Bykova take turns teaching contemporary Talmud classes. Info: 937-3575.

Westmount Toastmasters Club meets each Thursday at 7 p.m. at Victoria Hall. Learn to speak in public with confidence. We welcome guests. Info: 367-5986.

Overeaters Anonymous, a non-profit self-help group welcomes anyone who wants to stop overeating. Weekly meetings at the Westmount YMCA 4585 Sherbrooke, on Saturdays at 2:30 p.m. Info: 488-1812.

The Rotary Club of Westmount meets each Wednesday at Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke, at 12:30 p.m.

The Montreal Camera Club meets each Monday at 7:30 p.m. at Westmount Park Church, 4695 de Maisonneuve, entrance at rear. Slide shows, competitions and workshops. Visitors welcome. Info: (514) 637-2767.



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Upcoming INFORMATION SESSIONS

Montréal
Wednesday, April 10 12:15 - 1:15 pm (lunch) 6:00 - 7:00 pm Fairmont The Queen Elizabeth 900 boulevard René Lévesque ouest

Pointe-Claire
Thursday, April 11 12:15 - 1:15 pm (lunch) 6:00 - 7:00 pm Holiday Inn 6700, Trans-Canada Highway



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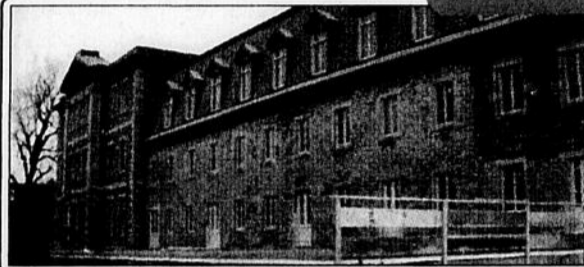
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### NEW CONSTRUCTION



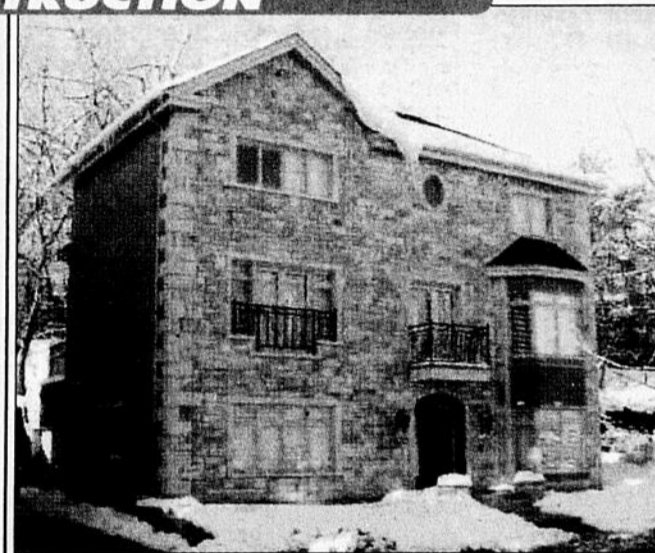
#### WESTMOUNT ADJ JEAN GIRARD ROAD

2 out of 5 luxurious townhouses left, 3 + 1 bdrs, 3 1/2 baths, large family room, from 2,800 sf including basement, C/A, C/V, intercom, 2 garages, from \$700,000 to \$850,000 taxes included.



#### WESTMOUNT ADJ JEAN GIRARD/ ST. SULPICE

8 detached homes app 5,000 sf of luxurious living space, 4 bdrs + den, 4 baths, large kitchen w/ incorporated family room w/ fireplace, double garage, central air. Asking \$1,500,000 taxes included.



#### WESTMOUNT ADJ JEAN GIRARD ROAD

Exceptional detached classic styling, luxuriously appointed with quality finishes & details. Many upgrades such as built-ins, wiring, keypad & speakers for custom sound system, wood or tile floors in all rooms, large terrace off kitchen + garden, 3+1 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, fireplace, central air, central vac, double garage. Asking \$1,250,000.

### LUXURIOUS CONDOS



#### - NDG - - 4877 WILSON Apt. 308 -

Built '99 adorable pied à terre, around 900 sq. ft., 2 bdrs, 1 bath, balcony, 1 garage, \$149,000.



#### - DOWNTOWN - - ACADIA -

Across Ritz Carlton, beautiful large pied-a-terre (1200 sf), 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, ground floor. Asking \$295,000.



#### - WESTMOUNT ADJ - - 4798 VICTORIA - 4 RENOVATED CONDOS

- Renovated ideal pied-a-terre (1000 sf), 2 bds, 1 bath, large kitchen, oak floors, beautiful terrace, immediate occupancy. Asking \$159,000.
- Renovated and large pied-a-terre (1100 sf), 2 bds, 1 bath, large kitchen, oak floors, beautiful terrace, immediate occupancy. Asking \$179,000.
- Upper floor, sunny top floor totally renovated, oak floor, 4 bdr, 2 baths, beautiful kitchen w/ doors to large terrace overlooking the city, garage, immediate occupancy. Asking \$299,000.
- Lower floor, spacious main floor, 3+1 bds, 2 1/2 baths, beautiful kitchen w/ doors to large terrace, oak floors, duck work for A/C, fireplace, garage, immediate occupancy. Asking \$329,000.



#### WESTMOUNT - "POM BAKERY" - 4700 STE CATHERINE 4TH FLOOR - 1 bdr, d.n.r., 1775 s.f., 2 baths. Asking \$399,000



#### NDG - 5375 NDG AVENUE APT. 304 - "Villa Veritas" - award winning design (Domus 2000), large 2 bds + den (2000 sq. ft.), 2 baths, 4 garages, exceptional details, immense private terrace 600 sq. ft. Asking \$95,000.



#### WESTMOUNT ADJ. - DR. PENFIELD - Exceptionally elegant and well renov. apt. (2200 sq. ft.), 2+1 bdrs, 2 baths, in the "McGregor" sunny, overlooking St. Sulpice, C/A, dream kitchen. Asking \$699,000.



#### WESTMOUNT ADJ. - MANOIR DE BELMONT - 14th floor, magnificent view, very sunny and luxurious 2400 sf, 1+1 bds, open concept, hardwood floors, 2 garages. Asking \$960,000.

### PRESTIGIOUS HOMES



#### - DOWNTOWN - - DUROCHER -

Beautiful heritage home, 4+1 bds, 3 1/2 baths, high ceilings, mouldings, woodwork, bachelor apartment in lower floor, 3 parkings. Asking \$389,000.



#### WESTMOUNT - THE BOULEVARD - Spacious detached contemporary with c/a, double garage, ground floor den w/adj. bathroom possible in-law suite. Large open concept livingroom & diningroom. Patio area off kitchen. Asking \$598,000.



#### OUTREMONT - COTE SAINTE CATHERINE - JUST LISTED - Built in 1974 by present owners, det. On large grounds (7600 sf), 4+1 bds, 3 baths, 3 p.r., den and solarium on ground floor, doctor's office on lower floor, central air, garage. Asking \$699,000.



#### - WESTMOUNT - - UPPER BELMONT -

Totally renovated det. On quiet Upper Belmont, spacious ground floor, open concept, 2+1 bds, 3 1/2 baths, private sunny garden. Asking \$799,000.



#### MUNS ISLAND - 15 DES TOURTERELLES - Heritage-inspired det. in Domaine De La Forest. Built 1993. Over 10,000 s.f. backing onto secluded forest. 4+1 bds, 3+1 baths, C/A, C/V. Inground pool. Impeccable. Asking \$1,175,000.



#### - DOWNTOWN - - REDPATH CRESCENT - - JUST LISTED -

Spacious det. 3 storey stone, built in 1999, beautiful open plan over 10 ft ceilings on main floor, large lvr & dnr w/wide hall expansive kitchen adjacent family rm + separate den w/frpl. 4+2 bds, 2 baths, 2 p.r., 4 garages. Asking \$1,450,000.



#### WESTMOUNT - BELLEVUE - Det. 3 storey on over 10,000 s.f. lot. Large flat garden. Incredible city views. Southern exposure. 7+1 bds, 4+1bths, extensively renov. 2 car garage Asking \$1,450,000.



#### WESTMOUNT ADJ. 3156 THE BOULEVARD

South side of the Boulevard sits on magnificent lot (15,000 sf) inground pool, completely remodelled and renovated, 6 bdrs, 4 1/2 baths, fireplaces. Imm. occupancy. Asking \$2,100,000



#### WESTMOUNT ADJ. 3024 ST-SULPICE

Imposing and stunning stone residence on 13,000 sf. of land, spectacular and majestic ground floor, 5 bdr, 5 1/2 baths, 3 garages, views. Asking \$1,995,000.



#### WESTMOUNT - SURREY GARDENS - JUST LISTED - Contemporary design on large grounds (8000 sf), 3 bds, 3 baths, 2 garages, great potential. Asking \$995,000.



#### WESTMOUNT ADJ. ST-SULPICE

Exquisitely renovated w/ understated elegance and refinement. Beautiful dark wood floors, high ceilings, mouldings, 6 1/2 bds, 5 1/2 baths, large land (14,116 sf). Asking \$2,450,000.