

# THE WESTMOUNT Examiner



Making all of Westmount your home

Vol. LXIII, No. 51 Westmount, Quebec, Thursday, December 19, 1991 56¢ + 4¢ GST = 60¢

## Warning for parents

Parents beware — if you will be helping your child put out milk and cookies for Santa, and nutmeats for his reindeer, if you will be staying up really late on Christmas Eve while your children struggle to sleep, you may want to keep page 17 out of reach of the kids.

## Sharing the spirit

Festive tree lights up for all major holidays

By J. MARION FEINBERG

EVERY YEAR for the last 18, Victoria avenue resident Joan Verreault turns her front lawn into a visual feast of twinkling lights, toys, and Santa paraphernalia.

Mrs Verreault doesn't bother with naysaying humbuggers who whine about commercialism, she does it because Christmas only comes once a year.

"It's a new surprise every year," says Helen Rowland who has lived across the street from Mrs Verreault for 36 years. "I think she's wonderfully imaginative. She has such a charming little house, I think it's a creative thing, as much for neighbors and passersby as for herself. But you know, I've never actually seen her do it."

Mrs Verreault says she doesn't want to give away all her secrets about how she puts together the spectacular winter wonderland.

"But I will say you need an extension ladder and a tall neighbor elf who lives nearby," she explains, greenish eyes glinting, "to string the lights, hang the toys and plug the top light into the stars."

Neighbors who drive down the Victoria avenue hill or walk by take a sharp intake of breath as they gaze at huge gaily wrapped boxes guarded by Santa and a doll dressed as a Canadiens hockey player. The six-metre-high maple tree to the left is festooned with everything from a Santa-capped knitted tiger to a koala bear sleeping in a little rocking chair. Also featured is a Thumbelina story book, a woolly wreath, numerous dolls and a Santa tray, all dancing in the December winds.

Irving Shuter and his family have lived across the street for five years. Mr Shuter says that although he doesn't know his neighbors that well, he says Mrs Verreault's dedication to the seasonal cause is pretty special.

"Whenever we have relatives or visitors over, they comment on the display," he says. "It gives you something to think about. There's going to be a lot of sad people this season, but when they see this they might forget, even for a little while."

Mrs Verreault looks a little like a part-time elf herself dressed in brilliant red sweater and red balloon puffs. Her black gloves, studded with multi-colored stones, sparkle magically as she waves her hand toward this year's extravaganza.

"A teacher from Roslyn School was taking her class to the post office to mail their Christmas lists to the North Pole and they walked by my house. The children oohed and aahed at the toys even though I don't have any Nintendo games hanging from my trees," she laughs.

Victoria avenue residents don't have to wait until the Christmas season to see Mrs Verreault's handiwork. She goes all out for Valentine's Day, St Patrick's Day and Halloween. One Toronto man left her a note last Feb 14 saying her big red heart decorations hanging over the well made the Valentine feeling contagious.

She says that she begins planning her Christmas lawn in the summer, buying toys at garage sales and wrapping up the big boxes early.

"Then around the last week in November, I wait for a warm day to put up the lights and such and then when it's all finally up I pray for some snow to give it that Christmas feel."



Every year, Joan Verreault brings Christmas to the corner of Victoria avenue and Côte St Antoine road with gifts tied to the boughs of this maple tree. It stops passersby in their tracks, including Westmounters David, age 4, and six-year-old Jake Harris.  
Photo by OWEN EGAN

Your home away from home...

RESTAURANT

La Transition

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Maria & John wish all their customers a joyous holiday season.

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## Hydro worker burned in power outage

By SCOTT INNISS

A worker short-circuited electrical lines at Hydro-Québec's Maison-neuve substation on St Antoine street Tuesday morning, sending him to hospital and causing power interruptions in parts of Westmount most of the day.

Janot Fournier, 49, short-circuited five 1,000-volt lines while trying to attach a ground. The wires, made of copper, melted, and the man ended up in hospital, said Hydro-Québec communications officer Michel St-Germain yesterday. Mr Fournier works for a sub-contractor who was doing work for Hydro-Québec.

Power blackouts hit the southwest sector of the city from The Boulevard south to the Trans-Canada Highway and Metcalfe west to Claremont avenue as Westmount's light and power department struggled to keep the power interruption from causing complications, said light and power director Danny Ponzo Tuesday.

Mr Fournier suffered first-degree burns to his hands and face, said Mr St-Germain, but he was released from the Montreal General Hospital later that same day.

The power outages started at 8:30 am and power was completely restored to the dark corners of the city a few minutes before 6 pm.

Mr Ponzo said two of the 12 power circuits which serve Westmount from Hydro-Québec were cut off. However, in order to keep buildings from becoming too cold in the sub-zero weather, the department rotated the blacked-out areas in a practice called "load shedding," he said.

"We can't localise it (the affected areas)," said Mr Ponzo during the middle of his busy day Tuesday.

If the city had allowed many buildings to become too cold, there is a danger they could have shorted out

another of the city's circuits when the power came back on, since all affected houses would try heating up at the same time, he explained.

Cold days in December often are the peak time of the year for power use.

Mr Ponzo had the entire light and power department staff of 14 working most of the day co-ordinating the power interruptions.

He said even though all department workers were co-ordinating the power outages, there was only so much the city could do.

"Hydro's doing their best," said Mr Ponzo, noting they had to rebuild a copper plate at the substation where 12,000-volt wires are attached.

Mr St Germain said an inquiry into the incident was begun by the Commission du Santé et Sécurité au Travail. He said such accidents "don't happen often," and said perhaps the wind was partly to blame.



**CITY OF WESTMOUNT**  
**VILLE DE WESTMOUNT**  
**Official NOTICE BOARD**  
**TABLEAU D'AFFICHAGE officiel**

**Next Scheduled City Council Meeting**

**Monday, January 6**  
**Special Council 8:00 pm**  
**Council 8:30 pm**

**Date de la prochaine séance du conseil municipal**

**Le lundi, 6 janvier**  
**Séance spéciale, 20h00**  
**Séance, 20h30**

Householders are notified that there will be no Door-to-Door Recycling or Blue Box Pick-up on:

Wednesday, December 25th, 1991 and Wednesday, January 1st, 1992 and that normal Pick-up will resume on Wednesday, January 8th, 1992.

Les résidents sont avisés qu'il n'y aura aucune collecte des matériaux récupérables:

mercredi, le 25 décembre 1991 et mercredi, le 1er janvier 1992. La collecte régulière des matériaux récupérables recommencera mercredi, le 8 janvier 1992.



**WESTMOUNT**  
**BUDGET 1992 — CAPITAL EXPENDITURE**  
**PROGRAM 1992/93/94**

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given by the undersigned, City Clerk of the City of Westmount:

THAT the operating budget of the said City for the fiscal year 1992, and the three-year capital expenditure program of the said City for the fiscal

years 1992, 1993 and 1994 will be tabled for adoption at the special sitting of the Municipal Council of the City of Westmount, to be held on Monday, 6th January 1992, at 8:00 p.m., in the Council Chamber of the City Hall, 4333 Sherbrooke, Westmount, Quebec; and

THAT, at the said special sitting, the deliberations of the said Council and the question period shall deal exclusively with the said operating budget and the said three-year capital expenditure program.

GIVEN at Westmount this 16th day of December 1991.

**E.A. McCavour**  
*Interim Assistant City Clerk*



**WESTMOUNT**  
**BUDGET 1992 — PROGRAMME TRIENNAL**  
**D'IMMOBILISATIONS 1992/93/94**

AVIS PUBLIC est par les présentes donné par la soussignée, greffier de la Ville de Westmount:

QUE le budget d'exploitation de ladite Ville pour l'exercice financier 1992 ainsi que le programme triennal d'immobilisations de ladite Ville pour les exercices financiers 1992, 1993 et 1994, seront déposés pour adoption à une séance spéciale du conseil municipal de la Ville de Westmount qui se tiendra le lundi 6 janvier 1992, à 20h00 dans la Salle du conseil de l'Hôtel de Ville, 4333, rue Sherbrooke, Westmount, Québec; et

QUE, lors de ladite séance spéciale, les délibérations dudit conseil et la période de questions porteront exclusivement sur ledit budget d'exploitation et ledit programme triennal d'immobilisations.

DONNÉ à Westmount, ce 16e jour de décembre 1991.

**E.A. McCavour**  
*Greffier-adjoint intérimaire de la Ville*

**CITY HALL / HÔTEL DE VILLE**

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Fire (business calls), 19 Stanton St. . . . .935-2456  
 Municipal Court, 21 Stanton St. . . . .935-8531, local 351 or 352  
 Police (business calls), 21 Stanton St. . . . .280-2223

Other Times

Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke St. W. . . . .935-2066  
 Municipal Yard, 14 Bethune St. . . . .935-8037  
 Light Department, Glen Road . . . . .935-8218

**Tenants' association formed at 250 Clarke**

By SCOTT INNISS

A TENANTS' association has formed at 250 Clarke avenue, Westmount Tenants' Organization head Wade Allen reported last week.

Speaking to the Westmount Municipal Association at their monthly meeting, Mr Allen said the building — the Royal Westmount Apartments — had many problems, and the meeting to establish an association there drew more than 100 people.

Mr Allen later said the problems at the building included fumes in the garage. He added this and other problems had been going on for "quite a while." He refused further comment on the matter.

City building and planning

head Joanne Poirier said her department had not heard of any problems at the building.

"It (complaints about problems) would come through me, but I haven't heard a thing," she said. "Not yet, anyway."

Tenant Louise Agar of the building refused comment on the matter.

"It's too early to talk about it," she said. Kim Hong of the tenants' organization said Ms Agar established the association.

Administrator of the building Warren Dick chose to make his comments brief.

"I don't know anything about it," he said, then added "maybe call me back in January," before hanging up.



250 Clarke: Administration there now faces a tenants' association.

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 Cour municipale, 21, rue Stanton . . . . .935-8531, local 351 or 352  
 Police (bureau d'affaires), 21, rue Stanton . . . . .280-2223

Autres Heures

Hall Victoria, 4626, rue Sherbrooke ouest . . . . .935-2066  
 Voirie, 14, rue Bethune . . . . .935-8037  
 Service d'éclairage, chemin Glen . . . . .935-8218  
 Bibliothèque . . . . .935-8444  
 Sécurité Publique . . . . .935-1777

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*Westmount*  
*Community*  
*Calendar*

**Today, Dec 19**

**Christmas concert** at noon at Les Galeries Westmount Square, by a quartet of students of the McGill University faculty of music accompanied by piano and violin.

**Registration for Y courses** starting Jan 6 is under way. 931-8046.

**Registration for girls 4 1/2 and up** at Roslyn School ballet program continues until Jan 10. 697-1886.

**Children's Art:** Work from Westmount Library's Four O'Clock Club on display at the library during normal hours until Jan 1.

**Art exhibit:** for John Collins's annual exhibition at Galerie Dan Delaney, 318 Victoria avenue, until Monday.

**Exhibition and sale** at Farfelu, 350 Victoria avenue, every day during December.

**Mini-bazaar** at Contactivity Centre, 4695 de Maisonneuve boulevard, from 2 to 4 pm. This is the last day.

**Friday, Dec 20**

**Christmas concert** at noon and 5 pm at Les Galeries Westmount Square, by a quartet of students of the McGill University faculty of music accompanied by piano and violin.

**Saturday, Dec 21**

**Children's activity** at the Oink! Oink! party barn, 1359 Greene avenue, at 11 am. *The Night Before Christmas*, Christmas presents and stories of long ago to bring back the true meaning of the holiday. **Christmas concert** at 2 pm at Les Galeries Westmount Square, by a quartet of students of the McGill University faculty of music accompanied by piano and violin.

**Overeaters Anonymous** meets every Saturday at 3:30 pm at Westmount Baptist Church, 4755 Sherbrooke street. Non-smoking.

**Concert:** Westmount Seventh-Day Adventist Church Adult Choir presents Handel's *Young Messiah* at 571 Victoria avenue, corner Westmount avenue, at 7 pm. An offering will be taken.

**Family entertainment:** One item of non-perishable food per person will let the entire family see *Santa Claus, the Movie* at 10 am at Place Alexis Nihon's Cineplex Odeon theatre.

**Sunday, Dec 22**

**Christmas concert** at 2 pm at Les Galeries Westmount Square, by a quartet of students of the McGill University faculty of music accompanied by piano and violin.

**Monday, Dec 23**

**Christmas concert** at noon and 5 pm at Les Galeries Westmount Square, by a quartet of students of the McGill University faculty of music accompanied by piano and violin.

**Tuesday, Dec 24**

**Christmas concert** at 1:45 pm at Les Galeries Westmount Square, by a quartet of students of the McGill University faculty of music accompanied by piano and violin.

**TOPS**, dieting support group, meets at the Westmount Y from 7 to 8:30 pm weekly. \$1.

**COMING UP**

**Jan 5:** Début Sunday Musicale at 2:30 pm at Château Westmount with violinist Qing Zheng and pianist Jean Marchand.

**Jan 5:** Seniors' tea at the Leisure Institute of Shaar Hashomayim, 450 Kensington avenue, at 1:30 pm. Film on faith healing. \$2.50 members, \$3 others. 937-9471.

**Jan 11:** Samedi Greene presents circus jugglers and a unicycle workshop from 10 to 11:30 am at Greene Avenue Community Centre, 1090 Greene avenue. 931-6202. \$1.

**Correction**

Last week's article entitled "Two local dancers perform in Grand Ballets' *Nutcracker*" misspelled the name of dancer Neelanthi Vadivel. THE EXAMINER regrets the error.

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# THE WESTMOUNT Examiner

Thursday, December 19, 1991 - 3

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## Three cabbies robbed under threat of sawed-off rifle

A search is under way to find two men armed with a sawed-off rifle who robbed three different taxi drivers last week on residential streets in Westmount, police said. All the holdups took place late at night.

One time, the victims described the pair as English-speaking men in their early 20s, one black and the other of uncertain racial background, possibly south Asian or mulatto.

A Hemlock taxi that was stolen in the third robbery was recovered soon after and taken to local police Station 23 to be dusted for fingerprints.

"We're going to mount a concentration to catch these guys," said Const Bernard Roy.

It was not known if an earlier taxi holdup on Redfern avenue was related to the other three.

The first took place at 2:45 am

Wednesday last week outside 643 Grosvenor avenue after a 39-year-old cabbie picked up two young men at Guy street and de Maisonneuve boulevard. They initially asked him to drive west to Kitchener avenue, north to Sherbrooke street, west to Metcalfe avenue, up to Côte St Antoine road and finally north on Grosvenor.

"Stop here," one ordered suddenly. "Give me your money or I'll blow your head off."

The cabbie saw the barrel of a sawed-off rifle aimed at the side of his head. He handed over an undisclosed amount of money, the robbers grabbed the car key and ran away up the hill. The cabbie found a cartridge from a 12-gauge rifle in the back seat. He was taken to the police identification section to try and recognize possible suspects.

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

On Friday, two men fitting the same general description got into a taxi at the Guy Métro station asking to go to "Prince Arthur in Westmount." The cabbie said that street didn't exist and suggested Prince Albert. The passengers agreed, saying they were going to a party at a home there.

When they reached 475 Prince Albert, one brandished a 12-gauge rifle and said: "Don't get smart or I'll put a hole in your head." He then tore out the radio wires, searched the cabbie, took his wallet and broke the key in the ignition before running north.

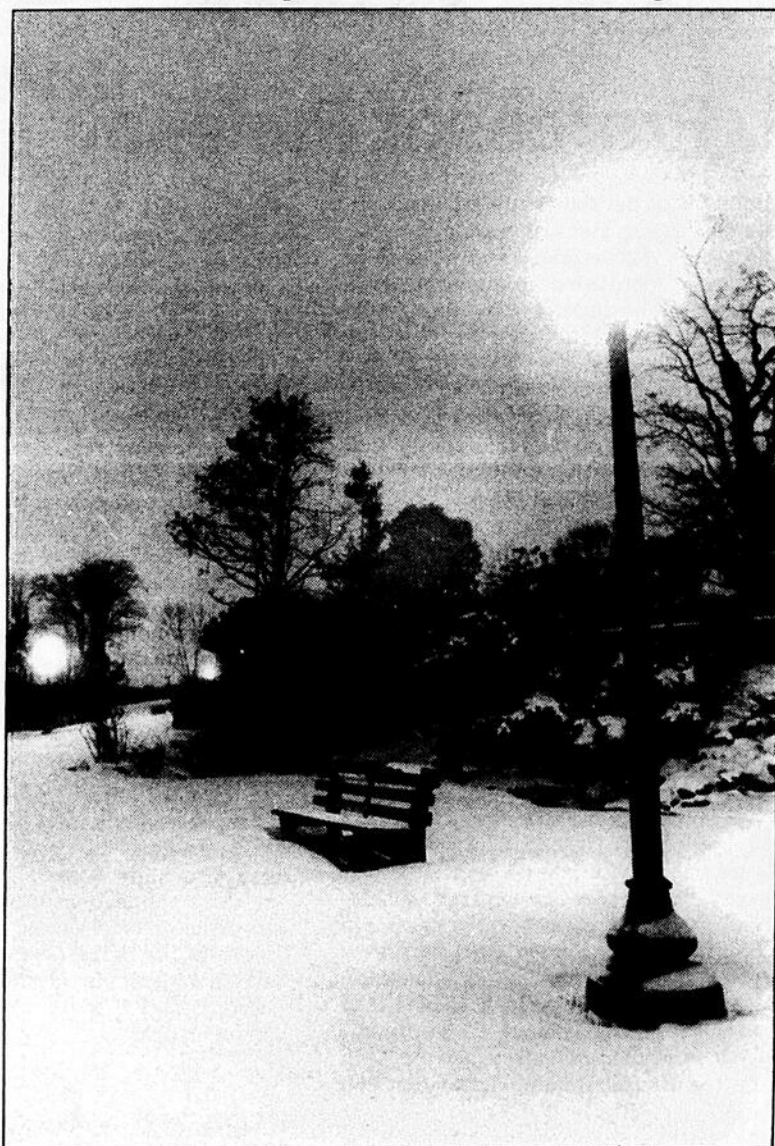
The third holdup took place Sunday at 10 pm when two men took a cab from the Forum to Côte St Antoine road and Prince Albert where one produced a 12-gauge rifle and held it to the driver's face while the

other took his money.

They yelled at him, forced him out of the car and drove off in the red

1983 Chevrolet valued at \$2,100. It was found early Monday at Décarie boulevard and Duquette avenue.

## When everyone was sleeping . . .



In the midst of this week's snowstorm, at least one person was walking around King George (Murray) Park, recording the scene. This photo was taken at 3 am on Wednesday.  
Photo by OWEN EGAN

## Dissenting vote nearly quashes MUC method of buying parkland

A close vote at the Montreal Urban Community council meeting Wednesday last week on long-term refinancing of parks indicates more and more suburban mayors may be joining the bandwagon to cut costs.

Mayor Peter Trent said "the dissenters" almost upset the appellation by banding together against the refinancing resolution which would see the MUC paying for parks over the next 40 years.

Though their combined votes according to population (as MUC votes are counted) were not sufficient to overturn the resolution, it was very close at 381 to 341.

The resolution called for amortizing a previously-authorized loan in the amount of \$294 million for the purchase of parks over 40 years instead of 20.

The longer-term financing would reduce the annual borrowing costs

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

but burden the MUC with debt for 40 years, significantly increasing the total cost.

The contrary vote was a statement of principle, Mayor Trent said. "The MUC was not created to go running around buying parks."

Every time the MUC moves into a new area, a new department is created and costs rise, he pointed out.

He also said that every time the MUC buys a park, it's on the edge of the island. Though such land may have a relatively low cost, it is also less accessible.

"Why not pay for Westmount to

acquire parkland closer to downtown? Why do Ville d'Anjou or Pierrefonds get a gift of land from the MUC?"

Mayors listed by Mr Trent as voting against the resolution were: Irving Adesky of Hampstead, Vera Danyluk of Town of Mount Royal, Yvon Labrosse of Montreal East, Malcolm Knox of Pointe Claire, Edward Janiszewski of Dollard des Ormeaux, Ovilla Crevier of Seneville, Yvon Boyer of St Pierre, Jacques Denis of Ile Bizard, John Simms of Montreal West, Marcel Morin of Pierrefonds, Nunzio Discepola of Kirkland and Frank Zampino of St Leonard.

## Hazardous waste will be collected frequently

NEXT year Westmounters' hazardous waste will be picked up more often.

The city will be co-operating with the Régie intermunicipale de gestion des déchets to make collection of oils, paints and solvents a more permanent and regular part of waste collection.

"A big part of these materials are recyclable," said Suzanne Blais, spokeswoman for the Régie, explaining why the public board is making increased effort to gather the products.

The board has not yet finalized plans for collection, but what the city now does once a year, the Régie will do "about six times a year," said Ms Blais.

Fred Caluori, head of Westmount's public works department, said the frequency of collection will be "according to our needs."

For the past two years the city has organized one-day collection of hazardous household waste in June.

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### ERRATUM

This ad in THE WESTMOUNT EXAMINER, December 12th, should have read:

**FREE SPINAL EXAMINATION - Value of \$50 (until December 20th)**

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CALL: 751-4242  
5055 Gatineau (corner Côte-des-Neiges)  
Montréal (Québec)  
Chiropractic was legally recognized by the Government of Québec in 1975 as a health care profession.

## MP Berger moves

St Henri-Westmount MP David Berger has moved his constituency office one block west to a storefront at 3269 St Jacques street.

He gave up his former second-storey office because the rent was being hiked unacceptably high. The office was moved on Nov 20.

He chose to stay in the area because it is close to a Métro stop and to

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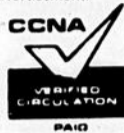
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## We Say

### Professor Parizeau - II

WHETHER or not the Parti Québécois under Mr Jacques Parizeau should form the next Quebec government and whether or not the province is led to separation, there will be the now-growing question of its fitness to govern.

Two weeks ago we were scornful in this space of the propensity of the PQ leader to respond with ridicule or blithe dismissal to all cautions, issued from many and varied quarters, about the possible consequences of attempting to lead Quebec into so-called independence in this increasingly inter-dependent world.

Never mind how well-reasoned and worthy of serious study and rebuttal these critiques of Péquiste policy — coming mainly from informed and even learned sources — Mr Parizeau seemed to be replying that they are of no consequence and should be dismissed out of hand.

To this attitude he added last weekend at a gathering of party brass the heavy hand of derisive humor. Followers are reported to have laughed merrily at his sallies.

Being diehards, it might not be expected to have been otherwise. Even the other, longer-established, mainline parties have their same kinds of mindless faithful ever ready to give the current chief unquestioning support. They do so even if they harbor doubts, questions or misgivings about some of the planks in the platform and the directions being pursued by the boss.

That's fairly normal party political stuff and it explains why so many members of the population cannot be bothered to join parties and work hard for them.

HOWEVER, the phenomenon of separatism is not normal politics. We are not playing here with such issues as free trade, the GST, even language laws — however serious these may be — but with the very future of one of the otherwise most fortunate countries on earth, Canada, and of one of its most historic, vital and important provinces, Quebec.

We find ourselves delivered, thanks to a heavy layer of emotion-laden demagoguery and thinnest of veneers of facts, onto a fast-track into the unknown without reliable forecasts or sound planning.

Unknown is the future of a Quebec separated and a Canada Sundered. A lot of opinions are bandied about but, without research and study, opinions alone are not reliable guides to where we may end up, whether in Quebec or in what remains of Canada. If we need nothing else, we need facts.

Federalists so far appear to be taking the lead in public discussion of the consequences of PQ aims and policy. These critical examinations of separatism are growing in legitimacy, logic and volume. Mr Par-

izeau, by his wilful refusal to debate seriously, factually and forthrightly, is losing his credibility. While this is a hopeful sign for those who dearly desire an ongoing Canada which includes Quebec — however the Confederation must be reformed — it is worrisome to have the man who is supposed to be leading the charge in favor of division acting as if his thesis is absolutely sound and unassailable.

After he has whipped up enough emotion, instead of sound reason, for separation to win a referendum it will be too late.

If Quebec is hell-bent for independence, in whatever guise, it should at least know how it is going to go about it. A mere unilateral declaration of its intention, however supported in Quebec polling places, would be only the start. It would not even begin to give effect to those wishes.

Logically, negotiations should be afoot now, not after the event, to decide the many thorny questions which already have been raised on both sides. Ongoing Canadian citizenship, use of Canadian currency, debt apportionment, Quebec's borders, treatment of native peoples, honoring of treaties and conventions: the list is endless and complex and many will not be resolved easily by an airy wave of the Parizeau hand.

THE snag, of course, is finding anyone willing to negotiate any of these things in advance. Beyond Quebec's borders there are precious few if any authorities prepared to talk Quebec independence in the abstract. Here is the real conundrum in breaking up a country.

If Quebec, by majority vote, decides it wishes to pull out of the Confederation, presumably cleanly, in an orderly manner, peacefully and all those other nice things, how can it manage the broad strokes, let alone the myriad of details, in advance and with whom?

Professor Parizeau already has had many questions put to him, albeit in challenges to his data, his logic and his claims. If he is refusing to address them with serious and educated responses now, the prospect for orderly answers later is dim and spells chaos for the people of Quebec and Canada.

Already the debate itself has been enormously harmful, not least in its distraction from more practical and pressing issues. Witness Premier Robert Bourassa's refusal to meet with his fellow premiers to discuss economic matters, clearly because of his craven fear of the nationalists.

Even so, Professor Parizeau's ridicule of federalism invites ridicule in return.

Which from here is what separation really deserves.



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## There's this fat guy in a red suit with an image problem . . .

"YOU know," Santa said, "I watched *Miracle on 34th Street* the other day, and I'm kind of worried."

I sipped my tea, took a bite from my Christmas-tree-shaped sugar cookie and looked the question.

"About my image," he said, and smiled self-deprecatingly.

I hurriedly took another drink of tea to wash down the cookie, which had suddenly become very difficult to swallow. "Image?" I choked.

"Image is everything," he said seriously. "At least, today it is. Look at politics. You could be Solon himself and if you looked like a chinless nerd from northern Alberta or an over-chinned dweeb from Baie Comeau, nobody'd want you."

"Well, okay," I conceded, "but surely that's a bit different from being Santa Claus."

"I'm just afraid I'm dated," he said. His shoulders slumped. "I really haven't changed at all since they made that movie. Look at me. I'm overweight. Only old hippies have white beards. And I laugh a lot. Everyone knows laughing and smiling are passé. Now it's all pouts and lip augmentations."

"You're going to get silicone lips?" I asked in horror.

"The thought had crossed my mind," Santa admitted.

There are times when it's hard to know what to say. I've had days when I've felt a bit as I imagined my old pal Santa was feeling. I thought maybe the best thing was just to listen, hear him out.

"I really don't think 'Ho! Ho! Ho!' cuts it anymore," he went on. "I was thinking of changing to 'Yo! I understand it's what the kids are saying these days.'"

"I really can't picture it," I offered. "You on your wonderful big chair saying, 'Yo! Next!' There must be a better way."

He nibbled morosely at a Christmas cookie. "I've signed up for an aerobics course and I'm trying to cut down on the calories. Fitness is very in." He dropped the cookie and looked at it with longing as he pushed his plate away. "I'm looking into getting a black suit — I understand black is the color of the '90s. I'm not sure what I'd trim it with. Fluffy white stuff won't do . . . my boots are about the only thing that fit with the sort of image today's kids are after."

Deep down inside, I began to feel the terrible tickle of a laugh. "Black?" I asked, trying to keep my face straight. Here was the grandest of lovable old men baring his soul to me and I was about to crack up. I couldn't help myself. "Perhaps you could make a heavy metal vid-

## Beside the Point



KATHLEEN HUGESSEN

eo," I suggested. "You know, Santa and the Claws?"

He was just taking a sip of his tea and, without lowering his cup, he raised his eyes over the rim to meet mine. My face was doing calisthenics as I tried to appear sympathetic.

"Are you mocking me?" he asked as he lowered the cup and his eyes.

"Oh, Santa," I said, repenting my mirth. "It's just that . . . well . . . you're *Santa Claus*. You're supposed to have a red suit and fat tummy and a white beard and twinkling blue eyes . . ."

His eyes were still lowered. "I was thinking of tinted contact lenses," he mumbled.

"That's . . . that's . . . ludicrous!" I bellowed. Suddenly it wasn't funny anymore. "You've got one of the greatest images in the world."

"Perhaps," he mumbled, eyes still lowered. "Maybe I should go into analysis." His shoulders began to shake. Was my old friend starting to cry?

"Santa," I said as gently as I could, "if it ain't broke, don't fix it." I pushed back my chair and stood to go round to his side of the table and give him a big hug — just like I'd done all those years ago when it had been my turn to sit on his knee.

He covered his face with his hands, the spasmodic shaking of his back got worse. I was almost beside him when he leaned back abruptly in his big chair. His cheeks were bright red, his eyes twinkled outrageously from among the crinkles, and laughter exploded from him.

"Ho! ho! ho! ho! ho! ho!" he went on, rocking back and forth in paroxysms of mirth. "Analysis!" he gasped. "Santa and the Claws!" he shouted. And then I started to laugh too.

Later, after we'd finished all the cookies and I was getting ready to go, he reached into his pocket and came up with a candy cane for me. "Merry Christmas," he said.

"Goodbye, Santa," I said. "And a very Merry Christmas to you too. Drive carefully."

"Yo!" he said.

## our Mayor Peter F. Trent says...



### Yuletide in Camelot

*THIS demesne, this Camelot, this bejewelled isle*

*Rises from the noxious and plebian vapours*

*Of engirdling Montreal, whose pestilential water*

*Is Westmount required to purchase at ruinous price.*

*Centred in this happy Island, a castle*

*Is found, with battlements strong and lofty tower,*

*Which local vassals clepe their City Hall,*

*Bedecked with ivy in Summer, at Yuletide*

*Bespangled with magick faerie lights.*

The above is a mercifully short excerpt from a mock-epic poem (or epic mock-poem) that I wrote last year.

I (bashfully) quote from it because of the "magick faerie lights" of city hall. The family of one of our councillors has made it

quite clear to me that we should dispense with the white Christmas lights outlining our local castle in Harrods' style, and return to the centrally placed lighted tree. I, of course, shall not reveal who these staunch traditionalists are, except to say their surname begins with a "W."

Now, I rather like the new lighting arrangement: it makes things look a bit more like Camelot. The unnamed family probably thinks it looks like a used-car lot.

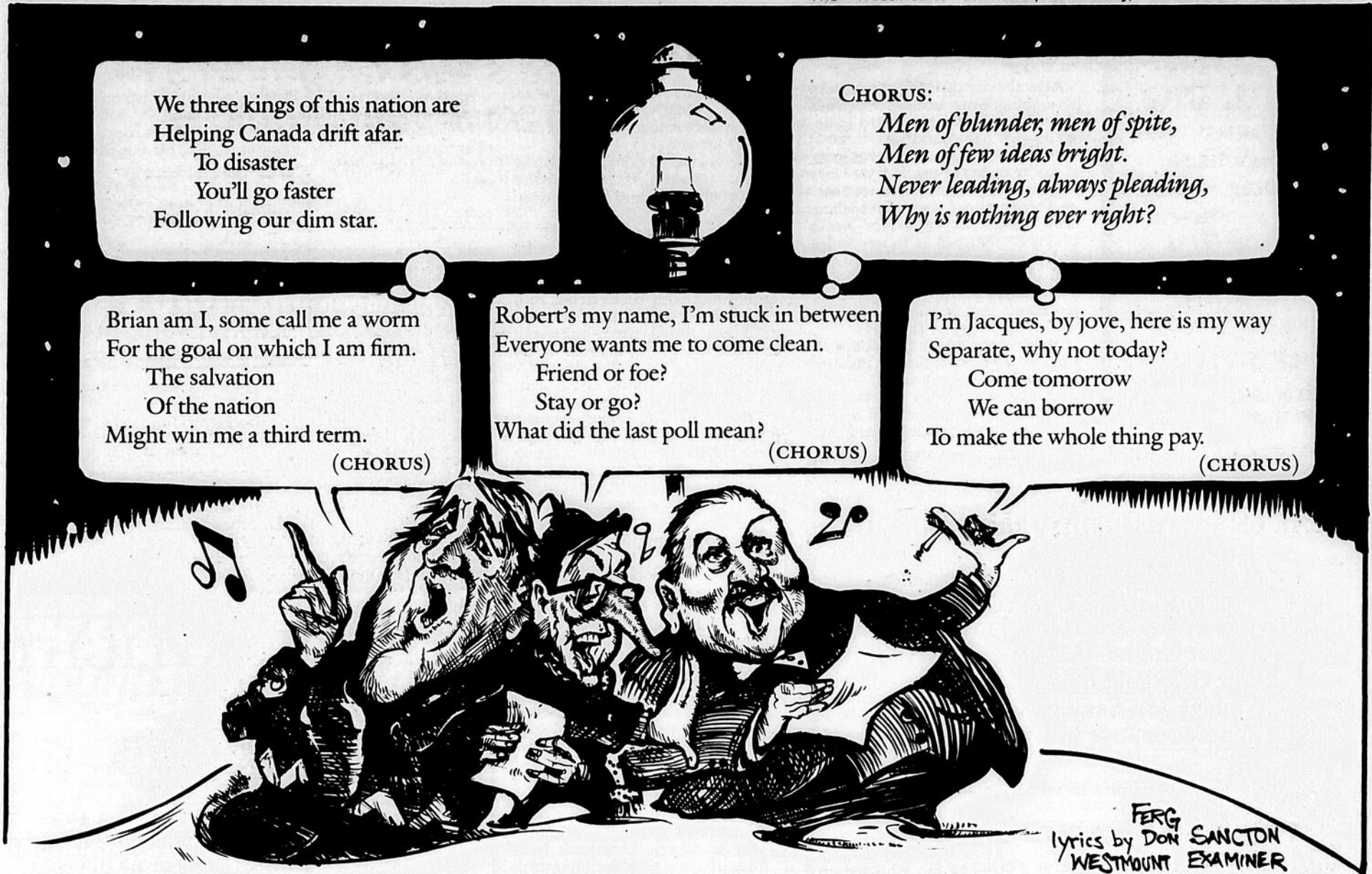
Another critic plumps for more lights. She wants us to detail every nook and crenellation.

Our Westmount Christmas cards still depict a huge decorated tree front and centre of city hall. It does look handsome, I must admit. We now have to content ourselves with a naturally growing tree, apologetically stuck off to one side. At least we no longer have to chop down a tree each year.

The new lighting scheme gave us the excuse to have a lighting ceremony — now with a menorah added — whereby your chief magistrate gives the signal and the light and power department "trips the light fantastic." This year, the ECS choir sang beautifully.

While still on this rather light subject, I cannot help but notice the mayor's lamp standards are still not up yet. Maybe I'll get them for Christmas.

To all of you I offer my best wishes of the season, and the hope of a joyful 1992.



The Westmount Examiner

**EXAMINING THE FILES**


**Forty-five Years Ago**  
 December 20, 1946

Christmas Message from Your Ministers: "It has been said of starving people in Europe and Asia that they often lose all desire for food. They are dying of hunger, and don't know it. Spiritually, that is exactly the condition of multitudes of people the world over. Their souls are hungering for the Bread of Life, and they don't know it. What they need is Christmas in its essence... Primarily, Christmas is a day of personal considerations. The neglect of this fact nearly wrecked the birth of Christ, and frequently wrecks the celebration of His Day. The tragedy of Bethlehem was that 'bales and bundles crowded Christ out of the inn,' and risked His existence in the limitations of a stable."

**Thirty-five Years Ago**  
 December 21, 1956



**our M.P.**  
 David Berger says...



**What to do with IRAP?**

CONCLUDING three months of work, the Industry, Science and Technology Committee of the House of Commons last week tabled its report on the NRC's Industrial Research Assistance Program (IRAP). The Liberal members of the committee, Jim Peterson from Toronto and me, recommended that the program be removed from the NRC.

Continued on page 29

**Twenty-five Years Ago**  
 December 22, 1966

Headline: "20 CP leaders check Selby area; Gas leaks are found; some families moved; 100 flats now vacant." Story: "Twenty department chiefs of the City of Westmount met Friday morning in the Police Department's shooting range — converted into a Civil Protection headquarters — to check and double-check plans for the safety of Selby street residents in the face of the present difficult situation there."

**Ten Years Ago**  
 December 24, 1981

"Police collected more than \$1,300 in outstanding traffic warrants during the past week in Westmount as they increased spot-checks in an effort to crack down on drinking drivers... Although most of the unpaid traffic fines came from verification of motorists, \$468.50 was recovered from a Rosemount man turned over to local police by the RCMP."

**One Year Ago**  
 December 20, 1990

I Say! "There are several apparent sources for the word Christmas. To the early Christians, birthdays were a pagan custom. It was unthinkable to celebrate one's own birthday, much less the birthday of Christ. It was a sacrilege even to suggest that a Divine Being had a birthday. In the next 300 years this attitude began to change, and in AD 354 the Bishop of Rome declared December 25 to be the anniversary of the birth of Christ."

**You Say**

**Waste board committed to recycling, reduction**

I am writing in an effort to achieve balance on a "burning" topic and in reaction to your Dec 12 editorial about waste management. Why ask questions when the answers are so readily available to you and would have been helpful to the Westmount community in its understanding of the Régie intermunicipale de gestion des déchets, its mission and the reason Sam Elkas initiated its existence in 1985? These questions were the subject of a Westmount Earth Day panel discussion on "Global Strategies for Waste Management" way back in April 1990. The city and its Earth Day volunteers from WEACT invited the director of the Régie, Guy Racine, along with STOP's Bruce Walker and assistant

deputy minister (environment) Harvey Mead to share their knowledge, qualms, plans and ideas about waste management. The topic of incineration was wide open for debate and Mr Racine responded fully to all the questions put to him by the informed panel and by the public. It was reassuring to know that a Victoria Hall full of environmentalists appeared to accept the Régie's three-pronged strategy of recycling, composting, incineration (high tech) with recovery of electricity as a by-product. The major concerns then were the size of the incinerator, legislated emission standards and the approximately 2.5 percent residue ash that needs to be landfilled and/or transformed

Continued on page 29

**our PSBGM commissioner**  
 Joan Rothman says...



**Electronic essays**

THE SCENE: The Roslyn School computer room last Friday at 8:40 am, with a class in progress under the rapid-fire direction of Maureen Gross. Besides Maureen, the actors were Mary Finnegan, teacher of the Grade 6 class, and her students, who were sitting on small chairs in groups, each group centred about a computer. The students were pushing buttons, pushing programs in place and mostly watching the big screen. On the screen was a colored map of Africa and I sat up in my small chair — after all, one of my children is in West Africa. Then Maureen said, "This is the way to identify or describe something on the picture. Let's take Madagascar." She described how the island could be made a hot spot, that is, the outline could be made to vibrate on the screen. The student then would record his or her voice saying, for instance, "This is Madagascar," while the hot spot indicated the island. A caption could be placed on or beside the island, a hand could point at the island and a voice could read the caption or all of the above could take place, and no one

would miss noticing that large island in the Indian Ocean. Maureen explained the techniques while brandishing a microphone, describing clip art from the tools menu and discussing the desired and final two cards, the result of each group's efforts. You have realized, of course, that you are dealing with a computer illiterate, or a functionally illiterate school commissioner, who finally realized she was learning about a creative way to present information. Mrs Finnegan's class left for music and in came Colleen Bismuth's Grade 3-4 class with Adrian Gyver, a Roslyn School parent and member of the school committee, who helps Maureen on certain projects. We three adults and the students sat on our small chairs, listened, and I began to see a little light. Hyper Studio of San Diego, some Americans and our Maureen, the only Canadian and Roslyn School teacher, have been working on Lego Robotics to develop hyper-media software for Apple II GS, 1 meg memory, version 3.0 computers. I was just beginning to see some of the things you could do with this software. The students were mastering the techniques in order to help them get a job done. The idea this school year is that student groups, at all grade levels, will develop presentations on a chosen subject and this presentation with written text, sound and pictures will be shown in class or at home to the family on the VCR. I will write more on this project in 1992. Have a happy Christmas and a good New Year!

# Rooming house owner agrees to do repairs

After the city threatened to revoke his rooming house licence, the owner of 4164 Dorchester boulevard is doing repairs to the building.

"He's been complying with most of the items in the report," said city building and planning director Joanne Poirier about owner Abdelmo-neim Ismail. City inspector James O'Connell outlined 14 things which had to be done to bring it into line with city by-laws.

The board of inspections committee made the decision during its weekly meeting last Thursday.

Ms Poirier said Mr Ismail has fumigated the rooming house, repaired the smoke detectors in the rooms, and that emergency lights were working. As well, she said he had repaired floors in bathrooms, and

the building is "acceptable to us as far as fire safety" is concerned.

"Most deficiencies have been corrected," she said.

The city gave Mr Ismail more time to repair plastic pipes and pave the rear lot behind the building, said Ms Poirier.

In the city's report of Oct 30, it asked for 14 conditions to be satisfied. Included in the list was repairs to walls and ceilings, fumigation of the building to kill cockroaches, provide smoke detectors, have the electrical system inspected, and clean and pave the area at the rear of the building.

According to at least one tenant, the city was too soft on the landlord.

"They don't understand what the situation's like," said Eric Greenan, who brought the state of the building to the attention of city council at their last meeting Dec 2.

At that meeting, Ted Wright, a worker with Arnold Bennett's tenant advocacy group, told councillors after his inspection of the premises it was one of the worst he had ever seen.

"I've seen some bad places, and this is maybe an eight out of ten," he

said. "It could be transplanted to Point St Charles."

Ms Poirier said the city would wait for Mr Ismail to finish cleaning the place up.

"As far as we're concerned we're happy with the way he's been co-operating with the city," she said.

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**Security aids harassed woman**

Two security agents at Place Alexis Nihon tried to break up a fight at the Xerox tower Friday when they saw a man pulling a woman's hair, police said. The suspect punched one agent in the ear but was punched out himself by the other security man. When police arrived, the woman told them the man had been harassing her for three months and she had filed a complaint against him at police Station 42 on Crémazie street east. She did not want to pursue the assault by filing charges and the incident was referred to the other station. The woman is a 26-year-old secretary. The man was identified only as 20 years old.

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**ROYAL LEPAGE**

# Used syringe pricks garbage collector's leg

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

A special appeal is going out to all medical offices in Westmount to take special precautions disposing syringes after a garbage collector was pricked in the leg last Thursday.

The 21-year-old man was pricked from a syringe protruding from a garbage bag he was throwing into the truck from the rear of medical offices in the area of 4569 Sherbrooke street, public safety officers said.

He was driven to Reddy Memorial Hospital by a public security patrol. The victim works for a garbage con-

## City asking medical offices to dispose of syringes properly

tractor hired by the city.

It is not known where the garbage originated since a number of medical offices are located along that stretch of Sherbrooke.

Public safety officers said they visited many offices, but were unable to trace the source.

In light of the incident, all medical offices along Sherbrooke will re-

ceive "a friendly reminder" from the city to take special precautions when disposing of syringes, said planning and building director Joanne Poirier Tuesday.

"We would like to ask all medical offices to be very careful of their procedures but right now we're starting with those along Sherbrooke in order to act quickly," she said.

Standard medical practice calls for used syringes to be disinfected and needles knocked off the tips before disposal in a sealed puncture-proof container, according to information from Dr Paul Lysy, the city's medical officer.

Public security Lieutenant Richard Clyde said officers immediately visited medical offices along the Sherbrooke strip and were shown the type of sealed container used to dispose of used syringes.

The syringe which punctured the man's leg was believed to have

slipped in with the regular garbage by mistake. "No one would admit to it," he said.



**BISHOP'S**  
UNIVERSITY

Following the Annual Meeting of the Corporation on 16 November 1991, Bishop's University is pleased to announce the following appointments. **Philip E. Johnston**, Senior Vice President and General Manager of The International Trust Company, was elected President of Corporation. He has served on the Corporation for over ten years and replaces **Don S. Wells**, Senior Vice President, Corporate Planning, Royal Bank of Canada.

**Ronald E. Lawless**, President and Chief Executive Officer of Canadian National, was elected Vice President of Corporation and **Michelle Prévost** of the Musée des beaux arts de Montréal will serve as a community member.

# Council 'present'ed video on waste disposal

Westmount city council got an early Christmas present on Monday night.

Westmount Municipal Association member Kathleen Finklestein presented council with four copies of a

video on waste management made by American professor Paul Connett.

*Waste Management As If The Future Mattered* is an environmental tour-de-force by Mr Connett, a pro-

fessor at St Lawrence University in New York state. It details the ethical, political and space problems created by garbage pile-up in a consumer society where many things are disposable.

The film presents the flip side of the coin of the waste management industry. Among other things, Mr Connett points out almost half (47 percent) of combined ash coming out of incinerators in the U.S. fails the government's test for toxicity.

As well, it shows solutions some American cities are trying. The WMA directors watched the film at their latest meeting Dec 9. The council was invited to watch it at the time, but only one councillor, Herbert Bercovitz, showed up.

The WMA has made the incinerator, proposed by the Régie inter-municipale de gestion des déchets and supported by Mayor Peter Trent, the chief target of their environmental committee.

The incinerator is the Régie's solution for Montreal suburban waste for when the Miron Quarry is scheduled to close in 1994.

"For the family, for you," said Ms Finklestein, as she handed the newspaper-wrapped packages to the city clerk. "Note the recycled paper."

# Scarred man holds up bank; two young men rob food store

A man with a scarred face held up the Bank of Nova Scotia at 4016 St Catherine street Monday last week, police said. Later that day, two bandits forced a cashier at Mont Carmel to empty the cash register.

Both made good their escape with undisclosed amounts of money.

According to police reports, the bank was entered about 12:50 pm by a lone man who presented a teller with a note written in French. It said: "Give me all your large bills.

Holdup. I'm armed." No weapon was seen since the man kept his left hand inside his jacket. He took the money and left quietly, walking east.

The robber was described as a white man aged 30 to 35 with brown hair and blue eyes. His face is scarred.

At 5:30 pm that afternoon, two men walked into the Mont Carmel store at 4826 Sherbrooke street while three customers were shopping, according to police. The pair pretended

to shop until one approached the cashier and held out a plastic bag taken from the store.

"Open the cash and put the money in the bag," he ordered while the other stayed near the door. They ran east on foot with the loot.

Both were English-speaking white men aged about 18. One wore a beige jacket, royal blue jogging pants and had long hair tied in a ponytail. The other wore a scarf on his head.

## WE'RE HAPPY TO DELIVER

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# City ups insurance coverage; liability limit now \$5 million

Westmount will pay less for more in its 1992 insurance coverage. A threat of legal suits against city officials resulted in the city boosting its liability coverage to \$5 million from \$1 million, Mayor Peter Trent

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

told THE EXAMINER after city council accepted a bid Monday night from Dale-Parizeau Inc. The firm will provide a wide range

of coverage at a total tax-included cost of \$206,574 compared with \$225,663 paid by the city for 1991 coverage by Pratte-Morrisette Inc, whose bid this year was higher than the one accepted.

In 1988, insurance costs skyrocketed to \$490,574. Premiums have been decreasing ever since, in accordance with market rates.

The mayor said the city has not raised its liability coverage for municipal officers, which included city council members, for 30 years. The \$5-million coverage will cost \$9,470 (tax excluded) compared to \$8,141 paid in 1991 for \$1 million liability.

"It was felt the coverage should be increased, specially after the suits over 22 Summit and the Boulevard-Cedar issue," the mayor said.

City documents show three bids were received from the call for tenders. Dale-Parizeau quoted \$190,349 (tax excluded) compared to \$198,567 from Pratte-Morrisette. The third bid from R. St Onge-Lorenzetti was considered non-applicable since the firm did not bid for environmental impairment and the municipal liability of \$3 million or \$5 million.

# No recycling pickup during holiday weeks

KEEP your blue boxes indoors over the holidays; the city will pick up all your paper and bottles Jan 8.

Because Christmas and New Year's Day fall on Wednesdays this year, the city will simply skip two consecutive weeks of blue-box collection, said city public works director Fred Caluori this week.

If Westmounters find the piles of paper, glass and tin cans piling up in their houses and want to unload some of it before the next pickup, they can do so at one of the city's recycling depots, said Mr Caluori. The city has recycling depots in three locations; at the Corporation Yard, across from the arena and at the corner of Tupper and Gladstone streets.

The city sent notices to Westmount residents and bought an advertisement in THE EXAMINER, warning of the holiday pick-up pause.

Mr Caluori said workers usually have quite a job hauling away the piles of recyclable materials after the Christmas season.

"If it's going to be like it was last year, the pickup will terminate very late," he said.

Regular garbage collection will proceed as usual, said Mr Caluori.

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# Two arrests close files on 12 local break-ins

Two young men arrested last month for numerous break-ins in the

Montreal area have now been linked with 12 in Westmount stores and restaurants during September and October, police revealed Monday.

The two worked independently, pulling out locks in doors and smashing windows to carry away cartons of cigarettes or to steal money. Both are now behind bars.

Though neither has been charged with any Westmount break-ins, local investigator Richard Dupuis told THE EXAMINER he is satisfied after interrogating each suspect that he can close a dozen files with their arrest. Insufficient evidence prevents him from laying charges.

One suspect is a 17-year-old from N.D.G. arrested during a break-in there on Nov 21. He is believed to have carried out 100 break-ins in the Montreal Urban Community, including two in Westmount. These occurred at TCBY Yogurt, 4890 Sherbrooke street, and Westmount Florist at 360 Victoria avenue.

In both cases locks were removed from the front door.

The other suspect is a 21-year-old man from Joliette street in the east end who has been connected to 10 smash-and-grab incidents in Westmount. His arrest closes two cases at Miss Westmount, two at National Food and others at Young's, TCBY Yogurt, Oxford Soda, Miya Moto, Chez Nick and Mini Château de Basile.

The suspect is charged with breaking into stores in Longueuil, Ste Catherine and Delson, where he was arrested.

### Used garbage pail

One of the suspects explained that he used a large plastic garbage pail to cart out cartons of cigarettes, the investigator said.

So far no one has been linked to several other Westmount break-ins in the east end commercial district said Sgt-Det Dupuis. A videotape of a burglar at the Dépanneur de Westmount on Olivier avenue depicts a suspect different than either of the two arrested, he said.

The sergeant-detective said police followed up information provided by Westmount public safety officers who questioned a suspicious-looking man outside the Mont Carmel store at Sherbrooke and Grosvenor Nov 11. When he departed they followed the car and recorded a licence plate.

"We carried out surveillance at his place for two days but his car never moved," Sgt-Det Dupuis said. Police had good reason to believe the suspect was involved "in something" which was probably foiled by the intervention of the security personnel, he added.



## WESTMOUNT

### PUBLIC NOTICE CLOSING OF MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that City Hall, the City Hall Annex, the Municipal Court, the Library and Victoria Hall will be closed for the Christmas and New Year's holidays on the following dates:

Tuesday,	24th December 1991	Tuesday,	31st December 1991
Wednesday,	25th December 1991	Wednesday,	1st January 1992
Thursday,	26th December 1991	Thursday,	2nd January 1992

The Arena will close on Tuesday, December 24th 1991 at 6:00 p.m. and re-open Thursday, December 26th 1991 at 9:00 a.m. It will also close on Tuesday, December 31st 1991 at 6:00 p.m. and re-open on Thursday, January 2nd 1992 at 9:00 a.m.

The Parking Permit Section of the Public Security Department will be closed from December 20th 1991 until January 6th 1992, inclusive. For more information, please call the Dispatcher at 935-1777.

Given at Westmount, Quebec, this 16th day of December 1991.

E.A. McCavour, *Interim Assistant City Clerk*

### AVIS PUBLIC FERMETURE DES ÉDIFICES MUNICIPAUX

AVIS PUBLIC est par la présente donné que l'Hôtel de Ville, l'annexe de l'Hôtel de Ville, la Cour municipale, la Bibliothèque et Victoria Hall seront fermés pour la période des fêtes les jours suivants:

Le mardi	24 décembre 1991	Le mardi	31 décembre 1991
Le mercredi	25 décembre 1991	Le mercredi	1er janvier 1992
Le jeudi	26 décembre 1991	Le jeudi	2 janvier 1992

L'aréna sera fermée à compter de 18h00 le mardi 24 décembre 1991 jusqu'à 09h00 le jeudi 26 décembre 1991. Elle sera également fermée à compter de 18h00 le mardi 31 décembre 1991 jusqu'à 09h00 le jeudi 2 janvier 1992.

La division des permis de stationnement du service de la Sécurité publique sera fermée du 20 décembre 1991 au 6 janvier 1992, inclusivement. Pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez communiquer avec le répartiteur au 935-1777.

Donné à Westmount, Québec ce 16e décembre 1991.

E.A. McCavour, *Greffier-adjoint intérimaire de la Ville*

# Commercial vacancies linger on the market

The post office is not the only business leaving Westmount.

An informal survey by THE EXAMINER shows a high number of retail vacancies around the city, with landlords — especially of higher-rent districts — having trouble filling spaces.

Altogether in THE EXAMINER's survey last week, we found six retail vacancies along Greene Avenue and three more in the west-end commercial district of Sherbrooke and Victoria streets. Figures do not include the stores standing empty in Westmount Square.

Real estate broker Robert Emblem, whose company Flamont is handling the lease of a vacant store at the northwest corner of Greene avenue and St Catherine street, said the storefront has been empty since September, when the tenant there broke the lease.

He said the firm renting the neighboring space, Forexco, will be expanding into one-third of the space, but that they were still "working on" filling the rest.

Across the street, the retail space at the bottom of Château Westmount Square condominium tower is also empty. It never has been rented since the city nixed plans for a bank to move in, insisting the space be used for retail sales.

Just down St Catherine, the retail space below another condo project, No 1 Wood, also sits empty.

Up Greene avenue at No 1234, René Guilbert, one of the owners of the building, said they were having trouble filling the space because of restrictions on what would be allowed in, saying a restaurant would "definitely not" be allowed to rent there.

Mr Guilbert added the stretch of Greene avenue his company was try-

ing to rent had the highest rent rates in the city, and the second highest in Montreal. The only stretch of higher rents, he said, is on St Catherine street between Mountain and Union.

"It's tough for everyone," said Mr Guilbert, pointing to the economic conditions country-wide to explain the situation in Westmount.

Nicole Vigneault, director of real estate development for a company responsible for another Westmount vacancy, M-Corporation, agrees.

"People are very close to their money" this year, she said.

The city is kicking around the idea of imposing a surtax on commercial property next year. It would replace the existing business tax, and its rate would be dependent on the new mill rate, to be set Jan 6. City officials say business taxes will still be lower than they are in surrounding municipalities.

Up the street from the former Ragenti clothing store location at 1234 Greene, the ill-fated Promenades Village Greene is still looking for tenants for their indoor concourse of shops. A new restaurant has opened up giving on to the street, but there are still empty storefronts inside the mall.

Just off Greene avenue to the east, the formerly busy exclusive Westmount Square mall is still struggling to pull in customers and businesses.

Morris Alvo, executive director of Westmount Square's management company, told THE EXAMINER in September some of his tenants had been given reductions in rent, and others had been shown leniency when behind on rent payments.

The mall has been struggling since renovations were completed there a year and a half ago. Some of the merchants no longer in Westmount Square since the renovations in-

By SCOTT INNISS

clude: Henry Marks, the Jockey Club, Charles of Westmount, Laura Secord, The Flower Pot and United Cigar Store.

There are also vacancies, though fewer in number, in the western commercial area of Westmount around Sherbrooke and Victoria. The recently-opened yogurt franchise TCBY declared bankruptcy Nov 12. The building at 4890 Sherbrooke street is owned by André Grolimond.

Director of real estate development for the company which administers the building space, M-Corporation's Nicole Vigneault said in the "actual economic context, things are very difficult." M-Corporation is the parent company of Mikes Restaurants.

"From a franchising point of view it is very hard (to rent)," she said.

Pascal's still empty

That is something the administrators of the former Pascal property at 4833 Sherbrooke know well. The company 1234 de la Montagne has been trying to rent the large space since Pascal declared bankruptcy earlier this year.

As was reported in THE EXAMINER, Rona hardware store was nibbling at it, but so far spokesmen for 1234 de la Montagne could not confirm anything had been signed. The building has been sitting empty since the spring, except for a brief life as an emergency mail depot during the postal strike.

As well, the recently-moved in Zoc Check will be moving out at the end of the year, vacating their storefront space for an office in the city.

Are things looking up for landlords who are watching their clients fall behind on their payments, or picking up and leaving?

"It's tough for everyone," said Mr Guilbert, who refused to speculate on the future.

"It's picking up a bit," said Mr Emblem, in one of the few rays of optimism expressed by commercial property owners or handlers.

"But," he added, "you're coming from such a long ways away that the bottom looks like (the) up."

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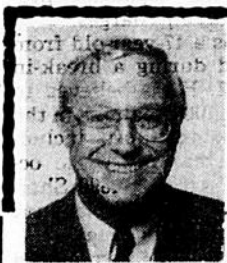
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By Reg Morden

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As we wind down for yet another year, I would like to take time to thank the readers of this column. From time to time, constructive suggestions have been made on topics to cover. I do appreciate your interest and your comments. To all of you out there, I hope you are truly blessed at this special time of year. I look forward to renewing our acquaintance in 1992. Merry Christmas to one and all!

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# A Quiet Corner

Lila was bored. Bored with her bed. Bored with the four walls of her room. Bored with the chain of housekeepers, nurses, with the food she was given. Bored with her life. How tedious to wait for her son's infrequent telephone calls. For her daughter-in-law's weekly visits. Grandchildren did not drop in anymore. That's sensible. If I were Max or Joanie I would never call on a bedridden silly old grandmother like me. If they would just leave me alone. Let me sleep.

A little thought crept into her mind. It made her smile. Involuntarily. She could not rid herself of this smile. She almost giggled. Through half-closed lids she saw herself alone in the room. Good. It would not do for them to see her smile. Oh, but it was fun! The couple who stayed with her - such bores - the woman patronising - stupid cow - I aimed well - the slipper was too soft - still it hit her fat ass. Ha, she did not expect me to move so quick - she and her precious husband - the second slipper almost hit her head - I aimed well - it was fun - and now they are gone - thank God - and good riddance.

But then her daughter-in-law, Mandie: Mother, how could you? Those were good people! Have to call the agency again. Who knows who they will send over this time.

Lila wanted to say: I don't care. What's the use of saying it? Nothing will change - only this is left - bore, bore, bore. Instead she said: I'm sorry. Turned her face to the wall, eyes closed.

Phone was dialled. She listened attentively to what was said to the agency. My mother - you remember? She is an invalid. No, not too sick, it's more nerves than real sickness. I must have somebody right away, I have a dinner party tonight, have to be out of here soon. Yes, very dependable. She will have to keep house here as well. You have it all in your file. Right away. No, money is no object, but you see, she can not be left alone... Lila heard it all before. Many times. She dozed off.

Later, when she opened her eyes this person was here. In her room. This stupid cow is thin, Lila thought. I don't even like her face - a sourpuss - but, oh - how she smiles at me - she calls me dearie - how dare she? Back home I would have kicked her out right away - here - yes - here - she will have to stay - what is she saying? Let her talk - I will not listen - I will not answer - talk - talk - talk...

For some days there was peace. Her son Joe kept his fingers crossed. Mandie expected the dreaded telephone call any day, any hour. Tried to relax on Valium. Each passing day like a gift. She even sat with the children around the swimming pool. In the blessed sun. Slept through the night. Almost.

And then it came. The phone call.

I'm packing. I'm leaving. Right away. Will not stay around this loony one more hour. You know what she did? She pushed the whole bowl of porridge into my face. I cannot get it out of my hair! She is crazy, your mother. She should be behind bars! You take care of her! And that was that.

I have to tell you, Mother, you drive me crazy. What am I to do with you? I cannot stay here with you. You cannot stay with us. The children and their friends all day long in and out of the house. It's not for you. You know it. We discussed it years ago. Remember? We decided the best way for you is to live in your own house. Nobody can bring back your husband but with proper house help you could be satisfied, even happy here. Why are you giving us all this trouble? Why can't you live with your help in peace? You know you abuse them! What was wrong with this woman who just left? You don't want to talk about it? All right - O.K. - but for God's sake, what am I going to say to the agency? Before turning her head to the wall Lila murmured: I'm sorry. What else was there to say?

From the living room Mandie's voice floated in. I know this situation is preposterous. But again I have to get somebody right away. Now! What are you telling me? You've run out of housekeepers? How about a nurse? True, she would have to

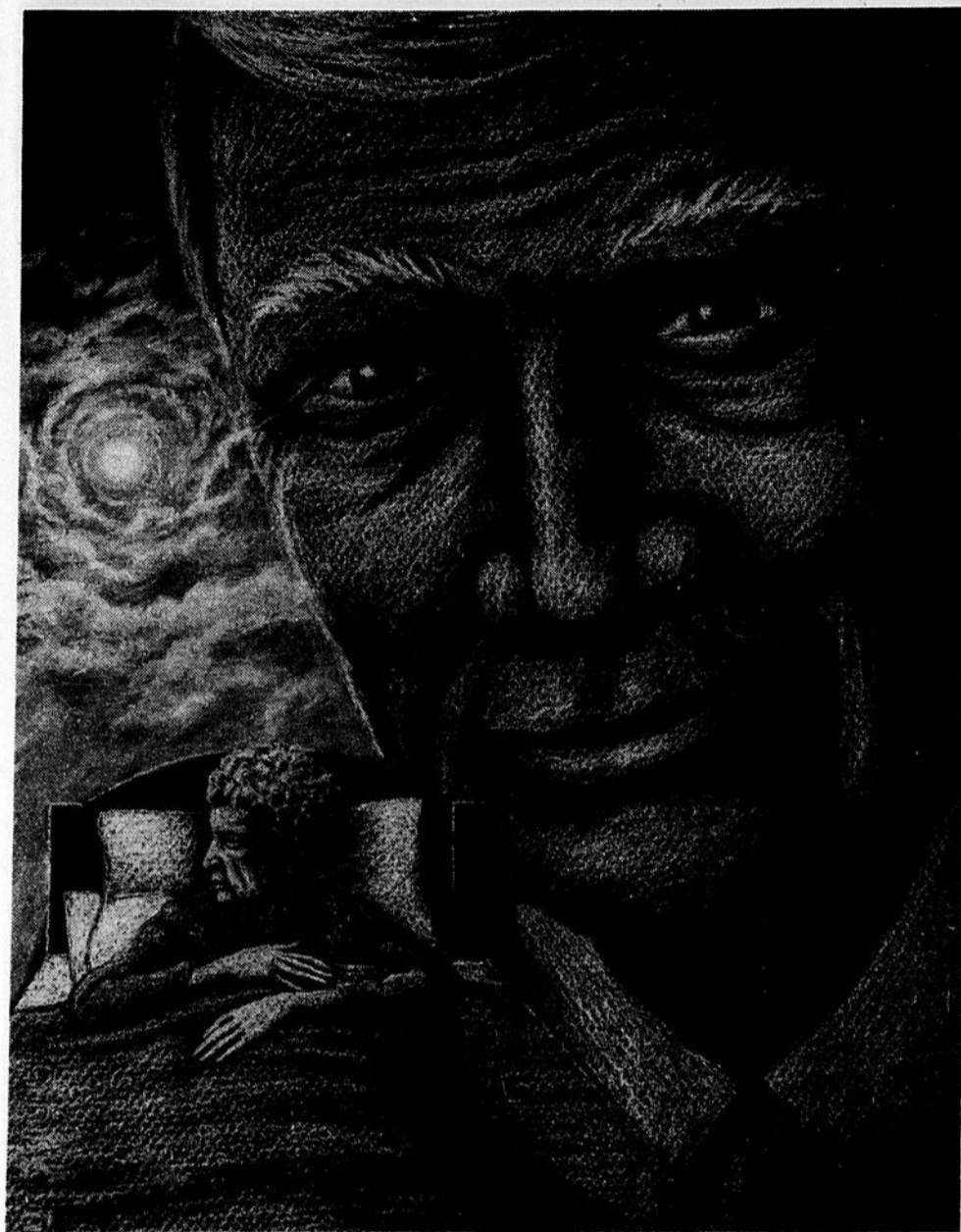


Illustration by RICHARD HORNE

keep house. There would be practically no nursing. Yes, I see, they refuse. So what can you do for me? A man? You must be joking! What would people say?

Lila pricked up her ears. That sounded different. Who would that be? A yokel - a male idiot for a change? By craning her neck, Lila could glimpse Mandie at the phone. A frowning face. Concentrating while listening to the other side. "I see... I see..." After a prolonged pause she said: This I cannot decide by myself. This is for her son to decide. Let me tell him all you just told me and I'll get back to you right away.

That's how Boris, for the past 25 years orderly in the General Hospital, just recently retired, came into Lila's world. A short stocky man, built rather like a bear with a scraggly peasant face. Mother, this is Boris. He was born in Russia. He will take good care of you. He knows how, I was assured. But do not be alarmed, it will not be for long. You do speak Russian. I remember you telling me, anyway, he speaks English well. And the agency promised me to try hard to get a lady for you, like always. So it probably will be only for a short while. She took Boris away to show him his room, the layout of the apartment and to give him the weekly housekeeping money.

Later, when he came back alone to her room, he smiled. He smiled nicely. A shy smile. Large spaced teeth. Lila liked that. Liked his eyes. Brown, honest eyes. She made sure nothing of this showed in her face. Did not say a word. His voice deep, chesty: I cannot call you Madame Golden. Will you permit me - this almost shyly - to call you Miss Lila? She barely nodded with her chin. At least he shows respect. What would you like for supper? I know how to

cook. Nothing fancy, but I could find something in the fridge to surprise you. Would you like that? She nodded again with her chin. When was the last time she was asked what she would like to eat? When was that? She could not remember. Something stirred pleasantly in her mind. For sure this here Boris was no idiot.

She liked the paprikash. Like in the olden days. She liked it a lot. How she was tired of chicken. Always chicken. This here was red with paprika, fragrant with bay leaves, it tasted peppery, salty, it even had nockerln. Now she said her first words to Boris: Where did you learn to cook like this? Oh, that was in Europe. Long ago. I worked for a while in a restaurant; but I was trained as an army orderly. One day I will tell you. It's a long story. Now I better brush your hair. It needs brushing. And I will get you ready for the night. He did brush her hair. Carefully, delicately, undoing the tangles without pulling. Have to tie it up with ribbons. Where are your ribbons? Lila did not have any. No? Then tomorrow I will get you some. Red should suit you. When I go for groceries I will buy them.

Lila woke up next morning full of anticipation. At first she did not realize why this little flutter inside her, why this excitement - then she remembered - aha - Boris! Let's see how this day will go. It started very well. Her cream of wheat had a sprinkle of brown sugar and cinnamon with a dollop of melting butter in the centre. And coffee. This was real coffee. Full of aroma, strong, like coffee was meant to be.

She felt a whiff of freshness when Boris bustled in and out of the room. She knew it meant the other rooms were being aired. And when he put his head in to say: I'm off to the grocery store, she decided to say thank

you later, on his return. But she forgot. She forgot because Boris kept her so busy. Where is a small mirror? She had to think and then point to it. He needed a comb, only the hairbrush was handy. It must be in that drawer, she said.

Gray hair neatly parted in the middle and braided into sparse pigtales. Miss Lila, do you want single bows or double bows? She wanted double bows and extended both hands to hold up the mirror to her face. And quickly dropped it. It looks silly, she said. Why, Miss Lila, how can you say such a thing - you don't look silly - you look pretty - a little pale - where do you keep your make-up? Lila did not remember. It's so many years. I forget. Before the funeral. Long before the funeral. She became impatient. No. No. I don't want make-up. Don't you know? I'm sick! Miss Lila I don't want you to talk like that. You are going to get better. You will see. Soon. I promise and when Boris promises... I bet I'll find your make-up - it should be just in this drawer. See? I found it. What we want is a bit of rouge. Just a little here and a little there. Reluctant, holding herself back stiffly, she let him apply rouge to both cheeks. Now look in the mirror, Miss Lila. See how nice? He dropped the mirror in her lap. I'll make you a surprise lunch. Lila protested mildly - but I have a diet... I know your diet. I keep it. Remember yesterday's paprikash? That was chicken. Ha! - you did not recognize. I like cooking. I often cook for the couple who share my flat - now - I'll cook nice for you. You'll see. Lila fiddled with the small mirror then raised it to look at her face. Quickly dropped it. I look stupid. Boris turned the radio on, without comment.

Lila was not quite sure. Did she look stupid?

What woke her from her afternoon nap was Boris. Rummaging in the cupboard. What are you looking for? Are you up? Good. It's not right to sleep too much. I'm looking for something pretty. He held up a small pile of bed jackets. Let me put this one on you. The pink one. Oh, now you look a proper Barinia, that's nice, a real lady.

Lila fussed with the frills, quite pleased.

A cup of tea. Now is the proper time for some *chai*. He brewed a strong cup of tea. Do you know how to play dominoes? And after dinner he sang to her. A Russian *dumka*. You know it? She nodded, said yes. Next time we sing together.

The day was utterly exhausting for Lila. What did he say? He called me a Barinia. With this she fell asleep.

Mandie willed herself not to phone, not to inquire how Lila was getting on with Boris. Better let sleeping dogs lie. If there will be a catastrophe I will hear about it soon enough. I shall go over there when I'm supposed to, Thursday afternoon, when this Boris fellow will take his two hours off, she mused. What if this arrangement would hold? No, it's impossible.

Joe reminded her every day: did you call the agency? did you hear from the agency? Yes, Yes, I called. There is nobody better available. But they promised, you know they promised the moment a candidate registers, immediately...

In the meantime, Lila was giggling; Boris changed the way he was doing her braids. Twice he changed it. Each time she had to watch him do it. And he washed her hair. Now she felt embarrassed when he sponged her. Her mind going furiously over and over a new idea. Maybe, maybe she could have a bath? One day he brought a bottle of nail varnish. Now she had painted nails. She giggled a lot. When Thursday came Lila sat straight up in her chair, propped up with pillows, her fingernails in full view, waiting for Mandie's visit. And when she came, Mandie just stood there. In the doorway. Mute. Mother, your cheeks are rouged! Yes, Lila said and twittered, and my nails, look at them! To Mandie she was hardly recognizable. In the fresh, pretty bed jacket, rouged, smiling and those silly braids... Her cheeks looked filled up - did she gain weight? It's barely a few days - I'll just cross my fingers again - how is such a change possible? Joe. Joe must see how she looks. He will not believe me when I tell him. If it would only

For sure  
this here  
Boris was  
no idiot.

# of Westmount

last...  
 Joe came the same evening. As Mandie said, here she was, his bedridden mother in an easy chair, looking so well and smiling at him. Remarkable. Boris was brushing her hair for the night, proudly announcing: after I finish this, Mr. Golden, I will massage your mother's neck. It's good for her. Lila nodding, Yes, she said. We are going to walk soon, Mr. Golden - yes, Miss Lila and I - we shall walk. And Lila looked up at her son, nodded, Yes, she said.

Later, at home, he discussed Boris with Mandie. At length. Should they let the agency know or not? Was it too early? Mandie was for telling them right away: stop looking for a replacement. It seemed to her that in time Lila would get even better. But Joe was unsure. He had misgivings. I don't know, Mandie. It's too good... It's too quick... Let's see. Let's wait.

Boris devised a whole routine for massages. Feet and legs. To make you walk, Miss Lila. You will feel tingling under your skin, it will be your blood flowing faster. Just wait. He was right. Because soon after she was able to stand up. With a cane and his arm at the ready she did walk. Slowly, but she did.

Now, finally, could Lila tell of the plan she devised for a bath. A proper bath. In her proper bathroom. This sponging had to stop. She was blushing. Small hand towel covering her breasts, her private parts, and Boris chattering, chat, chat, chat - she, not even listening. Miss Lila - for me this is my job - do not pay attention to what I'm doing - I washed hundreds of people - of course you are special and you are prettier - but washing is washing, one - two - three - and it's over - you see? And so it was, over.

The twice weekly ritual started with a walk to the bathroom. With a big sheet. With a bathrobe. With a kitchen stool. With Boris keeping his eyes closed. With Lila's twittering. With Boris averting his head while she slowly swung her legs over the rim of the tub and into the shallow water. Warm and scented with green pine bath salts. She stretched. Closed eyes. Luxuriating.

Too exhausted to walk back to her bedroom, he had to half carry her.

Now it was winter. Boris fiddled with the fireplace. It draws well. I will phone your son, Miss Lila. Mr. Golden, here is Boris speaking. You recognize my voice? Yes, my accent. I want your permission to settle your mother, her bed and her special chair in the living room. There is this fireplace. I checked it. It works well. Why shouldn't your mother enjoy it? I am a careful man, nothing can happen, it will be just fine. Oh, thank you. I'm happy for Miss Lila. And one more thing, Mr. Golden. Your mother sometimes sings with me, you know, those old Russian songs she knows, if I could have your permission to bring my balalaika. Yes, thank you very much. It will make your mother happy.

And she was. She looked up at Boris with limpid eyes. She smiled sweetly at him. She was shy one minute, flirtatious the next. Boris going about his tasks humming. Full of energy, purpose and vitality. Sometimes calling her my Princess. Fussing every day with the fireplace. Tapping the bricks. What do you want with those bricks? Have to make sure all is well, Miss Lila. She was glowing. Proverbial winter winds were howling outside. Blowing snow piled high on the old lilac branches while they were playing their secret little games and jokes.

Mandie and Joe came back from Florida. Tanned and refreshed. Your mother has come alive, did you notice Joe? She is not the same person. It's truly amazing. And the apartment, did you notice, Joe? How clean it is? Like never before. Wherever he came

from, this Boris had very good training. I think we should show our appreciation. You know, he should be getting a raise, and who knows, maybe a bonus for Christmas as well. What do you think? Joe agreed. Reluctantly. What's the matter with you? Don't you see? Think back a while. Did you ever expect such a change? Alright, Mandie. I did not. But I agreed about the money, did I not? What more do you want from me? Oh nothing! As long as you agree. Only I don't understand your attitude. I can see something bothers you.

But here the matter rested.

Boris was effusive in his thanks. Lila? Lila did not know a thing about monetary transactions. It was Joe. Her good son, Joe, who always managed her fortune. From the day her husband departed, he took over. As generous and understanding as his father before him.

Lila was walking about the apartment with a cane. Touching a bibelot here, a doily there. Miss Lila do you know spring will be here soon? This old lilac tree in your garden, soon it will be full of purple flowers. Do you like lilacs, Princess? Oh, Boris, you know I love lilacs, I love all flowers. Now that I can walk so well we shall go down to the garden - there is a little bench under the tree...

Boris pampered her with back rubs. His big strong hands felt velvety on her frail back. She could have laid on her bed for hours on end while he was massaging her. With long muscular strokes along the delicate spine. Sometimes singing. Sometimes telling stories of his Ukraine while pressing her flesh. Here and there he gave her a tickle. As a matter of fact he tickled her quite a lot. He said: I like when you laugh, Miss Lila. And sometimes when the fire glowed with warmth and colour, sometimes, not often mind you, but sometimes, he quickly bent down and kissed her on the shoulder. Just like that. After which she slept like an angel.

Mandie and Joe were coming from the theatre. Passing the quiet street he said: It's only ten o'clock. Let's see what those two old birds are doing. Look, the lights are on in the hall and in his room. Sort of darkish in Mother's room - let's drop in on her. Oh, Joe, how silly you are but you are the son. You want to kiss your mother goodnight, why not? It will make the old girl happy, I'm sure. He parked the car, found the front door key on his key chain and opened the door to a distinct sound of laughter. Lila's and Boris's laughter. He looked at Mandie. Mandie looked at him. What's going on? For God's sake it's ten o'clock at night! What is there to laugh about like that in the middle of the night?

Quietly they sneaked upstairs. Transfixed, they stood at the door just at the very moment when Boris finished a tickle, bent down and kissed Lila's exposed shoulder.

It was not Joe. It could not have been Joe. It was a wild beast roaring. He stood on the threshold, terrible noises emanating from his very insides. Poised for a jump at Boris's back. Would have leaped and struck him if it were not for Mandie's restraining hands. Holding him back. No, No, No, Joe, No. His jacket pulled away - face contorted with impotent fury he swore - you bastard - you pervert - I'll kill you - I'll put you away for life! He kicked a chair - it turned over - he kicked the fireplace - a loose brick slipped out - like a flash he pulled it out to lash out with it when something stopped him - behind the brick - there - he stooped and pulled out - what is this? Money - plenty of money - dollar bills spilled from his fingers to the carpet - like leaves. You stole! Mother! Mother! Look - he is a thief! He stole money from you! On top of everything else he is a

thief!

Boris facing him - mutely - arms in rolled up shirt sleeves helplessly hanging at his sides.

Lila sat up. Eyes round with fear. Holding a sheet's corner to her chest. Pale as a corpse in the rosy light from the fireplace. Mouth half open to shriek. And she shrieked. And shrieked and shrieked. Like a wounded animal. Walls of the room closing in on her. Ceiling pressing down on her skull. Between ears pounding of an ocean. Dark and ominous. Air - air - there was no air to breathe - she gagged - cold black waves closed over her head. Overwhelmed, she fell back.

Joe, stop! What did you do? Look what you did! Dear God! She fainted! Do something! Somebody! Boris, do something!

Joe collapsed. Slumped on the sofa while Boris ministered to his mother. Holding his head with both hands, elbows resting on knees - weaving from side to side in utter despair. Mandie near him. Stroking his back. It's not your fault - she whispered. Looks at Boris. Can I help you Boris? Mutely, he shakes his head.

Lila seemed to have come out of her swoon. Lying quietly on her side, turned towards the wall, with eyes closed. In fetal position, small and frail under the white sheet.

It was decided that Boris would be packed, ready to leave the moment a replacement arrived in the morning. Now in the middle of the night nothing could be done. Joe wanted to stay in Mother's room till daylight, but Mandie firmly opposed. You come home with me. Nothing can happen here. Mother seems to be asleep - Boris will be in his room with the door open and you, you must have a proper rest in your own bed.

Without a word spoken all understood that whatever happened here, this event, would remain secret. The family could not afford to have it come out. That was obvious.

When Boris was sure they had left, he slipped out of his room. Bending over the inert body of Lila, whispered. Dzievochka, Princess, it was not for me this money. You must believe me. It was for you. For you and for me. For both of us. I wanted to take you away from here. Far away. Forever. Can you hear me, Princess? Lila did not give a sign of life. It was no use. Boris crept back to his bed.

His suitcase, packed, stood in the hall when a nurse arrived in the morning. For days after he kept close to the house. Watching. He saw people come in and out. Nobody noticed him. And then one day, the ambulance arrived. Lila was taken out on a stretcher and driven away.

It took him days to find out which hospital she was taken to. Knowing his way around hospitals it was not too difficult. He spoke to the orderly there. Who showed him the big bottle of after shave lotion Mandie gave him. The floor nurse received a big box of candy from her. Kept it under the counter. These two were supposed to pay particular attention to Lila and phone immediately if and when she would become alert. How often do they visit? Oh, they do not visit at all. No use for them to come. The old lady does not even know where she is. May I visit this patient? She is an old friend of mine. Sure, why not.

Boris had on his dark suit, white shirt and black tie. His Sunday best. Stopped at the Five and Ten and from the young girl behind the counter he purchased red hair ribbons. Princess, he whispered to Lila. No reaction. He half lifted her into a sitting position. With the hair brush he found in the drawer he started his ministrations. My little Princess, he crooned to her - nobody brushes your hair - Boris will do it - you will be a pretty girl - like you always were - see? - I brought you

red ribbons - you will get double bows - like you wanted before - remember? Lila's forehead creased in a frown. She tried to bring something out from deep inside her - but could not. Princess, what did they do to you? You were so happy. My poor Dzievochka.

He came again next day. And every day after that. He brought her blue barrettes. With plastic pigeons on each. He brought her two purple side combs. And so it went. Day after day.

He could not bring his balalaika, he could not sing - but he whispered the songs - like before - the same songs - right into her ear. Her face showed an enormous effort. To make some sense of what was going on. But the eyes looking at him did not know who he was.

The doll Boris brought her made a strange difference. She grabbed it from his hands and would not let go. The nurse told him next day she held on to it with all her strength. Holding it close to her body.

Cradling it like a baby.

With each day she became thinner and weaker. Then, one day, when he stepped out of the elevator, his friend the orderly took him aside and gave him a package. She is gone. Your friend. The old lady died in the evening, after you left. Here is the doll. She held on to it till the very end. I thought you ought to have it.

The day of the funeral, Boris was early at the cemetery. In his Sunday best, like always when visiting Lila. He stood among the tombstones away to the side. Not to be seen by the family. There were not many. Only a handful. Max and Joanie

were there.

The coffin was lowered. Prayers and blessings intoned. Earth shovelled back. Covered by wreaths and bouquets. Mourners left. And when everyone was gone, Boris approached. Out of the plastic bag he took out the doll and placed it among the flowers.

*...sometimes,  
 he quickly  
 bent down  
 and kissed  
 her on the  
 shoulder.*

*She tried to  
 bring out  
 something  
 deep inside  
 her - but  
 could not.*

## Winning entry for the adult category



Westmounter Irene Burstyn win first place in THE WESTMOUNT EXAMINER-Double Hook bookstore short story competition in the adult category. She says that the same day she learned she won the competition, a publisher said he would print a book of her short stories when she could compile 200 pages.

Ms Burstyn won a \$100 gift certificate for the Double Hook.

# Overvaluations expected to boost tax rate slightly

Westmount is anticipating having to return some \$500,000 in over taxation to property owners who successfully contest their new valuations in the next year, an expense that will hike taxes more than expected.

As a result, 1992 taxes on the average single-family dwelling are expected to rise 15 percent rather than the 14 percent predicted last week since the tax refunds must be budgeted as an added cost, Mayor Peter

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Trent said Tuesday.

The increase, however, means taxpayers will really pay only 2.5 or 3 percent more than they did in 1990 since the city reduced taxes by 11 percent this year. A 12.5-percent increase would put them back to the 1990 level.

"Over a two-year period, our taxes will rise 3 percent compared to 11-percent inflation," the mayor said. "I hazard a guess that our increase will be lower than any other (municipality)."

(Town of Mount Royal approved its 1992 budget Monday, calling for an average 5.6-percent tax hike for single-family homeowners. This follows an average rise of 3.5 percent for 1991 or a total of 9.3 percent over two years.)

door committee meeting on the budget after Monday's public council session.

Council also decided not to spread the 1992 triennial property valuations over the three-year period, Mayor Trent said.

This would provide an \$80 saving on the average homeowner's tax bill but was not deemed to be worth all the administrative complications that would ensue, as well as the confusion that might result when taxpayers find they are taxed on a lower valuation than that listed by the MUC.

"It's important to realize the full extent of their valuation so they can appeal it if necessary," he said.

Only two of the MUC's 28 municipalities are expected to invoke the option of phasing in the valuations over three years, he explained. One is Outremont. "Municipalities that did it last time have decided it wasn't worth all the trouble."

Now that the Ryan reforms have given municipalities the right to impose a surtax on commercial properties, the phasing-in option is no longer needed as a means to shift some of the tax burden on to the business sector, he said.

## Budget coming Jan 6

The city is expected to table a budget slightly exceeding \$50.6 million on Jan 6.

The decision to build in a higher provision for tax refunds than originally planned was made along with a number of others during a closed-

# Surtax to replace business tax

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

CITY council has decided to abolish the traditional business tax and replace it with a surtax on commercial property for 1992, Mayor Peter Trent announced Tuesday.

"I can't tell you how much we are using but have opted for a surtax instead of a business tax."

If the full surtax allowable by law is used, the city could expect to bring in about \$2 million more in tax revenue from the commercial sector than it did from the business tax in 1991, he said.

The city has the option for 1992 of charging a business tax, as it does now, based on a ceiling of 7.3 times the mill rate multiplied by the rental value of a commercial occupancy as evaluated by the MUC.

Or it can opt to replace the

business tax by a surtax on commercial property with a ceiling of 1.24 times the mill rate multiplied by the property valuation.

It has a third option of using a combination of the two, not exceeding 1.24 times the mill rate.

Use of the surtax means the city will save in tax collection, meaning it will no longer bill 1,400 business occupancies. Instead, the added amount would be passed on to tenants by the owners of 160 commercial properties.

Westmount businesses and commercial properties have been paying less and less of the tax burden since 1975, Mayor Trent explained. Business taxes have been substantially lower than in Montreal and some other municipalities, he added.

# Trent joins MUC environment committee

Westmount's mayor is working his way into the Montreal Urban Community.

Peter Trent has been named to the environment quality commission, one of the five standing committees.

The mayor was named to the committee Wednesday last week as a representative of the Conference of Montreal Suburban Mayors.

He says he accepted the position to gain experience and learn more about the workings of the MUC, whose soaring costs he has challenged over the past year. "It serves my purposes. I think it's good to get my feet wet."

The mayor says he doesn't think the time is right yet to seek a place on the finance committee "while I'm still at loggerheads" over the budget, he explained. He says he would have to write out his own conditions to sit on the finance committee since he could not support the budget.

The environment quality commis-

sion oversees water treatment, sewage and other related matters. It is chaired by LaSalle mayor Michel Leduc who also heads the suburbs' waste management board, the Régie intermunicipale de gestion des déchets sur l'Île de Montréal.

Mayor Trent recently joined the board's sub-committee on waste reduction.

The MUC's five standing committees are: finance, public security, transit, planning and environment quality.

Other members of the environment committee are: Montreal councillor Jacqueline Bordeleau, vice-chairman; Ile Bizard mayor Jacques Denis; Ste Anne de Bellevue mayor René Martin; and Montreal councillors Victorio Capparelli and Scott McKay.

Neither of Westmount's previous two mayors, May Cutler and Brian Gallery, sat on MUC standing committees.

## ATTEND RELIGIOUS SERVICES WITH THE CONGREGATION OF YOUR CHOICE

ANGLICAN

### CHURCH OF THE ADVENT

Corner of Wood and de Maisonneuve, Westmount

Sunday, December 22  
Advent IV

8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Said  
10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Sung

Church school and nursery facilities

During the week, the Holy Eucharist will be celebrated on:

Tuesday, December 24  
Christmas Eve Mass  
11:00 pm Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, December 25  
Christmas Day  
10:00 am Holy Eucharist

Thursday, December 26  
St. Stephen the Martyr

Sunday, December 29  
1st After Christmas

8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Said  
10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Sung

Church school and nursery facilities

During the week, the Holy Eucharist will be celebrated on:

Thursday, December 26  
St. Stephen the Martyr  
12:10 pm

Friday, December 27  
St. John the Apostle & Evangelist  
12:10 pm

Saturday, December 28  
Holy Innocents  
12:10 pm

Rector: The Rev. Eric Dungan  
Organist and Director of Church Music:  
Mr Henry Abley

SYNAGOGUE

### CONGREGATION SHAAR HASHOMAYIM

450 Kensington Avenue

Sabbath Services

Sabbath Eve: Mincha Kabbalat 4:00 pm in the Chapel

Sabbath Day: 8:40 am in the Main Synagogue

Sabbath Twilight: 4:25 pm

Daily Services

Mornings:

Sunday, December 22, 8:45 am

Mon-Thurs, December 23-26, 7:30 am

Evenings: Sun-Thurs, December 22-26, 4:20 pm

UNITED

### WESTMOUNT PARK CHURCH

Lansdowne Avenue and de Maisonneuve Blvd

The Minister: The Rev H.C.J. van Ginhoven  
Monika Tkaczewski, Organist

December 22, 11:00 am

Christmas Eve Service

December 24

Carol Singing 7:00 pm

Candlelight Service 7:30 pm

ALL ARE WELCOME



## Christmas at ST MATTHIAS' ANGLICAN CHURCH

(Metcalfe and Côte St Antoine)  
10 CHURCH HILL — Phone 933-4295  
(24-hour answering service)  
Office open Mon-Fri 8:30-12 & 12:30-4 pm

Sunday 22nd Dec. Services as usual  
8 am H.C. 10:30 am Choral Mattins



**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
11 pm The Midnight Eucharist

### CHRISTMAS DAY

8:00 am Holy Communion  
10:00 am Family Eucharist and carols with organ, choir and orchestra

Sunday 29th Dec. 8 am Holy Communion  
10:30 am Sung Eucharist with Congregational Carols

Rector: Rev. Paul James; Vicar: The Rev. Alec Cameron  
Honorary Assistant: The Rev. David Oliver; Director of Music: Graham Knott

## St. Stephen's Anglican Church

**4006 Dorchester Blvd. W.  
932-8046**

**Tuesday, December 24, 4:30 pm**  
Carols by candlelight  
(1-hour shopper's special)  
**December 24, 11:00 pm**  
Holy Communion

**Christmas Day, 10:30 am**  
Wonder, Love & Praise (1 hour)

Metro Atwater  
*All Welcome!*



## St Andrew's-Dominion-Douglas United Church

The Boulevard at Lansdowne Ave., Westmount

### CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

**Sunday, December 22**  
11:00 am 4th Advent - Rev Robert J. Shank preaching  
Sermon: *HOLY, HOLY*

**Tuesday, December 24**  
6:30 pm Family Service with well-known carols  
11:00 pm Candlelight Service & Communion

**Sunday, December 29**  
11:00 am  
Sermon: *JESUS INCREASED*  
Rev Robert J. Shank preaching



## THE CHURCH OF St. Andrew and St. Paul PRESBYTERIAN

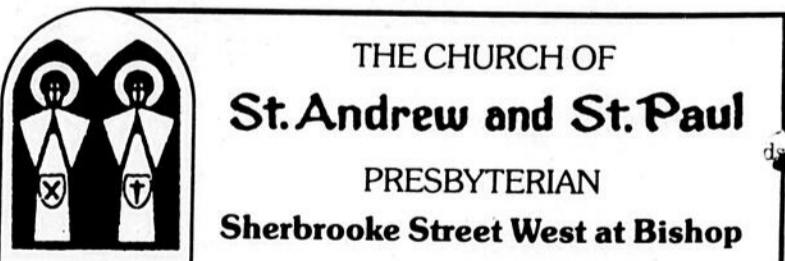
Sherbrooke Street West at Bishop

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22**  
Advent IV  
11:00 am CHRISTMAS FAMILY SERVICE  
4:30 pm CAROLS BY CANDLE LIGHT

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24**  
Christmas Eve  
11:00 pm CANDLE LIGHT SERVICE

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29**  
11:00 am LAST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

**Church School, Crèche and Nursery**  
J.S.S. Armour, Minister  
Director of Music, James W. Wells



# Holiday Meats & Poultry

## Sélection Les 5 Saisons

### LES 5 SAISONS MEANS FABULOUS FEASTS.

This year, whether you're planning on serving a traditional Christmas turkey or ham, or if instead you're thinking of having goose, or lamb, or pheasant, come to Les 5 Saisons.

The choice is fabulous, the quality is superb, and our Maître Boucher will be happy to provide you with tips on preparation and cooking times. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

#### Fresh Grain-Fed Turkey

Canada Grade A  
\$5.49/kg \$2.49/lb

#### Old Fashioned or Black Forest Smoked Ham (Whole)

"Alpina"  
\$11.00/kg \$4.99/lb

#### Standing Rib Roast of Beef

Canada Approved Beef  
\$13.21/kg \$5.99/lb

#### Boneless Leg of Veal Roast

\$19.80/kg \$8.98/lb

#### Fresh Goose

"O'Grain"  
Canada Grade A  
\$8.80/kg  
\$3.99/lb

#### Fresh Brome Lake Duck

Canada Grade A  
\$4.39/kg \$1.99/lb

#### Fresh Canadian Leg of Lamb

Canada Grade A  
\$9.90/kg \$4.49/lb

#### Fresh Pheasant

\$13.21/kg  
\$5.99/lb

#### Fresh Quail

Canada Grade A  
Package of 6, \$8.59ea.

#### Fresh Rabbit

\$10.98/kg \$4.98/lb

#### Fresh Canadian Rack of Lamb

\$16.51/kg  
\$7.49/lb



Prices valid till December 31st, 1991

1250 Greene Ave.  
Westmount  
Tel.: 931-0249  
Fax: 931-5499



1180 Bernard Street  
Outremont  
Tel.: 276-1244  
Fax: 276-3905

The Fabulous Grocer

Free Parking. Home Delivery. Catering Services. Fruit Baskets. Beer & Wine.

### MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR

Our stores will be open Thursday, December 26th, from 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
They will be closed all day on Thursday, January 2nd.

## Voice mail comes to Westmount

The telephone company's latest attempt to increase telephone use is called voice mail, and it has come to Westmount.

Westmounter Jack Birmingham, management consultant, has just put Casier Vocal Montreal Voice Mail in an office in Château Maisonneuve at the corner of Claremont avenue and de Maisonneuve boulevard.

The service is a voice "mail box" which lets people have their own "confidential communications centre which never closes down," says Mr Birmingham in a communiqué released this week.

Callers receive messages and messages may be sent to other voice mail boxes, or even dialled through to other telephone numbers.

"Family members constantly on the move can leave their words liter-

ally for each other and do so in their own language," said Mr Birmingham.

Local sponsors of the initiative feel it will be useful to small and medium-sized businesses, says Mr Birmingham, "because there is no equipment to buy and no heavy expenditures."

"All one needs is a touch-tone phone."

## TCBY gone bankrupt

The Westmount TCBY (The Country's Best Yogurt) on Sherbrooke street near Prince Albert avenue has gone bankrupt.

A notice placed on the door of the former frozen yogurt store by the appointed trustee, says the property

Mr Birmingham estimates the voice mail market in North America has ballooned to at least \$66 million a year, most of which has happened in the western United States.

Westmount's Dawson College installed a voice mail system this year.

Mr Birmingham says the possibilities of the system are great. "It's like a small communications system on a very modest basis," he says.

is "under possession." The trustee is Richter and Associates of 2 Place Alexis Nihon.

Ken Labelle, administrator with Richter and Associates, said the company filed for bankruptcy Nov 12.

Now Richter is trying to negotiate a new tenant for the space, which is owned by André Grolimond.

Mr Labelle said he "had quite a few bankruptcies going," hastening to add Westmount was not the only area affected.

"It's just a bad time for retailers," said Mr Labelle.

## Business briefs

### Michael D. moves into men's wear

When Westmounter Michael Dissos decided to open a new store on Greene avenue, recessionary winds howling through the cold marketplace didn't bother him.

"Even when the recession started last year he was optimistic (about the venture)," said Westmounter Patricia Toderan, the manager of the newest clothing store on Greene Avenue, Michael D. of Westmount Men's Wear.

The new store, located in the old Drury Décor space in the Old Post Office building, offers Rodier shirts,

Cacheral pants, plus suits, jackets, ties and silk bombers. Ms Toderan said she has begun to order boxer shorts and socks to respond to consumer demand.

"It's not as conservative as many Westmounters are," said Ms Toderan.

Mr Dissos owns a restaurant on Greene avenue, named Michael D.'s, one storefront away from the new men's wear outlet.

"People have been telling us this is what they wanted to see on Greene avenue again," said Ms Toderan.

### Next issue Dec 31

BECAUSE of the Christmas and New Year's holidays, no Thursday issues of THE EXAMINER will be published on Dec 26 and Jan 2. Instead, one combined issue will be published on Tuesday, Dec 31. Display advertising deadline for this New Year's issue is Friday, Dec 27, at 1 pm. Deadline for classified ads is 10 am on Monday, Dec 30.

Regular publication of the paper, with all normal deadlines in force, will resume with the issue of Thursday, Jan 9, 1992.

The offices of THE EXAMINER will be closed all day Dec 24, 25 and 26 and Jan 1 and 2 and will close at 4 pm on Dec 20 and Dec 31.

### Burglar spooked

An alarm was triggered in a house on Roslyn avenue south of Westmount avenue Sunday when someone broke in through a back door leading into the master bedroom, police said. The window in the door was broken and the door frame damaged. Nothing appeared to have been stolen and the intruder was believed to have been scared away by the alarm.

To all our friends and customers in Westmount: May the joy of Christmas be yours throughout 1992.

### ANDY DODGE & ASSOC. INC.

REAL ESTATE CONSULTANTS

310 Victoria Ave., Suite 307, Westmount H3Z 2M9

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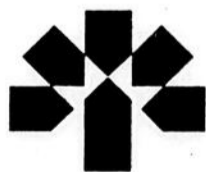


*Wishing you joy,  
peace and prosperity  
for the  
holiday season*

*David Berger, M.P.  
St. Henri-Westmount*

3177 St Jacques, suite 205  
Tel: 939-3452

**SEASON'S GREETINGS**  
from the management and staff  
to all our clientele



**LAURENTIAN BANK  
OF CANADA**

4848 Sherbrooke St. W., Westmount  
**481-0317**

*Monique Pépin, Manager*

**NOW**  
**45 minutes FREE parking**  
**in Westmount Square**

## Yuletide Greetings

It's only fitting for us to wish all of our valued friends the very best for the holidays.

**Tony**

Fine quality footwear for the entire family  
1346 Greene Ave., Westmount, 935-2993



# In the neighborhood

by Janet Courtts

## Frances Ewing — bank teller

Frances Ewing has been involved in banking for a total of 30 years, but the job she holds now is the one she likes best.

The N.D.G. resident is known to hundreds of seniors who bank at the Royal Bank at Sherbrooke street and Victoria avenue. Mrs Ewing is a part-time customer service representative ("tellers aren't called tellers anymore"), and she works exclusively at the counter for those over 60.

"They have a choice of lining up like the other customers, but they should sit down, even if it takes a little longer," says Mrs Ewing, who

obviously cares about her clientele.

When seniors come to the Royal Bank branch, they sit and wait for the teller to be free, instead of waiting in line. Then, they sit in another chair to transact their business.

When they see Mrs Ewing, it's the kind of banking they're accustomed to where, when you go to the bank, you are known.

"It's nice for them to get used to the same people. They feel they can trust you; it's banking as it used to be," says Mrs Ewing.

"My husband suggested I always mention their names. I am very bad

at remembering names, but repeating them helps. Now I know most of them by name."

Mrs Ewing pooh-poohs the idea that some elderly people might come to her counter because they are lonely.

"Some may feel they are chatting, but really they're doing business. I don't try to hurry them; I give them a chance to get their thoughts together."

But while her approach may seem calm, relaxed, even slowed down, her clients arrive and leave her counter at about the same rate as at the neighboring commercial accounts counter.

Mrs Ewing and her husband Gordon have lived in the house he grew up in since their marriage 36 years ago.

### Walks to the job

Mrs Ewing walks to her part-time job every day at 10 am. And, as though that is not enough exercise, she walks her Labrador every night.

The rest of her time, she says, is spent baking, cleaning house ("but my husband does a lot"), bowling once a week, and visiting.

"We have a group of friends that visit each others' homes every Saturday. And I have two sisters here with families."

The Ewings own grown sons live in Ontario and Quebec City. They acquired a young granddaughter when their son married; his wife already had a child. Now Mrs Ewing is anxiously awaiting the imminent birth of another child.

"I took my little granddaughter to the children's party the Royal Bank gave at Place Bonaventure last week," says Mrs Ewing. "She is 2 1/2 and just darling. I wouldn't want anyone to think we don't consider her ours. I hate the words that start with 'step-'. She is my granddaughter."

All banks have programs for seniors but, to Mrs Ewing's knowledge, her branch is the only one that has a special department for seniors. When she leaves at 2 pm, her counter is taken over by one of the two tellers — counter service representatives — who work from 12:30 to 4 pm each day.

"I think it will come in all banks," says Mrs Ewing. "A lot of customers come in from other banks and use branch-to-branch service."

All the same, Mrs Ewing estimates

that 85 percent of the people she sees are from the neighborhood.

### It started at Inverness

Mrs Ewing entered banking in her home town of Inverness, N.S., where she worked for three years before moving to Montreal. She worked at the Sherbrooke and Decarie branch of the Royal before she retired to bring up her children. Twenty years ago, she went back as a part-time teller and still works only four hours a day.

She's seen a lot of changes. "One time banking was all men, but now bankers have learned that women make wonderful managers."

One of the adaptations her branch has made is hiring part-time workers. Mrs Ewing works a shift that is called "prime time" from 10 am to 2 pm. There are two other part-timers who work from 11 am to 3 pm, replac-

ing others on their lunch break, and the two who work from 12:30 to 4 pm.

"We know our clients are happy with this service, even if sometimes they have to wait for it. We are very busy at Old Age Pension time — very busy. We do the best we can with what we have."

"The clients find because I'm older they relate to me better, and I can always get information from my supervisors because I don't know the answers to everything. But I try to help the seniors as much as I can."

And as Mrs Ewing rises from her counter at a few minutes after 2 pm, an elderly lady who has been waiting her turn asks in smiling dismay, "Are you going off now?"

Mrs Ewing reassures her that she will be helped, but the customer wonders aloud whether she should come back instead the next day before opting to carry out her business with Mrs Ewing's replacement.



Frances Ewing, at a special bank counter allowing seniors to sit and do their banking business, with customer Elaine Green.

*Happy Holidays to all our customers and friends*

**C. HOWARD SIMPKIN LTD.**  
**MASTER ELECTRICIANS**

*"Serving Westmounters for over 45 years"*

Ken Larsen — President

**5800 St Jacques W.**

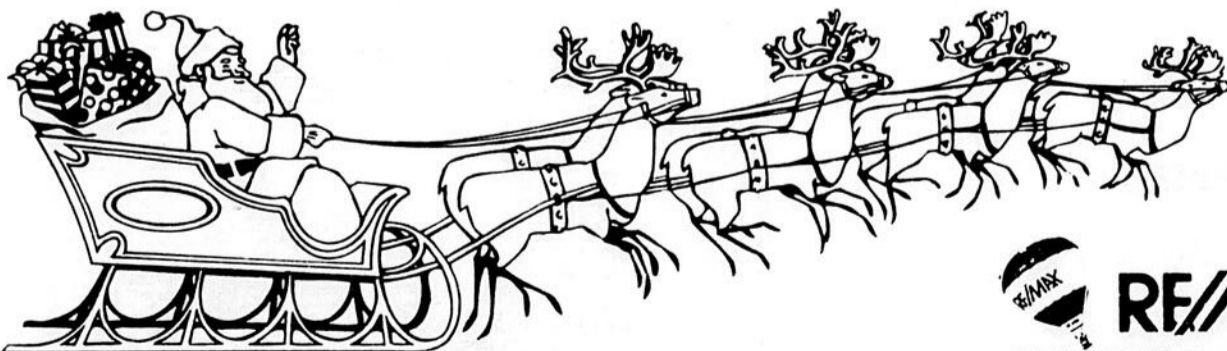
• Residential • Industrial	Tel: 481-0125
• Commercial	Fax: 481-0128

# MERRY CHRISTMAS!

*Thank you for your support!*

# JOYEUX NOËL!

*de votre équipe RE/MAX*



*Danielle Boulay  
 Jacques Charette  
 Julia Daniels  
 Christopher Darwent  
 Luc Desrosiers  
 Monique Dokupil  
 Huguette Dupuis  
 Christine Durham  
 Brian Dutch*

*Peggie Hopkins  
 Joyce Faughnan  
 Esti Jedeikin  
 Leila Kovacevic  
 Sylvie Lafreniere  
 Reg Morden  
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 Jean Poissant  
 Monique Proulx  
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1330 Greene Ave.  
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 933-6781  
 FAX: 933-5024

*Nick extends his best wishes to all his friends & customers for a Joyful Holiday and a Happy New Year*

*Nick Kas*

Ladies' and Gents' Custom Tailor and Repair Alterations

*Serving Westmount for over 23 years*

**152 Abbott avenue 932-6633**

### Cedar resident wants traffic barrier back

A Cedar avenue resident called the Public Security Unit recently complaining about traffic on his street.

The officer reports that the resident showed him tire tracks mounting right up on to his lawn and into his driveway. The snow precluded assessing damage to property.

The resident stated that he wishes the city to erect traffic barriers to slow down traffic and said he felt unsafe because of the traffic danger. The man was referred to the City of Westmount's traffic committee.

### Stereo stolen

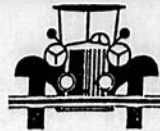
An apartment at 4556 St Catherine street was broken into Saturday between 4:30 pm and 7 pm by forcing open a window using a knife, police said. A stereo, clock radio, VCR and two tote bags were among items stolen.

### Electronics sought

A television set, sound system, VCR and four prints were stolen from a house on Redfern avenue Wednesday evening last week, police said. The home was broken into between 6:15 pm and 10:20 pm through an unlocked window beside the front door.

*Need someone right to fill a job? Use EXAMINER classifieds. Call 931-7511.*

lave-auto  
**lucerne**  
car wash



lave-auto  
**côte st-luc**  
car wash

CENTRE D'ENTRETIEN ET RECONDITIONNEMENT  
COMPLETE CAR CARE & RECONDITIONING

3939 JEAN TALON W.  
(entrance on Lucerne)  
Tel: 733-0946

5505 CÔTE ST-LUC ROAD  
(near Decarie)  
Tel: 483-2552

*To all our customers and friends, a glowing holiday season and best wishes for the new year*



*Season's greetings to all our customers and friends from the Pickrell family and staff at*

**Westmount Florist**

360 Victoria 309 Lakeshore Road  
488-9121 697-5858



## décor marie-paule



*A distinctive collection of fine linens, wallpaper, window treatments and decorator fabrics.*

4918 Sherbrooke W.  
Westmount  
486-7305

1090 Laurier W.  
Outremont  
273-8889

OGILVY  
5th Floor  
842-7711

**TD BANK**

*The bank where the people make the difference...*

*Season's Greetings*

**SUZANNE POOLE**  
(MANAGER)  
**1289 GREENE AVE.**  
at de Maisonneuve

**289-0379**

**MARTINE PAYNE**  
(MANAGER)

**5002 SHERBROOKE ST. W.**  
at Claremont Ave.

**489-9337**

### SEASONS GREETINGS!

*We wish to extend a photo perfect holiday season to all.*

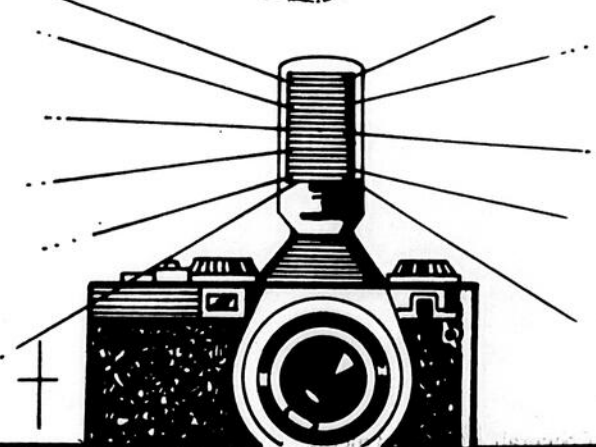
**ART IMAGE**

**1-HR. PHOTO**

3156 ST. CATHERINE W.  
WESTMOUNT, QUEBEC  
TEL: 514-933-4960



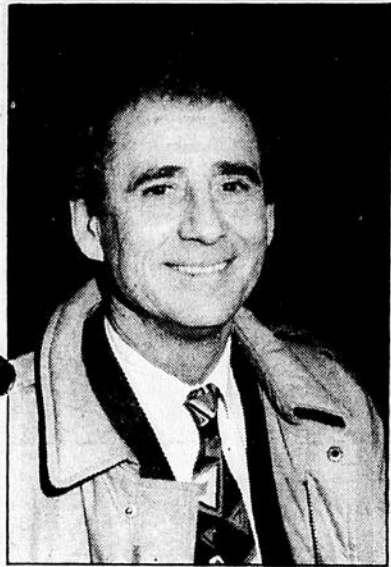
346 B VICTORIA  
WESTMOUNT, QUEBEC  
TEL: 514-483-6450



# Learning about the man behind the big white beard

THE WESTMOUNT EXAMINER went to Westmount Square Monday to pose the question, "How did you discover the truth about Santa Claus?"

Photos by: OWEN EGAN



**GERARD LLOBREGAT**  
Montreal

"I recognized my father's voice. He was on top of the house, talking through the chimney and I was listening. I knew this voice. I told him I knew, I said, 'Sure, it's enough, you can stop now. I know.'"



**SYLVIE CAJELAIT**  
LaSalle

"I didn't like Santa Claus; I didn't like beards. I didn't want to wait an hour long and then have to kiss him. Every year I tried not to go. I knew it was my father all along. The biggest deception was the Christmas tree. I thought it was so big, so huge. I think I believed more in the tree than Santa Claus."



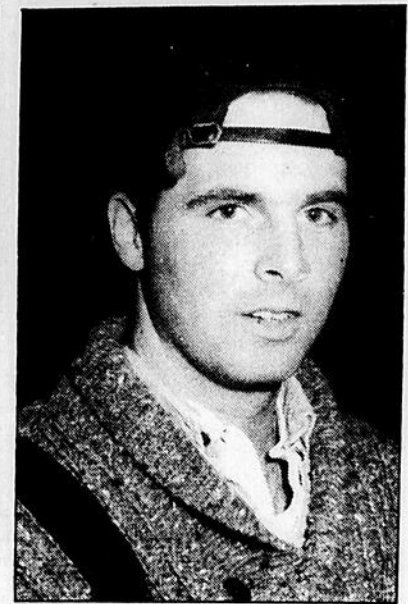
**MONTSE KLEIN**  
Anjou

"My father was very ill and we went to his bedroom. The whole family was sitting by the bed and we fell asleep. During the night, I looked up and saw my mother pulling stuff out of the closet. I was about six years old. My parents were very good about making Santa Claus believable, by running to the window and saying they saw the reindeer. It was a crushing blow (to find out the truth). I have a twin sister, I found her awake at the same time. I looked over and we saw each other, and knew."



**LOUISA MEDINA**  
Montreal

"I was about 10 years old. I'm the oldest. In my country of origin (the Dominican Republic), it was a big secret until the age of 12. A friend at school told me. Publicity for toys is not the same there. Decorations are done by hand, by the family. I was not disappointed, but it was nice to have Santa Claus."



**JOHN McLEAN**  
Westmount

"I never believed in him. My parents never tried to make me believe in him. I came from a very rough school. If you believed in the wrong things, you could get a black eye over it. I didn't miss out. Yeah, maybe I did. If he'd been real I would have got more presents, I guess."

## Amnesty on time-limit parking

HAPPY holidays from Westmount parking enforcers!

Time-limit parking restrictions will not be monitored over two weeks around Christmas and New Year's, it was announced by the Public Security Unit. This applies to one-hour, two-hour and four-hour limits.

The annual amnesty is imposed because of an influx of holiday visitors, an exodus of many local residents and the implementation of holiday schedules for public safety officers and parking inspectors. It applies Dec 20 to Jan 6.

Security director Richard McEnroe has a word of warning for anyone planning to park a car on the street while going out of town.

"Make arrangements to leave a key with someone in case of a snowstorm." Cars that are parked in a snow-clearing zone will be towed as usual, he explained.

In addition, parkers are reminded they must not park in prohibited areas or obstruct hydrants and driveways.

## Man, 67, dies of heart attack while walking

A 67-year-old Westmount man was walking two children in his family along Greene avenue to get them on the bus for school at St Catherine street Tuesday morning when he collapsed of a fatal heart attack, fire officials said.

The children ran home to get help, but despite quick work by public safety officers, firefighters and Urgences Santé crews, the man was pronounced dead after arrival at Reddy Memorial Hospital.

He was identified as a resident of Greene avenue.

Firefighters said they received the call from public security sergeant Gregory Cockerell, a CFP who was first on the scene.

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**Closed Christmas and New Year's Day**

# Automated library system delayed over tender mix-up

A mistake in the preparation of tenders to automate the Westmount Public Library is expected to be a costly setback in time.

Faulty tenders, which are reported to have had too general specifications, led city council Monday to reject the bids on the advice of city solicitors, Mayor Peter Trent said the next day.

The rejection set the entire process back to square one, an estimated delay of six months. The automation was to have been on line by March 1992 and now will be delayed until September, according to city director-general Manley Schultz.

Installation and implementation of a \$300,000 integrated library system was intended to precede a proposed multi-million renovation project at the library, on hold for review by the new city council.

The system codes all books with bars for cataloguing and automatic check-out in supermarket fashion, as well as other features.

"It makes sense to bar them all first before they have to be moved for renovations," the mayor said.

The delay in automating the library means the city will have to continue hiring the full UTLAS cataloguing service for an additional half-year. It will be able to reduce some of the UTLAS input once its own system is in place. The extra cost is estimated at about \$14,000.

The tenders, prepared by Merilees consultants in integrated library systems in conjunction with a user-committee of library personnel, were found to be too loose and general for council to award a bid, Mayor Trent explained.

"Specifications have to be very

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

precise. A bid can't allow for any margin of error." Now they must be rewritten and tightened and put out again, he explained.

"Obviously I'm not happy about this," the mayor added. "Once again it underlines the need for library people and the city administration to work more closely together."

### Re-opens conflict

The tender fiasco re-opens a long-standing conflict between the city management and the library's board of trustees as to who really runs the library. Though the library is operated as a city department, its trustees on the library committee have powers over the professional side of the operation.

Though city tenders generally are prepared by city staff, this time they were submitted by the library, the mayor said.

But Mr Schultz acknowledged that in this case, the tenders were not as cut-and-dried as tenders for, say, road construction. After they were opened on May 24 with bids for the initial part of the project (hardware and software) in the area of \$200,000, the library group spent all summer checking out the offer of services. This included visits to some out-of-province libraries where certain systems are in use.

It was in September when a final tender analysis was prepared that city officials became concerned about awarding a bid according to the specifications in the tender call and the file was turned over the city solicitors, Mr Schultz said.

"We'd have had no problems in accepting the lowest bid," he added.

Mr Schultz subsequently recommended on legal advice that the tenders be cancelled and the city seek new tenders under the new specifications. The council rejection Monday was "a formality," he said.

The new call for tenders is expected to go out next month.

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Closed: Tues. Dec. 24 at 3 pm  
Wed. Dec. 25, 1991  
Thurs. Dec. 26, 1991  
Wed. Jan. 1, 1992  
Thurs. Jan. 2, 1992

485-2502

## Cheques abandoned

Burglars broke into offices of a placement firm at 4592 St Catherine street overnight Tuesday last week, searched the place but left empty-handed, police said. They put a dictaphone machine and payroll cheques into a briefcase from the office but abandoned them at the scene. The break-in was discovered the next morning by the victim who told police he had forgotten to put on the alarm system.

## Smoke rises from car hood

Smoke began to rise from the hood of a car as it drove by Park Place and St Catherine street Wednesday last week, police report.

The driver, a Pierrefonds woman, stopped and called firefighters at 5:53 pm. When they arrived, however, they found the woman had already doused it using a bucket of water.

A burned battery and cables caused an estimated \$500 damage to the beige 1986 Toyota Corolla.



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Regular Menu & Table d'Hôte

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1362 GREENE AVE.



Two weeks ago, the Montreal Junior League gave out \$15,000 to three agencies; president of the league Dawn Torsein (right) handed \$5,000 each to the Montreal Association for the Blind, represented by fundraising co-ordinator Susan Bilodeau (left), the L'Abri en Ville project to integrate the mentally handicapped and the Westmount High breakfast program. The Junior League, which operates a second-hand clothes store on Victoria avenue, gathered to make wreaths and hand out the cheques. Photo by OWEN EGAN

## Projets du temps de l'Avent à St-Léon

La communauté de St-Léon-de-Westmount a plusieurs projets pour la période de l'Avent:

- Cadeaux pour les femmes seules et sans abri, pour femmes battues réfugiées à la Maison Marguerite, soutenues par les Filles de Sainte Marguerite d'Youville, les Soeurs Grises ou les Soeurs de la Charité.
- Cadeaux pour les hommes seules de Maison Nazareth.

Le contenu des paquets non emballés devra être identifié. Les personnes qui désirent participer à ces actions remettront leurs cadeaux au moment de la présentation des dons, lors des célébrations dominicales.

- Deux paroisses voisines, St-Charles et St-Gabriel de Pointe-St-Charles, ont une population de 80 pourcent d'assistés sociaux et de familles qui connaissent de grandes difficultés matérielles. Les responsables de ces communautés ont un grand nombre de paniers de Noël à préparer. Les personnes qui désirent offrir des boîtes de conserve ou des denrées non-périssables peuvent le faire soit à l'église lors des célébrations du dimanche, soit au presbytère en semaine.
- Vitaminisation des enfants.

Les enfants de Choloteca (Honduras) ont besoin de vitamines car plus de 50 pourcent d'entre eux meurent avant l'âge de cinq ans. Pour leur venir en aide, il est possible de faire un chèque à l'ordre du Comité Choloteca et de le remettre au panier des offrandes dominicales ou au presbytère.

- Appel aux enfants. En se privant d'une tablette de chocolat ou d'un caprice, les enfants peuvent faire une offrande à un ami du Tiers-Monde qui a faim. Il faudrait apporter cette offrande le dimanche, dans une enveloppe par exemple, et la remettre pendant l'office.
- Le Quart-Monde, ce sont les plus pauvres de notre quartier ou de notre ville, ceux que nous ne voyons pas ou que nous ne voulons pas voir. Les enfants sont aussi invités à offrir un de leurs jouets à un enfant d'une famille défavorisée. Le mouvement

ATD Quart-Monde remettra les dons aux enfants dont il s'occupe. Merci à tous.

Horaires des célébrations du temps de Noël:

- le 24 décembre: à 19h30 musique de Noël, traditionnelle, jouée à l'orgue; à 20h Messe familiale, chœur d'enfants, animation Denis Jean; à 22h musique et chants de Noël, concert spirituel. Trois motets de Praetorius et de Hermann avec quatuor vocal. Extraits du Messie de Haendel (hautbois et orgue); à 22h30 Messe Solennelle, chorale et quatuor.

En plus des chants de Noël traditionnels, sera interprété la messe brève au sol de W.A. Mozart.

- le 25 décembre: 10h30 Messe du Jour.

## Door-to-door carolling by St A-D-D

Members of St Andrew's-Dominion-Douglas Church will be carolling in the streets of Westmount on Sunday evening. After meeting at the church at 7 pm, groups will stroll the neighborhood with lanterns, candles and bells. Later they will be served refreshments at the church.

At the worship service on Sunday, Rev Bob Shank will baptise Colin Smith, son of Ian Smith and Caroline Firstbrook. Mr Shank's sermon title is *Holy, Holy*.

The Christmas Even family service is at 6:30 pm and the traditional carol and candlelight communion service at 11 pm.

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# STATION 23 LOG

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

The following are some items from the police files at Montreal Urban Community police Station 23, which covers Westmount:

## Half got, half gone in coffee maker heist

Three espresso coffee machines stolen during a break-in Sunday night last week at Café Gourmet were recovered a few hours later in a car east of Outremont, police said. Youths seen in the car apparently fled on foot and were not caught. Three other coffee makers were taken but not found.

The shop, at 4868 Sherbrooke street near Victoria avenue, was broken into between 6 pm and 11:30 pm; thieves were gone by the time broken glass in the front door was spotted by a passing public security patrol at 11:30 pm.

Shopkeeper Rita Stafford said police told her they found the coffee machines in a stolen Mazda that was stuck in a snowy laneway. Police said the car was recovered at Bernard and St Laurent streets.

## Pickpocket on the 24

A Westmount woman lost her wallet to a pickpocket on the number 24 bus Wednesday last week on her way home from downtown, police said. She had come from Eaton, her arms full of parcels. It wasn't until she left the bus at Sherbrooke and Victoria that she found the purse open and the wallet gone. She later received a call from a man saying he had found it at Sherbrooke and Décarie. Police advised the woman, a resident of Chesterfield avenue, not to collect the wallet alone.

## Surprise!

A concerned florist who tried to deliver flowers at a home on Elm avenue Wednesday last week ended up calling Urgences Santé when he received no answer at the door but saw a woman sitting inside in a chair. Police said the ambulance crew decided to kick in the door but the woman was not in need of assistance. A police report did not state why the woman had not gone to the door.

## Drunken man cuts self on cop grill

A 27-year-old Pierrefonds man was arrested for an outstanding traffic warrant last Thursday at 4 am after an altercation at Greene avenue and Dorchester boulevard, police said. The man and three other people were seen by officers arguing with a taxi driver who refused to transport them. Only the one man was arrested on the warrant. He began crying when placed into the patrol car and started banging his head on the grill separating the front and back seats, causing a 2-cm cut on his forehead. Police drove him to Reddy Memorial Hospital for three stitches. He was booked at the hospital. The man, described as inebriated, said he had been in a fight earlier.

## Tires slashed

Two tires of a blue 1990 Toyota Corolla were slashed with a knife last Thursday in front of 450 Mount Stephen avenue, police said. The \$100 damage occurred between 4 am and noon. The car belongs to a man from St Laurent.

## Hapless homeowner fleeced by 'buyer'

A resident of Victoria avenue fell prey to a thief masquerading as a prospective home buyer Monday last week, according to police reports.

The resident showed a man around his home north of Sherbrooke street about 11 am only to find his wallet gone from the bedroom bureau after the man's departure. No one was seen taking it. The victim told police he had left the wallet on top of the bureau. He stated he had not accompanied the man at all times. The wallet contained an undisclosed sum of money and personal papers, including a bank card which the victim cancelled immediately.

The suspect was described as a white man aged about 50 with brown hair that was greying. He spoke French with an Italian accent and appeared to be wearing an upper denture.

## Teen fistfight

A 15-year-old Westmount boy was beaten up Sunday evening in Selby Park by two others before he broke free and ran for help at a convenience store at 3250 St Antoine street, police said. He sustained a red mark on the chin and was driven home by police. His assailants were described only as two boys about his own age who jumped on his back about 6:05 pm and beat him up.

## Nurse spots own car being stolen

A nurse from the Montreal Children's Hospital was walking south on Atwater avenue to her parked car Monday night when she suddenly saw a stranger at the wheel driving it around the northwest corner to St Antoine street.

The woman immediately called police who put out a description of the grey 1986 Mazda 323. While officers were still on the scene, the car was recovered at the northwest corner of Peel street and René Lévesque boulevard, parked in a taxi stand. When police went to check it out, the licence plate corresponded with the one they had just received on the police computer. There were no suspects.

## Snack-and-grab office break-in

A hungry burglar broke into two offices at 324 Victoria avenue overnight Wednesday last week, and ate a can of salmon in one office, police said. A VCR and a water filter unit also were stolen from the ground floor office of chiropractor Annick Hollender. Upstairs, a petty cash box and a bottle of wine were taken from Au Coin du Décor. Access to the building was gained by forcing open the back door. Once inside, individual office doors were forced open.

## WHERE ARE YOU, MARIANOPOLIS ALUMNI?

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## PSU food drive booms

Westmounters are opening their hearts and wallets generously this year to provide Christmas hampers for the Public Security Unit food drive.

With only one day remaining until the food is distributed, some \$900 has already been received along with enough food to fill more than 50 cartons stacked along the hallway of the security force headquarters.

"It's still not too late to donate," says Director Richard McEnroe.

Last-minute food can be taken to the security force at 15 Stanton street today or tomorrow.

"Though we're going through tough economic times, the response is tremendous this year."

The food will be given to people in need whose names are supplied by the Westmount CLSC, priority going to local residents. Any excess food is to be given to Sun Youth, the director said.

The success of this year's food drive is attributed in large measure to the efforts of three groups who have collected for the fund.

The seniors' residence at the Hillside municipal housing project, 80 Hillside avenue, banded together for a second year running to collect for the fund, putting a collection box in their building.

The Arts and Crafts Fair held Saturday, Dec 7, at Victoria Hall by Arts Westmount collected \$641 for the fund along with 24 boxes of food, after organizer Sylvia Wedge set food or money as the price of admission. When the fair was repeated last Sunday, another \$245 plus 14 food boxes was realized.

Westmount city employees also supported the appeal by collecting seven boxes of food at their annual children's Christmas party held Saturday at St Matthias' Church.

The money will be used to buy perishable food products when Director McEnroe and food drive organizer Robert Hryciuk go grocery shopping tomorrow for turkeys, chicken, fruit and other items to supplement the canned and packaged goods collected.

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# THE WESTMOUNT Examiner

23 - Thursday, December 19, 1991

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## Annual Christmas sing-along is a neighborhood tradition



In the Denton home Sunday evening, the annual neighborhood carolling was held.

By ALISON RAMSEY

For more than a decade, residents of lower Westmount have had their own, special Christmas tradition of carolling.

It started off small in about 1978, when Bill and Sally Hooff of Abbott avenue invited a few neighbors over to trudge about in the snow and sing door-to-door, collecting money for charity in a red can.

In 1985, the Hooffs moved to Prince Edward Island, but the red collection can stayed, and got passed on to John and Sheila Denton of Irvine avenue.

The next year, in 1986, they moved the party indoors and invitations went out to neighbors on four surrounding streets. As the annual carolling grew, so did the donations.

This year was the biggest turnout ever, with 65 people jamming the Denton home on Sunday evening, and about \$320 collected for Chez Doris, a women's shelter, and the Old Brewery Mission. Non-perishable food also was collected, which will either go to the local Public Security Unit for food baskets or Sun Youth.

At 7:30 pm, the height of the evening, Mrs Denton squeezed through the crowd to pass out candy canes to the children while her husband sat in the centre of attention, at the piano seat.

There was no way one more body could fit in the room with the piano and the carollers, until the warmth of bodies drove a few people out, to be quickly replaced by those waiting on the fringe.

"We've come ever since we moved here, about 10 years ago," said Zib Fraser, "ever since they stopped going door-to-door."

"We get more money since we moved inside," said Mrs Denton. "Seventy-eight dollars was the most we got in going around the streets. Now we've been getting about \$300 for the last three years."

The Christmas carolling, done to the lyrics of old Eaton's songsheets, is half of this neighborhood's annual get-togethers. In summer the Dobies throw a barbecue block party.

"It's a good chance to see the neighbors," said Ms Fraser.

"It's a pretty friendly gang," said Nancy Nelson. "I guess we know every face, if not every name."

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## Gazette Christmas gala benefits underprivileged

The Gazette Christmas Fund Extravaganza, a Christmas charity gala for the benefit of Montreal's underprivileged, will take place in the south exhibition hall of Place Bonaventure on Saturday at 9 pm.

Last year, about 2,500 people attended and swelled the coffers by \$40,000. About \$10,000 was raised through bar sales only.

During the party a raffle for prizes will take place. For \$10 a coupon, guests will have the chance to choose skis, sparkling wine, a Walkman, restaurant and store certificates, hockey tickets, Donald K. Donald tickets, hotel stays, cosmetics and perfumes, sports clothing, gym memberships and more.

Tickets are available from Birks at Phillips Square, sponsors of the event, at the Bridal Registry on the mezzanine at \$25 a person. At the

door tickets are \$30 as long as they last. A semi-formal dress code is observed, and only those 18 and over may attend. For information call 393-9500.

## B of M gives to Telethon

The local branch of the Bank of Montreal, during the past year, raised between \$18,000 and \$19,000 for the Telethon of Stars. About \$15,000 of this was raised by employees during several fundraising events, such as a sale of Bart Simpson pencil cases.

The bank as a whole presented a cheque for \$515,195 to the Telethon.

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The Diggers and Weeders Club members Barbara Arbuckle, Susan Travers, Ruth Lindsay and Susan Burpee, left to right, decked the Westmount Public Library tree with lights and red birds a week ago Wednesday. Photo by OWEN EGAN

## Man, 27, caught lifting booze from SAQ

A 27-year-old man wanted on three different arrest warrants was caught red-handed trying to steal a bottle of alcohol worth \$17.85 from the liquor store in Place Alexis Nihon recently, police report.

The English-speaking man, described as unemployed with no fixed address, was apprehended by two SAQ security agents as soon as he left the store just before closing

time.

He was wanted on two warrants for theft, probably because he was

unable to pay the fines he incurred for shoplifting, according to crime prevention officer Gaston Bernier.

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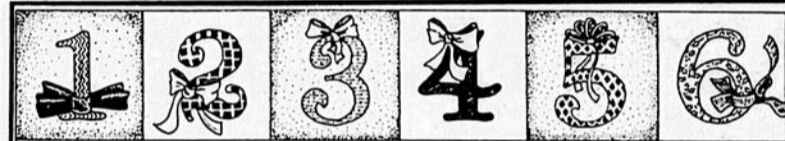
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# Resident asks MUCTC for community bus project

*Prescribed routes would give service to the less mobile*



NEILL CURRIE

By SCOTT INNIS

Westmounter Neill Currie wants more people on the buses.

And he wants the Montreal Urban Community Transport Corp (MUCTC) and the City of Westmount to encourage it as well.

He says this can be done by copying a community bus project running in Toronto.

Called the Lawrence Manor project, the community bus project encourages travelling by people with reduced mobility by using an "Orion II" low-floor, large-door bus which can accommodate 20 passengers or two wheelchairs and 12 passengers.

It stops at residences, shopping centres, and can be hailed along its route. Since it began in October last year, ridership has increased from 40 to 60 passengers a day to more than 100 after hours were increased and the route expanded.

Mr Currie thinks the MUCTC can

do the same thing in the area of the Montreal General Hospital, an area which includes Westmount.

Writing to Mayor Peter Trent and the members of the standing operations committee, Mr Currie put forward the Healthy Cities committee's latest initiative, and asked for the city's support. He presented it to the MUC on Dec 11 and the MUCTC Dec 12.

"The MUCTC said they would look at it," said Mr Currie. But he added, "It will require continual pressure to get something going."

"This idea of having it (service for people less mobile) run by the transit system is better," he says, than separate, private services. The transit authorities can organize the service into their own system, he said, and use their own union personnel, so labor issues would not arise.

The MUCTC runs a transit system for the less mobile, whereby they call for rides to a specific location. There are no prescribed routes.

The "adapted transportation" service costs about \$30 per passenger ride, Mr Currie wrote in his submission.

"It has been a concern of SWAG (Senior Westmount Action Group) for some time," said Mr Currie, pointing to the adoption of the initiative by the Healthy Cities committee.

Mr Currie acknowledges there is a new pick-up service for seniors in Westmount begun by Tony Rother. But he called Mr Rother's program a "stop-gap measure."

"We want something which will continue," he said.

## Varied courses for 50-plus

The Centre for Creative Life-styles, which offers innovative and diverse programs for adults over 50, will hold its winter semester course registration on Monday, Jan 6, through Thursday, Jan 16, from 9:30 am to 3 pm, at 5700 Westbury avenue. Classes begin the week of Jan 20.

Participants can choose from a varied selection of courses, including *News & Views, Computer, Exotic Jewish Communities, Lost Generation (Fads, Flappers and Fanatics), You Mean... ToFu Tastes Good, Feel the Fear and Do It Anyway, The Life and Music of Beethoven and A Morning Enchantment.*

These and many more are open to members of the centre and the Golden Age Association.

For more information on membership and registration or for a free brochure, call 343-3500 or 739-4731 ext 205, or come to 5700 Westbury avenue, room 111.

## Mall series of concerts

Les Galeries Westmount Square invite everyone to attend a series of Christmas concerts in the mall until Christmas Eve. The concerts are performed by students from McGill University's faculty of music, accompanied by piano and violin.

Today's concert is at noon. There are others every day. See *Community Calendar* on page two for times.

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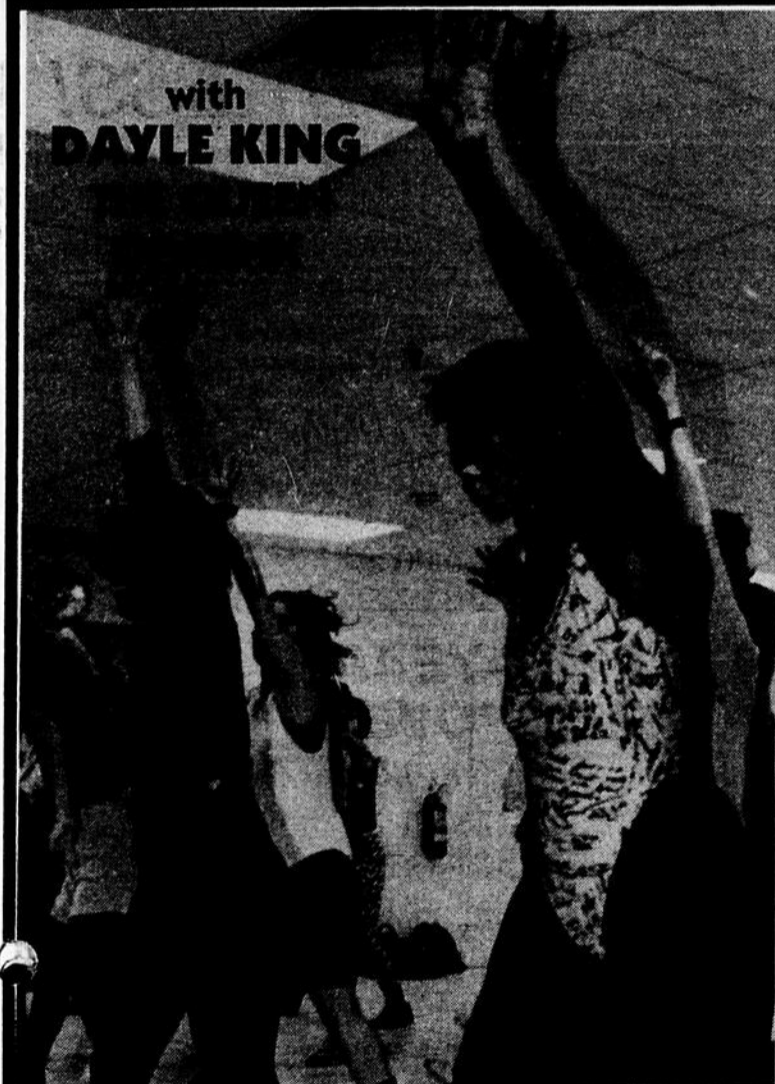
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# Maxwell architecture on display at the museum

The *Architecture of Edward & W.S. Maxwell* is both the title of a travelling exhibition at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts until March 22 and the title of its 192-page catalogue.

Even for those who do not wish to tour the exhibit, the purchase of the catalogue will provide some pleasant glimpses into a Montreal and Westmount of days gone by.

The catalogue might also make a lovely Christmas gift for former Westmounters or residents of the Golden Square Mile, especially those who are now living in Winnipeg, Quebec City and New Brunswick, where the show will be travelling.

Brothers Edward (1867-1923) and William Sutherland Maxwell (1874-

1952) worked separately and together on a number of projects across the country, and most of them are familiar landmarks to Westmounters.

Among them are the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts itself, originally the Art Association of Montreal; the Arts Club on Victoria street that was demolished in the mid-'60s; the High School of Montreal, the Henry Birks & Sons Building on Phillips Square, the Royal Bank at 4192 St Catherine street in Westmount (now Henrietta Anthony's store) and Westmount branch of the Bank of Montreal at de Maisonneuve and Greene that was demolished in the 1970s to make way for the current bank building.

It is perhaps their houses that are best known. The H. Vincent Meredith House at 1110 Pine avenue west

By JANET COUTTS

was damaged by fire in 1990 and partially restored last year. Plans for the Duncan McIntyre Jr and Elspeth H. Angus Houses 3674-3690 Peel street, later were adapted for Westmount houses at 35 Côte St Antoine road and at 356 Metcalfe avenue. Houses at 1572 and 1564 Dr Penfield avenue are described in the catalogue as "fraternal twins" as they have similar plans but different exteriors.

Edward Maxwell built himself a house at 184 Côte St Antoine road. The most flamboyant of their city mansions was the Charles R. Hosmer house at 3630 Drummond street; the Richard R. Mitchell House at 4103 Sherbrooke street features a mural by Maurice Cullen and illustrates the

Maxwells' interest in working with artists and craftsmen of the day. In some of their houses, they designed many of the furnishings, or helped choose the interior decoration.

William Maxwell built a semi-detached house for himself and Edward M. Renouf at 1548-1550 Pine avenue. McGill University acquired the James T. Davis house, 3654 Drummond street, occupied by the family until 1955. The brothers also built a number of impressive country homes.

They built few religious buildings, but most will remember the Unitarian Church of the Messiah on Sherbrooke street, destroyed by fire in 1987.

In 1948, William Maxwell started work on the superstructure of the Shrine of the Báb, Bahá'i World Centre, in Haifa, Israel, with its pure gold dome. He died before the shrine was completed in 1953. His former home on Pine avenue is now a Bahá'i shrine.

The brothers built government buildings, hotels and railway stations across the country, but none locally.

The show at the museum contains biographical material, models of

many of their commercial buildings, photos and drawings of houses they built along with photos of their clients, and an architectural model of the Golden Square Mile with each Maxwell house set on an outline of a city map of 1912.

The catalogue for the exhibit is the first comprehensive study of the Maxwells' work. It includes eight essays on aspects of the architects' practice, 37 entries on their significant projects, 103 black and white illustrations and eight pages of color reproductions. The price of the catalogue, available in English or French, is \$45.

Guided tours of the exhibit are offered in English on Wednesdays at 1 pm beginning Jan 8. A slide show *The Square Mile*, is shown in English at 11 am on Wednesdays, also beginning Jan 8. The Esso-Sundays at the museum will be *For Budding Architects* Jan 12, 19 and 26 and Feb 2, 9 and 16, in which young people will be invited to follow in the footsteps of the Maxwells.

A lecture on the various aspects of the architecture of the Maxwell brothers will be given by Rosalind M. Pepall and Susan Wagg in English on Feb 18.

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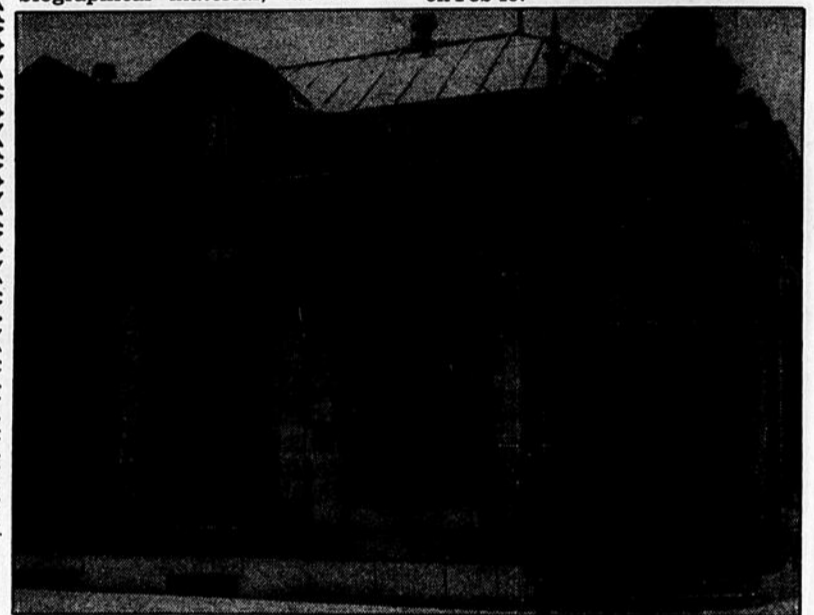
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The Maxwell-built Bank of Montreal, Westmount branch, at Greene and de Maisonneuve was built in 1904 and demolished in the 1970s.

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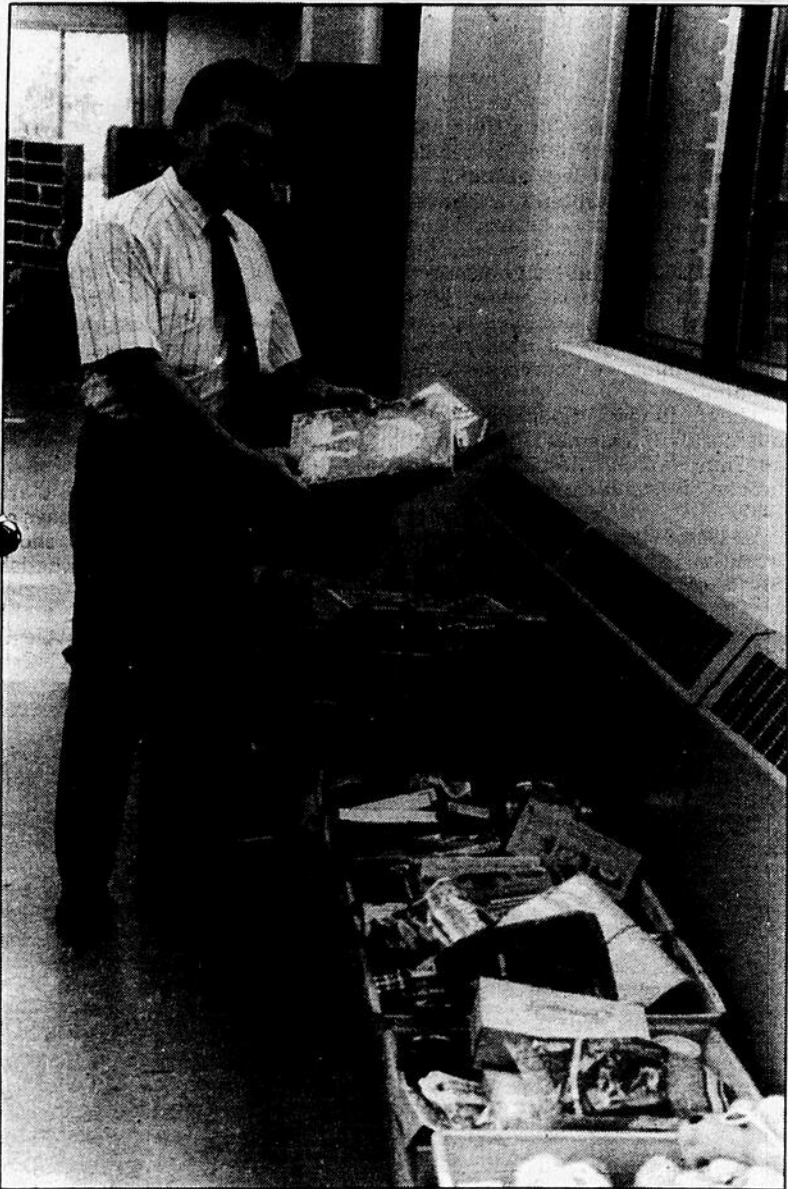
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## Christmas posties



St Catherine street post office branch employee Robert Thomas shows the results so far from their annual food and toy drive. The three-week effort has netted the same amount of food and toys as last year, say post office spokesmen, and will help five families in Montreal. Over at Westmount High School, teacher Iona McAulay says the students have collected more than 700 cans of food and about \$175 for the Salvation Army, about the same as they collected last year.

## Hungarian debutante ball on March 21

The 34th Hungarian St Stephen's Ball will take place Saturday, March 21, at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel.

The ball is the highlight of the social season. Since its inception, it has endeavored to perpetuate the traditions and elegance of a more romantic era. It is known for its decorum and sumptuous and exuberant atmosphere.

Guests are greeted by violin music, and the opening Palotas dance is performed by 24 couples in elaborate costumes from the Hungarian court. Next, debutants are presented and they and their escorts perform the

Blue Danube waltz.

In the ballroom, guests dance to an orchestra while next door at the Czarda they sit to listen to gypsy music.

The midnight candlelight dinner is served in the dining room where guests are serenaded by a folk music ensemble and entertained by traditional dancers. The festivities end only at dawn.

Long dresses and white tie are the preferred costume. Would-be dancers and debutantes may call 457-2200 (days) or 695-1040. Tickets are \$125 and can be reserved at 344-1119.

## Help needed to feed the hungry

Volunteers are needed to help at Le Garde Manger Pour Tous in the day-to-day activities to help feed more than 10,000 people each month.

People are needed to answer the phone, type and do clerical work, and work on computers. In the community, volunteers can drive, supervise a lunch program, prepare meals, hand out flyers, sell T-shirts or recruit more volunteers.

If you can help, call 931-8830.

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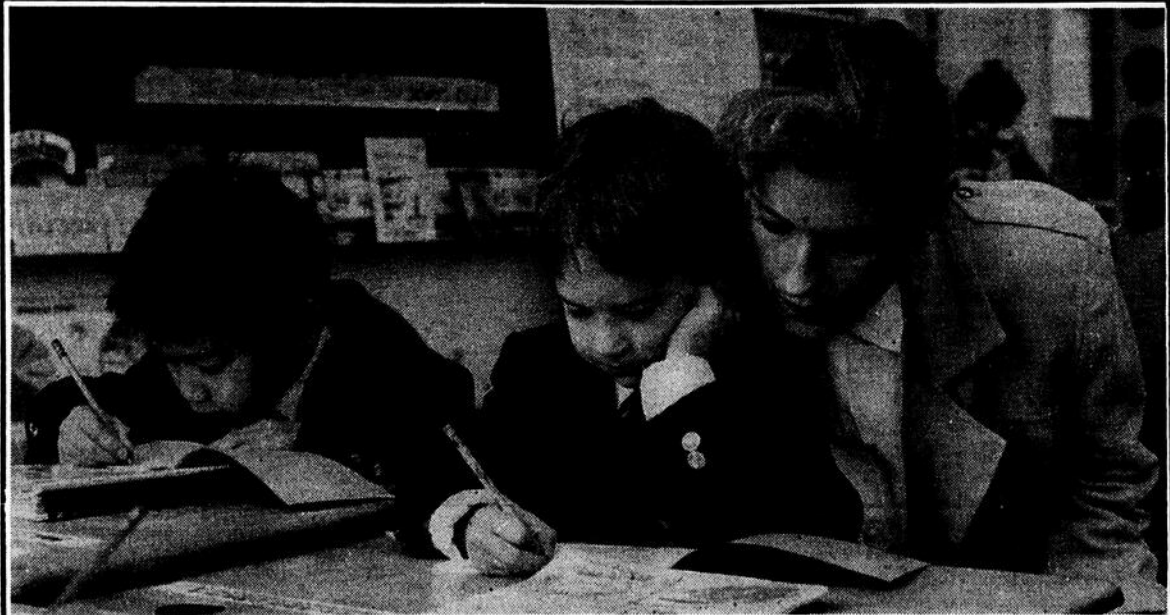
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**Where were they going?**



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

**Dec 10**  
12:10 pm: 4269 St Catherine, suite 300, first responder unit for medical assistance;  
3:57 pm: 15 Park Place, Westmount Park School, code 3 automatic mutual aid cancelled at 4:05 pm, false alarm pulled by two Grade 2 Westmount residents whose parents were to be notified;  
8:15 pm: 415 Clarke, alarm activated by burning food in microwave oven;  
8:39 pm: 5 Park Place, code 2 automatic mutual aid from Côte St Luc cancelled at 8:45 pm, smell of gas;

**Dec 11**  
10:43 am: Front of 4014 St Catherine, first responder unit for medical assistance, man sitting on sidewalk complaining of old head injury;  
11:05 am: 654 Roslyn, defective alarm;  
5:53 pm: Front of 7 Park Place, car fire (see story page 20);

**Dec 12**  
9:54 am: 607 Roslyn, first responder unit for medical assistance;  
12:52 pm: 350 Selby, first responder unit to assist fainting woman;

**Dec 13**  
8:51 am: Rear of 450 Clarke, for problem with hydro pole, all in order;

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**Who's doing what?**

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

**Nov 29**  
360 Redfern: for Mark Rosenstein by contractor to be announced, deck, \$5,000;  
4891 Sherbrooke: for Fanny of Westmount by Plomberie Daniel, fixture connection, \$3,500;

**Dec 3**  
33 Forden: for S. Cummings by Obelish Construction, demolition of interior, \$2,500;  
33 Forden: for S. Cummings by Obelish Construction, extension and alterations, \$80,000;  
646 Lansdowne: for David Dyson by self, alterations to main floor powder room, \$3,500;

**Dec 4**  
434 Victoria: for Peter Knowles by self repairs to basement door and front step, \$2,000;

**Dec 6**  
3169 St Antoine: for Linda Potvin by Châteauguay Plumbing, installing 6 plumbing fixtures, \$2,000;

**Dec 9**  
582 Côte St Antoine: for Seigrig Brown by D & G Contractor, shower in basement powder room, \$1,000;

**Dec 10**  
30 Windsor: for J. Coyle by contractor to be announced, interior repairs, \$5,000;  
495 Grosvenor: for T. McConnell by Fitzpatrick plumbing, gas boiler installation, \$2,000;  
3192 The Boulevard: for Mr McBride by Fitzpatrick plumbing, gas boiler installation, \$2,000;

**Dec 11**  
4380 de Maisonneuve: for Kay Saloman by Menuiserie Ami, chimney, \$1,000;  
29 Holton: for Pierre St Marie by contractor to be announced, windows, \$14,000;  
491 Mountain: for I. Nahouli by Plomberie Salvats and Duval, general plumbing, \$6,500;

**Dec 12**  
223 and 225 Melville: for Normand Lussier by Pyroex Inc, installation of alarm, \$10,000;  
4170 Dorchester: for C. Choquette by contractor to be announced, windows, \$5,000;

**Dec 13**  
4350 St Catherine: for C.E.P.G.M. by Nomis Construction Ltée, laboratory renovation, \$50,000.

**Food for pets and people**

The SPCA, in co-operation with Sun Youth, will collect non-perishable food products to give to disadvantaged people and their companion animals at the SPCA shelter, 5215 Jean Talon street west.

Last year the SPCA was able to deliver some 50 large boxes of food for people and their pets.

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## OUR MP...

Continued from page 5

We went into the hearings with an open mind on this question. On reviewing the evidence, we believe that this conclusion is inescapable.

Conclusive evidence was presented to the committee that the NRC, at the very least, does not fully appreciate the nature of IRAP and its potential. The evidence includes:

- The NRC rejected a blueprint for IRAP's future which was unanimously supported by the IRAP advisory board as well as federal and provincial government agencies.
- The NRC has downgraded IRAP in NRC's organizational structure.
- There are major deficiencies in IRAP's strategic plan.
- Various statements of the executive committee of council, motions of council, the wording of the strategic plan, changes to IRAP's mission statement, and the statements by the president of the NRC indicate that IRAP is being changed from a program which serves firms by obtaining technology from all appropriate sources, to a program focused on the NRC laboratories.

The Liberal members concurred with the majority recommendation that as a first step, funding for IRAP be increased to a minimum of \$110 million, from \$75 million. As a second step, we recommended a doubling or even tripling of IRAP's funding over a five- to six-year period. These resources would enable IRAP to fulfill its potential within the context of the competitive challenge facing Canada.

The Liberal members agreed with Roy Woodbridge, president of the Canadian Advanced Technology Association, who told the committee that what is required is "a strong government commitment to funding of the program at the level of resources required to fulfill an expanded program mandate. We do not want to protect the program. We do not want you to make a last-ditch effort to save it. We want you to understand

what it could be, and make sure that it achieves those kinds of bigger, broader objectives. We want you to make sure that this program grows and becomes what it should be in the context of the national industrial needs of this country."

The committee has done its work. It is now up to the government to implement our recommendations. If the Conservatives do not follow through, a future Liberal government will.

## YOU SAY...

Continued from page 5

into a useable material.

In the Dec 2 edition of *The New York Times*, the executive director of the Hazardous Substance Research Center in Newark, N.J. (which is financed by universities, business and government agencies), is quoted as saying that there is no serious data to support the view that proper burning is dangerous and that incinerators are regulated far more stringently than wood-burning stoves or cars.

In the same article I learned about a new acronym which is going to escalate the waste management dilemmas of our society, NIMTOO (not in my term of office). Let us hope that our newly elected representatives don't get paralyzed by this syndrome because if they do, we will be dumping even more waste into the backyards of future generations and negating the investment of years of planning.

Why, you ask, has Montreal not been included in the Régie structure? It was my understanding that the city of Montreal refused to co-operate because it has its own dump and incinerator. Westmount's waste and that of the 28 municipalities was not their problem. Montreal put the suburbs on notice that the Miron dump would be closed to their waste in 1993. The Régie studied systems and installations around the world, and our waste management needs were thoroughly analyzed. Proposals for

a solution were sought internationally and across North America.

Six of the contenders were considered to be the most acceptable and they were asked to submit detailed plans. From these Foster Wheeler's was deemed by the Régie (whose board of directors is composed of all the suburban mayors except Montreal North's) to be the most appropriate to serve our needs for the next 20 years because it requires a minimum of landfill, it includes recycling, resource recovery and composting.

Workshops are being planned by the Healthy City Environment Committee to help Westmount, street by street, learn what reduction really means. The Régie should encourage and support this initiative. Let's get into Quebec law tough emission standards that will enforce top performance on all incinerators. Let's hasten the easy collection and recycling of hazardous materials such as batteries and paint so that what gets to the incinerator is clean-as-possible waste. Let's be aware of our responsibility to the environment when we shop and be part of the

The Westmount Examiner, Thursday, December 19, 1991 - 29

process of changing the world we live in from a consuming to a conserver one, from a grossly wasteful to a wasteless one.

I hope the Régie uses its public relations budget to help make this happen. Perhaps the Régie should return to Westmount to speak not only to the new council in January but also to the WMA and the community. We all need to know, and to hear loud and clear, that the Régie's incinerator will in no way jeopardize its commitment to an ever-expanding recycling, reuse, recovery and composting program.

Sally Aitken

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## Auxiliary stuffs stockings

The Auxiliary of Montreal Chest Hospital has made stocking stuffing and Christmas tree decorating a tradition at the hospital, 3650 St Urbain street.

On Christmas morning, patients in the hospital will awake to discover Santa has not forgotten them. During the night a stocking full of gifts, each individually wrapped, has been left by each bedside.

Many Westmounters are auxiliary members.

## Blood clinic

The Royal Victoria Hospital will hold a Red Cross blood donor clinic in the staff lounge on the fourth floor of the Hersey Pavilion on Friday, Jan 3, from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. Free parking is provided.

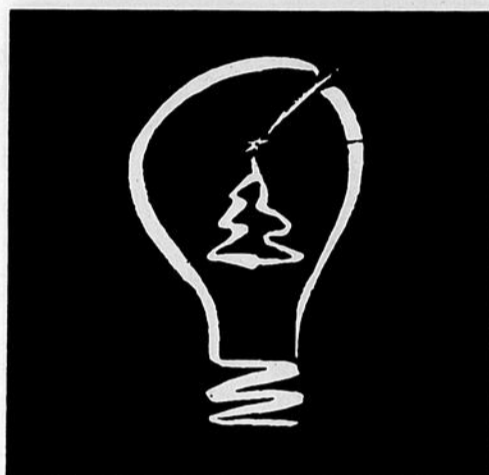
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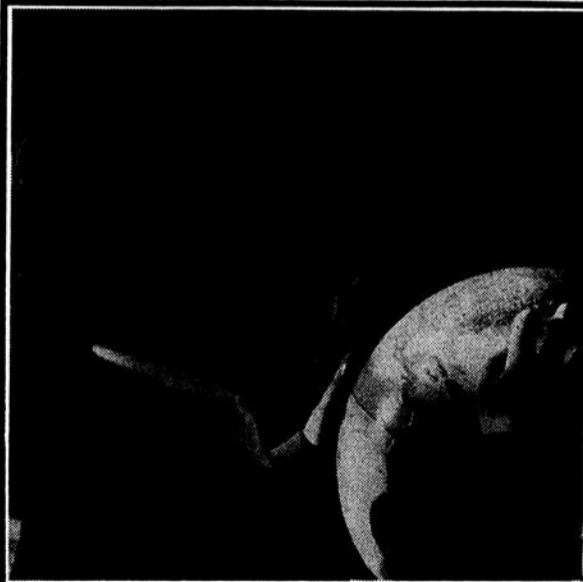
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**SELWYN HOUSE SCHOOL**

95 Côte St. Antoine Road, Westmount, Québec H3Y 2H8

# Finding the perfect addition to liven up a stocking

By JANET COUTTS

Goodness knows, there are many places in Westmount where, in a twinkling of an eye, you could fill dozens of Christmas stockings with wonderful things.

They include such stores as La Cache, Pier I, the Bead Emporium, the new Les Body Reform in Place Alexis Nihon or Dans Un Jardin on Greene venue for luxurious items for bath and boudoir.

On a search for that special something to make every stocking extra-special, here are some of our finds:

We started in Westmount Square, just in case the weather is impossible, so you can do last-minute shopping for luxuries indoors.

At Cachere, you will find chic little headbands at \$14 in velvet, \$24 in stretch fabric; they have a beret with matching gloves for \$100 and a pair of smashing purple suede gloves for \$120.

At the new Caméléon Vert there's the perfect gift for your shy friend who needs to be reminded to come out of her shell: a painted pottery turtle from Mexico at \$24; another find is a pair of handblown blue glass candlesticks that could double as schnapps glasses, \$20.

For sports fans, go to Sport Buff in Place Alexis Nihon (or to Alexander, 1385 Greene avenue, in the case of golfers, or to the Tennis Bug, 4156A St Catherine) and buy just about anything. But you have to go to Hall-

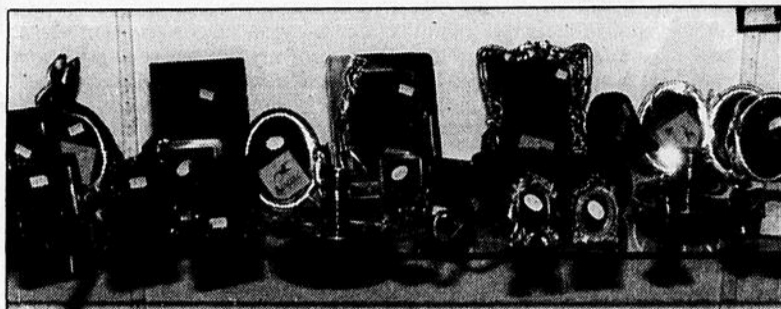
mark to find a milk chocolate hockey puck at \$1.99; or to the Quebec Liquor Corporation for a "golf ball" filled with one shot of Scotch for \$6.70.

It isn't really necessary to look for stocking gifts for children: they fairly leap off the shelves at you. But we were taken with Hallmark's Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle fluorescent-colored squeaking suspenders for \$9.90. (They have the same thing in pig — not a very flattering gift — cat, cow, zebra or giraffe.)

Unusual costume jewelry is featured at Atout Bijoux. One piece is a dancing couple from elegant days gone by. The man is all in black, the woman in silver, the whole in rhinestones. The skirt of the woman's dress is in strands so it is in constant motion. It is \$90.

At Verlaine Allure, lace hankies in colors and white at \$25 each would make a lovely stocking stuffer for an older woman who remembers flirting with just such an accessory, or for a business woman who'd like to soften the look of her power suits.

Dilemme, 4937 Sherbrooke street, is a goldmine of treasures. There is a basketful of colorful wooden costume jewelry. A pair of green frog earrings is \$5; a fish pin or mask ring cost \$7. The map of the world is etched on a glass ball, black or white, about the size of a tennis ball, and costs \$22. A basket-weave cuff brace-



At Le Galet at 4922 Sherbrooke street, these pewter frames from the Maritimes, and silver-plate frames range from \$6 to \$20.

let from Indonesia is \$8 and painted thimbles from Kashmir are \$5 each.

Joie de Vivre, 4909A Sherbrooke street, is doing a land-office business in fine leather wallets that make a fuss when you try to leave home, or a shop, without your credit card. It costs \$52, and there were only two left in stock at press time, but there you are...

### Canny sleevewear

Another hot seller is a gadget called Sleeve Smart, modelled on the arm bands men used to wear. The maker suggests that, in addition to holding up your sleeves, you wear it as a bracelet, or over your shoe or boot. It comes in eight styles and three colors, and costs \$20.

A healing crystal costs \$19; lip balm from England (not always easy to find) in fruit flavors, is \$3.75. And while you're there, pick up some potpourri at \$2 a scoop, to add to any wrapped presents. It makes them look and smell beautiful.

Joie de Vivre also features a line of sparkly jewelry made by a local artist at prices ranging between \$10 and \$20.

At Cuero, 4866 Sherbrooke, there are wonderful luxury items, but there is also a travel domino game at \$12.50, a leather flashlight for \$21, and some amusing little pottery people from England, meant to be used as candle snuffers, at \$7 each.

Any woman who is still smoking would love the lighter in crocodile leather at \$43.20 and a matching mirror for her purse at \$19.20.

Coffee Gourmet, 4868 Sherbrooke street, is another of those stores where you can fill all the stockings you want in one stop. But worthy of special mention are handmade dog cookies for the spoiled pet at \$5.50.

This store will also sell you a small amount of the most expensive coffee in the world, Jamaican Blue, at \$8.80 for 100 grams (\$40 a pound). For \$1 extra, you can have it put into a

special burlap bag. They also have a small teapot, a white porcelain elephant, for \$7.95.

### For elephant lovers

At Heritage Asiatique, 364 Victoria avenue, there is an even smaller elephant teapot, this one painted in flowers, for \$6.80. If you know someone who collects elephants, this is the place. A small elephant stuffed with 50 g of fine tea, sold in a little wooden crate, is \$18. And there are lots of little elephant figurines at \$3 and \$1.80.

Fushia, at 361 Victoria avenue, has wooden hanging toys that move when you pull a string, for \$4.95 to \$7.95. They have charming white cat porcelain napkin rings at \$4.95 and, at the same price, a lot of brightly painted wooden animals and foods that make napkin rings.

They have a basketful of miniature books of aphorisms about love, joy, friendship and other positive aspects of life, for \$7.50 each.

Entrepot Culinaire, 357 Victoria avenue, has stocking stuffers galore. They start as low as 70 cents and go as high as you like. The item for 70 cents is a bowl scraper for a baker. A pot and pan scraper is \$1.50, but anyone giving such a gift would be well advised to attach a card explaining

that the giftee will not be the only one to use it. Mini whisks, good for drinks or single eggs, are \$1 a pair; and a bean cutter to make French-style beans is \$3.99.

Alexander, as mentioned, has lots of golf accessories including a golf ball case with tees for \$75.

This store also has pretty penlights for \$8.95; metal bookmarks with initials for \$6; a flocked inflatable travel pillow with case is \$5.50 and a small travel phone list with a mirror is \$7.

A case for business cards will set you back \$6; a pack of magician's cards with instructions for magic tricks is \$6.

At Origami Plus, 1369 Greene avenue, is the best paperweight for someone who actually has a lot of papers to be weighed down. The draftsman's paperweight is soft leather filled with shot, feels good in the hand, allows a paper to be pulled out from the middle of a pile, and costs \$18.

At Le Notre, 1277 Greene, you can find something for the person who is going to go off their diet over Christmas. Make it worthwhile. Two tiny chocolates in a pretty box will set you back about \$3. Slightly more expensive are beautiful candied fruits.

If you want to get really extravagant, chocolates are from \$96.50 to \$148.50 a kilogram; the fruits are \$100.

The pet lover would appreciate having the companion's color photo reproduced on a sweatshirt (\$24.95) or T-shirt (\$19.95) at Art Image, 4156 St Catherine street.

With all this, if you end up at 5:30 pm on Christmas Eve buying an ordinary bottle of cologne and dumping it into the stocking along with nuts and fruit you found in the kitchen, well, you deserve a lump of coal in yours.



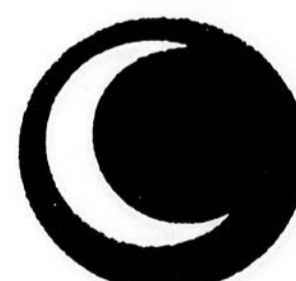
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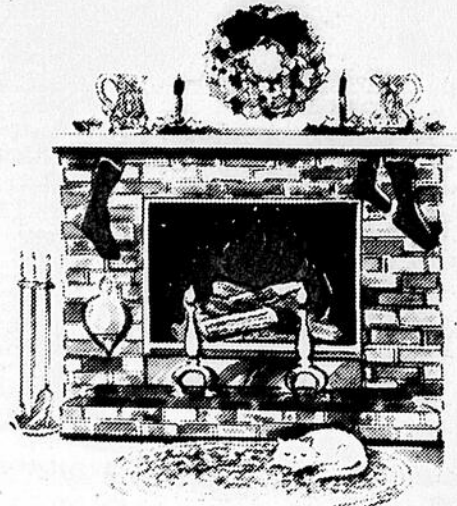
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# Practice fire safety... don't have a holiday disaster

So many holiday hazards can be avoided.  
Why take chances?



If using the fireplace during the holidays, be sure to keep all decorations and disposable gift wrappings away from it.



Keep your Christmas tree in water at all times. Place it away from heat sources. Dispose of the tree when it dries out.



Check your tree lights for frayed or exposed wires, loose connections or broken sockets. Don't let the bulbs touch the needles or branches.

Keep a reliable fire extinguisher in your home at all times. Make sure everyone knows where it is and how to use it.



Spray your tree with a fire retardant mixture and use flameproof decorations throughout your home.



Take a thorough appliance inventory, check for overloaded circuits. Don't put more than three sets of lights on one extension cord.



Also remember to follow these other common sense safety rules to keep your holidays merry and safe:

- Be sure to keep your home's walkways, sidewalks and stairs free of ice and snow.
- If you're travelling for the holidays, be sure to have your car safety-checked.
- If you must drink during the holidays—don't drive.
- Protect your home with safety locks and when away use on/off light timers to give your home a "lived-in" look; leave radio playing and cancel newspapers and milk.

### In case of fire:

**AT HOME:** Get everybody out of the house at once. Signal the Fire Department immediately.

**AT PUBLIC GATHERINGS:** Walk, don't run, to the nearest exit. Signal the fire department immediately on discovery of fire. **KEEP CALM.**

*This appeal is made possible through the cooperation of the following public-spirited firms with their best wishes for a merry and safe holiday.*

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Accounts may be paid by telephone by Visa or MasterCard or by cash or cheque at the Westmount Examiner office, 155 Hillside Avenue, Westmount, the Town of Mount Royal Weekly Post office, 233 Dunbar Avenue, Town of Mount Royal, or at any branch on the Island of Montreal of The Royal Bank of Canada or the Bank of Montreal. Advertising not paid in advance of publication is subject to a \$2.00 billing charge. Advance payments without invoice cannot be accepted by banks but may be paid at either of the above newspaper offices.

Les comptes peuvent se régler par téléphone grâce aux cartes Visa et MasterCard, ainsi que par chèque ou en argent comptant aux bureaux du Westmount Examiner: 155, avenue Hillside, Westmount, ou du Courrier de Ville Mont-Royal: 233, avenue Dunbar, Ville Mont-Royal; ou encore à n'importe quelle branche de la Banque Royale du Canada ou de la Banque de Montréal de l'île de Montréal. Toute annonce qui n'est pas acquittée avant la date de parution est sujette à des frais de facturation de 2,00\$. Les paiements réglés à l'avance mais sans facture ne seront pas acceptés à la banque. Ils pourront, par contre, être effectués à l'un des bureaux ci-haut mentionnés.

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# Former MNA Richard French returning to Montreal as Bell vice-president

Richard French, Westmount's former member of the National Assembly who resigned from the Quebec cabinet in the wake of the passage of Bill 178 three years ago, is returning to Montreal after a transfer by his current employer, Bell Canada.

Mr French is taking up duties here as vice-president of consumer sales and service for Bell's Quebec region. As such, he is responsible for residential and pay phone service and consumer products throughout Quebec. His office is downtown at 700 de

la Gauchetière street.

Since retiring as Westmount's MNA at the end of his second term in September 1989, Mr French has been with Bell as vice-president for government, public policy and regulatory affairs, based in Ottawa. He and his wife, Diane Boivin, have been living there after selling their long-time home on Metcalfe avenue.

"I'm delighted to be back," Mr French said from his Montreal office last week. He and his wife have not yet moved back to Montreal but hope

to in the near future and also hope to return to Westmount.

Asked if politics is now out of his system, he said he is enthusiastic about and dedicated to his demanding new job so would have little time to devote to political causes. He has not kept up his Quebec Liberal Party membership, he said.

Mr French was first elected MNA for Westmount in April 1981 and, after being in opposition for one term, joined the Bourassa cabinet as minister of communications after being re-elected in December 1985. He resigned from cabinet with Clifford Lincoln and Herbert Marx in December 1988 when the government passed Bill 178, outlawing languages other than French on outside commercial signs.

Prior to entering politics, Mr French, a Rhodes scholar, was a professor of management at McGill University from 1977 to 1981.

*It's easy to place a classified ad in THE EXAMINER. Simply call 931-7511.*

## Pre-Christmas giftie



Louis Boyer, left, and his brother Alphonse get a candy cane from one of Santa's elves, Julie Davidson, at the entrance to Westmount Square Saturday.

Photo by OWEN EGAN

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## Centre stage at Westmount High



Tumbler Carlos Alvear and partner Darnell Symonds entertain fellow students at the annual Westmount High School Christmas variety show, held Tuesday evening. The cast of the show contained 33 students, with the junior band providing musical accompaniment.

Photo by OWEN EGAN

## New Dawson Métro entry shut to install custom doors

By SCOTT INNISS

The Dawson-Atwater Métro tunnel was closed this past week as new doors were being installed at the Métro-level entrance.

"This is probably the last loose end to tie up with the Métro tunnel," said Joy Hayes, public relations director with the college.

The corridor was closed Dec 12 and is to reopen tomorrow.

Ms Hayes said the new doors were part of the original plans for construction, which was mostly completed in September of this year. The doors were on order, she said, and had to be custom built due to the size required.

The doors are part of what commuters using the Atwater station have noticed as a constant buzz of construction there since Dec 1.

The Montreal Urban Community Transit Corp asked Dawson administration to upgrade the station's de Maisonneuve boulevard entrance when it asked for a connection to their school, said Ms Hayes.

Dawson agreed to upgrade the

Atwater Métro entrance structure to make it match the college in design.

So copper roofs, yellow bricks and large windows are being added to the entrance at the corner of Atwater and de Maisonneuve streets, at a cost of \$152,000, said Ms Hayes. She said the Dawson administration covered the cost as part of its new visual building.

It is the latest upgrading for the college in what has been a drawn-out period of construction. Over the past few years the college contacted the ministry of education, to get permission for the size and cost of their new construction, the City of Westmount regarding zoning restrictions, and the MUCTC for the Métro link, said Ms Hayes.

"We always knew we wanted to have a link (to the Métro) and we always knew what the rules are — that you're going to have to pay," she said.

Ms Hayes said she didn't know when the construction would finally be finished.

## Children seeking homes

Being a foster parent means opening your home to children who cannot live with their own parents although the youngsters will have visits with them. The following children are living in group homes and are desperately in need of foster parents.

Cindy, a healthy, beautiful, Chinese baby, just celebrated her first birthday. Her little feet scamper around the house and she takes only an occasional tumble. Climbing on to the sofa is a lot of fun, but getting down requires assistance. This good-natured, lovable youngster requires a single- or two-parent Chinese foster home. She will probably remain in foster care throughout her childhood.

Carly, 10, Mina, 6, and Oliver, 5, are friendly and rambunctious siblings who come from a deprived background. Since they are very close, a white foster home able to take the threesome, possibly long-term, is being sought.

Carly is bright and aware of her situation, which she finds confusing and upsetting. Mina is a fun-loving little girl. She is high risk for kidney damage and so her urine needs to be tested every few days. The youngest, Oliver, has developmental delays and attends Mackay School. His speech is limited but his comprehension is adequate. His balance is affected but he manages to run rather

than walk and to climb stairs independently.

Jake, a teenager, has a large physical stature which makes him look older than his 14 years. He has endured a difficult home life resulting in his feeling sad and frustrated. His attention-seeking behavior has ceased since his recent placement in a group home. He is sensitive to other people's problems, is co-operative and, like most teens, is embarrassed when given a compliment. Jake would benefit from a white foster family where he can stay for at least one year. A single male or a couple with a very involved foster father would be ideal.

If you would like to know more about these children and the steps involved in becoming a foster parent, phone Homes for Children, run by the Ville Marie Social Service Centre, at 989-1781.

### Register for city programs

Registration for the city's recreation programs continues until Jan 10.

Adults, children and seniors wishing to register for some of the city's many sports or cultural programs being offered this winter can call the department at 935-8531, ext 212.



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## Frosty wind made moan



People had to wait an extra week this year as the city's six ice rinks remained waterlogged under a December thaw last week. By this week, though, frost permeated the earth, and water, poured on by city employee Lloyd Smith, will soon be hard as stone. Rinks at Devon Park, Prince Albert Park, Westmount Park (pictured here), Staynor Park, King George Park and Queen Elizabeth Gardens were slated to be completely flooded as the bleak mid-winter set in.

## Westmount Y offers courses in January

The Westmount Y is now registering for a variety of courses to start in January.

For those 16 and over who have a bronze cross and senior resuscitation, the Y is offering a national lifeguard course. The cost is \$95, and the course runs every Sunday from 11:30 am to 3:30 pm starting Jan 12 and running to March 29.

A la carte fitness for adults include dance and martial arts. Jazz ballet is \$75 for non-members, \$30 for members; Afro-Caribbean dance is \$70 for non-members, \$25 for members. Self-defense for women is \$80 and \$35; Tai Chi and yoga are both \$70 to non-members, free to members.

These courses start the week of Jan 6 and run for 12 weeks.

Starting Thursday, Jan 23, the Y is running a YMCA fitness instructor certification program phase I for 13 weeks. It costs \$190 for non-members; \$130 for members.

To complete certification, a practi-

cal course, Phase II, will be offered Feb 5 to March 23.

For details or to register call 931-8046.

## SPORTS STANDINGS

### HOCKEY

Following are the standings in the Westmount municipal hockey league as of Tuesday, Dec 17, 1991:

TEAM	GP	W	L	T	F	A	Pts.
<b>SENIOR A</b>							
Blues	14	11	3	0	70	43	22
Red Wings	13	7	4	2	43	30	16
Jets	14	7	6	1	44	37	15
Rangers	14	3	9	2	39	55	8
Whalers	13	3	9	1	38	69	7
<b>SENIOR B</b>							
Fathers	12	8	4	0	42	23	16
Devils	13	8	5	0	30	28	16
Sharks	13	6	5	2	38	32	14
Flyers	13	6	6	1	48	51	13
Oilers	14	5	6	3	34	33	13

Hawks 12 5 5 2 35 33 12  
Kings 13 2 9 2 31 58 6

**NOVICE**  
Canadiens 13 7 5 1 35 32 15  
Guards 13 6 5 2 28 21 14  
Dragons 13 7 6 0 48 41 14  
Bears 13 4 8 1 32 49 9

**ATOM**  
Penguins 13 11 2 0 69 48 22  
Canucks 12 6 5 1 66 45 13  
Canadiens 13 4 8 1 46 64 9  
Nordiques 12 3 9 0 31 55 6

**PEE WEE**  
Seals 10 6 4 0 40 40 12  
Canadiens 10 5 4 1 33 35 11  
Scouts 11 5 5 1 39 36 11  
Capitals 9 3 6 0 30 32 6

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Coathanger and pantyhose Santa, Farhana Shah, Grade 4, Westmount Park.

### Fat Santa

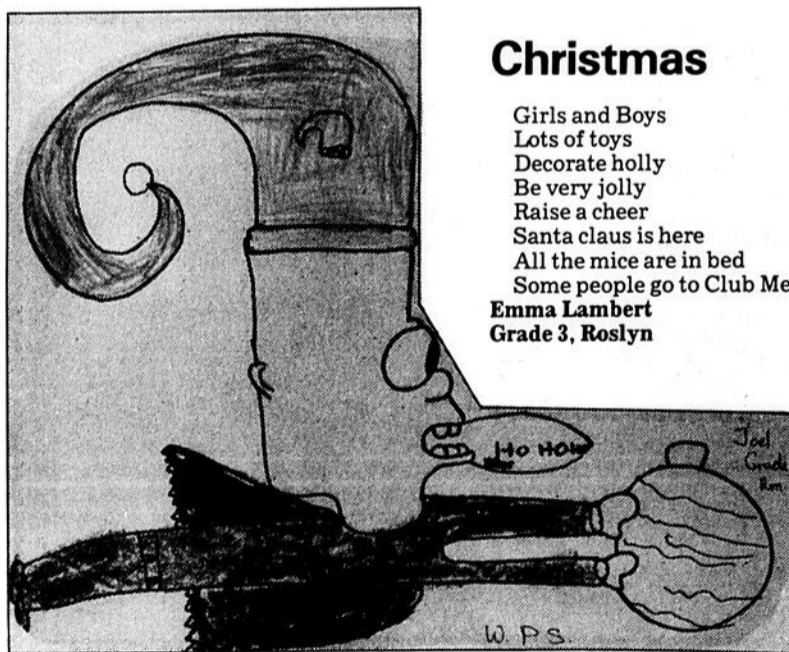
One Xmas eve Santa had a problem. He was too fat and the reindeers could not pull him. Then the smartest elf named Ryan knew what to do. He saved Xmas by delivering all the presents. Now Santa goes on a diet every Christmas.

Ryan Gelinis  
Grade 2, Westmount Park

### Santa Claus

Santa claus... Santa Claus is a good friend and he gives out presents to every good kid. He goes down the chimney and than up agan he rides in his sleigh away and away Santa claus... Santa claus is a good friend and I am his friend and he is my friend.

Melissa Walker  
Grade 2, Westmount Park



Joel Scott, Grade 2, Westmount Park School.

### Rudolph's other nose

One Christmas eve Rudolph's nose wouldn't shine so he went to the vet. On his way there he met this other reindeer named Prancer.

While they were walking they met lots of other reindeer. The reindeer asked Rudolph where he was going. Rudolph told them all about his nose and how it wouldn't shine. So they went to the vet with him.

When they got there Rudolph told them to wait in the waiting room until Rudolph got back. When he got back he said that he needed a new bulb for his nose.

So he ran off to the store to get the bulb. When he bought it he went home and tried it on. It turned out to

be a green bulb instead of a red bulb. So he went back to the store with people laughing at him because of the green nose above his mouth.

He went inside the store and now he read what colour it said on the cover. When he got home he tried it on. It was marvellous it shined more than he imagined. There was a knock at the door it was santa claus and all the reindeer he met.

Then santa claus asked Rudolph to lead the sleigh and they started to deliver presents to everyone in the world!

Farhana  
Grade 4, Westmount Park

# Through the eyes of children

## The night before Christmas

It was the night before Christmas and all through the house, not a person was snoring not even Din haz.

He went downstairs to hear a thump; for who was it was Peter claus.

Dinhaz ran upstairs to tell his brother into his room and said "Neal Neal Peter claus is downstairs."

Neal ran into his sister's room and said, "Dana, Dana Peter claus is downstairs."

So Neal, Dana and Dinhaz ran downstairs to see Peter claus's feet stuck in the chimney. Peter claus said, "I'm stuck in the chimney." So they all ran to the chimney to pull Peter claus out.

Neal said, "How did you get stuck in the chimney?"

Peter claus said, "Your chimney is too small."

Dinhaz said, "You're to fat." "I'm not fat," said Peter claus.

Dana ran to call her friends. They all came rushing over to see Peter claus.

"It's Peter claus." "It's Peter claus."

Peter claus said "I don't like to be seen in houses by children. I'm going back to Freddy Pole to see my wife Alex Claus. So he went up on the roof and said "On Chris, on Keven, on Rebecca, on Garan, on Yumn, on Bosko, on O-mari."

"And a ho, ho, ho merry christmas to all, to all a good night," said Pete claus.

Michael Sciampacone  
Grade 4, Westmount Park

## The Present On The Run

There once was an old man. He always got a frying pan for a Christmas present. He didn't like it so he made a machine. He called it the Run Away Present. He made it have a strong body. Noew every Christmas the Run Away Present would clean up all of his frying pans and the old man lived happily ever after.

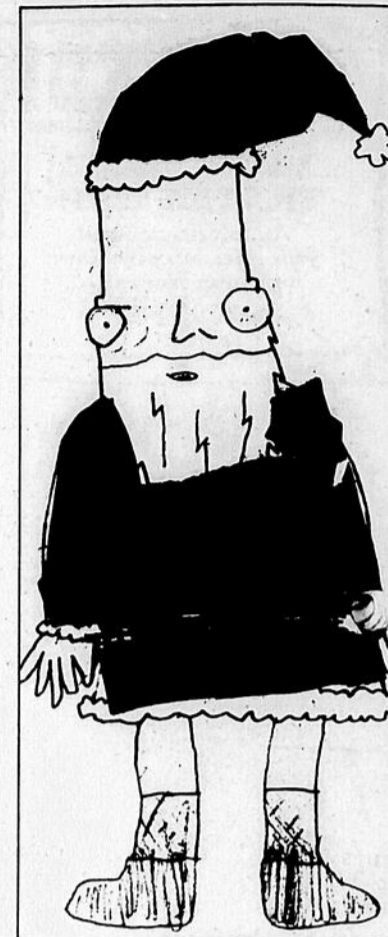
Naomi Shaw  
Grade 4, Westmount Park

## Snowflake

I am a small, white, lovely snowflake. I am a brilliant pearl. I like it when there's white fluffy, light snow because I am a snowflake. I have many tiny, soft snowflakes friends. I am weightless and I see anything I want. I'm falling with other cold, fragile flakes. I can falling and dance in the air. I can melt in your hands when you catch me.

When I am a falling I am a beautiful. I look like crystal. The children like me because I'm a bright, original snowflake. If I am natural I must melt. I hate it when people step on the delicate and nice snowflake. I have pointed ends. I hate it when stormy winds prevent me from dancing in the air.

Natalia  
Grade 4, Westmount Park



Nicholas Shedrick,  
Grade 2, Westmount Park

### In the night

On Christmas night, I saw a light. And then I saw a present laying in my hand. I open it up, and saw a bear. I hugged it and went back to sleep

Xing Zeng  
Grade 4, Westmount Park

## My New Year's resolution

On New Year's Day I will ask for lots of gifts. I will always listen to my parents. I'll work very hard in school and always complete my homework. I'll behave at home and not fight with my brother. At night if I have time I'll read in bed for a while. I'll eat and sit at the table until everyone is finished. I will act very politely. I'm going to smile all the time. I can do some chores around the house so my mom can take a break. When I have free time I

can play with my brother in our yard. I'll build a fort with him (if there is snow) so we can play in it as if it was our own home. I will always enjoy what I am doing when I go out with my mom and brother. I will have a big delicious turkey for dinner. These are my New Year's Resolutions, and I am going to keep them for sure.

Neda Dwolatshati  
Grade 4, Roslyn

### Christmas

Christmas is a beautiful sight and everybody goes right to bed so they get their presents faster. Of course when you go to sleep it's like snap it's morning. Especially on Christmas Eve. When you believe in Santa claus the more presents you get.

Stacey Madden  
Grade 2, Westmount Park

## Christmas in Poland

I celebrate Christmas the same way people in Poland do.

At first my whole family gets together and we all put some hay on the table, then we cover it. We put a salmon on the table and we place the Christmas tree just beside the table. After we put the presents under the Christmas tree. We are all ready to eat and open the presents. We wait for the first star to come up in the evening and only then, we begin opening the presents.

Filip Wolahski  
Grade 4, Roslyn

## The Silly Tree

Once there was a Christmas tree. But this tree wasn't ordinary. It was a Special tree. It could talk. One day when Santa came he heard a Sound. It was coming from the tree. When he got to the tree the tree went, "Ker-Choo" and Santa went flying up the chimney and into the sleigh.

James McCullough  
Grade 2, Westmount Park

## Santa's Diary

• Dec 23

Today was an awful day. One of my elves, Dobby, quit. How am I supposed to make teddy bears now? My other elf, Happy is thinking of quitting. How am I supposed to make all those deliveries if I don't have any elves. Christmas this year is hectic. Mrs Claus has to go to her mother's house this year. Her mother is always asking her why she married a person like me.

• Dec 24

Oh my gosh! I am about to go make all those deliveries around the world. Well today it was real trouble. Rudolf got sick after eating all those candies. I never even knew Reindeer ate candy! Well today I washed my suit and guess what, it didn't shrink for once. But guess what happened? Someone tried to steal all my presents. The nerve that some people have! Well I am off in five minutes.

• Dec 25

Oh my aching stomach! I knew I should not have eaten all those cookies. I never used to get these stomach aches. Well I'm sick in bed drinking hot tea. (With no milk). I can barely even stand up. I must have gained at least 40 pounds. Well I hope I feel better soon. I have to start making presents for next Christmas with my elves.

• Dec 26

I feel much better now. I think I'll have to go on a diet. Well I'm making toys with my elves again. Mrs Claus is mending my suit. I got it ripped again. I have to be careful going down those chimneys or I rip my suit. (And get stuck in chimney's too!)

Rachel Leider  
Grade 4, Roslyn

## The New Elf



Fiona O'Connor, Grade 4, Roslyn School.

More than anything in the world Ligi the Elf wanted to make toys for Santa Claus. He wanted to help Santa because he was very good at making wooden trains, dolls, how nutcrackers and all sorts of stuff. But he didn't know how to tell Santa that he wanted to help. One day on the radio they were telling Santa's address sooo... Ligi decided to write a letter to Santa. "Dear Santa I don't want any toys. I want to make toys for you. Write back to Ligi Elfonso 7321 St. Comet Ave., Elfville, Canada E7L 2F3." Santa wrote back a week later. He said, "I need your help. I'll send you Dasher and Dancer to pick you up tomorrow at 10:30 a.m., dress very warmly. Love Santa P.S. Tell you mom." So Ligi told his mom and then he waited for Dasher and Dancer. A few minutes later the reindeer came to pick Ligi up. He said, "Bye," to his mom and he has been working for Santa ever since.

Andrea Tawfik  
Grade 3, Roslyn