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**ARTS & BOOKS
SOUND AND VISION**
Composer Ben Shemie presents a unique audio-visual event in Westmount Park.

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**ARTS & BOOKS
FROM AFRICA TO WESTMOUNT**
Laura Archer shows us the faces of refugees.

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Look on the **INTERNET**
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LOCAL NEWS

The federal by-election in Westmount — Ville Marie



The Westmount Dolphins ended another winning season on Monday at the Section A finals in Pointe Claire, finishing with a 10-1 record. 13-year-old James Sugden races to the finish line in the 50-metre butterfly event last week in Beauport.

Meet the candidates on Aug. 27

While the race heats up for the highly anticipated Westmount – Ville Marie federal by-election, local voters will have a chance to meet and question those whose names will be on the Sept. 8 ballot this coming Wednesday at Westmount High School.

As in all previous Meet the Candidates evenings held over the past 10 years, The Examiner is co-organizing the event with the Westmount Municipal Association.

The program will follow much the same format as in previous years. In a randomly selected speaking order, each candidate will be invited to introduce themselves and present their respective platforms. This will be followed by a question period, during which the public may address questions to one or more of the candidates. Then the candidates will give their closing statements in reverse speaking order.

The event will be moderated by Victor Drury. As the main organizer representing the

WMA, Stanley Baker has been in touch with the candidates and their agents, and so far all candidates are expected to attend. As of Monday's deadline for official registration, he said, the field consists of Guy Dufort (Conservative), Marc Garneau (Liberal), Claude William Genest (Green Party), Anne Lagacé Dowson (NDP), Charles Larivée (Bloc Québécois) and independents Régent Millette, David Sommer Rovins and Ronald Andrew Wattie.

Examiner editor Wayne Larsen said the selection of an adequate venue was not so easy this year, because the floor of Victoria Hall's main ballroom is being redone. "Normally, Victoria Hall is our venue of choice," he said. "It has a great staff and ideal facilities for our needs, but this time it happened to be out of the question."

"As soon as the City announced that Victoria Hall's main hall would be closed over the summer, I felt a twinge of uneasiness — because I knew there was a by-election coming and we would probably have to schedule

the Meet the Candidates evening at some point during the time Vic Hall as closed. That's exactly what happened, but Westmount High School will suit our purposes nicely."

He said the delay in announcing the meeting was the result of the organizers holding out for their first choice — Westmount High — even though other local venues were available. Unlike most other venues, the Ste. Catherine Street high school is both centrally located and offers plenty of parking space.

"We had to wait for English Montreal School Board staff to return from their summer vacations before we could get the final okay," Larsen said, adding that, just before they were forced to go with their Plan B, columnist Marilyn Vanderstaay was able to speak to WHS principal Michael Cristofaro, who readily agreed to work with the WMA and Examiner in presenting this important event.

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Week on the
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LOCAL NEWS

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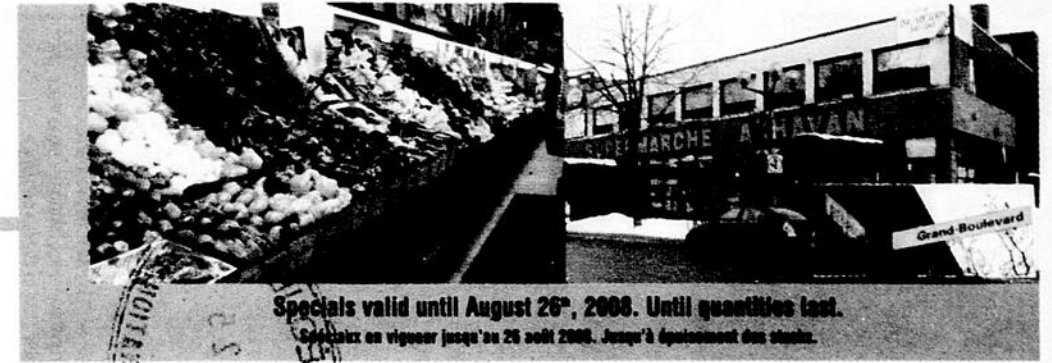
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LOCAL NEWS

Sports & Rec registration to be held at arena

Fiona O'Connor

As the summer winds down and we prepare for a new school year, the City of Westmount is ready with its new schedule of fall and winter activities.

Registration for these activities will be held next Wednesday, Aug. 27, and Thursday, Aug. 28 between 6 and 8 p.m. — but instead of taking place at Victoria Hall as usual, the two-day registration will be held at the Westmount arena, 4675 Ste. Catherine St. W.

The first day of registration is strictly reserved for the hockey and skating programs, with the sign-up for all other activities taking place Thursday.

The Sports, Recreation and Community Events Department offers a wide selection of courses and workshops for residents of all ages. Youth activities range from ballet to break-dance classes, acting to arts and crafts. Adults and seniors can also choose from a varied list of fitness, indoor sports and dance classes.

For those interested in less physical pursuits, the Westmount Library provides a number of reading programs, book club and lecture series options.

Adding to the diversity of choice are several new activities introduced this year.

"We have a lot of neat programs for younger kids," said Sports Coordinator Anitra Bostock. Among them is mom-and-tot dance class for mothers and their babies aged 2-12 months, and an Etiquette and Good Manners course aimed at children 8 and older. Of notable interest for adults is the six-part gardening seminar How Does Your Garden Grow? scheduled for the winter session.

Eco-friendly activities guide

The complete list of programmes for this fall and winter can be found in the latest edition of the Culture, Sports and Recreation Activities Guide. As part of a

growing effort to reduce the City's ecological footprint, an online version of the guide will soon be available in lieu of the current booklet format. With this transition already underway, all course descriptions and additional registration information can now be found at the City's website, www.westmount.org.

The City reminds residents planning to enroll next Wednesday or Thursday to anticipate some waiting time, as registration for all Sports and Recreation activities works on a first-come, first-served basis. In addition to two proofs of residency (recent utility bill and driver's license will do) required for all participants 18 and over, Bostock encourages people to come early, bringing "a chair, your patience, a cup of coffee and a book" to pass the time. Methods of payment are cash, Interac, credit card and cheque (made to the order of City of Westmount).

Meet the candidates on Aug. 27

Continued from page 1

Due to the strategic importance of this by-election, the campaign has attracted considerable attention from across the riding — which extends well into NDG to

the west and as far as St. Laurent Boul. to the east. As a result, organizers are expecting a larger crowd than usual, so those planning on attending are advised to arrive early.

"The results of this by-election could affect the decision of the party leaders on whether or not to hold a nation-wide election," said Baker. "That's why it's so important for people to get out and vote."

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We ask for your support on September 8!



Travel Spotlight

Sam Pelc
Vice President

Around the World and Back Again...

Clearly a universal truth is the awe and magic that the image of an "Around the World" journey inspires. The imagination runs wild as we envision distant places, exotic locations and intriguing cultures. I remember reading Jules Verne as a young boy, images racing, heart beating, seeing myself on my own 80 day adventure.

Today "Around the World" travel is readily available with numerous modes of transportation. Almost every cruise line features their "World Cruise" varying in itinerary and journey dates. With sailings varying from 80-110 days what a great way to break up the winter blues. Departures begin in January whisking passengers away from the grey winter doldrums to the turquoise blue seas of the Pacific, South America and Australia.

World Cruisers are a breed unto themselves. They are explorers, seeking to see the outer reaches of our planet with the ultimate luxury of unpacking only once. For years leaders in this market have been Cunard, Holland America and Crystal, but with the trend being so popular Princess, Regent and Silversea have all announced their recent world cruise itineraries, taking the experience from a more affordable level to the lap of luxury.

World cruises can also be sold in shorter segments, making the complete "Round the World" adventure an experience you can prolong over several years.

If you feel cruising is not for you, and 107 days is out of the question then get onboard for the newest trend in Around the World Private Jet expeditions. Once again Abercrombie & Kent has released an astounding array of jet expeditions that will transport 52 lucky guests on these magical journeys. The ultimate elegance in the air features club style seating, teak tables and five star dining. Private access at airports and unexpected moments imbued with the unique character of each destination define every Abercrombie & Kent Private Jet Journey. Select from 7 wonderful journeys in 2009 that range from 18 to 26 magical days. This is unquestionably the ultimate way to see the Nine World Wonders or the Desert Kingdoms and Natural Splendors of Africa. Lets be honest haven't you always wondered what exactly there is in Timbuktu? A&K makes the answer only a flight away!

If you don't believe me about the popularity of these trips, let the statistics speak for themselves, 70% of guest on world cruises book themselves for another world cruise within 3 years. Maybe they know something we don't???? Aren't you even slightly curious????

Sam Pelc has over 15 years of experience in the travel industry. As Vice-President of Superior Travel he has spent many years specializing in the luxury travel market.

A firm believer that we need to be seeking "Experiences of a Lifetime", Sam is happy to share his insights and travel experiences with numerous satisfied clients across North America. Recognized as a leader in the luxury travel market Sam continues to focus on memories and heart stopping moments. Sam can be reached at 514-277-8677.

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OPINION

A strong roster for Sept. 8

The nomination deadline has passed and the candidates are locked in. On Sept. 8, voters in the Westmount-Ville Marie riding will be asked to choose between eight people, some of whom are already well-known to anyone who has recently ventured outdoors. The big faces smiling down at us from every light standard and utility pole all convey the same message — "Never mind the others, VOTE FOR ME!"

One thing is certain. No matter what happens here on election day, no matter what happens across the country in the aftermath of these three by-elections, the overall calibre of the people on the ballot indicates that Westmount is guaranteed excellent representation in Ottawa in the foreseeable future.

Just look at who we have in the running. There's lawyer Guy Dufort, the witty and affable Tory; broadcaster and ardent environmentalist Claude William Genest supporting the Green cause; and broadcaster Anne Lagacé Dowson, whose NDP is mounting a fervent campaign in the hopes of maintaining the momentum from Tom Mulcair's recent victory in Outremont.

All three have been working hard every day, knocking on doors and shaking hands in a tireless effort to convince people against betting the farm on the big red Liberal machine driven by Marc Garneau, a national hero and role model running in what is considered one of the safest Liberal ridings. For their part, Garneau and his team are not taking a single vote for granted, and have kept up a full schedule of events.

And then there is Charles Larivée, from all accounts a bright young gentleman with good credentials, who hopes to see the Bloc flag



WESTMOUNT'S END-OF-SUMMER RITUAL

hoisted high over Westmount. He seems an excellent candidate for his party, but so far all we have seen of him is his poster, which bears the simple slogan Present! Naturally, this has inspired some barbed quips around the other campaign offices, mostly to the effect that, contrary to his name and slogan, he has neither

arrived nor been present in Westmount.

It's too early to offer any significant insight into independents Régent Millette, David Sommer Rovins and Ronald Andrew Wattie — all newcomers to the scene who emerged from the clearing dust of last Monday's nomination deadline.

As the campaign heats up, we will hear a lot more from most of these candidates — especially those representing the major parties — and will definitely learn more about them at next Wednesday's Meet the Candidates evening at Westmount High School.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Time for mainline federal candidates to answer questions!

To the editor:

The federal by-election to be held on Sept. 8 in the riding of Westmount-Ville Marie imposes important decisions for Anglophone, Allophone, and other Quebec minority voters who live in this essentially English speaking riding.

It is virtually impossible to form a majority government in Canada without winning 50 seats in Quebec. Therefore, all of the leading candidates contesting the by-election represent political parties that hold views tending to court nationalist Quebecers over committed Canadian loyalists.

Therein lays the dilemma for the voters of Westmount-Ville Marie.

Most of the eligible voters are part of the

one million minority Quebecers who live under the province's system of always denied, but open, state-sanctioned, discrimination. This prejudice is imposed through the abrogation of language, sign, and education rights, not to forget the squeezing of access to English language services.

It is quite evident that the public and stated positions of these candidates on the rights of minority Quebecers are of primary importance in the decision of choosing a candidate.

The question which these candidates for Parliament must answer clearly before the voting begins is: Are Quebec's discriminated-against minorities, as full cit-

izens of Canada, not entitled to live in Quebec with all the full and inherent rights of being Canadian?

If the answer is 'yes', then what are they going to pledge to do in order to rectify this untenable situation? If the answer is 'no', then why should we honour these candidates with our precious votes?

Is it not disingenuous that the federal government promotes national bilingualism and affirmative hiring programmes for French Canadians while Quebec is officially unilingual, French, and employs very few Anglophones, Allophones, and visible minorities?

Elections in Canada are definitely not simple contests. However, considering

that most federal parties recognize and voted for the 'Quebecois Nation', why, then, have they blatantly neglected the diminished status of Quebec's minorities, and is this not the perfect opportunity to address this serious omission?

Other national issues aside, these are the urgent questions facing the voters of Westmount-Ville Marie.

Silence on these subjects from the Liberals, Conservatives, and the NDP cannot be endorsed. The Bloc Québécois is exempted; we already know where they stand.

Allen E. Nutik
Redfern Avenue
Leader of Affiliation Quebec

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Newspaper Director: Nancy Macdonald
Advertising Consultants:
Harvey Aisenthal, Valérie Petit
Arleen Candiotti
Sales Assistant: Odette Galego

News director: Marc Lalonde
Editor: Wayne Larsen
larsenw@transcontinental.ca
Contributors:
Stanley Baker, Martin C. Barry,
Marylin Smith Carsley, Andy Dodge,
Ferg Gadzala, Jessica Murphy, Noah Sidel, Matthew
Sumidge, Robert N. Wilkins, Ted Wright.

Regional Manager: Louis Mercier
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How to speak to kids about uncomfortable subjects

Ten Years Ago
August 20, 1998

RESIDENTS REASSURED: "Representatives of about 20 upper Westmount properties gathered at City Hall Monday night for a consultation meeting on the proposed construction blasting at 9 Gordon Crescent, and most left with a sense of reassurance. What they got was a firm commitment from the contractor to keep the inconvenience to a minimum, plus a detailed analysis of the possible effects of blasting on their homes from independent blasting expert Louis Denoncourt, who was brought in by the City. 'He (Denoncourt) explained the mechanics of blasting, with the potential for damage,' said one neighbour who came out of the meeting much happier than when he arrived. 'I trusted him — I left with a sense that there was no point pursuing something that is not that risky.'"

Twenty-Five Years Ago
August 25, 1983:

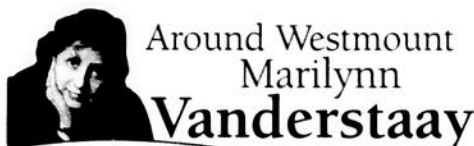
BIKERS BEWARE: "Westmount's MUC police handed out 846 tickets to bicyclists during June and July in a crackdown that is now becoming known outside the community. The number of tickets is only slightly less than half the number issued by the entire MUC force during the special island-wide campaign in May, when 1,948 were handed out. Local police sent so many cyclists to city hall for licenses this summer that the city ran out of license plates at one point and quickly had to order more."

Thirty-Five Years Ago
August 23, 1973:

ART THEFTS: "The three separate thefts of paintings reported in last week's Examiner from homes on Wood, Carleton and Westmount avenues are part of a wave of art thefts noted recently from various parts of Montreal island, it was learned this week. A fourth painting was reported stolen from 4862 Westmount avenue, where the thieves broke open a window. In all four cases, the works of art were cut from their frames and carried off."

Forty-Five Years Ago
August 23, 1963:

SLOGAN PAINTERS: "Two Montreal youths who went on a slogan-painting spree in Westmount face court here this morning charged with painting separatist slogans on a local mailbox and on the walls of three buildings, including Temple Emanu-El. Lawrence Poitras, attorney for the city of Westmount, referred to the vandalism as acts of cowardice committed against a sleeping city. "There is no question here of condemning individuals for their political ideas and beliefs," he said, "a courageous man preaches aloud his convictions. One who benefits from darkness to propagate his ideas is like a bandit and deserves to be punished."



Around Westmount
Marilynn Vanderstaay

Members and guests of The Rotary Club of Westmount learned about the uncomfortable but all-too-necessary topic of abuse and violence prevention for kids when guest speaker Allan Schulman dropped by a recent luncheon meeting.

Schulman, of the KidzSafe Foundation, explained that pedophiles always have a plan and know exactly what to do and say to trap a child to go with them. Using lines such as "My dog is missing... can you help me find him?" they target children they "like" and go after them. "These are tricky people, usually someone the child knows," said Schulman. "They don't look like pedophiles. They are friends and family who blend into the child's community. Eighty per cent of abusers are known to the child as a teacher, a youth club leader, a Sunday school teacher, or even an aunt or an uncle."

The aim of the Foundation is to remove the prey by talking to kids about what the predators say and do, and how they should respond. They have a video they show to kids in elementary schools. He also speaks to parents about how to talk to their children to prepare them, and what to look for.

"The more children know, the safer they will be," he said.

For more information about KidzSafe go to www.kidzsafe.org or phone Schulman at 514-702-4930.

Walk in support of Ovarian Cancer Canada

Westmount has lost several residents to ovarian cancer in the last few years. Here is a way to fight back at the disease that whispers. The Winners Walk of Hope is "Turning UP the Volume!" on ovarian cancer. You are invited to participate at the Winners Walk of Hope on Sunday Sept. 7 in Mount Royal Park (Smith House). Registration opens at 9 a.m. and the walk activities continue until noon.

Pre-register online at www.winner-swalkofhope.ca, or by phone: 1877413-7970, extension 232. You can also register in person the morning of the Walk. Smith House, Mount Royal Park is located midway between Beaver Lake and the Chalet, 1260 Remembrance Road.

Westmount High to host candidates evening

You probably already know about the Meet the Candidates Evening that will take place at Westmount High School next Wednesday, Aug. 27. What you might not know is that Principal Michael Cristofaro is the man who made that happen.

Demonstrating once again that Westmount High is still Westmount's public high school, Cristofaro made it possible for the organizers to have use of the auditorium for the event. With Victoria Hall still being refurbished and time to set the date and place running out, organizers breathed a sigh of relief when Cristofaro, on the first day he was back at work after the summer break, made the auditorium available to the community.

Thank you, Michael!

Respite home project presented to Rotary

Local Rotarians also heard a very well-thought out project to build a respite home for intellectually challenged children. Ian Moodie, president of the Taylor-Birks Foundation recently shared an ambitious plan to build the West Montreal Respite Home in 2009 on land they have secured a long term lease on in Beaconsfield.

"The home will provide children who need a safe place to stay for a few days while their parents receive a much needed break," said Moodie. "Children with intellectual and severe behavioural disabilities such as autism cannot be served by the vast majority of existing respite services on the island."

Past President Heather Borrelli was particularly moved by the project, brought the project to the attention of the membership earlier in the year. President Cynthia Campbell who understands all too well the challenges faced by parents of children with these kinds of issues, continued the enthusiasm when she stepped up to her position in June. "I see it as a real opportunity for the club to get involved in," she said.

For more information about the respite home go to www.taylor-birksfoundation.org or call Moodie at 514-933-4141.

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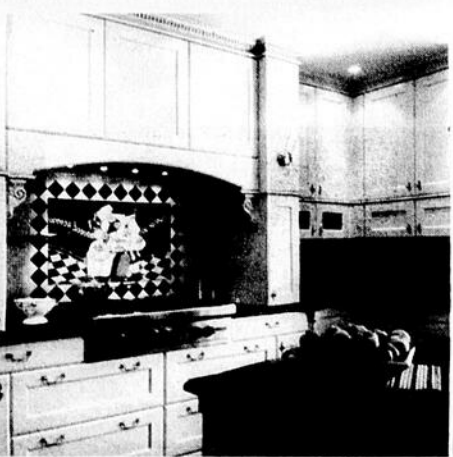
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FEATURE

The joys of local history

Robert N. Wilkins

Imagine that most mortals would have forgotten by now but, oddly enough, I never did. My chance (and now long ago) encounter with her was just too indelible to be disregarded by the passage of time. Do let me explain...

This rather curious tale began in the fall of 1972, when I worked as an enumerator in the October federal election. I lived in a very small apartment on the west side of Mountain Street in the city centre. As a struggling 25-year-old McGill University student, I knew that the extra money would come in handy in making ends meet.

What made the enumeration experience particularly intriguing for me was the simple fact that I drew up the voters' list for the very precinct in which I was living at the time. I went door-to-door with a woman who was probably 40 years my senior, and who represented the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada (oh, how I miss that compound noun!). Our area formed a perfect rectangle, with the always-popular Crescent Street at its centre. It was, moreover, truly a hodge-podge of various types of housing and people. As I recall, the enumeration task was carried out over several days and included return visits to domiciles at which we initially received no answer.

When we approached the door of one particular home located on the northeast corner of Crescent and de Maisonneuve, my partner paused. After a few moments, she informed me that the individual living there was a very elderly woman who had resided in the building since her childhood and that, consequently, she had singularly vivid memories of the immediate neighbourhood — going as far back as the late Victorian period!

Although I was studying education at McGill, history was my major during my undergraduate studies so, needless to say, I was elated at the possibility of learning first-hand what my district was like all those years ago. I believe this eclectic wonder is called 'oral history'.

Once at the portal in question, we were beckoned in for tea, an invitation I attribute to my associate's easy familiarity with the



The Ruddick home still stands at the corner of Crescent and de Maisonneuve — now converted into a bar-restaurant.

Photo: Robert N. Wilkins

aged woman, and definitely not my scruffy (as photos from the period so cruelly remind me) university looks. When I tactfully introduced myself to her, I learned that she was the widow of one Dr. William Wallace Ruddick, who had died only a few years earlier. She was clearly well-to-do and very refined, a quality which initially put me somewhat on edge in my free and rebellious student days. However, charming to the point of exaggeration, I was quickly put at ease.

An eyewitness to a bygone era

Mrs. Ruddick, a francophone by birth, was perfectly lucid and I quickly turned the conversation towards her earliest memories of the vicinity in which we then both lived. Ironically, the respective buildings which we inhabited (her for so long, me but for a few years) were back-to-back, separated only by a service lane.

For well over an hour, Dr. Ruddick's widow waxed lyrically about her childhood,

her adolescence, her falling in love with the good doctor, and most important from my viewpoint, the neighbourhood in which she lived which was, in fact, the only locality she had ever known in Montreal.

Measurably excited, I startled myself somewhat when I very assertively directed her recollections to the cricket pitch, which was once said to be on what is today Crescent Street.

"Oh, yes, my dear," she exclaimed fervently. "I remember that field, as well as the Lacrosse Grounds which ran up all the way to Sherbrooke Street. When I was very young, my father used to take me on Saturdays to see the various teams which competed on the two fields."

She then continued with her many remembrances without further prompting from her two now very attentive visitors. Interestingly, she retained a vivid memory of the construction in 1912 of both the Ritz Carlton Hotel and the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, both within a stone's throw of one another on Sherbrooke Street. As a matter of fact, Mrs. Ruddick even recalled visiting the Arts Association building on Phillips Square (the precursor of the MMFA).

The celebrated Victoria Skating Rink (long demolished) on Drummond Street was also the focus of some of her conversation. Constructed in 1864, it was said to be the largest skating rink any where in North America and the site of the first indoor ice hockey game ever played. She easily and enthusiastically revived youthful memories of being happily taken there by her family.

For well over an hour, our most hospitable interlocutor pieced together a compelling personal narrative of what life was like in the neighbourhood in the late Victorian, early Edwardian period. I was both delighted and fascinated with her many colourful and well-articulated anecdotes, made all the more appealing by just a hint of an accent while she spoke. As we left, I instinctively sensed how privileged I was to have had her share with us her invaluable recollections. Quite moved, I promised myself to write them down one day.

Today, Mrs. Ruddick's former home like many in that corner of our beautiful city, been converted into a bar-restaurant complex. As such, I think of her and her captivating chronicle when I occasionally dine in the very space in which I sat opposite her all those years ago!

• Robert N. Wilkins is a researcher and writer with the Quebec Family History Society, an anglophone genealogical association based in Pointe Claire, Quebec. He can be reached at montreal_1900@hotmail.com

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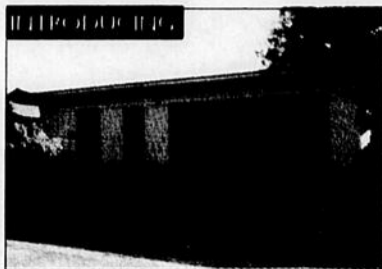
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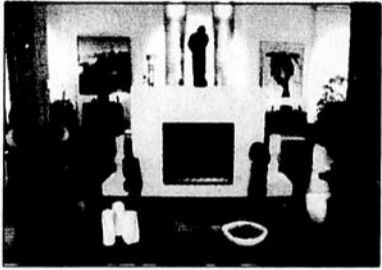
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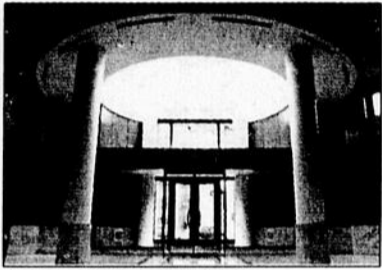
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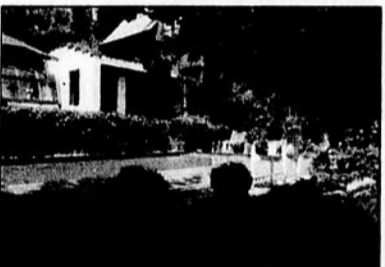
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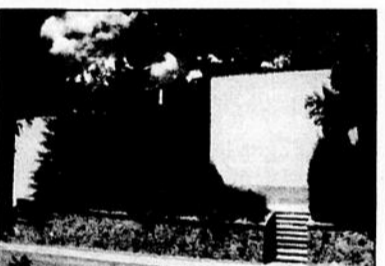
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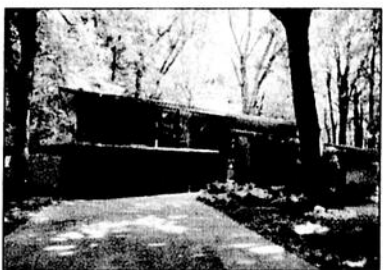
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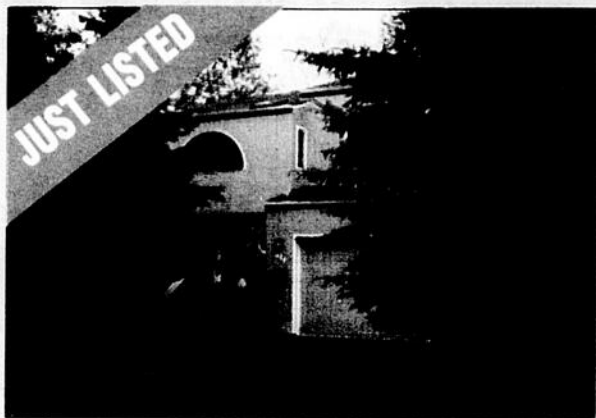
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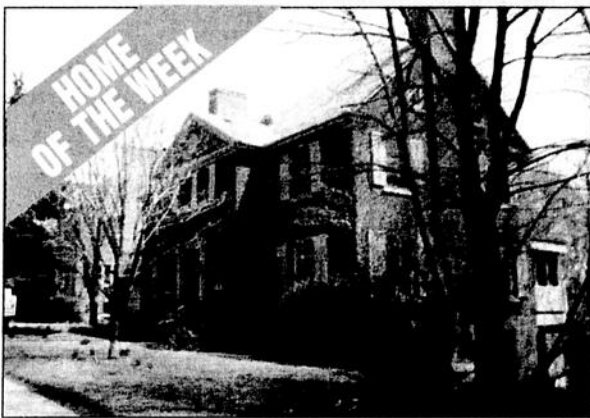
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ARTS & BOOKS

Creative kids look to the future

Kavul Sheikh

"How much do you make for a movie?" an off-camera voice inquired.

"Oh very cheap you know! Just about like, \$4 billion." The young actress fingered her feather boa with a pout. "They are so cheap!! They don't realize that I'm the best artist that there is. If it wasn't for me, there wouldn't be any movies, 'cause nobody will buy it."

The appalled ingénue in question was not Miley Cyrus or Dakota Fanning, but the future megastar of the year 2038. Her interview is just one of many excerpts that makes up Expo 2038, a world fair displayed at the McClure Gallery of the Visual Arts Center on Victoria Avenue.

Funded by the TD Bank Financial Group, the exhibition showcases the power of imagination. Children ranging from 6 to 12 from the Westhaven, Tyndale St. George and Laval Community Centers, along with participants of a public workshop held at McClure Gallery, demonstrated what type of world they envision 30 years from now.

Aside from the video montage that runs a loop of various children's interviews, the project consists of creations crafted by 2038's award-winning architects, engineers, and fashion designers. These include a robot visi-



One of the vibrant exhibits in the multi-media kids' show Expo 2038.

tor from the future accompanied by his faithful dog, a three-dimensional fashion show, and a 12- by 12-foot macro circuit display.

Heather McLaughlin, the Visual Arts Centre's youth department program director, explained that the youngsters were not

assigned roles but allowed to choose their own prospective professions.

"We have many outreach projects in the community, but we don't usually get the chance to showcase them in a gallery," she said. "What was different was that we were

able to get a curator and bring it all together in a show."

The curator in question was costume designer Genevieve Beauchamp, who has been teaching drawing and painting at the Visual Arts Centre since 1997. With youngsters divided into groups working on their respective pieces, McLaughlin credits Beauchamp's overarching vision for the harmony evoked through the final result.

According to Beauchamp, a major piece of the exhibition was sourced through the Visual Arts Center's outreach project with the Centre Jeunesse de Laval, found at the back of the gallery.

"It was made by 12 boys — boys who never realized that art can be a way to express themselves positively instead of what they know. It was a great experience for the teacher who did it because when they came to the vernissage on the opening day, it had a very positive effect on them."

Beauchamp fondly remembers one of the boys saying he was sure he would be bored with the experience beforehand but definitely was not by the end of it, thanking the organizers for the opportunity.

Expo 2038 remains on display at the McClure Gallery, 350 Victoria Ave., through Aug. 23. More information is available at www.visualartscentre.ca.



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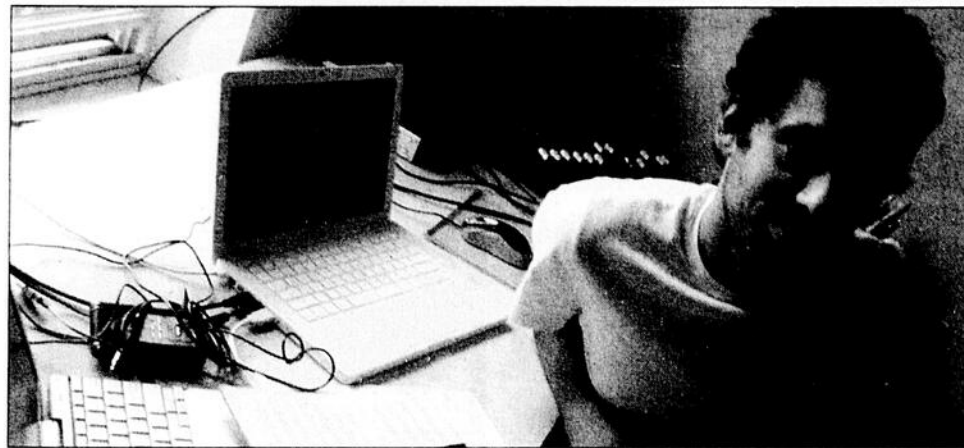
Shemie sets new musical stage in Westmount Park

Fiona O'Connor

Local musician and composer Ben Shemie returns to his roots this Sunday night, presenting his latest four-part work, 'Stages', live in the heart of Westmount Park.

The 28-year-old native Westmouter will be back in his old childhood stomping grounds, bringing with him a unique blend of electro-acoustic music and contemporary electronica performed against the backdrop of the park's natural environment.

"I wanted to work with the sound of the park itself," said Shemie at his home studio on the Plateau. Rather than competing with the ambient noise of the outdoor setting, both live and recorded natural sound is incorporated into the show. Though in essence a computer-generated production, Shemie's 'Stages' includes samples of instrumental music previously captured in the park, contributing to the diversity of sound sources he uses.



Musician Ben Shemie in his studio Photo: Fiona O'Connor

'Stages' promises to be a multi-dimensional sensory experience. Broadcast in eight-channel surround sound, Shemie's music will be accompanied by video projections from visual artist Paul Warne. Over the course of the approximately hour-long set, the rhythm and mood of both sound and image will progress in synch with the gradual fading of daylight to darkness.

Audience members are invited to bring chairs or blankets to enjoy the show. "It's casual," said Shemie. "You're encouraged to get up and walk around, get different perspectives. It's not a formal thing."

Though he has staged similar live performances in the past, this will be Shemie's first Westmount showcase.

Originally slated for presentation at the Summit Circle reservoir, logistical planning with the City over the past year proved Westmount Park a more feasible location.

Shemie acknowledges the personal significance of performing in this milieu: "I grew up right next to the park and spent more than half my life here, so I know it inside out. It's close to my heart."

Sunday night's electro-acoustic experience is free and Shemie encourages residents of all ages and musical persuasions to come and check it out. "I think anyone who comes will enjoy it," he said. "Just the fact that it will be outside — the experience of being there will trump whatever one's aesthetic tastes in music."

Shemie has but one concern for the success of the show: 'Stages' will only take place weather permitting.

'Stages' by Ben Shemie will be presented at 8 p.m. this Sunday, Aug. 24 in Westmount Park.

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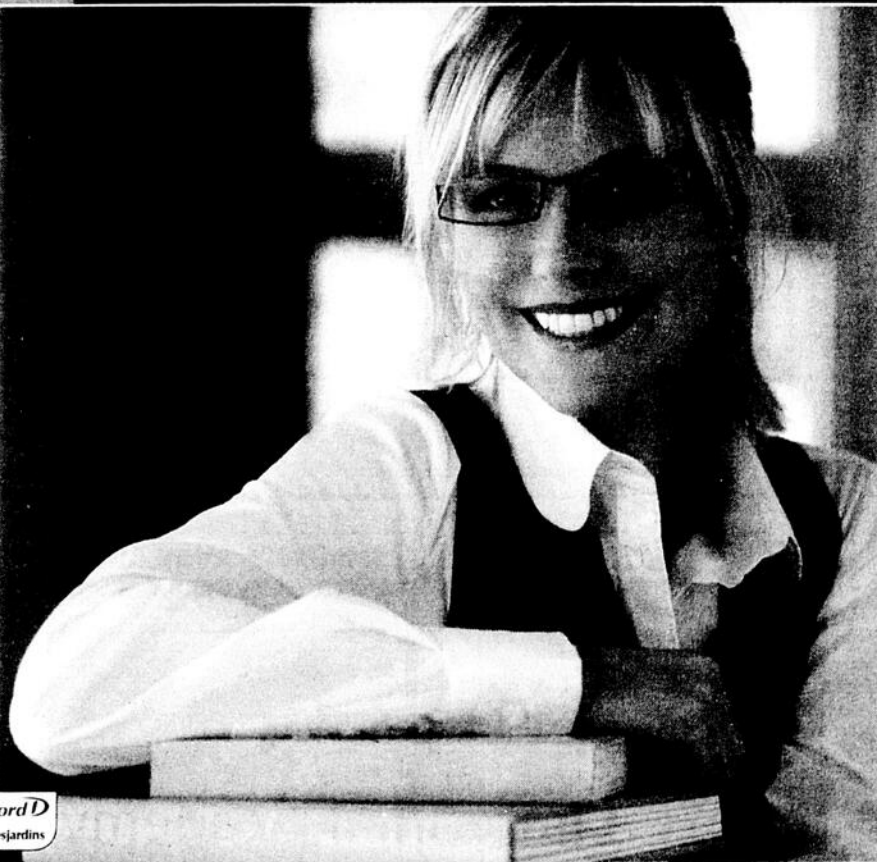
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Archer brings the African bush to Westmount

Julie Catherine Sulymko

Nestled in a St. Antoine Street loft, the studio is painted with beams of sunlight that shine on the canvases along the walls. Each one – haunting yet powerful – portrayed a face, a story and a glimpse of the life of an African refugee.

“I want people to see refugees as individual people, not as statistics that can be ignored,” says emerging artist Laura Archer.

Last weekend, Archer finally revealed the paintings that have been tucked away behind the walls of her Westmount studio. Through artwork, she will bring the African bush to Westmount in her debuting show, Facing Africa.

The unforgettable faces depicted on the canvases all stem from photographs taken by Archer in refugee camps where she worked with Médecins Sans Frontières, a humanitarian medical aid agency.

A nurse by profession, Archer provided care for 40,000 refugees split between two adjacent camps in Chad. This required her to strike a balance between managing a team of refugee community health workers and assisting the outpatient clinic with consultations, averaging 1,000 a week. At the time, Archer also spearheaded programs pertaining to sex and gender based violence as well as malnutrition.

In the neighbouring country of Central African Republic, Archer left the refugee camps and ventured further into the bush to find those in need of help in remote villages, many which had already been burnt down. Such initiatives required running daily mobile clinics which “were a great opportunity for basic community health education as well as for gathering data about the political situation,” said Archer.

She returned from Africa nearly one year ago and has been “processing her experience” through art ever since. According to Archer,



Artist Laura Archer with one of the works in her current show, Facing Africa.

Photo: Melanie Vallieres

her art is simple but varied. Some pieces are highly realistic, whereas others blend the modern and developing world through a pixelated representation of the refugees who have crossed her path. In all cases, she challenges the anonymity commonly associated with refugees by dedicating each canvas to one person, allowing them to take center stage.

Archer lined up her collection of 30 pieces and presented them to the public on Friday, Aug. 15 in a gala affair. It was followed by an open house over the weekend and, because of its overwhelming success, it has been extended. This week, from Aug. 19 to 21, her artwork will be on display between noon and 8 p.m. at 3035 St. Antoine St. W., near Atwater.

“Every individual I have painted has a story,” said Archer as she reflected on her art, “a story that deserves to be heard.” From nurse to artist, it is undeniable that Archer practices what she preaches as she gives a voice to the voiceless since she is, above all, a humanitarian.

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SPORTS

Dolphins wrap up a winning season

Diane Eros

The Wesmount Dolphins swim team showed their families and friends what they were made of last Saturday, Aug. 16 at the Section A finals in Pointe Claire.

Competing for the first time in the top division of the Association of Lakeshore Pools (ALPS), the team came in fifth overall out of 22 teams.

Oliver Sugden, a parent-volunteer, is proud of the team. "It was a very impressive showing, especially for their first time run at the Section A finals," said Sugden.

The team was strong and speedy as a whole this year, added Sugden. "As far as the finals are concerned, those that qualify are the fastest swimmers. Out of about 150 kids [in the club] we took 40 to the finals. Most teams only took 20 or so. That in itself is a great achievement."

One of the many highlights of the competition was 14-year-old Mark Ferguson's performance. He broke two ALPS all-time records and earned two first places in the 50-metre backstroke and 50-metre butterfly events.

Taylor Bond, one of the coaches, is also very proud of the relay teams. "They really stepped up to the plate, really performed," said Bond, "I was really impressed".

Team spirit is soaring

Bond added that the kids, whether they were competing or not, showed that they had a lot of team spirit. Many of the club mem-

bers who didn't qualify for the finals were cheering their friends on at poolside.

"Everybody just had such a good time; they made all sorts of new friends," Sugden said of the overall spirit at the finals. "The older kids were really good with the younger ones. It's amazing!"

While the athletes' dedication and team spirit is a big part of the Dolphins' success this summer, Sugden also attributes the club's achievements to this year's new team of head-coaches, brother and sister Taylor and Alison Bond.

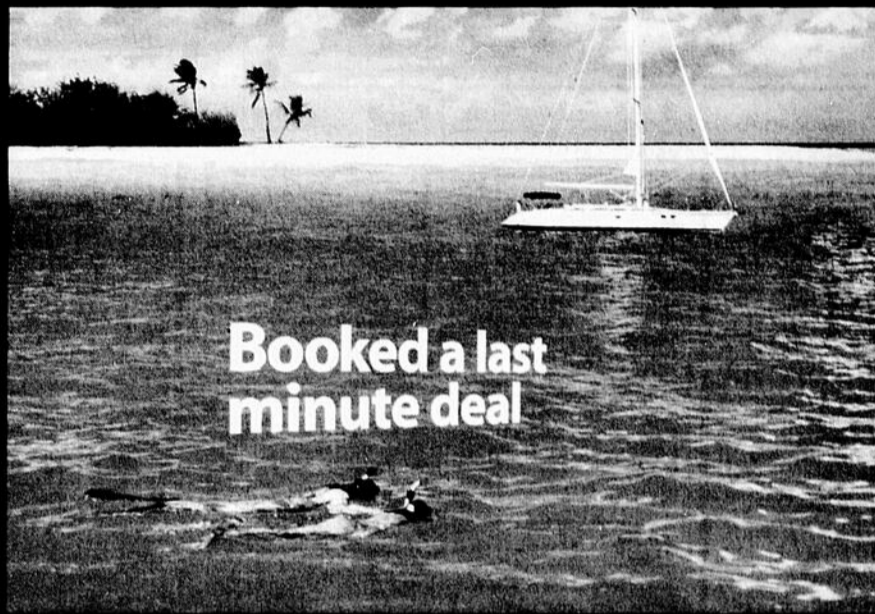
"They have been wonderful with the kids," said Sugden. "They come from a very competitive swimming family, and they know exactly what they're doing. They also have a good team of coaches in training."

With the Summer Olympics in the minds of all the swimmers, it was a special treat for the kids to compete in a pool with touch pads and electronic counting boards, just like the ones they've been seeing on television.

"They're all watching the swimmers in Beijing," said Sugden. "They're calculating that they can take a shot at the 2020 Olympics."

Bond also agrees that the Olympics are having an impact on the swimmers' enthusiasm and dedication. "All 155 kids were talking about the Olympics [at practice] on Monday. They've really gotten into the hype of it," said Bond. They also take cues from watching professional swimmers on screen. "They'll tell me, 'You told me not to do so-and-so, and I noticed that Michael Phelps doesn't do it either,'" said the coach. "It's really fun for us coaches to hear that kind of enthusiasm."

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NANNY: experienced wanted, schedule tbd, toddler 2 years (514)931-2218

695 Employment wanted

WANTED: part-time job as a house maid. Courteous and polite. Monday to Saturday. (514)652-8553

705 Courses

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NEW LISTING

\$549,000

MLS# 1472365

102 IRVINE, WESTMOUNT

Warmth | Charm | Architectural details | Spacious | Bright
4+2 bdrms | 1+1 bath | Skylight | Marble fireplace | Garden
Lovely family home. A joy to discover.



NEW PRICE

\$339,000

MLS# 1457178

308 LE ROYER, # 102, OLD MONTREAL

Elegant | Private entrance | Hardwood floors | Private patio
Central A/C | 11' Ceilings | A well-kept secret.



NEW LISTING

\$189,000

MLS# 1472421

425 STE HÉLÈNE, # 405, OLD MONTREAL

\$319,000

3470 SIMPSON, # 401, GOLDEN SQUARE MILE

Corner unit | 1 Bedroom | Balcony | Pool | 24-hour security.



777 Gosford

OLD MONTREAL

Great location | Urban design |
Rooftop pool and terrace | Central A/C | Metro

PH 702 NEW LISTING \$430,000 MLS# 1470877

Penthouse | Quiet side | 2 Bedrooms | 2 Baths | Balcony
2 Garage spaces | Quartz counters | Stainless steel appliances.

PH 708 \$459,000 MLS# 1396802

Penthouse | Fabulous view | 2 Bedrooms | 2 Full baths | Balcony
X-large garage | Locker | Excellent soundproofing.

602 \$249,000 MLS# 1422417

1 Bedroom | Open concept | Hardwood floors | Granite counters
Low condo fees | Immediate occupancy.



630 WILLIAM, # 727, OLD MONTREAL

\$215,000



1250 PINE AVE. WEST, #660, DOWNTOWN

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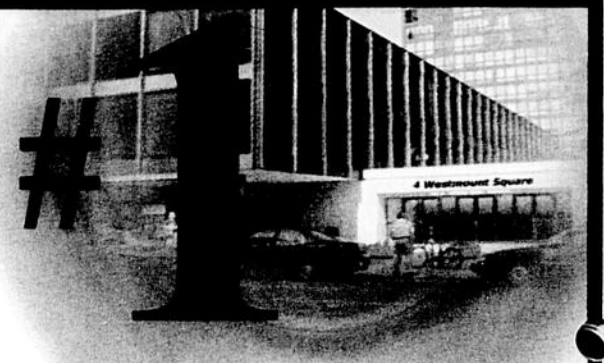
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WESTMOUNT ADJ.



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Five star value at **\$369,000.** Abbott Ave.



Westmount Park views. Lansdowne Ave.



Large 4 bedroom upper. Victoria Ave.

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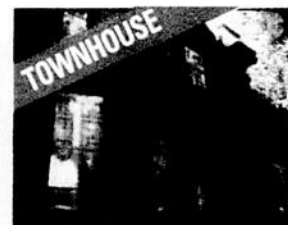
MAGNIFICENT WATERFRONT Panoramic views! 5 bdrms, 5 baths, English gardens, private beach. **\$1,199,000.**



EXCEPTIONAL GEORGIAN ESTATE 3 manicured acres, 6 bedrooms, pool, 3+ car garage. **\$595,000.**



CHARMING 42 ACRE RETREAT, 5 bedroom manor, pool, orchard, and farmhouse. **\$789,000.**



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WESTMOUNT Elegant family home, cross hall LVR/DNR, eat-in kit., hardwood, leaded windows, fireplaces, skylights, master suite, fin. bsmt. Quiet, near private schools, park & tennis. **\$1,398,000.**

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