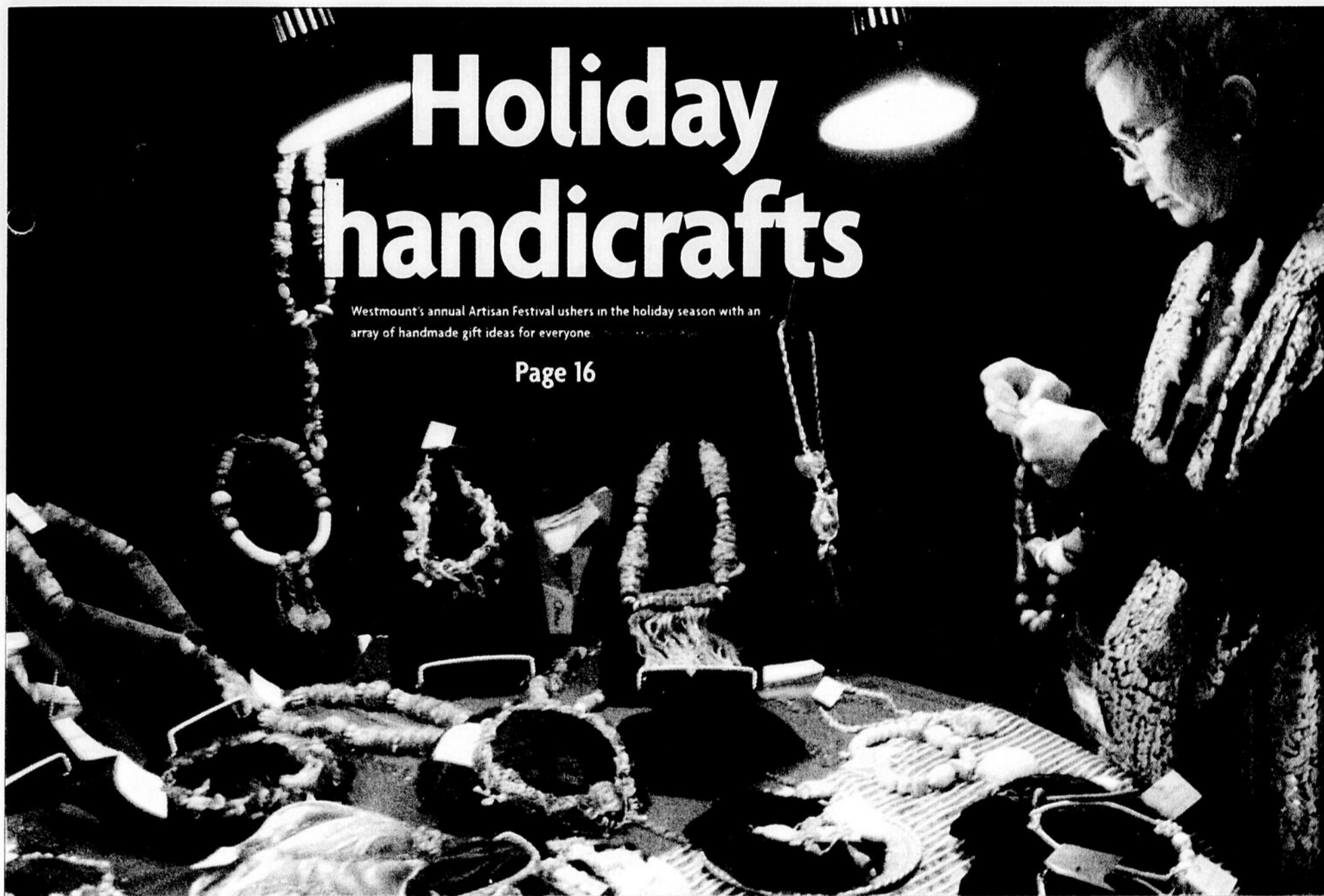




Holiday handicrafts

Westmount's annual Artisan Festival ushers in the holiday season with an array of handmade gift ideas for everyone.

Page 16



Commuter train noise cut not sufficient: WTAG

> Martin C. Barry

According to the results of a phone survey conducted over the last few months by the Westmount Train Action Group (WTAG) among lower Westmount residents, some have detected no change while others found there has been a slight reduction in vibrations and noise since nearby CP Rail tracks underwent improvement.

However, not all of the rail welding planned as part of the improvement program was completed, as the group had been led to believe during many meetings over the past few years with the Agence Métropolitaine de Transport (AMT), the regional transit

authority, said a WTAG spokesman.

At a meeting this past summer, "we were informed that only 40 per cent of the rails were actually welded with butt-welding," he said. "We were led to believe that 100 per cent of the rails would be butt-welded."

But welding on only 90 strip sections of track has so far been completed.

At a Nov. 3 meeting with CP officials, WTAG members were informed that an estimated 60 per cent of the butt-welding was completed.

"We were told from CP Rail that it was due to monetary constraints. We were won-

dering what happened to the money, because we got \$1.7 million to actually do this work. Supposedly they've run out of it." The money had been obtained from the provincial government.

Based on an estimation they said they received from the AMT, the WTAG had also been expecting to obtain a reduction in vibrations and noise ranging from 60 to 80 per cent after the work was completed. However, at the moment they are concluding that the reduction actually amounts to about 15 per cent.



Continued on page 8

ENVIRONNEMENT
ELECTRONIQUE

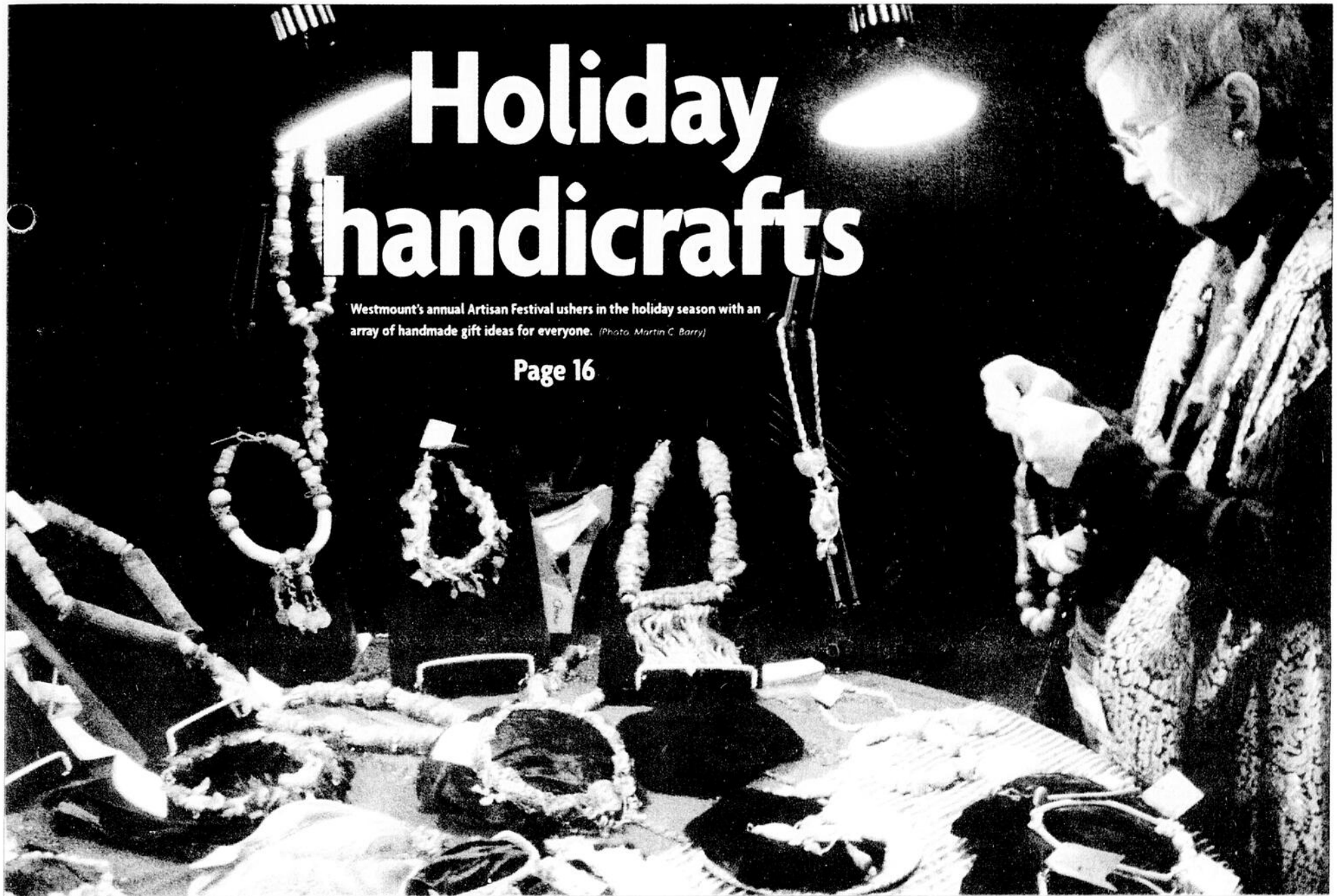
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Holiday handicrafts

Westmount's annual Artisan Festival ushers in the holiday season with an array of handmade gift ideas for everyone. (Photo: Martin C. Barry)

Page 16

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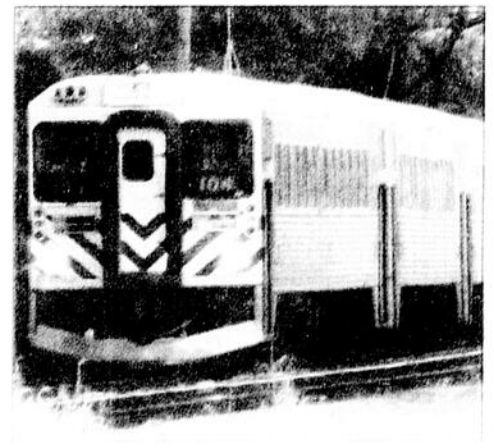
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Continued on page 8

ENVIRONNEMENT
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Selwyn splits hairs for charity



Education Beat

Noah SIDEL

Kilbride, Mike Kane and Jean-Pierre Trudeau—also raised enough to qualify for a clip.

In addition to putting their heads on the chopping block, Charron and Kounadis collected the donations from Senior School students in just a few days.

"It's difficult getting the pledges in," Charron said. "Students really need to be motivated, and because the lower levels of the school did not take part, this year's total represents a much larger donation per student."

Selwyn honours Goldbloom

Selwyn House honoured former Gazette publisher Michael Goldbloom as part of its annual Founder's Day celebrations, held at the school yesterday.

Goldbloom received the Speirs Medal, which is the school's highest honour, due to his work on the Making Room for the Future capital campaign over the last six years.

Having graduated from Selwyn in 1969, Goldbloom remains close to the school.

"During the last six years, Michael contributed great vision, energy and wise counsel to the Selwyn board in successfully and significantly moving the school forward," said Selwyn representative Richard Wills.

Also as part of its Founder's Day activities, the school dedicated a new dining hall to the memory of former student Christopher Coristine, who died in a 1961 boating accident that has since been immortalized in the book and movie 'White Squall'.

Every hair that hit the floor of the Macaulay gym late last month helped save a life, and with pledges still coming in, the second annual Selwyn House "Shave 2 Save" campaign will probably top last year's total of \$16,823.

The Shave 2 Save campaign is organized by Mix 96 in conjunction with the Quebec Cancer Foundation as part of Cancer Awareness Month. Over the past six years, the campaign has raised \$2.1 million in Montreal.

The fundraising activities at Selwyn House began with a "free dress" day and a pizza sale, with pizzas donated by John Kyres, father of Grade 11 student Theo Kyres and owner of Little Caesar's Pizza.

This year, eight volunteers, including Senior School Director Sean O'Donnell, went under the shears to raise money for cancer research. In order to qualify for the total trim, each volunteer had to raise a minimum of \$2,000 in pledges.

Teachers Mark Watson and Bill Bedard, Grade 11 students Tim Charron and Gerald Kounadis, and all three members of the Selwyn House tech department—Scott

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Community loses pediatrician John Elder

John Munro Elder, husband, father, grandfather and pediatrician to many generations of young Montrealers, died early Tuesday, Nov. 14 at the Royal Victoria Hospital after a lengthy battle with dementia, compounded by heart and respiratory illness. He was 82.

He is survived by his wife, Janet, and children Matthew (Jane Baker), Katharine (James Deacon) and Stephen (Josée Maurice), son-in-law David Powell and eight grandchildren. His daughter Judith died in 2002.

Dr. Elder represented the third generation of physicians in the family, all of whom were educated at McGill University, and prominent staff members of the university's teaching hospitals. He served in the Royal Canadian Artillery in northwest Europe during the World War II.

After the war, he returned to McGill, entering the medical school in 1947. He married Janet Dixon on Dec. 27, 1949 and graduated from McGill in 1951. After specializing in pediatrics, he entered private practice in 1956.

Among his many positions and achievements, Dr. Elder was medical director of the Mackay Centre, founding director of the Montreal Children's Hospital Adolescent Clinic, director of the Montreal General Hospital newborn nursery, a board member of Camp Amy Molson and a staff member of the Children's Service Centre. He is a past-president of the Canadian Paediatric Society. His dedication to youth extended to the educational community, and he served for several years as a commissioner for the Westmount Protestant School Board.

Dr. Elder retired in 1997, but remained beloved by his former patients, some of whom would greet him on his frequent walks in his neighbourhood. His non-professional interests over the years included reading, golf, sailing and, above all, tending to the trees and shrubs at his beloved property at Lake Manitu. He was a dinnertime raconteur who loved the company of all age groups, even the youngest — not surprising, given his chosen profession.

The funeral took place Friday, Nov. 17. In lieu of flowers, donations to Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation or charities connected with the above-mentioned organizations would be most appreciated.

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TO FIND OUT HOW...

New residents welcomed at Westmount's annual fall flower show

> Martin C. Barry

Westmount's mayor and councillors held a reception at Victoria Hall on Nov. 8 to observe one of the City's cherished traditions — the recognition of volunteers and special greetings extended to new residents. They also opened the 74th annual Fall Flower Show.

"Tonight's one of our many traditions in Westmount," said Mayor Karin Marks, opening the evening and noting it was an occasion for newcomers to meet other Westmounters. It was also an opportunity to honour residents who get involved in community organizations, on committees and at public events.

For newcomers to the city, Marks pointed out some of the unique characteristics of Westmount. "There really is such a strong sense of community here," she said. "People are friendly, they make it obvious they like living here and they get involved ... For those of you who are new to the community, I hope you'll have the experience that will convince you that is what's special about us."

She also pointed out that Westmount has become multicultural and no longer fits the stereotype image it had decades ago. "We're very lucky to have people from all walks of life, to have people from different nationalities, to have different linguistic groups represented here," she said.

"It is no longer the kind of community that it was maybe 60 or 70 years ago — the bastion of English Quebec. If you walk around the community, you'll hear Spanish, you'll hear Chinese, you'll hear Italian and you'll hear French. Perhaps not quite as frequently as English, but almost. And that, too, is part of the beauty of Westmount."

She said Westmount succeeds in combin-



City councillors Tom Thompson and Kathleen Duncan greet residents at the annual fall flower show.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

ing the best of urban and suburban life. "We are very fortunate to be an urban suburb. We have the benefits of suburbia — the quietness of a nice community and also all of the benefits of living really in an urban centre."

The plants in the flower show were all grown over the past summer using only biological means of pest control. The display was set up for the exhibition by the greenhouse personnel Hélène Bazinet, Lauren Nurse and

Sébastien Raymond, with the assistance of other Public Works Department staff.

The recently-renovated greenhouse was furnished with tall foliage plants, including palm trees, datura, birds of paradise and banana trees in the waterfall area. New plants in the fish pond greenhouse include staghorn ferns, palms and anthuriums. There are also 10 different kinds of chrysanthemum — including the spectacular 'Zizzle' and 'Kiko' varieties — for a total of 1,200 pots.

Normandeau losing role as Agglom dispute ruler

> Don Wedge

An end to Municipal Affairs Minister Nathalie Normandeau's role as supra-mairesse — relieving her as decision-maker on budget and legal disputes between the mega-mayors and their suburbs — is being proposed by Jean Charest's Liberal government.

It is part of Bill 55, dealing with many municipal matters, which Normandeau herself tabled in the National Assembly last Thursday.

If passed, the minister would no longer have the duty of resolving legal difficulties between partners in the Aggloms, one of the most contentious creations of the Charest government.

As well as problems on Montreal Island, the minister has had to determine many tribulations within the Quebec City and South Shore Aggloms.

In future, the responsibility would go to the Quebec Municipal Commission (QMC), an administrative tribunal.

"I am not surprised to see the amendment. The appeal-to-the-minister process was one of the weakest parts of the demerger

legislation," Westmount MNA Jacques Chagnon said. "It was predictable that every dispute would end on her desk. The QMC will be better organized to deal with them."

Westmount's Karin Marks and other suburban mayors were not sharing that view this week. "I would agree if the demerger laws had been well conceived," said Marks. "But they are very unfair — drafted to meet political needs rather than for good management."

"Therefore, we needed to seek help from our MNAs to ensure the minister appreciated the issues. This resource is being taken away from us."

Despite the bill being in preparation for some months, no mention of relieving the minister of her decision-making role was made when Normandeau met with suburban mayors and MNAs a week before the bill's unveiling in parliament.

Under the demerger laws, the minister was called on to rule only on issues covered by local by-laws. The suburbs appealed many times in the early months of the Agglom, notably over the \$105 million overcharging of budget costs by Montreal.

As part of their presentation to the minister, the mayors suggested a formal arbitration solution to many other disputes that the minister refuses to consider.

These include Montreal charging the Agglom — and therefore attracting subsidies from the suburbs — for questionable projects.

For example, suburban mayors have taken the Tremblay-Zampino administration to task for charging street lighting to the Agglom and justifying doing so because there was some social housing on the street.

The mayors wanted Minister Normandeau to create an arbitration panel set up under the Civic Code to rule on such matters.

Before the meeting, Normandeau finally dealt with one of the issues that has been outstanding for six months — the overcharging of the 2006 Agglom tax. She ordered that Montreal must rectify it by a credit on next year's individual tax bills.

On other matters the mayors raised, the minister and her staff said that there would not be a response for some weeks.



Westmount vous informe...

Westmount Page



http://westmount.org
information : 989-5200



Vol. 8 / 22

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ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

La galerie du Victoria Hall

La galerie du Victoria Hall est fière de présenter les œuvres de l'artiste Oleg Dergachov. L'exposition aura lieu du 24 novembre au 16 décembre. Info : 514 989-5226.

Cliniques de vaccination contre l'influenza

Le CLSC Métro offre gratuitement le vaccin contre l'influenza aux résidents admissibles de son territoire. La clinique aura lieu le vendredi 24 novembre au Victoria Hall, de 9 h à 15 h. De plus cette année, une clinique de vaccination pour les enfants âgés de 6 à 23 mois sera offerte la même journée de 13 h à 18 h. Info : CLSC Métro au 514 934-0354.



BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Les vendredis du cinéma

On the Road with Mary réalisé par Monique LeBlanc

La prochaine rencontre des vendredis du cinéma est prévue pour le vendredi 24 novembre à 19 h. Tourné à quelques mois de l'élection présidentielle de 2004, *On the Road with Mary* trace le saisissant portrait d'une Amérique sous l'emprise de la peur. Il est réservé aux 13 ans et plus. Info : 514 989-5386.

Conférences de 14 heures

La Toscane à vélo

La Toscane, cette belle région de l'Italie, a été explorée en vélo par Denis Briard. Venez découvrir des trésors étrusques, des cités médiévales, de l'art de la Renaissance ainsi qu'une incroyable joie de vivre.

Joignez-vous à nous le mercredi 29 novembre à 14 h pour un diaporama de cette belle aventure. Veuillez-vous inscrire préalablement au comptoir de prêt. Info : 514 989-5386.

DATES À RETENIR

Le 27 novembre - 20 h

Séance du Conseil
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Les familles démunies qui désirent recevoir un panier de nourriture doivent s'inscrire auprès du bureau d'admission des services sociaux du CLSC Métro en composant le 934-0354, poste 348 ou 352. Les paniers seront distribués durant la semaine du 18 décembre.



TRAVAUX PUBLICS

Floralies d'automne

Venez visiter les Floralies d'automne. Le Conservatoire est ouvert de 10 h à 20 h sur semaine et de 10 h à 17 h la fin de semaine et les jours fériés.

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Police, situations non-urgentes	514 280-2222
Sécurité publique	514 989-5222
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Site web - bibliothèque	www.westlib.org
Urgence	9-1-1



COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Gallery at Victoria Hall

The Gallery at Victoria Hall is pleased to present the works of Oleg Dergachov. The exhibition will run from November 24 to December 16. Info: 514 989-5226.

Flu vaccine clinics in Westmount

The CLSC Métro is offering free Influenza vaccines for eligible residents in its territory. The clinic will take place on Friday, November 24 at Victoria Hall from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and this year a vaccination clinic for babies aged 6 to 23 months will also be held the same day from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Info: CLSC Métro at 514 934-0354.



LIBRARY

Film Fridays

On the Road with Mary directed by Monique LeBlanc

Our next Film Fridays will be shown on Friday, November 24 at 7 p.m. in the Westmount room. *On the Road with Mary*, filmed a few months before the 2004 presidential election is a gripping view of an America living in fear. (Age: 13+) Info: 514 989-5386.

2 O'clock Series

La Toscane à vélo

Join us on Wednesday, November 29 at 2 p.m. for a slide presentation by cyclist and world traveller Denis Briard as he explores Tuscany, a beautiful region of Italy known for its medieval cities, fabulous art and breath-taking scenery. Please register for this event at the circulation desk. Info: 514 989-5386.



PUBLIC SECURITY

Annual Food Drive

Anyone wishing to contribute to Public Security's annual food drive may do so by depositing non-perishable food items at any Westmount municipal building or Centre Greene (1090 Greene Avenue). Cash donations and new toys in original packaging are also welcome. Any help will

DATEBOOK

November 27 - 8 p.m.
Council meeting
City Hall

be greatly appreciated. Please contact Community Relations Officer James Novak at 514 989-5468 or jnovak@westmount.org.

Needy Westmount families who would like to receive food baskets should contact the CLSC Métro Social Services Department at 514 934-0354, ext. 348 or 352. Baskets are distributed the week of December 18.



PUBLIC WORKS

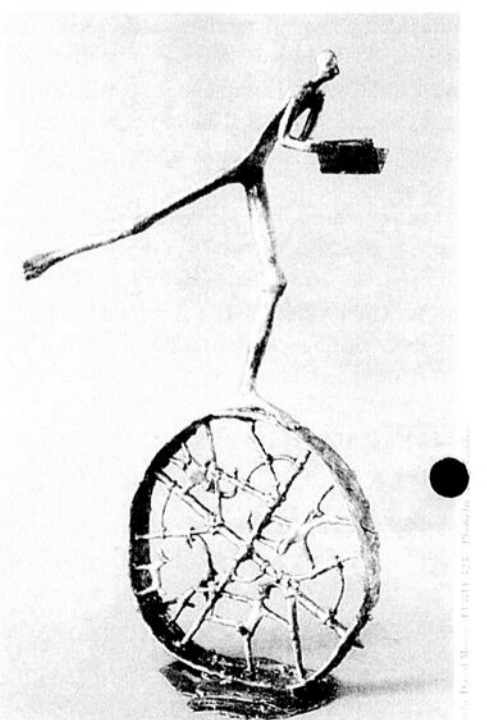
Fall Flower Show

The Fall Flower Show is open to the public. Conservatory hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekends and holidays.

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Public Works	514 989-5311
Sports and Recreation (Arena-Pool)	514 989-5353
Victoria Hall Community Centre	514 989-5226
Westmount Public Library	514 989-5300
Web Site, Library	www.westlib.org
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Oleg Dergachov

Hollinger fundraiser fights malaria in Africa

> Stanley Baker

More than 200 people crowded into at the HollingerCollins Gallery on Sherbrooke Street on Nov. 8 for a vin-fromage and vernissage to raise funds for SpreadTheNet.org, an organization that purchases bed nets to protect African children against malaria.

Désirée McGraw and Heidi Hollinger organized the event in conjunction with the Westmount family co-op, a local group of parents who meet up once or twice a week while their young children play together.

McGraw, a senior advisor on foreign policy and humanitarian aid in the Martin government, got the idea to hold the event when, as a new mother, she joined the playgroup this fall as chair the charity committee.

Teamed up with her friend and celebrity photographer Hollinger to pull the entire event together in just over two weeks. Other parents in the playgroup volunteered their time and baked goods to help minimize costs and maximize proceeds.

Among the speakers were Belinda Stronach and Rick Mercer (co-founders of



Host Heidi Hollinger chats with Mia Farrow at the Nov. 8 fundraising event in Westmount.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

Spread the Net) as well as Montreal Mayor Gerald Tremblay, Jeffrey Sachs and Mia Farrow (whose personal photos of a recent trip to Darfur were on display).

The event was held on the eve of the Montreal Millennium Promise conference 2006, which took place the following day at the Palais de congrès. Former US President Bill Clinton was among the keynote speakers. This was the first of several annual conferences to be held in Montreal aimed at meeting the UN Millennium Development Goals to eradicate extreme

poverty in the world by 2025. Malaria claims more than 1.3 million lives a year. In Africa, it's the largest single cause of death among children under the age of 5 of age. When it does not quite kill, it has a repulsive efficiency to stunt growth and damage brains. Because it also targets pregnant women, it often kills mothers and orphans the children. To imagine just part of it, visualize seven Boeing 747s – the biggest plane in the sky – full of children, crashing every day. Yet with the proper, inexpensive tools – such as household insecticides and treated bed nets – malaria is a mostly preventable disease. Bed nets represent a simple but effective solution. Each bed net is coated with insecticide and provides a physical barrier to mosquitoes – so it saves children from being bitten while they sleep at night. Each net costs \$10 and can cover up to 5 children. The event "netted" over \$15,000.00 – enough funds to protect up to 75,000 children from malaria-causing mosquito bites.

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www.westmountexaminer.com The Westmount Examiner Thursday, November 23, 2006 5

The spirit of '76



Commentary

Wayne
LARSEN
larsenw@transcontinental.ca

Last week we were inundated with reminders that it has been 30 years since the Parti Québécois went from being a fringe group of perceived radicals to the ruling government of Quebec.

"Take a valium," Terry Mosher's much-celebrated advice to Anglo Quebecers at the time, was not heeded by many of those who saw his Gazette cartoon. Instead of heading for the medicine cabinet, they reached for the phone and called their real estate agent.

Highway 401 never looked so good to so many in November of 1976, and since then Montreal has suffered—quickly degenerating from Canada's largest commercial and cultural centre to what can best be described as a perpetual underdog.

Memories of that fateful night in 1976 are rife with panic sweeping through the Anglo community. Suddenly all the rules had changed. That sense of security known as Ottawa was in real danger of being cut off. Some believed the Maple Leaf would be outlawed, that speaking English in public would be a punishable offence, and other Orwellian concepts that now seem downright silly.

Even René Lévesque—once the supreme symbol of separatist malevolence—is now remembered as a fairly lovable rascal who managed to ruffle a few Anglo feathers but did no real harm to those who decided to remain in the province.

Here in Westmount, the very heart of Quebec's Anglo community, there was at first little evidence of worry. The front page of the Nov. 18, 1976 *Examiner*, for example, was devoted to the election victory of new Liberal MNA George Springate, and the only hint of apprehension—or lack of such thereof—was illustrated in a small item on page six describing the regular Monday evening bingo game at Victoria Hall, which went ahead as scheduled despite the election. At one point, a man poked his head into the smoke-filled room and announced, "The Parti Québécois is winning the election!" The only response to this grim news was a player who shouted "Bingo!" and, as the story ends, "All eyes turned back to their cards and a new game started."

And who said keeping a stiff upper lip was just an old Westmount stereotype?

Three decades later, many of us who heeded Mr. Mosher's advice and opted to stay find it hard to see what all the fuss was about.

MAYOR TREMBLAY CONTEMPLATES ANOTHER NAME CHANGE



LETTERS to the editor

Theatres need funding to survive

To the editor:

I would be the first to applaud the wonderful news that Dawson College is going to have its much-deserved theatre.

My question to MP Lucienne Robillard is this: What happens to all our theatre graduates soon after their training? I can answer this question myself. They leave Montreal.

Two independent theatre companies have folded very recently through lack of financial support. I am holding my own with great pride, having given huge opportunities to young professional artists from our educational programmes here, in all areas of their expertise in 10 major productions since the company was first created in the year 2000. We have played to enthusiastic and supportive audiences, but for how much longer I wonder?

Everyone who knows about running a theatre company knows that it is impossible to manage the budget based solely on ticket sales.

Yes, we need to educate our young artists in the best possible way in the best possible space, but we also need funding from the government in order that Anglo theatre companies like mine can continue if we are indeed going to "benefit the whole community" and encourage our young professional graduates to remain here.

Gabrielle Soskin

Artistic director, Persephone Productions
Somerville Avenue

Westmount Park claims don't hold up

To the editor:

I wish reply to Peter Weldon's claim "Mr. Deegan's presentation dealt with the chronic difficulties of maintaining the fields, the merits of artificial surface, safety and economic considerations" (Letters, Nov. 9).

Chronic difficulties in maintaining the fields?

Perhaps less returfing, less watering, less frequent aggressive mowing with heavy machines, less fencing off, less quasi-neurotic concern and misplaced TCL should allow the grass to root deeply in the earth and the chance to grow sturdy and to thrive.

Proof of the validity of the above statement resides in the soccer field at the Westmount High School Athletic Grounds. Hemmed in between the school, the dog run, a restroom, a children's playground, two tennis courts, two vegetable gardens, seniors from nearby residences taking the air, joggers jogging, walkers and pets (who don't like the dog run) socializing with other owners and pets, daily several baseball and soccer games and heavy public use of the field as a short cut to and from work place a stress on the grass that the manicured fields of Westmount Park have never been subjected to. And the grass on the Athletic Grounds has always been robust and thriving in spite of all the above and comparative neglect by the City.

The merits of artificial turf? Zero. Just the illusion of the real thing. Its demerits would make this letter too long.

Safety? What safety?

Economic considerations? The City would save a ton if only it would turn off the lights in the Public Library and the floodlights on its countless empty tennis courts at night.

Improve the quality of the playing fields for children?

I would ask our director of Sports and Recreation whether it is of any importance or concern to him that impressionable children should be given the message to value and love nature in all forms in times when nature is being relentlessly abused, mercilessly plundered and destroyed worldwide?

I believe the majority of Westmount residents are appalled, shocked and unbelieving that this idea to denaturalize and kill healthy green fields in a park devoted to the preservation of nature could even be considered by the City as to propose its adoption. Not only residents living near the Park object to this utterly absurd, outrageous and contrary-to-nature-reason-and-common-sense plan.

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OLD NEWS from the archives
1935-2006

Five Years Ago
November 22, 2001

DECENTRALIZATION IS KEY: Newly-elected megacity councillor Karin Marks says she has no plans to bring the struggle against Bill 170 to Montreal City Hall. Following a hectic week that saw the swearing-in of the new City of Montreal's 105-member council, the appointment of the executive committee, followed by the tabling of the budget, Marks said in an interview that she sees decentralization of the megacity as one of the top priorities now. 'There's not much that can be done in council to reverse Bill 170,' said Marks. 'Council has no jurisdiction over Bill 170. Actively working against it is something that can be done outside of council. The only thing that can be done in council that I can work towards that aim is to really push towards decentralization,' she said. 'Because, of course, the more things we have that are decentralized, when we get an opportunity to get our own community back the easier it will be to do so.' During the megacity election campaign, Marks and the two other independent candidates ran on a promise that they would continue the struggle against Westmount's forced merger. The independents were endorsed by Westmount Mayor Peter Trent, who has said numerous times that he doesn't believe in the viability of the megacity. Marks insists she was not elected to Montreal city council to obstruct proceedings, even though she says she doesn't believe in the megacity, either. 'We're not looking to destroy other parts of Montreal,' she said. 'That would be highly irresponsible when there are issues that relate to the Plateau Mont Royal, Montreal North, Villeray,' she said.

Ten Years Ago
November 21, 1996

SOFT SOVEREIGNIST: "It was the wrong crowd at the wrong time. Daniel Turp, an advisor to the Bloc Quebecois, got a rough ride from a largely federalist audience at a panel discussion Sunday titled 'Understanding the PQ.' The only real applause to resonate in the main sanctuary of Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom was reserved for Joan Fraser, former editor-in-chief of The Gazette. Fraser had questioned the integrity of Quebec separatists who view Canada's borders as easily divisible while believing that Quebec can never be divided. Turp, a soft sovereignist who professes to belong to the René Lévesque school of sovereignty-association, confessed to agreeing with many of the points Fraser made in her presentation to close to 200 members of the Emanu-El-Beth congregation."

Twenty Years Ago
November 20, 1986

NEW SPORTS COMPLEX: "Dawson College is planning to build a sports complex on the former Mother House property it now occupies on Sherbrooke street, between Wood and Atwater avenues. The college has been authorized by the ministry of education to proceed with plans for the so-called third facility, necessitated by an anticipated increase in student population to 7,000 by the time the Mother House quarters are ready for occupation in September, 1988. According to Fred Harris, Dawson's director of facilities, a building of some four storeys is anticipated, to run along de Maisonneuve boulevard."

Normandeau asks the wrong question



Civic Alert

Don WEDGE

When you voted to demerge, did you expect there would be such an undemocratic set up as the Agglom? Did you expect to be denied an effective vote on half your municipal tax? Or subsidize Montreal facilities you or your family hardly know exist, let alone actually use? Do you understand why your taxes subsidize the glittering new developments along the Lachine Canal?

These are just some of the problems created by Jean Charest's Liberal government and for which they have provided no justification. Political expediency is a curse, not an answer.

The great lack of understanding in Quebec City was epitomized by Nathalie Normandeau, the municipal affairs minister, when she came to Montreal to meet with the demerger mayors who are trying to make sense of the municipal structure which her government created and he blindly defends.

"Did your citizens expect things to be as they were before the mergers?" she asked them. What an incredibly out-of-touch question!

I am sending her the YouTube video. She will see many promises by Jean Charest and Roch Collette, the Liberal municipal spokesman of the day. They talk demerger, not a partial effort.

Why should citizens not expect things to be as they were? Just as the PQ could not give a comprehensive justification for the forced annexations, the Charest Liberals have not elaborated on their reasons for breaking the promises allowing demergers.

By asking that question, Minister Normandeau shows she does not know the full story and is in the wrong place.

Presentation released

Details are slowly emerging about the meeting Normandeau had with the suburban mayors and local MNAs in her downtown office two weeks ago. At the time, both the minister and the mayors discouraged publicity.

The suburban mayors assumed that Normandeau or her staff would very likely be briefing Mega-mayor Tremblay on any proposals they made. They hoped to allow the

Continued from LETTERS, page 6

Everyone, everywhere, who values nature is affronted and affected by the proposal. What would visitors from abroad think of Westmount which prides itself on "providing 13 parks of every size and shape that nestle in the City's one-and-a-half square miles. One of the joys of living in Westmount is the proximity each of us has to an attractive and inviting green space." (Promised in writing by the City manager a couple of years ago.)

The park would not only lose considerable amounts of the oxygen that its grass produces in sunlight, earthworms/insects, birds and squirrels which feed on them will avoid the dead surface. I appeal to our new mayor for whom the majority of us voted, to kindly listen at least to the birds' silent opinion and to

minister a little time to reflect on their suggestions before being swamped by the big city's lobbyists and spin doctors.

The mayors will make their presentation publicly available this week. But we should be partners in building a better Montreal, not little children who have to hide their thoughts from big bullies.

Internet directions

Westmount's city website continues to develop, and so do many across Quebec and, indeed, among municipalities around the world. It is making it easier to document a council's work.

Most sites are following the same kind of development path — usually general and legal information, registration for courses and events and, eventually, payment of tax and other bills.

But the access to information that Google and YouTube have brought must lead to questions on the route municipalities are taking. There is something better in the labs just about to roll out — so are cities following the right yellow-brick road?

The digital Emerald City is constantly being rebuilt.

Charest exposed

The power of seeing and hearing Jean Charest's commitments as near as your home computer is very strong, as can be seen from the home-made video now located on YouTube. I suspect such clips will be an increasing part of advocacy and a key factor in future debates and elections.

How will Charest overcome his broken commitments when they are so visible? They are there for all to see on YouTube. Unfortunately, the site's address system is very difficult — particularly when meeting the restrictions of a newspaper's column width.

Several of last week's readers had difficulty in finding the Charest video because of the complicated website address, which is www.youtube.com/watch?v=zTH4bT00H40. A simpler method to locate it might be to go to www.apsb.ca, the site of the St. Bruno demerger fighters. Scroll down to "Voir video" and it links to the YouTube site.

The video was made by Claude Durocher, husband of Ginette Durocher, who have throughout been leading opponents of both PQ and Liberal versions of the forced mergers.

It includes two Radio Canada newscasts

let nature remain nature in our small, much-loved and fragile Westmount Park.

May I also suggest to our mayor to have the park lamp-posts repainted (promised in writing by the City manager a couple of years ago); three posts near the gazebo that have arisen more than foot off ground due to frost action are leaning dangerously, threatening to topple any day, could be properly secured into the ground; also if the mysteriously decapitated one in the same area replaced, the squirrel-chewed garbage cans replaced with animal proof ones, the rats eliminated, the trees and bushes along the bike path pruned for obvious safety reasons, the repaired surface on the historic horizontal willow roughened or sculpted to resemble the bark for aesthetics and to discourage graffiti and, last but

with long reports on the anti-merger and demerger efforts of 2000, 2001 and 2003, plus clips of Charest from those years. There is also some home movie, made by Claude Durocher, of his wife and Charest speaking at the Friday lunchtime rally outside the Hydro-Quebec building in May, 2001.

Civic Studies

Blue Note "When renaming a street after Robert Bourassa, it should apply only to the middle of the road" — West Island musician and former municipal candidate Ricky Blue.

Budget Likely 2007 tax rates and budgets will be known next Wednesday (Nov. 29) morning when the mega-mayor reveals all. This will include the operating and capital budgets of the Agglom and the centre city, as well as allocations to the boroughs. Then between Friday and Thursday, Dec. 14, there will be 18 public "study" meetings. Budgets and taxes will be formalized at special council meetings downtown on Friday, Dec. 15. And to showcase how this Tremblay-Zampino administration listens, chances are that there will not be one substantive change — in word or number — from the proposals deposited on Nov. 29!

May-time NDG businessman George Bardosh is leading a last-minute fund-raising effort to support the campaign of Elizabeth May, the new Green Party leader, in Monday's London North by-election. Bardosh, a long-term environment activist — he was a former Treasurer of STOP — is collecting donations and seeking volunteers for "envelope stuffing." Like lots of environmentalists, he wants a strong voice in Parliament to denounce the Harper government's renunciation of Canada's Kyoto commitments. As a bonus, Bardosh — a financial consultant — promises "advice about how much you can save on your Federal income tax."

Authors Though in his first term, Montreal West mayor Campbell Stuart, a downtown lawyer, was principal author of the presentation the suburban mayors made this month to Municipal Affairs Minister Nathalie Normandeau. Several other mayors added to it to create the final version. "A lot of midnight oil was burnt and it was a great team effort," said their chairperson, Westmount's Karin Marks. One of their requests to the minister: funds for specialist help when making similar presentations to counter Gerald Tremblay's battery of taxpayer-funded lobbyists at City Hall.

Continued on page 8

not least: replace the rotting concrete paths with gravel and the ponderous, unsightly concrete barriers surrounding many trees and flower beds be replaced with organic material such as railway sleepers. The economy resulting from switching off the powerful lights that flood Westmount's numerous empty tennis courts and switching off the lights in an empty Westmount Public Library could well pay for these improvements.

I sincerely trust that under Mayor Karin Marks creatively inspired leadership, City Hall will constantly seek to improve Westmount's parks and never even think to allow dead plastic on its living, oxygenating fields.

Stephen Chin
Sherbrooke Street

Continued from W.T.A.G. page 1

"Just listening to a lot of people's reactions and going around the neighbourhood and physically listening to the trains going by, it still makes an awful lot of noise," said the spokesman. "You still get the clickety-clack. It depends where you're situated."

According to the WTAG, residents on Prospect Street are best-positioned to judge the results of the track improvements because their homes are parallel to the rail line. Wherever the welding has been done, the results are more apparent where the rail line passes in front of nearby houses.

The WTAG has also been trying to get the AMT to reduce the speed of its trains as they

pass along a section that runs parallel to a densely-populated area from Vendôme to Atwater avenues. But the group has been unable to obtain action, after being told that the problem was a responsibility of CP Rail, the tracks' owner.

"We were led to believe that this was the problem of CP Rail — reducing the train — but it's actually not. It's a decision of AMT, and then AMT in turn talks to CP Rail and asks if it's feasible."

However, the WTAG has received some positive response to a request that track crossover switches, producing intense vibrations and noise near homes on Abbott, Irvine, Lewis and Blenheim avenues, be re-

located. While the WTAG has learned that the locations themselves cannot be changed, CP has suggested that the switches, which are 40 years old, be replaced with more up-to-date equipment.

Continued from CIVIC ALERT, page 7

Singles The Metro store is no longer double-bagging groceries at the check-out unless patrons request it. That's a step in the right direction. We have arrived at the point where stores should not offer bags at all unless customers request one. The Premiere Moisson Boulangerie on Monkland has adopted that policy. There are too many plastic bags in use needlessly.

Doubles The Robert N. Wilkins, whose letter in The Gazette recalled the 1987 renaming of Dorchester Blvd and the procedure in other cities, is the historian and *Examiner* contributor — not the other Robert Wilkins, who was Westmount's City Clerk at the time.

Testa Council marked the retirement of Public Safety Sgt. Mario Testa after 26 years' service.

Roofs The city's presentation on roofs

attracted a sold-out attendance last month. The many questioners were looking for advice on roofing problems, rather than seeking any legislative changes. "People really want to take care of their homes," reported a correspondent.

Parking There are union moves downtown to align parking inspectors with the police. As Montreal would like to acquire the suburbs' meter revenues, the union might get its wish. Will Montreal balk at the salary inflation that would follow?

Idling Emulating Westmount with its concern for automobile pollution, Montreal has begun its first campaign against Idling Engines. Eco-quartiers and community groups are issuing Billets de courtoisie to motorists found with engines running unnecessarily (also an early feature of Westmount's first anti-idling laws). Montreal will also produce bumper stickers proclaiming "Je ne rous pas? J'éteins!" sponsored by Gaz Metro.

• Community activist Don Wedge can be reached at alert@web.net. His columns are archived at www.westmountexaminer.com, go to Opinion.

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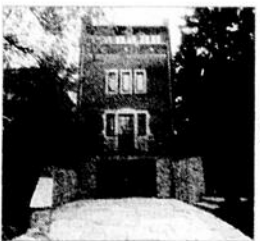
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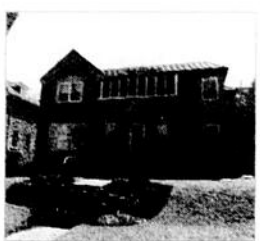
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A new theatre for Dawson College



MNA

Jacques CHAGNON

al years now, and I personally met with the directors of the College on several occasions to discuss it. Finally, last May, I gave the good news to the Director General, Mr. Filion. The work of federal Member of Parliament Lucienne Robillard on this project must be recognized, for she also played an important role in its realization.

In all, the announcement brought together Karin Marks, the Mayor of Westmount, Lucienne Robillard, Michael Fortier, who represented the Federal Government, Premier Jean Charest, who represented the Quebec government, and myself. The occasion was a much more pleasant one compared to when we last visited Dawson last September, the day after the sad and morbid day when the gunman terrorized the College. It was not lost on any of us that the climate at the College was once again friendly and serene. To sum up, this theatre will be an important addition to the cultural institutions of the Montreal Anglophone community.

On another note, last Monday I accepted to run again as the Liberal candidate for the riding of Westmount-St. Louis. For a sixth time, I will humbly face the voters. I would like to say that it has been a great honour to represent nearly 60,000 citizens for more than 21 years at the National Assembly. I have always strived to carry out my duties with dignity and openness in order to better serve our community. I must thank the members of our riding association for having placed their trust in me once again. Very soon, it will be up to all of our citizens to pass their own judgment.

• Jacques Chagnon is the Liberal MNA for Westmount—St. Louis.

The Dawson College community was thrilled to hear Premier Jean Charest announce the (already started) construction of a \$10 million, 192-seat Elizabethan theatre, which will be used mainly by the students of the College's Theatre program.

There are four colleges in Quebec that give this program, two in French—Saint-Macinthe College and Lionel-Groulx College in Sainte-Thérèse, and two in English—John Abbot and, now, Dawson.

Since 1973, Dawson College has been renting the Dome Theatre in St. Henri, as a place for its students to practice, but from September 2007 on, they will be using the entrance on Atwater Street to Dawson's new facilities. With this project, we'll see the all of the College's courses brought under one roof.

Financing for this new construction will come through an agreement between the Quebec government, the federal government and the College itself, along with the money saved by ending the lease for the Dome Theatre. It is a project that has been close to the hearts of the College's directors for sever-

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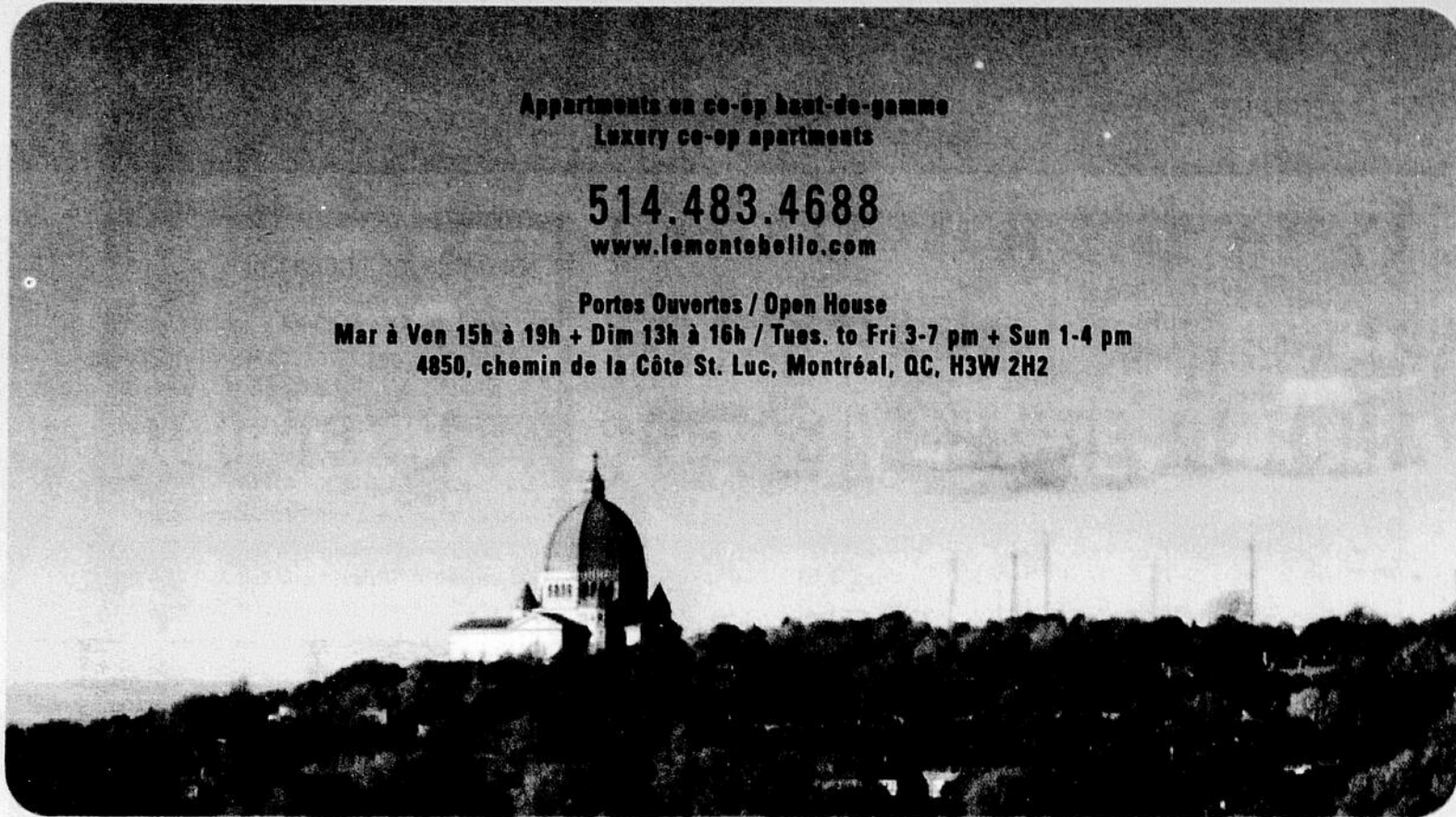
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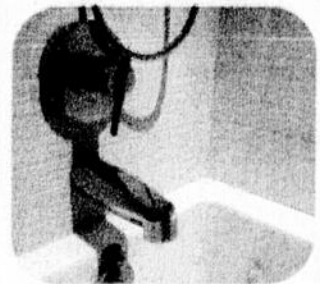
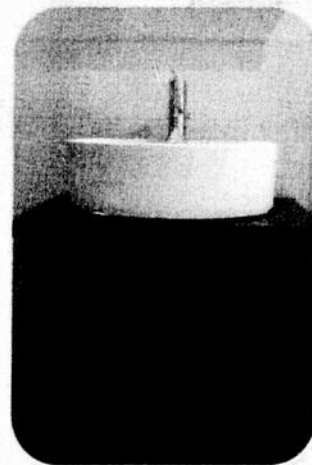
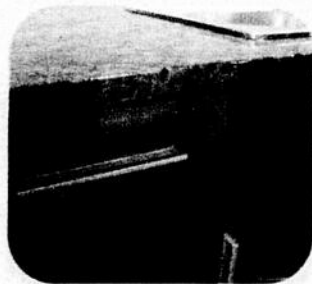
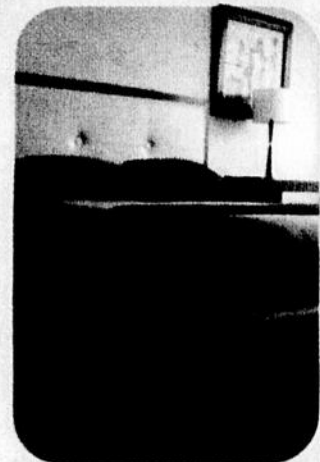
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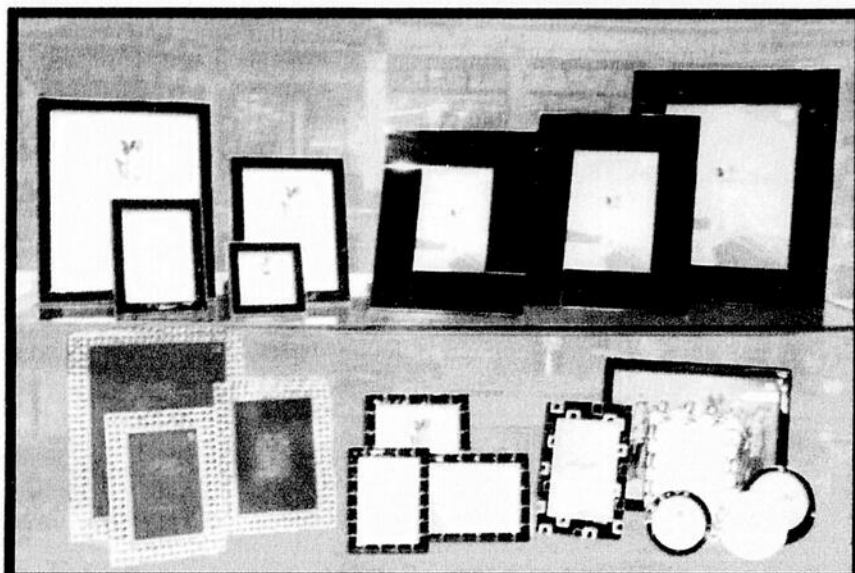
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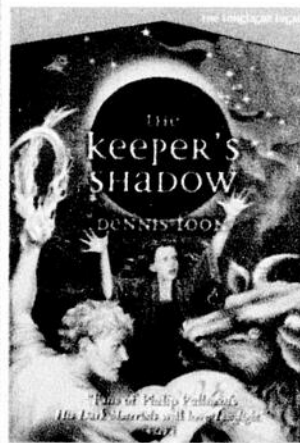
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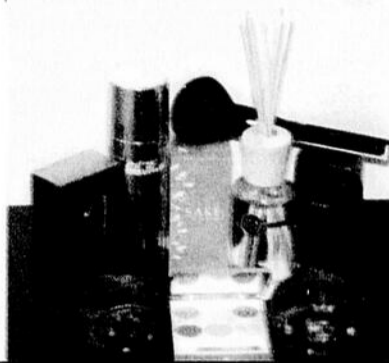
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Celebrating Peace Week at the Y



Around Westmount

Marilynn VANDERSTAY

The theme was peaceful families within the community, as preschoolers at the Westmount YMCA celebrated Peace Week, Nov. 20 to 24 with a hands-on project. Each of the 55 to 60 children was given space on a ceramic tile on which their teach-

ers helped them put their hand prints and family photos.

"This event could be one of the most important things that we celebrate this year as our school thrives on a safe and loving environment and promotes friendship, openness and caring as the basis for the healthy emotional growth of all children," said Melissa Proietti, preschool programs coordinator.

Proietti's mother is the principal at St. Paul's elementary school in Beaconsfield, where a student was one of the victims of a devastating tragedy recently. While the event itself will never be discussed with the children, the Y dedicated the project to the victims and the other lives that were touched by the tragedy.

Once the project has been completed, photos will be sent to the school along with a sympathy card signed by parents of the preschoolers. The tiles will also be exhibited on the mezzanine at the Y, 4585 Sherbrooke Street West.

Painting Westmount High

Members of the Rotary Club of Westmount got together at Westmount High School last weekend to complete their project to repaint the school they initiated earlier this year.

Accompanied by principal Claude Dansereau, vice-principal Linda Souka and EMSB commissioner Ginette Sauv -Frankel, Rotarians spent the day tediously painting the more than 50 classroom and other doors with an eclectic assortment of colours donated by Hogg Hardware.

The work was completed just in time for the annual open house that will be held at the school, 4350 St. Catherine St. W., next Thursday, Nov. 30 from 7 to 9:30 p.m. At that time the community is invited to come and see the school with its fresh new face. This will also be an opportunity for interested parents to come and learn about the school.

For more information phone 514-933-2701 or go to www.emsb.qc.ca/westmount

Knitters host tea for Dans la Rue

The Place Kensington knitters celebrated a year of hard work knitting and piecing together this month with a tea and reception for Father Emmett 'Pops' Johns, whose downtown charity that ministers to street kids has been the recipient of over 300 hand-knit blankets plus hats and scarves, capes and shawls and hoodies, even dog sweaters.

This year founding member Miriam Berger shared with the participants an anatomy of a blanket from the purchase of the acrylic yarn to presenting it to Dans la Rue. She explained how the knitters get together to knit with a purpose, creating uniform but different 15-inch squares that will later be matched up during a lively time of opinion and tea, and crocheted together and trimmed by volunteer extraordinaire Joan Shannon.

After Dans la Rue receives the bags filled with the winter friendly garments, they are distributed over the winter to help keep the kids warm.

As for the knitters, after 'Pops' takes away the fruit of their labour, they return to their weekly schedule of knitting, anticipating next year's designs and enjoying each other's company.

Fundraiser Keeps the Children Warm

Rocio Lozano is organizing fundraiser: Keep the Children Warm and Discovery Toys, educational toy fundraiser to benefit the children of the inner city on Thursday, Nov. 30 at Centre Greene, 1090 Greene Ave. from 5 to 9 p.m. Tickets are \$35, which includes the toy raffle, wine and appetizers. Call Rocio at 514-935-8283 (rocio_lzn@yahoo.com). Anyone interested in helping with this new initiative is welcome.

Christmas bazaar at the Manoir

Residents of the Manoir Westmount will hold their annual bazaar and bake sale from 12 to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 29.

Throughout the year, the Manoir Westmount handicrafts group of residents and several volunteers led by Ginny Thomas meet every Tuesday to work on seasonal crafts projects—knitted baby sets, toys and dolls, hat/scarf/and mitt sets, and much, much more, all of it to be sold at the annual sale. The baked goods are supplied by Manoir staff, volunteers and family and friends of residents.

There will also be a plant table thanks to donations by Westmount Florists and Fletcher Metro, as well as a raffle with items donated by Pharmaprix, Visibilite, 5th Avenue Jewelry and the SAQ.

Proceeds go to various Montreal charities chosen by Manoir residents. Last year, it was with great pride that the group was able to donate close to \$5,000.

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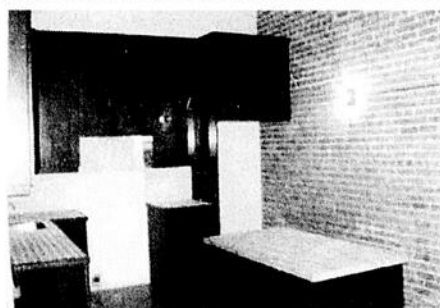
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Artists rally to support MAB and Retina Institute

> **Marilynn Vanderstay**

It was an evening of art, conversation and celebration recently at the Art+Vision vernissage and sale that said thank you to the Montreal Association for the Blind in the most tangible way with a gala fundraiser cocktail event that raised over \$20,000.

The halls and clinic rooms of the Montreal Retina Institute were crowded with professionals, business associates and friends of the Institute and the Montreal Association of the Blind, who gathered together last month to celebrate the new facilities for the Institute at 4120 St. Catherine St. and to raise funds for the MAB.

Organizing chair Angela Chen spent six months organizing the event that featured 29 sighted, blind and visually impaired artists who donated 50 per cent of the sales to the MAB. The unique artwork that covered the walls of the Institute included works by Westmount artists Sara Peck Colby, Jane Desjardins, Pierre Desjardins, Susan Pepler, Graeme Ross, Catherine Bates and Tristan Tondino.

While the event was focused around the art, the raison d'être was an opportunity for the Montreal Retina Institute to launch its new facilities and to thank the MAB for its continued partnership in assisting clients of the Institute.

"The Montreal Retina Institute is dedicat-

ed to the prevention and treatment of potentially blinding diseases such as diabetic retinopathy, macular degeneration, traumatic eye injuries, hereditary retinal dystrophies, infections, macular holes, and retinal detachments," said medical director John Chen. "We decided that the MAB should be the beneficiary of this fundraising event because their mission complements well with the goal of our Institute that of the visual well-being of our patients. When we have a patient we cannot help we refer them to the MAB, where their professionals assist them in learning to live with their new challenges."

The MAB is a private non-profit organization that has been providing comprehensive rehabilitation programs and services to visually challenged individuals of all ages and backgrounds since 1908. The proceeds from the event went to the MAB's Early Intervention Program, whose goal is to help provide visually impaired and blind children from birth to kindergarten and their families with a stimulating home and rehabilitation environment so they will ultimately be able to integrate into regular schools and other activities in their communities.

"The Montreal Retina Institute and the MAB forged a partnership to deal with vision issues on either end of the age spectrum," said Catherine Boyle, executive director of the

MAB. "In addition to raising the much welcomed funds, this event also raised very important awareness about potentially blinding diseases to a graying population."

The Montreal Retina Institute was formerly on Union Street, and relocated in Westmount at the end of 2005. It is a private vision clinic that hosts six ophthalmologists. In addition to the clinics the Institute is expanding and will soon include an optical centre on the main floor in addition to its full service clinics. For more information about the Montreal Retina Institute phone 514-285-8866. For more information about the

MAB phone 514-489-8201.

The MAB is located at 7000 Sherbrooke St. W in NDG.

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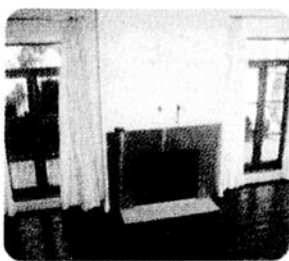
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Artisans offer an eclectic array of wares

> Martin C. Barry

Can Christmas be that far off when the time comes around for the Westmount Artisans' Festival?

With the festive season about a month away when the event takes place each year, many people take advantage of the opportunity to stock up on decorative items for Christmas.

On Nov. 11 and 12, the main auditorium of Victoria Hall was alive with early Christmas spirit, as the annual exhibition got underway, featuring some of the best creations by artisans from Westmount and

nearby.

Flora-Lee Wagner, who organizes the festival with Ilyse Segal, said there were 88 applications from artisans this year for the 34 places available. The selection was made by a jury last May. There were nine new artisans from various disciplines, including pottery and textiles.

"People are saying it's the best show we ever had," Segal said.

"It's very busy," said Wagner, noting the café on the Victoria Hall stage was doing a lot of business. "People can come in and sit down. Even if they don't eat, they can have a

coffee and sit there and enjoy. Being on the stage they can see everything else that's going on."

Annie Legroulx, at her booth in a coveted spot opposite the hall's front entrance, had a display of colourfully hand-painted bicycle bells that retailed for \$20. Some, made to look like cupcakes with shiny enamel white icing and a red cherry on top, looked so scrumptious that it was tempting to take a bite. "All the paints are baked to make them resistant," she pointed out.

Truus Roest-Chapman, a ceramist from NDG, was showing off her wares created using the Japanese ceramic technique known as raku. "They're all one-of-a-kind unique pieces and I make my own glazes and my own designs," she said. Part of the work involved is done in her home studio, while another more complex stage has to be completed elsewhere. The final product is known for its unique look and texture.

Barry Gaipman, an expert in collectible coins, had developed an interesting sideline to his usual interest — crafting pendants and other types of jewelry out of silver dollars and large copper coins. "We take a coin and we cut out the field where there's no design," he said. The principle design is then left attached to the rim. He also creates miniature jigsaw puzzles from coins.

Celine Armstrong, a de Maisonneuve Boulevard resident who creates accessory items for dogs, was inspired by Stella, her

pet bulldog, to launch her Big Girl brand. "People are investing on accessories and toys and beds and clothing for dogs," she said, commenting on the phenomenon. "Westmount is a very dog-friendly neighbourhood so I thought I'd tap into that."



Annie Legroulx shows off her colourful bicycle bells. Photo: Martin C. Barry

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Architect Anderson traces styles from medieval to modern

> Simon Halpin.

Last Thursday, the Westmount Historical Association hosted a lecture by the former director of the McGill School of Architecture, Bruce Anderson, on the varied styles that make Westmount one of the most architecturally unique neighbourhoods in Canada.

Anderson, of the Westmount-based Anderson Architect firm, presented a chronological account of the various styles of homes in the neighbourhood, from the turn of the 19th century through the modern era of the late 20th century. His talk was divided into three sections: the Medieval Idea, the Classical Idea, and the Modernist Idea.

Accompanied by a slide show, Anderson began by naming some of the major architects and firms to operate during the early years of Westmount's growth. Many of the prominent architects seemed to have come from Scotland and were designing homes that were influenced with a particular French Canadian style. The styles during this period varied from Norman, Gothic and Romanesque to Tudor, Victorian and the Arts & Crafts movement.

The next wave, from the early-to-mid 19th century, was more influenced by Classical style. Citing examples of homes on Argyle Avenue, Rosemount Avenue and Côte St. Antoine Road, Anderson said, "In the context of many of these homes, the classical idea is related to rule of taste."

"(The thought was) a building should have a certain sensibility to it, a certain access," he said, explaining the prominence of symmetrical, elegant design in many of the homes on those streets. The major styles to influence design during that period were the British Colonial style and the Classical revival.

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Lastly, Anderson made reference to the modernist idea of architecture that rose to prominence in the early-to-mid parts of the 20th century. Citing a shift in philosophical approach to design, and a nod to faith in new and more economical building materials, Anderson said, "The modernist tradition involved new ideas about space, about the form of buildings, about the mass of buildings." Though Westmount has examples of modern design, Anderson says that more traditional designs garner favour with the Westmount Architecture and Planning Commission, whom he said, "sadly don't seem to favour modernism."

Following his presentation, Anderson elicited laughs from the full house as he ran through his list of "improper practices." He showed examples of neighbourhood homes that had combined various styles of architecture to produce some rather puzzling results. For Anderson, additions, restorations, modernization and "tarting-up" are all practices that detract from the original beauty of many of the formal design practices of years past.

Anderson's encyclopedic knowledge of the neighbourhood's rich architectural history made for an insightful look into how

Westmount has come to bear the badge of Canada's most unique and diverse architectural district.

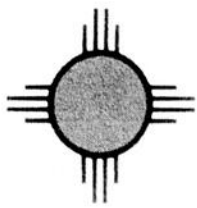
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Family tensions boil over in Gleams production

> Martin C. Barry

An emotionally intense encounter between a mother and the estranged son she came close to aborting is the basis of Gleams Theatre's latest and most complex offering, *Mother and Child*.

Staged in the art gallery at Victoria Hall for three days last week, it was the North American premiere of a one-act work published in 1997 by Jon Fosse, a playwright considered pre-eminent in Norway who is gradually gaining recognition in the rest of the

world.

With the production of this drama, Gleams Theatre is paying tribute to the 100th anniversary of the death of another Norwegian playwright, Henrik Ibsen, who is said to be the most frequently performed classical dramatist in the world after Shakespeare. Watching Fosse's work, Ibsen comes readily to mind.

Throughout *Mother and Child*, which is set in a Norwegian village, the characters



Mother and Child: Sokolova and Wheaton at Victoria Hall.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

strike poses reminiscent of Ibsen. Overflowing with angst, they speak to each other while staring motionlessly in opposite directions. This has an especially powerful impact when each actor faces a different side of a 'theatre in the round,' as is the case in Gleams Theatre's production.

According to Ira Sokolova, who plays the mother, the play is about choices. "She gets pregnant and then he left her," she said about the mother's dilemma. "She could stay in this little village there with its conservative way of living and take care of a child without a husband, or to try to build a career and make

something of herself."

Another noticeable characteristic of Fosse's script is the repeated use of the word 'yes' by the two characters. Constantin Sokolov, the play's director and Ira's husband, attributes this to a peculiarity of the Norwegian language. "In his language this is a very tricky thing — that people are always saying one thing but meaning other things," he said.

Cast as the son, David Wheaton is a graduate of Dawson College's Dome Theatre program. At one point towards the play's conclusion, he draws out some of his character's innate frustration when he suggests it might be more appropriate to kill off the elderly instead of aborting unborn children.

"I think he just feels extremely rejected," he said, musing on the situation. "I think it bothers him more that she left him ... Killing old people, I think, part of it is just him trying to attack her — partly in self-defence — to kind of get something from her about what happened. He's kind of tormenting her."

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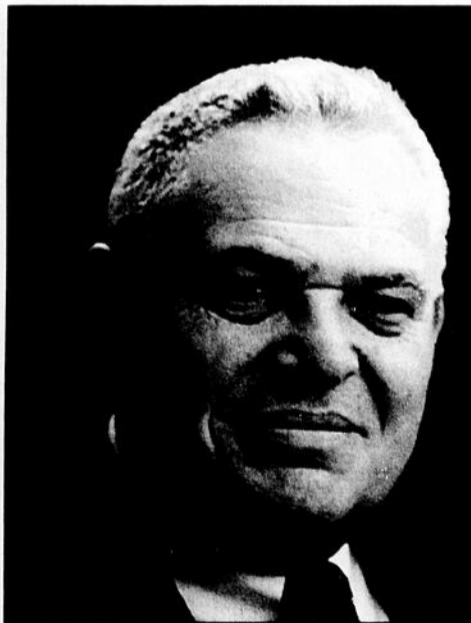
presents

Prof. Edward Luttwak,

Senior Advisor at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Washington, DC

who will speak on:

"Three Reasons Not To Bomb Iran... Yet"



An internationally recognized authority on strategic affairs, Edward Luttwak has served/or serves as a consultant and contractor to the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the National Security Council, the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Air Force, and several allied governments.

He is a frequent lecturer at universities and military colleges in the United States and abroad, including the Israel National Defence College, and earlier the Canadian Defence College in Kingston, Ont.

He was the 1988 Nimitz lecturer at the University of California, Berkeley, and the 1989 Tanner lecturer at Yale University. In 2004 he was awarded an honorary degree by the University of Bath (United Kingdom).

Dr. Luttwak is the author of *Strategy: The Logic of War and Peace* (Harvard, U. Press) and several other books, including *The Israeli Army* (with Dan Horowitz), *The Grand Strategy of the Roman Empire* (John Hopkins U Press, 1976-2005), and *Coup d'etat* (Harvard).

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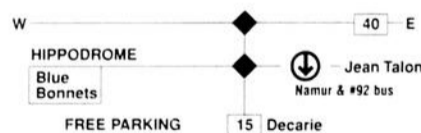
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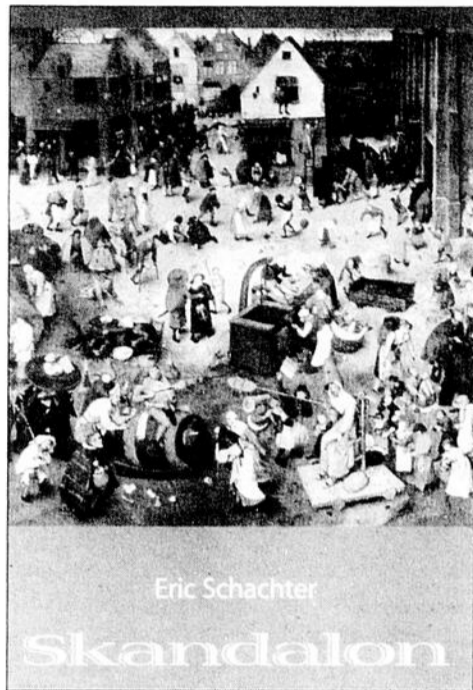
Schachter breaks the rules of conventional biography with 'Skandalon'

> Wayne Larsen

Conventional publishers—even non-conventional ones, for that matter—would not touch Eric Schachter's recent book *Skandalon* with that proverbial 10-foot pole, let alone accept it for their autumn publication schedule. And it takes just a few seconds of leafing through the crammed, colourful pages of this curious work to see why.

In presenting what is ostensibly the story of his family—and turns out to be so much more—the local author has gleefully tossed out any and all literary inhibitions and produced a lyrical hodgepodge that can best be described as a biographical collage filled with a kitchen sinkful of ideas and images that is sure to delight as many readers as it confounds.

From his descriptive opening scene in a Nazi concentration camp, Schachter leads a journey of discovery that meanders here and there through the years, illustrated at every turn by a steady barrage of images that includes not only nostalgic black-and-white or sepia-toned photographs raided from family albums but also hand-written letters, postcards, drawings, newspaper clippings and stills from Hollywood films. In what amounts to a copyright lawyer's bonanza, Schachter pilfers, borrows and otherwise appropriates images from popular culture to help illustrate his story—including frames from Disney's



A playfully unconventional family history by Eric Schachter

'Dumbo' and that famous lump-in-the-throat final scene between Charles Chaplin and Virginia Cherrill in 'City Lights'—and yes, they not only work very well but add a key emotional dimension to the story.

Attempting to describe *Skandalon* and its style is deceptively difficult, for there seem to be much fewer adjectives that *don't* describe it. From one page to another it is amusing, disturbing, eloquent and insane—in short, a very human account of a very human family.

"My book opens on 'the madness of my family that mirrors the madness of the world,' and closes on 'those family lies and normative notions that would never survive the talking activity in which Jesus engaged us,'" says Schachter. "Along the way, I record an eyewitness account of both Kristalnacht and the victory of the Momzers over the Koshers on Fletcher's Field, my return to Bordeaux Prison, where no member of the Schachter family had lodged for 50 years, and a young Jewish girl's refuge in the enemy territory of wartime Montreal."

Schachter's style works—in its own peculiar way—and as the multi-faceted narrative unfolds, content and form become inseparable to the point where, halfway through the

book, telling the story any other way would seem unthinkable.

The family's long-kept secrets are brought out in words and images as Schachter delves into the past with the curiosity of an investigative reporter and the keen sense of a historian, regardless of any unpleasant skeletons he might disturb. "I answer the nagging question of my aunt's suicide, my father's legitimacy and the whole kit and caboodle that almost all families keep locked in the closet," he claims with an air of well-earned pride.

Skandalon deserves its place among the more eccentric works of creative non-fiction and should not remain relegated to the consignment shelf of local bookshops simply because the average reader/consumer might not make head nor tail of it. Given the chance, they probably would.

Published in a limited edition, *Skandalon* by Eric Schachter is available at the Nicholas Hoare book store on Greene Avenue.

SEND THE EDITOR AN E-MAIL: larsenw@transcontinental.ca

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Lighting the darkness of November

> Marylin Smith Carsley

Labeled as the month of dread and gloom, many do acknowledge the November presence with sincere negativity.

Nineteenth-century Poet Thomas Hood said it best many years ago in his poem 'November':

No sun—no moon!
 No morn-no noon
 No dawn-no dusk—no proper time of day.
 No warmth, no cheerfulness, no healthful ease,
 No comfortable feel in any member—
 No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees,
 No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds!—
 November!

My coat is buttoned right up to my neck and my striped wool scarf is waving frantically in the wind as I rush to my car. I can't get inside it fast enough and home is looking more appealing than ever as I anticipate that warmth of hibernation within those familiar walls. While driving through the windswept

streets, I notice the forlorn state of all the trees as they hang onto the last vestiges of leaves before they stand stripped for winter.

Once more, with each passing year, those November doldrums creep silently in as autumn begins its departure.

Is it an attitude or solely a true weather change that incites our saddened emotional state? Once the clocks move back an hour and darkness envelopes at an earlier time, a mood of depression does affect many individuals. The need to indulge in outdoor activities subsides as the change in temperature and lack of daylight hours become more difficult to endure. There is less of an inclination to venture out in the evenings and luckily television's new season commences with a vengeance in September to keep everyone occupied inside. But this miserable feeling to escape the cold and a reoccurring melancholy for many may not just be simply a symptom of winter. There could be a medical explanation known as SAD or Seasonal Affective Disorder which is a recognized winter depression that affects an estimated half a million of individuals between September and April. The true focal months of SAD usually occur in the heart of winter during December, January and February.

SAD is related to changes in the amount of daylight during different times of the year and was first detected in 1845 but it was not named until the late 1900s. Due to the fact that sunlight affects the seasonal activities of animals such as reproduction and hibernation, SAD may be an effect of this seasonal light variation in humans. As the season change, our biological internal clocks or circadian rhythms react to these changes in the sunlight patterns. This disease is more common in younger people and woman and research has shown that the cause of this disorder may be due to a certain hormone called Melatonin. This sleep-related hormone is secreted by the pineal gland in the brain and is much more active during the increased levels of darkness. Therefore, when the days are shorter and darker, the production of this hormone increases. SAD symptoms in an individual include this depression state where there is a noticeable increase in the amount of sleep, eating and weight gain in that person during the winter months. All these dissipate during the spring and summer months when there is more daylight.

To assist and alleviate the mood of this depression a method known as phototherapy, or bright light therapy, has proven to decrease the brain's secretion of melatonin. The research on this type of antidepressant treatment is inconclusive even though people do respond to it. The device that is utilized is a bank of white fluorescent lights on a metal reflector and shield with a plastic screen.

Milder symptoms may be treated just by spending time outdoors or arranging homes and workplaces to receive more sunlight. Antidepressants are also available but the possibility of side effects must be considered.

To shed some necessary brightness onto the month of November, there are many memorable events that take place that many people are not aware of. November is Lung Cancer Awareness Month and this national campaign is dedicated to increasing the knowledge concerning lung cancer issues. This month is also committed to other special events such as Remembrance Day, National Epilepsy Month, National Adoption Month,

and American Thanksgiving and it is also that time that revs us up in anticipation of Christmas.

So when November stakes its place at the finale of the year, we shouldn't dread its arrival, but we should envision it as awakening to new seasonal beginnings and alertness to issues worth contemplating. It becomes an opportune time to adjust to the mindset of what to take pleasure in during December and also a wonderful opportunity to prepare for the joyous beauty of our winter. How we feel is truly all about a positive perspective, and it is time that November was painted in its own special light.

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My cold, cold Grey day



Off-Sidel

Noah
SIDEL

very cold night in a decrepit old stadium in the coldest, windiest city on the freakin' planet.

That, my friends, is what the Grey Cup is all about.

As the stadium filled up throughout the afternoon, there was a nice feeling in the air. Win or lose—or neither for Blue Bomber fans—it was going to be a good night.

The game had a good vibe right from the start when the 45,000-plus fans in attendance paused for a moment to honour Canada's fallen and injured soldiers before following along in a rambunctious – and bilingual – rendition of O Canada.

Standing on the sideline in front of the Alouettes' bench, I had a first-hand view of the Snowbirds' flyover that followed and then the very loud countdown to kickoff.

Following a rather banal half of football, the Nelly Furtado performance proved that Canadian artists can also suck at halftime, and the game rolled on. The Als fought back, but it wasn't enough, and 10 frozen toes later, I was off to the Montreal locker room to commiserate with the player. The difference this year is that as I leave Winnipeg in a few hours, I feel like I've had a chance to connect not only with the city, but with the event itself.

Grey Cup is the one time of year when a majority of Canadians turn their eyes to a single event that celebrates what it is to be Canadian.

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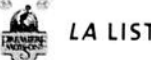



November 30 & January 25 concerts:
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






March 23 concert:
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Musical women lend their voices to a cause

> Charles Montgomery

The Montreal women's choir Women Making Music will be teaming up with the McGill Choral Society to raise funds for the seldom talked about, but serious illness, lymphedema.

Lymphedema is a disease caused by lymphatic nodes or vessels which have been damaged either naturally or by way of a medical procedure. It can cause mass swelling of limbs or the body due to the accumulation of lymph fluid under the skin. The Lymphedema Association of Quebec (LAQ) estimates that over 100 million people worldwide suffer from the disease.

It primarily affects women and is often overlooked, as, in many cases, it is the byproduct of the more deadly disease, cancer.

It is also a cause that is close to the hearts of the over 20 members of Women Making Music, as their conductor, Mary Jane Puiiu, suffers from lymphedema.

"The purpose of this concert is to try to bring awareness to the fact that this disease does exist and is not covered by Medicare," said Candace Cassils, one of half a dozen Westmount residents who sings, with the choir.

Prior to lymphedema forcing her into sick leave, Puiiu never had a dull day. When she was approached by the wife of the Dean of the McGill music department 11 years ago to start Women Making Music, she was already working full time running FACE's vocal department and conducting five different choirs, including the McGill Choral Society. "I went from being a workaholic to

absolutely nothing," said Puiiu.

Throughout it all, there was always Women Making Music. The group had been performing at seniors residences and holding dinner concerts at various churches around Montreal, but last year they teamed up with the McGill Choral Society and held a large concert to help Puiiu. "With the money that we earned they put it in a special trust fund for her to help pay for her treatments because nothing is covered by medicare and she has to go for physiotherapy every single day," said Cassils.

Puiiu does have medical coverage from her teaching job, but it only covers a fraction of the roughly \$2,000 per month that she spends on combatting her lymphedema. Medicare does not cover any costs, because the only treatment is compress bandaging and physiotherapy.

The next concert will focus on raising awareness of the disease as well as funds for the LAQ. "We're basically trying to hit the community on awareness, so we've started a ribbon campaign and we have flyers," said Puiiu.

The show will have two parts. The first part will feature Women Making Music and the McGill Choral Society singing excerpts from Handel's Messiah. The second part of the show is a lineup of jazzier takes on various songs from Messiah, as well as some other reinterpretations of standard choral music, such as Alleluia reworked with African influences. A highly skilled group from within the McGill Choral Society, called Cantare, will

also perform. Overall, there will be nearly 200 singers involved.

Puiiu is still amazed by how dedicated her women's choir has become to fighting lymphedema. "I've got to tell you, at first I was overwhelmed and also really taken back by how much these people are doing," she said. "I can't even explain why they're doing it; I know that they love me, I know that they care for me but this is not about me now, this is for the association, but they feel very strongly."

Cassils's story of how she joined Women Making Music is a typical one. Two Christmases ago, she attended a concert to

watch her son, Matthew, perform a solo. Women Making Music were also performing. Cassils was impressed, and afterwards she inquired about how to join up. She's been a regular member ever since.

"It's really been a great experience for me, I've enjoyed it a lot," said Cassils. "There are lots of very nice women and it's a lot of fun in the practices—and it's just absolutely amazing when things come together in the end."

Hope In Song Benefit Concert for LAQ will take place Nov. 25 at 8 p.m. at the Église Saint-Enfant-Jésus, 5037 St. Dominique. For more information, call 514-979-2463.

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