THE WESTMOUNT
Examiner

Making all of Westmount your home

Vol. LXIV, No. 50 Westmount, Quebec, Thursday, December 10, 1992 56¢ + 4¢GST 5¢PST = 65¢

'93 budget passed

Homeowners' average tax bills will increase by $206 in 1993, according to the budget passed by city council Monday night. See pages six through 9 for that roundup story plus:

- What is planned under the capital works budget;
- The impact on the public works department; and
- What changes will be made to the recreation department.

'Library is a go,' mayor says

77 per cent of respondents to city poll vote Yes

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Three out of four Westmount residents have approved one of the costliest building projects in their history.

In the city's poll of citizens last month, 77 per cent voted Yes to spend $7.5 million on renovating and expanding the Westmount Public Library, Mayor Peter Trent announced at Monday's city council meeting.

"Our view is that 77 per cent is almost overwelming," he declared. "So as far as we're concerned, the library is a go."

The poll had a 20-per-cent return rate; 1,822 valid returns from 9,355 mailings.

The decision ends more than five years of consulting, talking and speculating on how the city could refurbish and modernize an institution many consider to be Westmount's most valuable asset.

But, faced with design concerns voiced by some citizens at the meeting as well as many lengthy comments from the citizen survey, Mr. Trent said the present design was not cast in stone.

Councillor John Bridgman said council must weigh conflicting concerns and it would not be possible to please everyone.

"Hopefully we'll build a beautiful library to take us into the 21st century under budget."

Council will take the next three weeks to study the comments received in the library poll, Mr. Trent said.

"My gut feeling is there's still a problem with the exterior design of the annex, interior layout and the exit on the north side," he later told THE EXAMINER. All these points would be addressed after all the comments from the poll are sifted through.

"I'm very interested in focussing on the 23 per cent (of poll respondents) who said no," he said.

One of these was Jeanne Randle, retired chief librarian of the Fraser-Hickson Library, who attended the council meeting to say she was "appalled" by the way the plan was presented.

"The library planned is an academic library, not a public library," she said, asking if the city would engage a library architect to work on the design. The city has paid some $400,000 in professional fees so far to architect Peter Rose to prepare schematic drawings.

Continued on page 2

Stromberg-Stein with her installation at Temple Emanu-El Beth Sholom. Photo by OWEN EGAN

Sculptor given medal by Governor General

Berger to choose recipients for 40 more

By JANET COUTTS

WESTMOUNT sculptor Susan Stromberg-Stein was recently awarded the Commemorative Medal for the 125th Anniversary of Canadian Confederation by Governor General Ray Hnatyshyn.

"In recognition of your multidimensional contribution to the artistic life of this country, Madame Stromberg, the Governor General is happy to award you [a] commemorative medal," the presentation speech concluded.

Ms. Stromberg's reaction was one of gratitude.

"Every time something good happens, it brings a sense of responsibility. My country has given me something and I must now give something to my country."

She may have more chance than she bargained for to return good to the community.

"A few things have happened in conjunction with the medal award. Several juried committees have asked me to donate work. The one that is completed is an installation at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom on Sherbrooke Street."

Though she is not a member of the Temple congregation, Ms. Stromberg has fond connections with it.

"When I first came to Montreal 25 years ago, my grandmother was a member of Temple and I used to attend Friday night services with her."

Ms. Stromberg, who says the most real — or everyday — part of her life is spent "in workboots, making a lot of noise and dust," was honoured not only for being "one of our finest sculptors," but for her work as a lecturer, literary critic and professor of poetry. Multidimensional indeed.

Forty thousand of the 125th anniversary medals were struck and allocated to the Governor General, the Prime Minister, senators and MPs.

St. Henri-Westmount MP David Berger was given 40 medals. According to his assistant Lise Lafleur, the riding office is now striking a committee to choose the recipients of the medals.

"We will follow the wishes of the Governor General that the medals be granted to people from different ethno-cultural groups, men, women and youth, to people in different fields.

"We have been told there is no time limit on the awards, so we do not expect to be ready until late January or early February."

Mr. Berger's riding office is open to suggestions from the public as to who should receive the honour.

Westmounter vies for EP leadership

By ALISON RAMSEY

Keith Henderson is taking a run at the Equality Party leadership.

Both the 47-year-old Westmounter and Gilles Pépin, 41, from Pointe Claire, have made it clear they will try to replace Robert Libman at the upcoming leadership convention.

The convention takes place Feb. 21. Mr. Libman has not confirmed he will run.

Mr. Pépin, a self-employed tax analyst, publicly declared his intention Nov. 7 and will confirm it today, when he is expected to formally announce his candidacy.

Mr. Henderson, a Canadian literature and English teacher at Vanier College, said he will be running in a conversation with THE EXAMINER on Monday. He said he will likely make a formal announcement a week from today.

Both men are currently vice-presidents of the party. The similarities do not end there.

Their ideologies and, hence, tentative platforms are virtually identical at this point.

They both favour Quebec signing the current Constitution, failing to renew Bill 178, freedom of choice in education and both believe the leader's votes in the National Assembly must mirror decisions made by the party as a whole.

This last is in reaction to Mr. Libman and all other Equality Party MNAs, who voted for the Charlottetown constitutional accord when the party as a whole chose to reject the deal.

Mr. Pépin's reasoning takes an economic turn. He cites the need to remove constitutional uncertainty and allow freedom of choice in schools as a way to attract investment.

Mr. Henderson says the constitutional debate should be resolved to "put the issue really behind us," says freedom of choosing language of education "is to the advantage of English- and French-speaking Quebecers" and says Quebecers should reinvest in their own province "so that people are not perched on the edge of flight."

Mr. Henderson has phoned around to gauge support, "I'm not whistling Dixie, here," and now confidently claims boosters in west end, Eastern Townships, central Montreal and West Island ridings. Mr. Pépin claims support in the same areas, neglecting only to mention the west end.

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Westmount Community Calendar

The following events are scheduled in Westmount this week:

Today, Dec. 10

Carols: Lunchtime holiday concerts from 12:30 to 1:30 daily except Dec. 13, 14 and 20 in the commercial concourse of Westmount Square, by four singers, a pianist and violinist.

Christmas concert: 16th annual concert by Westmount recreation department at Victoria Hall at 7 p.m. Admission free.

Art exhibit: John Collins' annual exhibition at Galerie Dan Delaney, 318 Victoria Ave., until Dec. 22. 484-4691.

Art exhibit: at Galerie Art et Style, 4875A Sherbrooke St., recent paintings of St. Gilles until Dec. 22.

Art exhibit at Galerie Westmount, 4912 Sherbrooke St., of the acrylic and sand paintings of Sophie Zahlan de Cayetti until Sunday.

Christmas cards: Grenfell Association cards are on sale at Bel-Air Travel Inc., 1373 Greene Ave. from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday until tomorrow.

Book display: Illustrated religious books in lobby of Atwater Library to Dec. 24.

For seniors: Swim at Westmount Y from 1:30 to 3 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday. No charge.

Saturday, Dec. 1

Concert: Handel's *Messiah* by the Westmount Seventh-day Adventist Church choir, with L'Unit, Heavenly Sensations and Joybells. Noon at 571 Victoria Ave.

For kids: Samedi Greene morning activities are replaced by a 3 p.m. holiday party.

For kids: Pictionary Junior; learn to play the classic children's game — it's like charades, but on paper — at Oink! Oink!, 1361 Greene Ave., at 11 a.m.

Sunday, Dec. 13

Concert: The choir of Studio de Musique ancienne de Montréal at 3 p.m. at St. Léon de Westmount Church, de Maisonneuve Blvd. and Clarke. Freewill offering.

Lecture: Consul General of Hungary, a historian and a Hungarian victim of the Holocaust will speak on the recent history of Hungarian Jews at 9:30 a.m. at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, 4100 Sherbrooke St. 937-3575.

For seniors: Luncheon at 12:30 p.m. at Leisure Institute of Shaar Hashomayim, 450 Kensington Ave. "Making Our Lives Safer" with Westmount Public Security Unit and Fire Department. Question period follows slide presentation. Members $3.50, others, $4. Please bring small bills. 937-9471.

Adult Prisoners of Childhood anonymous support group meets at 7 p.m. every Sunday in the basement of Westmount Baptist Church, 4755 Sherbrooke St. $1.

Monday, Dec. 14

Lecture: Adults With Learning Disabilities meet at Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater Ave., from 7 to 9 p.m. Learning specialist Margaret Manson speaks on "Learning Styles and Learning Disabled." Everyone welcome.

Tuesday, Dec. 15

For seniors: Christmas/Hanukkah concert by the PSBGM Chorale at 7 p.m. at Westmount Park School at Sherbrooke and Melville. Audience participation. Reception following. Free.

TOPS, a dieting support group, meets at Greene Avenue Community Centre from 7 to 8:30 p.m. weekly. $1.

Correction

In last week's story, *Grade 6 kids teach advanced math to high schools,* Jonathan Verrall was mistakenly identified as Josh Verrall.

THE EXAMINER regrets any inconvenience this may have caused.

Former librarian appalled by library plans

Continued from page 1

In a four-page letter to Mr. Trent Dec. 2, she says as a librarian she finds the interior design inefficient for servicing the public. It isolates children from their parents, makes staffing difficult and does not appear to be very user-friendly, she wrote.

She questions the amount of space taken up by a long main floor hallway, position of work stations and the circulation desk as well the amount of supervision and security that will be required.

"We need the library, but the concept is flawed," she says. "We have all been looking forward for many years to a new and modern library built on accepted library principles.

"Unfortunately, the present plans do not in my opinion reflect these principles."

Mr. Trent told THE EXAMINER Tuesday he was looking forward to seeing suggestions recently compiled by the city's own library workers.

"I'll be very interested in hearing from librarians. I want to hold a librarians' focus group. We have many living in the city."

He said the issue of parking must also be addressed, as well as ways to keep library parking for the library users only. At present many of the spaces are occupied by uses of the YMCA across the street.

City director general Manley Schultz said the city is also considering moving Library Drive east to the Strathcona traffic lights to make entry and exit easier.

Maureen Kiely said approval shown by residents in the poll "is no mean feat in this economic time."

Rolland Bénard, acting chairman of the Westmount Finance Action Committee, asked how expansion of the libray would affect maintenance. "What will be the cost per square foot?" Mr. Trent said renovations would cost $100 per square foot ($1,076 per square meter) while new building would cost $150 per square foot ($1,614 per square meter).

Maintenance costs are expected to drop with more efficient heating, air conditioning and an insulated building, he replied.

Of 1,099 votes from residential taxpayers, 74 per cent (811) were in favour. Of 723 returns from tenants and commercial property owners, 83 percent (600) voted yes.

Raccoons suffer distemper

Two Westmount raccoons were found suffering from distemper last week and were put down at the SPCA, public safety officers said. One was discovered Wednesday at Montrose and Ramezay while the other was found the next day near 15 Summit Circle.

SPCA officials reported that a number of raccoons suffering distemper, an airborne disease, are being noticed in the Montreal area. The best protection for household pets is to keep vaccinations up to date, said personnel at the Animal Hospital of Westmount. Humans are not susceptible to the disease but should refrain from befriending any wild animals.

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URGENCES / EMERGENCIES

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Residents fed up with 5,000 cars on their street daily

Montreal rules make traffic a problem

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

A group of Westmount residents protesting heavy traffic at Roslyn and Sunnyside avenues find themselves caught in two layers of bureaucratic red tape.

For over a year now they've been trying to get Westmount to stop the use of upper Roslyn as a throughway over the mountain by some 5,000 cars a day, most of which are going to and from the Université de Montréal.

In October 1991, 30 households petitioned city council to solve the problem.

"We've waited long enough — I'm fed up," said Joy Yannow, a Roslyn resident.

"It's up to Westmount to do something," said Marcel Bergeron, who spearheaded the petition on Roslyn, Sunnyside, Upper Lansdowne and Belfrage avenues.

But Westmount officials say they're waiting for Montreal and have also run into red tape.

Street unsafe for kids: resident

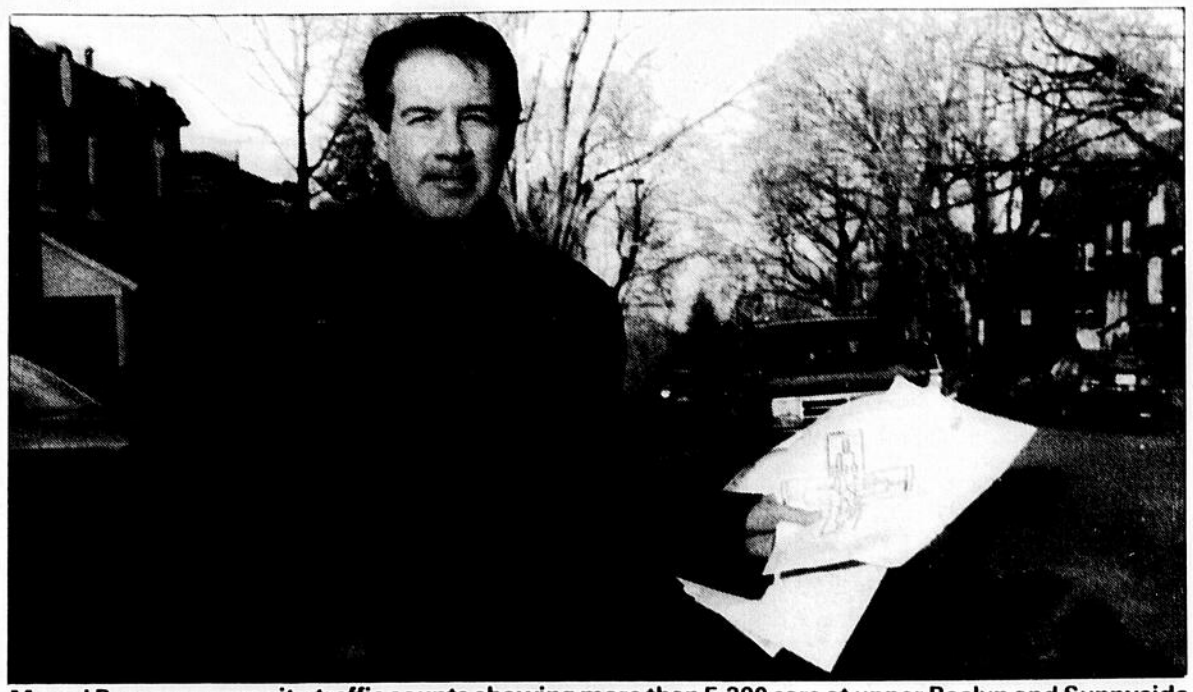
Both residents live just within Westmount at the border with Montreal, where a steady stream of cars, day and evening, makes the residential street unsafe for their children, they say.

A Westmount traffic survey undertaken May 6 clocked 5,315 cars at Roslyn and Sunnyside between 8 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Of these, 67 percent originated outside Westmount, 97 percent were travelling to a destination outside Westmount (most to the Université de Montréal) and 68 percent of all cars used the route daily.

"I agree with them. It's a real problem," said Westmount's public security director Richard McEnroe. "I couldn't believe there was so much traffic until I saw it myself."

He said Westmount must work in co-operation with Montreal and must be careful not to shift traffic on to other residential streets in either city.

Much of the problem on Roslyn and Sunnyside stems from cars on Queen Mary Road turning on to Cedar Crescent where they have a priority green light and then funneling onto Roslyn. They have to turn either at Cedar Crescent or at Roslyn because Montreal blocked left turns on to Victoria, a collector street, about three years ago, Dir. McEnroe said.



Marcel Bergeron says city traffic counts showing more than 5,300 cars at upper Roslyn and Sunnyside in an eight-hour period proves need for action.

"This came as a real surprise to me," he admitted. "I didn't know Montreal had done that."

'Take Decarie!'

Residents want the through traffic to take Decarie expressway or other major arteries instead of "the scenic route," as one driver called it.

Dir. McEnroe, who chairs the city's administrative traffic committee, said he has been meeting with Montreal traffic officials but found himself entangled in red tape with people retiring, jobs being changed, one Montreal official who couldn't find Stanton Street for a meeting and then couldn't find a place to park, so he left.

"And so it goes," said Ms. Yannow. "Now we're getting into the holidays."

"If someone is killed on our street, we'll sue the city to death," vows Mr. Bergeron, who is vice-president of Pinkerton security and an associate member of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police. "We've built up a big file."

Peace group finds, applauds local stores that do not stock war toys

By ALISON RAMSEY

Westmount Initiative for Peace has eschewed the global and is concentrating on the local this year.

Other years, members stood on street corners downtown, stuffing pamphlets into shoppers' hands. "I was even blessed by a priest once!" laughed Lois Klempa. The pamphlets urged shoppers not to buy war toys.

This year, Judy Berlyn took a tip from other groups and suggested WIP survey Westmount shops that sell toys and announce which don't sell war toys or toys which promote violence. Those which don't — by design or by chance — were recognized yesterday with hand-lettered signs WIP hopes will be displayed.

Surprisingly few stores here sell war toys. Six of nine stores that Klempa and Berlyn deemed sold toys were given certificates.

They are Party Mart, Oink! Oink!, Toybox, Victoire-Victorine, Quincaillerie Hogg and Papeterie Westmount.

Berlyn took Greene Avenue, Place Alexis Nihon and St. Catherine Street and Klempa walked Sherbrooke between Victoria and Claremont, plus a little further west to Cumberland pharmacy.

"It's kind of a tool for public education," said Berlyn. "Increasingly, I hear people say violence is a continuum, with warfare at one end, and marital violence at the other.

"Deciding to use force to get out of a situation never produces a long-lasting or satisfactory solution... It is beginning to be questioned, on an international level."

Some stores have a definite policy; other simply didn't happen to order guns, warplanes and such.

"Other years," said Klempa of Cumberland, "they had a lot of G.I. Joes. (This year there were none.) I spoke to the manager. He said it was not a conscious ploy. He said the dealer just didn't have them in the catalogue."

"She said they wouldn't have a gun in the place," said Berlyn of Oink! Oink! manager Gigi Gano. "Then, 'I've got a few swords,' she said, looking very nervous."

It made the list because, said Berlyn, the swords "are a bit of a grey area," and could be considered a prop and an anachronism.

The cowboy guns at Kangaroo, however, were another matter. "They were mostly pointed at Indians," said Berlyn. "So that becomes a question."

Besides, the store was stocked with many other war toys.

"She made the statement that they had to sell what kids wanted," she said of the owner.

"I don't believe in aggressive behaviour," said Oink! Oink! owner Jane Silverstone. "We wanted to encourage a non-aggressive reaction."

When asked about people who *want* to buy toys such as Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, she said, "You have to give up something when you believe in something.

"Sometimes you've got to lead people to another social conscience... Sometimes you've just got to draw the line."

"To make war, is that acceptable behaviour?" said Berlyn. "It's not something that happens, like a volcanic eruption. Deliberate decisions are made. Though peaceful solutions may be several centuries away, it doesn't hurt to start thinking about it."

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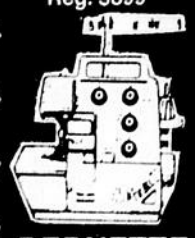

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Published every Thursday by
Publications Dumont (1988) Inc.
Une compagnie COGECO
155 Hillside Avenue, Westmount, PQ
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1992 PRIZE WINNER CANADIAN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS ASSOCIATION BETTER NEWSPAPERS COMPETITIONS

Editorial and Circulation
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Publisher: T. Bruce Stevenson
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Typeset by Adcomp Inc., Westmount
Printed by Richelieu Roto-Litho Inc., St. Jean sur Richelieu, Quebec
Second class mail registration number 1760

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Mail subscriptions in Canada, $25.92 per year, 2 years $46.44, 3 years $62.64
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We Say

Hope on horizon

White collar workers are next on the recession chopping block, the Globe and Mail declared in its lead story Saturday. Quebec jobless rate jumps to 14.3 per cent, read the banner headline that same day in The Gazette.

Hundreds, maybe thousands, of jobs have been lost in the Montreal area in the past couple of years. There are no plant openings or mass hirings to offset a steady stream of layoffs.

In Westmount, there have been a few large victims: remember Metro in Westmount Square, M Store in Place Alexis Nihon, Pascal on Sherbrooke Street, Steinberg everywhere.

There are stories to tell of businesses which have remained open as well. Few have been immune to reduced revenues, lack of buyer confidence and cross-border shopping. The most recent scare, and one the government controls, is the rising interest rate.

To cope with the results of this continuing, dismal news, companies have had to trim spending.

Trimming company spending often translates to cutting salaries, or staff.

You are, or know people who are earning less because of reduced or frozen salaries; are working harder to make up for those who have been laid off, or fired; or are out of a job altogether.

People are accepting things they never dreamed of, or thought they would refuse to accept if imposed. They are doing evening and night shifts, because incoming work has not slacked off as quickly as workers have been laid off. They see their work hours creeping upwards — while their pay stays the same — as they strive to fill gaps left by dwindling revenues. They are refusing jobs because salaries cannot match the cost of transportation and daycare.

It cannot be ignored that there is a national crisis of spirit. People, battered by the economy, are in despair.

Sometimes the only hope left for workers earning less and becoming more unhappy with the demands put on them is the safety net of unemployment insurance. Canadians used to know that, if worst came to worst, going on the dole was possible. Unemployment insurance is intended to be, and should be, a transitional state. It is not as demoralizing as welfare; you are reclaiming from a fund you have paid into, simply taking back what you have put away for this rainy day.

Then, last week, the federal government destroyed that safety net.

In a few months, unemployment insurance will be denied those who quit their jobs, unless their reasons for quitting coincide with what the government deems worthy, and those reasons can be proven.

In a supremely cowardly move, the government abandoned attacked women who are being sexually harassed in the workplace, those growing desperate in demeaning jobs and those who want to try their luck in another part of the country.

* * *

The government, in its action, appears to blame the public for Canada's economic woes. But reading The Examiner these past months shows the public is ready to do its best to pull the country out of its slump, given half a chance.

Fourteen new stores have been reported open in this newspaper since the beginning of September. A couple of others have re-opened after bankruptcy and fire.

Most of the new businesses are, true to a recession, going after the low end of the market. They sell costume jewelry, jeans, discount fabrics, coffees to linger over with the classified pages.

Even Westmount Square — that bastion of the dwindling carriage trade — is branching out into a food market, realizing the word affordable is appealing to all.

Some new stores are showing a brazen confidence by selling art and artifacts.

It is encouraging, it shows hope.

Now, the only thing the government has to do is give the public that half a chance.

I Say!

THE best mind-altering drug is truth.

—Lily Tomlin

Continued on page 18

You Say

Second World War was brutal, bloody

Matthew Friedman's piece in your Nov. 22 issue was disturbing to anyone with any knowledge of the Second World War or who had personal experience of what was going on in Europe in those years leading up to September 1939. And what happened afterwards.

Readers' comments a week later consisted of one letter denouncing propaganda and the other demanding the privatization of the CBC. Neither dealt with that basic flaw which upset so many concerning the documentary drama *The Valour and The Horror*.

The steadily increasing foreign military adventures of Japan, then Italy, then Germany during the 30s and the march of events in 1938 and 1939 brought the inevitability of war home to all Europeans. Totalitarianism was going to conquer the world and individual freedom would have to be fought for. The expression "total" war was the invention of Germany. Surrender or perish — man, woman and child. German weapons and shock tactics had been well tested in Spain's civil war at such places as Guernica.

For Britain, the struggle at sea began the day war broke out. It continued day and night, month after month, year after year. It took almost four years to get, at least, the upper hand over the U-boat. Losses of men, ships and cargoes were extreme and unrelenting.

Friedman's expression of "Butcher" applied to Sir Arthur Harris is unforgivably ignorant. Consider the situation of Britain in June 1940 following the collapse of France and the military disaster of Dunkirk. A hostile coast from the top of Norway to the unfriendly coast of Spain.

Soon the attacks began on RAF fighter airfields and bombs began to fall by day and night on British towns and cities. Calls for retaliation and for bringing the war to the heart of Germany meant that the under-equipped bomber resources of the RAF was the only sharp instrument of war available. Remember, too, that Germany never mobilized its women as in Britain, and propaganda, as everywhere, was never better handled than by Dr. Goebbels. The building of adequate bomber forces for a potential war against Hitler's Germany was not politically feasible in the days of appeasement so it took a couple of years at least to produce the appropriate multi-engined aircraft and equipment. And develop the Pathfinder and other specialized bombing techniques.

It was a brutal bloody war for those participating at the sharp end. Let those charged with the responsibilities of leadership be treated with fair-minded consideration with all the facts presented. And those charged with doing their duty be respected. Lest we forget.

R.B. Culley
8 Springfield Ave.
WESTMOUNT H3Y 2L1

Better late than never

After your erroneous and ill-timed front-page headline in your Nov. 26 issue, I wrote you a letter taking issue with the headline and putting the story in context. You got my letter the next day, but you have not printed it as yet. It seems to me an axiom of good journalistic practice to allow errors to be speedily corrected. By the way, I kept the letter short, just in case the old "lack of space" plea was involved.

It serves but little purpose to set the record straight *after* the deadline of the library poll has passed. The damage is done. But perhaps you will nonetheless have the grace to publish both this and my original letter.

Peter F. Trent
Mayor

Editor's note: Following is the original letter received by The Examiner*:*

I found your Nov. 26 headline, *Mayor Trent Says Library Information Packet Vague* was very misleading. At least your story was a bit closer to the mark.

Any criticism I had about the mailing were only to do with the lack of *visual* information on the annex layout and design. Since I had a hand in putting this mailing together, and since in some measure the whole thing was my brainchild, it would be incongruous if I had suggested the *written* part was "vague."

In fact I found it, overall, quite comprehensive.

Peter F. Trent
Mayor

Editor's note: The quote, with which Mr. Trent has no quarrel, and which ran as a paraphase, is, exactly, "We were a little bit vague in the information package."

Why WFAC voted No

In your edition of Dec. 3, concerning our position on the library project, the article inferred that we're completely against the project and that money spent to restore the main library building might better be used, if available, to further upgrade electric utility or other more pressing items.

We are against the library project as it now stands, and we mentioned that the city had numerous other priorities to consider.

As acting chairman I do not emit any position for the WFAC unless approved by at least two other directors, any other opinions are my own as a citizen of Westmount. In view of the above I would very much appreciate if you would publish as a letter to the editor our position in our original press release.

Press release

After studying the information brochure as well as the library display, and consulting with directors, we have taken the position of saying a definite No to the proposition, as it now stands.

We further would like to submit our reasons for this decision and our recommendations on the library project.

We fully endorse the necessary maintenance of the library building. The essential repairs to the basic building fabric should be separated and repairs should proceed without further delay in the most cost-effective manner.

The proposal as it stands goes far beyond this, into a total conversion and rebuilding of the existing library at unwarranted expense unjustifiable in a time of recession.

Continued on page 18

Letters to the editor are welcome

Letters to the editor are most welcome. They must be signed and bear the writer's address for both identification and publication. They should be mailed or dropped off at 155 Hillside Ave., Westmount, or faxed to 932-5700.

Deadline for letters is noon Tuesday for same-week publication. Brevity is a virtue.

The Westmount Examiner

EXAMINING THE FILES

Forty-five Years Ago
December 5, 1947

A lecture on child development was had at Westmount Junior High School by psychiatrist Dr. M. Straker. "He pointed out to the parents that psychological tensions arise almost from birth, and that these tensions become associated with the body functions and the training of these functions. Satisfactory training involves a relaxed parent... bearing in mind the fact that learning is a slow and painful process for the child."

Thirty-five Years Ago
December 6, 1957

"Even if you feel that it would probably be safer to drop the keys of the front door into the river than into your children's hands, there is nevertheless no need to worry about their first venture into the world alone if independence and reliability have been taught them through the love of the family, Dr. Margaret Nix told Roslyn Home and School Association Tuesday."

Twenty-five Years Ago
December 7, 1967

"Why is 'Christmas' sometimes written 'Xmas'? X is the Greek letter symbol that is used to represent the name Christ. This symbol has been discovered by many archaeological expeditions on the walls of early-Christian period catacombs. Quite recently, a group of scientists discovered the name of Jesus, carved before 70 A.D., among the inscriptions of eleven early-Christian urns."

Ten Years Ago
December 9, 1982

"The Ville Marie Social Service Centre endorses the recommendation of the Charbonneau parliamentary committee on the Youth Protection Act that juvenile offenders appear in court as early as 12 and delinquents face immediate trials. The committee urges that the age for criminal responsibility be lowered from 14 to 12 years. Under the present four-year-old act, adolescents younger than 14 aren't legally responsible for their crimes."

One Year Ago
December 5, 1991

"Last Thursday's spectacular fire that destroyed the Westmount Bar B Q, the adjoining Perrette and two apartments above does not appear to have been deliberately set, fire officials said Tuesday."

An analog thinker in a digital world

Beside the Point

KATHLEEN HUGESSEN

The conversations usually start something like: "Meet you in half an hour. It's 10:30 now."

There is no way in the world that this is not a simple, straightforward, even innocuous proposition. In 30 minutes from the time of speaking — in this instance, at 11 o'clock — the parties will meet at the chosen rendezvous. Alas, the world is never a simple place, particularly for the analog thinker in these digital times. The conversation continues:

"It's 10:27 according to my watch."

"Well, actually, my VCR says 10:29."

"Yeah, but I set my watch by the government time signal yesterday."

"So? I set my VCR by the news network's clock."

From here, of course, the whole debate deteriorates into a fiery exchange about the relative merits of sources — time sources.

Please note, this discussion/argument is concerned with three minutes, 360 seconds in the whole entire lifetime of the individuals involved. I'm much too much of a time-slob for these exchanges. Chances are, if I'm arranging to meet you in half an hour, I'm going to be five or 10 minutes one side or the other of the 30-minute mark.

I've learned metric weights, I've learned metric measures — linear and volumes. I speak fluent Celsius. But my worldview cannot encompass a digital reality. I'm an analog person with an analog watch in a digital age. I'm an anachronism and an anachronometerism.

The whole matter took a definite downward plunge when a friend informed me he had just become the proud possessor of a new program for his computer. This program lets his computer call the atomic clock, wherever that may be (Alamogordo?), and ascertain the correct time to the most recent millisecond. I believe he finds my lackadaisical style an affront to his time sense.

I take a perverse pleasure in my collection of temporal inaccuracies. I can trot around my home and find a time for every contingency. At one and the same time, my microwave oven is happy to inform me it is 7:54, while my VCR says the hour is, in fact, 7:58. Upstairs, my clock-radio waves a cheery 7:53. My most consistent source of day-to-day temporal information is my wristwatch (analog, of course). It tells me it's about 8.

That's the kind of imprecise timekeeper I am.

My personal best, the pinnacle of my inaccuracy, is reached in my car. I have two clocks in there, both digital. One came with the car, and one came with the radio. They show two distinctly different times — no semblance of collusion. Once upon a time, the top one was just a minute ahead of the bottom one. A young passenger observed this with interest and informed me that the upper one was telling the lower one what time it (the lower one) had to be next. It made sense to me.

Of course, the real problem is that I haven't the foggiest notion how to set most of these digital monsters. Every time I've tried it, it has taken me so much time to figure out the correct series of buttons and combinations of buttons to push that the timepiece has ended up running several minutes late.

No, for me and others like me, analog die-hards, the challenge is too great. Let the next generation master the digital watch and leave us be. We know we're in good hands — big, little and sweep-second.

our Mayor
Peter F. Trent
says...

Municipal thoughts

The attentive reader will, after duly noting that redundancy, remember my references to the task force on reorganizing the Montreal region that Claude Ryan set up this spring. There were, at the time, loud off-stage noises about merging many of our island cities in a curious and uncharacteristic attempt to ape Toronto.

You might also remember that a few mayors and I got together to present to Ryan's group *our* vision of how we see the region of Montreal unfolding. To head him off at the pass, so to speak. We have been working at it 10 to 20 hours a week since June. A number of citizens have asked me what is happening.

A synopsis of our first brief and those of other groups will not be made public until early next year, but I can share with you some personal thoughts.

• Like all suburbs, we have a symbiotic relationship with Montreal. If it goes down the tubes, so do we. If it prospers, so do we. I was happy to see Montreal take itself in hand with its last budget, but it has a hard row to hoe.

We also have to help out a city that has become a social dumping ground, exacerbated by the middle-class flight to off-island cities. But as long as 75 percent of Montreal voters are tenants who pay 15 to 20 percent of the taxes, there will always be the threat of bread and circuses à la Drapeau. How to help, and not be taken for a financial ride: that is the question.

• Decisions are being made by mandarins in Quebec City who have no knowledge of the real problems of Montreal. We should start moving some key government departments to Montreal from Quebec: industry, municipal and cultural affairs, immigration: the list goes on. In an ideal world, the entire parliamentary and governmental apparatus would be moved. *This* is something we can copy from Toronto!

• Urban sprawl is at the root of our municipal problems, not the number of cities. This phenomenon is caused by unchecked highway construction, fiscal unbalance, and fears for personal security.

• Economic goals must be the moving forces behind any organization. Residential communities can play a part in this. The first thing potential investors do when scouting out new plant sites is to spend quite a few (sometimes furtive) hours looking at where they will *live*, not work. Closeness to downtown, good schools, and a sense of community will often weigh more heavily than purely business factors such as a good labour pool, access to markets, and so on.

To be continued next week.

our M.P.
David Berger
says...

Research a success

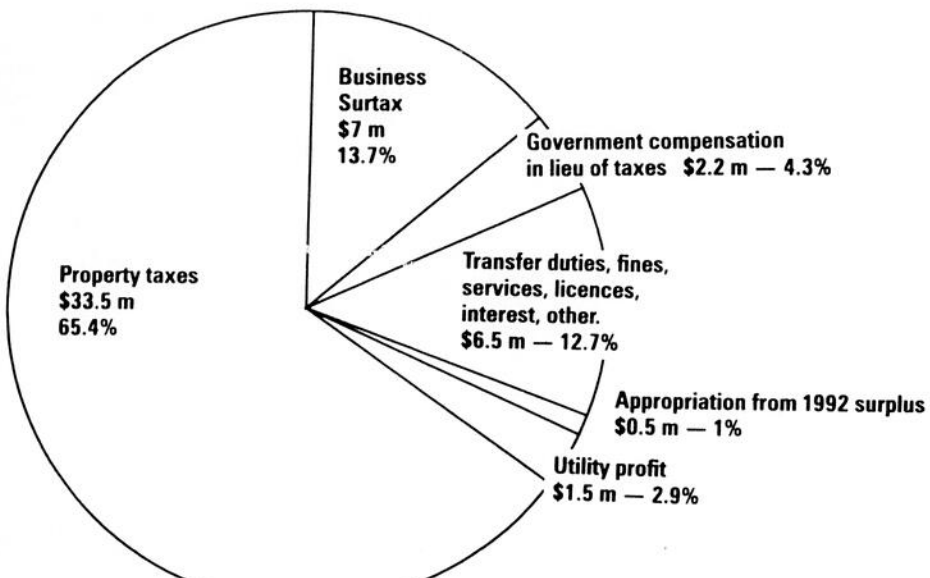
In a speech three weeks ago, the Prime Minister outlined a number of initiatives that he said would contribute to our prosperity. One such initiative would be an increase in the budget of the National Research Council's Industrial Assistance Research Program (IRAP). He said this program has been judged an unqualified success, especially for smaller firms — "and so we will expand it."

Indeed, in last week's economic statement by the finance minister, IRAP's budget was increased.

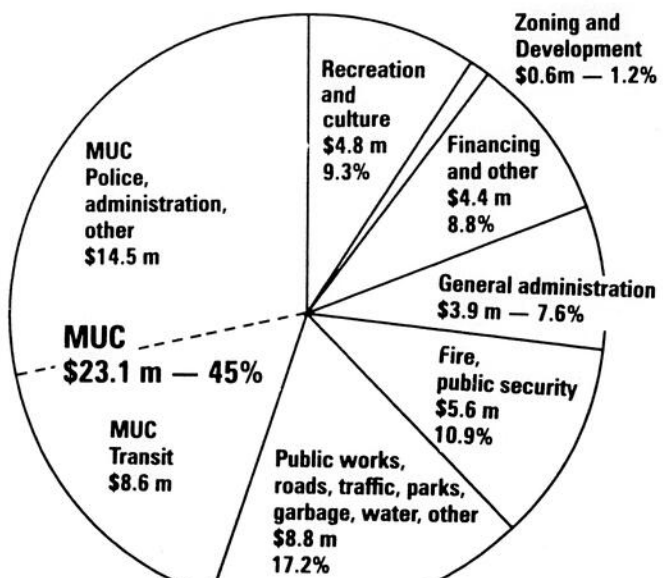
Continued on page 18

BUDGET '93

BUDGET TOTAL: $51.2 million



REVENUE



EXPENDITURES

$28 million runs the city

In the 1993 budget of $51.2 million, $28.1 million is earmarked for the cost of running the municipal operation after $23.1 goes to pay Westmount's share of Montreal Urban Community costs.

Salaries and fringe benefits will eat up 72.5 per cent of controllable costs in 1993.

Of the $28.1 million, $21.6 million in costs is considered to be controllable.

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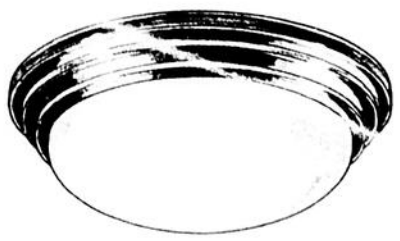

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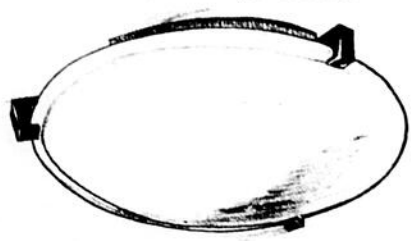

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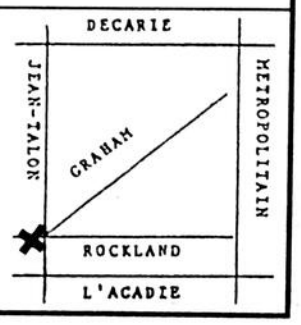

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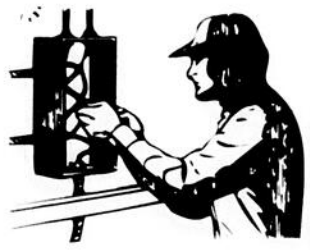

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BUDGET '93

Taxes up though budget down: fallen revenues blamed

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount taxpayers will dig deeper into their pockets in 1993 to pay 3.7 per cent more in basic municipal property taxes — adding $206 to the homeowner's average tax bill, in a budget passed by council Monday night.

Owners of commercial properties, already beset by hard times, will shell out 7.3 per cent more in surtax for an average tax bill increase of 4.6 per cent.

The tax hikes were announced as city council adopted a $51.2 million budget that freezes spending for the third consecutive year but takes $2 million more from taxpayers to offset losses in other revenue.

The city also presented an $8.8 million capital works program for 1993 which includes $1.3 million to start the library renewal project.

The new mill rate will rise to $1.11 from $1.07 pushing the average tax bill for homeowners up $206 to $5,784. The commercial surtax rate jumps to $1.33 from $1.24. This means the commercial sector will pay a combined increase from the two taxes of between 3.7 per cent and 5.7 per cent, depending on their commercial category.

Since there is no change in the property valuation roll between this year and next, citizens will easily be able to compare their tax change.

The budget trims 11 positions from the payroll through attrition, provides for 1 per cent salary increases and doubles parking meter fines to $20. It also adds a 0.5 per cent penalty to overdue tax accounts on top of interest charged at 2 per cent above the Bank of Montreal prime rate.

Westmount Municipal Association director Tom Thompson congratulated city council for "trying to keep costs down" and for separating out costs of the $7.5 million library renewal project.

"Westmount has scrupulously avoided the temptation indulged in by so many neighbouring municipalities, to add fringe taxes (such as water tax) on top of the general tax rate," said Councillor David Laidley in presenting the budget.

Notwithstanding inflation, next year's budget of $51,240,000 is marginally less than the $51,274,300 budget tabled a year ago.

Hard hit by revenue losses, the budget uses $500,000 from the $800,000 surplus expected from this year's budget.

Westmount will pay less to the Montreal Urban Community in shared costs. Though its apportionment drops $500,000, the city will still be required to hand over 45 per cent ($23.1 million) of its budget.

What is saved from the MUC bite is quickly gobbled up by higher financing costs because the city's accumulated surplus is depleted to $4.4 million, with $5 million worth of loan bylaw commitments still to be written off against it.

As a result, the city may have to resort to short-term bank borrowing to ease cash flow for the first time in many years, Mr. Laidley said.

A $2 million shortfall in projected revenues over the 1992 budget prevented the city from phasing in a pay-as-you-go policy for capital projects, Mr. Trent said.

Most significant, $900,000 was lost in interest on city investments due to falling rates. Also, the $400,000 one-time sale of No. 2 fire station included in the 1992 budget, $210,000 in amusement taxes eliminated by Quebec, $500,000 less from the electric utility profits due to Hydro-Quebec charges, and $900,000 less in the appropriation from surplus.

Revenue increases from court fines and parking lots ($300,000) as well as $200,000 more from the transfer of immovable property (welcome tax) offset the losses.

The city will also collect more in non-residential surtax, very slightly

Continued on page 9

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BUDGET '93

Holding line on expenses means public works hopes for no snow

By J. MARION FEINBERG

Realistic.

That's how public works director Fred Caluori describes his department's 1993 budget. Holding the line on expenses was the name of this round of the budgetting game.

The public works department oversees such crucial city services as snow removal, garbage collection and roads, parks and building maintenance.

"The budget is very tight with very little manoeuverability," he said. "All we hope is that we don't have a terrible winter season so we can keep the snow costs in line."

Operating funds decreased by $223,000 with the total budget going from $8.4 million in 1992 to $8.2 million. The cuts were made by forecasting for fewer workers, more contracting out and a reduction in materials, he said. The cost-cutting measures of attrition and contracting out have been in effect for a number of years.

"It means we'll be offering the same services with less people, supplementing with contracting out as required," said Mr. Caluori.

He gave the example of removing snow in parking lots. Contracted out, it will cost about $15,000 as opposed to the efforts of two employees for the entire snow season which would cost more than $40,000.

"Public works, mainly because of its sheer size, has been devoting a lot of attention from a management perspective to find the most cost effective ways of operating," said Bruce St. Louis, city operations manager.

What is happening is that the department is trying to do more, or at least offer the same level of services with less resources, he said. One example of increased services is the recycling program's expansion to include apartments of nine units or more. The added cost is about $98,000, about one-third of the recycling budget, which is forecasted to total $211,658 in 1992 and $310,000 for next year.

Snow removal comes in at $2,151,500 for 1993, down from $2,182,400 in 1992. If the weather is bad, however, the department will have to come up with the extra funds even if it means going over-budget in the salt department because road safety is always a top priority issue, he said.

How the tax burden is divided

	1992 (millions)	1993 (millions)	1992 (%)	1993 (%)
Single-family dwellings	18.9	19.8	49.0	48.9
Apartments	3.0	3.2	7.8	7.9
Condominiums	2.4	2.6	6.2	6.4
Other residential properties	2.0	2.1	5.9	5.2
Non-residential/ commercial properties	5.6	5.8		
Commercial surtax	+6.5=12.1	+7.0=12.8	31.3	31.6

Adults to be charged for city courses they take

All adults taking courses run by the city will be charged, it was announced in the 1993 recreation budget.

Gradually, over the past few years, the city has been charging for more and more courses.

Now it wants to discourage people from signing up and not attending, so it is enacting a user-pay system for all courses, according to socio-cultural director Beverly Adams-Coskun.

All children's courses, low-impact fitness for seniors and the community choir are still free.

Residents can expect the same level and quality of services from the recreation department as it has provided in previous years, said Bruce St. Louis, city operations manager.

"If we add a children's program, for example, we might just drop another less popular program to compensate," said recreation director Robert Aiken. "We're continually assessing programs to see if they're needed. It forces us to make sure that our focus is on line and current."

Other changes include charging for children's sports sweaters. Children can still register for programs free of charge, he added. A new $10,000 item in the budget is to help start up the proposed teen centre, expected to open next year.

Mr. Aiken said part of his job has been to keep the bottom line as close as possible to last year's while providing the same services. The 1993 recreation budget will cost the city $1,327,000, down by $11,000 from last year's $1,338,000.

The department oversees recreation programs, the swimming pool, the arena and Victoria Hall.

Mr. St. Louis describes the philosophy of the recreation department as a people service, meaning that dealing with recreation and socio-cultural programs and pools and the like necessitates a fixed number of people. Therefore, there has been no downsizing of personnel.

The swimming pool budget went from $126,000 this past year to $115,900 in 1993 simply by changing the opening time from 7 a.m. to 7:30 a.m.

The idea was not overwhelmingly rejected when they tested the new time last summer, so the saving in lifeguard fees will continue in 1993.

Administration costs have increased from $379,000 to $402,000 in 1993. The major change, according to Mr. St. Louis, is a result of the recreation handbook costs. That $25,000 cost has been transferred from the council budget to that of the recreation administration.

Real Estate

Advertisement

By Reg Morden

★ ★ ★

The Joyous Season

Most of us take the upcoming holiday season in stride. Good food, lots of parties, and special presents. Truly this is a festive time of the year. However, not everyone is so lucky or as blessed. Tragically, there are thousands of Montrealers who will never experience the celebrating that the majority of us take for granted. These unfortunates must rely on others even for things as basic as food. This year, there are more families dependent than ever before. Now is the time to unleash your holiday spirit and share your good fortune. A basket to receive your donations for Sun Youth is now available at our office. Foodstuffs, particularly meat and fish are anxiously sought after. New toys are also welcome and if wrapped, please mark by age and sex. We will guarantee delivery for distribution to the needy in time for Christmas. A very sincere "thank you" in advance on behalf of the recipients.

WHEN TO SELL?

Ask the average person when is the best time to sell a home and the answer will be — in the spring. They feel that families move only during the summer so children won't be changing schools in the middle of the year. Nothing could be further from the truth. Realtors' sales records will prove this.

The proper time to sell your home is as soon as you decide you need a bigger (or a smaller) place to live; when you decide to accept that new job offer; or when your lifestyle undergoes a major change that makes your house incompatible with your needs and wants.

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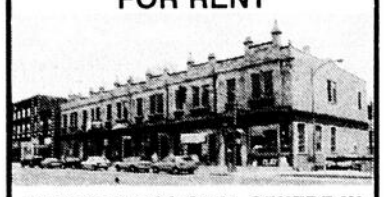

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BUDGET '93

Four roads to be redone, dog run extended in 1993

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Bad timing has forced Westmount to delay pay-as-you-go plans for the routine renewal of streets and municipal buildings which are now largely financed through loan bylaws.

Pay-as-you-go means the city would pay the complete cost of a major project as part of the operating budget instead of as a long-term financing plan.

Dwindling revenues have increased the tax rate by four cents. Adding $3 million for maintenance of municipal infrastructure would tack on another seven cents, at least, to the mill rate.

"It would have been disasterous," Mayor Peter Trent told the council meeting.

City operations manager Bruce St. Louis said the city hadn't abandoned its pay-as-you go plan. "It just wasn't a very good year to introduce it."

Projects to come

The city plans to spend $8.8 million on capital works projects in the coming year, according a three-year capital works program presented Monday night.

Of this, $4.9 million is to rebuild streets, replace of vehicles and other major projects. Another $1.3 million to start the library renewal project would require a loan bylaw whose financing has been built into the 1993 tax rate.

The remaining $2.6 million to upgrade the electric utility would be financed through loan bylaws that would be repaid from revenues of the utility.

Some of the work planned for next year is $2.4 million in road repairs to Sydenham, Summit Road, Lansdowne Avenue and Montrose Avenue as well as $300,000 of work in the parks. Included is extension of the dog run at the Westmount Athletics Grounds and adjacent tennis courts are to be refurbished. An additional community garden will be created on the embankment at The Glen while the demolition of some greenhouses and changes to others may be undertaken for $40,000.

Among the 15 new vehicles to be purchased for $1.1 million is a $400,000 rescue truck for the fire department. Tenders were accepted Monday night.

An integrated automatic library system in the Westmount Public Library and repairs to Victoria Hall and the arena will add another $500,000.

New street lights and traffic signals could cost $600,000 while continued computerization, sound barrier consulting fees ($20,000) and building renovations to the fire-police-annex building tally $175,000.

Comparison with previous budgets

	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989
Total Budget	51,240,000	51,274,300	45,250,000	43,427,100	40,789,600
MUC	23,077,900	23,624,500	18,750,000	16,260,000	15,300,000
Municipal	28,162,100	27,649,800	26,500,000	27,167,000	25,489,600
Taxation (property & commercial)	40,549,00	38,555,600	31,401,000	32,800,000	31,996,000
Revenue from other sources	10,691,000	12,718,700	13,849,000	10,627,100	8,793,600
Appropriation from surplus	500,000	1,400,000	2,500,000	830,000	0
Mill rate	1.11	1.07	1.28	1.44	1.40

WESTMOUNT

AVIS D'ADOPTION
RÈGLEMENT 1111

AVIS PUBLIC est par les présentes donné à tous ceux qui peuvent être concernés que le Règlement 1111 intitulé **«RÈGLEMENT RELATIF À L'IMPOSITION ET AU PRÉLÈVEMENT D'UNE SURTAXE SUR LES IMMEUBLES NON RÉSIDENTIELS POUR L'EXERCICE FINANCIER 1993»** a été adopté par le Conseil municipal de la Ville de Westmount, lors d'une séance spéciale tenue à l'Hôtel de Ville le 7 décembre 1992.

L'objet et le but dudit règlement est, entre autres, d'imposer et de prélever une surtaxe sur les immeubles non résidentiels situés dans la Ville de Westmount pour l'exercice financier 1993.

Le règlement entre en vigueur conformément à la loi.

Toute personne intéressée peut consulter ledit règlement et en obtenir copie au bureau du greffier de la ville de Westmount, 4333, rue Sherbrooke ouest, Westmount, Québec, du lundi au vendredi, inclusivement, durant les heures d'affaires, soit de 8:30 à 16:30.

DONNÉ à Westmount, Québec, ce 8e jour de décembre 1992.

Me Marie-France Paquet
Greffier de la Ville

NOTICE OF ADOPTION
BY-LAW 1111

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given to all who may be concerned that By-law 1111 entitled **"BY-LAW TO IMPOSE AND LEVY A SURTAX ON NON-RESIDENTIAL IMMOVEABLES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1993"** was adopted by the Municipal Council of the City of Westmount at a special sitting held at the City Hall on 7th December 1992.

The object and purpose of the said By-law is, among other things, to impose and to levy a surtax on non-residential immoveables situated in the City of Westmount for the fiscal year 1993.

This by-law comes into force according to law.

Any interested person may consult the said By-law and obtain copies thereof at the Office of the City Clerk of Westmount, 4333 Sherbrooke Street West, Westmount, Quebec, from Monday to Friday, inclusive, during regular office hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

GIVEN at Westmount, Quebec, this 8th day of December 1992.

Me Marie-France Paquet
City Clerk

WESTMOUNT

AVIS D'ADOPTION
RÈGLEMENT 1110

AVIS PUBLIC est par les présentes donné à tous ceux qui peuvent être concernés que le Règlement 1110 intitulé **«RÈGLEMENT VISANT À ADOPTER LE BUDGET ET À IMPOSER ET À PRÉLEVER UNE TAXE ET UNE COMPENSATION POUR L'EXERCICE FINANCIER 1993»** a été adopté par le Conseil municipal de la Ville de Westmount, lors d'une séance spéciale tenue à l'Hôtel de Ville le 7 décembre 1992.

L'objet et le but dudit règlement est, entre autres:

— d'adopter le budget de 1993; et

— d'imposer et de prélever une taxe foncière générale et une compensation pour l'exercice financier 1993.

Le règlement entre en vigueur conformément à la loi.

Toute personne intéressée peut consulter ledit règlement et en obtenir copie au bureau du greffier de la ville de Westmount, 4333, rue Sherbrooke ouest, Westmount, Québec, du lundi au vendredi, inclusivement, durant les heures d'affaires, soit de 8:30 à 16:30.

DONNÉ à Westmount, Québec, ce 8e jour de décembre 1992.

Me Marie-France Paquet
Greffier de la Ville

NOTICE OF ADOPTION
BY-LAW 1110

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given to all who may be concerned that By-law 1110 entitled **"BY-LAW TO ADOPT THE BUDGET AND TO IMPOSE AND LEVY A TAX AND A COMPENSATION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1993"** was adopted by the Municipal Council of the City of Westmount at a special sitting held at the City Hall on 7th December 1992.

The object and purpose of the said By-law is, among other things:

— to adopt the 1993 budget; and

— to impose and levy a general real estate tax and a compensation for the fiscal year 1993.

This by-law comes into force according to law.

Any interested person may consult the said By-law and obtain copies thereof at the Office of the City Clerk of Westmount, 4333 Sherbrooke Street West, Westmount, Quebec, from Monday to Friday, inclusive, during regular office hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

GIVEN at Westmount, Quebec, this 8th day of December 1992.

Me Marie-France Paquet
City Clerk

Taxes up, budget down

Continued from page 7

shifting the tax burden on to the commercial sector, to 31.6 per cent from 31.3 per cent.

In 1991 the commercial sector paid 26.8 per cent including business tax. Twelve years ago when commercial evaluations were higher, this sector bore 38 per cent of the tax load.

Tax bills will be sent out the end of January for payment in two installments by March 1 and July 1. There will be no extension for payment of the commercial surtax to November, as there was in 1992. As in other years, the second installment will immediately become due and payable if the first is not paid on time.

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Remington stolen in break-in

A hunting rifle and seven or eight bottles of liquor were discovered missing from a house on Mount Stephen Avenue, one of three Westmount homes broken into Friday, police said. Alarm systems were believed to have scared burglars from the two others.

The 12-gauge Remington semi-automatic was stolen along with painting entitled *Le Moulin de Ste-Rose*, a wedding band, a cordless phone, silverware and cash. The break-in was discovered by a cleaning woman who arrived at 1:15 p.m. to find the front door forced open.

On Westmount Avenue, near Aberdeen Avenue, officers found a back window broken and a hole in the door when they answered one alarm call at 10:40 p.m.

Nothing appeared to have been taken. At 2:10 a.m., they received another call from a house on Roslyn Avenue north of Westmount Avenue where a back door was standing open with two windows broken.

No injuries in Sherbrooke Street fire

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

A $140,000 fire Saturday afternoon in the Abbey Apartments at 4643 Sherbrooke St. probably started from faulty electrical wiring or work to repair the roof, fire ir estigators said Tuesday.

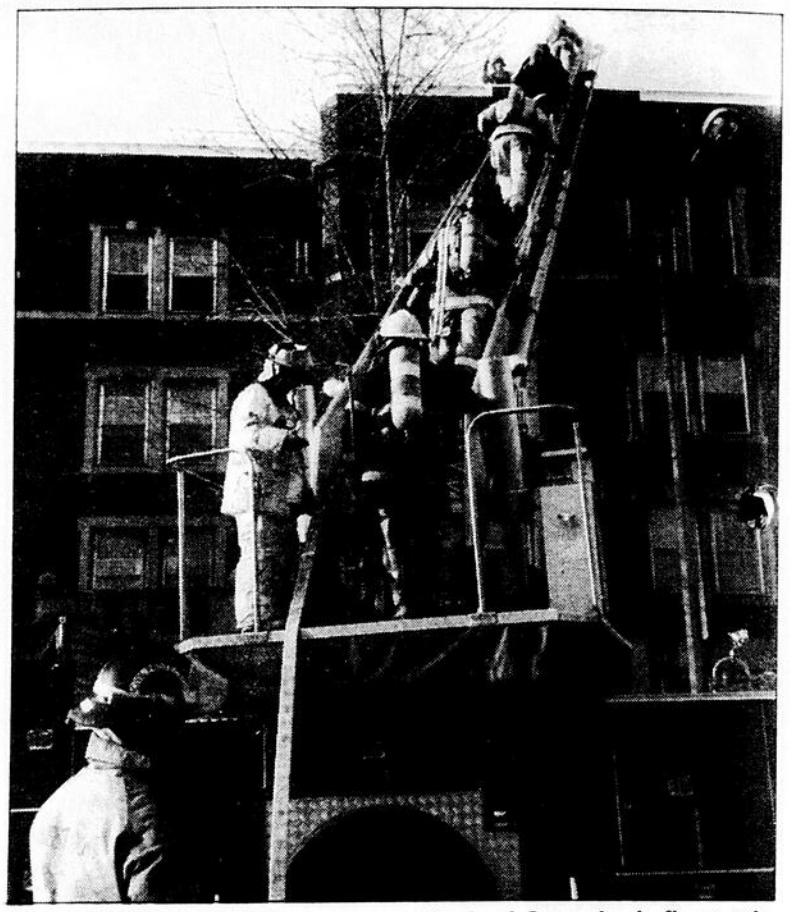
No injuries were reported but several families in the southeast corner of the building were forced to seek other accommodation after their apartments were ruined by fire, smoke or water.

Firefighters from Westmount and four mutual aid municipalities confined the blaze to the one top floor apartment but found it burning through heavy wooden beams in the walls and ceiling.

Buses and cars were rerouted off Sherbrooke Street in front of Victoria Hall throughout the afternoon as spectators were attracted by the smoke billowing from the four-storey building.

"Can I get back in for a jacket?" asked Peter Drummond, who lived next door to the burning apartment. He had rushed outside to -5 degree temperatures in shirtsleeves after trying to fight the fire.

"He's the hero," said Gillian Corner, who had returned from shopping to discover the fire in the office of her apartment. She said he had helped her by smashing the glass in the fire equipment cabinet in the corridor and emptying an extinguisher on the fire, but the smoke was heavy and he had to leave.



Firefighters from five departments limited Saturday's fire to the top floor of Abbey Apartments on Sherbrooke Street, across from Victoria Hall.

When it was evident he could not go back into the burning building for a coat, public security Sgt. John Everatt draped a red blanket around him saying, "Every superhero needs a cape."

The fire call was received at 1:35 p.m. and was out by 2:42 p.m.

A fire watch was continued until morning.

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But, sad to say, its not enough to meet the demand. We could do more but only with your help.

In the past three years, we have over doubled our services: we've introduced three emergency shelters, opened a Re-establishment Centre and started a winter bus service. Yet, the demand is still growing.

We are doing all we can, as economically as we can, in these difficult times. While many of those who come to us suffer from serious social or mental illness, there are others with whom we work hard in helping them re-establish independent lives again.

Your generous support is essential if we are to continue this work in helping those with broken and desperate lives.

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House sales maintain brisk pace, but prices low

By J. MARION FEINBERG

More than three times the houses were sold this September than last, an analysis of Westmount property transfers filed at city hall indicates.

Twenty-six homes changed hands compared to only seven in September 1991. While this year's volume remained stable from the summertime, a dip in prices took hold for the property sales finalized in September.

The slight rise in prices and markups recorded in August's transfers proved to be the exception rather than the rule. Markups for September 1992 slipped back to their relatively low levels.

Sale prices were about 15 per cent below their evaluations throughout most of the summer.

The return to low markups can be partially attributed to one sale, **511 Claremont**, which sold for $261,158 but had a valuation of $788,900, which translates into a 66.90 per cent markdown.

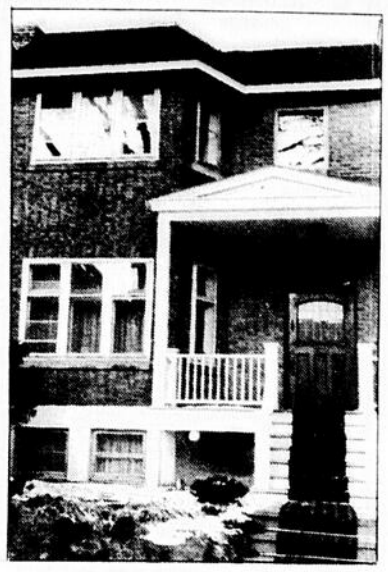
The average price of a Westmount home plunged to $355,537 from $453,482 the month before. The adjusted average price, calculated by eliminating the two highest and lowest prices, came in at $339,408. This is a decrease of $54,981 or a 13.9 per cent from August 1992 when the adjusted average price was $394,389. In September 1991 when it was $398,333.

Technically the highest price sale was **7 Summit Circle**, which sold for $625,000, although **26 Rosemount** sold for $1 and considerations with transfer tax paid on $871,000. The MUC valuation for **7 Summit Circle** was $846,000, a markdown of 26.12 per cent.

On the low end, the least expensive sale was **432 Claremont**, which sold for $125,000 at an evaluated level of $167,000 for a markdown of 25.15.

The property located at **76 Bruce** was sold in February 1991 for $148,930. Now, almost two years later, it changed hands again for $261,500. The valuation went from $190,400 to $317,700.

Five condominiums sold in September for a total price of $741,161 with an average selling price of $148,232. The average valuation for the condos was $272,820.



511 CLAREMONT
Lowest markup: -66.90%

September details

Following are the details of Westmount's August property sales, in alphabetical order by street address:

528 Argyle: from Solomon Fleising and Celine Roy to Kirk Muller and Stacey Goulding, sale price $560,000 (Montreal Urban Community valuation $632,900);
Arlington: from Jeffrey Tory and Sarah Peckett to Martin Bindman and Carole Brohman, $1 and considerations, transfer tax paid on $390,000 ($309,300);
76 Bruce: from Margaret Davidson to David Carr and Ngoc Trinh Bang, $261,500 ($317,700);
432 Claremont: from Henri Barki and Beste Orstan to Hogue Bernard Gauthier and François Mario Desjardins, $125,000 ($167,000);
511 Claremont: from Revilla Sauvé to Ian Moodie and Carelyn Bachley, $261,158 (788,900);
457 Clarke: from John Riley and Elizabeth Kennedy to James Berwick and Margaret Cooper, $370,000 ($450,000);
470 Côte St. Antoine: from Marc De La Bruyère to Joshua Lazar and Ilana Schwartz, $325,000 ($373,000);
4500 de Maisonneuve, #23: from Ghislaine Lachance to Chin Shih Yang and Wu Shin Yin Yang, $135,000 ($200,000);
4855 de Maisonneuve, #502: from Normand Paradis to Bilal Quereshi, $150,000 ($192,700);
4 Grove Park: from the estate of Roderick Reed Johnston to Steven Backman and Diana Gregory, $445,000 ($517,400);
106 Irvine: from James Berwick to Constantine Katsanis, $184,000 ($212,700);
526 Lansdowne: from Miriam Sarah Martin to David Desanctis and Sherly Candussi Desanctis, $212,000 ($248,300);
311 Melville: from Maurine Alsla Parrott and Lloyd Amey to Octavio Cau and Hwa Ling Soi, $223,000 ($249,100);
256 Metcalfe: from John Gary Plaxton and Louis Charlebois to Ralph Farley (2/3) and Maureen Buckley (1/3), $325,000 ($353,800);
226 Redfern: from the estate of Maurice Nault to Stéphane Chartrand, $225,000 ($267,300);
236 Redfern: from the estate of Frances Esme Fielding Liebich to Donald Teich Roeb and Elvira Dyck, $185,000 ($236,500);
240 Redfern: from Allan Gaudette and Gloria Tudor to Katherine Baulu, $309,000 ($399,700);
333 Redfern: from Patricia Daphne Hughes to Larry Sckolinick and Sheila Rosenbaum, $550,000 ($505,500);
7 Renfrew: from Jean Olier Caron and Catherine Duff Caron to Kieran Shanahan and Elizabeth Ramsay, $362,500 ($447,600);
26 Rosemount: from Timothy Ross Carsley to Joseph Ribkoff, $1 and considerations, transfer tax paid on $871,000 ($696,400);
599 Roslyn: from Bruce Bonar Hodgson to Stephen Litwin, $350,000 ($374,000);
4476 St. Catherine: from Alain Delaye to Gary Plaxton and Louise Charlebois, $174,000 ($193,400);
4175 St. Catherine, #303 (50%): from Margo Dawn Robitaille to Syncor Management Ltd., $167,161 ($522,100);
4410 St. Catherine, #5C: from Marion Black to Elizabeth Marchant, $149,000 ($241,800);
467 Strathcona: from Constance Lysle Helme to Georgina May Smith, $470,000 ($449,000);
7 Summit Circle: from Pardaman Kaur to Ilana Pasturnak, $625,000 ($846,000);
106 Sunnyside: from Cindy Gross and Frederick Naimer to Jean Olier Caron and Catherine Duff Caron, $523,814 ($532,300);
323 Victoria: from Sheriff of Montreal to France Clavet, $156,000 ($238,600);
501 Victoria: from John Randolph Skelton, Jane Dilys Skelton and Ruth Lillian Noble to David Jack and Siri Marken, $241,000 ($329,400);
484 Wood: from Michel Vennat to Timothy Ross Carsley and Beverley Rooney, $520,000 ($623,500);
1 Wood, #206: from the Central Capital Corporation to André Lou and Sandrine Olivier, $140,000 ($207,500).

SEPTEMBER TRANSFERS

Following is a summary of sales of single- and two-family houses in Westmount registered in September 1992, with corresponding figures for September 1991 in parentheses. Transfers of properties due to successions, family or business transactions are excluded, as are commercial and industrial properties:

- **Total sales:** 26 (7)
- **Total price:** $9,243,972 ($3,262,500)
- **Total valuation:** $10,759,300 ($2,964,100)
- **Markup of average price over average valuation:** -14.08% (10.07%)
- **Markup of average price over average valuation (adjusted*):** -13.30% (8.39%)
- **Typical price based on adjusted mark-up of typical valuation**:** $451,984 ($412,900)
- **Average price for month's transfers (adjusted*):** $339,408 ($398,333)

*To counteract the statistical effect of extreme sales, the two highest and two lowest markups or prices are eliminated from the calculations.

**The City of Westmount calculates the average 1992-94 valuation of single-family homes in Westmount as $521,300. The typical price is determined by applying the adjusted average markup to this average valuation.

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* As of October, 1991. Withdrawal Fees include Cheques, In-Branch Withdrawals and Self-Service Baking excluding Interac® surcharges. ®TD Registered user of Mark. †As of December 9, 1991.
*Trade Mark of The Toronto-Dominion Bank.

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BUDGET 1993 DE LA VILLE DE WESTMOUNT PRÉSENTÉ AU CONSEIL LE 7 DÉCEMBRE 1992

Par: David H. Laidley, Conseiller
Président de la Commission des Finances et de l'Administration

Monsieur le Maire Trent,
Conseillères, conseillers,
Mesdames, messieurs,

À titre de président de la Commission des finances et de l'administration, il me fait plaisir de présenter le budget de la ville pour l'année 1993.

Notons dès le départ que l'exercice 1992 générera un léger surplus d'exploitation, grâce aux efforts de chaque service de la ville pour contrôler assidûment ses dépenses, et grâce aussi à une augmentation des recettes non fiscales au cours des derniers mois de l'année 1992. Une fraction appropriée de ce surplus sera reportée sur l'exercice de 1993, produisant dès lors un effet modeste mais apprécié sur le taux de taxation de l'an prochain.

Dans un budget global de 51,3 millions $, un surplus prévu de 800 000 $ n'est guère important. Toutefois, la présence du surplus illustre mieux que des paroles le contrôle que nous avons exercé sur la gestion budgétaire de Westmount. Dans ce contexte, signalons par ailleurs que les dépenses directes d'exploitation de la ville ont été maintenues essentiellement au même montant pour une troisième année consécutive. Cela signifie, après avoir dégagé l'effet composé de l'inflation, que ces dépenses ont effectivement baissé, en termes réels, de plus de 9 % depuis 1991.

BUDGET DES RECETTES

Considérant d'abord le **Budget des recettes**, j'attire votre attention sur les **recettes non fiscales** — tels les contraventions de stationnement, les revenus d'intérêts sur nos investissements et les bénéfices de notre Service d'énergie électrique — qui constituent environ 15 % de nos revenus totaux. Cinq pour cent des recettes qui garnissent les coffres de la ville se présentent sous forme de paiements de transfert provenant d'autres paliers de gouvernement — surtout du gouvernement du Québec, en paiements tenant lieu de taxes, pour leurs propriétés exonérées situées dans la municipalité. Les recettes les plus importantes, représentant 80 % du total, proviennent bien entendu des propriétaires d'immeubles de Westmount, tant résidentiels que commerciaux.

Bien que les dépenses totales de la ville **diminueront** légèrement en 1993, les **recettes non fiscales**, pour leur part, **chuteront de presque 2 millions $**. L'on résume ci-dessous trois sources de revenu dont les diminutions constituent la majeure partie de la baisse des recettes.

PROVENANCE DE LA BAISSE	*MONTANT - 1993*
DIMINUTION DE L'APPORT DE CAPITAUX RELATIF À LA VENTE DE BIENS MUNICIPAUX	*450 000 $*
DIMINUTION DU BÉNÉFICE NET DU SERVICE D'ÉNERGIE ÉLECTRIQUE DE WESTMOUNT	*524 000 $*
DIMINUTION DES INTÉRÊTS CRÉDITEURS SUR LES INVESTISSEMENTS À COURT TERME DE LA VILLE	*900 000 $*

Pour commenter brièvement chacune de ces données, mentionnons d'abord que la chute du bénéfice net du Service d'énergie électrique appartenant à Westmount est imputable à une variation cyclique bisannuelle qui découle de notre contrat d'approvisionnement avec Hydro-Québec. En effet, en plus d'exercer un monopole d'approvisionnement en énergie électrique, Hydro-Québec détermine notre prix de vente, et par conséquent, notre marge de bénéfice brut sur l'exploitation électrique. Notons que, même en cette « année creuse » 1993, le bénéfice net de Westmount dépassera 1,5 million $.

La vente prévue de la Caserne numéro 2, en 1992, entraînera pour la ville un **recouvrement exceptionnel de capitaux** de 450 000 $. **La chute des revenus d'intérêts** est attribuable à deux facteurs : on prévoit pour 1993 des taux d'intérêt moyens inférieurs à ceux de 1992 et, plus spécifiquement, les fonds disponibles pour nos investissements à court terme seront considérablement moindres. En 1991 et 1992, nous avons judicieusement utilisé une partie importante des surplus des dernières années pour éviter de contracter de nouvelles dettes qui, autrement, auraient été nécessaires au financement de projets d'immobilisation. En outre, une partie considérable du surplus (3,9 millions $) a été affectée, ces deux dernières années, à la réduction du fardeau fiscal direct des citoyens de Westmount et, notamment, à l'amortissement de l'effet de la *réforme Ryan* transférant un lourd fardeau financier additionnel aux municipalités du Québec. En 1993, 500 000 $ de surplus seront portés directement au compte des revenus.

Le surplus global de Westmount a maintenant été ramené à un niveau nominal. En fait, au cours de l'exercice de 1993, la ville aura occasionnellement recours à des emprunts bancaires à court terme pour couvrir ses dépenses d'exploitation au jour le jour. En conséquence, le niveau moyen des investissements à court terme sera inférieur à ce qu'il a été ces dernières années, et les revenus d'intérêts baisseront proportionnellement.

Si d'autres secteurs de recettes non fiscales ont aussi souffert, dans une moindre mesure, **nous allons néanmoins maximiser les recettes non fiscales dans tous les domaines possibles** de notre exploitation. Ainsi, les contraventions de stationnement passeront de 10 $ à 20 $ dans les cas d'expiration au parcomètre, et certains services municipaux déterminés — tels les permis de construction et les révisions cadastrales — se paieront plus chers afin de mieux refléter le coût réel du service fourni.

TAUX DE LA TAXATION FONCIÈRE GÉNÉRALE DE 1993

Westmount est devenue compétente en matières d'établissement de budgets stricts, pour chacun de ses services, et de contrôle serré de ses dépenses d'exploitation. Comme nous le verrons plus tard, même la CUM a mis sa tendance relâchée à dépenser sous surveillance, et ce, grâce en partie aux efforts du maire Trent. Le Conseil est convaincu que toute compression additionnelle touchant le niveau des services aux citoyens de Westmount serait inacceptable et déraisonnable, et chacun d'entre nous fait de son mieux pour optimiser l'efficacité des services.

Pour compenser la baisse de recettes non fiscales mentionnée auparavant, qui nous prive de revenus municipaux de l'ordre de 2 millions $, **le taux de taxation municipale de Westmount augmentera en 1993 de 3,7 %, passant de 1,07 $ à 1,11 $ par 100 $ d'évaluation.** Ainsi, pour une résidence évaluée à 500 000 $, le montant de la taxe annuelle augmentera de 200 $. Notons que le propriétaire d'une résidence identique dans la ville de Montréal, paiera en 1993 un montant de taxe 62 % plus élevé que celui de Westmount. Le taux de taxation de Westmount demeurera sans doute l'un des plus faibles de toute la Communauté urbaine de Montréal.

TAXES DU SECTEUR COMMERCIAL

Une disposition importante de la *réforme Ryan* (appelée officiellement Loi 145) de l'an dernier habilitait les villes à

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VILLE DE WESTMOUNT
ÉTAT DES REVENUS ET DÉPENSES

D E P E N S E S	BUDGET 1992	PREVISIONS 1992	BUDGET 1993
ADMINISTRATION GENERALE			
Législation - conseil	302 000 $	297 000 $	265 000 $
Application de la loi - cour municipale	563 000	548 000	544 300
Gestion financière et administrative	1 718 700	1 678 000	1 693 200
Greffe	630 900	614 000	584 900
Ressources humaines	557 300	555 000	544 100
Edifices administratifs	280 200	277 000	275 200
	4 052 100 $	3 969 000 $	3 906 700 $
SECURITE PUBLIQUE			
Edifice de la police	126 400 $	117 000 $	119 100 $
Sécurité publique	1 527 700	1 556 000	1 610 700
Protection civile et contre l'incendie	3 692 600	3 740 000	3 864 800
	5 346 700 $	5 413 000 $	5 594 600 $
VOIRIE			
Administration	646 600 $	638 000 $	656 600 $
Voirie municipale	1 678 200	1 640 000	1 596 500
Enlèvement de la neige	2 158 900	2 230 000	2 152 500
Eclairage des rues	669 700	674 000	664 300
Circulation	385 800	434 000	443 700
Stationnement	121 000	118 000	116 400
	5 660 200 $	5 734 000 $	5 630 000 $
HYGIENE DU MILIEU			
Coût d'approvisionnement d'eau de la Ville de Montréal	1 700 000 $	1 733 000 $	1 651 000 $
Entretien des réseaux d'égoûts	231 100	218 000	218 600
Enlèvement et destruction des ordures	1 275 500	1 165 000	1 252 100
	3 206 600 $	3 116 000 $	3 121 700 $
ZONAGE ET MISE EN VALEUR DU TERRITOIRE			
Urbanisme et zonage	591 500 $	620 800 $	539 300 $
Office municipal d'habitation - quote-part des dépenses	50 000	46 000	45 000
	641 500 $	666 800 $	584 300 $
LOISIRS ET CULTURE			
Administration	382 000 $	325 400 $	401 500 $
Centre communautaire - Victoria Hall	229 900	250 200	230 400
Aréna	404 700	379 500	394 500
Piscine	183 300	170 800	161 700
Programmes de récréation	235 000	231 400	250 200
Parcs, terrains de jeux et serres	1 958 600	1 841 200	1 814 400
Bibliothèque	1 447 400	1 444 000	1 478 400
Contributions aux organismes sans buts lucratifs	100 000	95 000	100 000
	4 940 900 $	4 737 500 $	4 831 100 $
AUTRES DEPENSES			
Frais de financement	2 840 500 $	2 500 900 $	3 023 800 $
Immobilisations imputées au fonds d'exploitation	155 000	175 800	210 000
Autres dépenses	306 300	261 000	509 900
	3 301 800 $	2 937 700 $	3 743 700 $
PROVISION POUR REMBOURSEMENT DE TAXES	500 000 $	500 000 $	750 000 $
DEPENSES D'OPERATION MUNICIPALE	**27 649 800 $**	**27 074 000 $**	**28 162 100 $**
Communauté urbaine de Montréal			
S.T.C.U.M.	8 978 700	8 972 000	8 621 400
Administration, sécurité et autres	14 645 800	14 577 000	14 456 500
	23 624 500 $	23 549 000 $	23 077 900 $
EXCÉDANT DES REVENUS SUR LES DÉPENSES	-	829 000	-
TOTAL DES DEPENSES	51 274 300 $	51 452 000 $	51 240 000 $

CITY OF VILLE DE WESTMOUNT
Official NOTICE BOARD
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récupérer une plus grande part des recettes fiscales globales auprès des secteurs commerciaux municipaux. Pour citer notre ville en exemple, les douze dernières années ont vu la part du secteur commercial de l'assiette fiscale municipale glisser de 38 % à 31 %, **malgré la surtaxe et bien que l'espace commercial total ait augmenté d'environ 30 %**. Quant au secteur résidentiel de Westmount, privé de la croissance fiscale dont jouissait le secteur commercial, il a été accablé de taxes toujours plus élevées pour combler la différence au cours des deux dernières décennies.

La *réforme Ryan* n'a guère laissé aux municipalités d'autre choix que de corriger le déséquilibre des secteurs commercial et résidentiel. La province exerce sur les villes comme Westmount des pressions de trois ordres :

- en 1992, les importants centres urbains de la province se voyaient abruptement retirer une grande partie de la subvention provinciale au transport en commun. Cela se traduit, pour Westmount seulement, par une augmentation du fardeau fiscal (par le biais de notre quote-part à la CUM) de 3,5 millions $ annuellement;
- le déséquilibre croissant entre la contribution fiscale des secteurs commercial et résidentiel fut reconnu et quantifié en prévision de mesures correctives;
- la loi 145 fut entérinée pour habiliter les villes — sans vraiment leur donner d'autre choix — à percevoir une surtaxe sur toute propriété commerciale.

Pour se conformer à la loi provinciale, Westmount a agi de la façon la plus nette possible, en 1992, en abolissant intégralement la taxe d'affaires et en y substituant la nouvelle surtaxe (à seulement 94 % du niveau autorisé) sur la propriété commerciale. Cette décision a permis, entre autres avantages, d'éliminer deux postes au sein du personnel du Service des finances en 1992, car la perception de la surtaxe est beaucoup plus simple que ne l'était celle de la taxe d'affaires. (Mentionnons que la ville de Montréal est au nombre des villes qui ont suivi l'exemple de Westmount douze mois plus tard.)

L'année 1993 verra une légère augmentation de la surtaxe commerciale, qui passera de 94 % à 97 % du taux autorisé. Compte tenu du nouveau taux de taxation foncière de 1,11 $, déjà annoncé, **la surtaxe commerciale de Westmount** passera de 1,24 $ par 100 $ d'évaluation en 1992 à 1,33 $ l'an prochain. L'augmentation moyenne du taux de taxation commerciale à Westmount en 1993 sera de 4,6 %. Elle variera d'un minimum de 3,7 % à un maximum de 5,6 %, en tenant compte du taux de taxation foncière et du taxe de la surtaxe selon les différentes catégories officielles.

Westmount a scrupuleusement résisté à la tentation — à laquelle ont cédé tant de municipalités avoisinantes — d'ajouter des « taxes complémentaires » à la taxe foncière de base. Ces taxes, dont la plus courante est la taxe d'eau, forment une liste sans fin à laquelle figurent la taxe d'ordures, la taxe olympique, la taxe de ligne de propriété, la taxe d'amélioration des rues, la taxe de ramonage... Westmount ne perçoit actuellement aucune de ces taxes distinctes.

La comparaison entre les taxes de Westmount et celles de la ville de Montréal, pour une propriété commerciale type de 500 000 $, montre clairement l'**avantage considérable** dont jouit le secteur commercial de Westmount :

COMPARAISON TYPE ENTRE TAXES COMMERCIALES - 1993				
	MONTRÉAL		*WESTMOUNT*	
	Taux 1993	*Propriété de 500 000 $*	*Taux 1993*	*Propriété de 500 000 $*
TAXE FONCIÈRE GÉNÉRALE	*1,78 $*	*8 900 $*	*1,11 $*	*5 550 $*
SURTAXE	*2,06 $*	*10 300 $*	*1,33 $*	*6 650 $*
TAXE OLYMPIQUE (COMMERCIALE)	*0,087 $*	*435 $*	—	—
FACTURE FISCALE TOTALE		*19 635 $*		*12 200 $*

- Pour des propriétés commerciales identiques, la taxe, à Montréal, est de 61 % plus élevée que celle de Westmount, *sans* compter la taxe d'eau de la ville de Montréal.

BUDGET D'EXPLOITATION MUNICIPALE

Examinons maintenant le **Budget d'exploitation de Westmount**, qui se maintient **essentiellement au même montant (en dollars courants) pour la troisième année consécutive**. Le budget de l'ensemble des services a été gelé au niveau établi dès 1991, sans provision appréciable pour l'inflation ni pour des services additionnels. Cela signifie, après avoir dégagé l'effet composé de l'inflation, que **les dépenses d'exploitation de la ville ont baissé, en termes réels, de plus de 9 % depuis 1991**.

DÉPENSES D'EXPLOITATION CONTRÔLABLES, EN MONTANTS D'ORIGINE	
DÉPENSES D'EXPLOITATION RÉELLES, 1991	*21 229 000 $*
DÉPENSES D'EXPLOITATION RÉELLES, 1992 (E)	*21 549 000 $*
DÉPENSES D'EXPLOITATION BUDGÉTISÉES, 1993	*21 556 000 $*

(E) réelles, 10 mois; estimatives, 2 mois.

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VILLE DE WESTMOUNT
PROGRAMME DES
DÉPENSES EN IMMOBILISATIONS
1993-1994-1995

	BUDGET 1993		PRÉVISIONS 1994	PRÉVISIONS 1995
	DÉPENSES MAJEURES	DÉPENSES COURANTES		
ADMINISTRATION GÉNÉRALE	---	620,000	360,000	1,227,000
SERVICES DE PROTECTION	---	40,000	---	---
TRAVAUX PUBLICS - CHAUSSÉE	---	2,415,000	2,980,000	2,260,000
ÉLECTRICITÉ — MUNICIPAL	---	600,000	360,000	360,000
PARCS	---	301,000	505,000	755,000
LOISIRS ET CULTURE	---	587,000	195,000	340,000
• PROJET DE RAJEUNISSEMENT DE LA BIBLIOTHÈQUE	7,500,000	---	---	---
REMPLACEMENT DE VÉHICULES	---	934,000	1,021,000	1,357,000
SERVICE D'ÉNERGIE ÉLECTRIQUE	---	1,420,000	660,000	530,000
• NOUVEAU POSTE 25 KVA	3,000,000	---	---	---
GRAND TOTAL — IMMOBILISATIONS	10,500,000	6,917,000	6,081,000	6,829,000

Le 8 decembre 1992

VILLE DE WESTMOUNT
ÉTAT DES REVENUS ET DÉPENSES

R E V E N U S	BUDGET 1992	PREVISIONS 1992	BUDGET 1993
TAXES			
Foncière générale			
Unifamilial	18 949 600 $		19 849 500 $
Condominium	2 436 900		2 553 200
Conciergerie	3 011 400		3 156 300
Autre Résidentiel	2 026 800		2 124 300
Commercial/Industriel	5 559 200		5 823 700
Total Taxe Foncière	31 983 900 $	32 296 000 $	33 507 000 $
Surtaxe sur Non-Résidentiel			
Commercial/Industriel	6 141 000 $		6 578 900 $
Gouvernement du Canada/Québec	430 700		463 100
Total Surtaxe	6 571 700 $	6 625 000 $	7 042 000 $
Total des revenus de taxes	38 555 600 $	38 921 000 $	40 549 000 $
COMPENSATIONS TENANT LIEU DE TAXES			
Gouvernment du Canada	314 200 $	314 000 $	323 000 $
Gouvernment du Québec	1 404 900	1 616 000	1 739 000
Autres	131 500	139 000	131 000
	1 850 600 $	2 069 000 $	2 193 000 $
SERVICES RENDUS A D'AUTRES MUNICIPALITES			
Protection contre l'incendie	3 000 $	3 000 $	3 000 $
Communauté urbaine de Montréal	194 600	195 000	198 000
	197 600 $	198 000 $	201 000 $
AUTRES SERVICES RENDUS			
Centre communautaire - Victoria Hall	30 000 $	50 000 $	50 000 $
Aréna, terrains de jeux et piscine	151 300	128 000	165 000
Bibliothèque	82 700	72 000	72 000
Stationnement	1 000 000	1 115 000	1 100 000
Autres	269 500	274 100	270 100
Loyers	11 000	11 700	11 000
	1 544 500 $	1 650 800 $	1 668 000 $
AUTRES REVENUS DE SOURCES LOCALES			
Droits de mutations immobilières	850 000 $	1 200 000 $	1 100 000 $
Droits sur les divertissements	210 000	74 800	0
Amendes	2 200 000	1 900 000	2 400 000
Intérêts sur dépôts à court terme	1 300 000	500 000	400 000
Intérêts sur arrérages de taxes	280 000	610 000	320 000
Disposition d'actifs immobilisés	490 700	490 700	41 700
Revenu net, section de distribution d'électricité	2 049 700	2 109 000	1 526 000
Autres revenus	168 900	160 200	178 300
Appropriation du surplus	1 400 000	1 400 000	500 000
	8 949 300 $	8 444 700 $	6 466 000 $
TRANSFERTS CONDITIONNELS			
Subventions du gouvernement du Québec Bibliothèque	176 700 $	168 500 $	163 000 $
TOTAL DES REVENUS	51 274 300 $	51 452 000 $	51 240 000 $

Suite de la page précédente

Dans plusieurs domaines, l'augmentation des coûts fut inévitable mais compensée par des économies en d'autres domaines. Le programme de recyclage (boîtes bleues), étendu aux immeubles à logements et aux condominiums, en est un bon exemple. Les coûts contractuels de recyclage augmenteront de 98 000 $ l'an prochain, mais des compressions dans d'autres domaines assureront la stabilité du budget total.

À d'autres niveaux, la ville a réussi à maintenir ses services en appliquant sélectivement le **principe d'usager-payeur**. Depuis 1991, le Service des loisirs et de la culture a essentiellement maintenu le nombre de participants aux différents programmes. Toutefois, pour les adultes, le prix de ces programmes a subi une hausse substantielle imputable à l'application du principe d'usager-payeur, établi par le Conseil pour mieux couvrir les coûts croissants. L'an prochain, la ville percevra la somme de 165 000 $ en frais directs pour les activités de loisir destinées aux adultes, par rapport à 114 000 $ en 1991.

Ailleurs, dans les dépenses, le maintien des coûts s'est traduit par des compressions de services. En effet, en 1991 la bibliothèque des enfants était ouverte au public 65 heures par semaine; en décembre 1992, les heures d'ouverture passaient à 61 afin de respecter les restrictions budgétaires. Après avoir acheté 6450 nouveaux livres en 1991, la bibliothèque n'en achètera que 5540 en 1992, en raison des effets conjugués d'un budget gelé et du prix accru des livres.

Les **frais de personnel** ont été contenus grâce à la combinaison rigoureuse de réductions de personnel et de limitations strictes des salaires. Le budget de 1992 prévoyait une augmentation globale des salaires d'à peine 1,5 %. Celui de 1993 ne prévoit que 1,0 % d'augmentation. L'effectif de la ville est passé de 342 employés en 1986 à 319 au début de 1992. La prévision budgétaire de 1993 compte 11 employés permanents de moins, réduisant l'effectif de la ville à 308 avant la fin de l'année prochaine.

Certaines de ces compressions sont réelles et permanentes; c'était le cas du démantèlement de la division de la taxe d'affaires du Service des finances, qui a permis l'abolition de deux postes à temps plein. En d'autres occasions, le service fourni par la ville a été remplacé par un service contractuel, entraînant toujours une économie d'envergure importante.

RÉPARTITION DES CHARGES DE LA CUM

Pour la première fois en dix ans, la quote-part de Westmount dans les charges de la CUM diminuera. La baisse, de 23,5 millions $ à 23,1 millions $, découle d'une variante avantageuse dans la nouvelle méthode de répartition entre les 28 municipalités membres de la CUM. Le budget de la CUM a finalement cédé aux pressions incessantes du ***groupe de gestion raisonnée*** de la Conférence des maires de la banlieue de Montréal, dont le maire Trent de Westmount est membre dynamique. Ainsi, le budget global de la CUM pour 1993 n'est que de 0,6 % plus élevé que celui de 1992.

La quote-part de Westmount a **baissé de 2 %** grâce à la nouvelle méthode de répartition, fondée sur le rôle de la surtaxe du secteur commercial plutôt que sur le désormais désuet rôle de valeur locative. Ce dernier favorisait la ville de Montréal, dont le taux d'inoccupation commerciale et le nombre de propriétés gouvernementales sont élevés. La nouvelle méthode avantage légèrement les villes comme Westmount.

Nous entendons poster les comptes de taxe municipale avant la fin de janvier et permettre leur paiement en deux versements dont les échéances respectives seront le 1er mars et le 1er juillet 1993. Toutefois, le contribuable qui, au 1er mars, aura omis de payer intégralement la première tranche se verra retirer le privilège de régler par versements; la facture totale des deux versements viendra à échéance à la première des deux dates, et des intérêts, au taux préférentiel de la Banque de Montréal plus 2 %, s'ajouteront au solde impayé. En outre, on exigera sur le montant principal une pénalité de 0,5 % par mois de retard, jusqu'à concurrence de 5 %.

Ces brèves remarques étant faites, je dépose le budget 1993 de Westmount en vue de son adoption par le Conseil.

David H. Laidley, conseiller
Président de la Commission des finances et de l'administration

CITY OF WESTMOUNT 1993 BUDGET PRESENTATION TO COUNCIL 7 DECEMBER 1992

BY: Councillor David H. Laidley Chairman Finance and Administration Committee

Mayor Trent, Councillors, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is my pleasure, as Chairman of the Finance and Administration Committee, to present the City's Budget for the year 1993.

We note at the outset that a small budget surplus will be generated in fiscal 1992, thanks to stringent control of operating expenses and a welcome increase in certain non-tax revenues late in the current year. An appropriate portion of this surplus will be carried forward to fiscal 1993, with a modest but welcome effect on next year's tax rate.

In a total budget of $51.3 million, the expected surplus of some $800,000 is not really large. But it illustrates more effectively than mere words the degree of control we have achieved over our total Westmount budget process. In this context, we note as well that the City's direct operating expenses have been maintained essentially at the same dollar level for the third year in a row. This means that after factoring out the compound effect of inflation, direct City operating expenses have actually decreased by over 9% since 1991.

REVENUE BUDGET

In looking first at the **Revenue Budget**, I direct your attention to the **non-tax revenues** which make up about 15% of our total income — such items as parking tickets, short term interest, and profit from our Westmount electric utility operation. A further 5% enters the City coffers in the form of transfer payments from other levels of government, mainly the Government of Québec in the form of payments in lieu of taxes, on behalf of tax-exempt properties in the municipality. The most important source of income, 80% of the total, comes of course from property owners in Westmount, both residential and commercial.

While the total spending of the City will go **down** slightly in 1993, **non-tax revenues will fall by nearly $2 million.** The three most important areas of decrease, accounting for the lion's share of the net revenue reduction, are summarized below:

SOURCE OF DECREASE	*AMOUNT - 1993*
DECREASED CAPITAL RECOVERY FROM SALE OF CITY ASSETS.	*$ 450,000.*
LOWER NET PROFIT FROM WESTMOUNT LIGHT AND POWER.	*$ 524,000.*
LOWER INTEREST INCOME ON CITY FUNDS.	*$ 900,000.*

Continued on next page

CITY OF WESTMOUNT STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

EXPENDITURE	BUDGET 1992	FORECAST 1992	BUDGET 1993
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION			
Legislation - Council	$ 302,000	$ 297,000	$ 265,000
Law Enforcement - Municipal Court	563,000	548,000	544,300
Finance and General Administration	1,718,700	1,678,000	1,693,200
City Clerk	630,900	614,000	584,900
Human Resources	557,300	555,000	544,100
Administration Buildings	280,200	277,000	275,200
	$ 4,052,100	$ 3,969,000	$ 3,906,700
PUBLIC SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY			
Police Building	$ 126,400	$ 117,000	$ 119,100
Public Security	1,527,700	1,556,000	1,610,700
Fire and Civil Protection	3,692,600	3,740,000	3,864,800
	$ 5,346,700	$ 5,413,000	$ 5,594,600
ROAD TRANSPORT			
Administration	$ 646,600	$ 638,000	$ 656,600
Streets and Sidewalks	1,678,200	1,640,000	1,596,500
Snow Removal and Disposal	2,158,900	2,230,000	2,152,500
Street Lighting	669,700	674,000	664,300
Traffic Control	385,800	434,000	443,700
Parking Lots	121,000	118,000	116,400
	$ 5,660,200	$ 5,734,000	$ 5,630,000
WATER AND SANITATION SERVICES			
Water purchased from Montreal	$ 1,700,000	$ 1,733,000	$ 1,651,000
Sewer System Maintenance	231,100	218,000	218,600
Garbage Collection and Disposal	1,275,500	1,165,000	1,252,100
	$ 3,206,600	$ 3,116,000	$ 3,121,700
ZONING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES			
Urban Planning and Zoning	$ 591,500	$ 620,800	$ 539,300
Municipal Housing - Shared Costs	50,000	46,000	45,000
	$ 641,500	$ 666,800	$ 584,300
RECREATION AND CULTURE			
Administration	$ 382,000	$ 325,400	$ 401,500
Victoria Hall	229,900	250,200	230,400
Arena	404,700	379,500	394,500
Swimming Pool	183,300	170,800	161,700
Recreation Programs	235,000	231,400	250,200
Parks, Playgrounds and Greenhouse	1,958,600	1,841,200	1,814,400
Library	1,447,400	1,444,000	1,478,400
Grants to Non-Profit Organizations	100,000	95,000	100,000
	$ 4,940,900	$ 4,737,500	$ 4,831,100
OTHER EXPENDITURES			
Debt Service and Other Financing Costs	$ 2,840,500	$ 2,500,900	$ 3,023,800
Capital Expense Charged to Operating Fund	155,000	175,800	210,000
Recoverables, Contingency and Other	306,300	261,000	509,900
	$ 3,301,800	$ 2,937,700	$ 3,743,700
PROVISION FOR TAX REFUNDS	$ 500,000	$ 500,000	$ 750,000
MUNICIPAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES	$ 27,649,800	$ 27,074,000	$ 28,162,100
MONTREAL URBAN COMMUNITY			
Transit Commission	8,978,700	8,972,000	8,621,400
Administration, Security and Other	14,645,800	14,577,000	14,456,500
	$ 23,624,500	$ 23,549,000	$ 23,077,900
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	-	829,000	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	$ 51,274,300	$ 51,452,000	$ 51,240,000

CITY OF WESTMOUNT
ONE HUNDRED AND SECOND
TABLING OF THE BUDGET

Continued from previous page

Looking at each of these briefly, the drop in net profit from our Westmount-owned electric utility is due to a two-year cyclic variation which originates in the supply contract with Hydro-Québec. In addition to its monopoly on supply of electrical energy, *Hydro-Québec* also determines our selling price and therefore our gross profit margin on electric power operations. We note that even in the "off year" of our electric utility operation, net profit for Westmount in 1993 will be over $1.5 million.

The projected sale of Number 2 Fire Station in 1992 will give the City a one-time **capital recovery** of $450,000. **The drop in interest income** results from two factors: average interest levels are forecast to be lower in 1993 than we experienced in 1992; more particularly, the funds which the City has invested in short-term securities at any given time will be considerably less. We have in 1991 and 1992 judiciously utilized a good part of the surplus of several years ago, to avoid contracting new debt which would otherwise have been required to finance capital projects. In addition, a significant portion of the surplus ($3.9 million) has been allocated in each of the last two years to reduce the direct tax burden of Westmount citizens, and particularly to help cushion the effect of the "Ryan Reform" which transferred a large additional financial burden to Quebec municipalities. In 1993, $500,000 will be carried directly from surplus to the revenue account, as previously mentioned.

CITY OF WESTMOUNT
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAMME
THREE YEARS 1993-1994-1995

	1993 BUDGET		1994 FORECAST	1995 FORECAST
	MAJOR	CURRENT		
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	---	620,000	360,000	1,227,000
PROTECTIVE SERVICES	---	40,000	---	---
PUBLIC WORKS — ROADS	---	2,415,000	2,980,000	2,260,000
STREET LIGHTING	---	600,000	360,000	360,000
PARKS	---	301,000	505,000	755,000
RECREATION AND CULTURE	---	587,000	195,000	340,000
• LIBRARY RENEWAL PROJECT	7,500,000	---	---	---
VEHICLE REPLACEMENT	---	934,000	1,021,000	1,357,000
WESTMOUNT LIGHT & POWER	---	1,420,000	660,000	530,000
• NEW 25 KVA SUBSTATION	3,000,000	---	---	---
TOTAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME	10,500,000	6,917,000	6,081,000	6,829,000

8 December 1992

The total Westmount surplus has now been reduced to a nominal level. In fact, in the course of fiscal 1993, the City will resort to occasional short term bank borrowing to cover its day-to-day operating requirements. As a result, the average level of funds on short-term deposit will be less than has been the case in recent years, and interest income will drop correspondingly.

Other areas of non-tax income have also been adversely affected, in less important amounts, **but we will also maximize non-tax income wherever possible** in our City operations. Parking fines, for instance will go from $10 to $20 for an expired parking meter, and certain specific City services — such as building permits and cadastral revisions — will cost more in order to reflect more accurately the actual cost of the service provided.

CITY OF WESTMOUNT
STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

REVENUE	BUDGET 1992	FORECAST 1992	BUDGET 1993
TAXATION			
General Property Tax			
Single Family Dwelling	$ 18,949,600		$ 19,849,500
Condominia	2,436,900		2,553,200
Apartments	3,011,400		3,156,300
Other Residential	2,026,800		2,124,300
Commercial/Industrial	5,559,200		5,823,700
Total Property Tax	$ 31,983,900	$ 32,296,000	$ 33,507,000
Surtax on Non-Residential			
Commercial/Industrial	$ 6,141,000		$ 6,578,900
Govts of Canada/Québec	430,700		463,100
Total Surtax	$ 6,571,700	$ 6,625,000	$ 7,042,000
Total Taxation Revenue	$ 38,555,600	$ 38,921,000	$ 40,549,000
COMPENSATION IN LIEU OF TAXES			
Government of Canada	$ 314,200	$ 314,000	$ 323,000
Government of Quebec	1,404,900	1,616,000	1,739,000
Other (Service Taxes)	131,500	139,000	131,000
	$ 1,850,600	$ 2,069,000	$ 2,193,000
SERVICES TO OTHER MUNICIPALITIES			
Fire Protection	$ 3,000	$ 3,000	$ 3,000
Montreal Urban Community	194,600	195,000	198,000
	$ 197,600	$ 198,000	$ 201,000
OTHER SERVICES			
Victoria Hall	$ 30,000	$ 50,000	$ 50,000
Arena, Playgrounds and Swimming Pool	151,300	128,000	165,000
Library	82,700	72,000	72,000
Parking Lots	1,000,000	1,115,000	1,100,000
Recoverable and Other Revenues	269,500	274,100	270,100
Rental of City Owned Properties	11,000	11,700	11,000
	$ 1,544,500	$ 1,650,800	$ 1,668,000
OTHER REVENUE FROM LOCAL SOURCES			
Duty on Transfer of Immoveables	$ 850,000	$ 1,200,000	$ 1,100,000
Amusement Tax	210,000	74,800	0
Court Fines	2,200,000	1,900,000	2,400,000
Interest on Short-Term Deposits	1,300,000	500,000	400,000
Interest on Tax Arrears	280,000	610,000	320,000
Sale of Capital Assets	490,700	490,700	41,700
Net Revenue from Utility Operations	2,049,700	2,109,000	1,526,000
Other Revenues	168,900	160,200	178,300
Appropriation from Surplus	1,400,000	1,400,000	500,000
	$ 8,949,300	$ 8,444,700	$ 6,466,000
CONDITIONAL TRANSFERS			
Quebec Library Grant	$ 176,700	$ 168,500	$ 163,000
TOTAL REVENUE	$ 51,274,300	$ 51,452,000	$ 51,240,000

1993 GENERAL PROPERTY TAX RATE

Westmount has become proficient at developing tight departmental budgets and at maintaining close control over operational expenses. As we will discuss later in this document, even the M.U.C. has brought its profligate spending tendencies under control, thanks in no small part to the time and attention of Mayor Trent. Council is convinced that further cuts in actual levels of service to Westmount citizens are not acceptable or wise, and all of us are doing the best job possible to deliver services efficiently.

To offset the drop in non-tax income, which effectively removes a net amount of $2 million from our municipal revenues, **the municipal tax rate in Westmount will increase by 3.7% in 1993, from $1.07 per $100 of valuation to $1.11.** For a dwelling of $500,000 valuation, total annual tax will increase by $200. The tax that must be paid in 1993 on an identical dwelling in the City of Montreal will be 62% higher. Our tax rate will no doubt remain one of the lowest in the entire Montreal Urban Community.

COMMERCIAL SECTOR TAXES

An important provision of last year's "Ryan Reform" (officially, Bill 145) was enabling legislation to permit the recapture from municipal commercial sectors of a larger share of total tax revenues. Taking our own City as an example, the past dozen years has seen the commercial sector's share of total taxes slide from 38% to 31%, **even with the surtax, and even though the total commercial building space in Westmount actually increased by 30%.** The residential sector of Westmount, without the growth in its tax base enjoyed by the commercial sector, has been burdened with higher and higher taxes over the last two decades to make up the difference.

The "Ryan Reform" left municipalities with little choice but to redress the commercial-residential imbalance. Three forms of pressure are exerted by the province on cities like Westmount:

- a large chunk of provincial subsidy to the public transport sector was abruptly withdrawn in 1992 from the province's major urban centres. For Westmount alone, the increased tax burden (collected through our M.U.C. apportionment) is $3.5 million per year.
- the growing imbalance between commercial and residential sector taxation was recognized and quantified, setting the stage for corrective measures.
- enabling legislation (Bill 145) was passed permitting — with little real choice for cities but to comply — the collection of a surtax on all commercial property.

Westmount took the cleanest route to complying with provincial legislation when, in 1992, we abolished the former business tax entirely, and substituted the new surtax (at only 94% of the permitted level) on commercial property. Among other advantages, this has permitted cutting two positions from the payroll of the Finance Department in 1992, since the surtax is much less burdensome to collect than the former business tax. (We note that the City of Montreal, among others, is following Westmount's lead 12 months later).

For 1993, the commercial surtax is increased marginally,

Continued on next page

YOU SAY...

Continued from page 4

Half a million has been appropriated for fees, yet the information made available is not adequate to assess the merits and justification of the proposal.

The increase in operating cost provided by a 50 per cent addition in the size of the new facility has not been disclosed.

Capital cost per household has been understated: interest charges have not been taken into consideration.

Based on the foregoing points, among others, we reiterate our long-standing recommendation that a citizens' committee should be formed from experts available in the community. A full feasibility study should be made of the whole project. A neighbouring municipality has just proposed the construction of a complete new library complex at an estimated cost of $4 million.

We, therefore, until much more information and clarification is made available, propose a No decision to the project as currently exposed.

Rollie Bernard
Acting chairman
Westmount Finance Action Committee
PO Box 173, Victoria Stn.,
MONTREAL H3Z 2V5

OUR MP...

Continued from page 5

In 1991, the director general of IRAP was fired after a disagreement with the president of the NRC over the future direction of the program. Concerns were raised that the president wanted to change the orientation of IRAP from serving industry by obtaining technology from all appropriate sources to a marketing arm for NRC labs.

For these reasons, at my suggestion, the Industry, Science and Technology Committee of the House of Commons held hearings into the future of IRAP.

The program has proved to be so valuable because in Canada, most companies do little or no R&D. Our economy is made up largely of small- and medium-sized businesses. IRAP offers these companies science and technology expertise they so badly need.

After extensive hearings, the Industry, Science and Technology Committee reiterated its support for IRAP and recommended its budget be substantially increased. And so it is gratifying to hear the Prime Minister say the program has been judged an unqualified success and to see the program's budget increased. This decision is above all a credit to the program and the people who developed it over the years. Given my own involvement at the political level, I also regard it as somewhat of a personal victory.

Fines for good cause

Westmount Public Library collected $210.18 last week when it offered a sort of overdue book amnesty. Instead of forgiving the fines, it gave the money collected to the local Public Security Unit for its Christmas basket campaign.

"I phoned people that had very late books," said circulation clerk Liane Vincent. "It was met with enthusiasm, but they couldn't get here" on time for the fines to go to the PSU.

Last year's amnesty had the same lackadaisical reaction, she said.

Aside from the money, library users filled a box with food.

Pasta Casareccia

NUTRITION MADE EASY... THE NATURAL WAY
Ready for the oven platter of lasagna (meat or vegetable)
Cannelloni, medaglioni, baucetti
Fresh natural pasta cooks in two minutes in a variety of flavours:
whole wheat, spinach, tomatoes, etc.

5849 SHERBROOKE W.
(corner Draper)
Ask for Pina
483-1588

1487 MacDONALD
(corner Decarie) Ville St. Laurent
Ask for Angela
334-9262

Continued from previous page

from 94% to 97% of the permitted rate. Based on the new basic property tax rate of $1.11, the Westmount commercial surtax rate will increase from $1.24 per $100 of valuation in 1992 to $1.33. **The average commercial tax rate increase in Westmount will be 4.6% next year**, combining the effects of both property tax and surtax changes. The increase will range from a minimum of 3.7% to a maximum of 5.6%, depending on the surtax category of each commercial property.

Westmount has scrupulously avoided the temptation, indulged in by so many neighbouring municipalities, to add "fringe taxes" on top of the basic property tax. The most common is a water tax. Garbage tax, Olympic tax, frontage tax, street improvement tax, chimney sweeping tax, — the list is endless, but Westmount currently levies no such separate charges.

Comparing Westmount and City of Montreal taxes on a typical $500,000 commercial property clearly shows the continuing **major advantage** benefitting Westmount's business sector:

TYPICAL COMMERCIAL PROPERTY TAX COMPARISON - 1993

	MONTREAL		WESTMOUNT	
	1993 Tax rate	$500,000 Building	1993 Tax rate	$500,000. Building
GENERAL PROPERTY TAX	$1.78	$ 8,900.	$1.11	$ 5,550.
SURTAX	$2.06	$10,300.	$1.33	$ 6,650.
OLYMPIC TAX (COMMERCIAL)	0.087	435.	—	—
TOTAL TAX DUE		$19,635.		$12,200.

■ The Montreal tax is 61% higher than an identical commercial property in Westmount would pay, and this does *not* take into account Montreal's commercial water tax.

OPERATING BUDGET

Let us look now at **Westmount's Operating Budget**, which has been maintained **essentially at the same dollar level for the third year in a row**. Departmental budgets have been subject to an overall freeze at the levels originally established in 1991, with virtually no allowance for real cost increases or additional services in the intervening years. This means that after factoring out the compound effect of inflation, **City operating expenditures have actually decreased by over 9% since 1991.**

CONTROLLABLE OPERATING EXPENSES — HISTORICAL (UNADJUSTED) DOLLARS

ACTUAL OPERATING EXPENSES 1991	$21,229,000.
ACTUAL OPERATING EXPENSES 1992 (E)	$21,549,000.
BUDGETED OPERATING EXPENSES 1993	$21,556,000.

(E): 10 months actual, 2 months estimated.

In several cases, increased costs have been unavoidable but were successfully offset by savings in other areas. Extension of the blue box recycling system to apartments and condominiums is a case in point. Recycling contract costs will increase by $98,000 next year, but the total operating budget has been held stable through cuts in other areas.

Elsewhere in the City, maintaining services has been achieved through selective application of the **user-pay principle**. The Recreation and Culture Department has by and large since 1991 maintained substantially equal or higher numbers of participants in its various programmes. But the direct cost of these programmes and facilities to citizens has been bumped up substantially, reflecting Council's application of the user-pay principle to contain rising costs. The City will next year collect a total of $165,000 in direct fees and charges for adult recreation activities, compared with $114,000 back in 1991.

In other cases, holding the line on costs has meant actually cutting service. The Children's Library was open to the public 65 hours per week in 1991; by December 1992 this has shrunk to 61 hours in order to help meet budget restrictions. The Library purchased 6,450 new books in 1991, but this was cut to 5,540 books in 1992 under the double impact of a frozen budget and rising book costs.

Employee costs have been kept in line through a tough combination of personnel reductions and tight wage and salary controls. The 1992 Budget provides for an overall wage increase of just 1.5%. A provision for only 1.0% is contained in the 1993 Budget. Total City employment has dropped from 342 in 1986 to 319 at the beginning of 1992. The 1993 Budget provides for 11 fewer permanent employees, reducing the City-wide count to 308.

Some of these cuts have been real and permanent, as in the dismantling of the business tax operation in Finance, which eliminated two full-time positions. In other cases, the former City service has been replaced by a contracted service, which always results in a cost saving, usually substantial.

M.U.C. SHARED COSTS

For the first time in ten years, Westmount's share of total M.U.C. costs will decrease. The drop from $23.5 million to $23.1 million results from a favourable quirk in the new method of apportionment among the 28 member municipalities of the M.U.C. The M.U.C. Budget itself has at last yielded to the persistent pressures of the ***sound-management faction*** of the Conference of Suburban Mayors, of which Westmount's Mayor Trent is a vocal member: the total M.U.C. Budget for 1993 is just 0.6% higher than in 1992.

Westmount's share has **decreased by 2%** through the new method of apportionment, which utilizes the commercial surtax valuation roll, rather than the now obsolete rental value roll. The rental roll system favoured the City of Montreal with its high rate of commercial vacancies and government properties; the new method is marginally more favourable to cities like Westmount.

We intend to mail the municipal tax bills by the end of January and provide for payment in two instalments, the first due on 1 March, and the second due on 1 July 1993. However, if the first tax instalment is not paid in full by 1 March, the taxpayer forfeits the privilege of paying by instalment, and both instalments become due on the earlier date, with interest being charged on the unpaid balance at the Bank of Montreal prime rate plus 2%. In addition, a penalty of 0.5% per month on the outstanding principal will be charged, with a maximum of 5% over and above the interest charges.

With the above comments, I hereby table the 1993 Westmount budget for Council's adoption.

Councillor David H. Laidley
Chairman
Finance and Administration Committee

STATION 23 LOG

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Students robbed

Two students and an instructor at the Victor driving school were robbed at gunpoint of less than $100 Friday afternoon by two young men, police said. They were then tied together by the wrists and told not to move.

The robbers entered the offices at 4010 St. Catherine St. as the three were about to leave for a driving lesson. One of them pointed a gun at the head of the teacher saying, "Shut up and give me your money."

Once they believed themselves safe, the three freed themselves and called 911. They were identified as a 44-year-old man, a 19-year-old woman and a 22-year-old man.

A howling success

A dog who went out for a howl Monday last week was taken home as a public nuisance by police after disturbing the neighbours. Officers said they were called to a house on Clarke Avenue at 3:23 a.m. for a barking dog. Though it bore no identification, nearby residents knew who it belonged to. The owner will receive a summons to appear in municipal court for allowing her dog to bark, police said.

Late night noises an office break-in

Three men fled the scene of an office break-in at 345 Victoria Ave. last Thursday about 9:50 p.m. when a worker who heard strange noises went upstairs to investigate, police said. Nothing was discovered missing, but a small fridge on top of a safe had been misplaced. The suspects had a trolley in their possession, the witness stated. One suspect said, "That's another day," when the three fled the scene, running along Somerville Avenue. The occupant of the office said there was nothing of value in the safe.

Statue stolen

An ivory statue depicting seven elephants in diminishing sizes was stolen from a house on Anwoth Road last Thursday, police said. Drawers were pulled out in a bedroom and contents strewed on the floor and bed. Entry was gained by smashing a window in the back door between 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. There are no suspects.

Stay-at-home scare

A burglar ran out of an apartment at 4275 de Maisonneuve Blvd. last Thursday at 11:15 a.m. on finding a resident inside, police said. Damage to the lock on the front door was $50. The same day signs of forced entry also were found on an apartment door at 388 Olivier Ave.

Passenger grabs cabbie's throat

A taxi driver went to local police Station 23 Monday night last week to complain that a customer in the back seat had grabbed him by the throat and tried to hit him. The passenger also refused to pay the $6.15 fare. The suspect, described as under the influence of alcohol, was taken into custody and later released on a promise to appear in Sessions Court. A 50-year-old man living in the Côte des Neiges district faces charges of assault and refusal to pay for transportation.

Keys stolen, but car left

The driver of a car had his keys stolen Tuesday last week when he accidentally locked them in a 1992 Toyota Tercel outside 3 Hillside Lane, police said.

The keys disappeared between 12:20 and 12:50 p.m. while the man went to get a locksmith to open the door for him. On returning, he found the driver's window broken and the keys to the car and his home gone. They had been on the seat. The 31-year-old man lives in Val David. Police said it was possible the thief had been scared off, since he failed to take the car.

Pregnancy suspect

Excuse me, ma'am. How pregnant are you?

That's what a local shopkeeper wondered Tuesday last week when she suspected one of two women browsing at the LMNOP store of stuffing merchandise under her coat. It was about 5 p.m., police said, when the merchant spotted the woman adjusting her coat as if she was pregnant. When the shopkeeper asked her to open the coat, the suspect refused and became very angry when told police would be called.

Leaving the shop, the two women were followed by the merchant to a bus stop where again she tried to stop them without success. The pair was gone when police arrived. A $65 coat was discovered missing.

Drunken man nabbed in IGA

A drunken 44-year-old was charged with disturbing the peace at the IGA store in Place Alexis Nihon Friday afternoon after store officials refused to accuse him of shoplifting, police said. He was caught with a bottle of wine and was described as very insulting and creating a commotion in the store when officers arrived about 7:35 p.m. He was arrested and released at 9 p.m. on a promise to appear in Westmount municipal court Feb. 17.

Not sharp enough

A man on welfare was caught with two boxes of Exacto knives in the pockets of his beige trench coat Saturday afternoon at the Canadian Tire store in Place Alexis Nihon, police said. They were valued at a total of $116.60. A 42-year-old Montreal man is to appear in Westmount municipal court Feb. 17 in connection with the incident.

ATTEND
RELIGIOUS SERVICES
WITH THE CONGREGATION OF YOUR CHOICE

ANGLICAN

CHURCH OF THE ADVENT
Corner of Wood and de Maisonneuve, Westmount

Sunday, December 13
Advent III

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Said
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Sung
Church school and nursery facilities

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

Wednesday, December 16
12:10 p.m.

Special: Music concert
Tuesday Dec. 15 – 12:10 pm - 12:45 pm.
Harry Abley - organist & a guest soloist

Rector: Father Robert Warren
Organist and Director of Church Music: Mr Henry Abley

SYNAGOGUE

CONGREGATION SHAAR HASHOMAYIM
450 Kensington Avenue

Sabbath Services

Sabbath Eve: Mincha Kabbalat 4:00 p.m. in the Chapel
Sabbath Day: 8:40 a.m. in the Main Synagogue
Sabbath Twilight: 4:20 p.m.

Daily Services in Chapel

Mornings:
Sunday, December 13, 8:45 a.m.
Mon-Thurs, December 14-17, 7:30 a.m.

Evenings: Sun-Thurs, December 13-17, 4:20 p.m.

ALL ARE WELCOME

St Andrew's–Dominion-Douglas United Church
The Boulevard at Lansdowne – 486-1165
BUSES 66 and 124 STOP AT DOOR

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 11:00 a.m.

Sermon:
ANTICIPATE
Rev. Robert J. Shank

Sunday School *Crib Corner and program for tots*
Coffee Hour following Service

Ministers: Rev. Robert J. Shank, Rev. Ruth Brown
Director of Music: Margaret de Castro
Staff Associate: Joyce Schaaf

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

Sunday, Dec. 13th
TRADITIONAL SERVICE OF THE NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS
with The Men & Boy's Choir
4 pm

8:00 am Holy Communion
10:30 am Choral Mattins and Sunday Schools

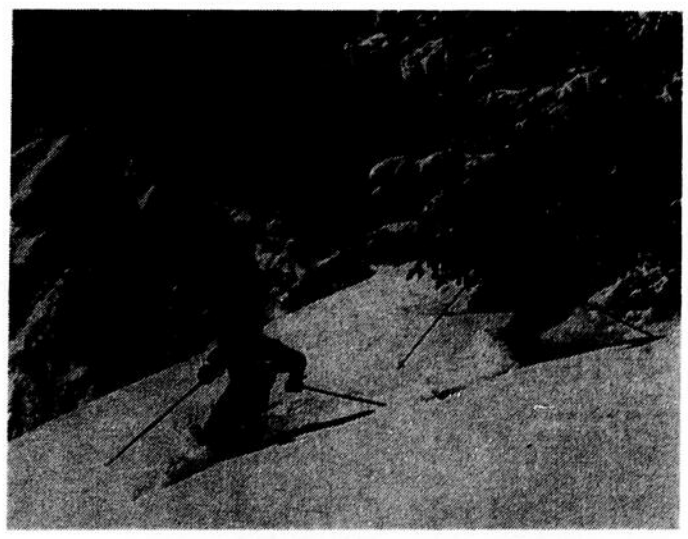
Rector: Rev. Paul James; *Vicar:* The Rev. Alec Cameron
Honorary Assistant: The Rev. David Oliver; *Director of Music:* Michael Capon

THE CHURCH OF
St. Andrew and St. Paul
PRESBYTERIAN
Sherbrooke Street West at Bishop

SUNDAY AT 11 am
White Gift Sunday
Sermon:
"NAME THIS CHILD"
Holy Baptism
4:30 pm Carols by Candlelight
Advent Chapel Service
Thursday 5:30-6:00 pm

Church School, Crêche and Nursery
J.S.S. Armour, Minister
Director of Music, Arlan Sunnarborg M.M.

SKI Europe ☆ Canadian Rockies ☆ U.S. West ☆ New England ☆ Quebec



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How and why did you vote on library renovations?

THE WESTMOUNT EXAMINER took to Sherbrooke Street to ask residents if they have voted in the city survey on Westmount Public Library. The city sent out the survey about three weeks ago, asking if residents would support a $7.5-million repair and renovation job. The city decided to go ahead with the project during a council meeting Monday night, after tallying the poll and finding that 77 per cent favoured the work.

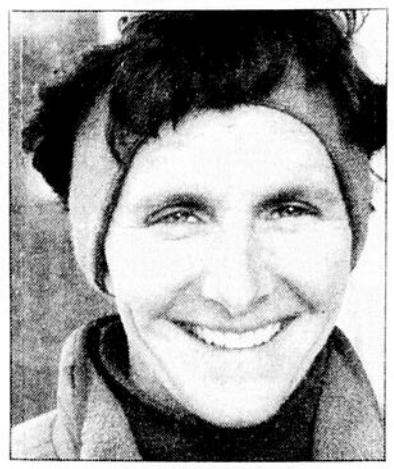
Photos by: OWEN EGAN

NICOLE HOBBS
Windsor Avenue

"I didn't vote in the poll," said the homeowner. "I don't remember receiving it. There's so much junk that comes in the door, I didn't see it. I'm not against the project. I'm for the idea of improving library services."

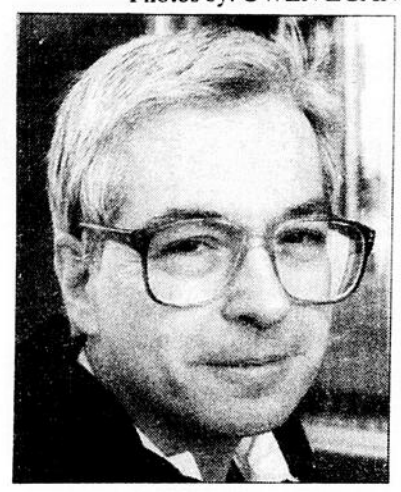
DEBBIE REID
St. Catherine Street

"I want something done for the library, but not at exorbitant cost. I don't want it to wipe out a teen centre and other things. I would go along with the repairs only."



JUDY MARTIN
Windsor Avenue

"I voted for it. I think that we need a library that's going to serve the needs of the community. I think our library needs updating, of the structure and facilities." She added that the library is used mostly by her two young children.



EUGENE ORENSTEIN
Victoria Avenue

"I received the poll, but didn't have time to vote. I think I would have voted Yes. It's an extremely important facility. I'd rather see money go to the library than something else."

CLEA MITTAG
Academy Road

"I never received the package. I think it's a bit steep in cost, considering we pay property taxes that are higher than other areas. I'm a student at McGill, so I don't use that particular library that much. I think there can be some improvements made, and I would contribute to those repairs."

Where were they going?

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

Dec.1

12:25 a.m.: 4150 St. Catherine, code 3 automatic mutual aid from Côte St. Luc and Outremont cancelled at 12:34 a.m., false alarm;
2:41 p.m.: Clarke and de Maisonneuve, small amount of spilled flammable liquid in lane;
11:30 p.m.: 1500 Atwater, Place Alexis Nihon, code 3 automatic mutual aid from Côte St Luc and Outremont cancelled at 11:37 p.m., alarm ringing;

Dec. 2

1:30 a.m.: 2300 Tupper, Montreal Children's Hospital, code 3 automatic mutual aid from Côte St. Luc and Outremont cancelled at 1:42 a.m., slight leak of ethylene oxide in Montreal section;
7:33 a.m.: 6500 Mackle, code 3 automatic mutual aid to Côte St. Luc cancelled at 7:36 a.m.;
3:06 p.m.: Front of 537 Prince Albert, gas pipe broken at vent when hit by car pushed by another;
5:12 p.m.: Olivier substation, trouble alarm, under repair;
9:05 p.m.: 4742 The Boulevard, first responder unit for medical assistance;

Dec. 3

10:13 a.m.: 1386 Greene, smoke backing into restaurant from stove vent duct from build up of grease, advised not to use until cleaned;
4:51 p.m.: Front of 55 Somerville, for smell of natural gas, none found;
7:46 p.m.: 156 Metcalfe, odour of burning wires from VCR damaged during power surge, electrical problem in area;

Dec. 4

6:08 a.m.: 1500 Atwater, Place Alexis Nihon Plaza, code 3 automatic mutual aid from Côte St. Luc and Outremont cancelled at 6:18 a.m., alarm activated during power change;
7:13 a.m.: 4039 Tupper, Reddy Memorial Hospital, code 3 automatic mutual aid from Côte St. Luc and Outremont cancelled at 7:26 a.m., alarm on ninth floor, defective detector in heating duct;
10:52 a.m.: 4470 St. Catherine, code 3 automatic mutual aid from Côte St. Luc and Outremont cancelled at 11:03 a.m., alarm activated by plumber welding pipe in ninth floor penthouse;
11:33 a.m.: 1310 Greene, code 3 automatic mutual aid from Côte St. Luc and Outremont cancelled at 11:41 a.m., fumes in office building from paving of garage floor, ventilation fan turned off;
12:33 p.m.: Rear of 239 Kensington, loud bang, malfunctioning transformer;
2:38 p.m.: 995 Glen Road, alarm activated during power changeover;
3:03 p.m.: 4211 St. Catherine, alarm activated during power changeover;

Dec. 5

4:17 a.m.: 598 Greene, first responder unit for medical assistance;
1:35 p.m.: 4643 Sherbrooke, apt 9, mutual aid fire (see story page 12);
4:08 p.m.: 512 Victoria, fire alarm activated by mistake;

Dec. 6

6:20 a.m.: 250 Clarke, first responder for medical assistance;
6:21 a.m.: 5790 Rembrandt, code 3 automatic mutual aid to Côte St. Luc cancelled at 8:29 a.m.;
10:33 a.m.: 4311 de Maisonneuve, first responder unit for medical assistance;
11:42 a.m.: 2300 Tupper, Montreal Children's Hospital, code 3 automatic mutual aid from Côte St. Luc and Outremont cancelled at 11:50 a.m., water surge in sprinkler system;
7:03 p.m.: 7462 Kingsley, code 3 automatic mutual aid to Côte St. Luc cancelled at 7:07 p.m.;
9:18 p.m.: 4175 St. Catherine, Château Westmount Square, first responder unit for medical assistance;
11:35 p.m.: 4760 The Boulevard, fire station No. 2, furnace problem;

Dec. 7

9:00 a.m.: 6505 Côte St. Luc, code 3 automatic mutual aid to Côte St. Luc cancelled at 9:12 a.m.;
1:25 p.m.: 995 Glen Road, trouble alarm, work on interconnecting telephone wires at city hall;
1:25 p.m.: 4574 Sherbrooke, Westmount Public Library, same problem as previous call;
9:48 p.m.: 4675 St. Catherine, code 3 automatic mutual aid from Côte St. Luc and Outremont cancelled at 9:56 p.m., arena, strange odour, dissipating.

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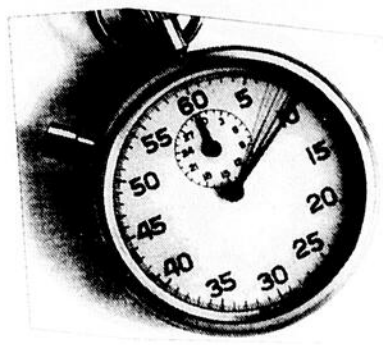

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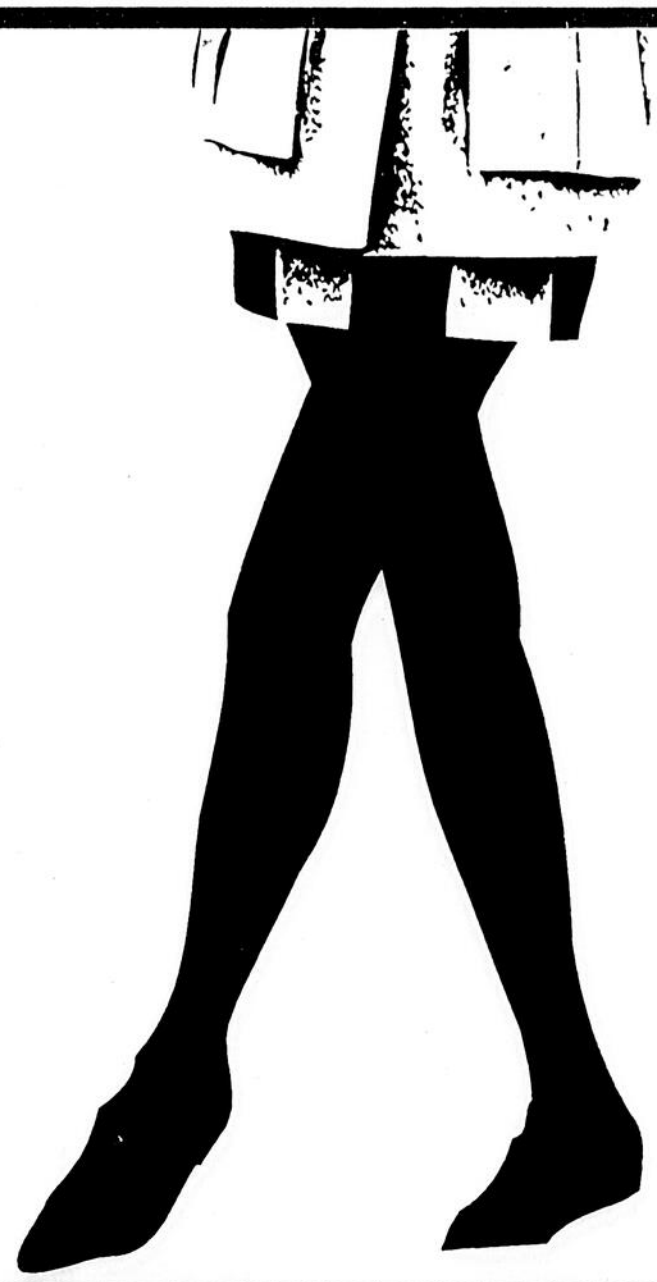

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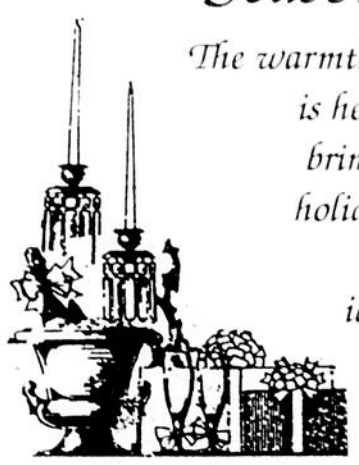

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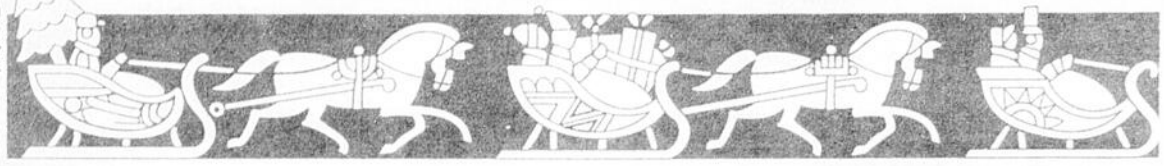

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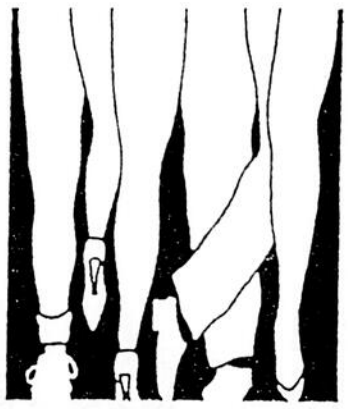

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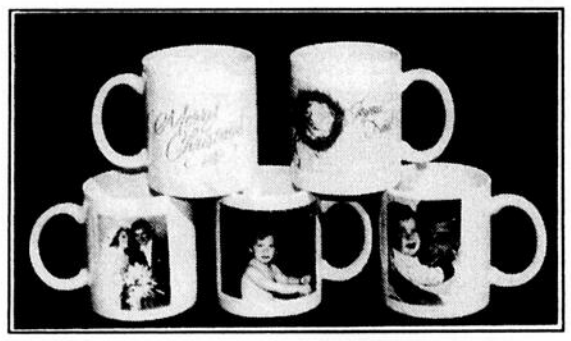

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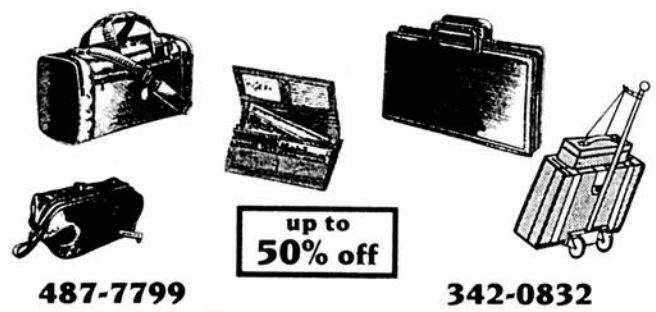

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Junior League throws ace party for kids in hospital

By J. MARION FEINBERG

Paper-covered tables are heaped with spilled glitter, fabric paints and other materials to make Christmas tree decorations. In one corner cookies are laid out in tantalizing piles and in the other a box is filled to the top with gifts. The piano player is playing Frosty the Snowman as if his life depended on it.

It didn't of course, but it sure helped put a bunch of hospitalized kids in the mood for a Christmas party.

The Westmount-based Junior League of Montreal was out in full force in the cafeteria of the Montreal Children's Hospital Monday night making the pre-holiday period more bearable for the kids.

The party plan went something like this: make tree decorations, put them on the tree, then paint some gloves, eat cookies, laugh, scream and sing at the top of their lungs with Mr. Pianoplayer, nab a grab bag full of little gifts and then call it a night.

This is the second annual party the JLM has organized, according to Westmounter Nancy Fuller, chair of Bonheur à la Carte. Her group brings toys around to the kids on a huge cart all year round, making their stay at the hospital a little more bearable.

"This is a hands-on project that is filling a void," she said. Budget cuts in the Child Life and School Services department of the hospital meant that there was a need for volunteers to help with supervised play programs and art projects.

Debbie Zimmerman is an authority on these type of events. The 14-year-old has been in hospital almost two weeks for a colitis attack and says this is the best party yet, even if she's not allowed to eat the cookies.

"I like designing the gloves, you

Continued on page 26

Ten-year-old Mohit Arora, a Hindu, decorates his first Christmas tree at the Montreal Children's Hospital Monday night.

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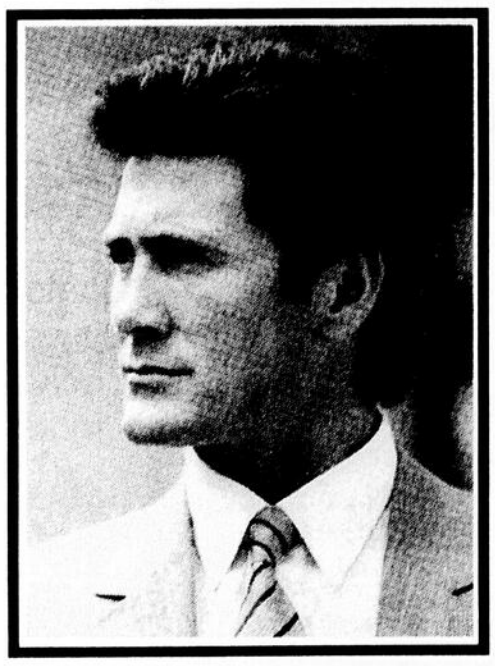

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A Christmas/Hanukkah concert for seniors and friends will be held at Westmount Park School auditorium on Tuesday, Dec. 15, from 7 to 8 p.m.

Music will be provided by the PSBGM Chorale, comprising 80 choristers from nine to 16.

A reception will follow the concert, which will have audience participation.

The concert is free.

Seniors who can't attend but who would like to enjoy the children's chorale might want to attend another concert at Gésu Church, 1200 Bleury St., when they will sing with the Chorale de Gésu, on Sunday at 3 p.m. A freewill offering will be taken at the church concert.

* * *

Handel's *Messiah* will be performed by the Montreal Symphony Orchestra Chorus Wednesday, Dec. 16, and Thursday, Dec. 17, at 7:30 p.m. at Notre Dame Basilica.

Conductor and choirmaster is Iwan Edwards and soloists are soprano Kathleen Brett, mezzo-soprano Linda Maguire, tenor Mark Evans and bass Gary Relyea. Mr. Evans is making his début performance with the Chorus.

Tickets are $8.08, $16.18 and $28.76. They are available at 842-9951, 842-2112, 790-1245 and at the door before the concert.

* * *

The Yellow Door Tabernacle Choir under the direction of Linda Morrison will hold an eclectic Christmas benefit concert tonight, Friday and Saturday at Channing Hall, 3415 Simpson at Sherbrooke, at 8 p.m.

The choir's repertoire usually runs the gamut.

Friday and Saturday have sold out, but some tickets are available for tonight's concert by calling 524-9887.

Proceeds go to the Women's Centre of Montreal, an AIDS hospice, and — in keeping with the choir's tradition of working locally and globally — to support street children in South America.

* * *

The Westmount Seventh-day Adventist Church Choir will present Handel's *Messiah* on Saturday at 7 p.m.

Joining in will be L'Unit, a mixed choral group, and Heavenly Sensations and the Joybells, a youth choir.

The event is at 571 Victoria Ave.

* * *

A service of Nine Lessons and Carols, sung by the St. Matthias' Choir of Men and Boys, under the direction of Michael Capon, will be held at the church, at the corner of Metcalfe and Côte St. Antoine, on Sunday at 4 p.m.

On the program is music by Bach, Ord, Wishart, Willcocks, Holman, Walton, Rutter, Joubert and Messiaen.

Junior League party for kids

Continued from page 25

get to be creative and you get to keep them after," said Sandra Ferrara, 18, meticulously decorating a pair of wool gloves with paints and heaps of sparklies. "It cheers you up and changes the ambiance of being in a hospital."

A party like any other

Aside from the IV tubes some of the kids are attached to and the ID bracelets, this Christmas party could be taking place in any school or community centre. The noise level is high as children squeal with delight when they recognize their favourite songs or drape a multi-coloured paper chain on a tree. Parents try and talk over the din of the honky-tonk Christmas music. The room is warm and bright as volunteers guide little hands as they fancy up their little art projects. People are bumping into each other in the whirl of cheery activity.

Ten-year-old Mohit Arora's face is scrunched up in concentration as he carefully pastes bows to his paper Christmas tree.

"I've never celebrated Christmas but I'm making decorations for the hospital trees," he said. "It's fun because I'm getting to do some activities and next week I'm meeting famous people like the Montreal Canadians. I have all my hockey cards ready."

Waiting is hard

His mother said the hardest part for him is waiting for a liver transplant donor. He said the toughest thing about spending the past month at the Children's was being away from his parents and two brothers.

Westmounter Bobby Luny takes time out from studying for his Concordia exams to hang out with the kids. He has been volunteering with the hospital department that oversees the JLM efforts since August.

"I have a lot of fun with the kids. Some of the ones in traction can't move around, so I go around with Bonheur à la Carte bringing toys," he said. "It's very rewarding."

About $40,000 in donations went toward the purchase of toys and equipment for the toy cart, according to Anna Fiocco.

"Now that we're in our third year, we see that there is definitely a need," she said. "We're getting a great response."

Just a couple of JLM community projects include starting up the Volunteer Bureau of Montreal and Access Montreal. Fundraising is done through their in-house consignment shop on Victoria Avenue called La Ligue.

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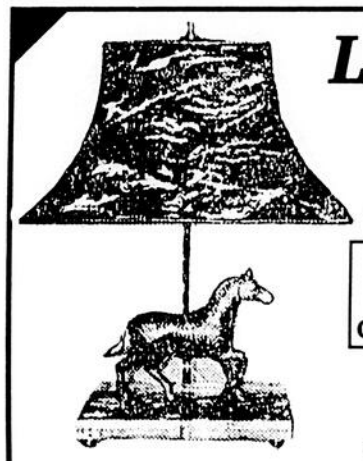

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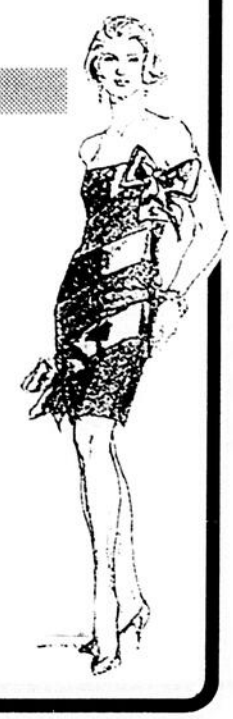

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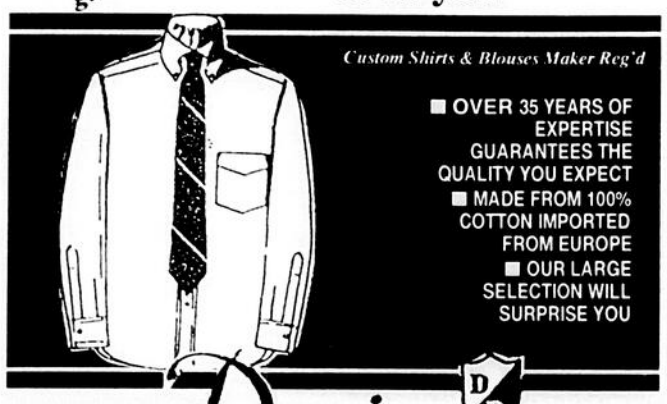

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Holiday meal for shut-ins at St. A-D-D

A Christmas dinner for shut-ins will be held at St. Andrew's-Dominion-Douglas Church on Sunday at 4 p.m. For this annual event, people in the community who receive Meals-on-Wheels on a weekly basis are brought to the church and hosted and entertained by volunteers from the congregation. Peggy Drennan is co-ordinator this year, assisted by Sara Quillen.

At the worship service, two children will receive Baptism: George Walsh Michael, son of Carolyn Walsh and Andrew Dawson; and Matthew Edward, son of Susan Gordon and Michael Clark. Rev. Bob Shank will conduct the service. His sermon is "Anticipate."

Zoocheck brings chimp expert Goodall

Westmount-based Zoocheck Canada will present chimpanzee expert Jane Goodall in an illustrated lecture on May 6 at St. James United Church, 463 St. Catherine St. W. at 8 p.m. It may seem early to plan for spring, but tickets are on sale now and there won't be any left if you don't move fast. They are available at the Zoocheck office, 5165 Sherbrooke St., the Zoocheck store at 4894 Sherbrooke St., through Admissions come January at 522-1245.

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Les projets de l'Avent à St-Léon

Depuis 10 ans, les membres de la communauté de St-Léon aident les enfants de Choluteca, Honduras, à survivre et à vivre en leur offrant un surcroît de vitamines. Plus de 50 pourcent des enfants meurent là-bas à cause de la malnutrition et du manque de vitamines, d'autres se développent beaucoup plus lentement qu'un enfant normal. Grace à St-Léon, des enfants vivent aujourd'hui. Il importe que le programme continue. Enveloppes et offrandes adresées au Comité Choluteca sont à remettre au presbytère ou lors des célébrations dominicales.

Cadeaux pour femmes

Ils sont destinés à ensoleiller la journée de ces femmes réfugiées à la Maison Marguerite et soutenues par les filles de saint Marguerite d'Youville, les Soeurs Grises ou Soeurs de la Charité.

Aides aux paroisses

St-Charles et St-Gabriel de Pointe-St-Charles on une population de 80 pourcent d'assistes sociaux et de familles qui connaissent de grandes difficultés matérielles. Les responsables de ces paroisses ont donc beaucoup de paniers de Noël à préparer. Boîtes de conserves et denrées non périssables sont à déposer à l'Eglise St-Léon lors des célébrations ou en semaine au presbytère, jusqu'a 15 décembre.

Illuminated book display

The Atwater Library presents a holiday display of illustrated religious books until Dec. 24 in the main foyer of the library, 1200 Atwater Ave.

Some of the books on display are A Book of Hours of Englebert of Nassau by Master of Mary of Burgandy, a 15th century private service and prayer book with trompe l'oeil borders; Lindis Farne, early 18th century Gospels, open to the first page of Mark; a Hebrew Bible from c. 1299, and a late 19th century Family Bible.

Library hours are Monday and Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m

Tree trimmed at library

Susan Travis, left, and Susan Burpee of the Diggers and Weeders Club trimmed the Westmount Public Library tree Monday with decoration from the tree they did last year at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. Two others, Ruth Lindsay and Cindy Lyman, helped but are not in the photo. The theme was nature; vine wreaths with acorms, seed pods and dried pine were spraypainted gold and silver. The museum tree they did this year is hung with angels.

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A Lincoln will do until Murray's hydrogen car arrives

This week's Westmounter

by Janet Coutts

Robert Murray may be considered overly optimistic by some, but he predicts that within the next five years "a significant number of automobiles" will be running on non-polluting fuel.

It is no idle comment. Last year he was made a Companion of the Order of Canada partly because of his work on the Hydrogen Industry Council.

It's hydrogen he's betting on, "the non-polluting fuel that you get from water and that gives you back water at the end of the process."

Finding an alternate fuel source the automobile has long been a dream in the industry. The problems now are mainly those of technology and until someone develops a practical application for hydrogen, Mr. Murray will continue to drive the '84 Lincoln he bought second-hand years ago.

Mr. Murray was born in La Tuque in 1921 of a francophone mother and anglophone father, "So French may be my first language."

Daughter picked dad

Mr. Murray has a cause. "I have very seriously tried to mediate between the two groups, and was involved with Meech Lake through the Canadian Manufacturers' Association. I try to find some common ground. We must learn to understand one another."

Mr. Murray didn't get named to the Order of Canada for his most outstanding characteristic, however, which is generosity.

His adopted daughter, Louise, says, "He's cheap with himself, but if I wanted to be a doctor, he would buy me a hospital to be sure I had employment."

Through his charitable work, Mr. Murray had first pick of what his daughter calls, "my bunch, a whole group of babies in a foster home."

She tells the story she's been told all her life: "I picked him. I was eight months old, and I reached out and touched his face. It was the smartest move I ever made."

When she was little, did her father talk to her about his dreams for a better world?

"Right from the time I came home with him, I've known what he did. He worked his way up in C-I-L from the order desk to very high up.

"He was always very generous with me, but the difference with my five-year-old son is that now he's really, really rich. We had to go halfers on my first horse, which I would have died without. But he spoils my son without meaning to.

Magic a sideline

He also does all the magic tricks for Jeremy that he did for me. And he usually fools everyone."

Mr. Murray describes himself as "a modest art collector." He is a member of the board of trustees at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, serving on its executive and finance committees; hardly, as he points out, work calling for artistic expertise.

His real hobby, he says, is real estate.

"I needed money when I was young, and some real estate ventures were successful. So far, my judgment has been sound and it has been a profitable hobby.

"I have no desire to slow down. As long as I am physically able to enjoy working, I have no desire to retire."

Mr. Murray's time with his family is precious to him, but he doesn't forget the rest of the world.

His daughter tells this story. "My grandmother lived until she was 96, and my father spent months looking for a home for her. She made a friend there that she called 'the old woman.' After my grandmother died, my dad kept visiting 'the old woman.'

"The old woman had a brother and we found out that my father, who has no time at all of his own, used to do this man's grocery shopping and walk up three flights of stairs to deliver the food."

And she shares a secret: her dad's favourite meal is burned toast with fresh tomatoes and pepper.

"Tonight he turned down an invitation to dinner at the Ritz Carleton to eat his burnt toast at home with me."

Robert Murray has no idea he spoils his grandson, Jeremy, who can clearly wrap grandad around his finger.

Photo by OWEN EGAN

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Andrea Bronfman honoured for *Coat of Many Colours*

Westmounter Andrea Bronfman was honoured recently at the McCord Museum's preview of the travelling show *Coat of Many Colours*. In making a special presentation to Mrs. Bronfman, Westmounter Harry Wolfe, Federation CJA president, said, "It gives me great joy to recognize and salute an exceptional lady and dear friend of our community.

"Bronfman is the visionary whose creativity and determination resulted in the extraordinary exhibit... which has come home to Montreal."

The exhibit will visit New York before it goes to its final destination, Beth Hatefutsoth, a museum in Tel Aviv.

The 300 artifacts in the exhibit give a view of Jewish Canadian life — from its involvement in the fur trade to the challenges faced by recent immigrants. It was launched at the Museum of Civilization in Hull in 1990 and has travelled to eight other Canadian cities.

A book with the same title documents the contribution of Jewish Canadians to the development of industry, education, charitable organizations, medicine, the arts, the labour movement and politics. Seagram has made this book available to everyone by offering a copy to public libraries across Canada.

A film about the exhibit was aired on CBC in October, 1990. Canada Post issued a stamp on multi-culturalism at the official opening of the exhibit.

Brochures, posters, and a passport have been designed to generate interest and to provide a keepsake of the exhibit that will be seen by nearly half a million people.

In addition, there is a speakers' bureau, teachers' kit and an educational video available to interested parties and schools.

Tot shabbat celebrates Hannukah

Parents, grandparents and all the family are invited to sing Hannukah songs with Yaakov Sassi, enjoy a Hanukkah tale from the Rabbi, feast on *sufganiyot* and play dreidl at a Tot Shabbat/family service at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom at noon on Saturday.

Temple is at 4100 Sherbrooke St.

Beutel re-elected

Westmounter Irwin G. Beutel has been re-elected to his second one-year term as national president of Canadian Magen David Adom for Israel. Other executive members are vice-presidents Gerald Nashman and Shirley Rabinovitch, secretary Dr. David Shapiro, treasurer Arthur Levitt and transportation chairman Robert Garfield.

Contactivity services

Contactivity Centre, 4695 de Maisonneuve Blvd., offers a number of services to seniors in addition to in-house activities.

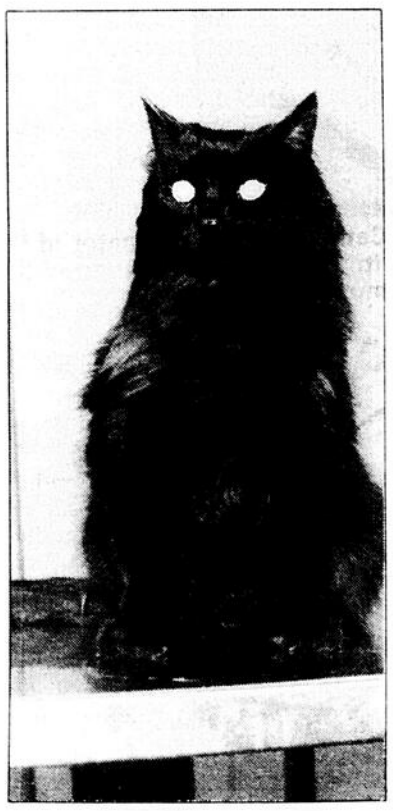
Seniors who live alone can sign up for Contactivity Centre's Telecheck service for personal security. It takes only a minute a day to phone in and confirm that all is well.

Rent-a-service is a program that gives seniors the opportunity to hire help for a variety of chores. Services cost $6 per hour and include shopping, cooking, laundry, light housework, gardening, painting, maintenance services, letter writing, reading, respite care and accompaniment to medical appointments. Help can be hired for as little as two hours or for as long as needed.

Volunteers are needed for the Contactivity Centre to visit seniors to talk, read to them, possibly go for walks, and to accompany seniors to medical appointments.

Call 932-2326 if you can help or want to partake of any of the services.

Pet of the Week



He had been living on the streets for a year, but now loving home and gentle grooming will bring Arthur back to his former beauty. The neutered five-year-old is very calmly waiting for his new owner at the SPCA, 5215 Jean Talon W. His file number is 136815, and he can be yours for $50. All the Pets of the Week in November found new homes.

Photo by BEVERLY COOK

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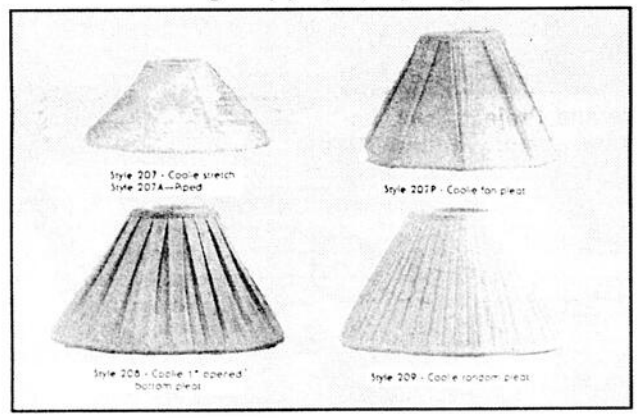

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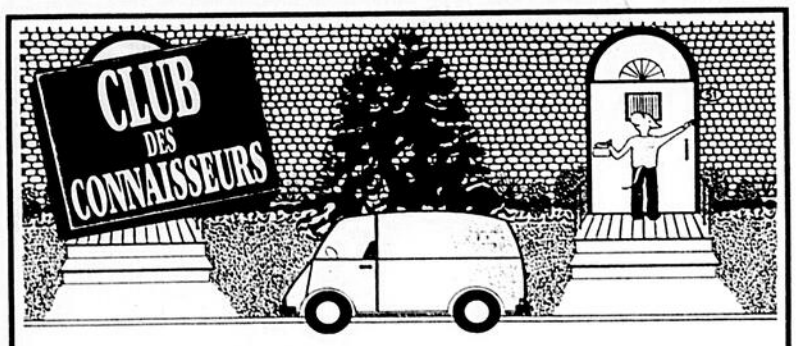

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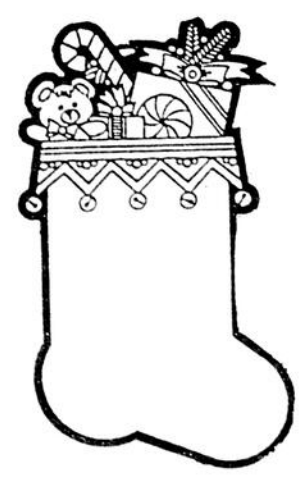

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Westmount's cat woman

Cathy Mann finds homes for abandoned animals

Cathy Mann, co-ordinator of Cats Galore and Project Felix, hac little trouble finding homes for these kittens abandoned by their mother.

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

A Westmount woman who founded a foster-home network for stray cats two years ago called Cats Galore is always on the prowl for abandoned animals that need shelter.

But now that cold weather has hit, Cathy Mann is anxious to hear from anyone, seniors especially, who would like to provide either a temporary or permanent home for one of her rescued cats.

"We are a non-profit group of volunteers who rescue abandoned and lost animals and those unclaimed at the SPCA," she said.

"Our main purpose is to return them to good health through vaccination, neutering and tender loving care and then relocate them in either temporary or permanent shelters."

Owing to problems of finding foster homes, the non-profit group is not a "dumping gound" for people who no longer want their pets, she emphasized.

Ms. Mann, who works as a volunteer at the SPCA's St. Antoine Street clinic, views her group's role as "supplementing the services of the SPCA, which are already overloaded."

Over the summer, she said, she began experimenting by placing rehabilitated animals with senior citizens in her apartment building who are well enough to look after them.

"This can serve a double purpose by helping seniors themselves, who sometimes are struggling to cope with their own sense of isolation and loneliness," she said.

She said the results of what she now called Project Felix have been encouraging and "feedback from seniors is very positive.

"We provide all initial supplies such as collars, identification tags, food, litter and litter boxes."

A graduate in social work from McGill and in athletic therapy from Concordia, Ms. Mann says she has become a kind of social worker for cats.

Anyone wanting to help a homeless cat can contact her at 989-9799.

Police collect for Sun Youth

Westmount's police Station 23 is again participating in the annual Christmas food collection for Sun Youth organized by the Montreal Urban Community police in conjunction with Bell Canada and the Montreal Canadiens hockey club.

"We're hoping people will be generous. It's a good cause," said crime prevention officer Jean-Marc Grégoire. Donations of non-perishable food can be dropped off at 21 Stanton St. any hour of the day or night until Dec. 31.

Annual CBC sing-in at St. Andrew and St. Paul

The 13th annual CBC radio Christmas sing-in takes place on Sunday, Dec. 20, at 3:30 p.m. at the Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul at the corner of Sherbrooke and Bishop Streets. The doors will open at 2:30 p.m.

Families are invited to join the choir. A freewill offering will be collected during the sing-in to aid the Native Friendship Centre's building fund. No tickets are required, and seating is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Dave Bronstetter, the host of *Home Run*, is hosting the event.

The sing-in will be broadcast nationally on Christmas Eve at 8 p.m. on CBC Stereo and on CBC Radio on Christmas Day at 4:05 p.m.

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Christmas concert at St. Léon a freewill offering for Brazil

A Christmas celebration offered by the city of Westmount, which was to have cost $20, will now be given for a freewill offering to support Population Services International, an organization that offers AIDS services in the Third World.

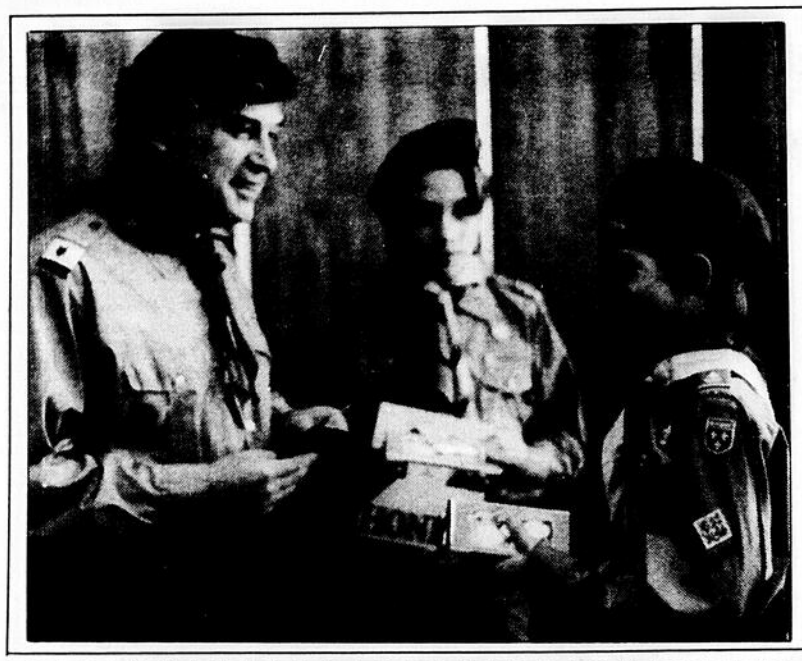
The concert is by the 18-voice professional choir Studio de Musique ancienne de Montréal, directed by Christopher Jackson. It takes place in St. Léon de Westmount Church, de Maisonneuve Blvd. at Clarke, at 3 p.m. on Sunday.

The first half of the concert will feature music by Byrd, Bach and Monteverdi as well as some Spanish Christmas songs.

The second half of the program will be traditional carols, and everyone is invited to join it. Song sheets will be provided. Families are encouraged to attend, with their children.

Mr. Jackson will play the organ as well as direct the choir.

PSI is endeavouring to raise money to start a women's project in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and it is hoped contributions at this concert will make it possible as well as help continue work in Africa and elsewhere.



Jamboree fundraising

Mayor Peter Trent, an honourary member of Westmount Scouting, was the first to buy a chocolate bar from Charlton Snow and Matthew Dowie on Tuesday as the Scouts launched a fundraising drive. With the blessing of city hall, Scouts will go door-to-door over the next two week selling honey and chocolate bars to help send 13 local boys to the 8th Scouts Canada Jamboree in Kananaskis Country, Alberta, July 10 to 18.

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Hannukah party for Golden Agers

The Golden Age Association, 5700 Westbury Ave., is holding a Hanukkah party on Sunday, Dec. 20, from 2 to 5 p.m., to which everyone is welcome.

The celebration will feature a concert by the Zev Lerner Orchestra, dance and singing performances and the lighting of the second Hanukkah candle. Latkas with sour cream and apple sauce will be served as well as tea, coffee and dessert.

The party costs $6.50 for members and $7.50 for others. Tickets are available at the box office, room 109, Monday to Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on Friday until noon.

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LES RESIDENCES CHAMPLAIN

Hungarian Holocaust victim at the Temple

Ferenc Persanyi, the Consul General of Hungary, historian Peter Hidas and a Hungarian victim of the Holocaust will be the speakers at a breakfast program on Sunday, Dec. 13 at 9:30 a.m. at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, 4100 Sherbrooke St.

Their topic is the recent history of Hungarian Jews. Everyone is welcome to come and bring a friend. The cost is $3 for the bagel breakfast.

Craft fair gleans 44 cartons of foodstuffs

Generosity seems to be the key word in Christmas giving this year, public safety officer Robert Hryciuk discovered Saturday.

People attending the annual Westmount Arts and Crafts Fair at Victoria Hall on Saturday donated enough canned or boxed food at the door to fill 44 cartons, he said.

Those who arrived without food for the Public Security Unit's collection, contributed a total of $1,389 for the purchase of turkeys and hams or other items to complete food hampers for distribution through the Westmount CLSC.

Donations from last year's price of admission at the same fair yielded 38 food boxes and $896.

Seminar on menopause was first in series of talks for women

By MARY CAMPBELL

In her work as co-ordinator of the Menopause Research Clinic at the Jewish General Hospital, Sandy Eisan, RN, says she's come to realize that what women need most is information.

"I got a sense from the patients of a real need and thirst for knowledge," she says. From that realization was born Women's Health Focus, a company whose purpose is "informing and educating women on issues important to their welfare."

The company staged its first seminar last Sunday at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom in Westmount. The subject was menopause and the response, says Ms. Eisan, was quite something.

More than 150 women paid a $50 registration fee to hear experts discuss menopause. On the podium were Dr. Morrie Gelfand and Dr. Barbara Sherwin, co-directors of the McGill University menopause clinic; Janine O'Leary Cobb, founder and editor of *A Friend in Need* (a newsletter dealing with menopause) and Bettyanne Greenhaigh, dietician.

Hormones and breast cancer

Dr. Gelfand discussed the pros of hormone treatment — the use of estrogen and androgens to control and offset the effects of menopause. He dealt particularly with the connection — or lack thereof — between hormone treatment and osteoporosis, heart disease and breast cancer. Research, so far, has suggested estrogen can combat osteoporosis and cardiovascular disease, while the connection to breast cancer remains unclear, he said.

Ms. Greenhaigh focused her nutrition talk on osteoporosis, a disease that leads to the loss of bone tissue and affects one out of every three women by the age of 65.

She talked about foods that provide calcium — which makes up 99 per cent of bone tissue — and also foods that inhibit the absorption of calcium. Of the former, dairy products are the most obvious, but Ms. Greenhaigh managed to get in a good word for tofu, also a respectable source.

Dr. Sherwin discussed the psychological affects of menopause — especially among women who've chosen to take hormones.

Menopause never used to be issue

During the question and answer session that followed, Dr. Sherwin took exception to what she described as a "typical feminist response" to the question of drug therapy:

"What I find most disturbing about a lot of feminist points of view on drug therapy is this idea that if God had wanted us to have estrogen all our lives she would have made our ovaries last 80 years.

"The point is, we didn't always live to be 80. In 1900, women lived to be 50; their ovaries did last them their whole lives."

The reality in 1992, said Dr. Sherwin, is that a woman's life expectancy is 84 years. That means menopause, which sets in usually around the age of 51, is truly a mid-life event.

The audience's warmest reception was reserved for Ms. Cobb, a sociologist and mother of five, who provided practical, down-to-earth solutions to the problems of menopause.

Ms. Cobb pointed out first of all that only about 15 per cent of women in western countries consult doctors about their menopausal symptoms. For the rest, menopause is a time of discomfort — but not real ill health. Her talk centered on ways of relieving the discomfort of things like night sweats, heavy bleeding, painful sexual intercourse and hot flashes.

Hot flash contests?

"I always wonder why women are so embarrassed about hot flashes. I often say that if men had hot flashes they'd boast about who had the longest and the most intense. They'd have competitions."

Ms. Cobb discussed options to orthodox medicine — things like acupuncture and herbal teas — and warned her audience that with menopause becoming the cause of the moment, they could become prey to a lot of wacky products and should be on their guard.

Following Sunday's seminar, participants were asked to fill out an evaluation questionnaire. Ms. Eisan says she has received about 60 of these back and that "there was not a single major negative comment."

Her phone has been ringing off the hook since Sunday — mostly with people calling to thank her for doing the seminar, and to find out when there'll be another.

Others are in the works. Ms. Eisan says she would like to organize seminars on topics like coping with ageing parents, women and finance, women in the workforce at mid-life (which would be aimed especially at those in managerial positions, making them more sensitive to the special pressures experienced by menopausal women), and more.

"Women really do want to know," says Ms Eisan. "They won't take pre-packaged answers anymore. I will be doing other seminars and lecture series to give women the kind of information they need to have."

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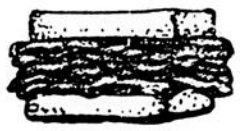

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The 24-page booklet costs $5, or can be mailed for $6.90. Mail a cheque or money order to Au Bas de l'Échelle, 6839A Drolet St., Rm. 305, Montreal H2S 2T1, or call 270-7878.

A second guide, outlining the rights of parents, is available for $1.50 or $2.30 by mail.

Meeting for adults with learning problems

Adults With Learning Disabilities will hold its monthly meeting on Dec. 14 at the Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater Ave., from 7 to 9 p.m. Everybody is welcome to attend.

Guest speaker is Margaret Manson, a learning specialist. Her topic is "Learning Styles and Learning Disabled." For more information call 278-3666.

Blue collar contract gripes shut down lighting ceremony

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Disgruntled municipal workers took their beefs to city council Monday night when their plans to demonstrate outside city hall forced cancellation of the annual holiday lighting ceremony.

The blue collar workers are protesting a 2-per-cent wage offer tabled by the city Tuesday last week during contract negotiations. They have been without a collective agreement since Dec. 31, 1991.

City director general Manley Schultz said the city cancelled the ceremony "because we felt it was not right with young children in the choir to expose them to this kind of thing."

He said he could have requested police to keep back the union picketers but didn't want the singers drowned out by yelling or chanting.

Instead, the festive lights adorning city hall were turned on without fanfare.

Blue collar workers picketed outside city hall during the council meeting, joined by representatives of white collar employees who have been protesting job evaluations.

Jean-Claude Pilon, president of the blue collar union, local 3422 of the Canadian Union of Public Employees said he had received a strike mandate from the membership last Thursday when the offer from city officials was voted down.

"They've offered us nothing," he said of the 2-per-cent offer. "We're here to voice our discontent with lagging contract negotiations."

Claudette Gauthier, president of the white collar CUPE local 2987, asked council why she had not received a response to an information package the union had delivered to council members Friday, asking for a meeting.

Mr. Schultz said the union wants 3-per-cent raises for 1992 and 4 per cent for 1993 in addition to a 37.5 hour work week. They now work a 40-hour week.

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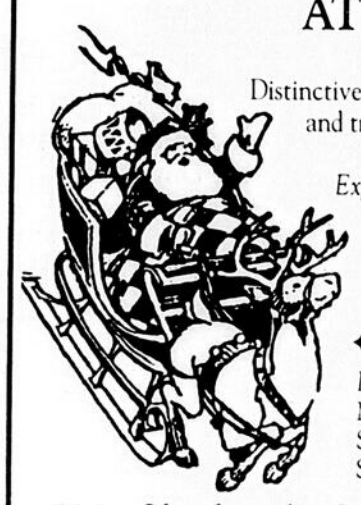

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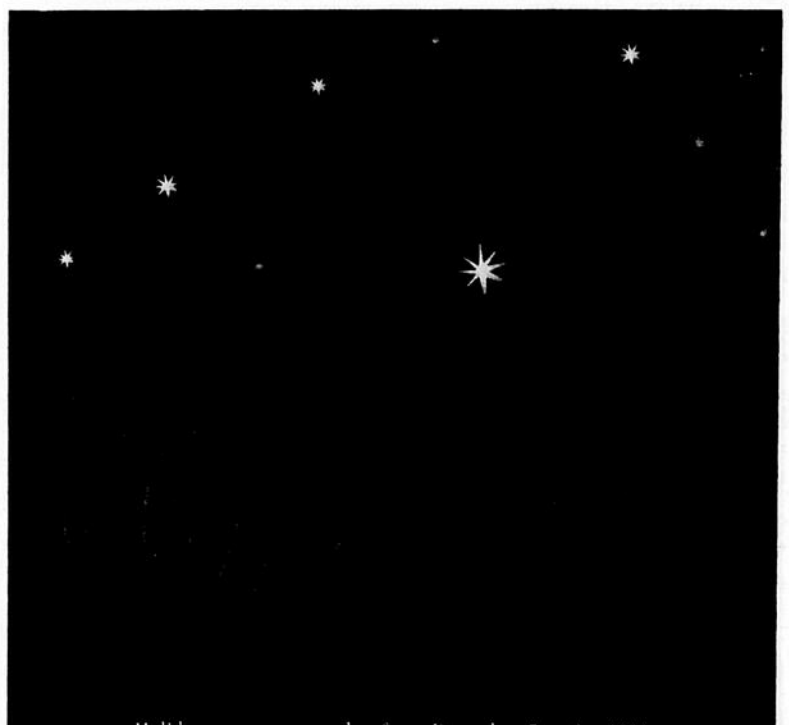

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WESTMOUNT SQUARE

Big change is on the way... Spring 1993

Who's doing what?

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

Nov. 30

4216 Dorchester: for M. and T. Rodier by Guard-X Inc., fire alarm system, $6,000;

Dec. 1

597 Victoria: for E. Massey by Marvin Contractor, windows, $12,700;
25 Aberdeen: for Mr. Cobrin by Kasman Plumbing & Heating, new gas line and two hot water tanks, $1,000;
108 Abbott: for Nancy Nelson and David Wittman by contractor to be announced, interior renovations, $12,000
1384-86 Greene: for the estate of Morris Fenstein by Claude Néon Ltée., to erect a sign, $4,800;
4873 Westmount: for Congregation Notre Dame by Claude Néon Ltée., to erect a sign, $2,500;

Dec. 3

4884 Westmount: for Mrs. Baillargeon by Plomberie Denis Paradis, new gas line, $1,000;
635 Carleton: for H. L. Hopmeyer by contractor to be announced, alterations, $10,000;
342 Olivier: for Mr. Kulten by Christie Plumbing, water entrance and 1 fixture, $1,000;
1 Westmount Square: for S.I.T.Q. by self, alterations at ground level, $200,000;
51 Holton: for Georges T. Robin by Zytco, solarium, $14,000;
4822 Sherbrooke: for Marché Clément by Eda Piyale, renovations, $25,000;

Dec. 4

496 Lansdowne: for Dr. P. Kasirer by Regent St. Pierre, alterations, $9,000;
1 Summit Circle: for J. Gregory by Piscines Val Mar Inc., interior pool, $14,000;

Beyond Westmount's Borders

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

By JANET COUTTS

Speaking stones

***The Stones that Speak* is a book of photographs by Montrealer Edward Hillel that tell the story of the Jewish community in Quebec. In an earlier book, *The Main*, Mr. Hillel's camera was pointed at the people who live on and around St. Lawrence Blvd. Mr. Hillel's photos are on display at the Côte St. Luc Public Library, 5851 Cavendish Blvd., through Jan. 10. The library is open daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. 485-6900.**

Jazz Suite

Christmas is Nutcracker time, but this time it's the music with a difference. On Monday, the Andrew Homzy Jazz Orchestra will play Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker Suite* as arranged by Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn. They will also play jazz arrangements of other holiday favourites. It takes place at the Concordia Concert Hall, 7141 Sherbrooke St. W., and admission is free.

Concert tickets

"A simple call and your Christmas shopping is done!" boasts a mailer from the Montreal Symphony Orchestra. It is offering tickets for concerts on Jan. 19 and April 20 at Place des Arts, and on Feb. 23 at Notre Dame Basilica for $49, $62 or $88. I don't believe that this is the perfect gift for everyone on your list, but it likely is for someone. And it serves as a reminder that the most-loved gift may not be in a shop at all. Consider theatre tickets, movie passes, magazine subscriptions, book or record store gift certificates... Maybe you can do your Christmas shopping over the phone.

Singing tree

Evangel Pentecostal Church, 1235 Lambert Closse, has an annual "Singing Christmas Tree." Their light-covered tree is 35 feet high. In the environs, they perform *In All of His Glory*, telling the story of the birth of Christ. They have performances tomorrow at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday at 2 p.m.; Sunday at 6 p.m.; and Monday, Dec. 14, at 7:30 p.m. The last performance is a benefit for the Welcome Hall Mission.

Israeli dancing

Café Hora at 5480 Westbury has Israeli dancing every week, and now and then there's a special event. One is coming up on Saturday at 8:30 p.m. There will be Israeli and international folkdancing, including line, ballroom and Latin dances, led by teacher Maurice Perez, and a show by the 15 dancers of Lipa, a Canadian-Slovak folk ensemble. Refreshments are available. Admission is $8 in advance; $9 at the door. 683-4283.

On the boards

A Tribute to Broadway, a neat little revue, runs Friday and Saturday in dinner-theatre format at La Diligence, 7835 Decarie, 731-7771... Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie* at Centaur Theatre ends Sunday. 288-3161... Black Theatre Workshop presents *Master of the Carnival* until Sunday at Maison de la Culture N.D.G, 3755 Botrel St. $6. 932-1104... Montreal playwright Steve Galluccio has a new show, *Sex, Lies & Brian Mulroney*, also until Sunday, at Théâtre Montréalite, 4297 St. Lawrence Blvd. 848-1864... For listings of English theatre in Montreal, dial T-H-E-A-T-R-E.

Gala for scholars

The McGill Conservatory Staff Gala Recital to benefit the McGill Conservatory of Music scholarship fund will be held at Pollack Hall, 555 Sherbrooke St. W., at 8 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 14. Admission is $8. 398-4543.

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Dec. 31st at 12:00 to Jan. 2nd at 10:00 a.m.

4585 SHERBROOKE O. *(across from Westmount Library)*
931-8046
Hours may vary. Pick up a holiday schedule.

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The third in a series of reflections and meditations on universal themes offered by the Baha'i's of Westmount.

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TIME: Thursday, December 10 8:00 – 9:00 p.m. approx.

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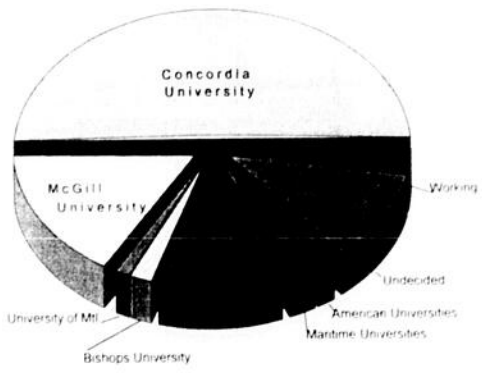

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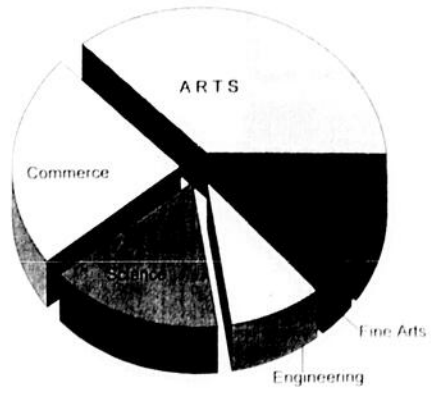

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Family festival continues at Saidye Bronfman Centre

The family festival at the Saidye Bronfman Centre, 5170 Côte St. Catherine Rd., is continuing this week. Tickets for all performances are $6 for children, $8.50 for adults, and may be reserved at 739-7944.

Geordie Productions presents *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* today and tomorrow at 10 a.m. The performance by professional actors is aimed at children five to 12.

Special Blend presents a performance that integrates text, music, ballet, street dancing, martial arts and acrobatics into movement theatre that talks about racism and the dangers of preconceptions to children six to 12. They perform Sunday at 1:30 p.m. and Monday at 10 a.m.

La Musique du Tamanoir discovers the rhythms and sounds of South America in a combination of dance, mime and drawing and little bit of French language, on Tuesday, Dec. 15, and Wednesday, Dec. 16, at 10 a.m. both days. Presented by Théâtre de la source.

On Thursday, Dec. 17, and Friday, Dec. 18, at 10 a.m. both days, there is a puppet show in French that no one will want to miss. *Les Quatres Saisons de Piquot* was written by the Québécois poet Gilles Vigneault. It tells how a six-year-old boy and his friend have fantastic adventures. It's meant for children five to 12.

The festival ends on Sunday, Dec. 20, with Hanukkah Day from 1 to 5 p.m. There will be activities for the whole family. Call the SBC for details.

Santa will write back

Santa Claus gets so many letters from children around the world, that employees of Canada Post have volunteered to help answer them — 10,000 volunteers expect to answer more than a million letters.

Girls and boys who write to Santa soon are sure to get an answer from Santa himself or one of his helpers.

The address is: Santa Claus, North Pole H0H 0H0.

PR campaign urges adults to take CPR to save kids

The Advanced Coronary Treatment Foundation of Canada (ACT) is running a CPR public service announcement campaign entitled "Little Hearts," aimed at saving young lives.

Accidents are the primary cause of death in children more than a year old and accidents often involve respiratory emergencies that lead to cardiac arrest. When a child chokes, death can follow in minutes. To save a life, the parent or caregiver must become the first response in the emergency response chain of survival, before an ambulance arrives.

The message of the campaign is that a simple six-hour CPR course can prepare you to save a child's life.

The infant and child CPR course covers accident prevention, artificial breathing CPR and relieving airway obstruction.

CPR courses are given by the Red Cross, St. John Ambulance, YMCAs and private agencies. Locally, this includes Dawson College.

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Koffler raised most in Scout Skate-a-thon

One hundred thirty-seven persons participated in the Westmount Skate-a-thon on Nov. 21, and they raised $9,695 in pledges, and increase of $1,500 over last year.

The greatest amount was raised by Cindy Koffler, a Beaver leader with Shaar Hashomayim, who raised $1,256 with more than 100 pledges.

The second-largest amount was raised by Jonathan Dunsmore of 2nd Westmount, with $804 for 124 laps.

Mayor Peter Trent skated 105 laps and raised $210.

Other skaters with more than 100 laps were: J. MacDougall, 128; J. Van der Ven, 126; Scott Fraser, 123; T. Oconnor, 122; Don Dunsmore, 119; Gregory Scott, 117; Jonathan Gray, 116; Paul Fodor, 112; R. Adams and Ben Shemie, 111; Matthew Dowie and S. MacDougall, 110.

Jang Jung Hwan and Charlton Snow each made it to 108; Maurice Boicy and John Miller, 107; Patrick Quinlan, 106; Anthony Kim, 104; Jesse Bienstock, 103; T. Lyle, 102; and Mark Speilman, 101.

Half the money will go to the Telethon of Stars and the rest stays with the Westmount district Scouts.

Sports cards sought for kids in MCH

An organization called Kards for Kids is collecting sports cards and other cards donated by Montreal card hobbyists.

The cards are packaged and distributed to the Montreal Children's Hospital, local charities and community organizations.

Kards for Kids is in the midst of a drive to collect as many cards as possible for Christmas distribution.

Donated cards can be dropped off at Westmount Baseball Cards, 4960 Queen Mary Rd., Montreal H2V 1L3. For more information call 685-9231.

Donations sought for hungry Montrealers

A great many Montrealers are hungry, and will be hungry during the holiday season. Le Garde-Manger pour tous is asking for donations.

Le Garde-Manger pour tous is a food bank that distributes food to 36 community groups. Each month 10,000 people receive grocery bags or economical meals. Lunch service is supplied to 400 school children five to 12 years old in five primary schools in Little Burgundy and St. Henri. A telephone referral service deals with requests for help with food from the greater Montreal area.

Le Garde-Manger pour tous is not subsidized by Centraide and receives no regular donations. All donations from the public are gratefully accepted, and tax receipts are issued for all donations of $10 or more.

Cheques can be sent to Le Garde Manger pour tous inc., 2520 Lionel Groulx St., Montreal H3J 1J8. If you need more information, call 931-8830.

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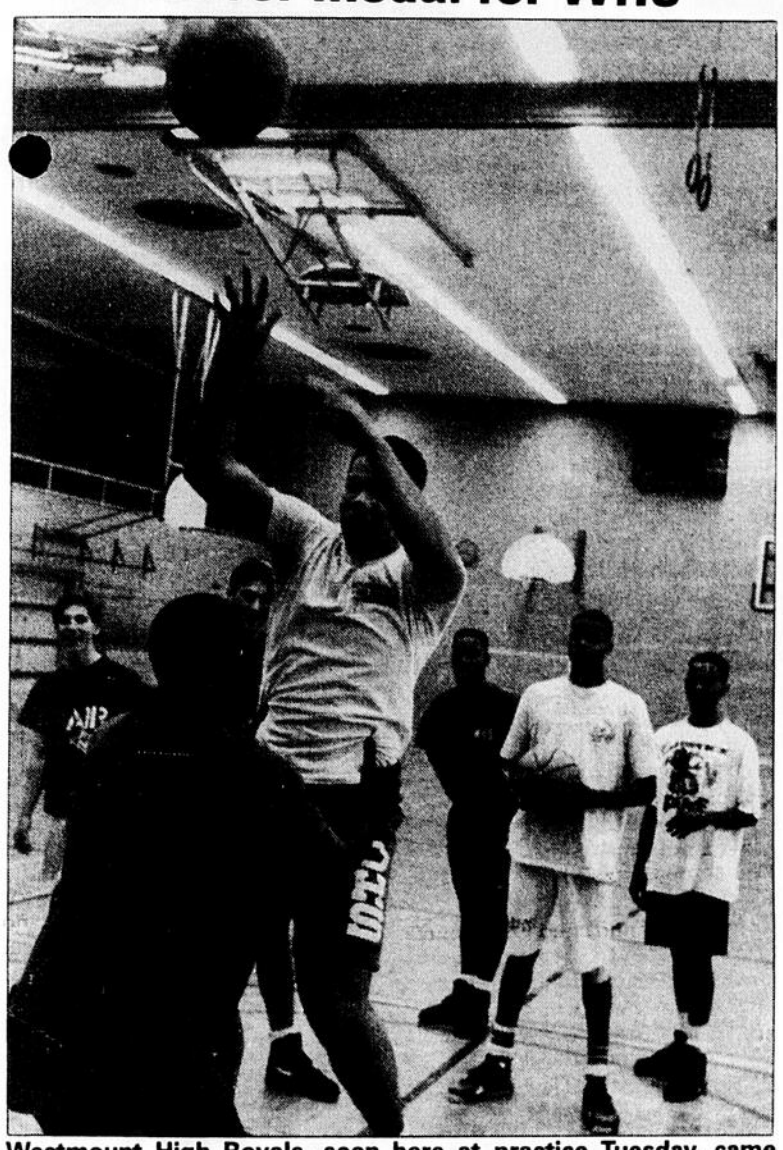

Westmount High Royals, seen here at practice Tuesday, came second in this weekend's McArthur Classic tourney at Vanier College. They lost 95-79 to Shadd Academy. Shawn Cromwell and Roy Haynes were top scorers. Photo by CLIFFORD SKARSTEDT

Westmount Oldtimers make it to semi-finals

Westmount, for the first time in Oldtimer history, won two games to make it to the semi-finals during the annual fundraising Oldtimers' Hockey Tournament, held this weekend.

Westmount SWATS took first place in Division B and third place overall in the Round Robin segment. SWAT member Jim West lost a $20 bet when winger Claude Bismuth scored a goal and assisted on another in the SWAT win over Pointe Claire. West is still in shock, as it was generally believed that Bismuth would go pointless in the Tournoi.

Semi-finals

Westmount SWATS were trounced by the Tournoi's 1992 champions, Beaconsfield, 8-0, on Sunday morning, despite a valiant effort on the part of so many doubtful hockey players.

Final

Beaconsfield, in a classic hockey game, won the 1992 Tournoi's championship trophy edging Kirkland 6-3 on Sunday afternoon, playing to a near capacity crowd at the Westmount Arena.

Silent auction

Thanks to the participation of Westmount residents and contributions of hockey equipment and services from manufacturers (CCM, Bauer, Itech, Easton) and sports shops (McNiece, Quality Sports, Urgences Sport), the sum of $720 was raised from the silent auction segment of the tournoi.

What's more, the tournament itself is estimated to have raised at least $10,000 for the N-77 funds at Montreal Children's and Ste. Justine's hospitals.

— **Howard Hoppenheim**

Lights out

Fog lights were stolen from a white 1990 Jeep Cherokee parked at 46 Surrey Gardens over the weekend Nov. 28-30, police said. They were valued at $180. It was the second such theft reported in a week.

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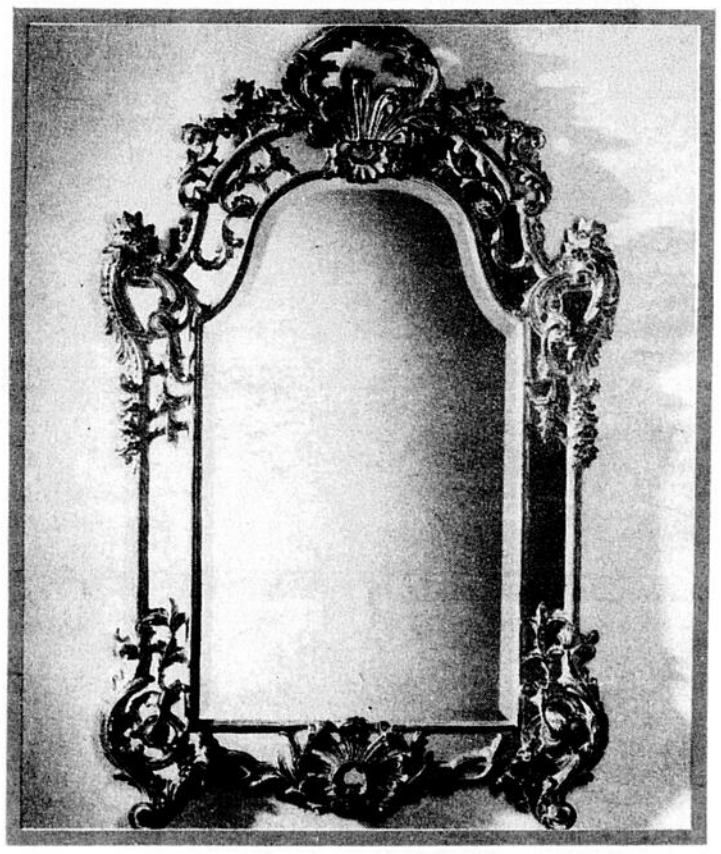

1 Westmount Square **937-0860**

OPEN: Monday-Friday 10-6, Saturday 10-5 *Evenings by appointment*