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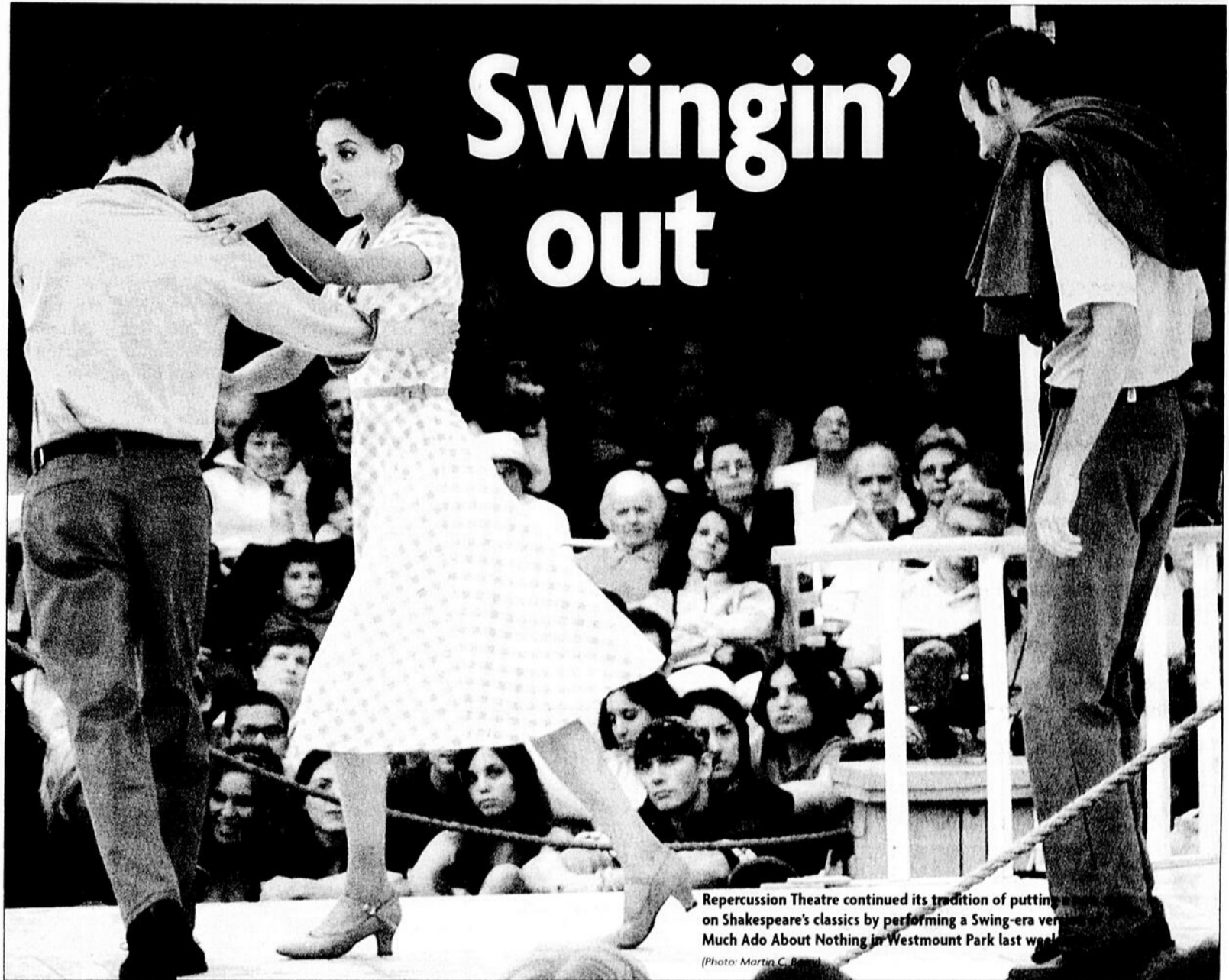
LOCAL NEWS
Not-so-good vibrations

The Westmount Train Action Group seeks input from residents.
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ARTS & BOOKS
Artists on staff

City employees show off hidden talents at Vic Hall Gallery.
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Swingin' out

Repercussion Theatre continued its tradition of putting on Shakespeare's classics by performing a Swing-era version of *Much Ado About Nothing* in Westmount Park last week.
(Photo: Martin C. Barry)

Century-old Bronfman house to remain intact

> **Martin C. Barry**
City officials have assured concerned neighbours and heritage activists that one of Westmount's most famous residences will not be altered by proposed renovation plans.

The "removal and reconstruction" of an extension building on the historic Samuel Bronfman property at 15 Belvedere Road will be the subject of a public consultation meeting on Aug. 30.

According to a recent bulletin issued by the City of Westmount, an application has been made for a demolition permit by the property's current owner, Stephen Bronfman, Sam Bronfman's grandson. Stephen Bronfman bought the 100-year-old house from his grandparents' estate following the death of his grandmother, Saidye, in 1995.

The City emphasized that the application "does

not involve the total demolition," but rather "removal and reconstruction" of part of an extension building next to the Bronfman house. According to Westmount Bylaw 1317, all such changes are subject to scrutiny by city council's demolition committee.

"This project consists of the demolition of the 1929 extension, and its replacement by a new extension, the integration into the landscaping of an underground swimming pool and the basement level," states the notice.

It also involves "the restoration of the exterior walls, the filling in of the front portico by the addition of new recessed doors, as well as the lowering of the sills of a window grouping on the south façade to accommodate French doors."

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The Bronfman mansion on Belvedere Road

Photo: Martin C. Barry

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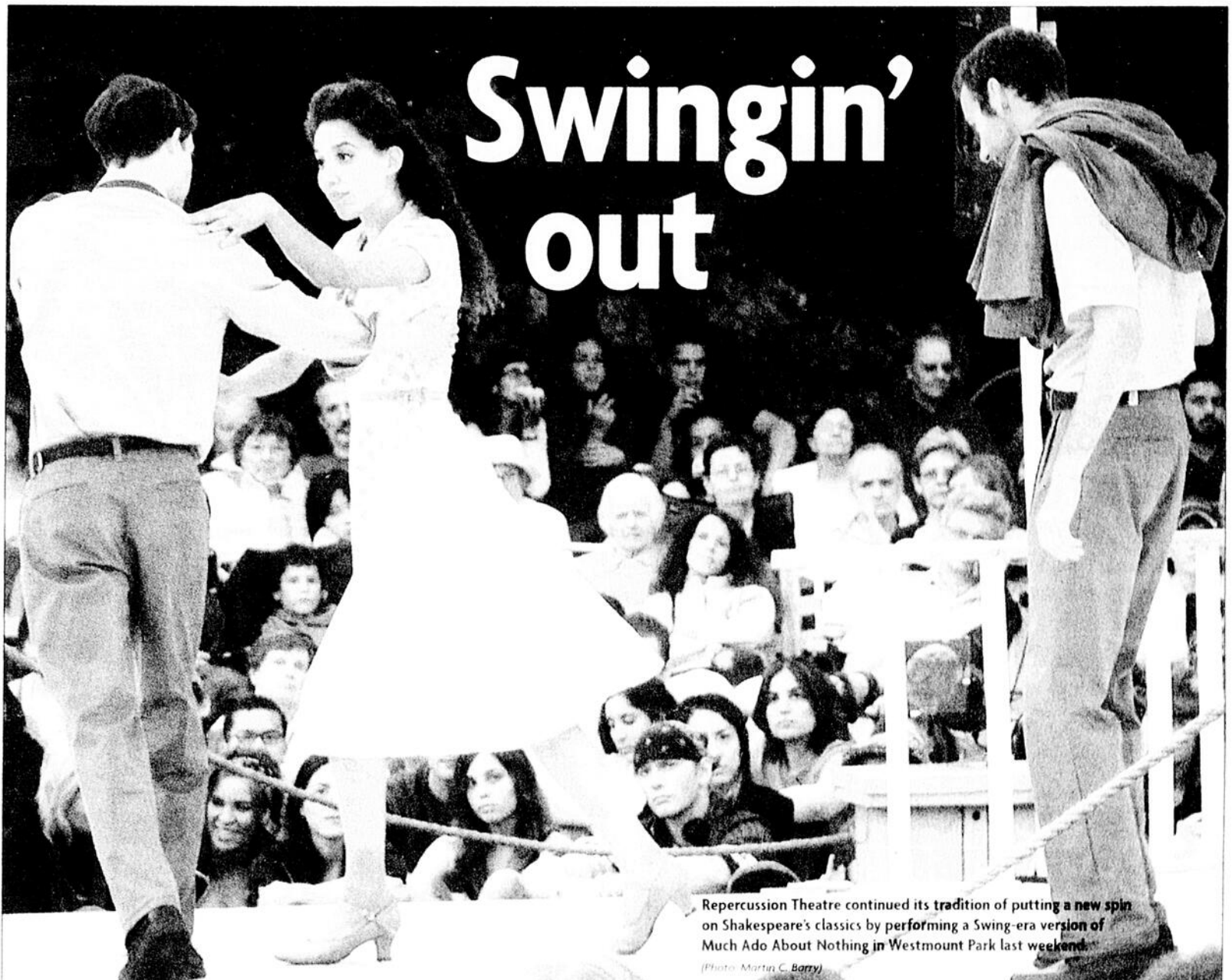
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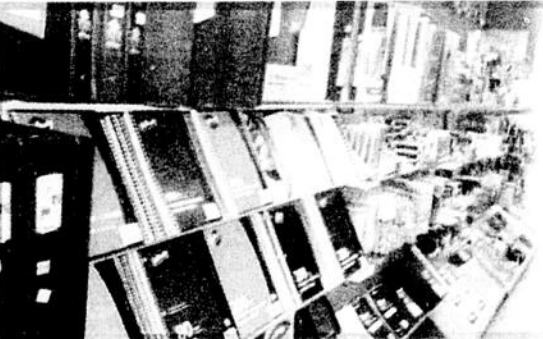
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(Photo: Martin C. Barry)

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Odd night caller disturbs Stayner-area residents



On the Scene

Jessica MURPHY

Some residents of lower Westmount awoke to find a peculiar visitor on their doorstep last month when a man, covered in mud, and with what looked like blood on his hands, was ringing doorbells of homes near Stayner Park at 1 a.m. on July 13.

Residents said he claimed to be diabetic and was asking for a glass of cola.

"One family gave him a glass of coke, and offered to call 911, and the guy got upset," said Sgt. John Everatt of Westmount Public Security.

The man then asked for money. The resident, growing concerned, shut the door and called the police.

"We went to the area, but there was nobody there," said Everatt.

The man is described as being about 30 years old, white, with a shaved head, tall and slim. He was wearing sandals and carrying a garbage bag at the time.

Residents are advised to call the police if this man is spotted ringing doorbells in their neighbourhood. Door-to-door soliciting without a permit is illegal in Westmount.

Truck gets stuck on Greene Avenue

On July 14, a truck got stuck beneath the railway overpass on Greene Avenue, creating traffic havoc for two hours. The truck driver, traveling northbound along Greene at 7:30 a.m. that Friday, realized too late that the cab of his truck was 10 inches too tall for the underpass. The top part of the cab crumpled like a tin can.

"It must happen 10 times a year; they see the sign but they just keep on going," said Everatt. "We have to block traffic on both sides, because once they're stuck under there, they're stuck." Traffic had to be blocked and rerouted during rush hour.

"It takes up a lot of man power," he said.

Garbage disposal method angers neighbours

Most people carry their garbage out to the curb, but one Dorchester Boulevard apartment dweller has found a new method: tossing it off their second-storey balcony.

"They take their garbage and whip it onto (the curb) and sometimes it would break open," said Everatt.

A neighbour recently called Public Security to lodge a complaint, but when the officers showed up, the offender would not answer the door.

Witnesses also claim the same person also disregards garbage collection days.

Gusher on Carleton

A broken water main on Westmount and Carleton Avenues closed the streets for well over five hours last Friday afternoon.

"It was quite a doozy," said Sgt. Bob White of Public Security, "although as far as damage to private property, we're not aware of any."

The leak, which began around 2:50 p.m., caused the streets from the intersection of Westmount and Carleton to Murray Hill to be blocked off.

"I could see the water really gushing out," White said. "You could tell it was a sizable hole."

Pedestrian safety a priority

Public Security and Station 12 police are asking Westmounters to be more careful pedestrians. Together, they have started a prevention and education campaign to reduce pedestrian accidents and increase awareness of the laws.

"People are not aware of the law, and

some people will (do things like) cross on the diagonal," said Richard Blondin, director of Public Security. "Half of the pedestrians ignore the 'don't walk' signal and jaywalk."

"They'll focus on the corner of Victoria Avenue and Sherbrooke Street, and Claremont Avenue and Sherbrooke," he added. "(The campaign) will continue into September. In the beginning, we want to focus on prevention."

According to the Société de l'assurance automobile, 10 pedestrians a day are involved in traffic accidents. Pedestrians not heeding the traffic signals are liable to receive a \$15 to \$30 fine. Pedestrians are supposed to always obey the pedestrian traffic signal, to cross at intersections, and to stand on the sidewalk until it's safe to cross.

Driver and cyclist leave scene of accident

At 9:08 a.m. on Aug. 8, Public Security received a call concerning a motor vehicle collision on the corner of Claremont Avenue and Sherbrooke Street.

The accident was said to involve a truck and a cyclist—but when the PSO arrived on the scene, there was no evidence of any accident. One witness said he had seen the driver of the cube truck place the bicycle into the rear of the truck and drive away with the cyclist, who, according to the witness, had received injuries no more serious than bad abrasions.

Sgt. White assumed that the truck driver had either brought the cyclist to the hospital or home. "I wish they would wait at the scene until the medical personnel get there," he said.

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Griffin returns as Rotary president

> Marilyn Vanderstay

The changing of the guard at the Rotary Club of Westmount last month saw reversals of protocols and new traditions.

For the first time in its 75-year history, the service club not only reinstated a past-president, but this year three past-presidents were installed to serve as president and vice-presidents.

Jim Griffin will hold the office of president, supported by past-presidents Andy Durso and Ted Sancton, who will act as co-vice-presidents.

"None of the members chosen by the nominating committee of former presidents were willing to assume the responsibilities," said Griffin, who initially held the post in 1988. "We thought that by reinstating three former presidents with a long-standing history with Rotary, we would be able to turn the club around a little and focus more on the original roots of the Rotary Club."

Durso, who was president in 1970 and has been secretary for the last eight years, will wear both hats for the year. "The biggest challenge for the club right now is to get more information about the Rotary Club and Rotary International to the many new members, to prepare them to be effective Rotarians," he said. "We will encourage more participation in committees which gives the membership more involvement and fellowship in the club and the community."

Sancton, who was president in 2000, concurred, saying the team of past-presidents will work together and support each other.

As part of the commitment to keep members well informed, former district governor Nancy Gilbert will give a monthly discussion on a different aspect of the Rotary Club organization and how it works.

There will also be a greater emphasis on fellowship among the membership. Once a month, members will be encouraged to mingle outside of their regular seating patterns.

"They will be given different coloured poker chips when registering and will be asked to sit at the corresponding table," said Griffin. "We want the membership to get to know each other and to sit with each member at least once in the year."

For more information about the Rotary Club of Westmount and how to become a member go to www.rotarywestmount.org or call 514-935-3344.

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

Train noise group encourages input from neighbours

> Martin C. Barry

A local citizens action group seeking solutions for longstanding train-related problems in lower Westmount is inviting residents to answer a telephone survey on the effectiveness of some recent noise- and vibration-reduction measures.

Members of the Westmount Train Action Group (WTAG) met with officials of the Metropolitan Transit Agency (AMT) and CP Rail on July 12—the day welding began on track lengths in an effort to reduce noise and vibrations. It was also the first time that CP was present at any of the WTAG's recent meetings with the AMT.

The welding and ballast-packing ended on Aug. 6. The group is asking nearby residents if they detect any change now that work has been completed in upgrading the tracks.

"The WTAG is asking that all residents affected by the vibrations and noise to partake in this survey," said a WTAG spokesman. "The outcome of this survey will give everybody a better understanding of the situation."

As a result of earlier meetings the group held with the AMT, the WTAG was able to obtain an agreement that the agency that runs Montreal's commuter rail service would weld the tracks between the AMT's Vendôme station up to the Windsor terminal downtown, at a cost of \$1.7 million.

However, during the latest meeting, it was revealed that the AMT will now only be welding 40 per cent of the track area because of money constraints. "At all the other meetings we had with the AMT, we were informed that 100 per cent of the track would be welded," said the spokesman.

Based on information obtained from the AMT at previous meetings, the WTAG had been anticipating a 60 to 80 per cent reduction in noise and vibrations if the tracks were



Commuter trains pass close to homes in lower Westmount.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

welded 100 per cent. "So we have no idea what the outcome is going to be now." The WTAG plans to present the results of their survey to the AMT at a meeting in September.

Also at the upcoming meeting, the citizens group will be asking what can be done to reduce the vibrations and noise that result from trains passing through switches and crossovers located on the tracks near Abbott, Irvine, Lewis, Blenheim and Bethune avenues in Westmount.

At the last meeting, the WTAG asked AMT and CP officials if the overall speed of trains can be reduced between the Vendôme station and Atwater Avenue. Lower train speed is widely believed to be an important factor in

reducing vibrations and noise. The AMT and CP are expected to address the issue in September.

To respond to the survey, the WTAG is asking residents living in the area of Clondeboye, Prospect and Hallowell streets to phone 514-932-2353 with their comments. Residents living in the area of Hillside Avenue to Ste. Catherine St. W. and Prince Albert Avenue should call 514-935-0221.

There will be answering machines at each of the numbers in case no one is available to take the call. Respondents are asked to leave their name and street address with comments, whether or not a difference in noise and vibrations has been detected since completion of the track work.

Continued from page 1

Originally called 'Oaklands', the mansion was built in 1906 as a country home for a well-established Montreal businessman. It was designed by prominent local architect Robert Findlay in partnership with John MacGregor. Sam Bronfman bought the property in 1928.

Councillor Cynthia Lulham, who chairs the demolition committee, acknowledged that calls were received at City Hall from residents alarmed after reading that demolition might be involved. She pointed out, however, that the property is classified by Westmount as Category One, meaning any proposed structural or architectural changes are subject to intense scrutiny.

While emphasizing that the extension is not part of the original house, Lulham added that any proposed changes would have to follow all the criteria for the main building.

"So not for people to be concerned. The historical building that they look at remains," she said.

"They're doing some improvements to the house; it's certainly not a demolition of the property," said Director-General Bruce St. Louis. "That's a heritage property. There are certain improvements that are required. All the plans and information will be available at the meeting."

Phyllis Lambert, daughter of Sam and Saidye Bronfman, grew up in the house. She told the *Examiner* that she is not against the proposed changes.

"As I understand it, the plans have been reviewed, revised and finally accepted by the Westmount architectural commission," said Lambert, founder of Montreal's Canadian Centre for Architecture. "I believe that it will be replaced by a wing incorporating the family room and kitchen and an indoor swim-

ming pool below, in accordance with contemporary informal living style, in contrast to the services demanded 17 years ago. The question is how well it is done."

Dinu Bumbaru, policy director of the architecture preservation group Heritage Montreal, also had few objections.

"We feel comforted by the fact that it is happening in the City of Westmount," he said. "Westmount has been exemplary in many respects in the way it deals with heritage buildings for many decades."

"It's really a matter of seeing how this project is being reviewed and if proper time is being given. Before you demolish a chunk of a building, there has to be some sort of heritage assessment."

The public consultation meeting on the project will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 30, at 7 p.m. at Westmount City Hall, 4333 Sherbrooke St. W.

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Vol. 8 /15
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ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

La galerie du Victoria Hall

La galerie du Victoria Hall est fière de présenter l'exposition des employés de la Ville de Westmount qui se tiendra jusqu'au 1^{er} septembre. Info : 514-989-5226.

Poésie plein-air au parc Westmount

Le mercredi 23 août à 19 h

Venez entendre des interprétations de poésie le mercredi 23 août à 19 h au parc Westmount, près de l'étang. En cas de pluie, l'événement aura lieu le lendemain, jeudi 24 août à la même heure et au même endroit. Advenant deux soirs de pluie consécutifs, l'événement se tiendra le jeudi au Victoria Hall, 4626, rue Sherbrooke O. Info : 514-989-5226.



BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Club de lecture anglaise

Le club de lecture anglaise se réunira le mardi 22 août de 19 h à 21 h pour discuter du roman *Purple Hibiscus* de Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. Bienvenue à tous! Info : 514-989-5386.

Contes vagabonds pour une soirée d'été

Viens te joindre à nous dans la cour des enfants de la bibliothèque pour une soirée amusante le jeudi 17 août à 19 h. Mets ton pyjama, apporte ton ourson préféré et viens écouter des histoires de partout dans le monde racontées par Dylan Spevak. Tu pourras même réaliser un passeport pour ton ourson que tu pourras apporter à la maison! (4 ans et +) Viens t'inscrire au comptoir des enfants ou compose le 514-989-5229.



SPORTS ET LOISIRS

Inscriptions automne/hiver

Les inscriptions pour les activités sportives et de loisirs se tiendront les 21, 22 et 23 août au Victoria Hall, 4626, rue Sherbrooke O., de 18 h à 20 h :

- le **lundi 21 août**
hockey et patinage seulement
- les **mardi et mercredi 22 et 23 août**
tous les programmes

Veillez noter que toute inscription après le 23 août doit absolument s'effectuer à l'Aréna de Westmount, 4675, rue Sainte-Catherine O. Les inscriptions pour les non-résidents débiteront le 13 septembre à 9 h à l'Aréna.

Répertoire des activités

L'édition automne/hiver du répertoire des activités de loisirs a été distribué aux

DATES À RETENIR

Jusqu'au 1^{er} septembre

Exposition des employés de la Ville de Westmount
Galerie du Victoria Hall

Les 21, 22 et 23 août - 18 h

Inscriptions pour les activités de loisirs
Victoria Hall

Le 17 août - 19 h

Contes vagabonds pour une soirée d'été
Cour de la bibliothèque

Le 22 août - 19 h

Club de lecture anglaise
Bibliothèque

Le 23 août - 19 h

Poésie plein-air
Parc Westmount

Le 28 août - 20 h

Séance du conseil
Hôtel de ville

résidents de Westmount la semaine du 8 août. Si vous n'avez pas reçu votre copie, des exemplaires sont disponibles à l'hôtel de ville, à l'Aréna, à la bibliothèque et au Victoria Hall. Le texte intégral est également disponible à partir de notre site Web. Info : 514-989-5353.

Horaire de la piscine

Veillez noter que l'horaire des périodes de natation libre à la piscine municipale changera le lundi 21 août. Pour connaître le nouvel horaire, communiquez avec le Service des sports et loisirs ou consultez notre site Web. Info : 514-989-5353.

POUR NOUS JOINDRE

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Hydro-Westmount	514-925-1414
Panne de courant (24 heures)	514-989-5201
Police, situations non-urgentes	514-280-2222
Sécurité publique	514-989-5222
Sports et loisirs (aréna-piscine)	514-989-5353
Travaux publics	514-989-5311
Site web - bibliothèque	www.westlib.org
Urgence	9-1-1



COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Gallery at Victoria Hall

The Gallery at Victoria Hall is pleased to present an exhibition of works by City of Westmount Employees until September 1. Info: 514-989-5226.

Poetry in the Park

August 23, 7 p.m.

Hear local poets at this spoken word event on Wednesday, August 23 at 7 p.m. in Westmount Park near the lagoon. Rain date: Thursday, August 24, same time and place. In case of rain on both evenings, the event will be moved to Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke St. W. on the Thursday. Info: 514-989-5226.



LIBRARY

English Book Club

The English Book Club will meet on Tuesday, August 22 from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Westmount Room of the library to discuss *Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. Everyone is welcome to attend. Info: 514-989-5386.

Wander Tales on a Summer's Eve

Join us in the Children's Courtyard of the Library for a fun-filled evening on Thursday, August 17 at 7 p.m. Wear your pyjamas, bring your favourite bear and listen to tales from around the world with storyteller Dylan Spevak. You can even make a teddy bear passport to take home! Refreshments will be served. (Ages 4+) Please register for this event at the children's desk or call 514-989-5229.



SPORTS & RECREATION

Fall/Winter Registration

Registration for fall and winter sports and recreation activities will take place on August 21, 22 and 23 at Victoria Hall (4626 Sherbrooke Street W.) from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., as follows:

- **Monday, August 21**
hockey and skating only
- **Tuesday and Wednesday, August 22 & 23**
all activities

Please note that after August 23, registration must be done at the Westmount Arena, 4675 St. Catherine Street W. Registration for non-residents begins September 13 at 9 a.m. at the Arena.

Activities Guide

The fall/winter edition of the Recreation Activities Guide was delivered to all Westmount residences the week of August 8. If you have not received your booklet, copies are available at City Hall, the Library, the

DATEBOOK

Until September 1

Works by City of Westmount Employees
Gallery at Victoria Hall

August 21, 22 & 23 - 6 p.m.

Registration for Recreation Activities
Victoria Hall

August 17 - 7 p.m.

Wander Tales on a Summer's Eve
Library Courtyard

August 22 - 7 p.m.

English Book Club
Library

August 23 - 7 p.m.

Poetry in the Park
Westmount Park

August 28 - 8 p.m.

Council Meeting
City Hall

Arena and Victoria Hall. The complete text is also available on our Web site. Info: 514-989-5353.

Pool Schedule

Please note that the schedule for free swim times at the Westmount Pool will change on Monday, August 21. To find out the new schedule, please contact the Sports and Recreation office or consult our Web site. Info: 514-989-5353.

TO REACH US

Mailing Address

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Hydro Westmount	514-925-1414
Outages (24 hours)	514-989-5201
Mayor's Office	514-989-5240
Police, non-emergency situations	514-280-2222
Public Security	514-989-5222
Public Works	514-989-5311
Sports and Recreation (Arena-Pool)	514-989-5353
Victoria Hall Community Centre	514-989-5226
Westmount Public Library	514-989-5300
Web Site, Library	www.westlib.org
Emergency	9-1-1



Sound barrier prototype nears completion

Effectiveness will be judged over coming months



Just a few more panels are needed to finish the experimental barrier.

have the engineering report on the technical business of the wall."

Should the test section be effective, at least \$10 million more could eventually be spent completing a 1.6 kilometre wall extending along the expressway from Atwater to Lansdowne. St. Louis would not speculate on when council will decide whether to proceed with the rest of the project.

In the past, some residents in the area objected that a sound barrier would obliterate their view of the cityscape beyond the tracks and expressway. It is hoped the wall's transparency has resolved that issue.

The barrier is being erected on the north side of the tracks. Since 2002, when the expressway was last repaved, sound tests have indicated that the roar of the traffic has dropped slightly, although it is expected to build back up as the pavement wears away.

The City of Westmount hopes to get answers to certain questions from the test panel, such as how it will bear up to maintenance for removing graffiti, or whether it will accumulate dirt thrown up from the

passing vehicles.

St. Louis said all that remains to complete the test section now is to seal the joints around the glass panels. "We've just got to make sure that all the gaskets and all the seals are properly secured, and once that's done we'll do our preliminary testing to assess the true effectiveness of how much it reduces noise. That will be done probably within the first two or three weeks after we've done all our final inspections."

According to St. Louis, the effectiveness of the sound barrier is expected to be known almost immediately, although the City will be conducting longer and more elaborate testing. "What council is deeply interested in, though, is how the residents of that street accept it in terms of aesthetic considerations, from its impact on their local environment.

"Sometimes it can take more than a week of living beside a thing like this to have an appreciation," he added. "The people who live there have to have enough time to see whether they adapt well or not. And that doesn't happen in a week."

> Martin C. Barry

The City of Westmount hopes to know within the next three months whether a sound barrier test section nearing completion in lower Westmount effectively reduces noise from the Ville Marie Expressway.

The 30-metre prototype wall, made of concrete with transparent plastic panels, is being installed at a cost of \$240,000 at the

foot of Abbott Avenue below Ste. Catherine Street. As of this week, the work is nearly completed.

"We're only waiting for the last delivery of some of the Lexan clear panels, but I'd say it's about 95 per cent done," Westmount Director General Bruce St. Louis told the *Examiner*. "Within the first six months we'll have the initial feedback of the residents and we will

Photo: Martin C. Barry

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Protecting our heritage



Commentary

Wayne
LARSEN
larsenw@transcontinental.ca

Westmount's strict architectural guidelines and bylaws governing renovations have been harshly criticized over the years, most often by property owners who could not understand why, after paying a hefty price for a stately home in an affluent neighbourhood, they were not allowed to change various features on the house for those of a more modern design.

Some readers will recall the plight of the Westmounter who went ahead and ordered thousands of dollars worth of custom-made windows, only to be told that he was the owner of a venerated heritage property and was forbidden by law from tearing out the existing windows without permission from the City. As it turned out, his choice of windows did not conform to the architectural standards and he ended up with a basement full of brand new, energy-efficient windows that were totally useless to anyone.

More recently, the new owner of a property on Cedar Avenue, just below The Boulevard, received a harsh lesson in Westmount culture when her extensive renovation project ran seriously afoul of local bylaws and ended up in a long, well-publicized court case.

Such are the laws of the land—but even if you disagree with the idea of strangers deciding how you can change your own property, you must admit that Westmount's architectural guidelines have proven effective in preserving much of the city's original character and maintaining a visual harmony that adheres to aesthetic sensibilities. For that, most people seem to be appreciative, and the City is to be applauded for its careful vigilance.

The latest example of a heritage property that has come under scrutiny is 15 Belvedere Road, best known as the house where Sam and Saidye Bronfman raised their family. 'Oaklands' as it was originally named, is an integral part of the Bronfman family saga and one of Westmount's best-known sites, so it is obvious that any renovation project on its grounds would be carefully considered.

Dinu Bumbaru, one of Montreal's most highly respected heritage activists, has praised Westmount's strict architectural policies, stating that he is glad the Bronfman house renovations are being done here—the implication being that other communities might not be so careful in preserving their heritage sites.

Westmounters can be proud not only of their historic buildings, but also in the way their City officials are protecting them.



MARIO DUMONT CHAMPIONS ABOLISHING AGGLOMERATION COUNCIL

No election this fall, says MNA Chagnon



Civic Alert

Don
WEDGE

There will not be an election this year. Westmount MNA Jacques Chagnon heard Premier Jean Charest say so recently, our Liberal representative in Quebec City told me last weekend. I could not resist saying that I could not believe anything Charest says.

More convincing for me is a series of 15 colloquia Chagnon is organizing across the province this fall. They begin in Gaspé on Sept. 9. Montreal is set for Nov. 5.

"We will be organizing the party platform and setting the four-year agenda," he said.

Of course, everything is possible in politics, and support swinging to Charest may encourage the leader to call an election whether the policy manifesto is ready or not!

In between the Quebec think tanks, Chagnon will be visiting Romania for a 68-country Francophonie summit in Bucharest.

Chagnon is meantime supporting the request of Karin Marks and the Mayors' Club to be able to set the differential tax rate for

commercial properties in the demerged communities. He has spoken to Municipal Affairs Minister Nathalie Normandeau about a change in the law that permits Montreal to set its differentials, but not most other Quebec cities.

"I see no reason for a difference," he said, "so I hope it will go through."

Going slower could do it!

However the trial section of the futuristic sound barrier at the bottom of Abbott Avenue is assessed, I am wondering if Westmount, the Quebec government, or any of the other participants are ready for the cost of extending it. Can there be a cheaper solution?

There are two big noise problems—autoroute and railway, with vibration an additional factor from the latter.

City councillor Tom Thompson was chair of the Noise Reduction Committee for several years before the forced mergers and cannot forget the proffered solution from Transport Quebec on the autoroute.

If traffic, particularly truck movements, were restricted to the existing speed limits, then the sound levels would not exceed tolerable norms.

No one was willing to offer policing to achieve that. But Thompson asks now if it

doesn't deserve another investigation. "The continuing Quebec emphasis on Kyoto targets being reached might open one door," he speculates.

Could it be achieved by two police cars traveling astride the lane markers? "Not necessary," he reasons. "Photo radar has now been developed elsewhere into a traffic calming method; there is no reason it could not work for us."

There is speculation about carbon credits, and we are nearing introduction of new methods of road charging as in Europe. Perhaps there could be less expensive ways to control the noise after all.

More rail help needed

Even with the expressway noise tamed, the rail noise and vibration will remain. There is enormous pressure on the government to find funds for expanding the rail services. The electric service to Deux Montagnes is world-class and saves several hundred rush-hour cars a day on the Ville Marie Expressway, but it is overloaded and needs more investment.

Unfortunately there is little talk of—or money for—improving the Rigaud line, which passes through Westmount, NDG and Montreal West, to the same standards.

Continued on p. 7

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OLD NEWS from the archives

1935-2006

One Year Ago
August 18, 2005

PAVING RULES: "The Borough of Westmount has adopted measures to conserve green space by preventing business owners from paving over their front yards in commercial zones. First tabled in the borough council in June, the new regulations extend provisions contained in an earlier and controversial bylaw, which prohibited paving over green spaces in the front yards of residential areas to create parking pads. According to the results of a public consultation procedure held on the afternoon of July 15, no eligible residents or business owners in Westmount came forward to contest the new bylaw. Commercially designated areas affected by the bylaw include Ste. Catherine Street and Victoria Avenue, where there is a mix of business and residences. "When we had adopted the greenspace bylaw for the City a number of years ago, not allowing people to pave over their front yards and disallowing the parking pads, saying that you have to have 70 per cent soft cover and 30 per cent hard, we neglected certain commercial zones," Borough Councillor Cynthia Lulham said when the new rules were passed earlier this month."

Five Years Ago
August 16, 2001

NEW ROOF: "The City of Westmount may soon call for contract tenders to perform long-awaited renovations to the old Westmount Station. According to minutes of a meeting of city council's general committee in June, a 'key date' report for work on the building has been prepared. City councillor Karin Marks and Mayor Peter Trent agreed with a decision by the Architecture and Planning Commission that a slate roof should be put on the station, and it was agreed to go to tender on the project. Once a busy stop on CP's national passenger railway line, the now-abandoned station at the foot of Victoria Avenue has been earmarked by the City to be converted into a home for the Westmount Historical Association—although a fundraising campaign by the WHA to cover renovation expenses was put on hold last year. The slate roof, according to WHA president Flora-Lee Wagner, will be just the beginning."

Ten Years Ago
August 15, 1996

A VIEW OF THEIR OWN: "Westmount's rich history is in the process of being recorded in print, but the results will not be seen at least until next year. Aline Gubbay of the Westmount Historical Association, commissioned by City Hall to write a book about Westmount's past, said the work is in the editing stage and a launch is tentatively set for 1997. 'It's a work in progress,' said Gubbay, who began researching material for the book a few years ago when the project was initiated by then-mayor May Cutler. 'It's a new history of Westmount, including some of the people who built it up,' said Gubbay, adding she hopes the work will dispel a few cultural myths about the city."

Continued from CIVIC ALERT, page 6

Henry Olders, who uses the train daily to go to work at the far western end of the island, has spoken out about the difference in the condition of the tracks once the train clears the inner city.

The smoother and quieter long-welded rails used beyond Montreal West are the reason. CP, the track's owner, and AMT, which operates the trains, have come up short by not reaching the same standard here. The cost-cutting partial welding done last month has to be evaluated. If it is not the solution, they must long-weld the entire track.

Magic marker missed

Remember Jean Charest insisting on a 35 per cent voter turnout in the demerger referendum? If it applied to National Assembly by-elections, then both André Boisclair (33.02 per cent) and Maria Malavoy (34.66 per cent) would not have made it in Pointe-aux-Trembles and Taillon, respectively.

Fine Print

A few things you may have missed unless you read all the papers and then some:

- Although Chairman Frank Zampino was still on vacation, the megacity Executive Committee resumed its sessions after the summer break last Wednesday with an agenda of 101 items! Their agglom spending included \$5 million for an Eco-Centre in St. Laurent and \$3.6 million for one in LaSalle. —*Journal de Montréal, Ville de Montréal*

- There are now 70 Eco-Centres in Quebec, including six in Montreal—the nearest being on Rue Eadie in South-West borough, although most recyclables can be dropped off at the Westmount Public Works Yard. —*Réseau d'information municipale, Recyc-Québec, City of Westmount*

- Sherbrooke council was petitioned by 100 citizens asking it to stop Toronto's sewage

Fifteen Years Ago
August 15, 1991

STAINED GLASS LEGACY: "When May Cutler completes her term as mayor in less than three months, she'll leave behind a colourful and lasting imprint on the council chamber. Stained glass designs of Westmount buildings and emblems will adorn nine upper sections of the large bay window of the room she was determined to liven up and redecorate. 'Each council should turn over something beautiful to the next,' she said. 'The quality of the artist will make these windows magnificent.' The panels are being worked on by Theo Lubbers, one of the few remaining masters of the craft who creates the designs using techniques dating back to medieval times."

Thirty-Five Years Ago
August 12, 1971

DOGGIE ON THE SPOT: "With citizen complaints about dogs fouling city parks and sidewalks on the upsurge, why not adopt the solution that the Danes have tried successfully, suggests Mrs. Margaret Dunkley, 536 Argyle avenue. In Denmark, towns are building public toilets for dogs. Mrs. Dunkley has sent the *Examiner* a clipping from the London Sunday Times, May 30, 1971, which describes the toilets and shows a picture of a St. Bernard eager to try out the novelty."

from being treated there. —*La Tribune*

- Electronic voting has been ruled out at the Rosemont by-election on Sept. 26 to fill Pierre Bourque's mega-council seat. The Director-General of Elections has opted for old-time ballots and counts. —*La Presse*

- An Environmental Master Plan was unanimously approved by Windsor, Ont. council last month. It is to cover the next five years and takes into account latest trends, issues, priorities and community input. —*City of Windsor*

- At least 48 million batteries are used annually in Quebec. —*Nova Envirocom, Réseau d'information municipale*

- In a survey, 52 per cent of voters in Roxboro chose to maintain its by-laws even though the town has been annexed by Pierrefonds. The main one: Roxboro forbids use of those winter car tents. —*24 heures*

- Team Bourque being no more, his Vision Montreal party unveiled a new logo—gray, green and blue replaced red and blue. —*Métro Montréal*

Council resumes, seeks funds for Library's DVD service

Council meetings resumed on Wednesday. Agenda for the noon meeting was light, but included a rushed application for a \$13,000 provincial grant for a new Library service that will offer 50 digital books and DVD players to the homebound and, later, seniors.

The Library hopes to obtain eight portable players and 100 DVDs chosen for their interest to seniors.

Council was also being asked to approve 27 building permits, five conditionally.

Speak up for pet projects

Preparing the 2007 budget will be one of the major tasks for council in the fall. With it will come decisions on some of the major questions hanging over the city. It is time to stake a claim for pet projects.

Will part of Westmount Park get an artificial playing surface? Or be fenced off? How much renovation will be done to City Hall? Should money be spent on the Arena? What about the overdue start to the collection of kitchen waste?

Should the Library be open longer or have more books or DVDs – or both? Do we give enough financial support to the social centers like Contactivity, Centre Greene and the Y? Is it necessary to have pristine surfaces on side streets? What is the future of the sound barrier?

Dominating everything will be the wish to clear the debt that the forced annexation to Montreal created, and Council's determination to balance the tax load with the extraordinary appetite of the Agglom.

Reduced tax direction

Budget outlines have already been discussed by the Administration Committee, said the

chairman Tom Thompson.

"Departments are keen to improve their services, of course, but we will have to look at any increases very carefully. Our guidance to the budget staff was that, with some of the initial demerger costs met in 2006, we were hoping to see some reduction in expenses.

Council has no plan to open the budget process to the public, Thompson said. It is usually presented at the end of November.

Participation growing

Participatory budgeting has become a municipal buzzword elsewhere, if not yet in Westmount. The NDG-CDN borough has been holding explanatory sessions about its budget options for the last three summers. Montreal West intends to open its process to the public this fall.

Throughout the summer, the Plateau borough has been holding sessions on its capital budget with dozens of people taking part. They were inspired by the procedures in Puerto Alegre, the Brazilian city that has pioneered such budget processes and involving thousands of people each year.

The Plateau's sessions have been highly publicized, as everything endorsed by their mayor, Helen Fotopoulos, tends to be. Next step will be the presentation of citizens' views next Wednesday, Aug. 23. Already more than 70 briefs have been received.

Beaconsfield's pioneering

Not so well known is Beaconsfield's proposed public budget for 2007. "We've no intention of copying a South American city," said Mayor Bob Benedetti. "This is a first step, based on the way our city works."

There has been a resurgence of public interest in council works following the demerger, Benedetti said. Therefore, there will be multiple stages with options for public input. If demand justifies, there will be additional sessions.

On Oct. 30, council will table both operating and capital budgets. Then, on Nov. 13, there will be public comment sessions at two locations in the city, with speakers being allotted five minutes for presentations.

"Council will meet in caucus on Nov. 27 to consider what we have heard and make any changes needed," promised Benedetti. "We'll present the revised versions of budgets and proposed tax rates on Dec. 11 and adopt them about a week later, depending to some extent on the Agglom meetings."

• Community activist Don Wedge can be reached at calert@web.net. His columns are archived at www.westmountexaminer.com under Opinion.

What's selling?

Read Andy Dodge's analysis of the Westmount market in The Examiner's monthly Real Estate section.

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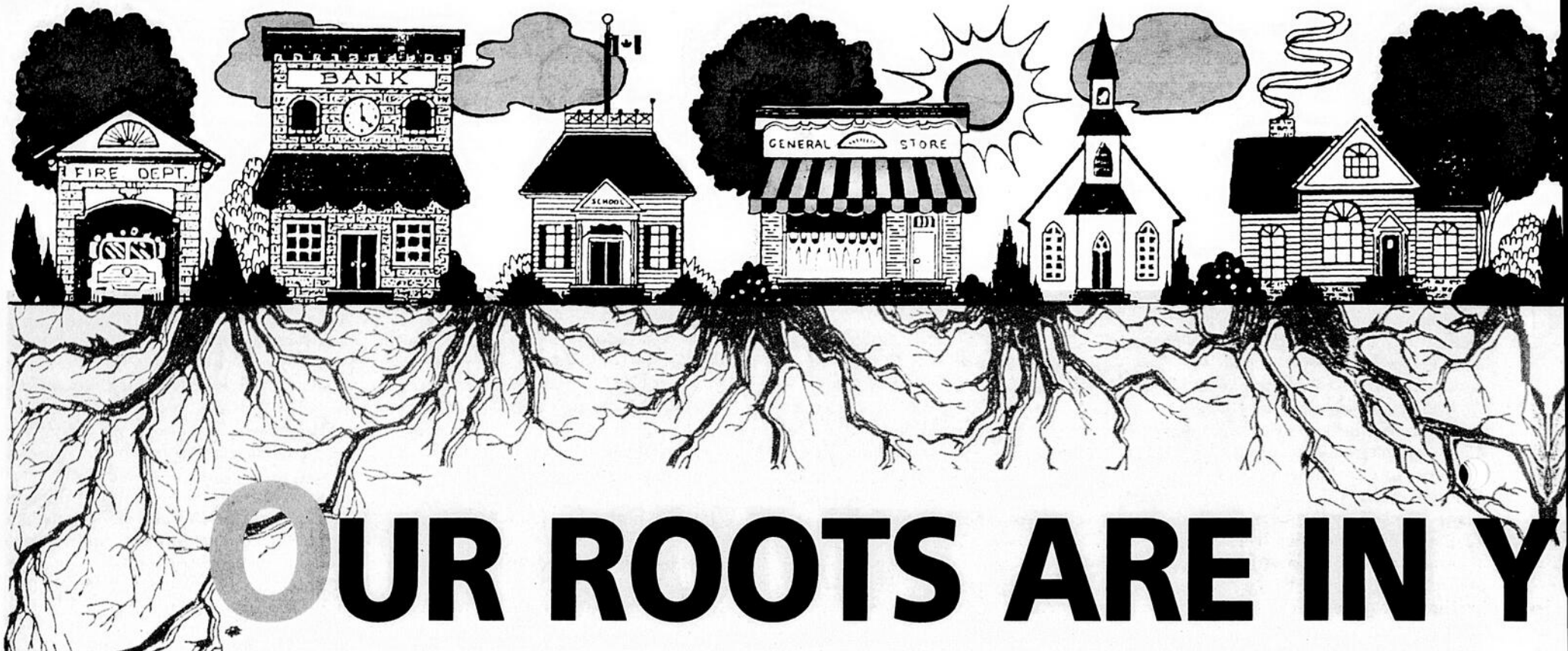
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Mayor of Westmount

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Arts & Books

www.westmountexaminer.com The Westmount Examiner Thursday, August 17, 2006 Page 10

Westmounters bring world's biggest youth film festival to Montreal

> Darren Shore

Some of tomorrow's brightest filmmakers make their directorial debuts this weekend, when 50 short films compete in the world's largest festival for directors under 25, organized by four hard-working Westmounters.

The Young Cuts film festival offers cash prizes, film industry internships, video-editing software, and that priceless chance at exposure to promising up-and-comers.

"This is emerging talent," says lifelong Westmount resident Louise Kierans, one of four primary festival organizers. "A lot of these filmmakers are going to be the big-screen directors in 15 years—the very talented ones who keep at it."

This year's finalists come from Canada, the US, the UK, Greece and Australia. Many will be present at the screenings of their films from Friday to Sunday at Concordia University's downtown campus.

On Saturday, judges will select winners in 12 categories, including best animation, documentary, special effects, and the Denys Arcand award for best director.

Academy Award winner Arcand, himself a Westmount resident, is expected to attend some events. His first film, *Champlain*, will be screened. Arcand was the first big name to support Young Cuts in promoting young filmmakers and getting them connected with industry professionals.

Other celebrities expected at tonight's opening gala include Tom Sizemore (*Saving Private Ryan*, *Born on the 4th of July*) TV star Chris Potter (*Sex Traffic*, *Queer as Folk*), and other Hollywood stars flown out with tickets donated by festival sponsor American Airlines.

"We found that many of these young filmmakers didn't know how to get into the industry," says Kierans's husband and festival chairman Jay Moulton. Consequently, the festival aims to give today's most talented young filmmakers a foot in the industry door.

Moulton and Kierans first got interested in promoting independent, short films because their teenage kids love all kinds of movies.

They saw a market for more original, less commercial material, says Kierans. "TV sta-

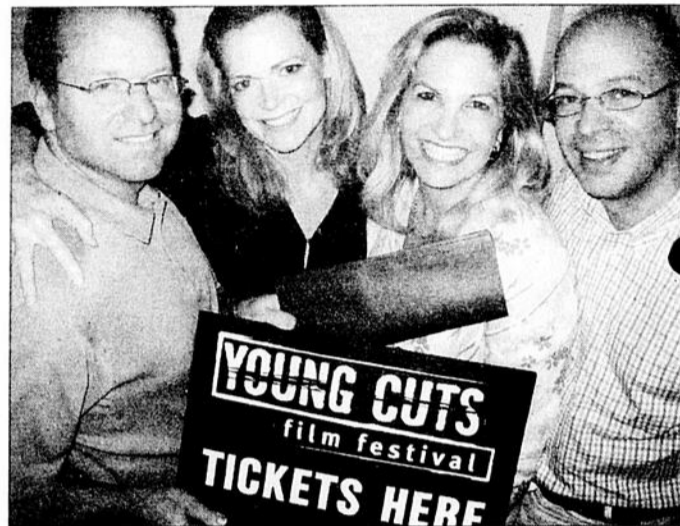
tions don't want to have to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars buying shows, or play the same old thing. They're looking for innovative stuff, and that's what these films are."

And the couple saw the increasing potential for amateur filmmakers to attain professional quality production thanks to computers and new digital technology.

But getting this not-for-profit festival going wasn't easy, even as a team of four with friends Jennifer and Martin Steber, also Westmount residents.

The biggest problem was funding. "It's amazing how many people are out there looking for sponsorship dollars for events," says Moulton.

At first, the organizers financed operations themselves, and spent countless hours approaching skeptical advertisers, says



YoungCuts organizers are (left to right) Jay Moulton, Louise Kierans, Jennifer Steber and Martin Steber.

Photo: Darren Shore

Kierans.

"They loved the idea of showcasing the under-25 age group, since it's often their primary target audience," she says. "But they sort of go 'Oh great idea! Ask us again next year.'"

The festival's unique youth character was a major selling point.

Continued on page 15

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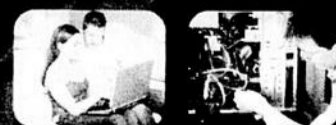
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SCHOOL DAYS are here again!

Community raises funds to paint Westmount High

> Tanya Iermieri

Westmount High School staff and students will go back to school this year to a work in progress.

The Westmount community, both locally and abroad, has pooled its resources to repaint the interior of the school, a job that has not been done in 20 years.

The project began five years ago as the dream of principal Claude Dansereau and WHS grad and Rotarian Marilyn Vanderstay, who hoped to repaint the school. This year the Rotary Club of Westmount started the process by giving the initial \$5,000 of the \$17,000 to \$18,000 it will cost to complete the project.

"The money was a bequest from the widow of former Rotarian Russ King, who was prominent in the building of the Manoir," said Rotary president Jim Griffin. "The board decided to give new members the opportunity to be involved in a community project by letting them find a cause in the community where the money could do the most good."

The eight new members, chaired by Anthony Salvaggio, manager of the Scotia Bank on Greene Avenue, proposed possible community organizations but decided to go with Vanderstay's suggestion to begin the painting of the school with the first donation. The fact that Westmount High has achieved academic success in the last five years, and this spring was ranked the top public high school without admissions criteria in the Greater Montreal area, cinched the deal and president Jim Griffin okayed the

decision.

Vanderstay then posted the news about the donation on the Westmount High Alumni website and Westmount High Old Boys Association (WHOBAs) president Don Stirling sent the information out to the membership. Alumni responded and the school received donations that totaled around \$1,000 and one for \$5,000US from an anonymous donor.

In addition, Salvaggio presented the WHS project to his staff, who took it upon themselves to help raise funds.

"The bank has a community volunteer program aimed at getting Scotiabankers involved in their community," said Salvaggio. "The program works." With the involvement of its employees and the bank's contribution, a cheque for \$2,250 was presented to WHS at last week's Rotary luncheon.

Encouraged by the response, both WHOBAs and the Westmount High Alumni got actively involved in the project.

"WHOBAs was pleased to capitalize on the initiative of Marilyn Vanderstay and the Rotary Club of Westmount to secure enough financial support to paint the school," said Stirling, who committed on behalf of WHOBAs to donate the balance of the funds needed. In addition, WHOBAs will sponsor a community reception in the school lobby when the painting is completed.

Virginia Bostock, president of the WHS Alumni Association agrees and has promised their support for the project. "A clean and colourful environment promotes self esteem and motivation to excel," she said. "Through

this project of repainting the school, which is clearly long overdue, the community is demonstrating to the students its support of both its ongoing achievements and the students' commitment to excellence."

Rotarians, members of WHOBAs and the WHS Alumni and members of the community at large will have an opportunity to get involved in the project hands-on once the work has started this month. A weekend will be scheduled for anyone interested to paint the classroom doors. "It will be a great opportunity for the community at large to get together for a day of work and fun to celebrate the restoration of Westmount's high school, both physically and academically," said Vanderstay.

"The fact that the \$5,000 was multiplied with the help of the WHOBAs and the WHS Alumni and the Scotiabank gave the new members the opportunity to see how their initiatives bore fruit and will make them stronger more efficient Rotarians," said Griffin.

Principal Dansereau couldn't be happier. Since arriving at WHS six years ago, all he has asked the community for was to have the school painted, a project for which the EMSB does not have a budget. While he has been

able to repaint a classroom here and there when the school was rented to a movie company for a shoot, the paint on the walls is in bad condition.

"We are happy to see the community coming back to Westmount High School," he said. "This year, parents who could send their children to private schools are opting for Westmount High School. For the first time this year we have maximized enrollment. Academically, our students are excelling and by painting the building we are giving them a school reflecting that success. This is not a luxury; it is the proper thing to do and I am glad the community has rallied around the students by giving them a school worthy of the level of their accomplishments."

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City employees show off their talents

> Jessica Murphy and Matthew Surridge

An exhibition of artwork by municipal employees at Victoria Hall is the first of its kind, but has the potential of becoming a Westmount tradition.

The works range from photography and silkscreens to oils, and are by both professional artists and those still early in their careers.

Fourteen artists had the courage to unveil their hidden talents to coworkers and the community: Lucille Angers, Hélène Bazinet, Alain Deslongchamps, Claude Dubé, Kathleen Duncan, Virginia Elliott, Ron Harris, Mary Ann Lacey, Louis Léger, April Lepitre, Lauren Nurse, Silvana Vincenzi, Craig Wright, and Nicole Zago.

"Westmount is made up of residents and the staff, (they create) the community," said Mayor Karin Marks. "It's really fun to see the other side of people you work with. There's so much talent here. I've always thought of the gallery as a place that can help build a sense of community, and I think this exhibition is a perfect example."

An exception was made to the gallery's rule of only displaying the work of Westmount residents, allowing the City to recognize the talents of its employees.

Public Security's Léger, whose decision to show his paintings to his co-workers sparked the idea for the show, has a series of playful paintings that hint at surrealist painter Joan Miro's work.

City Councillor Duncan's large acrylic painting, 'Landscape' approaches abstraction, with meditative blocks of blues and greens hinting at mountains and clouds.

Photographers Zago and Lepitre both work at the Westmount Library. Zago entered

a series of photographs taken in Benin. 'Languor on the Pa Pagne,' reflects the laziness noted in the title, with small traditional boats floating under a calm, hazy, purple-lit sky. Lepitre's 'Downtown Girls' has a harder edge—two mannequins stare out at the view-



'Provence 2' by Alain Deslongchamps

Photo: Darren Shore

er with their empty expressions, plastic faces covered in heavy, garish makeup. The colours are harsh, almost fluorescent.

'L'Abbaye D'Hautecombe,' by Angers, shows the 12th-century French abbey from high above and it looks almost like a model of the large, elegant structure. Bazinet, from Public Works, has been taking photographs for 20 years. 'Ice Storm,' conveys the simplicity, and stillness of the cold winter through its

simple composition and the quality of the light.

Wright, from Information Services, and Harris, who works at Victoria Hall, both were inspired by Asia, though Wright's most interesting photograph is of Bryce Canyon, Utah. Turning the camera towards the sky conveys the majesty of the red canyon walls and red-wood trees.

Inspired by Japan, Harris's photographs reflect the country's serenity and cultural richness. The famous cherry blossoms almost hide the figure with the umbrella in 'Girl walking in the rain,' and create a beautiful contrast between wet pavement and pale flowers.

Sports and Recreation's Lacey entered two large, pixilated silkscreen photographs. In 'Eve, series 2,' a young woman lounges in leaves, taking a bite out of an apple.

Deslongchamps recently began oil painting, inspired by his daughter's quick progress in her art course. He works in Information Services, and was inspired, like many before him, by the beauty of Provence. He uses impressionistic brushwork with a more conventional blended style, and is fascinated more with the visual scene than any emotional expression.

Dubé, from Public Works, creates whimsical pencil caricatures. Some of his entries date back 30 years, and his most recent work, 'Gandhi,' shows an evolution in his style. The subject, shown in his traditional and simple robes, stands on a tile floor against a white background. His co-worker, Nurse, entered two very different pieces into the show. Along with a series of round mirrors engraved with delicate, highly detailed bats, she has a large



A viewer admires the fine details of four caricatures by Claude Dubé.

Photo: Darren Shore

photographic and oil piece, 'For Opi.' It's a nearly monochromatic river scene with the silhouette of a man standing casually in a boat, his hands in his suit pockets. It evokes something dark and menacing, like a happy memory later tainted by tragic events.

Elliott, Assistant Community Events Coordinator, has a series of watercolours which she paints in the field. All her images are nature scenes, like the calm green and blue of a Quebec lake midmorning, though she tries to bring out the colours that often go unnoticed.

Finally, Vincenzi, from Sports and Recreation, creates series of collages with famous Italian Renaissance paintings. In 'Sibyl's Look,' the subject stares out at the viewer amid a turquoise and patterned paper frame.

The exhibition of works by City of Westmount employees, at the Gallery in Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke St. West, runs through Sept. 1. For more information, call 514-989-5226.

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Bulletin Board

www.westmountexaminer.com The Westmount Examiner Thursday, August 17, 2006 Page 15

Friday, Aug. 18

Dramatis Personae will be "In Performance" again for one night only, at 8 p.m. in Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke W. This is a 60-minute encore performance of three short plays first presented in July. We are looking for new members (especially men) so it will be a good opportunity to meet the cast and check out the group. Info: 514-486-7423 or 514-484-2016.

Tuesday, Aug. 22

The Auxiliary of the Montreal Children's Hospital holds a used book sale from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Pocket books, hard covers, children's and adolescent books, etc. 2300 Tupper St., second floor B Wing. Info: Rita Wilson at 4-412-4400 ext. 22384.

YoungCuts festival opens tonight

Continued from page 10

"There are lots of film festivals, but there are very few that focus on young filmmakers," says Moulton.

Moulton's Harvard business connections, and the Stanford connections of co-organizer Martin Steber came in handy. "Between the two of us, we were able to approach executives at a high enough level that we could at least be heard with our pitches for sponsorship dollars," Moulton says.

Pepsi's key sponsorship was a result, as a chief executive knew Moulton from their Harvard days. The company was also impressed by the creativity of numerous young directors—another valuable selling point.

Moulton and Kierans had their YoungCuts staff encourage 15 filmmakers from last year's finalists to make Pepsi commercials. Kierans says Pepsi's ad executives were floored by the quality of these films, put together for a few hundred dollars.

The festival's other sponsors include the National Film Board of Canada and the Department of Canadian Heritage, which approved of the festival's emphasis on francophone participation and an understanding of Canada's bilingual society.

Roughly 20 per cent of this year's films are in French, thanks to strong showings by francophone students from Concordia University and UQAM.

Quebec Quebec is an interesting take on the 'two solitudes,' says Moulton. In that film a francophone boy wakes up to discover, aghast, that he only speaks English. A face-off ensues between his Québécois and Canadian identities.

The emphasis on francophone contributions pushed Moulton and Kierans to move the festival from last year's Toronto venue to Montreal, where they'll keep it "as long as there's interest and support, and so far so good," says Moulton.

The move also makes life easier for the four organizers as Westmount residents, and for Moulton's two full-time YoungCuts staff members working downtown.

And a lot of work they had: The festival's mass-marketing campaign involved three big jobs. First, they sent out hundreds of thousands of e-mails to databases of filmmakers worldwide. Then they advertised on websites like aint-it-cool-news.com, which gets millions of readers, some of whom responded.

Third came phone calls to almost every film school in Canada (over 100), and many more in the US. California, Florida and Connecticut film schools have sent some of the festival's best content yet. "They were very happy to find a full-screen venue for their

Wednesday, Aug. 23

Poetry in the Park, at the Westmount Park lagoon at 7 p.m., features poems and prose by Eileen Ballard, Anne Cimon, Susan Dubrofsky, John Fretz, J.J. Locke, Jessica Magonet, Ilona Martonfi, Carolyn Marie Souaid. Music by Cheryl Neill. Free admission. Rain date is Aug. 24. Info call 514-939-5670.

Sunday, Aug. 27

Jewish Communities of the World on Sunday Morning features guest speaker M. David Bensoussan, president of Communauté Sépharade Unifiée du Québec, who will speak about 'Francophone Jews of Montreal'. Open to all, free of charge. 9:30 a.m. at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, 395 Elm Ave. Info: 514-937-3575 ext. 212.

students to show their films," says Kierans.

Getting the quality films is just a beginning. You then have to watch them to decide who the finalists will be. Kierans, one of the 10 judges who decided on the 50 finalists, watched hundreds of movies over the last three and a half months: an average of two hours of screening per day, while working full time.

But watching good short films can be really fun. Kierans's face lights up when she talks about the film Smile, a computer-animation from California that brings bedroom toys to life with original music performed by a small orchestra. Moulton says to look out for L'Oeil blanc d'un enfant, done by a Concordia student, set in Montreal, using cutting-edge editing and cinematography to tell the tale of a family's religious cult.

It's less enjoyable when a film's good scripts, shots and editing are overshadowed by bad acting. "Whether or not they have talented actors and actresses is really the key element for this kind of filmmaking," says Moulton.

But there's nothing worse than a director who acts badly, too. After going home prizeless from last year's festival in Toronto, several disgruntled contestants went and harassed YoungCuts staff in their room at the Strathcona Hotel until security threw them out onto the street at 3 a.m. "In hindsight, you don't tell them where you live," says Kierans.

Nevertheless, the hassles prove worthwhile when the festival gives its young directors the exposure they need, as happened to last year's film Into the Midnight Sun, a documentary about four friends sailing up the McKenzie River, which the Discovery Channel thought fit to air.

"You were riveted," says Kierans.

That kind of opportunity has directors as excited as the fans. "I can't wait to see all the films this year," says Maxime Robert-Lachaine, director of Pour une goutte d'eau, one of four francophone favourites to be screened at an encore presentation in Toronto on Aug. 26.

"This is the first time one of my films gets into a festival," says Robert-Lachaine. "And what's interesting about YoungCuts is that with \$1,000 we did a 42-minute film that can compete with numerous others."

The competition begins tonight with a gala ceremony and screenings of several short films. Friday and Saturday afternoons, the top 50 finalists will have their films screened in 90-minute blocs, organized by genre (comedy, horror, etc.).

Most films are five to 20 minutes long. Winners are announced Saturday night, and Sunday the best films will be screened again.

Tickets for YoungCuts are \$15 for the opening gala and \$8 for a 90-minute block. See <http://www.youngcuts.com> for details, or call 514-287-1062.

Monday, Aug. 28

Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom's Rosh Chodesh Group welcomes acclaimed songwriter and producer Fran Anvi, who will perform at 7:30 p.m. No charge for this event. 395 Elm Ave. Info and reservations: Brenda Epstein at 514-484-7826 or bepstein@videotron.ca.

Wednesday, Sept. 6

Book Lover's Forum II at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, 395 Elm Ave., opens its new season at 2 p.m. with Pat Donnelly reviewing 'Radiant City' by Lauren B. Davis. A \$6 charge

will be taken at the door. Info: 514-937-3575 ext. 212.

Ongoing

The McClure Gallery, 350 Victoria Ave., presents Connexion, a teen art exhibition, from Aug. 4 through 26. Vernissage is Aug. 24 at 6 p.m. Info: 514-488-9558.

The Westmount Lawn Bowling Club is open to those who want to try the sport every Wednesday at 6:45 p.m. at the Lawn Bowling Green, 401 Kensington Ave. Instruction and bowls provided. Flat-soled shoes required. Info: Audrey Williams at 514-337-1067.

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