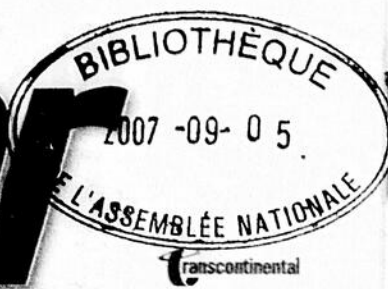


The Westmount Examiner

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A sunny corner

A bright stand of attractive sunflowers has been blooming at the corner of de Maisonneuve and Metcalfe Avenue for several summers now. Photo: Martin C. Barry

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\$1.3 million claimed in fallen tree lawsuit

> Martin C. Barry

A Town of Mount Royal couple whose son died in August last year when a tree fell on his car on Côte des Neiges Road during a wind and rain storm is claiming \$1.3 million in damages from the City of Westmount.

A lawsuit filed by the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Rossy, claims Gabriel, their 27-year-old son, lost his life because of the City's negligence.

A recent report on LCN, a Quebec cable news network, said the family claims that the accident could have been avoided if Westmount had been maintaining the tree properly.

According to LCN, a forestry engineer attesting on behalf of the complainants maintains he was not surprised the tree fell, since more than 80 per cent of its trunk was rotten.

Julius Grey, the lawyer representing the couple, said that the case also involves the province of Quebec's no-fault insurance plan.

"The issue is whether it's a car accident or not," he said. "Whether that

type of thing is to be considered an accident under the no-fault rule or not.

"It's a very important, very fine piece of jurisprudence. I certainly wouldn't argue it in front of the media. But that's what's going to have to be decided.

"This is an important point of law to me," he added. "The facts are of no importance. The issue is whether this is a car accident or not, and from my point of view it's a pure issue of law.

"There's no question of responsibility ... Nobody contests the facts. The question is whether this falls under the no-fault."

When the City has issues in litigation, it usually does not comment on them. As a result, Mayor Karin Marks was careful in expressing her concern. "It was a very sad situation and they're doing what they think they ought to do," she said. "But we don't comment on situations in litigation."

With no-fault insurance, insureds are indemnified by their own insurer

(Continued on page 2)

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Chagnon OK with Quebec immigration, despite deputy-speaker role

> Martin C. Barry

While declining to comment on some observations made by Affiliation Quebec (AQ) leader Allen Nutik on the province's approach to immigration, Westmount-St. Louis Liberal MNA Jacques Chagnon doesn't disagree with Quebec's current immigration policies.

Nutik, a Redfern Avenue resident who launched AQ last May and hopes to obtain certification soon from the province's director-general of elections, has been regularly sending out press releases in the meantime, disseminating the party's

viewpoints.

In one of the latest, he called Premier Jean Charest a "hypocrite" for accusing Action Démocratique leader Mario Dumont of wanting to isolate Quebec by closing the door to immigration.

"People are still leaving Quebec," said Nutik, who has run unsuccessfully several times for Westmount city council and who has also been an activist for the linguistic rights of the province's anglophones and cultural minorities.

"Six-hundred thousand-plus emigrés and

their future progeny were not enough to teach Quebec's leadership anything," he said. "And all too few new immigrants are coming to this province with its official restrictions on language, education and access for immigrants and minorities."

"As the head of a government that oversees restrictions that isolate Quebec, Charest claims he wants an open and booming Quebec. It's a real oxymoron. It's a good time for all leaders to go on record before the upcoming federal and Quebec by-elections in September."

Chagnon, who was appointed deputy-speaker in the National Assembly following the March 26 provincial election, said protocols that are part of the position prevent him from commenting as an MNA. He said he was free to state his personal opinion, however.

"I can tell you what I think, I have no problem with that, but I can't comment on

everybody else's comments," said Chagnon. "My own point of view concerning immigration is very clear. Quebec can't avoid immigration. We need immigration."

"We need the quality of immigration and we have the duty of making a proper integration of the immigrants to Quebec or elsewhere. And it's very important not only for our economy, but also for the quality of our life, the style of life we have. It's my feeling that it's very desirable to have quite a few immigrants to Quebec."

Concerning his job as deputy-speaker, Chagnon said he cannot be expected to chair meetings of the National Assembly fairly if he is commenting publicly about other elected members. "Eventually they would just ask me to recuse myself on whatever I said. I need to have a strict neutrality as chair. That's part of the job. I am typically under an obligation not to comment."

(Continued from page 1)

regardless of fault in accidents. No-fault plans administered by states, territories or provinces allow for recovery of direct damages but impose limitations on the right of the insured to sue.

Under no-fault insurance plans in provinces and territories across Canada, Quebec and Saskatchewan are the only jurisdictions with "pure" no-fault, which never allow claimants to sue for pain, suffering or economic loss.

While supporters of no-fault insurance point out that it lowers premium costs by avoiding litigation over the cause of accidents and provides quick payment for injuries at the same time, critics note that it does not punish negligence or recklessness through litigation because cases don't often end up on trial.

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A Message from the Montreal firefighters

TO ALL TAXPAYERS ON THE ISLAND OF MONTREAL

85% of the 20 largest fire departments in North America have four or more firefighters per ladder truck. Montreal's fire department is ranked eighth in terms of size. But in Montreal, only three firefighters are assigned to each ladder truck.

Despite North American firefighting standards, despite the expert opinion of the Montreal Fire Department, the official in charge of public security in Montreal, Claude Dauphin, has made no move to correct this situation.

When there are four firefighters on a ladder truck, the ability to fight fires is improved, which helps reduce loss of property.

When there are four firefighters on a ladder truck, your protection is greatly improved as well.

Montreal firefighters urge you to contact Mr. Dauphin to ask him why he has not yet taken any steps to remedy this situation.

M. Claude Dauphin
City Hall 514 872-8502
Borough of Lachine 514 634-3471
cdauphin@ville.montreal.qc.ca

photo: Sylvain Ryan

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Council welcomes new city clerk Gerbeau

> Martin C. Barry

The City of Westmount has formally welcomed a new staff member who'll be playing a key role, especially during meetings of city council.

Mario Gerbeau, who was hired as City Clerk following a lengthy search for the right candidate, worked for the City of Outremont before it merged five years ago with the City of Montreal.

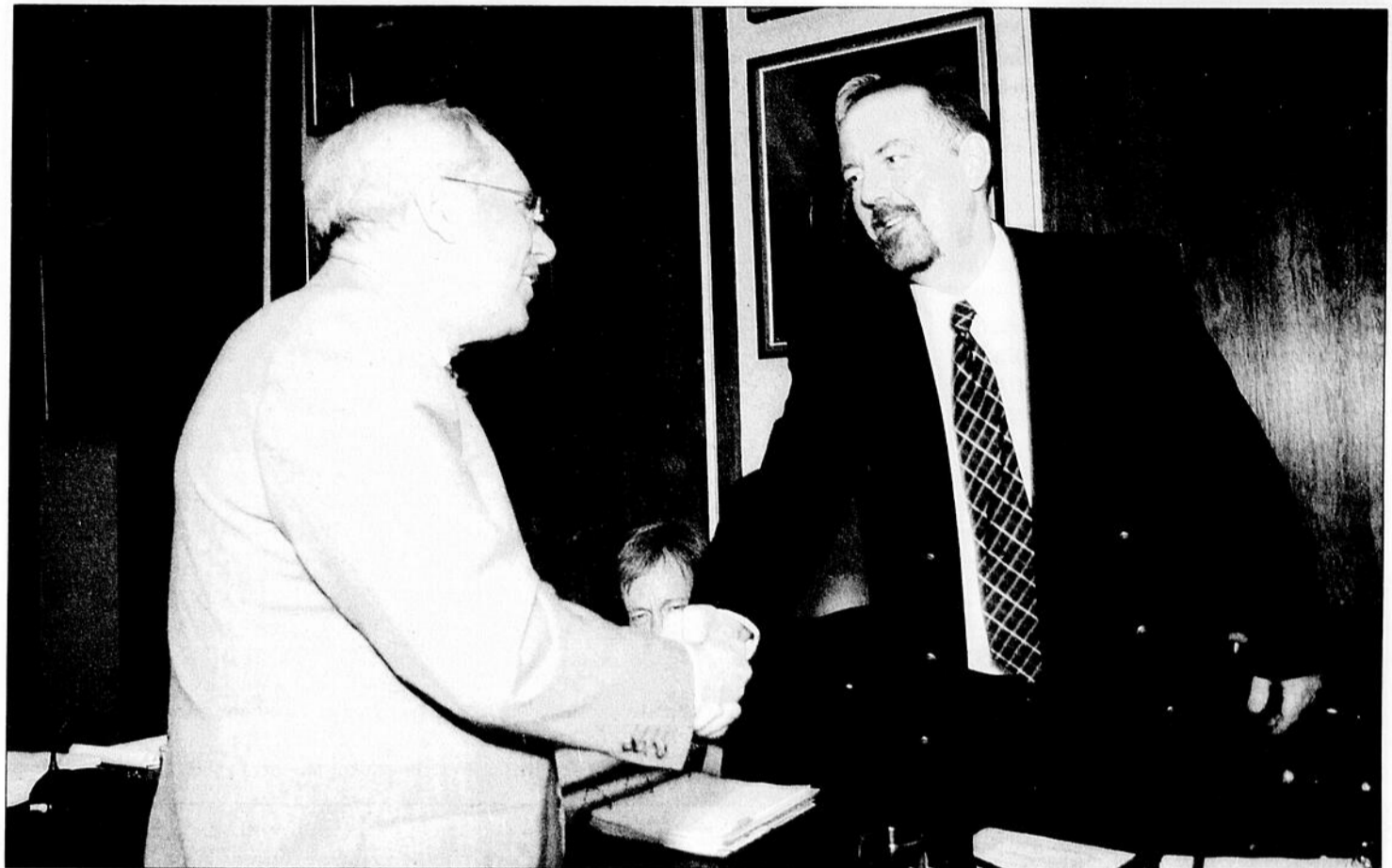
He was most recently the director of Outremont's borough office. In addition to his clerk's duties in Westmount, Gerbeau will also be the City's Director of Legal Services.

Earlier in his career as a civil servant, Gerbeau served in the northern Quebec village of Kuujjuak. He has also worked for the City of Amos a little further south, followed by a stint as assistant city clerk with the City of Montreal.

Welcoming him during city council's monthly meeting last Monday evening, Mayor Karin Marks described Gerbeau as an expert's expert, who is often consulted by other city clerks when they are in doubt.

"Mario Gerbeau was always the go-to person," she said. "When any city clerks had a difficult question that they weren't sure how they were going to answer, they would phone Mario Gerbeau. And our first question tonight is 'who is he going phone?' So he's going to have to figure that one out."

Gerbeau's appointment fills a vacancy left when former Westmount city clerk Lucie Tousignant resigned last year. Since then, assistant clerk Nancy Gagnon was enlisted to



City Councillor Tom Thompson (left) officially welcomes City Clerk Mario Gerbeau to the staff. Photo Martin C. Barry

do the job. However, Gagnon has recently been on sick leave. Alan Kulaga, Westmount's

assistant director-general and head of human resources, was acting as interim city clerk over the last few months.

Councillor Tom Thompson, who as chairman of the Finance and Administration Committee played a role in the decision to hire Gerbeau, said Kulaga was so busy as a

result of all the jobs he was doing that "when Alan sat down for lunch he'd have a staff meeting..."

"We are very pleased to welcome Mr. Mario Gerbeau to the City of Westmount and we wish him well," Thompson added. "This will not, I hope, be the last time we thank him very much for being here."

Give blood on Sept. 4

Westmount's protective services have announced that their jointly organized annual blood donor clinic will be held this year on Tuesday, Sept. 4.

All Westmounters are urged to drop by the fire station at 19 Stanton Street between 2 and 8 p.m. and roll up their sleeve for a good cause.

"We want to invite all citizens to come and give blood" said Station 12 police officer Adalbert Pimentel. "We want to make this blood drive a success."

The stated goal for this year's event is 65 donors.

The annual blood donor clinic is co-organized by Westmount's Public Security Department, Fire Station 76 and Police Station 12.

For more information, contact Daniel de Vries at 514-280-3534.

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Physical and mental activity keeps elderly healthy

> Brett Bundale

As baby boomers age, Canada's population pyramid is changing shape. According to a Statistics Canada census report released in July, the number of people aged 55 to 64 has never been so high.

One of the challenges of an aging population is ensuring the health, well-being and independence of seniors. The most common health issues stem from a decline in cognitive abilities, which can lead to functional disabilities and the loss of independence. By preventing cognitive decline, the elderly can avoid illnesses and frequent hospital visits and instead enjoy healthy aging.

Dr. Serge Gauthier of the McGill Centre for Studies in Aging says cognitive training and physical activity can delay, and in some cases prevent, many of the health problems related to aging.

"Studies have shown that the risk factors for heart attacks, strokes, diabetes and Alzheimer's disease can all be lowered by keeping your body and brain active," said Gauthier.

Physical activities like croquet, curling and line dancing can therefore benefit more than just your heart and waistline. "There is actually a link between physical activity and the release of a brain peptide. It's a biochemical reaction that helps the brain strengthen and repair itself," said Gauthier.

Cognitive training, through activities such as bridge, crossword puzzles and scrabble, can



Local seniors enjoy a variety of activities at Westmount's Contactivity Centre. Photo: Brett Bundale

improve brain functions like memory, reasoning and concentration. This can help

people with the early onset of Alzheimer's disease put names and faces together and pay bills properly. "In about 95 per cent of early Alzheimer's cases, prevention is as good – or better – than any medication available today," said Gauthier.

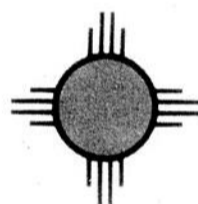
For over 35 years, the Contactivity Centre in Westmount has helped seniors stay physically, mentally and socially active.

"We offer just about everything; bridge, arts and crafts, bingo and chess. We also have classes starting in the fall like line dancing, tai chi, stretching and a philosophy discussion group," said director Mary Stark. "And seniors enjoy our day trips to the Eastern Townships or the Laurentians. It offers them a chance to discover new places and make friends along the way."

The Contactivity Centre also has a home support program to help seniors who are housebound. Volunteers will pay them a visit, talk with them and give them a hand with their groceries. Another program, Telecheck, will make daily phone calls, Monday to Friday, to elderly people living alone to make sure they are safe and have everything they need.

"Not only does it combat isolation, it gives them a chance to chat with someone every day," said Stark.

With nearly 600 members and volunteers, the Contactivity Centre welcomes everyone 60 years-old and up. The membership fee is \$10. For more information, call 514-932-2326.



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	Raisin, hazelnut & honey	5.00/7.00	Savory Apple br. pudding	8.99
	Apple & honey	4.75/6.75	Sweet Raisin Noodle	8.99
			Potato	8.99
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	Egg rolls	5.99/12	Veggie "meat" balls	7.99/lb.
	Avocado eggrolls	7.99/12	Teriyaki tofu	6.99/lb.
	Hot dogs in blankets	6.99/12	Lasagna	22.00
	Potato knish	6.99/12	FISH	
	Pacora's	11.99/12	Salmon Wellington	8.99/each
	Samosa	11.99/12	Teriyaki salmon fillet	15.99/lb.
			Moroccan Salmon	16.99/lb.
			w/tomatoes & oil	
	SOUPS		MEATS	
	Roasted tomato	7.99/2lb.	Brisket and gravy	16.99/lb.
	Chicken broth	5.99/2lb.	Roasted herb Chicken breast	12.99/lb.
	Zucchini	7.99	Tagine chicken	9.99/lb.
	Roasted Squash	7.99	w/sweet fruit mix	
	Matzo balls	5.99/6	Moroccan chicken	9.99/lb.
			w/tomatoes & olives	
	SALADS		Schnitzel/chicken	16.99/lb.
	Quinoa tabouli	7.99/lb.	Sweet & Sour Meatballs	12.99/lb.
	Spicy eggplant	7.99/lb.	MISCELLANEOUS	
	Olive salad	7.99/lb.	Holiday Pomegranate	\$12
	Hummus	5.99/lb.	Salad Dressing	
	Greek	7.99/lb.	PIES: Apple • Apple Crumb • Apple & Cranberry • Sour Cherry • Blueberry-Cranberry • Blueberry Raspberry • Blueberry-Strawberry • Rhubarb, orange, cranberry, apricot • Strawberry Rhubarb • Raspberry & Peaches • Pecan • Pumpkin	
	Veggie Chop Liver	5.99/lb.	LOAVES: Honey • Apple • Lemon Brandy • Orange Brandy	
	Tomato Spinach Orzo	5.99/lb.		
	Marinated mushrooms	9.99/lb.		
	VEGETABLE SIDE DISHES		Wide variety of fruit squares Assorted sandwiches, salad and dessert platters starting at \$50.00 Gift baskets starting at \$35.00	
	Roasted vegetables	7.99/lb.	<i>A Happy and Healthy Rosh Hashanah!</i>	
	Sweet carrot tsimmus	6.99/lb.		
	Roasted potatoes	7.99/lb.		
	Couscous w/fruits	7.99/lb.		
	Multi Grain Rice w/dried Fruits & Nuts	7.99/lb.		
	Multi Grain Rice w/Sundried Tomatoes	7.99/lb.		



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School's back from summer: Marianopolis students attend new campus

> Michelle Levy

Residents of Westmount have mixed emotions about the opening of Marianopolis College last week.

The general consensus is that the relocation of the college to the corner of Westmount and Claremont Avenues will bring extra business to the neighbourhood. However, there are also vague fears about how the influx of college-aged students might impact the community.

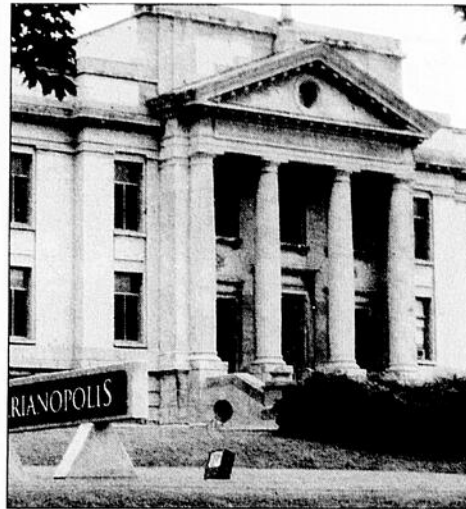
At this point in time it is difficult to know what students will explore the surrounding neighbourhood. Marianopolis spokesperson Elizabeth Hirst said that there is a cafeteria on campus but that the college "can't predict what the students will do. There certainly are plenty of attractive places for them to go nearby." From cafés to clothing shops, Sherbrooke Street offers a great deal of appeal

for students on break or socializing after classes.

Sarah Tarshis is a Marianopolis alumna who said that she and her friends would often leave the old campus for coffees and meals. "It depends if the students want to walk down the hill," Tarshis said.

The Second Cup at the corner of Claremont and Sherbrooke expects students to do just that. Manager Patrick Dubois has hired extra employees and is training staff members to be more efficient during rushes. "We'll be brewing double batches of coffee at peak hours," Dubois said. He knows how students love their coffee and is pleased at the prospect of new patrons.

Residents living close to Marianopolis are more anxious than excited about the college opening. They have already been dealing with daylong construction both on the college



Marianopolis College has been bustling with activity since students arrived at the new campus last week. (Photo by Michelle Levy)

campus and at street corners, where street signs are being replaced and new signalizations installed.

Living on Westmount Avenue just across the street from Marianopolis, Monty Newborn says there are both positives and negatives to the new location of the college. He believes that having an educational institution in the vicinity will certainly be beneficial while the increased commotion in the neighbourhood could be a drawback. When asked about the general feeling of his neighbours, Newborn said, "One word - dread."

But Newborn explained that the dread was not actually based on the school's opening but instead upon its unknown effects soon to be seen. In the coming weeks, the community will get a clearer idea of the college's impact on the neighbourhood.

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Opinion

Who's going to Ottawa?



Commentary

Wayne
LARSEN
larsenw@transcontinental.ca

Are the Dion Liberals taking Westmount for granted?

That question has been volleyed across dinner tables and café counters throughout this city ever since it was announced that long-serving MP Lucienne Robillard would be stepping down and a specially chosen candidate would be 'parachuted' in to run in this riding in the next federal election.

The strategy is simple and sound: Westmount would never send anyone other than a Liberal to Ottawa, so why not use that fact to ensure that an important 'star' candidate with Cabinet potential gets elected?

Never mind that Westmount has several excellent candidates right here, born and raised on these hilly streets (or at least long-term residents) who know this community far better than anyone from elsewhere. Never mind that a chorus of loud voices has protested the very thought of at least another four years of non-local representation. The Dion Liberals have made the decision for the greater good of the party — and, by extension, the nation — but once again at Westmount's expense.

The Hon. Lucienne Robillard has served this community very well in her capacity as MP, appearing in the riding as often as anyone with a major portfolio could manage. She has been criticized by many *Examiner* readers for her apparent invisibility, despite making more effort than most of her Parliamentary colleagues to keep in touch with her constituents. Given her unblemished track record, it would be wrong to state that Westmount has been short-changed in the MP department. But nothing can compare with a representative who knows the streets, the stores and the various neighbourhoods of their constituency — and that is exactly what Westmount is being denied when the Liberals 'parachute' someone into the riding.

Considering the high calibre of some Westmounters whose names have been whispered as potential candidates for MP — former mayor Peter Trent prominent among them — it seems that we may once again be denied the personal and familiar brand of official representation in Ottawa that residents of so many other ridings take for granted.

We should have the opportunity to choose who represents us, not be told who it will be.



LETTERS to the editor

City staff is courteous and helpful

To the editor:

I want to join Yves L'Esperance in his paean to the efficiency and courtesy of our City.

Whenever I call, a real live person answers, and no matter how trivial or complicated my question may be, it is dealt with promptly, expertly and helpfully.

This is just one — but a very important — element in the pleasure of living in Westmount, and, in my experience, it is unique: I cannot think of any other bureaucracy, institution or business that would even come close to Westmount's way of dealing with its public.

With admiration, gratitude and, yes, affection,

Maria Jerabek

De Maisonneuve Boulevard

Building in bad need of inspectors and staff

To the editor

Westmount City Hall has for some time been delinquent in its

duties, the result being that apartment buildings such as the one I reside in on Sherbrooke Street are badly in need of services which tenants are not getting and pleas to management fall on very deaf ears.

I have lived in the above-mentioned building for about 20 years and have yet to meet a building inspector. The ventilation system is supposed to be vacuumed out once a year but I would estimate that it hasn't been done for almost 10 years.

Meanwhile, there is no superintendent in this building and hasn't been for many months, though the law says we are entitled to one. Round the clock security advertised by the company that manages this building does not exist. We can phone out to a cleaning man who lives elsewhere.

The tenants in this building are primarily elderly and are greatly alarmed at the lack of staff to assist in case of emergency during the hours of 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. The régie du bâtiment states that a plan for evacuation by staff must be in place; at night we have no staff.

If Westmount City Hall was doing its job, it would be aware of this situation. We need building inspectors on the job ASAP.

Meanwhile, tenants are left to appeal to management, who offer little in response.

Paula J. McKeown

Sherbrooke Street

6 Thursday, August 30, 2007 The Westmount Examiner www.westmountexaminer.com

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Hitting back at \$22 million megacity abuse

Montreal overtaxed Westmount citizens almost \$22 million during the forced merger years, according to calculations made by Westmount's auditors and lawyers.

The amount — \$21.8 million — was publicly unveiled for the first time this week when the financial results for 2006 were presented to Council (and Westmounters at large) at the monthly meeting on Monday evening.

The precise claim will be \$21,798,000 — or approximately \$1,000 for every resident adult and child. It is in addition to the approximately \$40 million in loans incurred on Westmounters' behalf by the megacity, a large part of which had little public benefit.

Meantime, Montreal is claiming that Westmount owes \$2.4 million.

Central to Westmount's claim is the pay-as-you-go issue. Prior to the annexation, Westmount spent about \$4 million each year on routine capital maintenance, and this was a major element of the property tax bill so that the work could be paid for in cash.

During the forced merger, Westmounters were taxed each year at the same level as though they were funding the pay-as-you-go cost. The work done, however, was paid from term loans.

In effect we received no benefit from those taxes and were then charged again for the expenses Montreal incurred on Westmount work.

After the four merger years these charges total just over \$16 million. The City holds that



Civic Alert

Don WEDGE

Westmount property owners should not have been taxed for what was originally part of the annual operational budget.

The work actually done was about \$13 million, and this forms part of the loans for approximately \$40 million that Westmount was forced to incur by Montreal during the four megacity years.

Loans: \$40 million

These have been repaid with new loans obtained by Westmount, which will take many years to pay off.

The amount of the claim emerged this week because Westmount is near the deadline to submit a balance sheet to the provincial government for the 2006 financial year.

It meant that the opening balance had to be established for January 1, 2006, when the city was reconstituted following the forced merger with Montreal.

There was an initial balance set by the Transition Committee's auditors, Harel Drouin.

As more details emerged of the multiple, and often confusing, government decrees

concerning the forced annexation and its ending, Westmount's own auditors, Raymond, Chabot, Grant, Thornton, drew up a new financial situation.

They presented it to the City in a report dated June 13. Since then it has been "painstakingly reviewed" by the business law firm, Cain, Lamarre, Casgrain, Wells, which the city has retained to advise on the legislation and decrees relating to the forced mergers and demergers, as well as the principles of law involved.

Complies with spirit

Explaining the situation at Monday's meeting, Mayor Karin Marks said the legal counsel contended that Westmount's claim was in full compliance with "both the text and the spirit" of various demerger laws enacted by the Quebec government.

"It is a strictly administrative process and the issues were known to Montreal's Finance Department. But it is not a straightforward situation with many decrees open to interpretation, one result being the significantly divergent conclusion of the amount owing."

The balance of the claim (\$5.6 million) relates to "a considerable number of items", said Marks, for which Montreal should compensate Westmount. These include pension and CSST contributions as well as underfunding many operational budget items.

"We have fought to receive compensation

for these items since 2002," said the mayor. "We have continually tried to resolve them, but it is our responsibility to ensure that our citizens are not taxed inappropriately and that all surpluses owed to the City of Westmount are used for the benefit of residents."

This is one of the final steps in the demerger process. Although large for Westmount, it is a minor item for Montreal of budgets totaling more than \$15 billion over four years.

"We have documentation to validate every
(Continued on page 8)

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(Continued from Civic Alert, page 7)

dollar," Marks told Monday's council. "Montreal has a different slant. Council will try to resolve the impasse, but should the approach not succeed, Council has an obligation to defend the legitimate rights of taxpayers."

Landmark achievement

With the \$22 million claim, the challenge to the former megacity could well be seen as the landmark action of the Marks administration. In those forced merger years, the mayor was joined by the two-person council (John de Castell and Cynthia Lulham) in preparing the way for this challenge after reconstitution.

Key staff support from Director-General Bruce St. Louis and Alan Kulaga, then Director of the Borough Office, included meticulous documentation of errant megacity decisions.

These are now the foundation of the legal evidence to support the claims being made.

Rejuvenated council

Monday's council meeting itself had none of the momentous air that the claim represents. There was an energetic "back-to-class" mood after the extra long summer break.

It began with a joyous celebration by the Dolphin Swim team and their parents following their hosting the regional swim meet and winning the championship. The

Lawn Bowling Club also was acclaimed for hosting the National Championships.

Current situation

In addition to what may well be regarded as a historic 2006 Financial Report, City Treasurer Claude Lachance presented another first: public interim operating results for the current year. It is a further opening of the window of municipal information.

Last spring, WMA President Henry Olders saw a year-to-date presentation at a special meeting of St Lambert Council involving citizens, and asked Westmount Council for something similar.

There was no response, but last fall the Quebec government legislated that municipalities present at least two interim results annually.

In Westmount's case, the situation at the end of April was the best that could be provided, although Lachance expects to deliver more up-to-date information in future.

Less spending

It revealed an under spending of about \$100,000 on the expense budget of \$9.6 million. Allowing that most tax bills had been paid by April 30, revenue was up \$2.6 million, or 10.3 per cent, over the budgeted \$27.4 million.

The new law also requires overall projections for the year to be published. Revenues of \$36.2 million are expected for 2007, a more modest \$1.6 million improvement on the budget compared with the first third of the year.

No public copies

Although the 2006 report was available at the meeting, it was only in French and difficult to follow in any language. The WMA's Olders thought that more should be done to make the information accessible to those interested.

"It should have been on the web site, and once again I offer to do it for the City and also run such documents on the WMA site," Olders said afterwards.

Turf friction

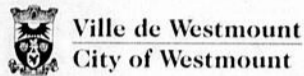
The plaudits that come to Marks and her team for their stand on Montreal's financial abuse could be somewhat dimmed over the Artificial Turf issue.

Five Save the Park activists, all of them residents of Melville Ave., stepped forward at Question Time and gained an unequivocal statement from Mayor Marks that an artificial surface was not contemplated at this time.

However, Patrick Barnard's unusually mildly phrased request that the interested public be somehow involved in further discussion over the choice of alternative solutions was greeted with cold water.

"We don't want a repeat of recent history," was about the most aggressive remark Barnard made. Mayor Marks replied that the decision was Council's to make and there would be no more formal public consultation.

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



**Heures d'affaires et services municipaux
Fête du travail**

Veillez noter que tous les bureaux administratifs de la Ville de Westmount, soit l'hôtel de ville, le Victoria Hall, Hydro Westmount, et les Services de la sécurité publique, des sports et loisirs et des travaux publics seront fermés **le lundi 3 septembre** en raison de la Fête du travail.

De plus, la Bibliothèque publique de Westmount sera fermée **les dimanche 2 septembre et lundi 3 septembre**.

Les heures normales d'ouverture dans les édifices municipaux, soit du lundi au vendredi de 8 h 30 à 16 h 30, reprendront le mardi 4 septembre, l'horaire estival ayant pris fin.

Prenez également note qu'il n'y a aucun changement quant à la collecte des ordures qui s'effectuera à l'horaire normale.

**Business Hours and Municipal Services
Labour Day**

Please be advised that all administrative offices of the City of Westmount (City Hall, Victoria Hall, Hydro Westmount, Public Works, Public Security and Recreation) will be closed on **Monday, September 3** for the Labour Day holiday.

Westmount Public Library will also be closed on both **Sunday, September 2** and **Monday, September 3**.

Regular office hours resume on Tuesday, September 4 according to our regular schedule (Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.). Please note that summer hours are no longer in effect.

Please note that garbage collection is unaffected, and will take place according to the regular schedule.

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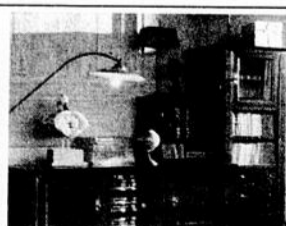
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SCHOOL DAYS are here again!

St. George's welcomes principal Peters

> Beza Seife

Students, staff and parents of St. George's Elementary School should take comfort in the credo of their new principal, Tim Peters: It's nice to be important, but it's more important to be nice.

Peters borrows the pearl of wisdom from his grandmother, Pauleen Peters, who was an elementary schoolteacher herself. Peters isn't getting caught up in the prestige of his new position, choosing instead to make the development of the students his top priority.

"I think an administrator needs to find the best in the people that he or she works with. You need to find and support their strengths, and help them develop their weaknesses so they become strengths," said Peters.

Before being selected as St. George's principal, Peters taught grades one and two, and physical education at Selwyn House School. Before that, he was a ski instructor in

Switzerland at the John F. Kennedy International School.

For Peters, being supportive, encouraging, friendly and transparent are his keystones.

"I like to be a positive influence on the social and emotional development of children. That's really why I became an educator," he said.

Peters rejects the idea of a "one size fits all" approach to education, and believes strongly in developing each child with his or her unique attributes in mind.

"As I went through the interview process with St. George's, it became clear to me that they are committed to differentiated learning and a child-centred approach to learning which fits well with my philosophy on education as well," said Peters, who believes that a great impact can be made on children at the early stages. It is during the early years, he says, that the foundation for future

educational pursuits is built.

"We have to have happy and safe children before we can have brilliant children. Before we can work on the maths and sciences, we need to learn about how they're feeling and

how they view themselves and their world."

Peters says he's looking forward to becoming part of "the warm St. George's family of parents, teachers, administrators and students."

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The Westmount Examiner

Thursday, August 30, 2007

9

SCHOOL DAYS are here again!

CEGEP: A time to weigh the choices

> Marilyn Smith Carsley

For many young people, this is the scholastic occasion they have been anxiously anticipating. The confinement of the adolescent structure can now be lifted and the restrictions of an imposed

academic structure are loosened. Once high school retreats into the past, teens can now enter his or her first opportunity to make some real life choices.

CEGEP presents the primary key to unlocking the doors to adulthood by career

exploration. Discovering possible personal directions along with the chances of making mistakes without serious repercussions, are parts of the CEGEP advantage.

CEGEP is the acronym for College d'enseignement general et professionnel, meaning "college of general and professional education." This post-secondary education institution is exclusive to the province of Quebec. One of the reasons why CEGEP was organized was to make post secondary education more accessible in Quebec as well as to prepare students for university. Other provinces incorporate one additional year of high school before university; therefore CEGEP's aim is to assist in university preparation or for those interested in a

technical program.

The CEGEP program covers the subject matters corresponding to that supplementary year of high school and to first year university courses in Sciences, Humanities, or Arts. When all studies are completed the provincial government issues a DCS, or Diploma of Collegial Studies. Once they enter university the undergraduate degree may be done in three years.

As of this forthcoming 2007-2008 school year, Marianopolis College has been relocated to 4873 Westmount Avenue, between Vendome and Villa-Maria metro stops. This is a small, privately subsidized college and one of a few private English language colleges in Quebec with a student body of less than 2,000. Marianopolis represents a rich educational heritage embracing students from all cultures, faiths, and social and economic backgrounds. The institution encourages academic excellence and in many ways its history reflects that of the city of Montreal. Originally in 1908, the Congregation de Notre Dame established Notre Dame Ladies College. As a bilingual college, it was the first institution of higher learning for English Catholic women in Quebec. The first degree was awarded through the Universite Laval and in 1922 the affiliation was transferred to the newly chartered Universite de Montreal. Four years later, the College was renamed Marguerite Bourgeoys College. Eventually the English sector was called Marianopolis and it began its expansion. When post secondary education was altered in Quebec, Marianopolis admitted its freshman students of 1969 to a

(Continued on page 11)

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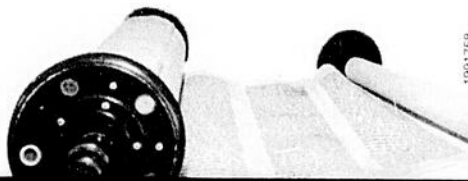
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Wed 5:00 - 6:00 pm (I, II, III)

Fri 9:00 - 10:00 am (I)

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(Continued from CEGEP, page 10)

CEGEP-equivalent program and it allowed the entry of male students along with the disintegration of the degree program.

In 1969, the current Dawson College, named after Sir William Dawson, a principal of McGill University, was the first English-language institution in the Quebec network of CEGEPs when it first opened in the fall of 1969 to 1,200 students. At the beginning the College was in a converted pharmaceutical factory at 350 Selby Street in Westmount. In 1970, a second campus was opened on Viger Street and two years later the third campus was created near Parc Lafontaine. Other campuses were also operating in St. Henri, among other locales. In 1988, Dawson College occupied the former Mother House of the Congregation of Notre-Dame. The gathering under one roof transpired in 1977 when extensive renovations transformed the present century-old building into an attractive modern college which occupies an entire city block between de Maisonneuve Boulevard and Sherbrooke Street and Atwater and Wood Avenues in Westmount. The area during the school year which is traffic laden with students from all over the city, reflects the tremendous population of 7000 full time students attending Dawson. The academic choices are unlimited and so varied that each student can discover their strengths and interests.

Reflecting back to my CEGEP years is definitely a positive recollection. During those two years, I truly took advantage of my newborn freedom. My daily schedule was of my own choosing and I relished in the fact that there were so many opportunities for new experiences, courses and friendships. I joined varied clubs, studied what I chose and really enjoyed myself while also partaking in the fact that we were situated downtown amongst wonderful shopping and restaurants. During my first year, I did somewhat neglect my academics but during my second year when I realized that university was looming near, and high marks were my entry, I focused. CEGEP was personally beneficial as it provided me with the time to grow. When I graduated from high school, I was nowhere near ready to make significant life decisions so I do believe that a gradual adaptation to independent thinking was necessary. It permitted introspection and although my first year was slightly a bit too carefree, I needed to get that carefree attitude out of my system.

Not all teens possess the same sentiments about the necessity of these two years after high school. Many are actually prepared to make mature choices and others require some period of reflection. Natalie, a Belmont Avenue resident, wasn't interested in participating in the CEGEP structure and

soon, at age 18, she'll be departing for Western University in London, Ontario. "I know what I want and I want to finish quickly."

Dana, 18, a second-year Dawson student, residing on Devon Avenue, feels that although she does know what she wants to pursue, she does attribute these two years as being slightly instrumental in that decision. "It's almost a waste of time if you know your direction. One year should be enough. But on a positive note, it does serve as a time-passer because it allows

time to think before university."

Children seem to be in some kind of rush to begin interacting in the adult world. Unfortunately they are not always equipped, as they need to pass through the building block stages towards maturity. CEGEP helps bridge the gaps and allows the time for reflection. We are fortunate to have this educational program as a buffer time and hopefully it will assist in crucial future choices.

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The Westmount Examiner

Thursday, August 30, 2007

11

Westmount theatre group changes direction

> Sarah Hoida

Westmount's community theatre troupe, *Dramatis Personae* — a Latin phrase meaning the cast of characters — is revamping its program with a new director, a new approach and new material.

There's nothing new about the community's love of theatre, however. Since 1985, the theatre group has been providing Westmounters with springtime entertainment from a diverse repertoire of plays, reflecting the group's varied membership and theatrical interests.

Every year an eclectic group of residents gather in Victoria Hall's rehearsal room to pursue their love of theatre. "We do it for fun, but we're serious about what we do and how we do it," said Elli Rubin, who co-organizes the group with long-term member Ann Elbourne.

Formerly run under the auspices of the City of Westmount's Sports & Recreation Department, the group is now independent — though the strong Westmount connection remains. "We have faithful fans and support in the community," said Rubin.

This year's session brings with it new acting director Jacqueline van de Geer, whom organizers found through the Quebec Drama Federation. Currently teaching theatre in the Czech Republic, van de Geer's extensive European-based experience in community theatre and the performing arts will bring a focused enthusiasm to the group's acting and performance skills.

With the new session beginning in September at Victoria Hall, members can

expect exercises in theatre arts training such as scene study and improvisation for the first 12-week component of a two-semester program.

The winter semester will focus on production aspects such as play selection, casting, rehearsals and the springtime performance.

The cost of participating in Westmount's community theatre program is \$120 per semester. An information evening will take place Sept. 6; please call 514-486-7423 or 514-484-2016 for more information.

A mystery not even Sherlock could solve

> Veronica Islas

If you like mysteries and the Victorian era, then the Bimetallic Question — Westmount's Sherlock Holmes society — might be just the

organization for you.

For years now, this group of ardent Sherlockians has been getting together on the first Thursday of every second month at the Westmount Library and enjoying an evening of Holmes-related activities and discussions about mysteries and detection. And naturally, many friendships have been formed through their mutual interest in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's classic tales of the unbeatable British consulting detective.

"The society is about camaraderie and friendship," said David Dowse, one of the society's founders. He also pointed out that the society gives members time to relax and enjoy themselves. "It is one of the things that one does only for pleasure," he said.

Prospective member Amy Shulman agrees. She has so far attended two consecutive meetings. "I've never been in a group like this," she said. "The atmosphere is just great. Everything I do is so serious, and this is so much fun. It is just about getting together with people."

The society has charmed her, and she is thinking about joining as a permanent member.

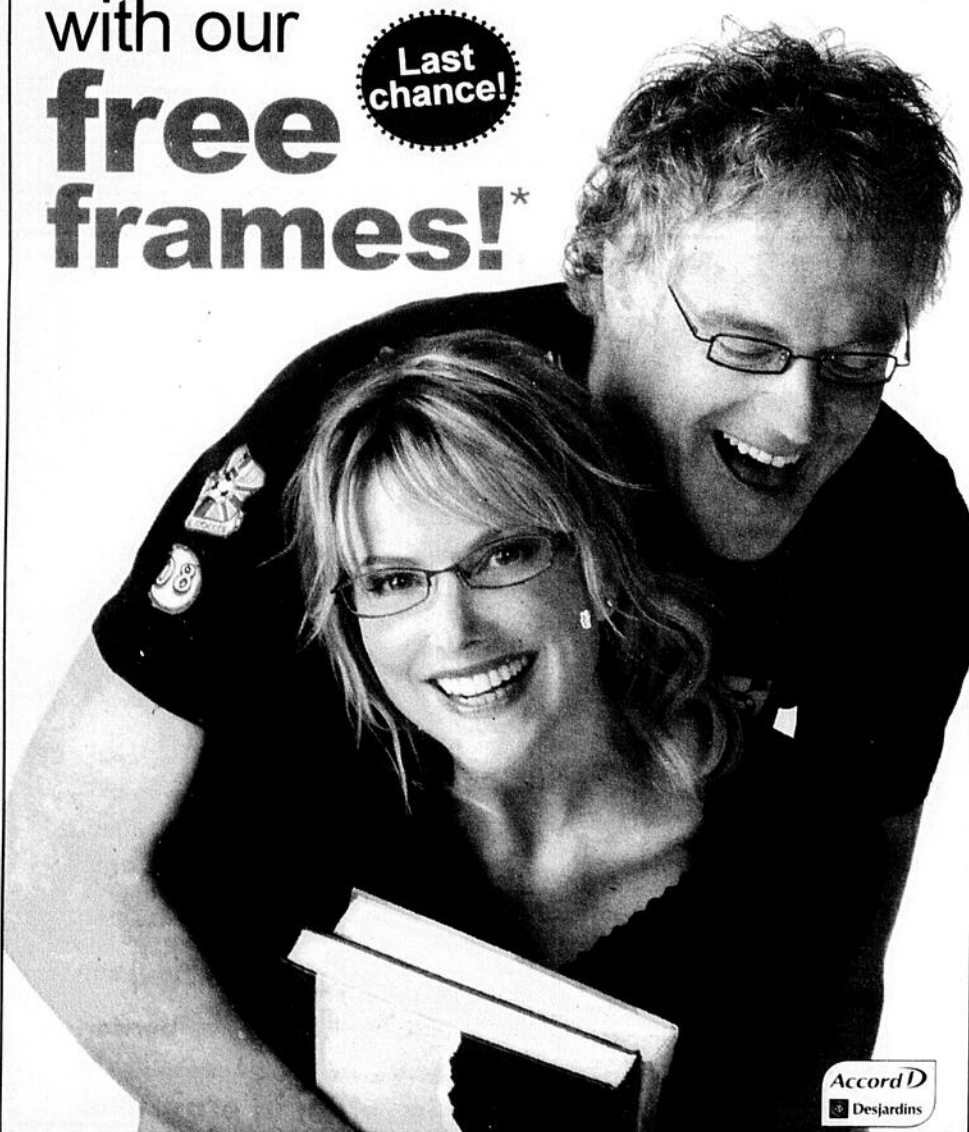
(Continued on page 13)

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A new life for old magazines

Exchange program a hit with library patrons

> Matthew Surridge

Did you miss a certain issue of *The New Yorker*? Was there a recent article in *Canadian Living* you just have to have?

The answer to your problem may be waiting for you at the Westmount Public Library, which has started a new magazine exchange program.

A rack next to the newspaper stand now holds a selection of titles free for the taking. Anyone, library member or not, may select any magazine on the rack to keep or to return. Both English and French titles are available. The magazines come from library patrons, donations are welcome. Magazines to be exchanged may be donated at the circulation

desk.

"Word of mouth really spreads," observed librarian Mai Jay. "People have been coming in and they've just been dropping off their magazines... There are other libraries that are doing this. It seems to be a really big thing in Europe." The library hopes the program will focus on relatively recent publications: "We really are looking for stuff within the last 12 months," said Jay.

Magazines which have appeared on the rack so far include *Time*, *The New Yorker*, and *House and Home*, as well as less well-known titles such as *Explore* and the *British Gardens Illustrated*. Fiction magazines will also be put into the exchange program, if any are donated.

On the one hand, the magazine exchange program is another way for the library to give the community access to good writing and new ideas. On the other, it's also a way to cut down on trash by effectively recycling magazines, extending their lives by passing them on to new readers. Library director Ann Moffat is aware of the benefits in both areas: "It's partly for the environment, and partly for culture," she said. "We'd love to hear people's comments about it — what they've read, what

they thought."

The Westmount Library has an annual budget of \$21,000 for periodicals, which besides its numerous magazine and newspaper subscriptions is also used to buy a microfilm copy of the *Montreal Gazette*.

Suggestions for magazines to be added to the library collection may be submitted through suggestion slips, which are available at any library desk, or by e-mail to wpl@westmount.org.

(Continued from *Bimetallic*, page 12)

For members of this society, Holmes and Dr. Watson are much more than fictional characters, and Conan Doyle is their scribe.

Part of each regular meeting is the Holmes quiz; members have an assigned reading prior to the meeting and take a quiz based on that story. This month's story was *The Adventure of the Creeping Man*.

Every meeting, an attendance sheet is passed, and members take pride in a flawless attendance record — and this is where our mystery begins.

David Kellett has not missed a meeting for five years, or has he? Certain witnesses might swear that, due to events beyond his control, Kellett missed the Aug. 2 meeting. Nevertheless, members of the society swear that Kellett did attend, and the attendance sheet clearly shows that he was there. The record shows that he even wrote a toast!

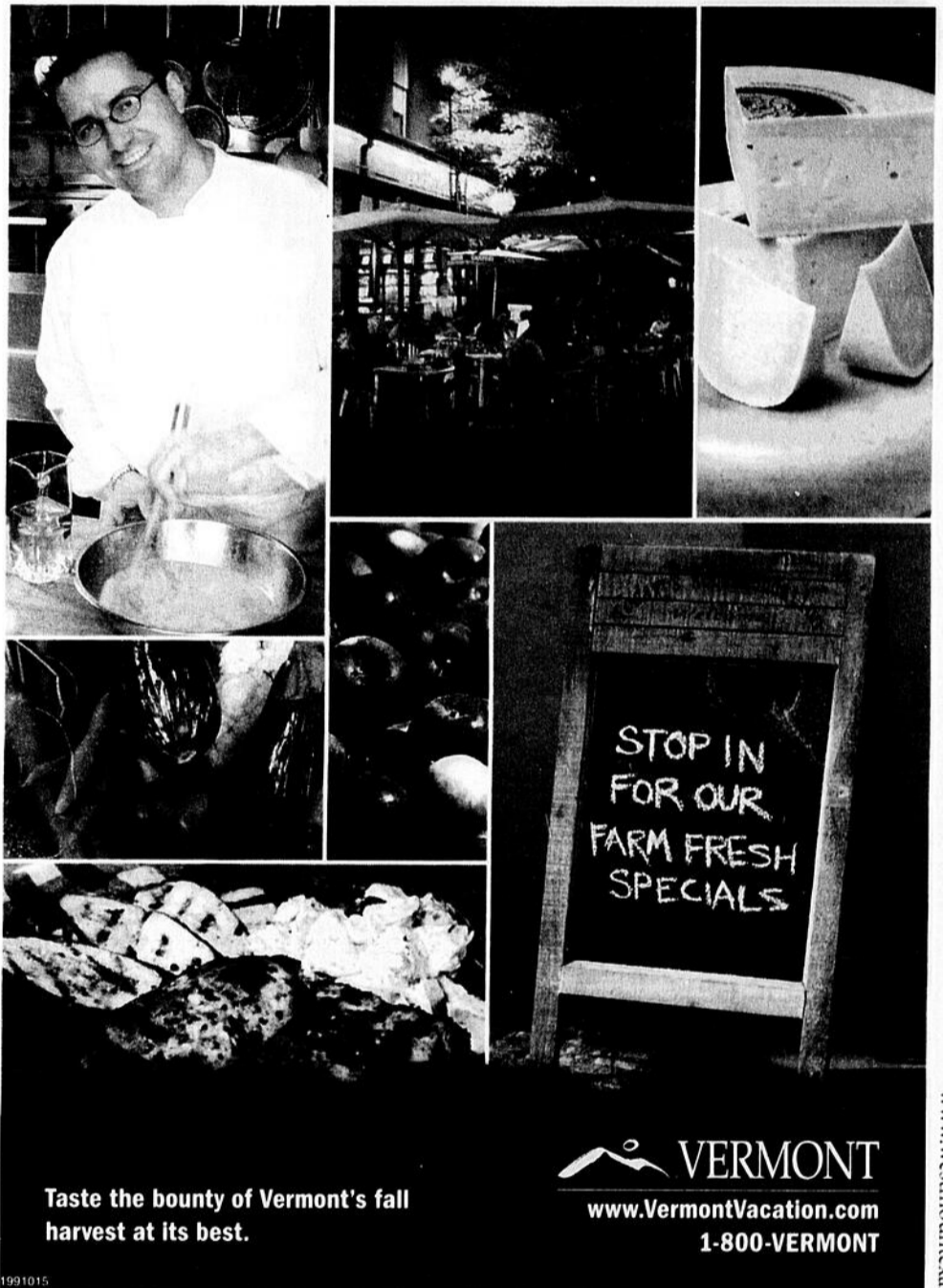
"Our friend David Kellett is here tonight and this is his chair," said Wilfrid de Freitas holding a photo of Kellett.

"I want to pass a motion suggesting that

David Kellett is here tonight. He has come for five years and he is here tonight," said Patrick Campbell.

All the members of the society agreed to pass the motion, in a show that revealed solidarity and kinship. Later in the meeting, members listened to the toast written by Kellett.

It seems as though the society has unlocked yet another mystery: the mystery of friendship and companionship. Their next meeting will be held on Thursday, Oct. 11 at 6:30 p.m. in the Westmount Public Library, 4574 Sherbrooke St. W. For more information, call 514-931-8690.



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Avis est par les présentes donné que, à la suite du décès de **Léon Bellefleur**, en son vivant domicilié au 5325 ave. Victoria, Montréal (Québec) H3W 2P2, survenu le 22 février 2007, un inventaire des biens du défunt a été fait par le liquidateur, le 29 mai 2007, devant **Me Linda JODOIN**, notaire, conformément à la loi. Cet inventaire peut être consulté par les intéressés à l'étude de **Me Linda JODOIN**, notaire, sise au 370, chemin de Chambly, bureau 400, Longueuil (Québec) J4H 3Z6

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Bulletin Board

Tuesday, Sept. 4

Blood Donor Clinic at Fire Station 76, 19 Stanton St., from 2 to 8 p.m. Sponsored by the fire department, the police department and Westmount's Public Security Unit. Info: 514-280-3534.

Sunday, Sept. 9

Sunday at the Shaar, a programme of the Leisure Institute of Congregation Shaar Hashomayim, 425 Metcalfe Ave., presents 'Navigating the Health Care System' with oncologist Dr. Adrian Langleben at noon. Admission is \$5 for lunch and lecture. Info: 514-937-9471.

Monday, Sept. 10

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Information Night at 7:30 p.m. at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, 395 Elm Ave. Attention to parents with children born in 1995-1997, Rabbi Lerner and new educator Ilana Kuska will present the synagogue's program of education for B'nai mitzvah, information about facilities, and a calendar open for your selection of Bar/Bat mitzvah dates. Temple classes meet Saturday mornings and/or Wednesday afternoons at Temple. Information meeting lasts one hour. Info: 514-937-3575.

Tuesday, Sept. 11

Marriage Information Meeting at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, 395 Elm Ave. at 5:30 p.m. Couples considering intermarriage, or conversion by one partner before marriage, are invited to tour the facilities and learn about Temple's policies and practices from Rabbi Leigh Lerner and Executive

Administrator Michelle Serrano. Appointments can be booked with Rabbi Lerner following a brief meeting. Info: 514-937-3575.

Saturday, Sept. 15

Fall BBQ and Book Sale at the Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater Ave., from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This outdoor fundraising event features fabulous deals on books for children and adults, as well as activities for the whole family, including live accordion music, storytelling, science activities, and arts and crafts. Hot dogs supplied by Metro Supermarché Westmount will be on sale. All proceeds from sales support ALCC and Children's Library programs. Free admission. Info: Tanya Mayhew at 514-935-7344 or tmayhew@atwaterlibrary.ca

Ongoing

Dramatis Personae, Westmount's Community Theatre, invites you to try your acting skills. Join us for an exciting new season under the directorship of Jacqueline Van de Geer, starting Sept. 11 at Victoria Hall. We are offering a 12 week semester of acting exercises and general theatre skills taught by Ms. Van de Geer in preparation for casting and rehearsal of a play to be produced next spring. We are gathering for an introductory wine and cheese information session the previous Thursday evening, Sept. 6. For further details call 514-484-2016 or 514-486-7423 or e-mail dramatis.personae07@gmail.com

Do you want to become a better communicator? Does your job require you to come into contact with people with a hearing

loss? Do you have a deaf or hard-of-hearing relative? A course in Oral Communication, offered at Dawson College this fall might be just the thing for you. A second course, Oral Interpretation, will be offered to people who wish to learn how to provide interpreting services to oral deaf individuals. For more information, please contact Eva Basch at 514-636-0755 or ebasch@videotron.ca.

The Atwater Branch of the Montreal Children's Library, 1200 Atwater Ave., presents a weekly bilingual Science Club on Mondays at 4:30 p.m. for ages 5-12. The program is funded by the NSERC and includes workshops, visits from Captain Catalyst and special events. Info: 514-931-2304.

The Atwater Branch of the Montreal Children's Library, 1200 Atwater Ave., presents their weekly bilingual Chess Club on Fridays at 4 p.m., for ages 6-12. Info: 514-931-2304.

Enjoy Lawn Bowling this summer: Westmounters interested in trying and learning this great sport are invited to come to the local club on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. It is located at 401 Kensington, next to Westmount City Hall. Bowls and coaching are provided. There is no dress code, except flat-soled shoes required. Info: 514-931-8690.

The Association sportive des aveugles du Québec is seeking volunteers to serve as directors for the blind lawn bowlers of Westmount and Beaconsfield. For more information, please call the ASAQ at 514-252-3178 ext. 3768 or visit the website at www.sportsaveugles.qc.ca.

St. Margaret's Home for the elderly is currently recruiting volunteers to help with mealtime assistance and tuck shop, as well as assisting the occupational and physiotherapist. Info: Melanie Lafleur at 514-932-3630.

Mary's Recovery: Weekly meetings in English and French at the Westmount YMCA for people seeking help in dealing with fear, anger, stress, depression, anxiety, panic attacks, phobias, insomnia, gambling addiction. Info: 514-485-2194 between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Tumbling Tots at Centre Greene, 1090 Greene Ave., for parents and toddlers under five years old, with music, stories and more. Every Tuesday and Thursday from 9 to 10:30 a.m., \$3.50 per child drop-in. Info: 514-931-6202.

The Montreal Camera Club meets each Monday at 7:30 p.m. at Westmount Park Church, 4695 de Maisonneuve, entrance at rear. Slide shows, competitions and workshops. Visitors welcome. Info: 514-637-2767.

Westmount Toastmasters: Take the fear out of public speaking every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke W.

The Rotary Club of Westmount meets each Wednesday at Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke W., at 12:30 p.m.

Friends of the Westmount Library ask that you think of them if you have any books you wish to donate for their book sales. They accept quality hardcovers and paperbacks in reasonable condition, on all subjects. Please drop off your books at the library circulation desk, 4574 Sherbrooke W.

A commitment to child safety makes the grade

> Sarah Hoida

With the new school year upon us, the Westmount community is taking a proactive approach to child safety by offering an anti-bullying workshop this fall.

On Oct. 2, Don't Bully Me, a two-hour anti-bullying workshop for children aged 6 to 10 and their parents, will be offered at Victoria Hall.

George Manoli, the workshop's facilitator,

developed his approach by drawing from his extensive experience as a teacher and police officer and believes that children "learn best by doing."

According to Statistics Canada, bullying is on the rise in Quebec; 10 per cent of students report experiencing some form of bullying at least once a week.

In response to this growing concern, the City of Westmount has once again decided to offer the annual workshop.

"It's important to what we're living, especially in light of recent news; it's affecting us more and more," said Programme and Community Services Coordinator Claude Danis.

The workshop aims to curb bullying by teaching children and their parents how to diffuse a confrontational situation in an effective and non-violent manner.

"A bully is always looking for the easiest target," Manoli said. "You have to learn to manage the stress and confusion that happens during an incident."

In the group session, the kids act out seven or eight typical scenarios, and the responses are evaluated according to the 'principles of confrontation', which are basic exit strategies applicable to variety of difficult situations.

The importance of body language is also stressed. The children are able to understand the concepts because they are explained in simple and relatable ways. "Are your actions

timid like a mouse or strong like a lion?" is a question Manoli poses after participants complete role-playing exercises.

Parental involvement is an essential component to anti-bullying training as well; a complete understanding of what is happening in the child's life is needed in order to handle bullying problems. Additionally, "Mom and Dad need to be singing the same song" so that the child is receiving a consistent message from parents about how to handle a difficult situation, Manoli said.

On average, Manoli gives training to three or four children a month, on an individual basis. "The majority of times the parents are at their wits end and don't know what else to do; maybe the child is withdrawn or suicidal," he said.

Manoli estimates that one per cent of his clientele are the bullies themselves. In these cases he deals with parents extensively in order to figure out exactly how the child is "programmed."

"In the past, bullying was seen as a right of passage, but tolerance is no longer the norm," said Shari Salonin, whose 10-year-old son recently underwent an individualized training session with Manoli. "Toughing it out is no longer acceptable advice."

An active member in the Home and School Association in the West Island where her son attends school, Salonin has brought bullying sensitisation materials into her son's school.

"As parents, we can provide suggestions, but with a third party there's no emotional involvement - George Manoli brings a different awareness to the situation, then identifies skills in your child and helps bring them out through role playing" Salonin said.

The course costs \$40 per child and parent participation is mandatory. Registration for Westmount residents is currently under way at the Westmount arena, 4675 Ste. Catherine St. W., from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Registration for non-residents begins Sept. 5 at the same location.

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