

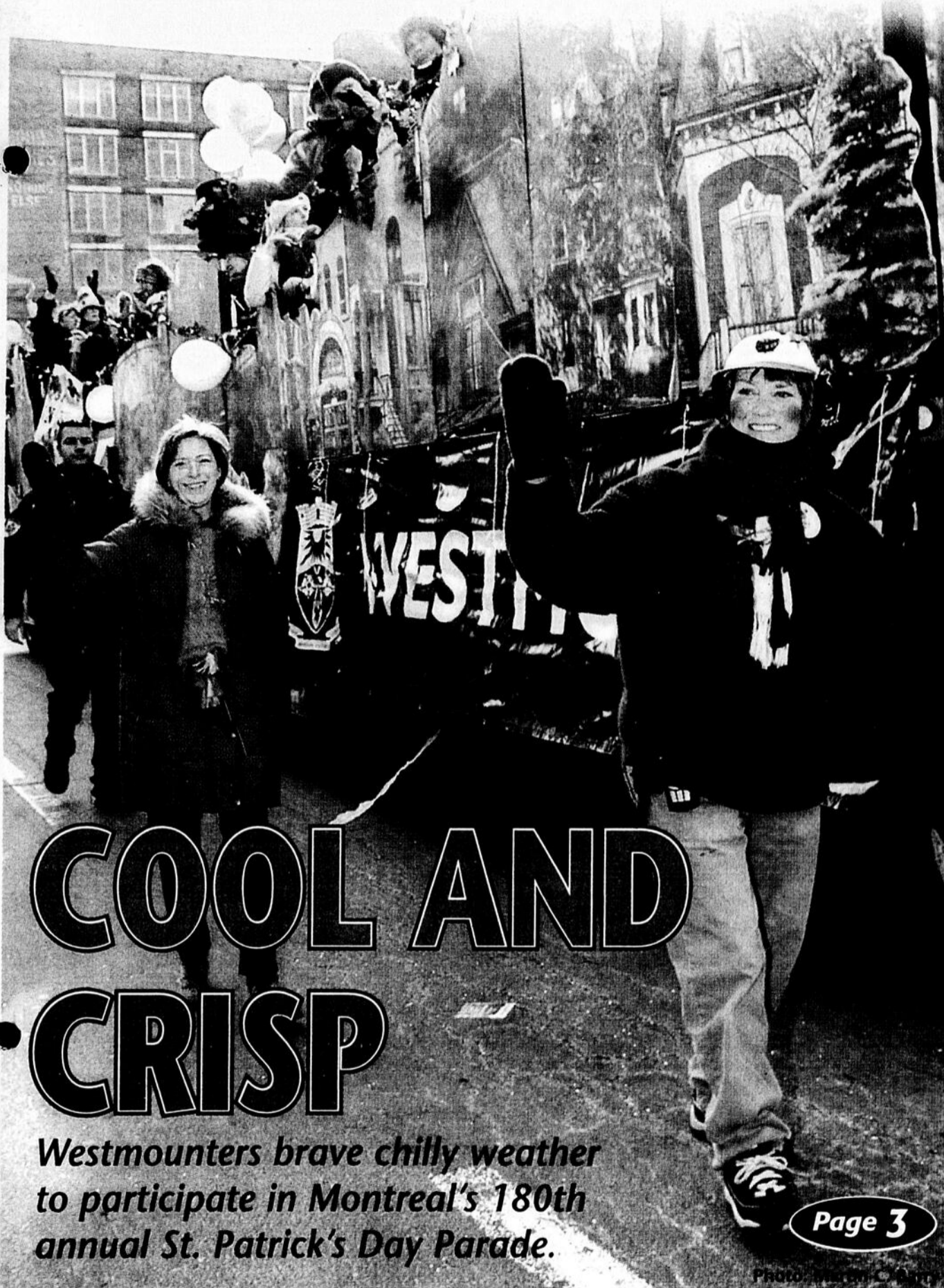
The Westmount Examiner

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COOL AND CRISP

Westmounters brave chilly weather to participate in Montreal's 180th annual St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Page 3

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KAIN'S

Local News

Trent talks demerger in MoWest

Martin C. Barry

The time has come for Montrealers to admit the creation of the megacity was a colossal mistake, former Westmount mayor Peter Trent told a packed hall of demerger supporters in Montreal West Town Hall last week.

In the first of several public events demergerists are holding, leading towards demerger referendums in former towns and cities like Montreal West, Hampstead and Côte St. Luc in the coming months, Trent explained the main reason he believes megacities are doomed to failure.

"The simple reason they don't work is that people don't want them," he said. "I mean, it's a very simple concept — people don't like megacities. They don't feel at home in them... Essentially I think megacities don't work because they're a denial of history, a denial of economics, and essentially a denial of the will of the population.

"You should have the right to choose where you live and you only have one chance to take back your city," he added, referring to the referendums residents will be requesting through registers expected to open in each former municipality between now and the fall.

"I think it's time that we stopped pouring money into this bureaucratic black hole called the megacity. It's time to admit that the megacity is a colossal mistake. Let's take our chips off the table before we lose even more."

Trent scoffed at recent statements made by Montreal Mayor Gérald Tremblay that the demerger movement is a giant leap into the unknown. "Gaining freedom after being held hostage is a leap into the unknown?" said Trent. "What was a leap into the unknown was the creation of the megacity in the first place."

(continued on page 2)

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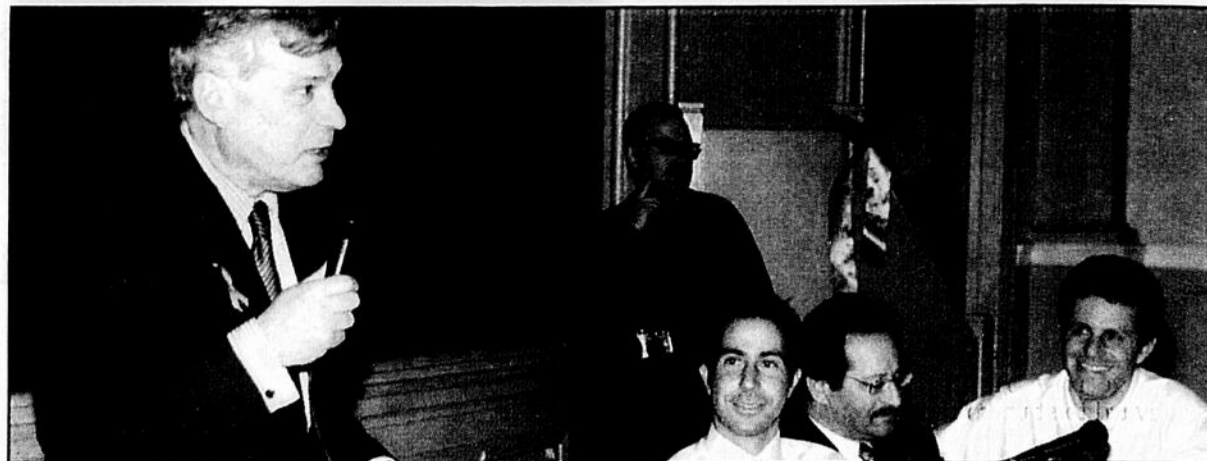
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SUNDAY, MARCH 21st - LENT IV
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Peter Trent rails against the megacity at last week's meeting in Montreal West. Seated next to him are (left to right) Côte St. Luc/Hampstead/Montreal West borough councillor Anthony Housefather, former Montreal West town commissioner Ed Manis and Kell Warshaw of DemocraCité.



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Information: 486-1165

(continued from page 1)

Trent said Quebec Premier Jean Charest was very happy to win the provincial election, based largely on his promise to allow demerger. "But now it's a bit like a piece of gum stuck to his shoe," he said. "And Mr. Fournier is really not being very helpful," he added, referring to the municipal affairs minister whose views on demerger have not been seen as completely in line with Charest's position.

Drawing laughter from the crowd made up mostly of Montreal Westers, Trent compared the megacity with Mary Shelley's description of Frankenstein's monster. "Possessed with unnatural strength, the creature inspires horror in those who see it, but is miserably eager

to be loved," he said.

Trent said that because cities are organic, those running them and living in them have to resist the "civic engineering" behind the creation of this megacity—which runs counter to the principle that great cities normally flourish through slow evolution and growth.

Quoting a report published last year by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Trent said the think-tank expressed skepticism that Montreal would be able to achieve "desired efficiencies and equity goals and maintain public satisfaction" with the newly-amalgamated city.

According to Trent, no one with experience running a city was involved in the creation of the Montreal megacity. "Louise Harel never ran a city in her life," he said, referring to the former PQ municipal affairs minister. Neither Gerald Tremblay, the megacity's current mayor, or the Liberals' municipal affairs minister, had prior experience in municipal politics, he maintained.

"I'm fed up with people who know nothing about running cities running all of our cities and merging cities," Trent said. Arguing against proposals made by decentralization advocates, he noted that boroughs have no legal powers whatsoever, meaning they can be merged at the whim of the megacity and can't even spend their money as they see fit.

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Monsieur GARY FURLONG, directeur général
au 514-934-0354

NOTICE

Please note that the next meeting of the Board of Directors of the CLSC MÉTRO will be held:

TUESDAY, MARCH 23RD, 2004
AT 5 p.m.
AT 1801 DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD WEST
MONTREAL (QUEBEC)
MEETING ROOMS, 5TH FLOOR

FOR MORE INFORMATION
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Mr. Gary Furlong
at 514-934-0354

Cold weather doesn't deter hardy St. Pat's Parade revelers

Martin C. Barry

About 60 residents braved chilly winds and an overcast sky to ride on Westmount's float in the annual St. Patrick's Parade last Sunday afternoon.

As pipers, bands and marchers waited patiently on René Lévesque Boulevard to start rounding the corner eastward down Ste. Catherine Street, Beryl Bowser, a member of the Westmount Quilt Guild, stood next to the float with a banner honouring Westmount. "I think we'll be fine once we get walking," she said, adding that there would be hot coffee for her and fellow quilter Lily Lam to warm up when on board. Built on a flatbed trailer pulled by a truck, the float was mounted with photographic panels depicting historic buildings in Westmount, including the greenhouse, the library and Victoria Hall.

The parade travelled from Fort Street eastward toward St. Urbain. In addition to a full contingent of residents, live musicians aboard the float played Irish instruments such as the bodhan (hand-held drum) and flute. A group of local Boy Scouts walked alongside.

Virginia Elliott, a community events coordinator with the Borough of Westmount, said that volunteers and Public Works employees had spent the past four days preparing the float for the parade. "This is the effort of a lot of hours of work and organization," she

said. Besides the Quilter's Guild, members of the Lawn Bowling Club also participated.

"This is the real thing," Elliott added, holding up a handful of shamrocks which had been purchased for the occasion. Aboard the float, Anna Klefos said she was freezing. "We have a bit of Irish blood in us," her sister, Andrea, added.

Jessica Gal, who provided some of the live Celtic fiddle music last year, was back again with tunes like Donnybrooke Fair and Rose in the Heathers. "We put together a bunch of traditional jigs and reels," she said. "We get to play what we want."

Although the weather was very cold, Borough President Karin Marks noted that it was "nice and warm on the float with lots of people... It's just the atmosphere."

Borough councillor John de Castell, a Celt by his Scottish ancestry, said, "I love this bracing temperature. It makes us want to jump and dance and clap more just to keep warm if nothing else." Harris Pompili, borough councillor Cynthia Lulham's son, was taking part in his seventh St. Patrick's Day Parade with Westmount. "He was eight months on his first trip," Lulham said.

Sheldon Morgan, aboard with several of his children, said this was the fourth year in a row his family rode Westmount's float. "We've noticed that every year the crowd seems to get bigger and better," he said. "Everybody's in a very festive mood today."



Beryl Bowser and Lily Lam in front of float with Westmount quilt.

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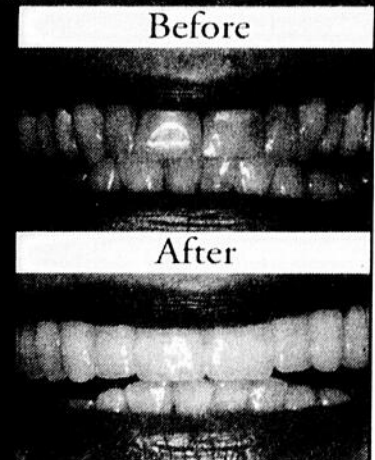
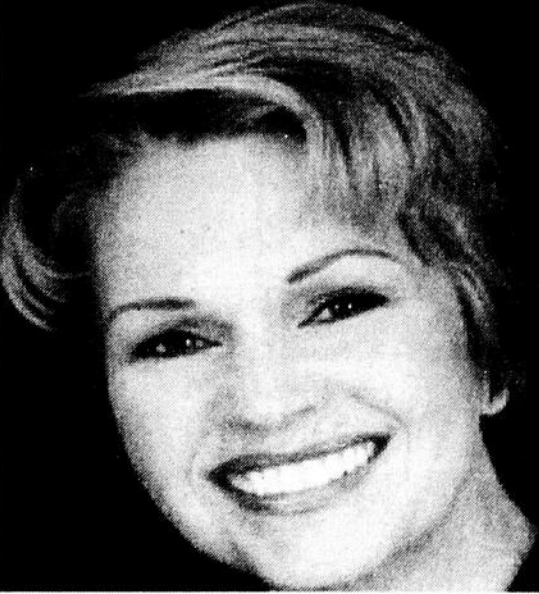
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Julie Lajoie

Well known for her sweeping landscapes with brooding skies, local painter Catherine Young Bates has recently turned her attention to the legends of antiquity and the age-old fascination with flight.

The result is a dynamic exploration of the Greek myth of Icarus, whose attempt at flight failed when he flew too close to the sun and the heat melted the wax in his wings. Bates uses

this metaphor as a starting point, rendering winged creatures that take on a unique plastic form to represent the flight of Icarus.

Bates's ability to suggest a shift in perspective makes the viewer look down at the landscape from a very high vantage point—especially in her work 'Icarus IV, Discovering America.' In her latter work, the vanishing point and horizon are barely discernible through a veiled blue haze.

The elements of flight, combined with the landscape, are the essence of Icarus's nature, according to Bates. The northern Ontario region, in particular Georgian Bay, provided much of the inspiration for the imagery in this 23-work exhibition.

Born in Ontario in 1934, Bates studied art in Toronto and Baltimore before settling in Montreal, where she has taught painting, drawing and art history at Dawson College since 1972. In a career spanning 40 years—during which she has been an artist, professor, poet and art critic—Bates's art has undergone many changes in both subject and style.

For the past ten years her focus has been landscapes, most of them based on her exploration of the Eastern Townships, and many painted in the blustery outdoors.

"Painting nature's movements in large vistas are my way of remembering and cherishing my own planet, the earth we live on, and the air we breathe," Bates says. Instead of literally recording a locale, Bates utilizes dramatic brushwork and bright coloration to express the energy or life force experienced in her paintings.

Bates's works can be found in the permanent collections of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, The New School for Social Research, New York City, McGill University, the University of Toronto and the city of Westmount.

• 'Eyes of Icarus' by Catherine Young Bates continues at the the Warren G. Flowers Gallery at Dawson College, 4001 de Maisonneuve St. W. through March 20. Gallery hours are Tuesday to Saturday from noon to 4 p.m. For more information, call 931-8731 ext. 3213.

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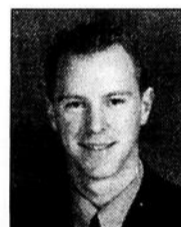
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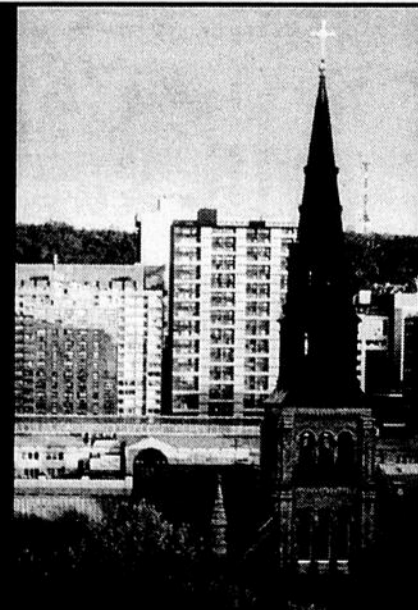
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Update from defusionwestmount.com

MY WESTMOUNT: SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL

Sally Aitken

Like a broken record, I have been asking why Minister Harel (with the full support of then-mayor Bourque) wanted to force the merger of our cities when the Montreal Urban Community (MUC) was already in place. The MUC had already assumed the responsibilities that needed inter-municipal cooperation. Why couldn't the MUC be built upon to achieve the operational goals of merging without the distressing loss of local identity resulting from the mergers?

From the early 1970s until December 2001, the Montreal Urban Community was completely responsible for specific island-wide services such as police, public transit, property assessment and environmental protection. Individual MUC member cities (which included Westmount) looked after all other local services such as fire protection, municipal courts, libraries, zoning, building codes, snow clearing, road maintenance and a whole host of others, all of which reflected the wants and needs of each

city's residents and their council. That form of political structure worked then so I see no reason why we can't reinstate a similar 'MUC- independent cities' type of partnership.

Small is beautiful is a slogan that I have always taken to heart and which all those who have had the good fortune to be involved in the workings of a municipality undoubtedly would as well. One almost automatically gets to know one's neighbours, and feels a sense of belonging to and caring for a manageable piece of a larger entity, along with the awareness that one can make a difference. Of course there is a need for cooperation with the world beyond our borders. We had this with the MUC. What is more, this community is renowned for personal involvements in non-municipal issues worldwide.

I love this community for all it has given me, to my family, and now also to my grandchildren. It has allowed us all to grow in a healthy, safe, inclusive environment, and provided opportunities to become involved in ways that facilitated change when needed. There have been many changes over the years, responding to community needs, but merging was not one of



Sally Aitken

those needs.

Wanting our city back is not a wish for isolation, nor does it imply being stuck in the past. Rather, it is a plea for common sense. Why destroy a system that works, a system that allows involvement of citizens in the political process, a system that was equitable financially in sharing across the board the tax burden, and a system that was efficiently managed? How dare the City of Montreal and the Province of Quebec impose this merger so undemocratically? A referendum shouldn't even be necessary to undo what should never

have been done, but since a referendum apparently is the only way to recoup our losses, let's make sure that we participate en masse and with heart for Westmount and all the other communities who deplore having had a merger undemocratically imposed upon them.

Sally Aitken was a Westmount city councillor for two terms, from 1983 to 1991, and continues to serve the community in many volunteer capacities. She describes herself as "a very proud grandmother, mother and a spoiled rotten wife who cherishes the world I live in."

Also featured this week on www.defusionwestmount.com:

• '20 Good Reasons to Leave the Megacity' by Peter Trent.

• New Resources page, expanded and easier to navigate.

BULLETIN BOARD

Thursday, March 18

Spring Course Registration at Contactivity Centre from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For people 60 and over. 4695 de Maisonneuve W. Info: 932-2326.

Gardening Made Simple: Centre Greene presents workshops on how kitchen gardens can enhance your cooking. 7 to 8 p.m. 1090 Greene Ave. Admission is \$3. RSVP: 931-6202.

The Westmount Historical Association's Spring Lecture Series continues with guest speakers Alison Sorbie and Christopher Dunkley, who will discuss architect Edward Maxwell's home at 7 p.m. in the Westmount Public Library. Free for WHA members, \$5 for non-members. Info: 925-1404 or 932-6688.

Friday, March 19

Guy Vanderhaeghe reads from his book 'The Last Crossing' at the Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater Ave. Wine and cheese will be served at 6:30 p.m., reading at 7 p.m. Free admission. Info: 935-7344.

Saturday, March 20

Samedi Greene for children ages 2 to 6, invites kids and parents to come and dance western style with Gabrielle from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at 1090 Greene Ave. Cost is \$2. Info: 931-6202.

Sunday, March 21

Concert Plus Series at St. Andrew's-Dominion-Douglas United Church, corner Roslyn and The Boulevard, continues with organist Patrick Wedd at 4 p.m. Info: 486-1162.

Monday, March 22

Aquarius and the Rebirth of Gnostic Christianity, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater. Free admission. Info: 485-9581.

Rosh Chodesh Women's Group invites you to welcome the month of Nisan with a new look at Passover for modern Jewish women at 7:30 p.m. at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, 395 Elm Ave. Free admission. Info: 484-7826.

Wednesday, March 24

Luncheon at Centre Greene: All seniors welcome to enjoy a delicious, home cooked three-course luncheon, served in a friendly environment. Bring a friend. 1090 Greene Ave. at 12:15 p.m. Cost is \$4. RSVP: 931-6202.

Ongoing

Phylum, an exhibition by artist Patrick Visentin continues at the McClure Gallery, 350 Victoria Ave., through March 27. Info: 488-9558.

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Studies on this subject have shown that a

balanced diet rich in vitamins, minerals, proteins, trace minerals and antioxidants helps the skin to regenerate more quickly and allows it to effectively protect itself against environmental pollutants such as the sun, tobacco, alcohol, etc. This type of diet also gives skin that much-sought-after healthy glow.

Vegetable oils are well-known for increasing the softness of the skin; fruits and vegetables increase its youthful "glow," shellfish and crustaceans help retain balance; dairy products, meat and eggs improve its elasticity and water helps it remain blemish-free. In short, a balanced diet containing all four food groups and lots of water will go a long way when it comes to attaining beautiful skin.

Worried about wrinkles? Vitamin A is your best defense. It can be found in liver, eggs, cheese and orange-coloured fruits and vegetables. Vitamin C, which is found in citrus fruits, cabbage, spinach and peppers, along with the Vitamin E from vegetable oils, wheat germ and eggs, can also help keep your skin baby-smooth.

If you are troubled by specific skin problems, don't hesitate to consult a nutritionist or dermatologist. They'll be able to recommend the best solution for your particular condition.

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Snacking is good for you!

Despite what we often hear, snacking is actually one of the healthiest eating habits there is. However, healthy snacking does not mean constantly nibbling on whatever food is on hand, which is actually quite bad for you. So if you enjoy a mid-morning and mid-afternoon snack, don't feel guilty! You're actually doing the right thing to keep your energy levels up.

Eating a light snack between meals is a healthy habit no matter what age you are. Growing kids and teens benefit greatly from snacks because they help them to continue performing physical activity or their school work at their peak productivity. Adults also benefit from snacking. Taking a snack break allows you relax for a few minutes—a great technique for managing the stress of daily life. Seniors often find that their appetites decrease over the years. Regular snacking helps ensure that they

meet their daily nutritional needs. Need more proof that snacking can be good for you? Studies show that when it comes to keeping your energy levels high throughout the day, eating four to six small meals each day is much better than two to three large meals.

Of course, to be good for you, these snacks have to be healthy! Whenever your belly starts to grumble, reach for healthy choices. Fresh fruit, raw vegetables served with a dip, homemade muffins, sugar-free cereal and dairy products such as milk, cheese and yogurt all make excellent snacks.

Finally, listen to what your stomach is telling you. If you're not hungry, don't force yourself to snack, or try reducing your meal portions. And don't forget that variety is the spice of life. The more varied your diet, the more satisfied your taste buds and belly will be!

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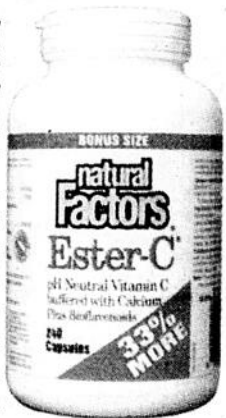
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Off the Lash

Is 'The Passion of the Christ' anti-Semitic? Now that I've seen the film, I thought I'd have a go at answering that question.

When people say that the film 'The Passion of the Christ' is anti-Semitic, what does that mean? If that means, "the movie is likely to incite bad feelings towards people of the Jewish faith today," then I don't think that that is the case. If it means "the movie makes the Jewish religious leadership of that era look bad," the answer would be that it does. They had him bumped off. To paraphrase Lenny Bruce, "We did it. Signed, Morty."

Off the Leash

George Bowser



In that case, though, the film is an equal-opportunity offender. It makes the average Roman soldier look like a mindless, drunken, sadistic lout. If the Italian-American Anti-Defamation League was upset about 'The Godfather' and 'The Sopranos', I'm surprised they aren't marching in the streets over 'The Passion'. For one thing, the Latin is spoken so that it sounds a lot like, well, like Italian. Some theatergoers can even understand a little of it. The Roman soldiers make remarks, even jokes, that aren't translated in the subtitles, and my daughter and I with our schoolbook Latin were congratulating ourselves on being able to understand them. They weren't terrific jokes, I have to say, but under the circumstances that's not surprising.

The movie makes the mob look like a collection of feckless, bloodthirsty dimwits. They enthusiastically welcome the release of Barabbas, who is portrayed as such an execrable goggle-eyed pantomime villain that it's almost comic. But then it's traditional to make the mob look like a collection of morons, and that portrayal has been justified by thousands of years of historical observation.

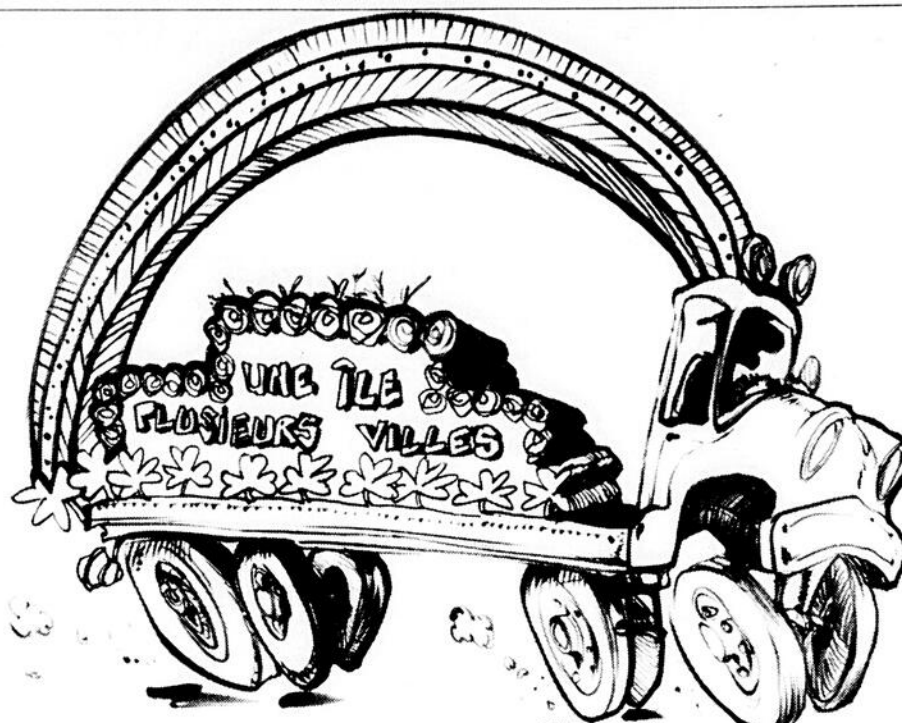
The movie makes Herod and his puppet government look like a collection of effete, ineffectual sexual perverts, and it makes the Roman governor look like a vain, cowardly, self-serving, er... politician. And yes, the members of the Sanhedrin, the Jewish governing council, are clearly shown to be the ones responsible for sending Jesus to his death. To be fair, they give him the opportunity to recant, much as the Inquisition would in later centuries, but it's a half-hearted offer. They want this troublemaker to be gone, and they make no secret of it. It's politically motivated, and the politics of that era in Judea were complex and potentially deadly. Now, two thousand years later, the politics of the day in that part of the world are... exactly the same.

The movie makes a very good case for the separation of Church and state, and offers compelling evidence of what can happen when there is no such separation. The blood-soaked flogging post and the floor around it looked very much like the aftermath of a suicide bombing in Jerusalem today. If you're looking for anti-Semitism, you don't need to look for it in a Hollywood movie about the Christ.

The point of it all, I think, is that the movie is called 'The Passion of the Christ', and here the word passion is used in the religious sense, and means 'suffering'. Except for a few flashbacks, the film does not deal with Jesus' ministry and teaching. It deals only with that period of Jesus' life when He chose to suffer rather than to go free in order to fulfill His mission, which, as I understand it, was to demonstrate by His own life and death that God understands human suffering, that the human spirit can endure it even unto death, that there is something that makes it worthwhile, and that is love. It's a great message, and it's nice that Hollywood can use it to make a handsome prophet.

Is 'The Passion of the Christ' anti-Semitic? Is 'Schindler's List' anti-German? Is 'The Life of Brian' anti-Christian? Is a bear catholic? Is the pope elastic? I would say no to all. But at least people could make those films, go to see them, and talk about them openly. The movie impressed me. Heck, I may even read the book again.

• George Bowser is one half of the musical comedy duo Bowser & Blue.



NEXT YEAR'S ST-PATRICK'S DAY FLOAT

EXG 02/18/04

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We really do care

To the editor:

George Bowser's column of the March 6 issue asks about demerger "Apathy: who really cares?"

The answer is that many do care. We have borough leaders who do care although enthusiasm is dampened and curtailed by unfair roadblocks erected by the present provincial government.

Several seats were won because of the promise to allow a choice to demerge; in fact, the present mayors of the newly merged megacities openly opposed the Liberals just prior to the election. Our premier owed them nothing but still has caved in a great deal to their wishes.

I would like to ask two questions.

The first to our MNA, Mr. Jacques Chagnon: Will you publicly side with the majority of your electors and condemn the unfair demerger process openly?

The second question is to the citizens of Westmount: Will you hold Mr. Chagnon accountable for his actions; and if unsatisfied, would you still vote for him? In other words, is your support for that party a given?

Stanley Grossman
De Maisonneuve Boul.

Auction was a great success

To the editor:

CPE Narnia would like to extend its warmest thanks and recognition to all those who helped us out in our first silent auction with their contributions, presence and support. Over \$1,000 was raised towards our new playground structure. Our event was a great success thanks to all those who worked so hard to make it happen: community, staff, parents and board members alike.

The ambiance was terrific, thanks to the dec-

orating team and the wonderful musical talent of Mickey Farkhas. We would also like to express our gratitude to the school board for letting us use the premises for our event.

We would also like to give our most special thanks to all our corporate sponsors, without whom the event would surely not have been possible. We were truly touched by everyone's generosity and spirit: Chaussures Tony Shoes, Carlson Wagonlit Travel, S/he Inc., Nicholas Hoare, Double Hook, Vago Cucina Italiana, the Comedy Nest, CJAD, Lapidarius, Salon Olivier, the Montreal Canadiens hockey team, Art-Enfant, Pom'canelle, Boutique Citrouille Boutique and Zèbre Confection.

Thanks once more, and we look forward to seeing you all again next year!

CPE Narnia
and the board of directors

Was it Irish luck?

To the editor:

"Top of the morning" to your readers. Many of us (thousands) were at the 180th St. Patrick's Day Parade. It was a "jolly good show," as they say in Britain.

But why should it be held the Sunday before March 17? Would it not be better if the parade were held on the 17th or the Sunday following the 17th? As it was held before the 17th, we had to rely on Irish luck for a mild parade day.

I am sure that some of the parade organizers live in Westmount. They were perhaps on the Westmount float. Perhaps they could persuade others that next year the parade should be held on the Sunday after March 17. It will be greatly appreciated by all, as the weather should be better then. We will all suffer less.

Gerald Glass
Metcalf Avenue

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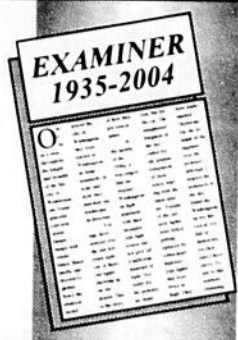
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One Year Ago
March 13, 2003

MERGING STATIONS: "With a major reorganization of Montreal's network of neighbourhood police stations looking possible, Westmount's Station 12 is being mentioned as a candidate for merger. According to news reports last week, neighbourhood police Station 11 in NDG and Station 12 on Stanton Street in Westmount would be combined. If that scenario were to unfold, one of the two will disappear. Since last year, the police union has been clamouring for a major reorganization of the neighbourhood stations. According to the union, police officers have been complaining that they don't have enough resources for the number of stations in the neighbourhood policing system. In the evening shifts, the police force is stretched to its maximum, leading to inadequate service. Because each neighbourhood station requires at least one officer to be on duty inside, the number of officers out on patrol has been reduced as a result."

Thirty-Five Years Ago
March 15, 1969

DRUG-FREE SCHOOL?: "While acknowledging that there may be a drug problem in the community, Westmount's school commissioners are satisfied that there is no direct cause for concern for students of Westmount High School in this regard. In reviewing plans for an educational program being undertaken nonetheless, Chairman William T. Wood told Monday evening's statutory March meeting that recent studies revealed that at no time had drugs of any sort been found in the school, no pupil had been detected under the influence, and there was no trafficking on school premises."

Forty-Five Years Ago
March 13, 1959

SPEEDERS BEWARE: "After six weeks of testing, the City of Westmount will be the first municipality on the island of Montreal to check the speed of traffic on its streets with radar equipment. The system is described as a means of educating not penalizing, and only cautionary tickets will be issued in the next two weeks—except in cases of flagrant violation. Thereafter, the police department will begin issuing traffic tickets to speeders. In a statement to the *Examiner*, Mayor J.C. Cushing said: "Law abiding motorists have nothing to fear from radar speed measurements on Westmount streets."

Sixty-Five Years Ago
March 16, 1939

BIKE CRACKDOWN: "Bicycle riders who drive their machines on sidewalks, pass red lights, fail to heed stop signs, or in any way violate Traffic Bylaw 452 will henceforth be fined. Chief of Police and Fire Departments W. Gough told the *Examiner* yesterday. A police drive to curb dangerous driving on the part of cyclists is being launched today and all members of the force have been instructed to give a traffic ticket to any bicycle rider found breaking the law."

The new limits of Westmount-Ville Marie

MP



Lucienne Robillard

First, I would like to begin my column by saying that I hope some of you had the same opportunity as I did last Sunday to participate in the annual and historic 180th St. Patrick's Day Parade.

It was fun to be part of the crowd and see the glowing faces of all the participants in the event, including some of you who I waved at on the float representing Westmount. This parade is the oldest in all of North America and it has never been cancelled; Sunday was no exception. It is the most important parade in Canada and third most important in North America, following New York and Chicago.

It is at events such as these that demonstrate our diverse multicultural heritage. It reminds us that people from different ethnic origins have played a significant role in the development of Canada. When I see so many people from all corners of the globe come out and celebrate events like the St. Patrick's Day Parade, it warms my heart to know that Canada, and in particular Montreal, is so welcoming to multiculturalism.

It is this sense of community diversity that makes I realize how privileged I am to represent such a magnificent constituency as Westmount-Ville Marie, a riding that I consider a 'mini-Canada' because of its large multiplicity. It truly represents Canada's bilingual and multicultural heritage.

This brings me to inform you of some important news concerning the federal riding of Westmount-Ville Marie. Every five years, Canada holds a census, which enables to have a good overall understanding of the changing demographics of the country. Based on the information collected in the census, Elections Canada proceeds to have a revision of the electoral boundaries across the country. Following this revision, Westmount-Ville Marie has been affected, like many other constituencies. It is with a sense of grief that I learned that our riding will lose a sector

with a lot of historic heritage, as Little Burgundy is transferred to Jeanne-Le Ber (formerly Verdun-Saint Henri-Saint Paul-Pointe St. Charles). Nevertheless, I am eager to welcome a new sector as our western limits will expand considerably to include an important portion of Notre Dame de Grâce, more specifically up until the eastern side of Hingston. It is important to specify however, that although this bill received royal assent last week, the new limits will only come into effect at the next general elections.

In that context, I am honoured to announce that I will be the official Liberal candidate for the reshaped riding of Westmount-Ville Marie in the next general elections. For the past nine years I have represented my constituents in the House of Commons in Ottawa with pride. It is with that same sense of pride that I devote myself to public service. When someone enters the political arena, you are driven by a desire to serve your country and to change things for the better.

I have been privileged all these years to also serve our country as minister. I have had the pleasure of serving under prime ministers for whom I have had a great deal of respect, whether they be Robert Bourassa, Daniel Johnson, Jean Chrétien and today Paul Martin. I would like to thank them for the confidence they bestowed in me and I am ready to continue.

Why pursue another mandate after 15 years of active political service? It's simple: I am still motivated by the same desire to continue to serve my constituents with loyalty and integrity as I have done so all through my political career. I firmly believe I can and will continue to contribute to the economic, cultural and social development of our riding, our city, our province and our country.

Our country is defined by its strong economy, its social justice, its proud cultural diversity, its integrity, its solidarity, its tolerance, and by our mutual respect with others. As your Member of Parliament, I am and will continue to be guided by these values.

• Lucienne Robillard is the Liberal MP for Westmount-Ville Marie, Minister of Industry and Minister responsible for the Economic Development Agency of Canada for the regions of Quebec.

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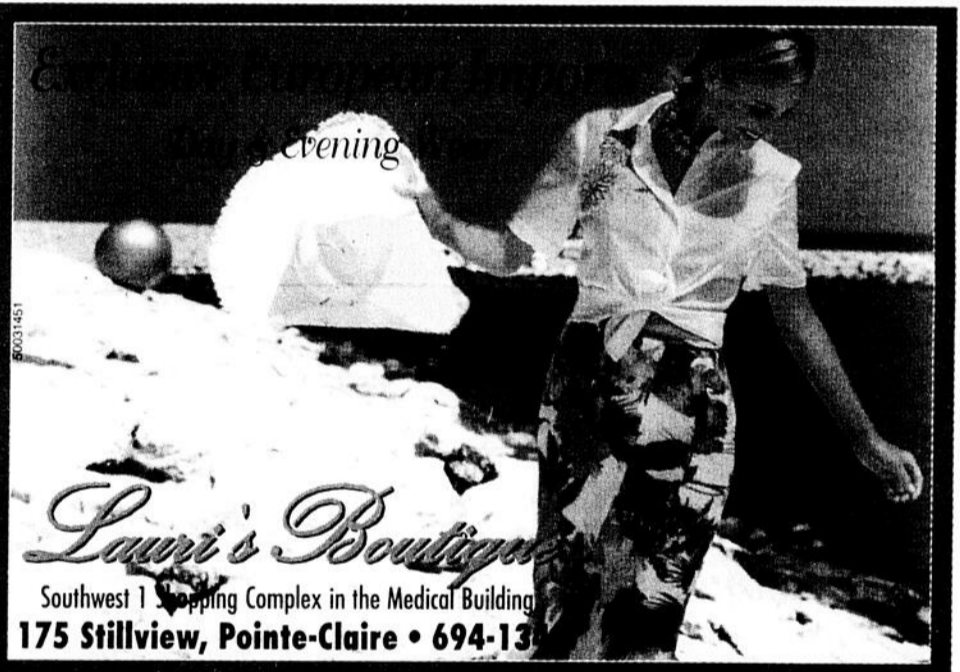
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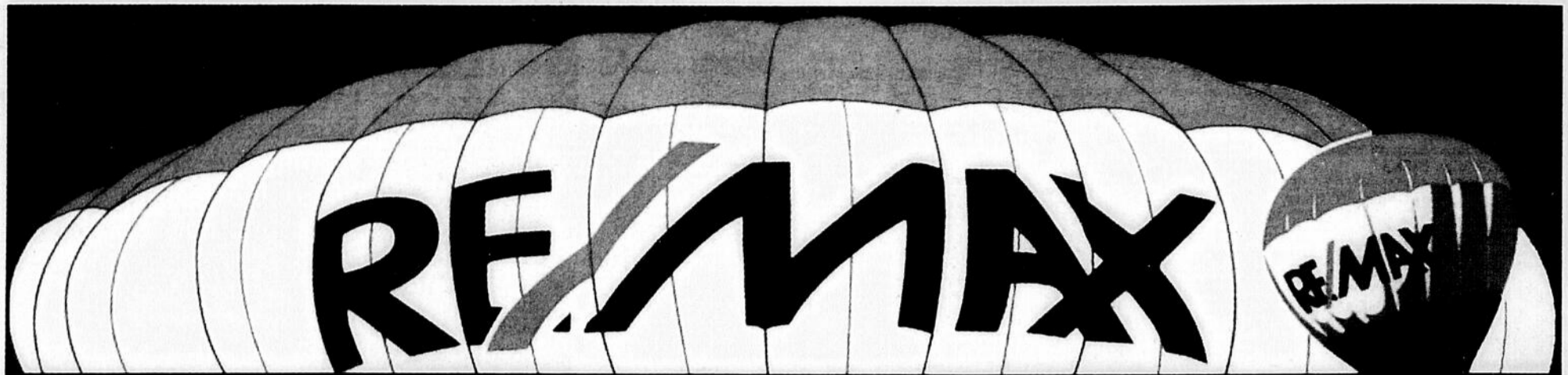
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