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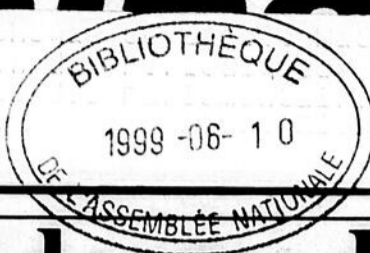
The Westmount Examiner

A Transcontinental WEEKLY

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Vol. LXXI

Westmount, Qc



No. 22

Bike marathon to close Sherbrooke Street this Sunday

One of Westmount's main traffic arteries will be closed for more than six hours Sunday morning as the annual Tour de l'Île bicycle event passes through the city.

Public Security Director Richard McEnroe has announced that the entire stretch of Sherbrooke Street through Westmount (from Atwater to Claremont Avenue) will be closed to vehicles from 6:45 a.m. to about 1 p.m. on June 6.

Only emergency vehicles will be allowed on Sherbrooke during this period. Pedestrians will be able to cross the street under the supervision of Tour de l'Île volunteers, who will be stationed at each intersection.

Tour de l'Île officials estimate that the first cyclists will enter Westmount at about 7:48 a.m. Thousands of cyclists are expected to be in the area, as Westmount Park has been designated as an official stop-off point.

McEnroe said that he has already sent notices to all Westmount churches to inform their congregations of the street closure, and today he plans to place notices on the windshields of cars that normally park on Sherbrooke. Any vehicles left parked on Sherbrooke after 6 a.m. Sunday will be towed. He added that area motorists with parking permits may be contacted by phone to remind them of the closure.

Those who live along the Tour de l'Île route are encouraged to decorate the front of their homes on Sunday. These decorations will be judged, and first prize will be a portable computer courtesy of Microserve. Second prize is a \$500 gift certificate from Canadian Tire. To register for the judging, call 521-8687.

IN THIS ISSUE:

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Family Day deemed best ever

BY WAYNE LARSEN

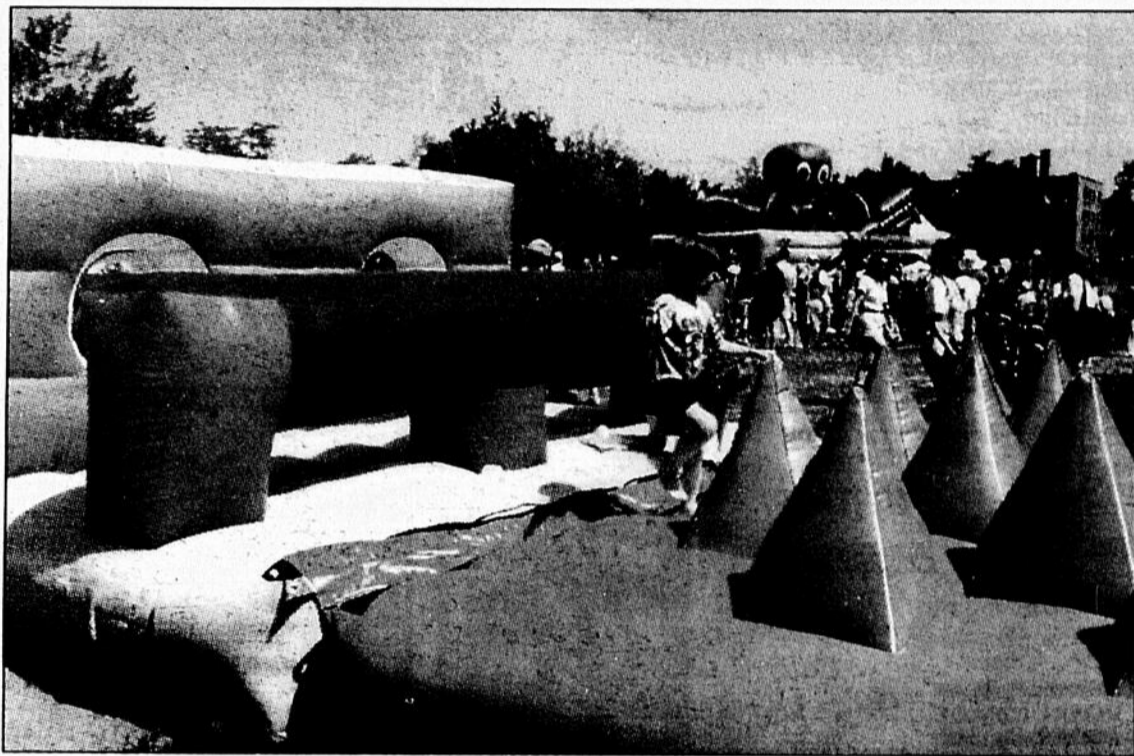
It was a perfect day for splashing in the pond, hopping through an inflated rubber maze or just relaxing in the shade with a cool drink.

"It was probably our best Family Day in the 24 years we've been having it," said a tired but happy Sports and Recreation director Bob Aiken. He estimated that a total of 5,000 people dropped by Westmount Park at some point on Saturday to enjoy the wide range of activities organized by the City.

The sun shone all day, and the fact that everything came together so well this year—Westmount's 125th anniversary—made the event even more special for the young and old who attended.

From the opening parade featuring about a dozen vintage automobiles to the closing of the carnival booths at 4 p.m., there was something for everyone. And although there were long lineups in front of many attractions—at one point there was an hour's wait to take the 3rd Field Engineers' aerial runway ride over the horseshoe pond—there were few complaints from participants.

Along with all the favourites from previous years, some new



A young Westmounter enjoys bouncing around on one of the many attractions at Saturday's well-attended Family Day.

attractions were added. One of the most popular was a Westmount Light & Power truck that worked non-stop giving children rides in its aerial cherry-picker, providing them with a panoramic view of the park. Another new addition this year was the City auction, which managed to raise \$2,114 for the Westmount Train Station Project through its sale of bicycles and assorted unclaimed items.

"It was a great day," said Officer Lise Bergeron of Station 12, who spent the day on duty in the park. "People came from all over and there were no fights or arguments. It was a real family day—people were so disciplined. Only a few kids got lost, but they were all found after a few minutes."

For Aiken, whose department coordinated the event with the help of numerous volunteers, the

day's success was best measured by the smiling faces he saw everywhere he looked. "Walking through the park, you could see families sitting together and having a good time," he said. "There was a real feeling of community spirit. People have a pride in Westmount—you could see the smiles on their faces. You couldn't really get a full appreciation of it until you walked from one end of the park to the other."



Former mayor May Cutler joined Mayor Peter Trent for Vic Hall ribbon-cutting.

City reopens Victoria Hall

BY WAYNE LARSEN

The newly-renovated Victoria Hall was officially introduced last Friday in a brief ceremony opening the brand new passage linking the 75-year-old building with the greenhouse and library.

In a brief speech preceding the ribbon-cutting, Mayor Peter Trent stated that although the extensive renovation project took longer than anticipated, it was completed within budget.

Both Trent and city councillor Cynthia Lulham pointed out that instead of giving the venerable community centre a brand new look, great care was taken to ensure that contractors used materials consistent with the original architecture.

Trent also insisted that former mayor May Cutler be at his side when he cut the ribbon, for it was during her term in office that the project was conceived.

(See A SMALL page 5)

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Community Bulletin Board...

Community Bulletin Board is a free listing of public events. To have an event listed, send it to *The Westmount Examiner*, 210 Victoria Ave., Westmount, Que., H3Z 2M4. Fax: 484-6028. Deadline is Monday noon.

Friday, June 4

Rotary Auction at Westmount Arena, 4675 Ste. Catherine, at 7 p.m. Preview at 6 p.m. Info: 935-3344.

Miss Vicky's Nursery School celebrates its 10th anniversary with a Fun Fair from 3 to 6 p.m. at 12 Church Hill. Fun events for the whole family. \$35 per family of four, \$10 per each additional person. Fundraiser for Miss Vicky's and Room For Change. Info: 935-2011.

Saturday, June 5

Rotary Garage Sale at Westmount Arena, 4675 Ste. Catherine, from 9:30 a.m. to 3

p.m. More items than ever, including a large selection of new clothing and shoes. Info: 935-3344.

Roslyn Block Garage Sale on Roslyn Avenue between de Maisonneuve and Sherbrooke from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Proceeds will go to Maison Marguerite de Montreal.

Tuesday, June 8

Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom's Entre Nous program continues with guest speaker Sandy Lipkus, coordinator of McGill's Middle East Project, who will speak on 'Israel's Peace Process and McGill's Middle East Involvement'. Brown bag lunch at noon, program at 1 p.m. All are welcome. 395 Elm Ave. Info: 937-3575.

Wednesday, June 9

Contactivity will hold a lawn sale outside Westmount Park Church, 4695 de Maisonneuve, from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

There will be crafts, used books, clothes and white elephant items. In case of rain, it will be held inside.

Thursday, June 10

Centre Greene, 1090 Greene Ave., presents Westmount Historical Association president Aline Gubbay, author of 'A View of Their Own: The Story of Westmount' as part of its 'Meet the Expert' lecture series. 7 p.m. Free admission. Followed by complimentary coffee and dessert. Info: 931-6202.

Friday, June 11

Westmount Public Library's Centennial Author Series continues in June with Kathy Reichs who will read, discuss and autograph her new book, 'Death Du Jour'. Slides will accompany her talk. 7 p.m. at Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke. Everyone welcome. Info: 989-5317.

Saturday, June 12

Open House at Westmount City Hall, 4333 Sherbrooke, and the Fire Station on Stanton from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Family tea at 2:30 p.m., where citizens are invited to meet the mayor, councillors and senior staff. Info: 989-5200.

Beyond the Borders

'**Toward Revelation**', an exhibition of paintings by Westmount artist Donato Damiano will run from June 5 to 26 at Galerie 524, 372 Ste. Catherine West. Open Wednesday to Saturday from noon to 5 p.m. '**Les Jardins de Giverny**', an homage to Monet by Westmount artist France Clavet continues through June 14 at Atelier des Artistes Réunis, 310 St. Paul West in Old Montreal. Info: 487-8641.

Hope & Cope's 12th Annual Cancer Survivors Day Celebration will take place on Tuesday, June 8 at 6:45 p.m. in the Block Amphitheatre of the Jewish General Hospital, 3755 Côte Ste. Catherine.

(See MORE page 14)

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AVIS

Le conseil d'administration du CLSC Métro invite la population à sa séance annuelle d'information. Si vous désirez connaître les services que le CLSC a offerts à sa population en 1998-1999, il nous fera un plaisir de vous accueillir.

JEUDI LE 17 JUIN 1999
À 18:00
AUX SALLES DE RÉUNIONS DU CLSC MÉTRO 5e ÉTAGE
AU 1801 BOUL. DE MAISONNEUVE OUEST
MONTREAL (QUÉBEC)

Veuillez noter que la séance publique d'information sera précédée par la réunion publique du conseil d'administration qui débutera à 17:00.

POUR TOUTE INFORMATION SUPPLÉMENTAIRE N'HÉSITEZ PAS À COMMUNIQUER AVEC MONSIEUR GARY FURLONG, DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL AU 934-0354

CLSC MÉTRO
NOTICE

The board of directors of CLSC Métro invites the public to our annual information meeting. If you would like to know more about the services offered by the CLSC during 1998-1999, we will be pleased to welcome you on:

THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 1999
AT 6 P.M.
IN THE MEETING ROOMS OF THE CLSC MÉTRO 5th FLOOR
AT 1801 DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD WEST
MONTREAL, QUÉBEC

Please note that the annual information meeting will be preceded by a regular public meeting of the Board of Directors which will begin at 5 P.M.

FOR OTHER INFORMATION PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL MR. GARY FURLONG, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT 934-0354

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40102549
Elizabeth 931-0483

FOUND

Small very young black & white cat with a brown collar and Verdun Vet tag. Found Monday on the corner of deMaisonneuve and Grosvenor.

40102557
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JUNE / SUMMER REPORT: ---- ***** Another winner! A grand total of \$11,000 and change was raised at last week's Men's Auction Dinner. Congratulations! ***** The newsletter *Rapport* the last issue until the fall, comes out next week with pick-up after church June 13, which is Picnic Day the paper will cover a current wrap-up and summer arrangements. New this year to note - Sunday services TIME is 9:30 a.m. to be held in the chapel, from June 27 through to Labour Day.

"HARVEST MOON SALE" Saturday, October 23

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IN BRIEF

4300 duct case
postponed to June 15

Residents of 4300 de Maisonneuve will have to wait at least two more weeks for a verdict in the Municipal Court skirmish between the City of Westmount and the owners of their building.

The City has charged the owners with two infractions of Bylaw 1031, for failing to provide inspection certificates to prove that the heat and ventilation ducts in the more than 300-unit apartment complex have been properly cleaned. If found guilty, the building's owners face a fine of \$500 plus costs.

Municipal Court Judge A. Keith Ham heard the case on Wednesday, May 26 and postponed proceedings until Tuesday, June 15 at 9:15 a.m. This followed prosecuting attorney John Donovan's motion to reopen the Crown's proof in order to allow additional witnesses to testify against defendant Tipmobil-Anstalt, the Liechtenstein-based company that owns the apartment complex.

The continuation was granted to allow defense attorney Serge Laflamme a chance to obtain a list of these witnesses, many of whom are members of the 4300 de Maisonneuve Tenants Association.

Secret Garden Tour
to benefit station

Tickets are now on sale for Westmount's second annual Secret Garden Walking Tour, which will take place on Friday, June 18.

Coordinated once again by Lillian Léonard, this year's event will feature 11 hidden gardens on the 'treasure map', which will be handed out to each participant. In keeping with the City's 125th anniversary celebrations, only 125 tickets will be sold—up from the 100 that sold out last year.

Sponsored by La Gascogne, Café Gourmet and Metro Fletcher, which will all be providing refreshments, Secret Garden Tour 1999 will be run by volunteers from the Westmount Horticultural Society.

Tickets cost \$25 each and are currently available at City Hall, Victoria Hall and the Westmount Public Library. All proceeds will go to the Westmount Train Station Project.

Rimouski célébrera la
Saint-Jean à Westmount

C'est à Westmount que le maire de Rimouski, ville jumelée à la nôtre, célébrera cette année la Fête de la Saint-Jean Baptiste. Deux de ses conseillers municipaux l'accompagneront, de même qu'un quartet de jazz.

Le maire Michel Tremblay répond ainsi à l'invitation du maire Peter Trent pour qui la célébration de la Saint-Jean s'inscrit dans le cadre des festivités entourant le 125ième anniversaire de Westmount.

Toutes ces activités de la Saint-Jean se dérouleront au parc Westmount. Elles débuteront à 20h30, mercredi le 23 juin, par le discours que prononcera le premier maire de Westmount, monsieur Eustache Prud'homme (personnifié par le maire Trent) qui rappellera le côté historique du 125ième anniversaire de la ville de Westmount ainsi que celui du Feu de joie, qui pris place la première fois en Nouvelle-France en 1638. La soirée se poursuivra avec des musiciens et de la danse.

Le lendemain matin, jeudi le 24 juin, à 10h, l'église St-Léon offrira une messe solennelle avec le chœur de la paroisse et dès 11h les cloches des églises Saint-Léon et St. Matthias sonneront invitant la population à revenir au parc Westmount pour une journée de plaisir et de joie. Le comité-organisateur finalise tous les détails du programme de la journée, mais on sait déjà qu'il y en aura pour toute la famille, jeunes et moins jeunes dont, entre autres, un jeu de bulles présenté par les sapeurs-pompiers de Westmount et un concours du pique-nique le plus original, internationale ou victorien qui soit. Le YMCA, le Centre d'Art Visuel, les Scouts, le Chœur 'Aah! Cappella' et l'Orchestre des jeunes de Westmount ainsi que d'autres participants viendront agrémenter la fête. Aussi, à ne pas manquer: le spectacle de clôture sur scène, Les plus belles chansons du Québec, avec Liette Lomez, Normand Perron et François Guy.

Les 23 et 24 juin, deux dates à inscrire à votre agenda cette année à Westmount! Info: 989-5226

Rimouski to
celebrate St. Jean Baptiste in
Westmount

Rimouski Mayor Michel Tremblay and two city councillors will be celebrating St. Jean Baptiste in Westmount this year. Westmount extended an invitation to its twin city to participate

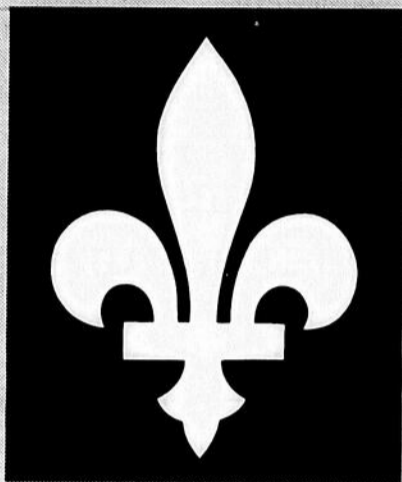
in the first-time celebrations of St. Jean Baptiste Day in our community. The Rimouski contingent will also include a jazz quartet to spice up the program.

Westmount Park will be the site for all the activities, beginning Wednesday, June 23 at 8:30 p.m. with a word from Westmount's first mayor, Eustache Prud'homme (personified by our actual mayor, Peter Trent), who will reminisce about Westmount 125 years ago. A huge bonfire will be lit, a tradition that goes back to

1638 in New France and there will be dancing and music during the evening's activities.

The following morning, Thursday June 24, St. Léon de Westmount Church will have a traditional mass at 10 a.m. and both St. Léon and St. Matthias' churches will ring in the festivities at 11 a.m. inviting everyone to Westmount Park for a fun-filled day. The organizing committee is finalizing the details, but there will be something for the whole family. The fire department will create a huge pile of bubbles to run through and you'll have the chance to win a prize for the most original, international or Victorian picnic. Various community groups, including the YMCA, Visual Arts Centre, Scouts, 'Aah! Cappella' Choir and the Westmount Youth Orchestra will provide entertainment for one and all. The day's activities will close on stage with Liette Lomez, Normand Perron and François Guy presenting the show 'Les plus belles chansons du Québec'.

This year, June 23 and 24 are two dates to remember! Info: 989-5226.



WMA announces 1999 executive

The Westmount Municipal Association has added five new directors to its executive for 1999, and another five long-serving directors have retired.

WMA president Doug McDougall announced the new lineup at the association's annual general meeting on May 25.

The new executive is comprised of McDougall, vice presidents Toni Cochand Braide and Kathleen Duncan, and secretary treasurer Diane Dubeau.

Newcomers are Jim Griffin, Peter Hall, Susan Lord,

Tom Richards and Derek Walker. They join returning members Geraldine Gahan, Maureen Kiely, David Mitchell, Charles Mappin, Melanie Lange Rose, Stephen Rotman, John Sancton, Don Wedge and past president Bridget Blackader.

Longtime members who have retired from the WMA executive are past president Stanley Baker, Andrew Cook Jolicoeur, Bernard Hogue, John Johnston and Jennifer Patton.

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RMR welcomes
new CO

BY PATRICK LEJTENYI

In an emotional ceremony Saturday evening, the Royal Montreal Regiment said goodbye to its commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Harry Hall.

Hall, 47, will go on to teach at the Command and Staff College in Kingston, Ontario as a reservist, while command of the regiment has been passed to Lieutenant Colonel George Petrolekas.

With tears in his eyes, Hall addressed the regiment and about 50 guests before symbolically handing the regimental colours to Petrolekas. The regiment cheered Hall and marched past him while a military band struck up jaunty, brassy tunes.

"I obviously have mixed feelings about leaving the RMR," Hall said after the parade. "I've been associated with this regiment for 30 years. I've seen enormous changes happen and to be a part of them was extremely gratifying."

Hall joined the RMR in 1969 as a private and rose through the ranks until he was commissioned as an officer. This was his second appointment as commanding officer, a post he held since 1996. He first served as CO from 1989 to 1992.

Petrolekas said he plans to make the RMR more visible to the city and increase its community participation. "I want the people of Westmount to know that this is their regiment. I'm hoping we can make the connection between the two stronger. I think both could benefit from a greater sense of involvement."

The new trend toward community interaction began Saturday afternoon, after the RMR's annual Church Parade to St. Matthias' Church on Côte St. Antoine Avenue. The regiment participated in the city's Family Day celebrations in Westmount Park before returning to the Ste. Catherine Street armoury for the evening's ceremony.

Besides changing commanding officers, the regiment also changed honorary colonels and lieutenant-colonels. Mayor Peter Trent, who had been honorary lieutenant-colonel since 1994, became full colonel. Trent has been an ardent supporter of the RMR for years and hopes to work closely with Petrolekas in boosting the regiment's visibility.

"I think it's very important that people outside the military system better understand and appreciate the regiment," Trent said.

(See page 5)



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Fire calls



From the fire hall

Sunday, May 23

12:47 a.m. 38 Oakland: Defective alarm.

Monday, May 24

2:09 a.m. 4998 de Maisonneuve: Alarm set off due to trouble on alarm panel. All in order.

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

2:47 p.m. 4476 Ste. Catherine: Fire alarm set off by someone smoking in fifth floor hallway.

10:48 p.m. 339 Victoria: Water leak from toilet damaged apartment below. Advised building administrator to have plumber and electrician attend.

10:56 p.m. 4557 Sherbrooke: Smell of gas traced to tenant using a strong drain cleaner to unclog drain.

Tuesday, May 25

2:38 a.m. Rear of 632 Victoria: Three wires down. Stood by as Westmount Light & Power attended to repairs.

2:37 p.m. 4360 Côte des Neiges: Report of bricks falling from abandoned building. Closed two lanes of the street and relocated bus stop. Used aerial ladder to remove loose bricks and advised building's owner of the hazard.

Wednesday, May 26

7:19 a.m. 4026A Ste. Catherine: Defective alarm on sprinkler system.

3:16 p.m. 3033 Sherbrooke: Report of a fire in roof turned out to be burnt motor on elevator. Found a haze and burning odour in building on arrival. Opened doors and windows to ventilate, and advised building super to have elevator repaired.

9:22 p.m. 4350 Ste. Catherine: Fire alarm set off by someone tampering with pull station at Westmount High School.

Thursday, May 27

12:00 p.m. 4000 de Maisonneuve: Report of two window washers trapped outside Alexis Nihon apartment building. They managed to gain entry

through a window prior to fire department's arrival.

Friday, May 28

4:19 p.m. 201 Metcalfe: Report of smoke from apartment turned out to be from a burnt bagel.

4:37 p.m. 5554 Robinson, Côte St. Luc: Cancelled en route.

6:01 p.m. 37 Lincroft, Hampstead: Cancelled en route.

7:44 p.m. 26 Ramezay: Water leak in basement caused by broken exterior water pipe. Cleaned up water with vacuum and advised owner to have plumber attend.

Saturday, May 29

1:12 a.m. 376 Redfern: Recycling bin on fire. Flooded contents with water. All in order.

7:55 p.m. 106 Sunnyside: Kitchen fire caused by pot of oil on stove. First Responder unit attended to owner's daughter, who suffered facial injuries. Extinguished fire with carbon dioxide extinguisher. Damage to kitchen and smoke damage throughout house estimated at \$20,000.

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PLAZA MONK



Rotary Club prepares for auction and garage sale June 4-5

Jim Griffin (left) and Ted Sancton spent most of Monday outside Westmount arena unloading semi trailers full of items collected by the Rotary Club of Westmount for its annual auction tomorrow night (7 p.m.) and garage sale on Saturday (9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.). Both events will be held at the arena

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Piano students to accompany pro bass singer

Students of the Westmount Piano Studio have been practicing hard all year, and this Saturday they will have the opportunity to display their skills alongside a seasoned professional.

Bass singer Luc Saucier—a chorister with l'Opéra de Montréal, the Montreal Symphony Orchestra and the Studio de Musique Ancienne de Montréal—will be accompanied by students from the Westmount Piano Studio during a special recital at 2 p.m. Saturday, June 5 at St. Matthias' Church, 10 Church Hill.

(Continued from page 3)

"The city and (the RMR) have been intimately associated for years and I would like to see this partnership continue."

For a while it looked like Trent would not be promoted to full colonel because of a federal government moratorium on promotions at the honorary level, but it went through after an eleventh-hour intervention by Westmount MP Lucienne Robillard on Friday afternoon.

The RMR was formed in 1914, just months before the outbreak of the World War I. The armoury was built in 1924 and is leased from the city for a nominal one dollar per year.

A small café will be set up in new passageway

(Continued from page 1)

The new link is a bright, glass-enclosed passageway at ground level on the east side of Victoria Hall. Current plans call for a small café to be set up in the area, and Trent indicated that the small courtyard just outside the link—now covered in gravel—will soon be landscaped with grass and fieldstones.

Many Westmounters have already had a first-hand look at the finished product, as Victoria Hall's open house on Saturday proved to be a popular part of Family Day.

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1st ad: Downtown, cute converted coach house, ideal condo alternative, low taxes. \$109,000.



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Just listed Beaconsfield: Waterfront prime location, move-in, lovely views. \$1,050,000.

Redpath St.: Spacious 3 bdrms condo, 1900 sq. ft. A/C, 2 balconies, garage. \$209,000

Westmount adj.: Lower duplex, 2+1 bdrms, woodwork, fireplace, fin. bsmt. Walk to metro. \$167,500.



Real Estate

By Reg Morden

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WHEN TO MARKET A HOME

Ten years ago, if you asked me which time of year was the best for selling a home, I would have answered, Spring and Fall. How things have changed. Today, variations in home sale activity from season to season are less pronounced. Now, short-term changes in mortgage interest rates (which affect affordability) are more likely to influence the market than any of Mother Nature's seasons.

Today's home buyer is much more attuned to the financial market than ever before. If interest rates drop, they are ready to capitalize on the opportunity. If rates appear to be headed upward, they are ready to lock in the most favorable rate.

In addition to fluctuating rates, most buyers are well aware of pricing. If a house is favorably priced, they will trudge through ANY weather to secure a transaction. If you are represented by an established, local Realtor, you can be assured that your home will sell within the normal time range, regardless of the season.

Children have always been a priority. Helping them heal or finding ways to ward off disease is worthwhile and wonderful.

Across North America, the single largest charity effort is called The Children's Miracle Network. In Quebec, it is known as Operation Enfant Soleil. It is an enormous success. Last year, more than \$100 million was raised for children's hospitals. A great feature of the program, is that money raised mostly stays local. In Montreal that means the Montreal children's and St. Joseph's are the beneficiaries.

RE/MAX Quebec is a charter sponsor. Our goal this year is \$400,000. Part of the proceeds, will come from a raffle. Tickets are \$10 with 4 decent prizes to be won. If I don't catch up to you on Greene Ave, at your doorstep or through my travels, you can phone me and / or send cheques, payable to Operation Enfant Soleil to my office. The draw is June 18th. You may not win but the kids will. And that's what really counts. Please call me.

Reg Morden, RE/MAX

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EDITORIAL

Une île, une ville... what swill

You have no doubt been reading of the possible mergers of dozens of Quebec's cities and towns in recent weeks, as proposed in the Bédard report. The report has become the Parti Québécois's new bible on merging Quebec's almost 1,500 municipalities.

Last week, Montreal Mayor Pierre Bourque pronounced on the issue: The island of Montreal should be one city. Presumably, he would like to be its mayor, probably because it will be the only place where his island-sized ego will fit if the 'Une île, une ville' idea comes to fruition. Bourque is so fixated on this idea, he has even made the argument to the Parti Québécois government that it is the only way to ensure that Montreal's population doesn't become—God forbid—bilingual. As for Westmount and other towns like it such as the Town of Mount Royal and Outremont, he believes they should be merged matter of fact.

Quebec Municipal Affairs Minister Louise Harel has become akin to God and citizens all over Quebec nervously wait as she sits on her throne, contemplating the best way to break the bad news to les Québécois and Québécoises.

Obviously, this will have a serious impact on many of the 29 municipalities in the Montreal Urban Community, but perhaps none more than Westmount. In three key areas, Westmounters will be the huge losers if forced into amalgamation:

Taxation. The mill rate, or amount levied on residential dwellings for taxation purposes, is currently \$1.35 per \$100 of valuation. This is the lowest in the MUC except for Senneville at \$1.08. The city of Montreal's mill rate, in contrast, is \$1.99, and this does not include all taxes for services. One city official said Montreal's real rate is more like \$2.25.

What does this mean? If you own a \$250,000 home, your taxes will go up from \$3,375 to \$5,625 — an astounding 67 per cent increase. If that doesn't make people want to burn Louise Harel in effigy, nothing will. On this basis alone, I expect Westmounters to vehemently protest in every possible manner the poorly-thought-out plan of merging into one or three or five cities, depending on who you listen to. What manner should these protests take? As Mayor Peter Trent has said and written in a number of his columns for us and *The Gazette*, he will let citizens know when it is time to become involved in a joint effort with the City. I encourage citizens to become as informed as they can on the subject by reading the daily papers, *The Examiner* and speaking to their local city councillor.

Services. Montreal city councillor Jeremy Searle recently said, "Westmount will have to close its library to reach the level of service of Montreal's libraries." There is no doubt Westmount is the envy of cities across Canada for its services, including the library. Just one look at the condition of Montreal's streets will give you an indication of the level of service Montrealers receive. Mayor Bourque, however, has made many recent visits to China so perhaps the teachings of Confucius will have an effect on him.

Bilingual status. If you don't think the PQ would like to eliminate all the bilingual towns like Westmount and Beaconsfield on the island of Montreal, I have some swampland in Florida for sale that you might like to buy. Wiping out anglophone municipalities: a winning condition if I ever heard one.

In conclusion, I paraphrase the great Winston Churchill: "Our aim? Victory. For without victory there is no survival."

— Leonard J Gervais



Bad planning led to health care crisis

How many times were we told that our health care system was the best in the world? How many times did the Quebec premier stand up in the National Assembly and everywhere else and say that Jean Rochon was the best Health Minister in Quebec's history? How many times did Jean Rochon, when he was Health Minister, boast that the whole health care reform was planned down to the smallest detail?

Today, there is a lack of general practitioners all over the province, including Montreal. Let's remember that this same minister put together an attractive voluntary retirement program that allowed hundreds of general practitioners and specialists to retire. He quite simply shot himself in the foot. There is now a shortage of both general practitioners and specialists. In fact, there is also a shortage of oncologists, anesthetists etc. And we know that even this summer there will be a shortage of nursing staff.

Remember that two years ago, the government allowed close to 8,000 nurses to retire. What's more, in 1996, Mme Marois, who was Education Minister at the time, required colleges to reduce the number of students accepted in the nursing sciences program by 50 per cent, under the pretext that in the year 2000 there would be a huge surplus of nurses! No, it is definitely not a surplus that we are experiencing,



MNA
Jacques
Chagnon

but rather a deficit of some 10,000 nurses between now and the year 2005. How could the government not have predicted the ill effects of all of these early retirements, not to mention the immediate effects on the quality of patient services? I'm thinking here of the numerous operating rooms that have been destabilized because the nursing staff retired before there was time to train the substitute personnel.

The real icing on the cake came this past week. From now on, some of Quebec's cancer patients will be sent to the United States for treatment. It is estimated that between 250 and 300 patients will be heading south to American hospitals. Let me remind you again that we often said that we had the best health care system in the world and that we would never want to have a system like the one in the United States. But, finally, we've come to recognize the failure of our system, or, at the very least, the shortcomings in our planning. Who was doing all this thinking on how, where and what? And I imagine that you have guessed that none of this will be done free of charge.

Obviously, the cost of sending each one of these patients south for treatment will be more than ten times the cost of treating them here. The cost of these treatments in Quebec is estimated at between \$1,000 and \$1,500, compared to a cost of between \$15,000 and \$17,000 in the United States. What a waste! Think about it, this is just more money that won't be going towards training new doctors, radiologists, or nursing staff. We can of course look for the guilty parties, but less time would be wasted simply by being a little more wary of the 'official' planners at the Ministry of Health. We need to quickly reopen the number of spaces available in medical faculties and develop assistance programs both for doctors who want to become specialists and for the training of nursing staff, at both the college and university levels. The same approach should be applied to radiologists and physicians. Not only will we need to train them, but we'll need to learn how to pay them properly—at least as much as what they would receive elsewhere—if we really want to keep them from leaving the province.

And for this, we'll have to become a richer society. To attain this goal, the recipe is simple: government policy must be centered around economic recovery rather than around secession.

The Westmount Examiner

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**Five Years Ago**

June 2, 1994:

CITY NIXES DEVELOPMENT: "A West Island developer wants the public to pressure city hall to reconsider his plan incorporating Westmount train station into an upscale seniors' residence. 'The city has turned him down,' said Mayor Peter Trent Monday when asked about the proposal by developer John Koubatis and architect Brian Burrows. Koubatis wants to build two six- to seven-storey buildings with 100-120 units on either side of the station, which would then be visible only from Victoria Avenue."

Ten Years Ago

June 1, 1989:

0 "Daniel Grenier, a former time-keeper at the city's Corporation Yard, was sentenced in Sessions Court April 26 to 12 months in jail after being convicted of defrauding the city of some \$58,000. He was also sentenced to two years' probation. The sentencing had been delayed several times for restitution purposes, according to city prosecutor John Donovan. None was believed made, he said. Thought the city had been reimbursed by insurance, the delay was intended to allow the accused to repay the insurance company."

Thirty Years Ago

June 5, 1969:

THE SUZUKI METHOD: "Dr. Shinichi Suzuki, master violin teacher from Japan, is going to conduct a string workshop, demonstrating his method for teaching string instruments to young children on Tuesday in Westmount High School under the auspices of the Westmount Schools Fine Arts Committee. The workshop will be open to the general public. The man responsible for bringing Dr. Suzuki to Westmount is Ted McLearn, 352 Metcalfe avenue, string teacher for the Westmount school system and a resident of Westmount for the past 22 years."

Forty Years Ago

June 5, 1959:

LITERARY LAURELS: "Governor-General's Awards were won by two residents of Westmount, who are both on staff at McGill University. Colin McDougall, Lansdowne avenue, registrar of McGill, was named winner of Canada's top award for fiction for his first novel, 'Execution'. The award for non-fiction was given to Prof. Joyce Hemlow, Atwater avenue, for 'The History of Fanny Burney'. She wrote the book in her spare time over a period of eight years."

Another busy year for Contactivity Centre

What happens in the privacy of one or more Westmount homes at least once every day of the year? Contactivity friendly visitors pay calls on isolated seniors living on their own, that's what.

These not-so-random acts of kindness occurred 390 times in the last fiscal year, to be exact. This you would have known if you had been among those present at Contactivity's annual general meeting held on May 20. Attendees who did get to hear such tidbits, as well as an intriguing after-lunch talk by Dr. Nick Steinmetz of the McGill University Health Centre, included Contactivity past chairman Connie Moisan (also on the Board of the CLSC Metro and current president of the Canadian Women's Club), out-going chairman Heather Case (Chateau Westmount), new chairman Sharyn Scott (doyenne of La Ligue on Victoria Avenue), new vice-chairs Andree Prendergast and Tom Shopflocher, continuing secretary to the board Westmount architect Jean-Eudes Guy, board members Barbara Bishop, Jennifer Madill and Gillian Hammonds and also Peggy Hyland, as well as many seniors who are members of Contactivity.

They also heard that friendly visits are just the tip of the iceberg. In total over 11,000 hours were given by members and by Outreach volunteers to keep the activities

Well...
Over 55
By Mary Stark



and services of the Centre running smoothly. A whopping 2,416 community meals were served at the Centre, mainly prepared by senior volunteers themselves. And that's not counting the 302 times in the year when a volunteer accompanied a senior to a medical or hospital appointment, or the 690 times volunteers made grocery shopping trips to help out housebound seniors. Or the 47 seniors living alone who received daily volunteer phone calls to check on their well-being every weekday year-round (through a service named, aptly enough, TeleCheck). Not to mention that community-minded businesses such as Supermarché Metro Fletcher at Victoria, Cafe Restaurant Victoria and The Kitchen Warehouse have gotten involved by supporting the 'Volunteer of the Month' program at the Centre.

And we haven't even got to the 428 seniors who took part in the dozen or so courses at the Centre in the past year, or the 393 participants on day-trip outings to places as far-flung as Mont Tremblant and Lake

Massawippi. Oh, and then there's the 'Friends in Deed' seniors' safety module in partnership with the Healthy City Project of Westmount, and the many seniors who participate in the weekly crafts group and the bridge group at the Centre.

When Sigmund Freud was once asked for his recipe for happiness, he replied "Love and work." Love (or at least congeniality), and work (or meaningful, productive activity) are what Contactivity is all about.

It's all about working towards goals small or large, keeping interested in life and making a difference in others' lives.

And so, in an era when depression and anxiety are among the most commonly diagnosed medical problems of older persons, Contactivity would seem to be all about something as corny and unquantifiable as happiness. Reaching for it, working for it, cultivating it, nurturing it, spreading it around.

Contactivity Centre is a non-profit community centre for today's seniors. It is supported primarily by The City of Westmount, Centraide, and the Régie regionale, as well as local donations. Contactivity is open year-round to anyone over 60, with a membership cost of \$10 yearly. Call 932-2326 to participate or volunteer.

Of sunshine, cars and dogs

BY BRIDGET BLACKADER

Thought you'd heard the last from me, hum? Well, so did I, until I remembered a couple of important summertime doggie concerns which I haven't mentioned.

Along with serving your woof no chocolate or bone-in poultry (the BBQ sauce remains a legitimate treat), cars and poles are big-time worries. Or could be, unless you consciously exercise your good common sense.

It all starts with sweat. While we have our entire skins as an interior temperature control mechanism and can sweat across the full extent of our bodies, dogs have only their tongues. This is very little in comparison to size. Relatively brief periods in full sun, even at temperatures we might consider simply balmy, can bring a dog to the edge of heat prostration.

So, leaving your woof in the parked car while you do your errands, albeit with a window open, is very dangerous. The interior temperature can climb above 100 F within minutes, and your friend can die minutes later. That's a shocker now, isn't it? On hot days, leaving the car in the shade ain't a great help either. The process just takes a little longer.

Just as risky—perhaps even more so, is taking your darling on a walking tour of errand-running. While you get brownie points for



Going to the dogs

some additional exercise and time together, these are removed when you leave Fido attached to a telephone pole or lamp standard while you nip inside for the wine.

First off, if he's in the sun, the overheating worry is real. The worse worry now, though, is kidnapping. Yes siree, every year dogs go missing from poles.

A car stops, a burly someone exits from the rear, cuts the leash with a sharp knife and tosses the dog in the back seat, throwing himself in after. Neither you nor your dog has much of a chance to react. The exercise takes maybe 20 seconds. Panic, elbowing your way through the cash line and hitting the sidewalk at a run will afford you nothing, not even a license plate number as the car disappears into the

traffic. While your woof may be in the process of acquiring a new home by unusual means, the sickening probability is that he's headed for a research lab. There is still testing on animals for all sorts of products, from floor cleansers to dyes and drugs. It's all horrible, often acutely painful, and eventually, the dog dies miserably. The labs ask no questions, and providers net about \$250 per animal.

There's no point in thinking your friend is mixed rather than purebred, that he or she won't go with strangers, that the folk on the street or the chap putting groceries into the car will help. It's not their responsibility, and they don't know the true owner from Adam (or Eve). The result remains the same: severe embarrassment, shame, guilt and the knowledge that you've sentenced your main cuddle to a shortened and brutal life.

Be savvy. On warm days, and especially hot ones, leave your woof at home. There he or she has shade, perhaps some breeze through an open window, a bare floor, and the fresh water you provided before leaving. This way you'll have someone to stargaze with, to play frisbee with, to read by the lake with, all summer long. And long may it last, for all of us. I wish you health, safety, and quiet summer joys.

Bridget Blackader is president of the Westmount Dog Owners Association.

Federalists have been too timid in their defense of Canada

To the editor:
"Federalists in Quebec must speak out more vigorously in favour of Canada in order to counter the sustained attacks of separatists against the federal government."

Who said that? William Johnson at the Alliance Quebec convention? No, have another try.

"Federalists have been too timid in their defense of Canada over the past years."

Haven't a clue? The speaker was Marcel Massé, Treasury Board president—a powerful figure.

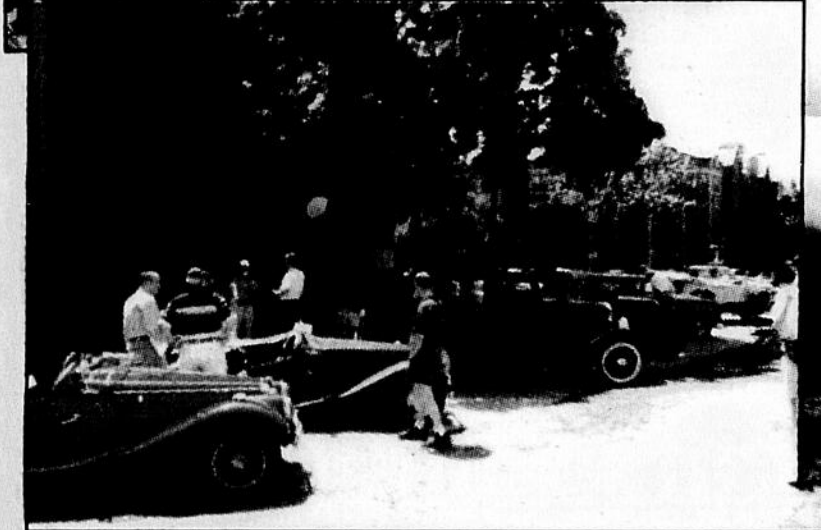
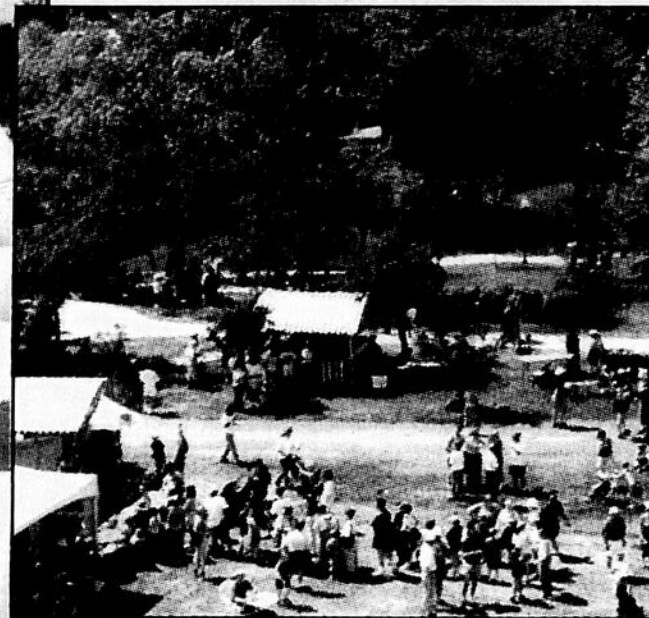
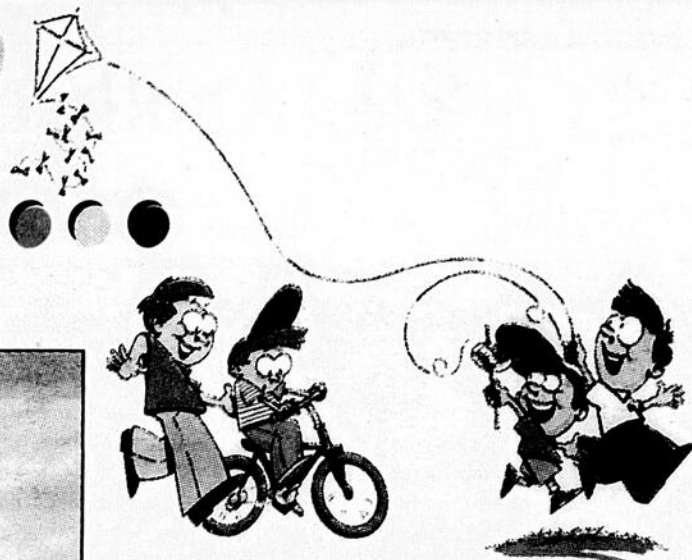
Did you read it in The Gazette? No. It was in the National Post, The Gazette's kissin' cousin.

Well, I guess newspapers can't report everything that happens in Quebec. Publishers are staggered when they check weekend overtime payments for reporters.

Edward W. Barrett
Kensington Avenue

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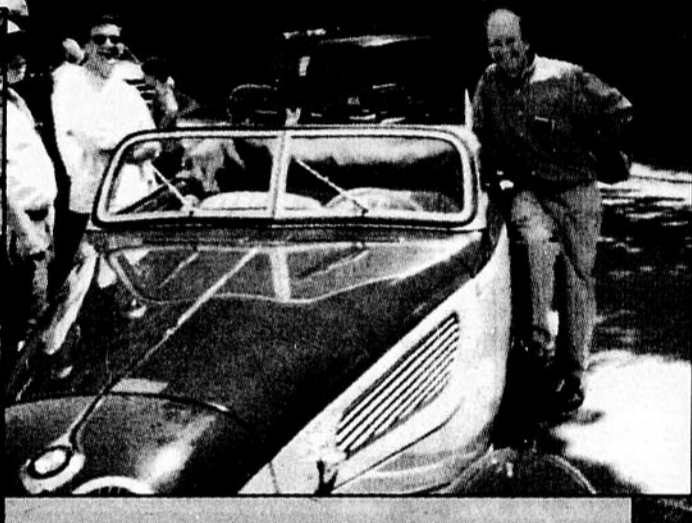
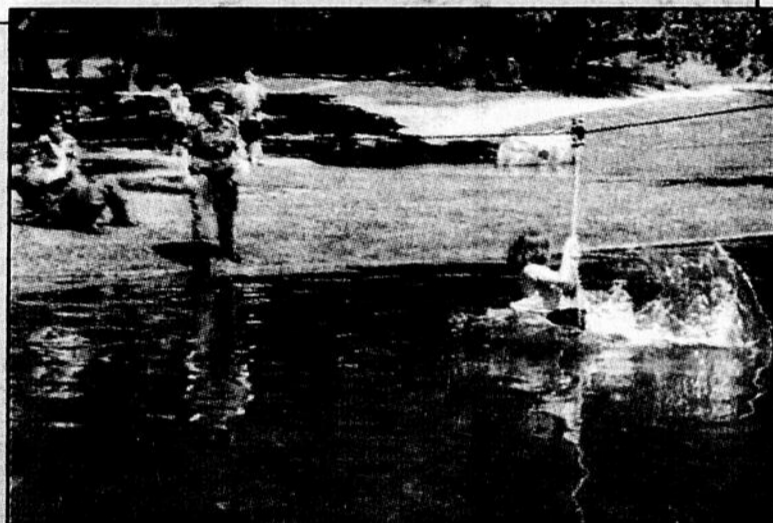
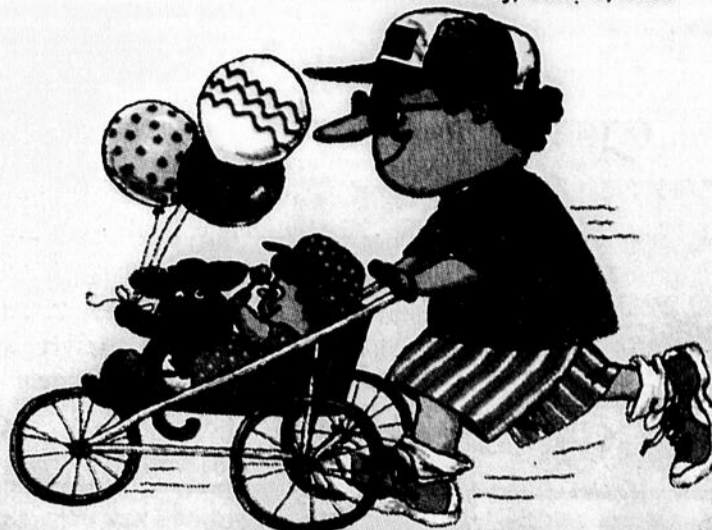
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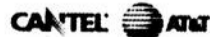
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WHS students revolt against violence

By JENNIFER M. ELLSON

With the media filled with reports of violence and the ever-present threat of copycat crimes, students at Westmount High School have decided to take action.

"Students said 'enough is enough,'" WHS principal Habza Shedlack said of her students' recent decision to take a firm stand against violence.

The tragedies involving high school students in Colorado and Alberta shocked many WHS students, making them realize the gravity of the situation. Several 'copycats' who called in false bomb threats to different Montreal high

schools only made WHS students more determined to do something positive.

In a show of solidarity, many students have started wearing white arm bands to express their outrage at recent events, and the school administration is supporting the students all the way.

A minute of silence was observed on several occasions over the past few weeks to commemorate the 15 Columbine High School students in Littleton, Colo., and a student of W.R. Myers High School in Taber, Alta., who were all gunned down by fellow students.

The WHS administration is also encouraging students to write poems, which they read over the intercom as a tribute to the massacre victims and their families.

WHS students condemn not only school violence, but also the ongoing war in Kosovo and other forms of violence such as child abduction. And since actions speak louder than words, they are doing something to help other organizations who are more experienced and equipped in dealing with violence.

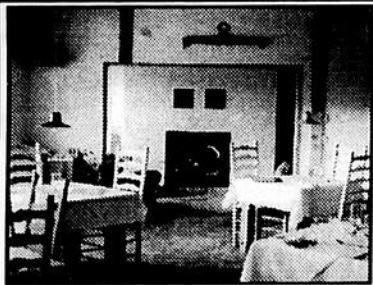
In April, upon hearing about missing 10-year-old Jolène Riendeau of Pointe St. Charles, WHS students and teachers conducted a Bowl-a-thon where the \$500 raised will be donated to the Missing Children's Network.

Students have also started a penny drive, placing a barrel in the school lobby to receive loose change. "No donation is too small," said C.J. Turner, a child-care worker and adviser for the student council that started the drive. Proceeds from the penny drive will be forwarded to the Kosovo refugees.

Parents are also backing the students in their protest against violence. On May 6, a concert was staged by both students and parents at the school. The money collected at that event has been added to the penny drive.

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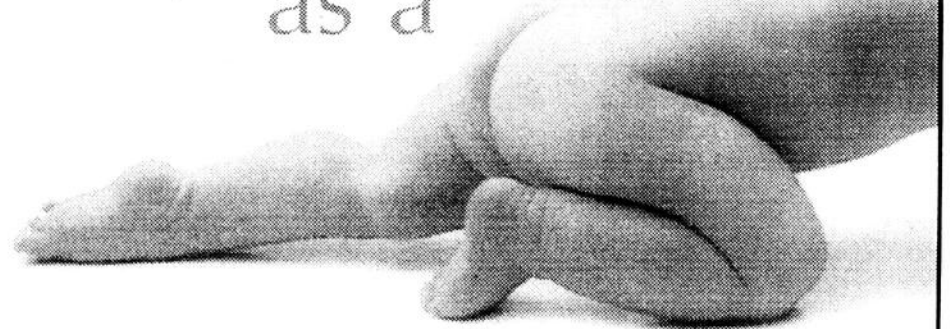
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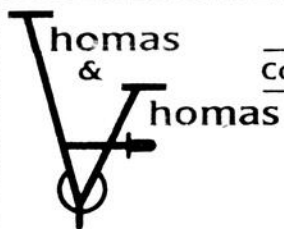
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The Annual Auction and Garage Sale is one of the major fund raising projects of the club. However it is more than that. It is the opportunity for the public to donate articles of value knowing that the Rotary Club will transform them into cash for a good purpose.

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Auction supports Shaar programs

A near-capacity crowd filled Congregation Shaar Hashomayim on Tuesday evening, May 18 for an auction to support the Shaar's Meals on Wheels and Open Gate Program for seniors.

Hand-painted ceramic plates and objets d'art, designed exclusively for this event, were sold by guest auctioneers Mayor Peter Trent and CJAD radio host Tommy Schnurmacher. Among the 43 artists who donated their work to the auction were

Helen Kogan, Susan Stromberg, Norman Laliberte and Gita Caiserman-Roth.

PHOTO AT RIGHT:

Gracing the May 18 auction at the Congregation Shaar Hashomayim were, from left: Mayor Peter Trent, Constance Medalsy, Tommy Schnurmacher, honorary patron Mildred B. Lande and chairman Diane Cohen.



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VAL-DAVID log house, 3-bedroom, just renovated, unique location, ideal for cyclists, \$750 weekly July / August (514)989-7650 (819)322-6321

320 Pets
TWO GREAT CATS: brother and sister adult tabbies, loving, social, healthy, fixed, accessories added, including floor-to-ceiling perch, (514)481-0490

390 Garage sales
MULTI house garage sale, on Wil- low Avenue, Saturday, June 5th, starting at 10h30

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605 Miscellaneous employment

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835 Miscellaneous notices

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Bulletin Board

(Continued from page 2)

A panel of cancer survivors and family members with a wide range of experiences will facilitate discussion on 'Surviving Life's Challenges'. To register, call 340-8255.

Head & Hands is seeking bilingual volunteers for reception work on Tuesday afternoons and weeknights. Experience and knowledge of youth culture are essential. For more information, call Sean or Sophie at 481-0277.

Christ Church Cathedral's Wednesday Summer Recitals continue with pianist Julien Le Blanc. Wednesday, June 9 at 12:30 p.m. Freewill offering.

End Prejudice? Skits and discussion with Sylvia and Sol Stipelman and friends. Monday, June 14 at 1:30 p.m. in the Creative Social Center of the Chevra Kadisha B'Nai Jacod Synagogue, 5237 Clanranald Ave. Info: 988-0907.

Women's morning yoga classes at the Queen Elizabeth Health Complex. Join in anytime. Info: Martha, 485-2182.

Auberge Shalom...pour femmes presents Concordia University Associate Professor Norma Baumel Joseph, who will speak on 'Breaking up the Home: Conjugal Violence in the Jewish Community' at its 10th Annual Meeting, June 28 at 7:30 p.m. in Kellert Hall, YM-YWHA, 5500 Westbury. Info: 731-0833.

The Shayne Gallery is exhibiting a bridal selection of paintings, art glass and ceramics. Recent arrivals: paintings by Mimi Matte and ceramic sculptures by Carole Bencherit. 5471 Royalmount Ave. Info: 739-1701.

Project 4-0 is holding a cocktail to benefit the Montreal Women's Centre on Wednesday, June 9 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Honorary Patron, Lise Thibault, Lt Governor of Quebec. Ogilvy Tudor Hall, 5th floor. Tickets are \$50. Use de la Montagne St. entrance.

The Montreal Health Press announces the launch of 'Birth Control Handbook, 30th anniversary edition' with Dr. Christabelle Sethna's presentation on 'Revolution and Evolution: A History of the Birth Control Handbook'. Wednesday, June 9 at 7 p.m. at Chapters Bookstore, 1171 Ste-Catherine St. W.

Galerie Jen-Pierre Valentin presents oil paintings from Herman Heimlich, Rene Richard, P.V. Beaulieu and M.A. Fortin. Tuesday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 1490 Sherbrooke St. W. Info: 939-0500.

National Council of Jewish Women. Maison Chesed House-Summer Travel Festival: Lake George Opera, Saratoga Ballet, Piggery, Lac Brome Theatres, Ottawa and Quebec City. Info: 733-7589.

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
THE MOUNT ROYAL TENNIS CLUB would interview possible bartender/service person for the summer operation. Please call for appointment at **488-2557**.

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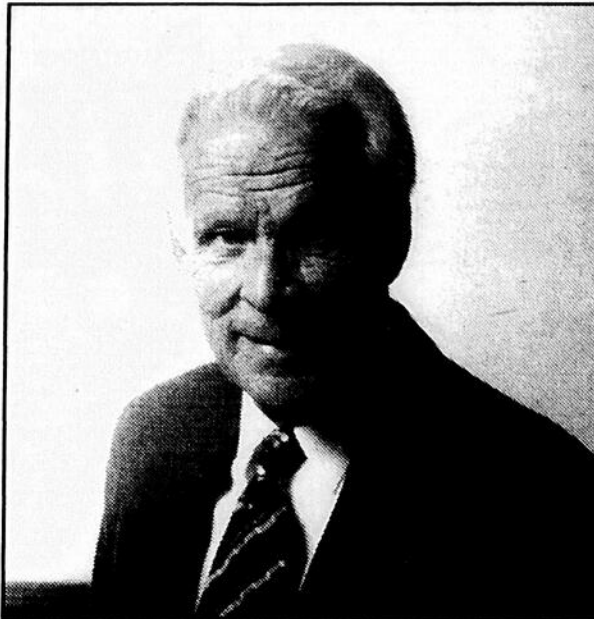
Asch to head local Ben-Gurion chapter

Lansdowne Avenue resident David R. Asch has been elected president of the Montreal Chapter of the Canadian Associates of Ben-Gurion University.

This is the latest in Asch's long list of accomplishments and community involvement, which began during his high school days when he joined B'nai Brith. He is currently on the board of directors of the Westmount YMCA, the Festival des Arts de St-Sauveur and the Reconstructionist Synagogue of Montreal. He has also served in various leadership capacities with Federation CJA and the Canada-Israel Children's Centres.

"I want to inform as many people as possible about the global, life-saving work in which the university is involved," the lifelong Westmounter said recently. "When I visited BGU last November, I was especially impressed by the dedication of its faculty and researchers and the university's many accomplishments and developments."

The Canadian Associates of Ben-Gurion University are part of a worldwide organization dedicated to raising funds for scholarships and research at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, which has campuses in Beersheva and Sde Boker, Israel.



Westmounter David R. Asch

Clean out your closets for the WHA and history

Spring cleaning is upon us, the moving season is approaching, and the Westmount Historical Association is (as usual) looking for mementoes, artifacts, souvenirs, letters—anything that might give future generations an appreciation of what made their city tick in the last century.

This is the time of year that thousands of us are wondering how to dispose of that boxful of photographs which just has no place to go, the old 'letters' file that you haven't looked at in six years, newspaper clippings of Westmount events, perhaps a framed award from a local competition back in 1960.

The association is now in the process of trying to rebuild Westmount's history of the past 125 years, and to learn how the community developed into one of the proudest neighbourhoods in Canada. At the same time, it is raising money to renovate the former Westmount Railway Station to become its new headquarters, meeting and exhibit room and archives.

Anyone who has anything which might relate to Westmount's history—now or 100 years from now—is encouraged to call 925-1404 and leave a message.

Words of wisdom

EDITOR'S NOTE: THE FOLLOWING WAS SENT TO THE EDITOR VIA THE INTERNET...

Wisdom: a few observations about modern life

1. I started with nothing. I still have most of it.
2. When did my wild oats turn to prunes and all bran?
3. I finally got my head together—now my body is falling apart.
4. Funny, I don't remember being absent-minded.
5. All reports are in. Life is now officially unfair.
6. If all is not lost, where is it?
7. It is easier to get older than it is to get wiser.
8. If at first you do succeed, try not to look astonished.
9. The first rule of holes: if you're in one, stop digging.
10. I tried to get a life once, but they told me they were out of stock.

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SUMMER TENNIS CAMP



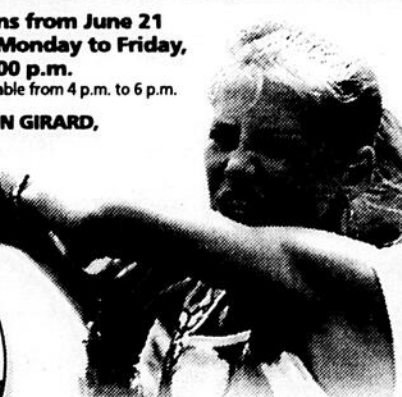
20 hours of tennis per week! plus
• SOCCER • BASEBALL • WALLYBALL • PING PONG • DODGEBALL • BASKETBALL • GAMES • CONTESTS •

Boys & Girls from 5 to 16 years old

Weekly Sessions from June 21 to August 27, Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Daycare services available from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Under the direction of ALAIN GIRARD, Tennis Canada Level III Coach.

Register now, our summer camps including the activities at Mohawk Park are not affected by the strike.



ROCKLAND SPORT

95 Gince Street, Saint-Laurent H4N 1J7 (corner Lebeau, opposite Rockland Centre)

(514) 332-9665



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