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24H



Sheldon "Tex" Shapiro says he's madder than a rodeo bull over a \$75 ticket, and vows to fight the City's controversial country music bylaw. See page 10.

Arena plans expand again

Barry C. Martin

Despite pleas from neighbours to scale down its current plans, the City of Westmount has announced significant additions to the \$25 million-plus arena-pool renovation project.
Among the latest ideas to be tabled are a gourmet restaurant on site, valet parking services, and riding stables on the current site of the Lansdowne Avenue dog run.
"There are many possibilities," said one member of the planning committee, who asked not to be named. "We have also been discussing the idea of laying out a large croquet pitch on the roof."
Rumours that the budget would also allow for the expense of a string quartet to play by the poolside on weekends could not be confirmed by press time.

Continued on page 11

Special April Fool's Edition

They say you shouldn't believe everything you read, and that's especially true of this, our first annual April Fool's edition, where we get to poke fun at Westmount and ourselves. As you'll see, all content is obviously satirical and not meant to be taken seriously — except for the advertising, which is real. Enjoy!

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LOCAL NEWS

Pillar portrait irks Boudjikanian



Raffy Boudjikanian cannot understand how his face ended up on a highway pillar near Westmount.

piece of graffiti. I was stunned."

The image depicts a young man wearing a gas mask, and appears to be protesting pollution from the trains that pass just a few metres away — but the face is unquestionably Boudjikanian's.

He recently checked out the pillar for himself, and still cannot believe the resemblance. "I was speechless," he said. "My first thought was, 'Who would do this to me?'"

Legal action is out of the question, Boudjikanian said, because it would probably be impossible to track down and identify the vandals responsible. In the meantime, all he can do is live with the notoriety and hope that the Turcot Interchange comes down sooner than later.

"But, on the other hand," he added, "it is nice to have your portrait in a public place. It's too bad it was painted directly onto the concrete and will have to be destroyed. I would like to bring it home and hang it in my garage."

Barry C. Martin

Correction

In last week's Examiner, we erroneously ran a correction that wrongfully corrected the spelling of a name that was properly spelled in the first place. We wish to retract that correction and apologize to Ms. Mia Culpa for any embarrassment this may have caused.

News that the Turcot Interchange will soon be dismantled has come not a minute too soon for local resident Raffy Boudjikanian, whose face somehow ended up painted on a concrete pillar supporting the elevated highway just south of Westmount.

"My phone began ringing a few months ago," said Boudjikanian. "My friends were telling me that they saw my face on a

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OPINION

Vive le difference!

Back in 1996, when Westmount MNA William Holden relinquished his Alliance Quebec seat and crossed the floor to join the Parti Québécois, the outcry across this community was loud and clear. The unthinkable had happened — Westmount was officially a PQ-held riding!

The sky fell in that day! Pierre Trudeau turned over in his grave!

The Parti Québécois, which is dedicated to separating from Quebec, has never been popular in Westmount, in fact when PQ leader René Lévesque renamed Dorchester Boulevard after himself, Westmount Mayor Mae Cutler steadfastly refused to change the street signs on the east side of Atwater Street. With all due respect to local author Hugh Garner, there has never been any communion between the 'Two Solitudes' here.

Until now, that is.

Generations of Westmounters have been raised from childhood to adultery in an English-only community, but a recent observation that French has all but overtaken English as the lingo franca of Westmount should come as little surprise to anyone who has studied the names in the Examiner's monthly list of real estate transfers. Month after month, the majority of home sales show people with English names selling to people with French names. This means that sooner or later, those with French names will outnumber those with English names, all the stuffy Westmount stereotypes will be broken, and there is even a chance that the main telephone line at Westmount City Hall may one day be answered in French.

Furthermore, a respected economist has pointed out that dropping the letter U from Westmount would save several dollars per year in printer's ink.

Political resistance to the francais-ization of Westmount has always been popular here. The late Pierre Bourque was sent packing when he tried to incorporate Westmount into his 'Big Island, Big City' concept, which would have made Westmount a borough in a French-speaking megacity. Luckily, that never happened!

Instead, Westmount became fully bilingual naturally, all on its own. We didn't need legislation; we didn't need referendums... all we needed was to answer nature's call and let it take its course, and voila — a modern city where mutual respect runs rampant and everyone is respectful of each other's linguistic heritage.

We can only reiterate the words of World War One General Charles de Gaul, who once famously belched from the balcony of Westmount City Hall, "Vive le difference!"

"Okay, I'll bite... How many upwardly mobile young WASPs does it take to change a lightbulb?"

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A big room with a view

To the editor:

I would like to add my two cents to the un-neighbourly dogfight going on in what the below-Sherbrooke crowd likes to call "Upper Westmount." There has been a lot of squabbling over roof extensions and blocked views up here in our neck of the woods, and it is not about to stop — because I now have in my grubby little paws a nice fat permit from the City of Westmount that allows me to build not only one but TWO storeys above my existing non-heritage abode.

And if my neighbours are worried about the loss of their view, wait 'til they find out that my architectural plans call for floor-to-ceiling windows and, although I don't see how it's anybody's business, I often lounge around the house wearing nothing but patent leather shoes and a bow-tie. That'll give them a view!

And why shouldn't I do it? I spent years scratching and clawing my way to the very fringes of my profession in order to afford this joint, and now, three alimonies and two malpractice suits later, I'm finally able to spruce the place up bit to impress the babes.

If any of my neighbours don't like it, they can get a permit of their own. If not,

they can kiss by big fat... Well, you get the idea.

*Dr. H.Z. Hackenbush
Edgehill Road*

Nuts to this!

To the editor:

Having chanced upon scraps of the local paper discarded rather unceremoniously in public refuse receptacles, here and there as it might be, I have followed with no small degree of interest recent accounts of the ongoing controversy surrounding the so-called illegal practice of feeding indigenous wildlife in local parks, and I feel compelled to voice my utter contempt for this grossly unfair and misguided legislation.

While our elected officials and law enforcement officers have stated their positions most eloquently and in no uncertain terms, it is my opinion that they have, in their obvious exuberance and self-congratulatory righteousness, happened to overlook that which is without doubt the most important factor in this unfortunate equation — the actual members of the wildlife population themselves.

As a proud native of Westmount, I must admit to a fondness for the diet and lifestyle incumbent to this excellent community.

Rather than existing on the bland fare of my rural cousins, I for one prefer to gnaw on a peanut, imported from sunnier climes, the core of a jolly apple, or — most delectable of all — a salty piece of popcorn, tossed to me in the spirit of kindness and charity by a fellow Westmounter.

I say, let the legislators grub through the rancid topsoil for tiny, unsavoury morsels. I demand to continue enjoying the lifestyle to which I have become accustomed.

*Sparky
Squirrel, Westmount Park*

Send us your letters

The Examiner welcomes letters from readers on issues of local interest. Letters should be sent to larsenw@transcontinental.ca (preferable), by fax to 514-484-6028 or by mail to Letters to the Editor, The Westmount Examiner, 345 Victoria Ave. suite 508, Westmount, Qc. H3Z 2N2. Only letters bearing the writer's full name, address, and a daytime contact phone number will be considered for publication. Handwritten letters will not be accepted. Letters may be edited for length and/or clarity.

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Old NEWS from the archives 1935-2009

Ten Years Ago
April 2, 1999

ORDER OF CANADA: "Examiner columnist Don Wedge recently added a new accolade to his list of honours — the Order of Canada. The self-confessed city council junkie was awarded the country's top honour for volunteerism, following several years of attending every city council meeting in Westmount and in most other municipalities across the island. Wedge was reportedly very late for the induction ceremony in Ottawa, having stopped along the way to sit in on town council meetings in Alexandria, Maxville, Moose Creek, and Casselman."

Twenty-Five Years Ago
April 2, 1984

FIREHOUSE BAN ENDS: "It was all a big misunderstanding..." That's how Examiner publisher John W. Sancton describes the 27-week-long ban on Examiner reporters from the Westmount Fire Station which led to a bitter 'freedom of the press' crusade by the newspaper. The ban ended this week when the Chief of Protective Services angrily clarified his position. 'I never said (Examiner reporters) couldn't come into the fire station,' he said. 'I only said they couldn't use our washroom. Examiner people are notorious for not washing their hands afterwards and leaving the place in a mess. It's disgusting.' He also pointed out that the fire pole would also be off limits to Examiner staffers in the future."

Forty-Five Years Ago
April 6, 1964

BOMBS AWAY: "Westmount City Hall was once again the target of an FLQ bomber this week, but this time police were able to catch the culprit without much trouble. The would-be bomber said he planned to plant an explosive device in the basement of the building, then phone the main switchboard to warn occupants and give them time to evacuate. But when he reached the nearest phone booth and realized he did not have a dime, he delivered the bomb threat in person — providing City Hall staff with a vivid description for police, who arrested the man on Sherbrooke Street five minutes later. 'Gosh... and to think they want to separate!' a bystander was heard to exclaim."

Seventy Years Ago
April 4, 1939

GRANNY WARS: "Two constables from the Westmount police force were released from hospital with only slight injuries this Tuesday past following an altercation of alarming proportions involving several elderly Westmount matrons, some of whom were said to be visibly intoxicated, according to a group of unwitting witnesses which included several rather startled children, after being summoned to quell the fracas, which reportedly developed when an unruly group of older ladies climbed aboard the No. 24 tram as it stopped to take on passengers at the intersection of Sherbrooke street and Victoria avenue, and began striking the driver and several of their fellow passengers with handbags, umbrellas and other accessories."

Misspelled graffiti concerns authorities

Dropkick Murphy

Westmount Public Security officers are adding a new weapon to their arsenal in the ongoing war against graffiti — a dictionary.

Following several complaints from local schools, PSOs are now keeping a sharp eye out for spelling mistakes in the graffiti sprayed or drawn onto public and private property around the city.

"It's becoming a real problem," PSO Lise Ouellette told The Examiner this week. "Some of the spelling is absolutely atrocious. And if it remains in view of our students — especially the more impressionable kids in elementary school — it could have a negative effect on their overall literacy."

The most common error, Ouellette pointed out, is the repeated use of the letter Z in place of S, as in 'gangz' or 'boyz'. "And there are many, many others," she said.

Public Works crews are kept busy cleaning up the vandalism, but some graffiti

is left for several days before they get around to it. In such cases, PSOs have been issued felt-tipped markers and are instructed to correct the misspellings wherever possible.

"It's just a temporary measure," Ouellette explained. "But at least if it has to stay visible to the public for a period of time, it will be spelled correctly."

On a losing streak

Station 12 police are again warning residents to be careful when leaving their cars unattended, following a rash of vehicle break-ins in lower Westmount.

The latest victim, according to a police spokesman, was a hockey fan who stopped at a store on her way to the Bell Centre. "The woman left her two tickets for that night's Canadiens game on the dashboard of her car, in plain view," he said. "She returned a few minutes later to find her windshield had been smashed — and was shocked to find not two but four Habs tickets on the dash."

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Hardy to speak at Atwater Library



Varilynn Manderstaay
**Around
Westmount**

The Atwater Library is expected to draw a capacity crowd next Wednesday afternoon when Victorian novelist and poet Thomas Hardy drops by to discuss his life and work.

The author of such literary classics as 'The Return of the Native' and 'Tess of the d'Urbervilles' will speak at a luncheon event in the upstairs auditorium, and will later take questions from the audience. Hardy's topic will be 'My Inspiration for the Wessex Novels', and will cover the period of work

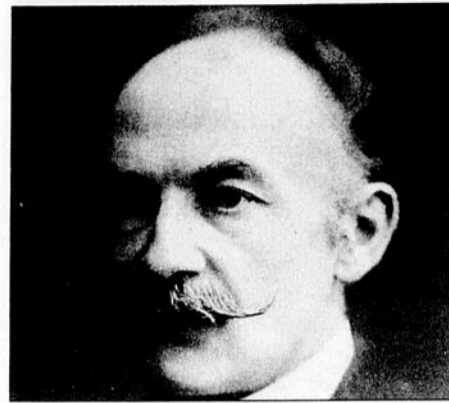
from 'Far From the Madding Crowd' (1874) to 'Jude the Obscure' (1895).

"We are very pleased that Mr. Hardy has agreed to come and speak to our members," says Library Director Lynn Verge. "He is a giant figure in English literature, and we look forward to his talk."

This free event begins at 12:30 p.m. next Wednesday, and is open to the public.

Rotary cancels garage sale

The Rotary Club of Westmount will not be holding its popular garage sale and auction in the Westmount arena this spring. The sale has been an annual tradition in Westmount. It has attracted thousands of browsers over the years and has raised many thousands of dollars for the community service group.



Thomas Hardy

But now it looks like the big sale has fallen victim to its own success. It seems that anything worth selling has already been sold.

"We really hoped that we could hold another garage sale this year, but we had a very difficult time collecting items to sell," a Rotary member (who asked not to be named) told me this week. "We normally pick up thousands of items from people throughout the year, but this year we couldn't collect anything more than a 'Hands Off My City' button and an old Scrabble board with the letter Q missing."

Hopefully, the big Rotary garage sale will be back in its rightful home in the arena next year, with plenty of more quality items to sell.

Hey, Abbott!

Classic movie buffs will be out in full force next Friday night when the Westmount Film Society presents a screen-

ing of the black-and-white 1940s comedy 'Abbott & Costello Meet Duplessis'.

The plot follows John Abbott and Frank Costello as they travel to Quebec City in search of a lost maple syrup recipe, and through a series of hilarious misunderstandings find themselves recruited as Union Nationale goons, intimidating voter and stuffing ballot boxes on election day. The supporting cast of players includes the great Boris Karloff as Premier Duplessis and Nigel Bruce as Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King.

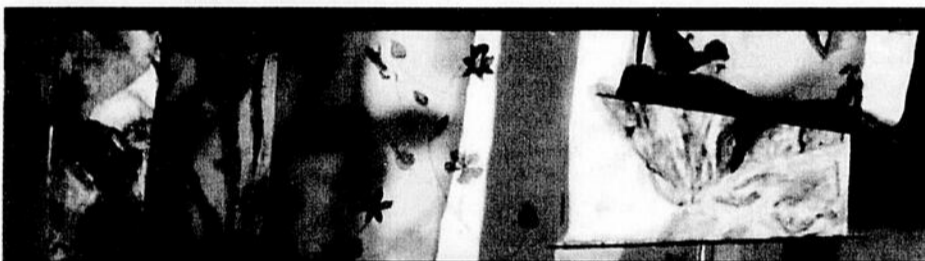
The movie will be presented in 3D, and audience members will be given a pair of special glasses to view the film. "This is the only way to see La Grande Noirceur," says Film Society president Amber Berger. "We'll be ducking tortière and other flying debris. It promises to be great fun."

Eine Kleine Kazoomusik

23 Kazoos, a rag-tag group of amateur musicians from Westmount, will be mounting their all-Mozart concert next week in Victoria Hall. All of your favourites will be on the programme, from The Magic Flute to Elvira Madigan — all played on the kazoo!

"The kazoo is a vastly underrated instrument," says 23 Kazoos leader Alberto Kranberger, who has been practicing on his own kazoo since childhood. "We (the members of 23 Kazoos) are currently lobbying the government to attain official woodwind status for the kazoo." After next week's concert, the ensemble is planning to tackle the works of Gilbert & Sullivan, as the 19th-century British operetta is a genre close to

Continued on page 7



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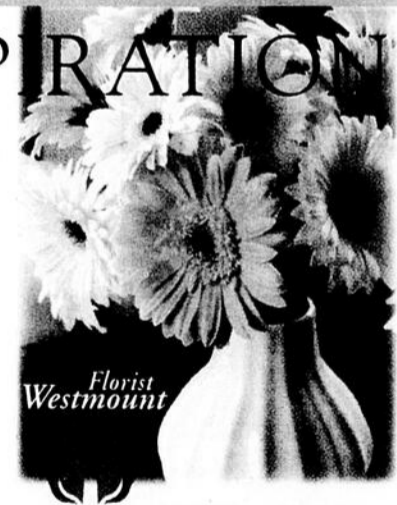
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Our own little Einstein



Dante Randall

PARENTING

Well, it happened. Just when we thought everything was going smoothly, our 4-year-old daughter comes home from daycare and drops a bombshell.

"Mommy, Daddy... I'm a genius!"

Of course my wife and I share a good laugh at that, but before we can even ask her where she came up with the word, the phone rings and I find myself speaking to the daycare administrator.

"Some of the children took IQ tests for fun this afternoon, and your daughter scored 180. Do you know what that means?"

"She's a genius?"

Overnight, our lives change drastically. Next thing we know, we're sharing the house with our own little Albert Einstein,

but with a much smaller nose.

"Daddy, did you know that the Treaty of Paris was signed in 1763?"

"No, I didn't."

"Did you know that an isosceles triangle has two equal sides, consisting of two equal angles?"

"No, I guess I didn't know that either."

"Daddy, did you know that the square root..."

"No! Now will you please shut the #@*! up and let Daddy watch the wrestling?!"

Then comes the shopping. No more Toys 'R Us — now I'm standing in line at Best Buy, trying to wrangle a laptop with enough RAM to choke an elephant, and looking for a calculator with more buttons than a NASA control panel.

Bedtime stories have also become very interesting. No more Dr. Seuss for her. Now it's James Joyce's 'Ulysses', complete with in-depth discussions about symbolism and the socio-economic conditions of turn-of-the-century Dublin. What worries me is that she wants to tackle 'Finnegans Wake' next,

and I can't find the CliffsNotes for that one. Gotta run. Her Highness is currently

obsessed with finding the very last decimal of Pi, and she's calling out for another juice box.

Continued from AROUND, page 6

Kranberger's heart. "I'm especially looking forward to transposing the libretto from HMS Pinafore for the kazoo," he says. 23 Kazoo performs Eine Kleine

Kazoomusik next Saturday night at Victoria Hall. Admission is \$25 at the door, part of which will help fund the Movement to Raise Awareness and Credibility for the Kazoo.

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Emmanuel Lewis, now of Lewis Avenue fame.

City renames Lewis Avenue

The street sign will stay the same, but Westmount city council has passed a resolution that modifies the toponymic origins of Lewis Avenue.

"We thought it would be nice to honour Emmanuel Lewis," Mayor Karin Marks said following a special lunchtime council meeting last Wednesday. "You remember him — he played that cute kid Webster on TV in the 1980s."

Marks added that although the now 38-year-old actor has no specific connection to Westmount — in fact it is doubtful if he ever even visited here at all — council voted unanimously in favour of the motion. The proposal was originally tabled

with the intention of honouring a prominent African American to mark the election of U.S. President Barack Obama, but only if it could be done without changing any street signs.

Metcalf Avenue resident Gerald Glass, the only citizen in attendance at Wednesday's meeting, pointed out during question period that if council's intention was to honour an African American, perhaps boxer Joe Louis would have been a better choice. "I do not know this Webster person," Glass said. "But of course everybody has heard of Joe Louis, the Brown Bomber."

Councillor John de Castell was quick to

point out that the different spelling of the boxer's name would have meant changing the street sign, thus defeating the purpose.

The naming of Lewis Avenue has long been a matter of contention among residents. Despite persistent rumours that the street was originally named for actor Al Lewis, who played Grandpa on *The Munsters* TV series back in the mid-1960s, the origins of the name actually go back considerably further. In fact, the street was originally named for comedian Jerry Lewis, and was dedicated in his honour on the occasion of his professional break-up with partner Dean Martin in 1956.

Teen fakes his own bar mitzvah

As a grade 8 student at Selwyn House School, Westmount teen Tyler Simpson has been invited to several of his classmates' bar mitzvah ceremonies over the past two years — and he loved every one of them.

"They were awesome — the food, the music, the presents! I couldn't wait to have a bar mitzvah of my own," the

13-year-old told the Examiner last week.

Simpson was so determined to "become a man" that he refused to let the fact that is not Jewish stand in his way. So with the help of a few Jewish classmates and a credit card borrowed from his father's wallet, Simpson set about planning an elaborate reception that included a full

catered buffet and two klezmer bands.

"It was the klezmer auditions that tipped us off," said Tyler's mom, Claudette Auger-Simpson. "I must say we were a bit suspicious when we received a receipt for the deposit on the hall, but when we started spotting bearded clarinet players running across our lawn at all

hours of the night, we really knew something was up."

Officials at Congregation Shaar Hashomayim were reportedly "not amused" by the incident, while a spokesman for Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom said, "You have to admire the kid's chutzpah!"



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Modern-day Gulliver presents video of travels

Stanley Baker's adventures are well-known throughout Westmount, but last fall the world traveller outdid himself. Instead of riding an elephant in Nepal or tracking tigers in the jungles of Burma, the de Maisonneuve Boul. resident retraced a portion of Gulliver's Travels, visiting Lilliput and Brobdingnag on a once-in-a-lifetime cruise.

"It was quite an interesting voyage," Baker said this week. "Lilliput was absolutely delightful. The people are so tiny — no more than six inches tall — but they are gracious and welcoming. You can be sure we got a much warmer welcome than Lemuel Gulliver did!"

Baker will be presenting an illustrated account of his Swiftian adventure later this month at the Westmount Public Library. His presentation will include video footage he shot of the Lilliputians and Brobdingnagians.

"It was a bit intimidating when we first arrived in Brobdingnag, as the people are so tall," Baker recalled. "But I must admit that I was also a bit disappointed — I was expecting them to be quite a bit taller. When I mentioned this, one of them reminded me that people on the island had indeed shrunk a bit since Swift's day."



Stanley Baker.

Both islands are currently promoting their respective tourist industries, and luxury hotels are popping up everywhere, Baker noted. "The beach at Lilliput where Gulliver was staked to the ground is a major

tourist attraction, and although Brobdingnag is no longer a monarchy, the royal palace at Lorbrulgrud, where Gulliver was presented to the King and Queen, is preserved as a national historic site."

But Baker also worries that increased tourism could lead to an inflated market, where crowds of impoverished natives would be elbowing each other to sell cheaply made trinkets to unsuspecting

tourists — a very dangerous situation for all concerned.

"And I shudder to think of how prostitution with tourists might work in either place," he added.

• Stanley Baker presents 'Retracing Gulliver's Travels' on April 31 at 7 p.m. in the Westmount Public Library, 4574 Sherbrooke St. W. Admission is \$75 at the door.

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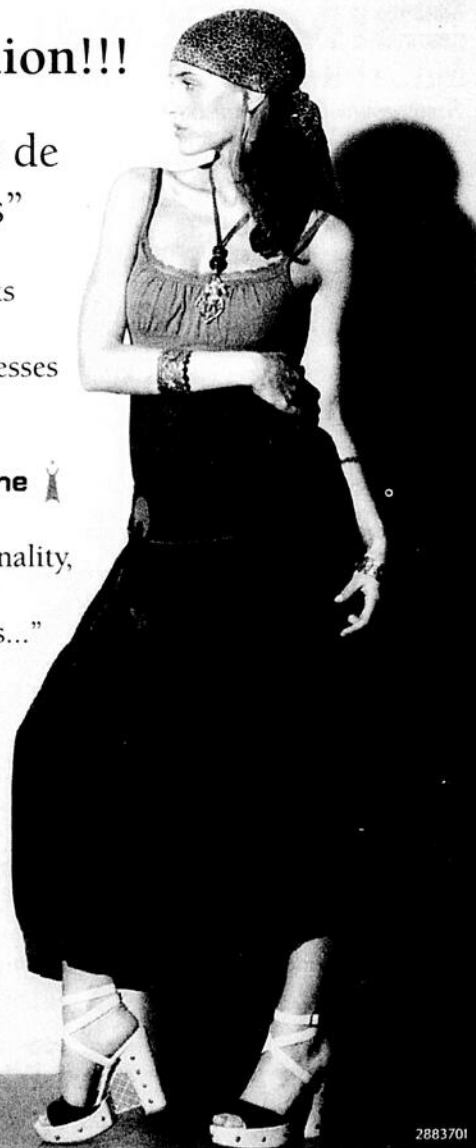
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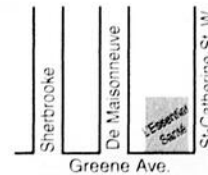
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Resident stung by country music bylaw

Barry C. Martin

Westmounter Sheldon "Tex" Shapiro is livid over a \$75 ticket he received from Public Security last weekend — and he plans to fight City Hall all the way.

"It was a sunny, early spring afternoon, so I decided to wash a winter's worth of dirt

off my truck," said the Grosvenor Avenue resident. "I popped in a CD and got to work in my driveway."

That was when the familiar yellow vehicle pulled up and Shapiro suddenly found himself holding a ticket for contravening the City of Westmount's bylaw banning country and western music from all public places.

"It wasn't for washing my truck or anything like that," Shapiro explained. "It was for playing a Slim Whitman album outside! I haven't been this pissed off since I saw 'Brokeback Mountain!'"

The controversial bylaw, which was passed in 2005 under then-Director General Bruce St. Louis, forbids the playing of any form of country and western music, either recorded or live, in any situation where it may be heard by a neighbour or the general public. The original intention, as stated in Borough Council documents, was to promote Westmount's "high-brow" image by outlawing "low-brow" music.

"You can blast Beethoven, the Beatles or Black Sabbath, but if you play Shania Twain in Westmount, you may be fined," St. Louis said at the time.

While plans to extend the ban to include hip-hop, rap and "anything with bagpipes" were scrapped following the municipal demergers in 2006, the anti-country legislation has remained in force and has since led to the modification of several local programs, including Contactivity Centre's line dancing classes for seniors.

Shapiro is not the first resident to run



Tex Shapiro: Westmount's country music outlaw.

Public Notice

Ministère des Transports du Québec

RECONSTRUCTION OF THE TURCOT COMPLEX IN MONTRÉAL, MONTRÉAL-OUEST AND WESTMOUNT

This project consists of reconstructing the complex formed by the Turcot, De La Vérendrye, Angrignon and Montréal-Ouest interchanges and the sections of highways 15, 20 and 720 that connect to the Turcot complex. These infrastructures, which are used by an average of 280,000 vehicles a day, have been in service for more than 40 years and require reconstruction.

The Turcot complex is primarily located in Montréal's Sud-Ouest borough as well as the Côte-des-Neiges/Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, Lachine, Verdun and LaSalle boroughs, and the cities of Montréal-Ouest and Westmount.

This notice is to inform members of the public that they may consult the impact study and other project documents beginning on March 24, 2009. These documents are available for consultation at the following locations:

Bibliothèque Georges-Vanier

2450, rue Workman
Montréal, Québec H3J 1L8
Tél. : 514 872-2001
Free Internet access

Hours of operation:

Sunday: 12 pm – 6 pm
Monday: 10 am – 6 pm
Tuesday and Wednesday: 1 pm – 9 pm
Thursday and Friday: 10 am – 6 pm
Saturday: 10 am – 5 pm

Bibliothèque l'Octogone

1080, avenue Dollard
LaSalle, Québec H8N 2T9
Tél. : 514 367-6376
Free Internet access

Hours of operation:

Monday to Thursday: 10 am – 9 pm
Friday to Sunday: 10 am – 5 pm

Documents are also available for consultation at the documentation centres of the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement (BAPE):

Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM)

Bibliothèque centrale, Pavillon Hubert-Aquin
Section des publications gouvernementales
1255, rue Saint-Denis, local A-M100,
Montréal, Québec H2X 3R9
Tél.: 514 987-4392

Hours of operation:

Monday to Friday: 8:30 am – 10 pm
Saturday: 11 am – 5 pm
Sunday: 12 pm – 5 pm

Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement

Édifice Lomer-Gouin
575, rue Saint-Amable, bureau 2.10
Québec City, Québec G1R 6A6

Hours of operation:

Monday to Friday: 8:30 am – 12 pm
1 pm – 4:30 pm

Further information may be obtained by calling 418 643-7447 or 1-800-463-4732 (toll-free) or by visiting the BAPE web site at www.bape.gouv.qc.ca.

INFORMATION SESSIONS

The Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement will be holding the following information sessions:

Monday, April 20, 2009, from 7:30 pm
Centre récréatif, culturel et sportif St-Zotique
75, square Sir-Georges-Étienne-Cartier, Montréal

Tuesday, April 21, 2009, from 7:30 pm
Buffet Il Gabbiano, salle Octogone
1550, rue Lapierre, LaSalle

Any individual, group or municipality may submit a written request for a public hearing on this project to Line Beauchamp, Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks, no later than May 8, 2009, at the following address: Édifice Marie-Guyart, 675, boul. René-Lévesque Est, 30^e étage, Québec City, Québec, G1R 5V7.

March 30, 2009

This notice is published by the ministère des Transports du Québec in accordance with the Regulation respecting environmental impact assessment and review (R.Q., 1981 c. Q 2, r.9).

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afoul of the law. Even city councillor George Bowser was issued a warning in 2006 after he inadvertently played a distinctly "countrified" chord progression on his guitar while performing with his daughter, Jeanne, at Family Day, and last year a family on Belmont Avenue received a visit from PSOs while watching the movie 'Coal Miner's Daughter' with their front windows open.

"This is an oppressive law that should not be on the books," said Shapiro, a well-known country music aficionado who works as a corporate accountant by day. "If they want a real showdown, they've got one! I'll fix them — and the horse they rode in on!"

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Madoff buys Summit home

Add one more name to the long list of well-known Westmounters: Bernard Madoff.

The controversial American businessman, who is currently in jail for embezzling millions of dollars from many high-profile investors, is believed to be eyeing a quiet retirement in Upper Westmount.

Ponzi Investments Inc., an American company listed among Madoff's many seized assets, has been named as the buyer of a "prominent" home on Westmount's posh Summit Circle, Examiner real estate columnist Andy Dodge reported this week. He added that although the exact address cannot be made public until the sale is officially registered at City Hall, the home is well-known as one of Westmount's most expensive properties.

The sale, said to be in excess of \$8 million, was made through a local Westmount real estate agent whose name cannot be published because she no longer advertises in The Examiner.

Although American legal experts agree that Madoff faces more than 100 years in prison, sources at Ponzi Investments Inc. have confirmed that the 70-year-old New Yorker plans on moving to



Future Westmounter Bernard Madoff

Westmount when he gets out.

"Bernie wants to spend his twilight years drinking Molson and cheering for the Habs," said Ponzi CEO Martha Phelps Claypool, who added that Madoff put aside an entire day's worth of embezzling to buy a private loge in the Bell Centre, "for his retirement."

But on Summit Circle, many people are vehemently opposed to having Madoff in their neighbourhood.

"I don't want to see him around here,"

said landscaper Jacques Caron.

"I hope he burns in hell for what he did," said plumbing contractor Napoleon Larose. "Even if he gets out, he should not move here."

"If I meet him, I will hit him until he bleeds," vowed Lani Ordonez, a nanny on nearby Lexington Avenue.

Real estate analysts and economist agree that Madoff is not the only American

looking for a safe financial haven in Canada.

"There was a time when Vietnam draft dodgers saw our country as a popular refuge; now we're seeing more and more American businessmen bringing their money north of the border," said economist Denis Therrien. "We say, hey, come on in — and bring your money! In these tough economic times, who are we to refuse them?"

Continued from ARENA PLANS, page 1

Arena Michael-Deegan

Part of the new plans also includes the official name of the new complex. Instead of the generic Westmount Arena, the planning committee has voted to take a page from Cote St. Luc's playbook and name the new arena-pool complex in honour of the current Sports & Recreation director. Much the way the CSL's Eleanor London Library was named after the head librarian at the time, Westmount city council has decided to name the new arena after Mike Deegan.

"Mike is a perfect choice," said architect Mildred Leblanc, a key member of the planning team who, though she asked not

to be named above, we have decided to name after all. "Mike loves getting out on the ice himself, and I believe — but don't quote me on this — he is the first director of Westmount's sports program who can actually skate backwards."

Council is also said to be weighing the possibility of naming some aspect of the project after Gary Ikeman, the local resident who has been following the process very closely and has offered criticism along the way.

"We're not sure what we can name after Gary, but we're working on it," said Leblanc. "One thing is for sure — if we go ahead with our plans to build a pedestrian walkway over Ste. Catherine Street, Gary's name will be all over it!"



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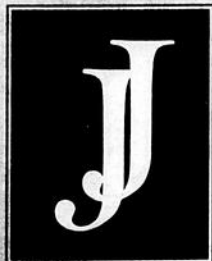
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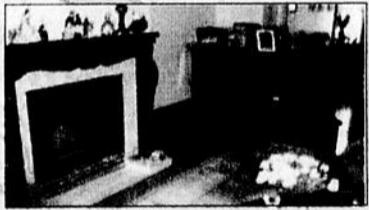
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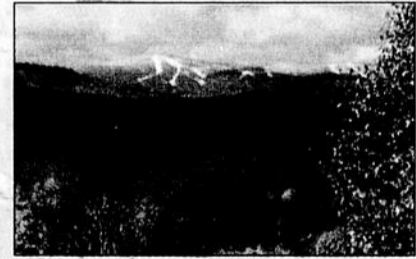
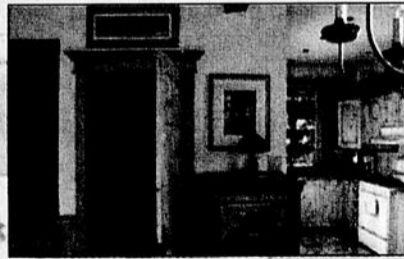
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Trent about to release debut CD 'Westmount Skyline'

Former Mayor Peter Trent may have disappeared behind the curtain of private life, but he recently confirmed long-standing rumours that he is about to re-emerge — and will be bringing it all back home as a recording artist.

Trent's first CD, 'Westmount Skyline', is scheduled to be released by Sony Music later this spring, and it promises to show Westmounters another side of the well-known politician and demerger activist.

"It's sort of a self-portrait in words and music," the freewheeling Trent told the Examiner this week. "My back pages were



The cover of Peter Trent's debut album, due out next month.

filled with ideas over the years, so now I've put them down in the studio."

Backed by former Beatle Ringo Starr on drums ("He must have needed the money," Trent quipped) and current city councillors John de Castell and George Bowser on guitar and bass, Trent has put together a double-length album featuring such songs as 'Highway 401 Revisited', 'Tangled Up in Blue (Make That Red) Tape', 'Positively Sherbrooke Street', and 'Just Like Tom Thompson's Blues'.

He also sings frankly about the demerger fight in 'When Harel Freezes Over', and even pays tribute to old Hollywood musicals in 'Meet Me in St. Louis's Office'.

The album is set to be released on May 1, and Trent is booked for several live appearances in and around Montreal — with more and more dates added each day. "This may turn out to be somewhat of a never-ending tour," he said. "But it promises to be great fun."

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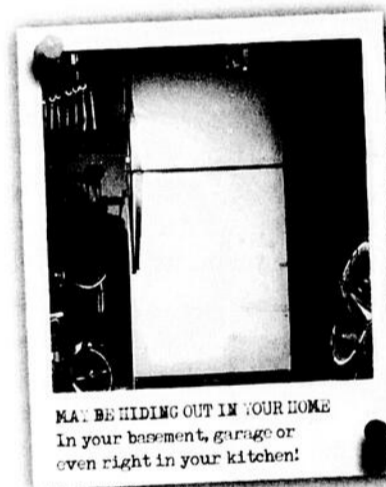
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From left to right are Lynn Lauzon, nursing director, Annette Rudy, executive director, Susan Bloom, nurse manager.

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Local seniors to perform 'Oh! Calcutta!'

One of Westmount's community theatre troupes is currently auditioning new members to perform in its most ambitious production to date — and interest in the project has been unprecedented.

The amateur thespians are seeking actors to perform in their upcoming production of 'Oh! Calcutta!', the avant-garde theatre piece from the late 1960s. And if the line-ups outside Victoria Hall are any indication, their open auditions must be going very well.

But members of the group tell a much different story.

"Our auditions are attracting all kinds of attention," said Martha Corey, who has been acting since 1952. "Every time we put out a casting call, dozens of people show up. We have a hard time keeping track of everyone. The funny thing is, most of the people who show up are just there to watch. I don't understand it."

"We've had a lot of men coming in, a lot more men than usual," noted Sally Evans, who is in charge of casting the play. "A lot of men wearing glasses, for some reason."

"It is, of course, a musical, so we're hoping to attract as many talented singers and dancers as we can," Corey added. "But instead, few people are interested in performing. They just want to watch the auditions! I've never seen anything like it."

Evans emphasized that there are still several parts open, despite all the interest in their auditions. "If you want to be a part of a great cast, in a nice play — I think it's about India or something; I haven't read the script — please give us a call or come out to our next audition, this Saturday afternoon at Vic Hall. 'Oh! Calcutta!' is scheduled to open at the end of May, and we'd love to have you on board with us!"

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Cutler to play Napoleon in major bio-pic

He has played a crazed Beethoven, an inept Shakespeare professor, and a wide variety of characters on television, stage and film, but now Westmounter Keir Cutler is ready to tackle his biggest role yet — Emperor Napoleon I of France.

The local actor has signed to play the title role in a big-budget bio-pic to be directed by veteran French filmmaker Abel Gance. The film is to be Gance's long-awaited remake of his own 1927 silent epic, which has long been hailed by critics and film historians for its groundbreaking cinematic technique.

"When Abel called me to audition for the part, I didn't hesitate," Cutler said. "He is one of my all-time favourite directors, so to work with him is a dream come true for me."

At six feet six inches, Cutler is considered the perfect choice to play the role of the Little Corporal, who is said to have stood just under five feet four inches in his stocking feet.

The Canada-France production is



Keir Cutler brings a towering presence to the Napoleon legend.

scheduled to begin shooting this summer in Quebec City, with the Plains of Abraham doubling for the battlefield at Waterloo. Many of the interiors will be shot in Montreal, at Westmounter Mel Hoppenheim's extraordinary Cité du Cinéma facilities. Exterior scenes set in Elba and Ste. Hélena will be shot in Laval.

Though Cutler is the only confirmed cast member so far, Celine Dion's office has stated that the Quebec diva is "very interested" in playing Josephine and has even been practicing the line "Let them eat cake!" at every available opportunity.

In preparing for the role, Cutler said he is eating a lot of snails, drinking Napoleon brandy, and most importantly, keeping one hand tucked firmly in the breast of his jacket.

"Napoleon was one of the biggest personalities of the 19th century," he said. "He was a hero to some, and a villain to others. But above all he was basically an idiot — and that's how I intend to play him."

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Local hero Alberta Oxley is Westmount's Olympic hopeful.

Westmount skier goes for the gold

When Strathcona Avenue resident Alberta Oxley first strapped on a pair of skis to accompany her kids down the gentle slope of nearby Murray Hill Park, she had no idea it would lead to a trip out west — all the way to the 2010 Vancouver Olympics!

The 42-year-old mother of five was recently named to the Canadian Olympic downhill ski team, and has already started training for the big event.

"I'm totally overwhelmed," Oxley told The Examiner this week. "I've only been skiing for a couple of years, so this is quite the honour."

Though she admits to a certain apprehension over the prospect of competing against women half her age, Oxley said her biggest challenge will be making it down the mountain without wiping out — and a recent trip to Whistler, BC, confirmed her worst fears.

"It was friggin' scary!" she exclaimed, adding that the sheer height of the mountain and its steep slopes are a far cry from Murray Hill. "I really wasn't expecting it to be so huge. Those skiers go really fast!"

Oxley's husband, Dan, is her biggest supporter. "Alberta will do fine," he said. "She's got a lot of heart and doesn't fall



down nearly as much as she used to. As long as there's a comfort station nearby with plenty of hot chocolate and cake, she won't let us down."

Part of Oxley's training will be to shed 40 pounds, which she plans to do over the coming summer.

"I'll be jogging in Westmount Park on a weekly basis, and we have already decided to eliminate pizza Thursdays from our family menu... I know I can do this," she says with unbridled confidence.

And if all goes to plan, by this time next year there will be at least one Olympic gold medal on the Oxleys' mantelpiece to prove it.

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Sports & Rec claims pogo champ

There are eating contests, and there are eating contests — but it takes a real man to consume 175 pogos in half an hour.

That's exactly what Bruce Stacey accomplished this past weekend in a feat that has attracted the attention of the Guinness Book of World Records, which has a category entitled 'Corn Dog Consumption.'

The long-time coordinator at Westmount's Sports & Recreation Department just shrugged modestly when asked about the trophy he received at the competitive eating meet at the Pierrefonds arena. His only comment was, "I'm still a bit thirsty."

"It was the most amazing thing I've ever seen," said Sports & Rec Director Mike Deegan. "I mean, 175 pogos! You have no idea how many that is until you see them all set out on a table. My stomach was turning at the sight of them, but Bruce just went in there and gobbled them up in 30 minutes, one after the other."

"It was disgusting, but at the same time it was somehow beautiful," added colleague David Lapointe.

Stacey says he plans to defend his title this summer at the International Corn-Dog Eat-Off in Peoria, Illinois.



Pogo-eating champ Bruce Stacey.

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Barry C. Martin

The champagne corks were flying around the Westmount Examiner's Victoria Avenue office last Thursday following the announcement that the local newspaper's daily website has been named the best in its category by the North American Publications Association (NAPA).

"For its outstanding contribution to the fabric of its community, as well as its unflagging devotion to covering local issues in a fair and concise way, The Examiner received our top marks overall," stated the NAPA press release announcing the 2008 winners of its annual excellence awards.

"The content of this website is unbelievably diverse and interesting," said John Di Francisco, one of several judges. "I don't live in Westmount — in fact I've never even considered visiting such a dull place as Canada — but from surfing this exciting website, I feel like I know that city very well."

It was also pointed out that The Examiner site was commended by judges for its regular use of long, fancy words and not making a big deal about it.

In topping last year's nominations, The Examiner beat out 487 other newspaper websites across the continent, including the Brainerd (Minnesota) Advertiser and the heavily favoured Walla Walla (Washington) Weekly Express, which placed second and third, respectively.

All judges were tested for sobriety before being issued the nominees' website addresses.

"Never mind Quebec, never mind Canada — we beat out all other newspaper websites across North America, including the States and Mexico!" a jubilant regional manager Louis Mercier announced shortly upon receiving the news. "I'm very proud of our Westmount team."

Mercier added that The Examiner's employees will be receiving substantial salary increases as a result of the award.

New on the shelves

The following titles have recently been acquired for the Westmount Public Library.

For kids

- Curious George and the Electric Fence
- The Big Book of Medical Oddities
- Fido Buys the Farm
- Sarah's Eight Stepmothers
- Nobody Poops — Just You, Freak!

For adults

- I Won't Eat This Crap! Cooking for the Dysfunctional Family
- ADHD: A Parent's Guide to ... Hey, What's on TV?
- The Idiot's Guide to Quebec Politics
- Strangers Have the Best Candy: A Jaded Teen's Guide to Survival in Contemporary Society
- Stay the Hell out of Westmount: The Pierre Bourque Story
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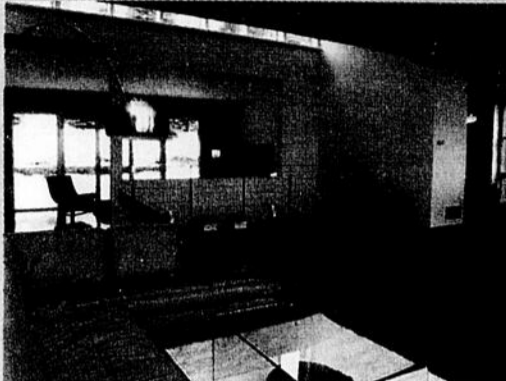
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Fabulous 4 bedroom semi-detached home with designer pool and deck. Contemporary style with classic features, beautiful wood floors, finished basement and garage. Quiet street close to Monkland Village, Villa Maria, and Victoria Village.
\$765,000



WESTMOUNT ADJ. Walk to Beaver Lake 2721 Hill Park Circle

Lovely 3 bedroom townhouse on the mountain and close to Beaver Lake. Beautiful floors, cozy kitchen, finished basement, heated driveway, renovated with lots of sunlight. Close to the city but situated in a country setting, ideal for nature lovers and sports enthusiasts.
\$849,000

and live

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Marie Sicotte

Affiliated Real Estate Agent Groupe Sutton Centre-Ouest Bkr.

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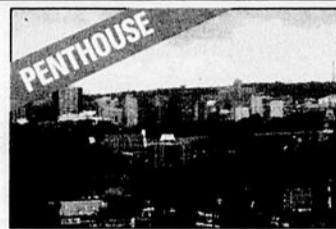
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CARRE DU MUSÉE: Executive 3+1 bdrm townhouse w/superior finishings, cathedral skylights, C/A, garden, garage. \$899,000



ADORABLE WESTMOUNT: townhouse tastefully renov. & centrally located. (Min. 1 yr. lease) Must be seen! \$5,000/mo or \$6,000/mo furnished



ATWATER MARKET/CANAL: sunfilled 2 storey condo w/private roof terrace, fireplace & 2 garages. Opportunity+! \$499,000



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EXQUISITE LE CHATEAU
Spacious beautifully renovated apartments. 2-3 bdrms.
\$619,000 up or
RENTALS \$3,600 - \$4,400/mo



WESTMOUNT ADJ.

Traditional home in very sought after area, 4+1 bdrms, 3 baths, garage and garden with wonderful potential. \$679,000.

MARTHA TSADILAS 514-249-2749



WESTMOUNT

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LAC HUGUES WATERFRONT

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MARIE-THÉRÈSE LACROIX 514-703-1660



2 PROSPECT

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Ideal location for professionals, seconds from Downtown core. \$479,000

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