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honoured for
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Westmount's Novice Wings score overtime victory - Page 9

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Tobaggans, tuques
and a ticket
to ride!

Winter adventurers Gregory Barriga and Simon Virasith took advantage of a sunny Sunday afternoon to discover Westmount Park by toboggan. Once the sun had set, there wasn't a bump that the two hadn't skidded around, faceplanted into or ramped off of. (Photo credit: Peter Braul)

Prévosts launch luxury condo project

WAYNE LARSEN

There were smiles all around last Wednesday as Sotheby's real estate agents Jill and Joan Prévost hosted an elegant 5 à 7 reception to officially launch the luxury condominium

project slated for the corner of Greene Avenue and de Maisonneuve Boulevard. Construction is set to begin this spring, with the demolition of the existing building that currently houses the 5 Saisons grocery store. It will be replaced by 1250 Avenue Greene, a six-

storey condo complex of which the Prévosts are currently selling units — and both are pleased with the level of interest in the project so far. "We have a few reserved already, so that's good," said Joan Prévost. "And there are more who are interested."

As guests crowded the basement reception area of the current 5 Saisons building, studying floor plans and artists' concepts of the completed project, Jill Prévost expressed her appreciation for Mayor Peter Trent, who was also in attendance. Continued on page 3 >>>

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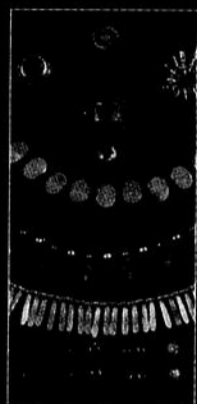
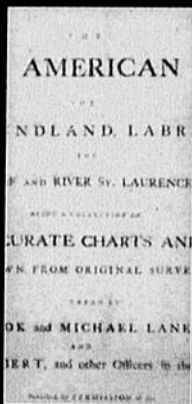
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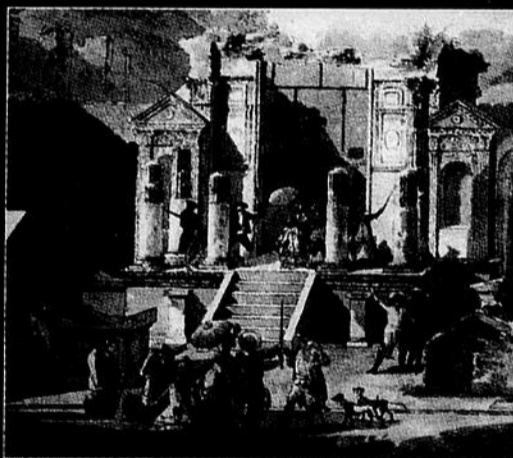
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Local buildings honoured for architectural heritage

WAYNE LARSEN

Two Westmount buildings have been recognized for their architectural merit and restoration by Operation Patrimoine, an island-wide initiative to encourage the preservation of heritage buildings.

Mayor Peter Trent and city councilor Cynthia Lulham made the announcement on Jan. 19 at city hall, where representatives of the two properties — one residential, one commercial — were presented with commemorative plaques.

Designer Richard Ouellette and architect Maxime Vandal were recognized for their restoration work on the 140-year-old cottage at 70 Rosemount Crescent. The familiar brick home with the steeply pitched roof and gable windows was completed in 1870 by John Young. Informally known among generations of local residents as Gate Lodge, the house underwent extensive renovations under the careful supervision of Ouellette and Vandal, who replaced windows and did much restorative work to the building's façade. The

work was carried out within the guidelines established to preserve the building's original character.

In the commercial category, Westmounter Brian Cytrynbaum's office building at 4094-4104 Ste. Catherine St. was recognized for recent renovations that respected and preserved the original decorative details.

"This is a real trésor caché," Trent said of the four-storey brick building facing Wood Avenue. "It's very nice that (Cytrynbaum) took the trouble to bring it back to its former glory."

The building was designed by architect J.E.G. Daoust and completed in 1931. It currently houses local businesses TNT and Java U, among others.

Ouellette and Vandal were on hand at city hall to accept their award from Trent and Lulham, who was involved in her capacity as commissioner of parks and urban planning, while Claudia Cytrynbaum attended on behalf of her husband to accept the award for the Ste. Catherine Street building.



Brian Cytrynbaum's commercial building at 4094-4104 Ste. Catherine St., built in 1931. Photo credit: Wayne Larsen



Mayor Peter Trent and Ramco Development president Jacob Attias look over an artist's concept of the new luxury condo project to be built on the corner of Greene Avenue and de Maisonneuve Boulevard. Photo credit: Peter Braul

Prévosts launch luxury condo project

Continued from page 1

Trent stepped in on behalf of Westmounters last year to keep the project alive and convince parent company Metro Inc. to keep the 5 Saisons store open after its imminent closure was announced.

As a result, Metro Inc. ended up signing a 20-year lease with Ramco Development, the company that owns the property. The 5 Saisons store will close during construction of the new building, but will reopen on the ground floor when the project is completed. Construction is estimated to last about 16 months.

"He was instrumental in this; he made this happen," Jill Prévost said of the mayor. "Peter Trent is the reason we're all here today. We really want to thank him."

Among the many others also in attendance were Westmount real estate expert and Examiner columnist Andy Dodge, Ramco Development controller Rachel Moscovitz, Sotheby's International realtor Anne-Marie Turcotte, and Jacob Attias — president of Ramco Development and one of the key figures in the construction of the 1250 Avenue Greene condo project.

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Using social media to de-construct disinformation



TOULA FOSCOLOS
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I, like many Westmount residents I'm sure, have been following developments in Egypt and Tunisia closely these past few weeks, as the crisis deepens in the former country and hope appears in the latter.

Relying heavily on Al Jazeera's coverage to follow the developments in Egypt, I was angered to find out, over the past weekend, that President Mubarak had shut down its operations, jailed its journalists and confiscated its equipment.

But this is an interesting new world we live in. Dictatorships can no longer function in a bubble and social media networks, as seemingly innocuous and everyday as Twitter and Facebook, proved that, if used correctly, can topple brutal regimes and instigate revolutions.

In the short amount of time that Facebook has been around, it has become the go-to place to post a gripe, start a protest, a petition, expose a lie and is altering the character of political activism, and in some countries it's even starting to affect the processes of democracy itself. Author Jared Cohen calls this "digital democracy" and it's a force to be reckoned with.

Shelly Palmer, the host of NBC's Universal's, *Live Digital with Shelly Palmer*, a weekly television show about working and living in a digital world, recently pondered this very interesting question: "Can any traditionally organized government withstand the ideological forces of a technologically empowered proletariat? Call them bloggers, textmobs, tweetmobs or simply publishers, everyone in Egypt has a voice – and no matter how the government tries to silence them, in the Information Age, information will find a way."

She's right. In the past, those in power often controlled the dissemination of information, but today, the internet (even with its limitations and its potential for falsehoods) has offered a place to "de-construct disinformation presented by government and corporate PR firms" as one friend aptly described it to me. Journalists (and politicians, as well) know that information is the true currency of our age.

Technology has allowed information to transcend any government-imposed bounds and to allow the "great unwashed" as Shelly Palmer puts it, to be able to clearly and easily share their differing points of view. Whether one is trying to decipher what is going on around them, on a municipal, national and international front, it pays to pay attention to websites, pod casts and Twitter updates.

These are scary times for spin doctors... Every decision/statement/plan of action is being scrutinized, analyzed, examined and dissected with a fine-toothed comb. And that's a good thing for democracy.

day, I somehow found myself on Windsor Avenue - much to my car's utter dismay! Perhaps I'm missing something here and there's a specific reason why the street is in such dismal condition (if so, someone please enlighten me), but the bumps and cracks on that street were so terrible they actually served as naturally-occurring speed bumps! No one could possibly drive quickly on that street and not destroy their car. And while the potholes I've seen lately on Sherbrooke and Ste. Catherine are the responsibility of the City of Montreal, being that they're major commercial arteries, there's no denying that the upkeep of small residential streets like Windsor Avenue are the sole responsibility of the City of Westmount. What gives?

Letters

Oh, the arena!

To the editor:

Regarding "Council's Real Mandate" by Larry Klepper, Westmount Examiner January 27, marked as Advertisement... I admit that the points brought forth by Mr. Klepper reflect my own thoughts on this issue.

And yes, I am prejudiced.

I still distinctly recall that Montreal distinguished itself in the world in having the first male mayor to have a baby!

I have worked on many heavy industrial projects; some in difficult terrain – swamps, limestone caverns, etc. All were accomplished, but the costs were correspondingly higher.

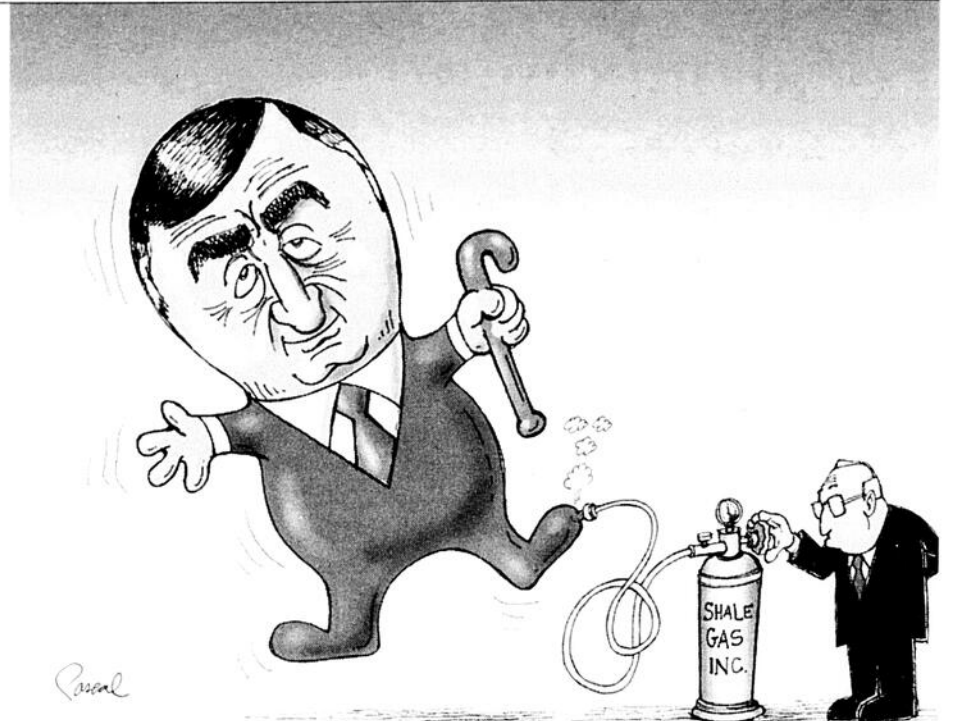
Also, I am recently retired which I enjoy greatly. So the fear of having to go back to work in order to pay higher taxes may skew my thinking.

Alfred Edel
Victoria Avenue

Hockey arena — let's move on

To the editor:

Westmount residents have already paid



from their own pockets the \$20 million "grant" from the provincial and federal governments through various taxes.

The governments are merely returning the cash to the residents to help with the rebuilding of the arena complex. Communities throughout Quebec are receiving amounts for various projects to help stimulate the economy as we emerge from the recession. For the city to reject this "grant" out of hand would not be doing what is best for the community, which is the mandate of the elected major and city councillors. It would be regarded by most residents as an example of extreme altruism, but not in our interest. An analogy would be the residents on our street rejecting the plans of the city to fix our deteriorating sewers and repaving our crumbling street (it is really awful).

What is not clear to me and perhaps to other residents are the financial differences in renovating the existing arena and pool in comparison to building the new underground complex. I was under the impression, perhaps mistaken, that the net \$12 million capital requirement from the city is similar to that of renovating the existing complex. If this is the case, our residents should be indifferent to the property tax increase which would be the same under either proposal. I recommend the Examiner print a small, simple chart comparing the new arena and pool versus renovated the existing one. It should include current estimated capital costs, annual operating costs and likely property tax increases. Let's terminate the financial discussion and move on. If we don't trust our elected officials on the numbers than we have other more serious problems.

With respect to supposed "back room deals" on funding, the city should confirm that private institutions providing funding would not have preferential scheduling over other Westmount public schools and that parents with their children would have access to convenient free skating time as they have now.

Denis Biro
Burton Avenue

Klepper's comments are deeply true

Mr. Larry Klepper's commentary, "Council's Real Mandate," which appeared as an advertisement in the Examiner's last issue, is moving and deeply true.

Mayor Trent and Council, Klepper says, have only one mandate: "to be just and equitable to all citizens and not just a few interest groups – hockey or otherwise."

The commentary calls for responsibility from officials and looks beyond the turrets of Westmount City Hall, to the provincial authorities in Quebec and the parliament in Ottawa. What concern does Klepper see there for the citizens of Westmount?

Answer: Complete indifference.

Klepper is obviously thinking of what he calls the "Trojan Horse" grants totalling \$20 million Westmount has received from Quebec and Ottawa. He feels that bureaucrats are blind to the debt and damage that may flow ▶▶▶

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WHY IS WINDSOR AVENUE SUCH A DISASTER?
Driving around in Westmount the other

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Letters

from unwise local spending. And he claims: "our governments have very little involvement or personal knowledge of the harm that could be caused both environmentally and financially to citizens."

I found out last week how very right Mr. Klepper is.

I had talked in December 2010 to the Quebec Ministry that signed the \$10 million entente with Westmount on June 30, 2010 (the contract signed by Jean-Pierre Beaumont for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Peter F. Trent for Westmount).

On the understanding that I would not publish its answers, the Ministry encouraged me to submit questions about the legal requirements in an entente which everyone recognizes is not easy to interpret. Director-General Duncan Campbell himself even had to write the Ministry at the end of 2010 to seek clarification for the City of Westmount.

I now feel released from the moral assurance I gave the Ministry, since I received no clarification whatsoever in my effort to get some idea of the ground rules of the spending of the \$10 million of Quebec taxpayers' money.

I can publish the essence of the answer I got: "See a lawyer."

On Jan. 26, the assistant Deputy Minister at the Ministry for infrastructures and municipal finances, Jacques A. Tremblay, responded to my list of citizen questions that I had prepared at his request. Here is the answer I received: "Les questions que vous adressez au Ministère portent sur l'interprétation juridique d'un protocole. Le Ministère ne peut donc vous fournir l'information souhaitée. Nous vous

invitons à consulter un avocat à cet effet."

"Nous vous invitons à consulter un avocat" — "We invite you to see a lawyer."

I wrote a one-word answer to Mr. Tremblay: "Merci."

Patrick Barnard
Melville Avenue

Privatizing public space is unethical

To the editor:

There are points in the editorial written Jan 20, 2011 — "Are private interests shaping public policy?" — that should be in every city's code of ethics.

The editorial states that privatizing public parks and public recreational facilities is a violation of public trust, and that negotiating special privileges and special access to public property should not be allowed because such space is not the city's to negotiate in the first place.

I have spent a lot of time searching the archives for information on the southern fields of Westmount Park, and I was one of the people who recovered the information about when they were bought and for what purpose.

They were bought in 1910 (Westmount City Council By-Law 221) and were bought at considerable cost "for the purpose of a public park," in the words of the enabling resolutions in 1910.

To fence them in now, as this city has done, and to charge \$40/hour without cleats and \$50/hour with cleats, to me is privatizing a

public space in a way that the city has no right to do and in a manner that to me is unethical.

Marilynn Gillies
Melville Avenue

Thanks to our Westmount coaches!

To the editor:

This letter is to express admiration and appreciation for our fine hockey coaching staff at Westmount's Arena. We are very fortunate in Westmount to have such a skilled, agreeable and generous group of volunteers taking such good care of our kids and our teams.

The weekend before last, Westmount's Novice A Wings won the St-Laurent tournament — it was very exciting hockey, right down to our overtime win to clinch the title!

Then, this weekend just past, Westmount's PeeWee A Wings, AND Westmount's Bantam A Wings each won to become the Champions of the DDO tournament! These were thrilling games and the boys played with great heart and class and ability. Is that amazing or what?

These results, and our inter-city regular season and our house league hockey, are the result of the time and commitment of our great coaches, and of the Westmount Sports and Recreation staff. At the Arena, everyone shows such energy and dedication and enthusiasm. They are great sports on and off the ice and are role-models for the kids, and are to be commended for their unwavering focus on sportsmanship, fun and teamwork.

A big 'thank you' to all our Westmount coaches!

Willem Westenberg
Stayner Street



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Last chance to catch three dynamic painters

First Vic Hall show of 2011 closes Saturday

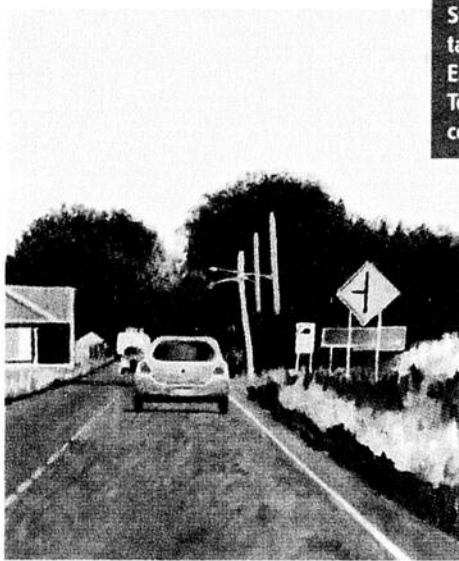
■ WAYNE LARSEN

The works of Westmount painters Lindsey Fryett, Bram Rubinger and Christine Stonehewer may have very little in common, in both style and subject matter, but hung together in the brightly lit Gallery at Victoria Hall they form a cohesive show that is likely to be remembered as one of the most dynamic of 2011.

The City of Westmount's first art exhibition of the year brings together Stonehewer's rustic Eastern Township landscapes, filled with



One of Bram Rubinger's vibrant figure studies.



familiar images of villages and secondary highways, with Fryett's dream-like portraits and Rubinger's raw and emotional renderings of the human figure. Throw in some still-life floral studies, and the effect is complete.

Each of the three featured artists has something vital to say, and their works speak eloquently — through Rubinger's boldly rendered nudes, Fryett's quasi-abstract studies, and Stonehewer's rural vignettes. While painting is the medium of choice here, the formats vary greatly from one work to another. There are large, imposing canvases that dominate their designated spaces, demanding to be viewed, yet at the same time there are also several smaller, more intimate works on paper that should not be overlooked.

The sum of these very different parts is definitely a treat for all — but those who have yet to brave the cold to visit the

Christine Stonehewer's take on the Eastern Township commute.

gallery have only until this Saturday, Feb. 5, to view this colourful mix of mutually complementary styles.

The Gallery at Victoria Hall

is located at 4626 Sherbrooke St. W., and gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. For more information, contact the Community Events office at 514-989-5521.

Mountainside presents Bach, Beatles and Broadway

■ WAYNE LARSEN

The 2011 Concert Plus series at Mountainside United Church kicks off this Sunday afternoon with the mellow sounds of Trio Ambiance.

Consisting of flautist Diane Caplette, violinist Solange Bellemare and cellist Iona Corber, Trio Ambiance will present an afternoon of familiar melodies that run the musical gamut from 18th-century Germany to the bright lights of New York's Broadway, with stops in 1960s England along the way.

The trio has been performing together since 1986. Their eclectic repertoire includes many classical pieces, including such J.S. Bach favourites as Concerto in D Minor for Two Violins and the Brandenburg Concertos. Those with more pop-oriented tastes can expect a few Beatles standards such as Eleanor Rigby, Yesterday, and Lucy in the Sky With Diamonds. The trio's homage to Broadway includes popular pieces from Les Misérables, The Lion King, The Sound of Music and Phantom of the Opera, among many others.

After the concert, the three performers will be available for an informal meet-and-greet session with the audience.

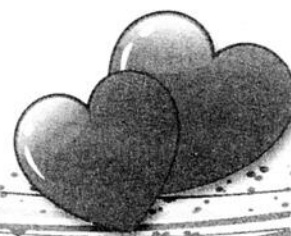
Mountainside's Concerts Plus series continues on Sunday, March 20, with an afternoon of opera and operetta favourites with soprano Mariana Ramos, mezzo-soprano Katherin Welte, tenor Jerome Savoie, and baritone Daniel Bastian. The series winds up with a grand finale on Sunday, May 1, when the Mountainside United Church choir once again teams up with the FACE Chamber Orchestra.

All concerts are scheduled to begin at 3 p.m.

Tickets for this Sunday's Bach, Beatles and Broadway concert cost \$15, with a reduced rate of \$12 for students and seniors. They will be available at the door on the day of the concert.

Mountainside United Church is located at 4000 The Boulevard, corner of Roslyn Avenue. For more information on the Concert Plus series, call 514-486-1165 or visit www.mountainsideunited.ca.

Valentine's Day



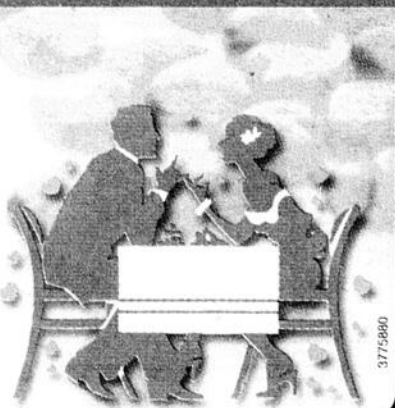
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 EVERY DAY: 1:10-3:30-7:10-9:30 LATE SHOW FRI-SAT 11:50	 EVERY DAY: 12:55-3:30-6:55-9:30 LATE SHOW FRI-SAT 12:00	 EVERY DAY: 1:15-3:15-5:15-7:15-9:15 LATE SHOW FRI-SAT 11:15	 EVERY EVENING: 7:05-9:30 LATE SHOW FRI-SAT 11:55
 EVERY DAY: 1:10-3:05-5:00	 COMING SOON	 COMING SOON	 COMING SOON

ENGLISH VERSION

 EVERY DAY: 1:00-3:20-7:00-9:20 LATE SHOW FRI-SAT 11:40	 EVERY DAY: 1:05-3:25-7:05-9:05 LATE SHOW FRI-SAT 11:05	 EVERY DAY: 1:00-3:10-5:10-7:10-9:10 LATE SHOW FRI-SAT 11:10	 EVERY DAY: 1:10-3:10-5:10-7:10-9:10 LATE SHOW FRI-SAT 11:10
 EVERY DAY: 1:10-3:10-5:10-7:10-9:10 LATE SHOW FRI-SAT 11:10	 EVERY DAY: 1:05-3:25-7:05-9:25 LATE SHOW FRI-SAT 11:45	 EVERY DAY: 1:05-3:20-7:05-9:20 LATE SHOW FRI-SAT 11:35	 EVERY DAY: 1:05-3:20-7:05-9:20 LATE SHOW FRI-SAT 11:35
 EVERY DAY: 1:00-3:25-7:00-9:25 LATE SHOW FRI-SAT 11:50	 EVERY DAY: 3:30-9:30 LATE SHOW FRI-SAT 11:50	 EVERY DAY: 12:50-6:50	 COMING SOON

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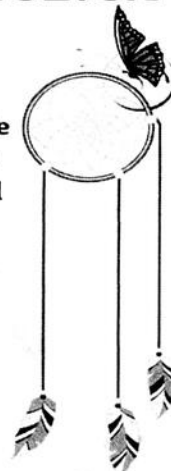
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Novice Wings score overtime victory

There was plenty of jubilation among the players and parents of Westmount's Novice A Wings hockey team, who came out on top of their category in the 20th annual Saint Laurent inter-regional tournament on Sunday, Jan. 23. This was the first time in many years that the Novice A Wings have won a regional championship, said Westmount Sports and Recreation Coordinator Andrew Maislin — and to make the victory even sweeter, the winning goal was scored in overtime! (Courtesy photo)



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INFORMATION

Camp program
Eight, one-week sessions

Camp day
8:45 - 10:30

Drop off / Pick up
8:00 - 8:30 / 19:30 - 19:55

Sports PLUS
16:00 - 17:15

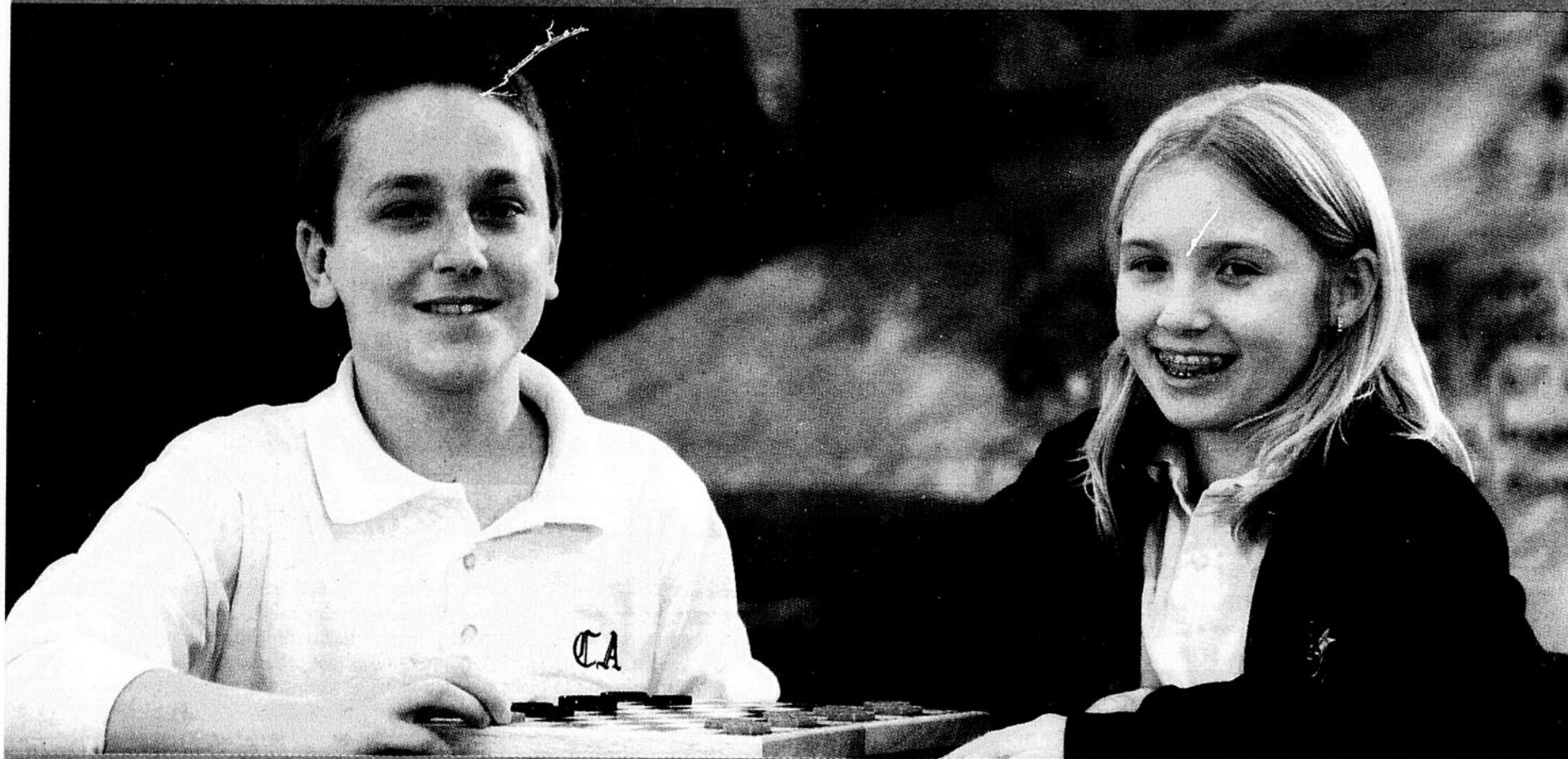
Child care
16:00 - 17:55

Meals
Children bring their own Snacks and lunches

Summer Fun For Kids 6-15
WEEKLY SESSIONS: June 27 - August 19, 2011

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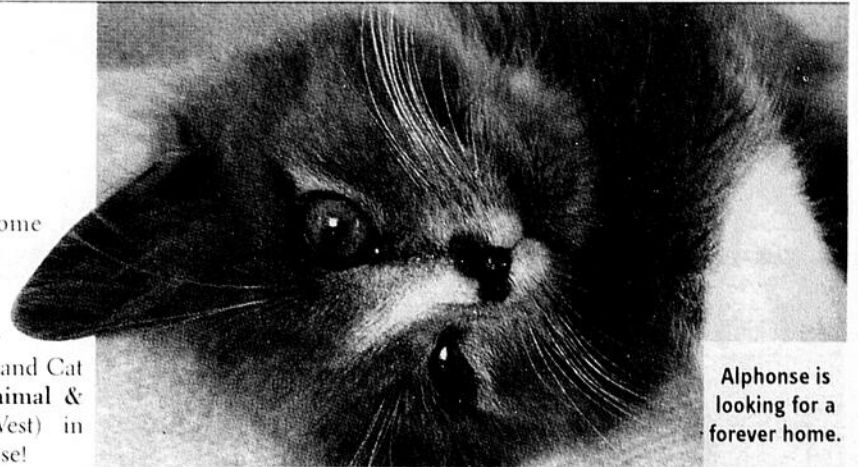
Bake Sale and Cat Adoption Day this weekend in Westmount

Moustache (www.petfinder.com) is a small cat rescue consisting of a few volunteers who help abandoned and abused cats find a new forever home mainly through bi-monthly adoption days. Since they do not have an actual shelter, cats stay in foster homes while waiting to be adopted. They are always seeking new friends to foster Moustache cats and to help out with their annual garage sales and other fundraising events. All cats are sterilized, vaccinated

and de-wormed prior to adoption (and in some cases FIV/FELV tested).

NEXT JOINT BAKE SALE & CAT ADOPTION DAY

This coming Saturday and Sunday, February 5 and 6, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., a Bake Sale and Cat Adoption Day will take place at Naturalanimal & Pawtisserie (4932B Sherbrooke Street West) in Westmount. Come out and support a great cause!



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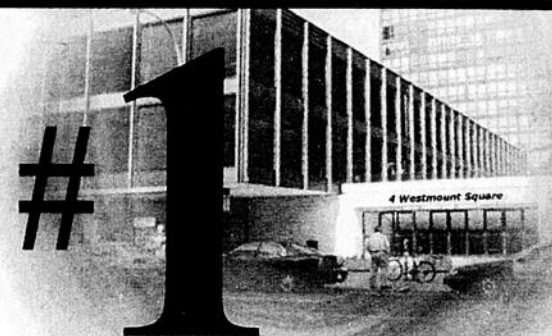
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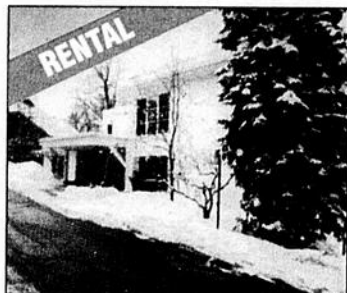
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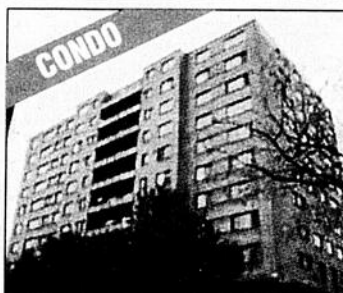
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