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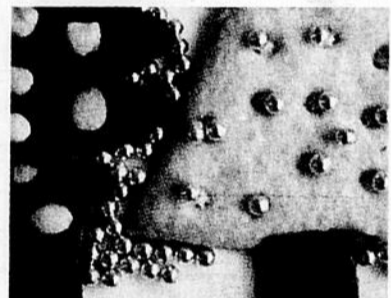
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COMMUNITY LIFE
Cup runneth over at the Rotary Club

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ARTS & BOOKS
Christmas tree with a sweet twist

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Warm holiday cheer is on full display at this home on Grosvenor Ave. in Westmount. (Photo credit: Martin C. Barry)

This week on the **INTERNET**
www.westmountexaminer.com

LOCAL NEWS

Lack of supervision at kid's gym, says Westmount mom

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Administration hopes to get bugs out of city hall door

Martin C. Barry

A high-tech oak door, purchased last May at a cost of \$70,000 for the rear entrance at Westmount city hall, has been challenging some people trying to get in.

The door, which was bought to replace an old steel door and to match the grand front entrance at city hall, is automated and controlled with a switch and combination keypad mounted on a pole outside. Compounding the technical problems, there

is no handle to pull the door open.

Since its installation during the summer, there have been complaints about the door remaining locked shut when residents have tried to enter city hall for scheduled events.

Users have fiddled with the keypad and pressed the switch, but the door remained shut until an attendant came to open it from inside. The missing handle has only added to the door's image as a costly boondoggle.

"Tonight, coming in here we couldn't get

Continued on page 3



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Grey Cup visits the Rotary Club

Amongst its Christmas festivities last week, the Rotary Club of Westmount enjoyed a visit from a distinguished guest.

Member Laurie Bennett (seen on the left), vice-president of operations for the Montreal Alouettes, brought with her live and in-person the Grey Cup, the coveted CFL trophy the Alouettes won last month.

"Most people don't have the opportunity to see one of Canada's oldest trophies," said Bennett. "Even for non-football fans, it can be quite a thrill."

After the luncheon, members and guests enjoyed interacting with the Cup and posing for a group and individual photos with the esteemed guest. Valued at \$77,000 the Cup is priceless in what it has accomplished in and for Canada. Now 104, it has resided in football cities across the



Westmount Rotary President Debbie Dore holding the Grey Cup (looks almost as big as her!)

country. Its providence is documented on the cup itself with all the names of the winning players, coaches, and president

and general manager annually engraved on its chalice. This is the sixth win for the Alouettes. Photos: Ralph Thompson



The menorah-lighting ceremony at city hall.

Westmount's Chanukah celebration

Stanley Baker

Congregation Shaar Hashomayim.

People of various faiths assembled on the steps of Westmount city hall on bitterly cold Wednesday evening last week to witness the lighting of six Chanukah candles. They were addressed by Westmount rabbis Leigh Lerner of Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom and Adam Scheier of

The first candle was lit by Mayor Peter Trent, who was followed by students from the Akiva School. After the brief ceremony, everyone proceeded to the nearby Shaar Hashomayim Synagogue, where there was music, games for the many children and delicious traditional Chanukah treats for all.

Administration hopes to get bugs out of city hall door

Continued from page 1

in from back," Metcalfe Avenue resident Gerald Glass said during city council's Dec. 7 public meeting. "It says to press a button, but it doesn't work. So we have to go around to come in from the front."

Director General Duncan Campbell acknowledged there have been problems

with the door. "You've probably noticed there's no handle to get in," he said, causing some attending the council meeting to erupt in laughter. "We have to rely on the mechanism that's been giving us some troubles. Hopefully we'll get this done before too long."

Campbell told *The Examiner* that the

problem involves the outdoor door and an inner one. They need to be coordinated. There are also some hardware issues. However, according to Campbell, the handle is on back order.

"It's such an architectural door that we don't put just any door handle on it," he said.

"It's pain right now to operate because

you have to push the button. But because the mechanism is all coordinated, when you go in, the outer door opens and then a few seconds later the inside door opens. So if you're in a wheelchair, you're not going to get hit by one of the doors. But there's a timing problem. We're going to change the timing and get the bugs out."

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OPINION

Drinking and driving destroys families

Make this holiday memorable for the right reasons

examiner@transcontinental.ca

The holiday season is a wonderful time for catching up with loved ones, family and friends. A large number of us can remember great, not-so-great and downright disastrous holiday gatherings and events. The punch bowl spilling on a white carpet. An elderly uncle getting knackered and loudly espousing controversial opinions on politics and social issues before falling asleep in a chair. An impromptu karaoke party at the dining room table (could be good, could be bad, depending on your feelings about singing in public).

It's all good, right?

It is, as long as that knackered uncle doesn't get behind the wheel of a car and drive home.

The most recent statistics available on drunk-driving fatalities are from 2006, which showed out of 3,122 roadway deaths that year, a conservative estimate reveals that 1,278 deaths were a result of impaired driving, and the real number is probably higher, Mothers Against Drunk Driving) Canada said.

What's especially galling is that a full 100 per cent of these deaths were preventable.

We're not talking about cancer, or heart disease, which can be partially blamed on genetics and affect only the individual who has sustained them, but instead we're talking about the most selfish decision one can make – the decision to put lives at risk needlessly.

Isn't there enough death and pain in the news these days?

The world is full of war, evil and deceit – why add more needless suffering?

Get in taxi, call a friend, or get a designated driver. It's not hard, and generally, not expensive. Yes, you'll have to go back and get your car in the morning, but it's a small price to pay compared to legal fees, pain and suffering, and prison – and especially when you weigh it against the cost of just one human life. Or, you can contact Operation Nez Rouge, whose volunteers will come and drive you and your car safely home. They operate through Dec. 31 and can be contacted at 1 866 337-5273.

Things are improving, slightly, however.

Over the period from 1990 to 2005, the percentage of fatally injured drivers who had been drinking prior to a collision generally declined from a peak of 48 per cent in 1991-92 to a low of about 33% in 1999. It increased slightly, to about 36 per cent in 2005, the most recent year for which official statistics are available.

More people are cognizant that combining slippery roads, blustery conditions and impaired driving are a recipe for disaster – and around the holidays, when talk of brotherhood and generosity are dominating conversations, why not avoid the most selfish decision of your life?

If you drink, don't drive.



Charity begins right here at home



Toula FOSCOLOS
toula.foscolos@transcontinental.ca
TOULA'S 'TAKE'

A few weeks ago, I was one of about 500 people who spent their Saturday morning collecting food for the NDG Food Bank.

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. we knocked on the doors of single-family homes and duplexes in NDG, Montreal West and Westmount asking for non-perishable food items and monetary donations.

"Just give me a second to run to my pantry and see what I can find," was the frantic response of many. They would quickly return, arms overflowing with cans of soup, boxes of cereal, pasta and cookies. Those who got caught off guard with an empty pantry would quickly reach for their wallets. One woman, on her way to visit her husband in the hospital, even took the time to chase me down in her car to hand me a couple of food items she quickly gathered before leaving her house.

People invited me into their homes, as

they rummaged through their kitchens for non-perishable food to donate to those in need. Yes, I know I don't look all that threatening and I had a big smile on my face (and a bright green and red scarf identifying me as a volunteer), but in this day and age who can afford to be too careful? I found it incredibly generous of people and a clear sign that small town trust hasn't completely been extinguished by big city fear.

Sure, we ran into the occasional Grinch, quick to slam the door on us, peep through the window without even bothering to ask why we were there, or those who claimed that they had nothing to give while answering the door of a home clearly valued at a high six figures, but I didn't let that spoil my mood.

By the end of the day we had managed to raise 3,200 bags overflowing with food, a very generous response according to NDG Food Bank director, Fiona Keats.

According to Keats, the percentage of people who need emergency food has increased from 10% to 17% since last year. The NDG Food Bank gives free emergency food to over 600 people per week and just

over 30% of those people are children below the age of 14. Some people may question the validity of food banks or the real need for some to seek out aid, but, whether we want to believe it or not, there are people going hungry out there; kids going to school on an empty stomach.

Maybe many of us don't have the financial means to donate huge amounts, but who can't donate a couple of cans of food? And if you can't donate that, how about you donate your time? It's that simple, really.

"I cannot do everything but I can do something. And I will not let what I cannot do get in the way of what I can." There's an adage that makes good old-fashioned sense.

Sometimes we think that we have to perform these grandiose gestures in order to make a real difference and that, if we can't afford to perform them, we can't be bothered with more modest acts of compassion. But every little bit of kindness helps and sometimes in more ways than we even realize. Happy Holidays everyone!

To donate, volunteer or become a member of the NDG Food Depot call (514) 483-4680 or visit www.depotndg.org (where a secure online donation also can be made).

Westmount
EXAMINER
www.westmountexaminer.com
345 Victoria, suite 508,
Westmount (Qc) H3Z 2N2
Editorial & Sales:
Tel: (514) 484-5610 • Fax: (514) 484-6028
Administration:
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Publisher: Denis Therrien
Sales manager: Lynn Brown-Poole
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Commercial classified ad sales representative:
Richard Gervais 514-363-5656, ext.235
Digital sales representatives: Justine Cotton, Guylène Lacasse
Sales coordinator: Irene Burda
News director: Marc Lalonde (marc.lalonde@transcontinental.ca)
Bureau chief: Toula Foscolos
Graphic Design: Innograp West-Island
Production Manager: Robert Bourcier

Editor: Wayne Larsen 514 484-5610 ext. 22
Contributors: Stanley Baker, Martin C. Barry, Marilyn Smith Carsley, Andy Dodge, Bram Eisenhal, Ferg Gadzala, Jessica Murphy, Matthew Surridge, Marilyn Vanderstaay, Robert N. Wilkins, Ted Wright
Regional Manager: Stéphane Vinet
Printed by: Imprimeries Transcontinental 2003 inc.
Transmag Division
Distribution: Transcontinental Media inc.
Publi-sac Western Montreal
Published by: Transcontinental Medias G.P.
www.transcontinentalmedia.com
President: Nathalie Larivière



Monster house still a hot potato

To the editor:

My family and I moved into our home in 1975. At that time, there was a house (3283 Cedar Ave.) behind ours, and its positioning provided access to sun, light, air, and open space.

In 2002, an attempt was made by the new owner to replace that house with a "monster" house that would visually imprison us in our homes, dwarfed by its enormous and brutal rectangular rear facade. The original Category I house (1870) began to sprout gigantic wings east and westward in 2002 that were uniformly as high as or higher than the highest point of the to-be-conserved original house. Then, during the course of this supposed renovation, it became clear that the original house was completely gone — it had been unlawfully destroyed, and the partially completed construction was stopped by the City in March 2002.

Years of litigation followed, and the owner lost at every level of the Quebec and Canadian judicial systems. The partly built rotting structure was finally demolished by court order. Although the City of Westmount had the full legal right to demand that the illegally demolished Category I house be rebuilt in its original form, a decision was made not to demand this. The owner essentially re-submitted her original plans which were then rejected (May 30, 2002) by the Westmount Planning Advisory Committee (PAC), which stated that her plans were contrary to the Guidelines for Renovation and Building in Westmount and asked that the plans be "substantially reduced in volume and

length" as well as to be rotated 90 degrees to make it "...better integrated into the site".

The owner of the property refused to compromise, again turning to the courts, after her 2004 plans were again rejected by PAC, and by City Council. This resulted in Superior Court Judge Diane Marcelin's explicit 2006 ruling, unsuccessfully appealed by the owner, that the Westmount Plan d'implantation et d'integration architecturale (PIIA) was coequal with the Construction and Zoning bylaws, and that all bylaws and regulations should be applied simultaneously!

When the City relinquished its right to force reconstruction of the original Category I house, it seemed to us that they had undertaken the implicit responsibility to ensure that any new house would have no more negative impact than had the original Category I home. We thus hoped that one day a normal-sized Westmount house would go up on the property adjacent to ours. So, imagine our surprise and horror when the new plans proposed a similar massive "monster" house almost identical in siting and mass as the original proposed in 2002! It was as if all the litigation of the past seven years had been won by the new owner where, in fact, she lost each and every one of her appeals to the higher courts.

The 2006 court judgement not only confirmed that the PIIA was a lawful tool of our municipality, it essentially mandated that it be used as such! The current PAC seems not to have realized that it has both the power and the mandate to assert the PIIA, as was consistently utilized by the PAC committee, since 2002. The current

PAC needs to look beyond picayune details and see the big picture of how major new projects fit into their neighbourhoods in Westmount.

Approving the current application would essentially reward the owner for her repeated intransigence and unlawful

behaviour and would make a mockery of the past decade. This is not an application that the Westmount we know and trust should ever approve.

Marika Asimakopulos
The Boulevard

Let us continue to help

To the editor:

I respond to the article on the front page of the Examiner of Thursday, Dec. 17 about Tony, the panhandler.

It is incumbent on peoples of all faiths — Christian, Jewish or Muslim — to love one another and to support those among us who are disadvantaged. The joy that one derives from supporting these people is more than compensated by the cost of so doing.

I would like to think that Westmount is a caring community. By enacting a prohibition of panhandling, we would deny those who wish to help the less unfortunate the

pleasure of so doing. How, also, could we deny those who ask for help?


The subject of the article, Tony, has made a great many friends in Westmount — people who genuinely care about his well-being. He is a friendly presence and not aggressive about his panhandling.

Please know that some of us are genuinely caring and wanting to help those who are less fortunate, as dictated by our religious belief and our hearts.

Loy Denis
Victoria Avenue

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During the Holiday Season more than ever, our thoughts turn gratefully to those who have made our progress possible. In this spirit we say, simply but sincerely... Thank You and Best Wishes to You and Your Family for a Happy Holiday and a Very Happy New Year!

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*Joyeuses fêtes!
 Happy Holidays!*



Jacques Chagnon
 M.N.A. Westmount-Saint-Louis
 Vice-President of the National Assembly

1155 University, Suite 1312, Montreal (Quebec) H3B 3A7
 Tel.: 514-395-2929 — Fax: 514-395-2955
 jchagnon-wsl@assnat.qc.ca

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www.westmountexaminer.com Thursday, December 24, 2009 5

Waiting for a reply from Westmount

To the editor,

Two months ago I sent a request to Mayor Peter Trent and was twice promised a reply. I am still waiting to receive one.

The median annual receipted charitable contribution of tax filers in QC who make a receipted charitable contribution was only \$130 in 2008. For ninth place New

Brunswick the median was \$290. Quebec is by far the worst area for both charitable giving and volunteerism north of the Rio Grande. Westmount's median is one of the highest in Canada.

There are four provinces in Canada with less disposable income than ours, yet our median is only from 38%-44% of theirs.

There is obviously a major sociological problem in QC, and I have asked Mayor Trent to help solve it.

About 20 yrs ago I read a quotation of a two time Pulitzer Prize winner. She wrote: "If you tell a politician about a problem, and give them the solution, they will do nothing. Why? Because they are stupid."

Is Mayor Trent stupid? I hardly think so after reading his biography.

The most successful form of fundraising is when one asks another that they are acquainted with to make a donation. If that were done more frequently in QC, then philanthropy would undoubtedly increase. The benefits of more funds being raised in Quebec are obvious, or at least should be.

I have asked Mayor Trent to ban Le Tour de l'Île de Montreal from the streets of Westmount, until which time the participants of the event are invited to raise funds for charity. If this were done, some of the participants would raise funds for charity.

This event cost the taxpayers of the Island of Montreal \$650,000 to stage in 2008 (according to Marcel Tremblay). The event is a major inconvenience to motorists and pedestrians alike. Retailers have reported losses of over 90% of their sales due to street blockages. The hotel industry has reported that there is no noticeable increase in room occupancy due to the event. Laval, CSL and DDO have banned the event whether the participants of the event are invited to raise \$\$ or not. Dorval, Kirkland and Hampstead will not allow the event upon their streets again unless the participants are invited to raise funds for charity.

I fully support the mission of Velo QC but I cannot support their anti-social attitude vis a vis charity, nor can I support them for trying to pull the wool over the eyes of the Minister of Transport, with regard to mandatory cycling helmet legislation.*

I strongly urge the residents of

Westmount to ask Mayor Trent to do what is in the best interest of the residents of Westmount, namely following the society serving example set by Dorval, Hampstead and Kirkland.

Mayor Trent's email is ptrent@westmount.org

Murray Levine

Founder

Philanthropic Athletes Foundation

* Velo Quebec produced studies that showed a decline in cycling, post helmet legislation. They did this fully aware that there was an across the board decline in cycling whether there was mandatory helmet legislation or not. As a result of info that I supplied to the Minister, there will be mandatory helmet legislation for children 12 and under in 2011. Publicly funded sporting federations (Velo QC is one) are supposed to promote safety in their sport. I know of no cycling events in Canada and the USA where helmets are not mandatory, except those staged by Velo QC.

Send us your letters

The Examiner welcomes letters from readers on issues of local interest. Letters should be sent to examiner@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.



Ville de Westmount
City of Westmount

Services municipaux période des Fêtes 2009

Pendant la période des Fêtes, l'horaire des services municipaux de la Ville de Westmount sera modifié comme suit :

Bureaux administratifs

Les bureaux administratifs situés à l'hôtel de ville, à Hydro Westmount, au Service des travaux publics, à la Sécurité publique (y compris le bureau des permis de stationnement) et à l'Aréna de Westmount sont fermés :

du 24 au 28 décembre; et
du 31 décembre au 4 janvier

Conservatoire et serres

Ces installations sont ouvertes au public selon l'horaire suivant :

Le 24 décembre de 10 h à 14 h 45
Le 25 décembre - Fermé
Les 26 et 27 décembre de 10 h à 17 h
Du 28 au 30 décembre de 10 h à 21 h
Le 31 décembre de 10 h à 14 h 45
Le 1er janvier - Fermé
Les 2 et 3 janvier de 10 h à 17 h

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Centre communautaire Victoria Hall

Fermé jusqu'au 4 janvier inclusivement.

Patinoires de l'Aréna

Les patinoires de hockey et de patinage libre sont ouvertes selon l'horaire des Fêtes disponible sur notre site Web. L'Aréna est fermé les 25 décembre et 1er janvier.

Collecte des ordures

Les collectes de déchets des vendredis 25 décembre et 1er janvier auront lieu DEUX JOURS PLUS TÔT, soit les mercredis 23 et 30 décembre à la même heure.

L'horaire des collectes des matières recyclables et des résidus alimentaires et de jardinage demeure INCHANGÉ.

Municipal Services 2009 Holiday Period

During the holiday season, the City of Westmount has modified operating schedules for services and municipal buildings, as outlined below:

Administrative Offices

Administrative offices in City Hall, Hydro Westmount, Public Works, Public Security (including the Parking Permits office) and in the Westmount Arena will be closed:

December 24 to December 28
December 31 to January 4

Conservatory and Greenhouses

These facilities are open to the public according to the following hours:

December 24 - 10 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.
December 25 - Closed
December 26 & 27 - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
December 28 to 30 - 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
December 31 - 10 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.
January 1 - Closed
January 2 & 3 - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Westmount Public Library

Closed from December 24 to December 26, and from December 31 to January 2.

Victoria Hall Community Centre

Closed until January 4 inclusively.

Skating Rinks at the Arena

The rinks for hockey and general skating will open to the public according to the holiday schedule available on our Web site. The Arena will be closed December 25 and January 1.

Garbage Collection

There will be no garbage collection on Friday, December 25 and Friday, January 1, but will take place on affected streets TWO DAYS EARLIER on Wednesdays, December 23 and December 30 at the same time of day.

Please note that the schedules for recycling collection and kitchen and garden waste collection remain UNCHANGED during the holiday period.



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LOCAL NEWS

Old NEWS from the archives
1935-2009

Ten Years Ago
December 23, 1999

Y2K EVE: "As Westmounters prepare to pop open champagne bottles to usher in the new millennium, many City employees will be at their posts on New Year's Eve to ensure that everything runs smoothly. Although no Y2K-related problems are anticipated in Westmount, the City is taking extra precautions—just in case. Next Friday evening will see Westmount's Emergency Measures Organization (EMO) on duty and its communication centre at City Hall in full operation. 'We want to be ready,' Assistant Director General Fred Caluori said on Tuesday. 'We can't afford to take a chance.'"

Fifteen Years Ago
December 15, 1994

BUILDING RUMOURS: "A new protective services building that would house local police, fire and public security units is destined for city property at the Glen, behind the old POM Bakery building, according to commanders with a local militia unit. While Mayor Peter Trent said this week that the Corporation Yard site is only one of a number being considered, both the commanding officer and an honorary lieutenant-colonel with the 3rd Field Regiment talked about detailed discussions with the city for erecting the building at the Corporation Yard."

Thirty Years Ago
December 20, 1979

WORKING ON CHRISTMAS: "It's business as usual on Christmas and New Year's for the policemen, firefighters and public works crews who will work regular shifts to provide normal protection to Westmount residents. But for those men who will not be able to be at home with their families, the holidays generally mean a quieter time at work. 'There's a festive air when you work on Christmas,' recalls Cst. Paul Quidoz, of local MUC Police Station 23 on Stanton street, who has worked two Christmas days in a four years. 'Last year both Mayor MacCallum and Director Ayotte dropped in to the station and we had a nice get-together. Everybody really appreciated it.'"

Forty-Five Years Ago
December 18, 1964

REDDY EXPANDS: "Work is progressing on schedule for the \$5.5 million addition to the Reddy Memorial Hospital on Tupper street in Westmount. Construction began in April of this year and the hospital expansion is expected to be completed within three years of the starting date. The expansion is the first major building project undertaken by the Reddy since the present structure was built in 1927."

Westmount awaits word on full-length sound barrier

Martin C. Barry

Westmount officials are eagerly waiting to hear whether Quebec will pick up the tab for a full-length sound barrier to run along the Ville Marie Expressway and CP Rail line.

Westmount recently renewed a lease with CP Rail for a section of land adjacent to the tracks where the City has erected an experimental prototype sound barrier.

The 30-metre-long test section, made of concrete with a transparent plastic top, has been in place for several years at the foot of Abbott and Lewis avenues below Ste. Catherine Street.

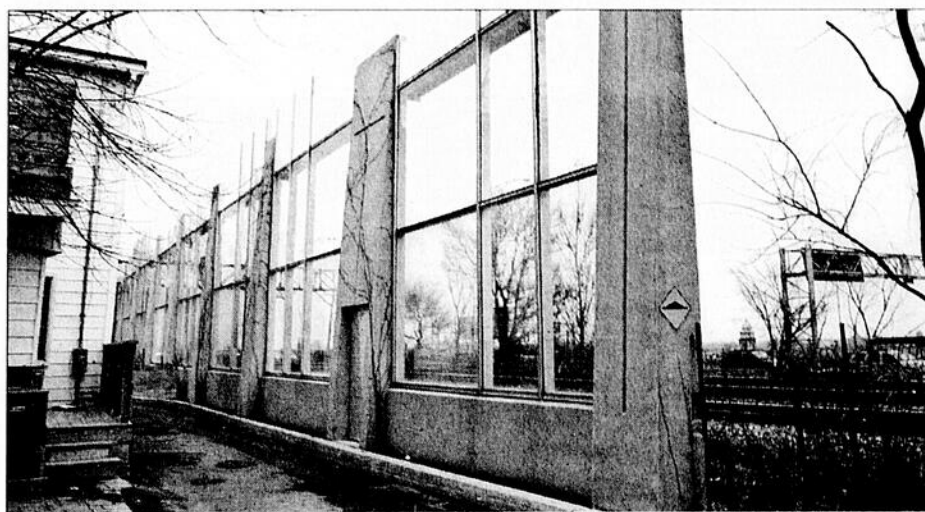
At least \$8 million more could eventually be spent on a permanent sound barrier about a mile long, which would extend from Atwater to Lansdowne avenues.

With major demolition and reconstruction work due to start soon on the expressway, Director General Duncan Campbell says "an excellent opportunity to extend the barrier to the whole width of Westmount" is presenting itself.

Campbell says the City wrote to Quebec in July, although a response has yet to be received. Last month, Quebec's Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement (BAPE) released an impact report on the Turcot project after holding public consultations over the past year.

The BAPE told the provincial Ministry of Transport it should go back to the drawing board and take the concerns of local citizens more seriously. However, since the report's release, according to Campbell, nothing has been heard from the MTQ on Westmount's proposal for a full-length sound barrier.

"We're hoping the government would move ahead with it — in other words they would pay for it," he says. "Because normally a sound barrier would go in with 50 per cent of the cost borne by the municipality, 50 per cent by the MTQ. But in this case we



The existing sound barrier prototype at the foot of Abbott Avenue. Photo: Martin C. Barry

have no indication that the government is interested in extending the sound barrier or paying for it.

"We would wait to see what opportunities there are to extend the sound barrier, and then we would decide whether the one

we have or something similar to that is what we would wish. But we basically re-started the discussion that given the opportunity with the Turcot, wouldn't it be a great time to re-think the whole issue of the sound barrier along our southern limit?"



Ville de Westmount
City of Westmount

Veillez noter qu'il n'y aura pas de collecte des ordures le vendredi 1^{er} janvier 2010. Exceptionnellement, elle aura lieu DEUX JOURS PLUS TÔT sur les rues affectées, soit le mercredi 30 décembre, à la même heure que d'habitude.

L'horaire de collecte des matières recyclables, ainsi que des résidus alimentaires et de jardinage, demeure INCHANGÉ.

DEUX JOURS PLUS TÔT!
Collecte des ordures - Période des Fêtes
Garbage Collection - Holiday Schedule
TWO DAYS EARLIER!

Please take note that there will be no garbage collection on Friday, January 1, 2010. Exceptionally, garbage collection on affected streets will instead take place **TWO DAYS EARLIER on Wednesday, December 30** at the same time of day.

Note that the schedules for recycling collection and kitchen and garden waste collection during the holiday period remain **UNCHANGED**.

WWW.WESTMOUNT.ORG



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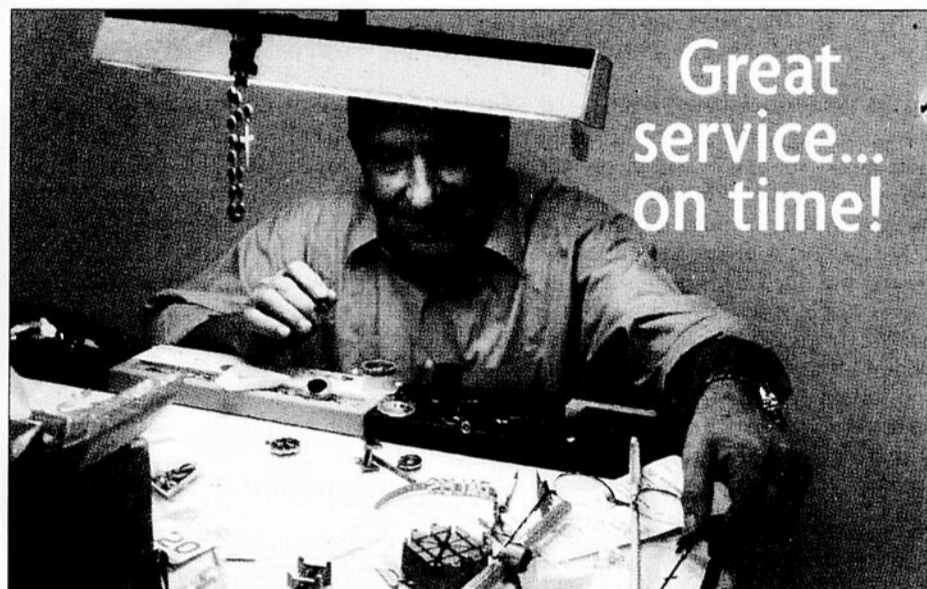
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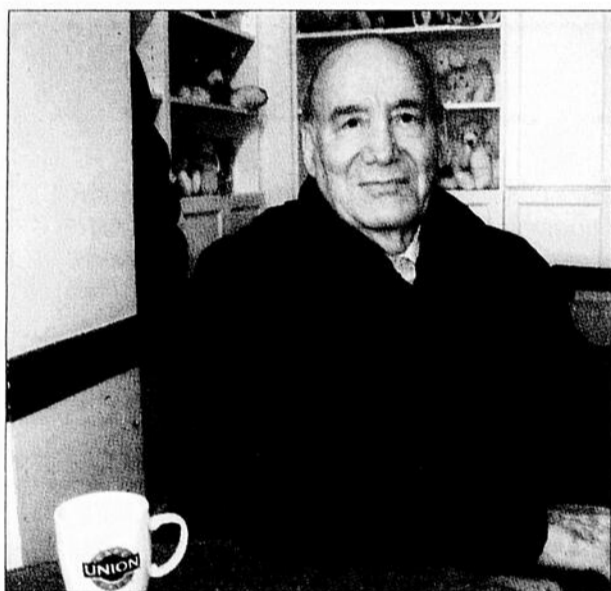
Westmount Examiner publisher Denis Therrien is celebrating the grand opening of Chili Hamburger Bar with co-owner John Cristofaro (left), former Montreal Canadiens player Dave Morissette (center) and a room full of guests. The new upscale sports bar is a great place to watch a game, comfortably seated in leather seats. Try it! A full menu, great selection of beers and wines as well as unsurpassable service awaits you. 1262, MacKay (514-564-0286).



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Enjoying a good coffee




Dr. Mansour Jabbari is pictured here relaxing and enjoying a good coffee at Victoria Coffee Shop on Victoria Ave.

Dr. Jabbari, a retired gastroenterologist of the Montreal General Hospital, is a regular of the place. For a great homemade breakfast or lunch, drop by and you will be greeted with a smile. www.weblocal.ca/cafe-victoria-westmount-qc.html



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Talk to the experts at Copie Resolutions; Liz, Nancy or Sonia (missing from photo) for all your printing and photocopying needs. Formerly located on Sherbrooke St. West, they are now conveniently located at 930 de Courcelle. 514-487-0086.



We have 75 years of stories told... tell us yours!

2010 marks the 75th anniversary of the Westmount Examiner. Do you have a particular story/memory that occurred during the past 75 years that you would like to share with your fellow Westmounters? Contact us with your stories and photos. Throughout 2010, in recognition of our anniversary, we will be featuring your stories in the newspaper and on our website.

Please mention "75th Anniversary" in subject line
 Email: examiner@transcontinental.ca
 Mail: The Westmount Examiner, 345 Victoria, Suite 508 Westmount, Qc, H3Z 2N2
 Fax: 514-685-4690 Tel: 514-484-5610, ext 22
www.westmountexaminer.com

Celebrating the spirit of Christmas



Richard Cornell (past president Cynthia Campbell beside him) with two delicious cakes, purchased at the cake and cookie auction.

Photo credit Ralph Thompson

Marilynn Vanderstaay Around Westmount

The Rotary Club of Westmount's second annual bake sale auction last week was too much fun!

Psychiatric nurse Cynthia Campbell baked past-president shortbread cookies. Architect Michael Ellwood brought homemade brownies. Interior designer Aurelien Guillory filled a decorative box with homemade festive cookies. But the highlight of the event was graphic designer Ted Sancton's chocolate cake. So much in demand, Campbell had put a reserved bid on it the week before and he countered by bringing two.

Victoria Hall reverberated with laughter as Campbell and Guillory passionately auctioned the decadent fare. Proceeds went to defray the cost of Westmount's only service club's Christmas gift baskets. Member Richard Cornell bought much of the goodies and later admitted he was going to take it all the women's homeless shelter Chez Doris. "It is the reason for the season," he said.

Christmas basket Sunday

Members of the Rotary Club of Westmount made their annual Christmas basket deliveries last weekend. To distribute the 50 baskets volunteers were broken up into 13 teams who delivered food, toys and new this year a Loblaw's gift card, all

presented in reusable blue and gold Rotary Club of Westmount bags.

Committee co-chair Andy Durso told the membership, while holding up a sample bag, that this will be a lot easier than hauling an 80 pound box of groceries up three flights of stairs.

The volunteers met at the Rotary office in Manoir Westmount after the deliveries for some light refreshments, including Bierbrier beer brewed by Rotarian Charles Bierbrier. Later they joined other members at the Club du Village restaurant on Somerville for a Christmas and post delivery dinner. For information about the Rotary Club of Westmount go to www.rotarywestmount.org or phone Roberta at 514-931-8690 or email info@rotarywestmount.org

TD Bank sponsors family for Christmas

For the second Christmas, Manager Shari Wolch of the TD Canada Trust Greene Avenue and her staff of 19 have taken on the community initiative of sponsoring a needy family. Wolch began with a food basket and added a new item of clothing for each of the family's four boys 14 to 19 and three girls six months to nine years. From food to clothing and more, the Santas are making sure another family has what they need this year. To make this happen the staff involved the community by putting out tins clients could fill with loose change. In just over a week and a half the tins were filled with over \$500, outdoing Wolch's personal goal.

The bank's primary fundraising

initiative is for the Children's Miracle Network but for the holidays the branch wanted to do more for the local community.

HSBC staff adopts a family

When Anthony Salvaggio, manager of the HSBC on Ste. Catherine Street, managed another bank in Westmount, he and his staff adopted a family for Christmas. So it was natural upon his return to Westmount six months ago that he would do the same. Working with a connection to the NDG Black Community Association, Salvaggio and his staff of 24 committed to adopt a particularly needy family for Christmas. Beyond a gift card for groceries the staff organized everything from bedding, kitchen ware and small appliances to winter wear and gently used clothing.

As they worked they discussed the need to care for "their" family not only at Christmas but throughout the year. So in addition to delivering the brightly wrapped gifts and all they have collected this week, the branch will meet the family's needs as they arise. If you would like to contribute contact Salvaggio at anthony_salvaggio@hsbc.ca

Christmas greetings from Marilynn

Well Westmount, 2009 has been an interesting year of events, personalities and innovative projects. I am thankful for your input and creativity. Until next year, do make yourself a very Merry Christmas and enjoy a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year and 2010.

Warmest regards,
Marilynn

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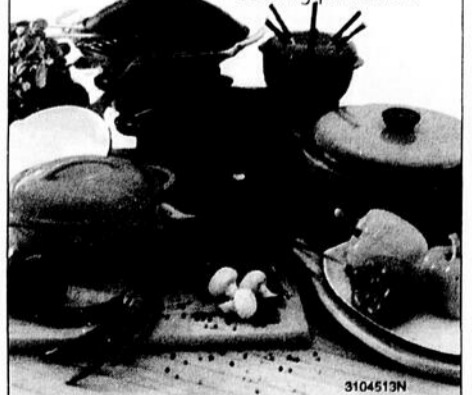
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Message from the Minister of Health and Social Services

The Government of Québec made the right choices in confronting an exceptional occurrence like the influenza A(H1N1) flu pandemic, a situation that called for decisive action by those in charge.

We quickly established an effective organization to vaccinate the largest number of people in the shortest time possible, with priority given to our most vulnerable citizens.

After eight weeks of intensive vaccination, over 4 million persons have received protection. Having so many Quebecers already vaccinated produces countless benefits for all of us.

These results would not have been possible without the outstanding mobilization of our entire population and the numerous partners to whom I extend my most sincere thanks.

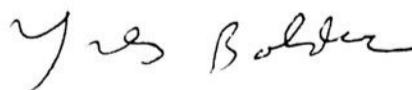
Those working in the health and social services sector, in particular, played a key role in the success of this vast campaign. Nurses, doctors, professionals from all healthcare disciplines, support personnel, and volunteers put a human face on this massive effort.

On behalf of the government, I would like to express sincere gratitude to them. I also commend all the other partners from various sectors who stepped up without hesitation: we are deeply grateful for their participation.

And—as always—Québec society demonstrated its exemplary solidarity, from the very start of the influenza A(H1N1) vaccination campaign. I would like to convey my gratitude to each and every one of you for helping this campaign succeed.

While the widespread vaccination effort has drawn to a close, we are continuing to offer free flu shots to all those who wish them. Contact the public health authorities in your region for details.

And please let me emphasize again the importance of being vaccinated, not only to protect yourself and your friends and family, but also to strengthen our collective ability to withstand influenza A(H1N1).



Yves Bolduc

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EVERYONE IS INVITED TO GET VACCINATED.

Protect your loved ones. You should get vaccinated even if you are in good health.

Go to a Centre de vaccination contre la grippe A(H1N1), which is open on December 29, and 30, and on January 5, 6, 7, and 8, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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VACCINATIONS FOR PEOPLE WITH EGG ALLERGIES

Montrealers with a severe egg allergy may receive the influenza A(H1N1) vaccine if they meet certain criteria. Vaccinations for this group will be given BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

www.pandemiequebec.gouv.qc.ca
Services Québec at: 514 644-4545

DON'T FORGET

- To receive your vaccine, you need to have I.D.
- To make the vaccination process easier, please wear clothing with sleeves that can be easily rolled up.

www.pandemiequebec.gouv.qc.ca

Québec 

Sainte-Marcelline students take part in Guignolée du Dr. Julien



Students enrolled at Villa Sainte-Marcelline marked the girls' school's 50th anniversary last Saturday by taking part in the Guignolée du Dr Julien, an annual Christmas fundraiser for the benefit of children's health and rights. The students, along with some of their teachers, spent most of the day on Côte des Neiges Road collecting donations for the cause. Photo: Martin C. Barry

Priory kids put tech skills to good use



SWAT team members with Sister Diana of St. Gabriel's Parish are (from left) Nicholas Cherbaka, Aidan Reckziegel, and Thea Palmer.

Students from The Priory recently proved that everyone in the community really can make a difference.

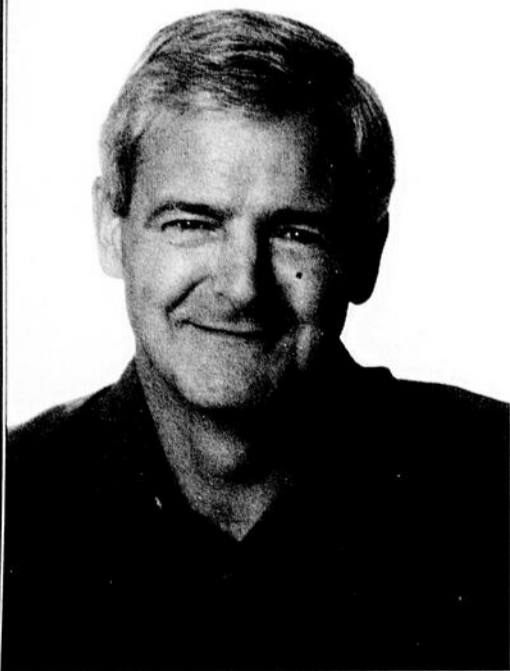
The grade 6 members of the school's SWAT team (Students Working to Advance Technology) decided to put their technical skills to work and produced a personalized Priory Christmas concert video professional enough to be sold to parents, grandparents and friends. In doing so, they would raise money for charity.

Organization was key to the project's success, and to this end the team divided themselves up into committees. Working

closely with teacher Anita DiStefano, the student team included photographers and videographers William Roper and Brad Powell, Aidan Reckziegel, Nicholas Cherbaka and Thea Palmer, who were in charge of sales, marketing and publicity. Jade Zeng was head of the art department overseeing the design of the DVD cover, and worked with Reda Belhadfa in copies and distribution, while editors Ben Stix and Matheus DaSilva, were responsible for the end product. The video sold 67 copies and raised a total of \$1,447 for a good cause — the St. Gabriel's Parish food bank.

Best Wishes from Marc Garneau Member of Parliament Westmount Ville-Marie

Marc Garneau & his family would like to wish all the residents of the riding a year full of health, happiness and success.



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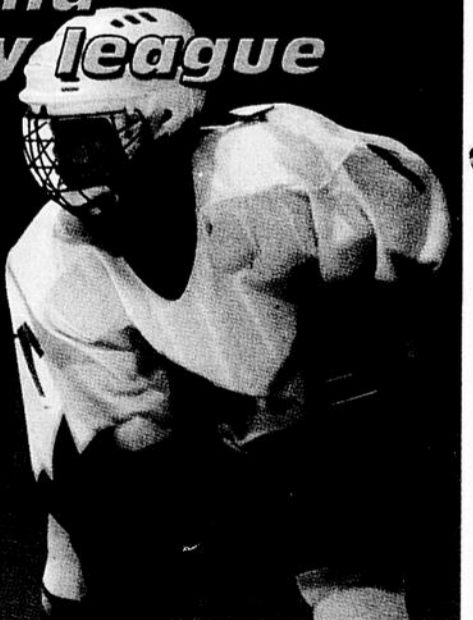
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My Fake Fir



n.lauzon@virginradio.ca

I'm guessing that by now, your dog has pooped out its seasonal tinsel quota. So it's too late to tell you not to use tinsel on the tree if you have pets.

Tinsel is shiny, pretty and cut into perfect bite-size strands. How could you NOT want to eat it? I googled "tinsel" out of curiosity just now. I thought it must have some other use. According to Wikipedia (which I realize is a collection of sinister untruths but I'm not a deep digger), tinsel has no other purpose but to decorate Christmas trees and beautify pet vomit.

We don't have tinsel on our tree. Firstly because we have dogs. Secondly, because not even tinsel could make our tree look good.

As a kid, I remember nothing but pretty trees in our living room at Christmas. We always had real ones. The crisp, clean smell, the magical feeling it created when it was decorated and ready for Santa. As an adult, I still appreciate real trees but I hate the upkeep. Besides that, I feel bad seeing all the dead ones dumped on garbage piles after

the holidays, still clinging to their last bits of garland. Believe it or not, there are companies that will bring a live tree to your house (roots and all) and pick it up to replant after the holidays. I love that idea - but not for me, because if it's green and leafy, I'll kill it. If I got a live Christmas tree on Dec 24th, it would be kindling by morning. I suck at plants. I'm better at dogs.

So, back to my ugly-ass tree. "Ugly" could be forgivable if it was a real tree. Real trees are expected to have imperfections and sometimes suffer from things like needle loss, root rot and brown spots (hey, we've all been there). But I would expect my machine-manufactured tree to display all the stereotypically perfect elements of a textbook Christmas tree. A fake tree should scream Norman Rockwell. Unless you go fishing at the end of season sale and refuse to spend more than 40 bucks, tops.

Well, you get what you pay for. And it's never how it looks on the box by the way. The picture on the box depicted a lovely couple sipping their hot cocoa and admiring their beautiful, lush Christmas tree, pre-lit with twinkling white lights. What we found ourselves with was a wobbly metal post with sparse, unnaturally green spokes thrusting out at odd angles. And a clunky electrical cord snaking up

through the branches. No hot cocoa. No turtlenecks. No Norman Rockwell moment. And it's hard to class up an ugly tree. Especially when your ornaments include a flamingo in a tutu, the Pillsbury doughboy and a plastic pickle.

It's like beer goggles in a bar. In order for the ugly to appear attractive, the right elements must converge at once. Booze,

obviously. But also, the room should be dark, you should be at least six feet away and it would be helpful if you had cataracts. Unlike the beer goggle hook-up though, this tree is sticking around all month.

Nat Lauzon can be heard weekdays from 9-1 on Virgin Radio and wishes you a non-ugly holiday season.

MAB students sculpt self-portraits

A permanent installation of ceramic sculpture was unveiled last week at the Montreal Association for the Blind in NDG, created by eight visually impaired students of the MAB's Phillip E. Layton School.

Students Raki Karim, Steven Edgar, Wendy Lin, Iyaz Khalid, Lorenzo Letizia, Sherine Mitchell, Robert Zunenshine and Dominico Albanese each contributed a work to the project, entitled 'Self-Portraits in Clay'.

Created in collaboration with the Visual Arts Centre's outreach program through the sponsorship of the Webster Foundation, the project was led by well-known artist/teacher Helga Schlee and Visual Arts Centre Director Victoria LeBlanc, in association with Phillip E. Layton School teachers Deborah Meaney and Angela Sareen.

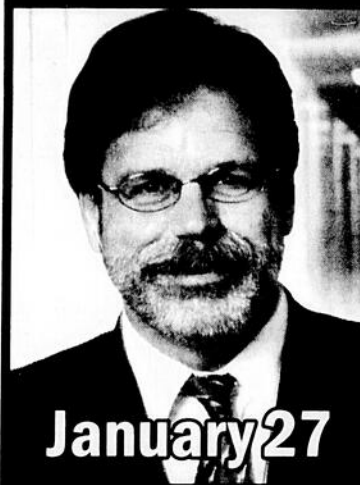
Through the sense of touch, the young artists learned the proportions and expression of the hands and face and then translated this knowledge into clay self-portraits. The clay forms



were then fired in the Centre's ceramic studio kilns.

For more information on this project, contact Victoria LeBlanc at the Visual Arts Centre at 514-488-9558.

Marianopolis College Speaker Series Centennial Edition



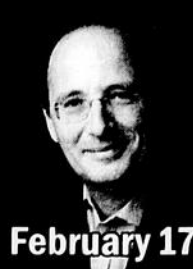
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At Home with **Eros Greatti**

The iconic London hotel Claridge's unveiled its Christmas tree which this year has been designed by Dior creative director John Galliano. The tree, which takes its inspiration from icy snow scenes, mixed with a tropical twist, dominates the hotel's lobby.

It is painted in white and metallic blue and perched among its branches are a handmade leopard, several parrots and a dragonfly. This partnership marks the first time in the hotel's 112-year history that Claridge's has worked with a famed fashion designer on its Christmas tree, making sure even a well established institution such as the hotel is, shares an optimistic, modern, tasteful, international and joyful approach while still carrying a meaningful holiday message.

This year, I am incorporating the '50s into my themed celebration and will dis-



play a wooden cut-out tree that like Galliano's is unexpected and meaningful. I will decorate it on the 24th, with freshly baked spiced butter cookies adorned with sparkling sugar beads. My theme, "nature matters", will allow me to incorporate the

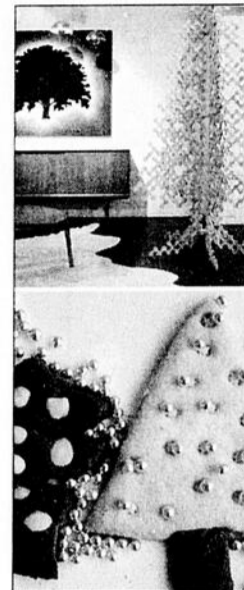
colors in vogue for this season, whites, browns, pale blues and grays, silver and gold, while displaying my culinary talents surrounded by loved ones. I will have a unique opportunity to combine four of my passions; the environment, entertaining, food and design.

My secret cookie recipe? Ok, I will share it, but only with you!

You will need:

- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup confectioners' sugar
- 2 sticks (cold) of unsalted butter, cut in pieces
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 4 large egg yolks
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon of ground spice (try a different spice (cardamon, nutmeg, powdered ginger, etc) per batch of cookies)

Combine your flour, sugar, butter, spice and salt in the bowl of a food processor; process until mixture is the texture of coarse meal. In a small bowl, lightly beat egg yolks and vanilla; with motor running, add to food processor. Process just until dough forms. Preheat your oven to 350 degrees and bake your shaped cookies for about 10 to 15 minutes until edges are firm



(not brown).

We will eat the ornaments when we get up to open our gifts, so opening these is not an option in my home. For those you who will want to make these cookies and enjoy them and/or share them during the holidays, they can, if you can resist eating them all at once, be stored for up to two weeks in an air-tight container.

Enjoy filling

your home with the beauty and the aromas of the season. Happy Holidays!!!

Eros Greatti is a Westmount designer. For more information or to suggest topics, he can be reached at The New Maison Eros Greatti & M Interior Design Studio & Atelier at 514-839-2565.

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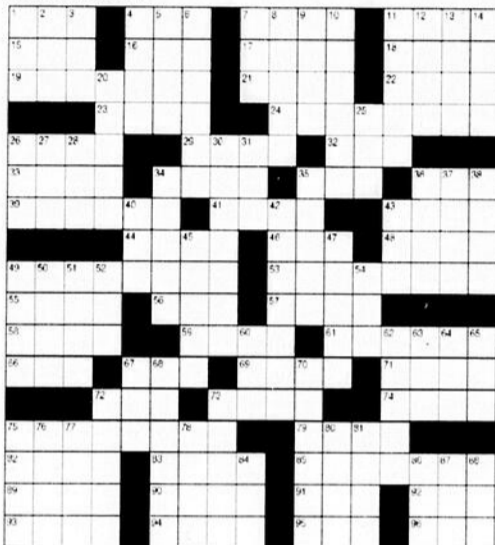
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Coffee break



X CROSSWORD

PUZZLE NO. 488



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ACROSS

- 1. In the know
- 4. Bikini top
- 7. Vipers
- 11. Gymnasium-floor coverings
- 15. Bard's before
- 16. Black-and-white bird
- 17. Immediately, to a doctor
- 18. Sailboat's direction
- 19. Gin drink
- 21. He's got it coming
- 22. Cover completely
- 23. Think piece
- 24. Object of loathing
- 26. Hastened
- 29. Telegraphy unit
- 32. As well
- 33. Floating
- 34. Seed holders
- 35. Hood's gun
- 36. Agent 007, e.g.
- 39. Column
- 41. Business arrangement
- 43. Pot for paella
- 44. All in good
- 46. Aussie hopper
- 48. Accomplisher
- 49. Peer
- 53. Cooking utensil
- 55. Halo
- 56. Out of the ordinary
- 57. Alcohol lamp
- 58. Teenage dance
- 59. Crawford film
- 61. Crunchy
- 66. Sibilant sound
- 67. Outstanding
- 69. Diamond number
- 71. Drastic
- 72. Go wrong
- 73. Thrice minus twice
- 74. Reversed image
- 75. Dolphinfish
- 79. Caisson's contents
- 82. English horn
- 83. Lightning stroke
- 85. Clothing
- 89. Work hard
- 90. Lascivious look
- 91. See you later!
- 92. Gunk
- 93. Write with a keyboard
- 94. Crosscurrent
- 95. Over there, to Shakespeare
- 96. Be in the red

DOWN

- 1. Garment edge
- 2. Period in history
- 3. In accordance with
- 4. Enticement
- 5. Old Norse inscription

- 6. Crooked
- 7. Volcano residue
- 8. Place
- 9. Hurt
- 10. Levels
- 11. Exaggeratedly manly
- 12. Shampoo additive
- 13. Steelers, e.g.
- 14. Bristle
- 20. Kind of wave
- 25. Small child
- 26. Chump
- 27. Fraternity letter
- 28. Elongated fish
- 30. Appendixes
- 31. Consume
- 34. First-class
- 35. Exult in victory
- 36. Pig's food
- 37. Defendant's answer
- 38. Story
- 40. Chowd down
- 42. Lace's partner, in film
- 43. Bard's work
- 45. Mexican mother
- 47. Small weight unit
- 49. Place for a mane
- 50. Belongs to us
- 51. Sis's sibs
- 52. Escape quickly
- 54. Automobile
- 60. Hostel
- 62. Vernacular
- 63. Error-marking word
- 64. Tennis instructor
- 65. Keen desire
- 67. Obscure
- 68. No can do
- 70. Close
- 72. "Under ____"
- 73. Greased
- 75. The majority
- 76. Competently
- 77. Basketball basket
- 78. Did farm work
- 80. BLT topping, to a waitress
- 81. Bearing
- 84. Strive
- 86. Conceit
- 87. This instant
- 88. Tic-tac-__

ANSWER TO PUZZLE NO. 488



Sudoku

PUZZLE NO. 224

	8	1				7		
3			4	7			2	
7		4			6			3
8		9				3		
	6						1	
		7				2		9
5			6			1		4
	4			5	2			8
		8				5	6	

ANSWER TO PUZZLE NO. 224

2	9	5	4	5	1	8	7	6
8	3	6	2	5	7	9	4	1
4	6	8	9	1	7	4	5	3
6	8	1	2	8	9	3	4	5
7	4	1	7	4	5	6	8	3
9	5	3	2	4	7	3	6	8
3	6	8	9	1	6	8	9	5
5	4	7	8	6	2	1	3	7
6	8	1	9	2	3	7	4	5

HOW TO PLAY:

Fill-in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 only once.

Each 3x3 box is outlined with a darker line. You already have a few numbers to get you started. Remember: you must not repeat the numbers 1 through 9 in the same line, column or 3x3 box.

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