

# The Westmount Examiner

Canadian Publication no: 1375822

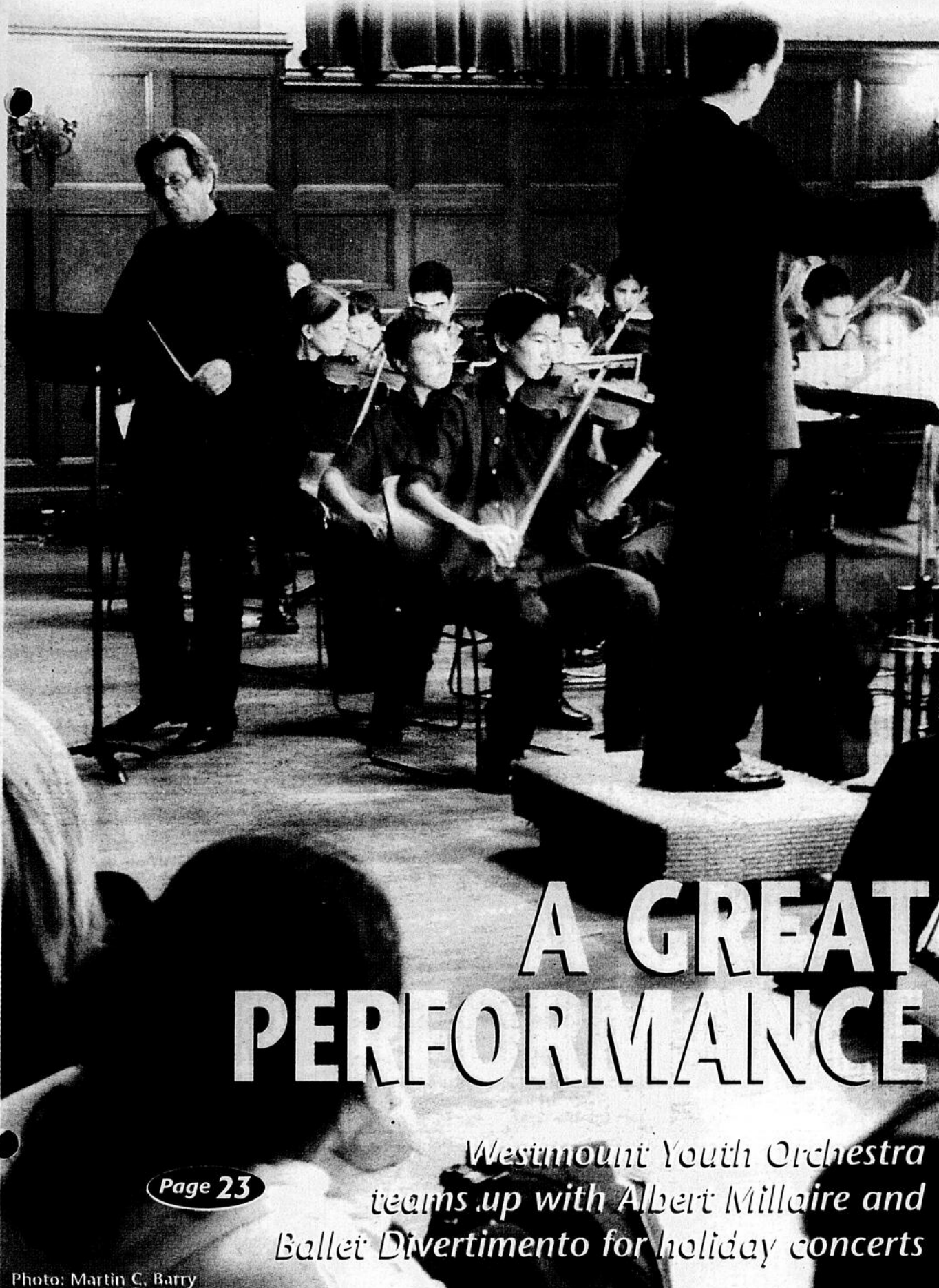
Vol. 67, No. 47 - Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup> 2002 • [www.westmountexaminer.com](http://www.westmountexaminer.com) • (514) 484-5610 • 9,800 copies

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## A GREAT PERFORMANCE

Westmount Youth Orchestra  
teams up with Albert Millaire and  
Ballet Divertimento for holiday concerts

Page 23

Photo: Martin C. Barry

### Local News

## Westmount increases cost of permits

Martin C. Barry

**T**he Borough of Westmount has announced that it will soon be increasing its fees for many permits, certificates and services.

At last week's public meeting, borough councillor John de Castell noted that many of the tariffs had not been changed in years. "Over 10 years in most cases," he said. "And so although the necessity for increasing these was not developed by us, it's nevertheless pretty reasonable. Certainly we've made an effort to keep the tariffs reasonable, and in most cases far below the equivalent or similar tariffs in other boroughs."

Beginning Jan. 1, a pool installation permit will be \$220, monthly parking permits \$50, and a permit to have land subdivided will be \$55 per lot.

Permits for miscellaneous purposes will be \$50. An application for a zoning or subdivision bylaw will cost \$500 plus bylaw publication costs and a 15 per cent administration fee.

The cost of renting a parking space at the Tupper Street lot will be \$90 per month, \$55 at the St. Catherine Street parking facility. Certificates necessary for erecting commercial signs will cost \$60, those for operating a café terrace will be \$5 per chair (with a minimum of \$25), and an occupancy certificate will cost \$25. The increases were approved by council Dec. 2 after Notices of Motion were tabled at that meeting.

At the same time, council increased fees for various services offered by the borough, ranging from the rental of ice time at the arena (\$80 and \$100 an hour), to ball fields (\$20 an hour, \$60 a day), as well as requested street repairs (sidewalk \$138, curb \$150).

(continued on page 3)



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## Season's Greetings In 2002

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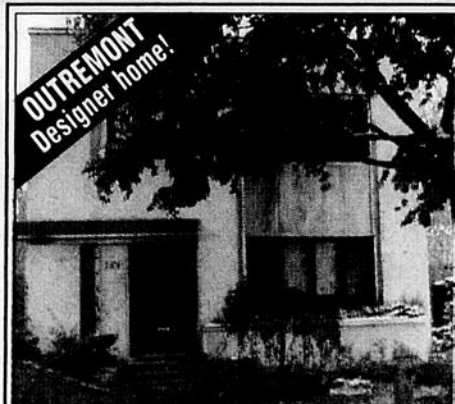
Westmount,	Melbourne Ave.,	Cottage
Westmount,	Rosemount Ave.,	Cottage
Westmount,	Holton Ave.,	Townhouse
Westmount,	Côte St-Antoine Rd,	Cottage
Westmount,	Côte St-Antoine Rd,	Cottage
Westmount,	De Maisonneuve Ave.,	Townhouse
Westmount,	Victoria Ave.,	Townhouse
Westmount,	Montrose Ave.,	Townhouse
Westmount,	Olivier Ave.,	Duplex
Westmount,	Parkman Pl.,	L. Duplex
Westmount,	Parkplace Rd,	Condo
Westmount,	Ste-Catherine W. St.,	Condo
Westmount Adj.,	Roslyn Ave.,	Cottage
Westmount Adj.,	Roslyn Ave.,	Cottage
Westmount Adj.,	De Vendôme Ave.,	Cottage
Westmount Adj.,	Northcliffe Ave.,	Townhouse
Westmount Adj.,	Michel Bibaud St.,	Duplex
Westmount Adj.,	Michel Bibaud St.,	L. Duplex
Westmount Adj.,	Sherbrooke W.,	Condo
Golden Square Mile,	Redpath Ave.,	Townhouse
Golden Square Mile,	Redpath Ave.,	Condo
Golden Square Mile,	Docteur Penfield Ave.,	Condo
Golden Square Mile,	Sherbrooke W. St.,	Condo
Golden Square Mile,	Drummond St.,	Condo
Downtown,	Côte-des-Neiges St.,	Cottage
Downtown,	Côte-des-Neiges St.,	Townhouse
Downtown,	Sherbrooke E.,	Condo
Downtown,	St-Mathieu St.,	Condo
N-D-G,	Harvard Ave.,	Cottage
N-D-G,	N-D-G Ave.,	Cottage
Canal,	De Coursol St.,	Townhouse
Old Montreal,	Des Soeurs Grises St.,	Condo
Old Montreal,	St-Maurice St.,	Condo

*I would like to extend my sincere thanks to my clients and colleagues who have made this past year most special!*

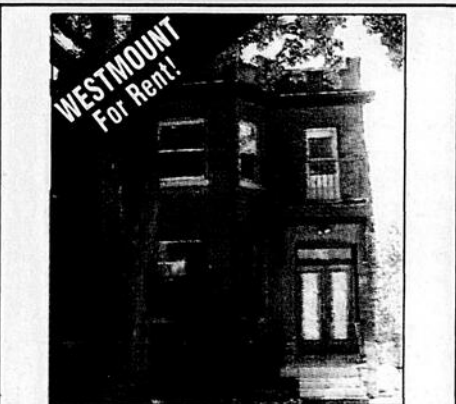
### MAGNIFICENT HOMES



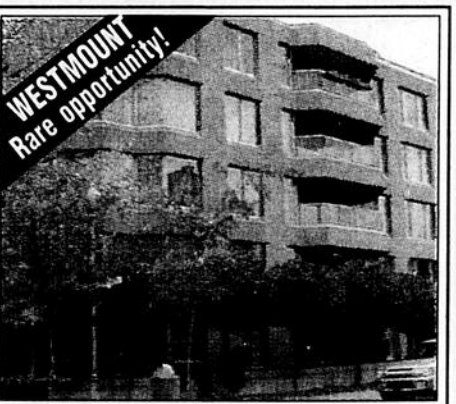
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# Marianopolis considers moving into Westmount's Congregation Notre Dame

Martin C. Barry

**M**arianopolis College could be relocating to Westmount from its current site on Côte des Neiges Road in Montreal, although the move would not take place for at least four years.

Sister Lucie Blondeau, an administrator with the Congregation Notre Dame, which owns the sprawling Westmount Avenue landmark, confirmed that the nuns have been discussing the possibility with the CEGEP's directors. Blondeau said the order would be leasing rather than selling the property to Marianopolis.

The conditions have not been set and a decision has not been taken on their side," she said, adding that an answer is expected by the end of January. The nuns would vacate the Mother House, which is the order's Quebec headquarters, by 2005. But Marianopolis, which now has an enrollment of over 1,700 students, would only move in the following year at the earliest.

Blondeau said that Congrégation Notre Dame's declining number of members, especially since 1985 when they moved from their previous location on Sherbrooke at Atwater to the former Collège Marguerite Bourgeoys, also operated by the order, was the main reason for vacating the building. The former Mother House is now Dawson College's campus.

Blondeau said that with so much space available, for some years they've rented facilities to a number of organizations, including the Mother House secretarial school which occupies a bottom-level section of the building's west wing.

Sister Françoise Boisvert, CND, director of Marianopolis College, said that at this point the move is only a consideration. "We're doing feasibility studies," she said. "We need more space and we have two options—either to enlarge the facilities here, getting permits and things, or to have a look at the Mother House. Right now the studies are being done. We have not made any

decision at this point."

Sister Boisvert said that Marianopolis feels restricted at its current location, formerly a seminary, where expansion is limited because the building is classified historic. "This makes it more difficult to do additions, and we're on the mountain," she added, referring to conditions imposed by the City of Montreal on all development taking place on Mount Royal. "Any time you're on the mountain, you can always run into some difficulties."

Marianopolis would need adequate space, not only for its present needs, but also for further development if necessary. Sister Boisvert said the Marianopolis administration is aware of Westmount residents' potential concerns, which are being taken into account. "When a decision is made, obviously we'll be in touch with the neighbours," she said, adding that Marianopolis could move in as late as 2007 if the Mother House were chosen as the new address.

The Mother House property is zoned for residential use by the Borough of Westmount, based on vested rights. Stephen Elder, the borough's chief of urban planning, said the classification allows development of housing similar to the surroundings as long as density requirements are met.

"It is residential and if there's an open lot that conforms to the subdivision bylaw, I imagine it would be permissible to sub-divide it if the regulations stating minimum area and street frontage are observed," he said.

"But that would not mean a high-density development, because that's just not permitted."

Asked whether the order plans to eventually sell all or part of the property, Sister Blondeau answered, "I do not foresee that we'd be in a position to sell before a few years."

She added that the nuns have been approached more than once by interested developers, and they would only opt to sell if Marianopolis were not to relocate there.

## Westmount permit costs to increase

(continued from page 1)

Permits for distributing circulars will cost individuals or non-profit organizations \$10, businesses \$75. It will cost \$300 for distributions occurring four or more times a year. Snow removal, landscaping, gardening and general contractors will pay \$110 for an annual permit to operate in the borough. Sub-contractors will pay \$30.

The cost in the borough of owning a dog "of either sex," according to the bylaw, will be \$15. All residents using a bicycle within the borough limits will have to pay \$5 for a registration certificate and license plate. Rooming houses will be charged an \$80 per year fee for the first three bedrooms, \$15 extra for each additional bedroom.

At Westmount Public Library, fees for late

returns will be 11 cents per day for regular catalogued books, audio cassettes, government documents and similar materials. It will cost six cents per day for non-catalogued paperbacks or periodicals and children's books. A \$1 fee will be charged for returned video cassettes which haven't been rewound.

After approving the increases with de Castell and borough president Karin Marks, councillor Cynthia Lulham said that the borough administration researched what other boroughs were charging for the same services. "In most cases we came in far below them and we had not raised our fees in a very long time," she said, adding that a decision was made to increase the fees and tariffs slowly rather than raising them all at once.

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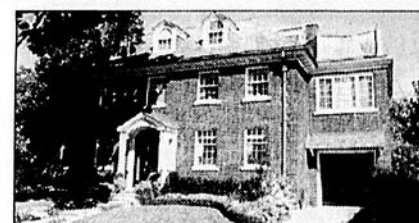
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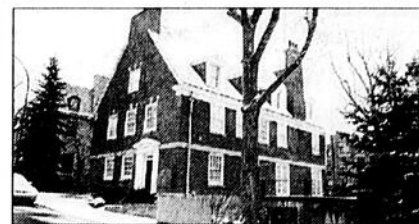
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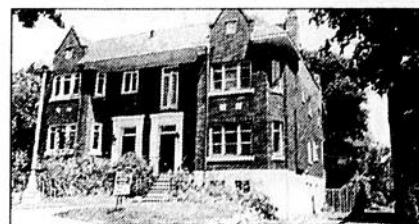
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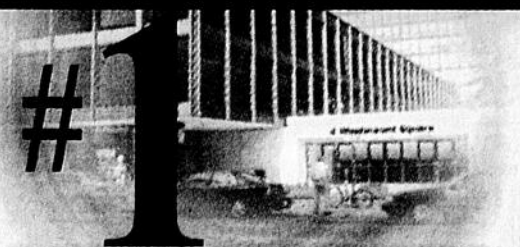
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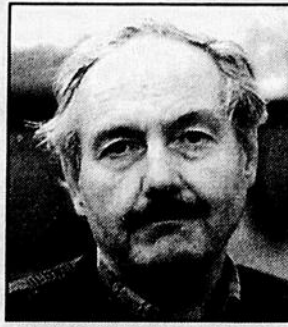
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## Budget reveals 'shocking' news for borough

**The megacity's 2003 operating budget harbours both good news and bad for Westmount, mostly the latter, borough president Karin Marks told the Dec. 2 meeting of the borough council.**

Not only are taxes going up for most Westmounters, but the budget also reveals "shocking" increases in the number of permanent megacity employees and a central-city grab of revenue from the sale of borough properties.

For the coming year, Marks said, the owner of a single family dwelling in Westmount faces a tax hike of 8.4 per cent even though the amount of money allocated to the borough for services under its responsibility will remain the same as last year with reduced amounts for undertaking capital works projects.

"It's costing us more and we're receiving less," she said.

The glimmer of good news is that the borough was granted additional money it requested, effectively wiping out the one per cent cut in the original budget guidelines. As reported last month, however, Westmount's capital works budget has been further reduced for a second consecutive year, for a total loss of some 35 to 40 per cent over its own 2001 capital spending as an autonomous municipality.

The megacity's operational budget sets the island mill rate at 1.2929 per \$100 of property evaluation. Because increases in Westmount's evaluation roll are still being phased in from 2001

(before the municipal mergers), a five per cent increase actually translates into 8.4 per cent.

According to the megacity's operating budget of \$3.68 million deposited for review, Westmount will receive some \$19.9 million to run the borough plus another \$20.2 million for Hydro Westmount. As announced at the previous borough meeting, one item of particular concern in the new megacity budget, Marks said, is an increase of 250 in the number of permanent staff from the current year.

"So much for economies of scale," she said. "The goal was that 280 were expected to leave."

Another "shocking" turn of events revealed in the new budget has extremely negative implications for Westmount, she continued. It calls for boroughs to receive only 20 per cent of the revenue from the sale of any of their municipal property. "I find that truly offensive: taking things that the residents have paid for," Marks said. Westmount had been trying to sell Fire Station No. 2 long before the municipal mergers, and had been under the belief that revenue from its future sale would remain with the borough.

Those who used to pay business tax in the boroughs of the former city of Montreal and will now move to the non-residential tax system, will receive a subsidy for vacant property while "we'll receive none," Marks said of the bad news. "It just keeps on coming."

(continued on page 24)

## Westmount vous informe...

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information : 989-5200



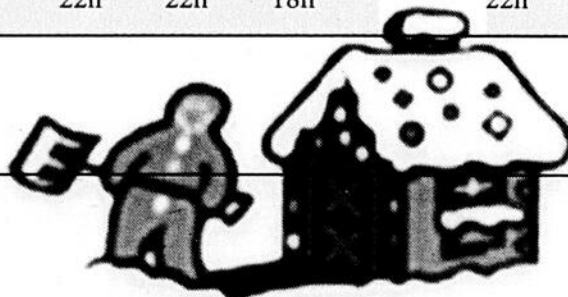
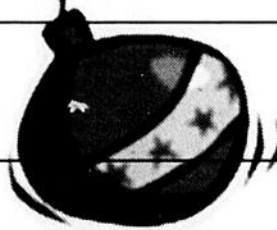
# Westmount Page



Publié par Westmount • Published by Westmount  
vol. 4 »23

### Heures d'ouverture pendant le temps des Fêtes Opening Hours during Holidays (closed otherwise)

	Décembre 2002 / December 2002							Janvier 2003 / January 2003								
	Sam. 21	Dim. 22	Lun. 23	Mar. 24	Mer. 25	Jeu. 26	Ven. 27	Sam. 28	Dim. 29	Lun. 30	Mar. 31	Mer. 1	Jeu. 2	Ven. 3	Sam. 4	Dim. 5
	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
Bureau d'arrondissement et administration Borough Hall and Administration			8h30-16h30					8h30-16h30								
Bibliothèque Public Library	10h-17h	10h-17h	10h-21h					10h-21h	10h-17h	10h-17h	10h-21h			10h-21h	10h-17h	10h-17h
Serres Conservatory	10h-17h	10h-17h	10h-15h30	10h-17h	10h-17h	10h-17h	10h-15h30	10h-17h	10h-17h	10h-15h30	10h-17h	10h-17h	10h-17h	10h-15h30	10h-17h	10h-17h
Aréna Arena	9h-22h	9h-22h	9h-22h	9h-18h		9h-22h	9h-22h	9h-22h	9h-22h	9h-22h	9h-18h		9h-22h	9h-22h	9h-22h	9h-22h
Victoria Hall et la galerie Victoria Hall and The Gallery	Fermés / Closed															
Service des incendies (non-urgent) Fire Department (non-urgent)			8h30-16h30													
Poste de police no 12, 514 280-2222 Police Station #12	7h-23h	7h-23h	7h-23h	7h-23h	7h-23h	7h-23h	7h-23h	7h-23h	7h-23h	7h-23h	7h-23h	7h-23h	7h-23h	7h-23h	7h-23h	7h-23h



# CUTLER PAYS TRIBUTE TO CANADIAN ILLUSTRATOR

Claire Byrne

**M**aintaining a busy career since she left office more than a decade ago, former Westmount Mayor May Cutler's latest creative effort has been the writing of a book about the life and times of noted Canadian artist William Kurelek.



Photo: Lauren

May Cutler with her new book

Published by Tundra Books on the 25th anniversary of Kurelek's death, 'Breaking Free: The Story of William Kurelek' is a unique book: it's the biography of a much-beloved illustrator of children's books, presented as a children's book and illustrated by the subject of the biography.

In 'Breaking Free,' Cutler retraces the artist's development from a prairie boy struggling with depression to an internationally-acclaimed artist and illustrator.

Kurelek was born in Alberta during the Depression years to Ukrainian immigrant parents. He grew up on a little farm in Manitoba, a shy, scrawny boy with a talent for drawing. His childhood was marred by his inability to please his father, a hard-working, forbidding man who struggled to provide for his family. But there were good memories also—memories of skinny-dipping in the bog ditch and rushing to get the chickens inside when a thunderstorm threatened.

Prairie life provided the inspiration for much of Kurelek's work. He captured the beauty and vastness of the prairie like no other artist. In the paintings that were to become the

hallmark of Kurelek's work, tiny figures go about their daily life, dwarfed by immense skies and endless horizons.

Religion was another key theme in

Kurelek's paintings. He embraced the Catholic faith as an adult and used his art to convey religious messages.

(continued on page 24)

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## Where is the money going?

**D**uring the past few sittings at the National Assembly we have been questioning the government about the cost overruns in several projects managed by para-governmental organizations.

For example, the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec announced the construction of a new head office just over a year ago at a cost of \$105 million. This head office is the building under construction on your left as you go down Beaver Hall Hill.

**MNA**

Jacques Chagnon



The current evaluation of this new glass Taj Mahal has risen to \$365 million and now it seems to be too big for the current and future needs of the Caisse de dépôt. You might say that all they need to do is rent out the extra space, and under normal conditions you would be quite right. However, the cost of the building works out to be about \$750 per square foot, which would make it impossible to turn a profit by renting out the space. Oh yes, the head office of the Caisse de dépôt also includes a small hotel. Don't ask me why the Caisse is getting involved in hotel management, for I truly have no idea.

We know that the Caisse wanted to purchase part of the rare wine collection belonging to Mr. Champlain Charest, the owner of the excellent restaurant Le Bistro à Champlain in Sainte-Marguerite du Lac Masson. The cost of this collection was within the \$10- to \$12-million range. So this is how our savings are being managed.

I also brought up some intriguing stories about the Société des alcools du Québec in the National Assembly. First of all, the first vice-president of the SAQ, Mr. Jean-Claude Gagnon, who is now the chief organizer for the ADQ, received a separation package of \$226 000. This, by the way, is the equivalent of eighteen weeks salary. What is truly scandalous is that he was employed by the SAQ for only 23 months.

Moreover, in a bid to offer reassurance about the legitimacy of this gesture, the SAQ ordered a poll to check the media impact and the level of public acceptance about its decision. What a joke! I questioned the minister of Finance, who is responsible for the SAQ, about these goings-on.

She finally admitted that she found the separation package to be somewhat exaggerated and that the decision to conduct a poll on this question was both useless and inappropriate.

As for the Caisse de dépôt, it too has handed out some pretty attractive separation packages. We have been questioning the government about how much the Caisse spent to lay off some 114 of its 900 employees. What has already been made public is that a senior manager of the Caisse, who worked there for just over two years, received close to \$ 400 000 in separation pay. We shall soon see if this is the case for the other employees who were laid off.

The more we dig into the goings-on at the Caisse, the more we see warts and pimples surfacing. The management of the Caisse pumped some \$30 million into a group called "Montréal Mode" by buying a bathing suit manufacturer called "Shan" for a few million and then keeping on the management at "Shan" so that they could run "Montréal Mode". What we learned would make your hair stand on end. It seems that the president of the company used her expense account to pay for luxury items from Louis Vuitton, Gucci, and Prada, among others. The auditors refused to endorse the company's books and the company was managed almost exclusively by the members of the same family.

These allegations forced the Minister of Finance to accept Jean Charest's suggestion that the Auditor General be sent in to investigate the construction of the Caisse's head office. Secondly, a few days later, an order-in-council from the Cabinet ordered an investigation of the whole "Montréal Mode" affair.

We haven't finished talking about this story, and we will keep on demonstrating the incompetence of the management team named by the government to supposedly administer the savings and retirement funds belonging to a great many among us.



## Chrétien's legacy to cost billions

**Uncensored**

Tommy Schnurmacher



**In the past, I have said that the federal government spends money like a drunken sailor.**

I apologize.

Sailors, inebriated or otherwise, do spend money, but at least it's their own. Jean Chrétien's government recklessly wastes millions as it displays total disregard for the financial well-being of Canadians.

Arrogance and dishonesty have come to the Liberal Party of Canada.

In 1993, as the country reeled with hatred for Brian Mulroney, who had given us Meech Lake and Lucien Bouchard, voters opted for the Liberals, who vowed to eliminate the GST.

Chrétien and his party didn't just ignore the promise once they came into power. After they privately examined the issue in depth for months on end prior to the election, they came to the inescapable conclusion that it would be absolutely impossible to dismantle the hated tax.

In other words, they knew full well they were lying when they made the promise. Let me assure you, these guys don't waste time on nickels and dimes.

A few years ago, we were reading about the billion-dollar boondoggle in the Human Resources department. It was revealed that massive grants were being mailed to people who had not even bothered to apply!

How did the Canadian public punish the incompetent trio of Chrétien, Pierre Pettigrew and Jane Stewart?

They re-elected them in another landslide victory.

The Liberals took note of such complacency and told gullible Canadians that the gun registry would not cost more than \$2 million.

Once again, they knew they were lying at the time they made the promise. They had been adequately warned and knew full well that the costs were rising by hundreds of millions and they couldn't even be bothered to inform Parliament.

If the auditor-general had not looked into the issue, they still would not have told us and we would have wasted yet another \$72 million.

Whether you are in favor of gun registration or against it is not the issue. The issue is accountability. All Canadians, regardless of their view on gun control, have a right to know how their money is being spent.

Pettigrew and Stewart blew a billion. Allan Rock and his successors blew another billion. The

incurable optimists among you will think that perhaps the government will have finally learned its lesson.

Think again.

Chrétien needs a legacy other than one of dictatorial self-interest. That's why he stunned his own ministers by agreeing to ratify Kyoto before the year is out.

Why the rush? Even the staunchest of environmental activists readily admits that there will be no reduction in global warming for at least a century. With the advance of technology, who knows what kind of easier and cheaper solutions might be discovered in the next few years?

As you drive your SUV to the mall to sign an environmental petition, ponder this: Meeting Kyoto targets in a country as large and as cold as Canada will be achieved at a financial cost so exorbitant that a billion-dollar boondoggle will look like the good old days.

Thanks in part to the United States and other major polluters who have all backed away from Kyoto, the planet will remain as polluted as ever. There will be less money for health care and education in Canada, but Chrétien will have his legacy.

That might be good news for him, but it will turn into a financial tragedy for Canadians.

• *Tommy Schnurmacher is heard weekdays 9 a.m. to noon on CJAD 800 Radio. His e-mail address is [tommys@total.net](mailto:tommys@total.net).*

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Subscription in Canada: \$50/year - Outside Canada: \$125/year  
 Canadian Publication no.: 1375822  
[www.westmountexaminer.com](http://www.westmountexaminer.com)

**Publisher** : Gordon Brewerton ext 27  
 e-mail: [publisher@transcontinental.ca](mailto:publisher@transcontinental.ca)  
**Editor** : Wayne Larsen ext 32  
 e-mail: [larsenw@transcontinental.ca](mailto:larsenw@transcontinental.ca)  
**Administration** : Debbie Dore ext 28  
 e-mail: [dored@transcontinental.ca](mailto:dored@transcontinental.ca)  
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**Classified Ads** : Tél.: (514) 321-2000  
 Fax: (450) 668-2901  
**Graphic Designer** : Emanuela Niculescu  
**Printing** : Transcontinental Printing D.E. inc.  
 Division Transmag  
 10807, rue Mirabeau  
 Ville d'Anjou, Qc, H1J 1T7  
**Distribution** : Transcontinental Media Inc.  
 Publi-Sac Montréal  
 337-6920

**Regional Office**  
 Hebdo Transcontinental / Western Montreal  
 3677 Des Sources, Dollard des Ormeaux, Qc, H9B 2T6  
**Regional Manager** : Gordon Brewerton  
**Circulation** :  
 Westmount Examiner 9 800 copies  
 The West End Chronicle 35 000 copies  
 The Chronicle 55 325 copies  
 Cités Nouvelles 55 000 copies

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# Westmount Examiner Holiday Gift Guide



# Festive atmosphere surrounds Christmas tree lighting

Martin C. Barry

**W**estmounters love their traditions, and this week was no exception.

On Sunday, Dec. 1, they came to the borough hall to light the Menorah for Chanukah, and this Monday evening it was the Christmas tree.

"If there are other things to be celebrated, we hope that people will come forward and suggest that we add another tradition," borough president Karin Marks said last Monday evening as she was about to flip the switch illuminating the stately pine tree, festooned with lights, near the corner of Argyle Avenue and Sherbrooke Street.

A few dozen residents attended the ceremony at borough hall, hosted by Marks and her borough council colleagues Cynthia Lulham and John de Castell. The three read a bilingual Franco-Ontarian children's story called 'Ti-Jean, Voleur de Moutons,' to the delight of the many children in



The Westmount A Capella Choir performing in the council chamber

one out loud. "Iceburgers with chili sauce," he answered to much applause, especially from members of the Westmount Cubs group attending.

The Westmount A Capella Choir, an all-female group which has performed at the tree lighting for several years, sang Christmas favourites like 'O Tannenbaum,' 'Good King Wenceslas' and 'Les Anges dans nos Campagnes.'

Then the group made its way to borough hall's front steps where an elaborate throw switch mounted on a tripod had been set up for Marks to do the honours.

A few more carols were sung, then it was off to the bowling green club house behind borough hall where cookies and apple juice were served.

The Cubs, accompanied by their leader Virginia Elliott, stayed behind for a while in council's meeting chamber where Marks indulged them in what has also become an annual tradition after the tree lighting—some lessons and explanations about the role and function of the borough council.

attendance.

Former Westmount city councillor Tom Thompson came forward with a plastic container of paper slips on which various riddles sure to tickle the youngsters' funny bones had been scrawled.

"We have looked through a lot of fortune cookies and found these one-line jokes," said Thompson. "If you want to try one of these jokes and it doesn't work it's not your fault—it's our fault, but they're supposed to be funny," he added.

"We ate all the cookies," said Lulham.

Children like Eric Kaplan and Madeline Pothier were invited to reach in, take out a paper slip, face the audience and read it aloud. "Where do snowmen go to dance?" Kaplan asked. "Snow balls," came the punch line to a chorus of oohs and aahs.

"What did the snowman order at the restaurant," said Thompson reading



Councillors John de Castell, Karin Marks and Cynthia Lulham read a Christmas tale before lighting the tree.

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# Celebrating the season in Westmount

**Marilynn Vanderstay**

Once again, our local places of worship are remembering the reasons for the seasons, Chanukah and Christmas, with a delightful smorgasbord of festivities, pageantries, masses and dinners to satisfy the hungry soul.

**Shaar Hashomayim**

The lunar holiday of Chanukah was early this year and was celebrated last week at Shaar Hashomayim. The celebration of the miracle of light was remembered with a special candle lighting of the menorah held outside Westmount City Hall on Friday evening Nov. 29 followed by a Chanukah dinner. On Sunday, Dec. 1 the community was invited to participate in a special children's party where the children watched a special olive oil making demonstration and had the opportunity to make candles. Over 200 people enjoyed the refreshments that included latkes, marocs and donuts.

**St. Léon's fundraiser tonight**

Westmount's child prodigy pianist Marika Bournaki, who amazed North America last year with a performance at Carnegie Hall, and the Choir of Saint Léon de Westmount parish are celebrating Christmas with a special benefit concert this evening, Dec. 12, at 8 p.m. Proceeds of the fundraising event will go to the parish's ongoing work. Tickets are \$35 for adults and \$15 for children 12 and under, a portion of which is tax deductible. For reservations call 935-4950. Christmas masses will be held Dec. 24 at 8 and 10:30 p.m. and Christmas morning at 10:30 a.m.

**St. Stephen's Children's Pageant**

The children at St. Stephen's Anglican Church will present a nativity pageant this Sunday, Dec. 15 at 10:30 a.m. as part of their advent service. On Sunday, Dec. 22, at 7 p.m. an evening of Lessons and Carols will be enjoyed. Reverend Gregg McVeigh will present lessons from the Old and New Testament prophecies about the

Christ. The congregation will join in with the singing of Christmas carols and other musical selections between readings. On Christmas Eve a short candlelight service of carols and scripture will be enjoyed at 4:30 p.m. followed by a communion service at 7:30 p.m. On Christmas morning the congregation will get together for an informal Christmas communion at 10:30 a.m.

**Pageant at St. Andrew's-Dominion-Douglas**

St. Andrew's-Dominion-Douglas Church celebrated the reason for the season with a traditional Christmas pageant presented by the children in the Sunday School Wednesday evening, Dec. 11. Christmas will be celebrated on Dec. 25 at 10:30 a.m. at 687 Roslyn Avenue.

**Ascension of Our Lord's Mass of Concern**

Ascension of Our Lord Parish on Kitchener Avenue celebrated its advent mass of concern on Wednesday, Dec. 11 to raise funds to purchase food vouchers for families and individuals in need and to support Westmount Park School's breakfast and lunch programs. Donations may be mailed to the church any time in December. Mass will be celebrated Christmas eve at 7:30 and 10 p.m. and Christmas morning at 11 a.m. For information call Ann Smith at 932-3131.

**St. Matthias' Choir concert**

The congregation at St. Matthias on Côte St. Antoine at Church Hill will celebrate the season with a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 22. The service of Christmas music and readings will be sung by the choirs of St. Matthias and Christ Church Cathedral. On Christmas Eve a Eucharist will be celebrated at

10 p.m. and on Christmas morning a family Christmas Eucharist will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m.

**Westmount Baptist Church**

Westmount Baptist Church, on Sherbrooke at Roslyn Avenue, will celebrate Christmas with a special service at 4:30 p.m. on Dec. 15 and a 7 p.m. service on Christmas Eve.


**Westmount Park's carols and candlelight**

Westmount Park United Church continues to worship Saturday evenings at 4 p.m. at the church at 4695 de Maisonneuve Boul. at Lansdowne Avenue. On Christmas Eve the congregation will enjoy a special Christmas carol sing at 6:30 p.m., followed by a candlelight service at 7:00 p.m.

**Word of Life turkey dinner**

Word of Life Church is celebrating its first Christmas in its new home in Westmount Park Church with an invitation to the community to come out and enjoy a free turkey supper. The congregation is preparing to feed the poor both financially and in spirit. On Sunday, Dec. 22 at 3 p.m. the free dinner will be served, followed by a candlelight Christmas service at 7 p.m. For information call 637-9890 or 831-7709.


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# Bulletin Board

Deadline for submissions is Monday at noon preceding the next publication.  
No exceptions. Submissions may be edited or omitted for space.

## Thursday, Dec. 12

Pianist Marika Bournaki performs with the St. Léon Choir in a special Christmas concert at 8 p.m. at St. Léon de Westmount Church, 4311 de Maisonneuve. Tickets are \$35 for adults, \$15 for children 12 and under. Info: 935-4950.

The Westmount Public Library presents Montreal author Mark Abley ('The Ice Storm', 'Ghost Cat') who will read from his work at 7:30 p.m. All welcome to attend. 4574 Sherbrooke W. Info: Donna Lach at 989-5386.

## Friday, Dec. 13

The Westmount Community Theatre presents 'The Games People Play' seven short plays by Christopher Durang, directed by Constantin Sokolov, at 8 p.m. in the Lodge Room of Victoria Hall. Free admission, all welcome. Info: 989-5226.

## Saturday, Dec. 14

The Westmount Children's Choir 'Imagine' and the students of Ira

Sokolov hold their annual Christmas concert at Victoria Hall at 3 p.m. Free admission, all welcome. Info: 989-5226.

WARM Writers presents a talk by Alison Fripp, publisher and founder of Lobster Press: "How to Pick a Good Picture Book" at 2 p.m. in the Westmount Public Library, 4574 Sherbrooke W. WARM members free, visitors \$5 donation. Info: Jeanette Paul at (450) 468-5410.

The Westmount Community Theatre presents 'The Games People Play' seven short plays by Christopher Durang, directed by Constantin Sokolov, at 8 p.m. in the Lodge Room of Victoria Hall. Free admission, all welcome. Info: 989-5226.

## Sunday, Dec. 15

Le Choeur de la radio de Radio-Canada, directed by Frédéric Vogel, presents English Noels of the 20th century (Williams-Rutter), Ceremony of Carols (Benjamin Britten) for chorus and harp and German Noels of the 17th century (Bach-Schütz-Praetorius), for chorus and brass

quartet at 3 pm in St. Léon de Westmount Church, 4311 de Maisonneuve W. Tickets are \$18 (free for children 12 and under), available at the door at 2 pm. Info: Andrée Faucher at (514) 596-0406.

## Tuesday, Dec. 17

Entre Nous Senior Group at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom presents guest speaker Anita David, who will present the slide show 'Greece: A Trek Through the Past.' Brown bag lunch at noon, program at 1 p.m. \$1 admission. 395 Elm Ave. Info: 937-3575.

## Thursday, Dec. 19

The Westmount Historical Association's fall lecture series concludes with Dr. Toby Morantz of the Department of Anthropology at McGill University, who will present a talk 'The Native Peoples of Kawenoteleontiakon (The Island of Montreal) at 7 p.m. in the Westmount Room of the Westmount Public Library. Info: 925-1404.

## Sponsors made it possible for SWAT donations

**The undemoted SWAT representatives wish to acknowledge and thank the following Westmount merchants, professionals and other valued contributors to our annual hockey tournament, which tournaments have raised in excess of \$125,000 for neurological cancer research and surgical equipment at Hôpital Ste-Justine and The Montreal Children's Hospital:**

(Continued from page 25)

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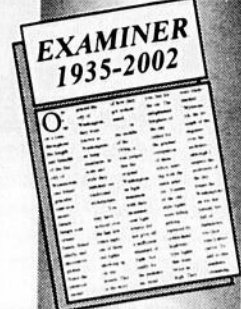
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Our appreciation, on behalf of the children, parents and staff of these two extraordinary hospitals, is extended to each of you, as well as to the other 100 hockey players, for the generosity of time, merchandise and funds.

*Paul Beaucheroir, Claude Bismuth, Michel Bourgeois, Adam Cutler, Jon Feldman, Marcel Guay, Howard Hoppenheim, Don Lang, Nick Matossian, Peter Naylor, Doug Price, Norm Richer, Ken Sinclair, Barry Sternthal, Jim West.*

# Old News



(from the  
examiner  
archives)

### One Year Ago December 13, 2001

**APPEAL DISMISSED:** "Mayor Peter Trent says he can't understand why Canada's highest court dismissed the appeal against Quebec's Bill 170 last week when another court the same day ruled in favour of an Ontario hospital that had sought justice using arguments almost identical to Westmount's. Last Friday, a few days after lawyers for Westmount and 13 other suburbs had made submissions, the Supreme Court of Canada issued its decision upholding Bill 170 and the right of Quebec to abolish and merge municipalities. All nine judges refused to hear the appeal, removing the last legal chance the suburbs would have had of stopping their forced merger with the City of Montreal. The Supreme Court handed out its judgment at 9:45 a.m., and at 10 a.m. the Ontario Court of Appeals handed down its judgment in the case involving the Montfort Hospital, an Ontario francophone health institution which had fought against being shut down by the province."

### Five Years Ago December 11, 1997

**BOOK CONTROVERSY:** "A vocal critic of practices at the Westmount Public Library is condemning the shipment this week of 100 boxes of books to the National Library in Ottawa and has asked for a meeting with the local library committee to get some answers. However, Westmount's library director countered that there was nothing unusual about the shipment, since the material was not being used or is available from other sources. On Monday, municipal association director John Johnston said he managed to view the books before they were picked up earlier in the week. He said much of the material was part of the local library's 100-year heritage and should not have been discarded."

### Twenty Years Ago December 9, 1982

**STATION MAY CLOSE:** "Westmounters may lose yet another transit outlet if Westmount station is abandoned as a commuter station in the newly integrated rail system. The news came at Monday night's meeting of city council along with much concern by citizens over the entire question of deteriorating transit service here, in particular poor MUCTC bus service. Graham Pugh asked the mayor if the station was threatened with demolition. He was told that 'at the present time they seem keen to keep it open because Via Rail will still use it for long-distance travel.'"

### Forty Years Ago December 14, 1962

**OBSERVING THE SABBATH:** "Sunday morning restrictions on the use of city rinks brought out some reasoned suggestions at a Westmount Municipal Association meeting. City council had come up with the answer that there would be no relaxation of existing rules unless there was a strong reason to do so. The City has no intention of going into competition with the churches. But everyone laughed when someone said, 'You can't force people to go to church by keeping the skating rinks closed!'"



# #1 JULIA DANIELS

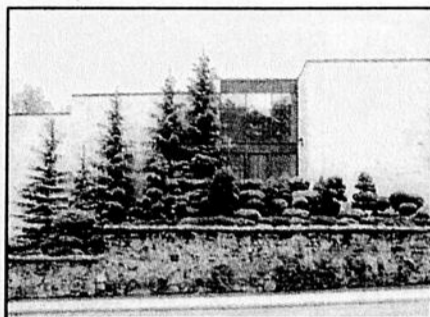
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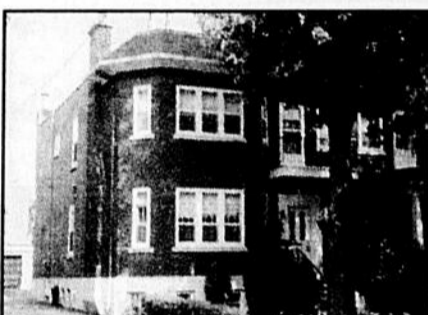
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**Upper Lansdowne.** Charming detached home, 4+1 bdrms, 2 car garage, private garden. \$995,000.



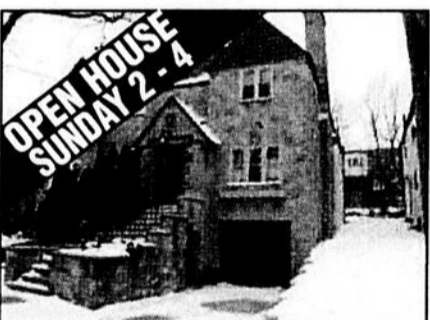
**Vendôme.** Superb 5 bedroom family home, new kitchen & bath, inground pool. \$729,000.



**Clarke.** 1898 built Victorian heritage 4 bdrm townhouse, high ceilings, woodwork. \$579,000.



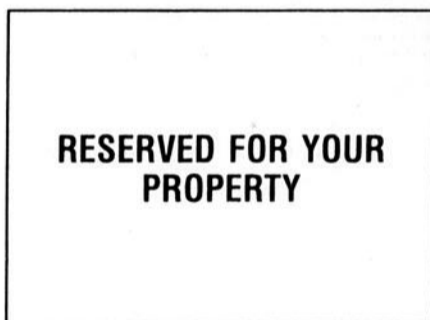
**Olivier.** Lovely 6 1/2 - 7 1/2 - 3 1/2 duplex. Lots of oak woodwork, garden, 3 garages. \$798,000.



**743 Upper Roslyn.** Fully renovated with state of the art kitchen, 2 1/2 new baths, garage, garden. \$895,000



**Tropic North.** Spectacular 3,450 sq.ft. 4 bedroom corner unit, exceptional views! Must see! \$1,350,000.



**N.B.** I have well qualified buyers in every price range, call me for a "no obligation" price opinion.



**Le Château.** Prestige downtown location near the Ritz. Luxuriously renov. 2+1 bdrm, 2,250 sq.ft. unit on the 9th floor, C/A, gourmet kitchen, south east exposure. \$995,000. Just listed! 2 bdrm, 2 bath 1,550 sq.ft. pied-à-terre. Large living and dining room. \$449,000.

*A message to all my clients, colleagues and friends!*  
 May the warmth, joy and light of the Holidays fill your home this season.

*A note of gratitude*  
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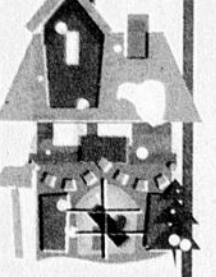
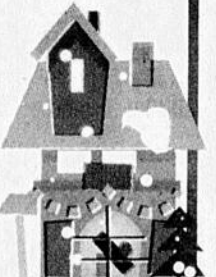
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Chartered Real Estate Agent

I would like to thank my clients for making 2002 another very successful year. **THEIR CONFIDENCE** and **MY COMPETENCE** have resulted in **124** transactions for a **TOTAL VOLUME** of over **\$80 million (80,835,205)**



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## BREAKDOWN OF MY 124 TRANSACTIONS

From \$3 million to \$5 million	4
From \$2 million to \$3 million	6
From \$1 million to \$2 million	23
From \$900,000 to \$1 million	9
From \$800,000 to \$900,000	9
From \$700,000 to \$800,000	20
From \$600,000 to \$700,000	6
From \$400,000 to \$600,000	10
From \$300,000 to \$400,000	11
From \$200,000 to \$300,000	15
\$200,000 and less	11

*I am happy to take this opportunity to express to my clients and colleagues my sincerest wishes for a very **HEALTHY, HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON** and a **PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.***



## REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS IN AUGUST 2002

ADDRESS	FROM	TO	PRICE	2001 VALUATION
<b>Homes</b>				
90 Arlington	Margaret Jean Moodie	Clemens Mayr	\$649,000	\$390,900
10 Bellevue	Beatrice Baudinet	Karen Howells	\$1 <sup>a</sup>	\$984,500
53 Delavigne	Peter John MacKenzie Nicholson	Cezar Zagalski	\$900,000	\$877,800
5 Douglas	Jill Sara Price	Adam Shine	\$756,000	\$386,100
447 Elm	Marie Yvonne Prauvau	Beth Seitz	\$1 <sup>b</sup>	\$560,000
305 Grosvenor	Eda Kistler	Wendy Olsenberg	\$446,755	\$304,000
649 Grosvenor	Corinne Withenshaw	Mark Azoulay	\$1 <sup>c</sup>	\$373,400
118 Lewis	Axel La Beaumelle	Mose Persico	\$330,000	\$205,000
14 Melbourne	Anne Marie Elvidge	Michael Kirk Osterland	\$800,000	\$344,300
408 Metcalfe	Peter Archibald McGibbon	Arlene Dream Arnold	\$1 <sup>d</sup>	\$325,800
456 Mountain	Anne Nercessian	David R. Colman	\$859,000	\$525,000
262 Olivier	Jeannette Tardy	Anne Nercessian	\$435,000	\$249,000
417 Roslyn	Donald C. MacMartin	Philippe J. Guizard	\$950,000	\$821,300
649 Roslyn	Robyn Miller	Jean Pierre Azzopardi	\$845,000	\$598,100
3207 The Boulevard	Robert Tardif	David Flomen	\$1 <sup>e</sup>	\$1,171,600
4727 The Boulevard	Patricia McDonough	Gordon Oldford	\$750,000	\$425,200
758 Upper Belmont	Andrew Semenic	Lisa Singer	\$1 <sup>f</sup>	\$568,300
803 Upper Belmont	Jacques Larivière	Geneviève del Sol	\$585,000	\$456,300
751 Upper Lansdowne	Pierre Raymond	Georges P. Racine	\$880,000	\$481,800
710 Upper Roslyn	Francine Vallée	James Yunker	\$672,000	\$474,100
739 Upper Roslyn	Gina Patricia Lennox	Marie Josée Bonneville	\$735,000	\$478,700
<b>Condominiums</b>				
342 Lansdowne	Uri Horacio Saragovi	Robert Vincent	\$340,000	\$231,000

**a** Price was declared as "\$1 and other considerations;" the value of the consideration was declared as \$1,350,000.

**b** Price was declared as "\$1 and other considerations;" no value of the consideration was declared.

**c** Price was declared as "\$1 and other considerations;" no value of the consideration was declared.

**d** Price was declared as "\$1 and other considerations;" no value of the consideration was declared.

**e** Price was declared as "\$1 and other considerations;" the value of the consideration was declared as \$2,300,000.

**f** Price was declared as "\$1 and other considerations;" no value of the consideration was declared.

## HEFTY PRICES HIGHLIGHT AUGUST SALES

**Andy Dodge, CRA**

(NOTE: The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in August, 2002, filed at the Montreal Registry Office. A list of sales can be seen above.)

**The huge mansion at 3207 The Boulevard, next to the historic Braemar mansion, sold in August for a declared price of \$2,300,000, leading the Westmount sales list for the month and pushing the average price to \$854,184 for 15 properties.**

In a month devoted almost exclusively to single-family residential transfers, all but three prices were higher than \$600,000, an indication buyers are paying hefty sums to move into Westmount. Lowest price was \$330,000 for a small townhouse at 118 Lewis

Avenue, well below the price for two other lower-Westmount properties on Olivier and Grosvenor Avenues, each of which brought just under \$450,000.

In terms of markups over valuation, the highest came in the \$800,000 sale of 14 Melbourne Avenue which was more than double its tax assessment, while 53 Delavigne Road squeaked over its municipal valuation by a mere 2.5 per cent. In general, however, markups averaged 57.8 per cent, by far the highest for any month since the current valuation roll came into effect in January 2001. By rights, this sets the "typical" Westmount house with a valuation of \$536,060 with a value of almost \$846,000, up three per cent from July registrations.

The August sales, which involve real estate transactions negotiated mainly between April and June this year, show that despite a slight interruption

following last September's New York tragedy, the local real estate market is headed directly upward and there seems to be no hesitation in sight.

On the other hand, only one condominium sale was registered in August, an indication the market is somewhat slow at least for the time being. As single-family dwelling prices move out of sight, it can be expected that later lists will include more condominium sales.

The list above includes two more sales from July. Again this month, *The Examiner* has been unable to access the registered title deeds to verify data obtained from other real estate sources. This means several of the sales have incomplete information and several prices were unavailable. *The Examiner* can bear no responsibility for inaccuracies in the list.

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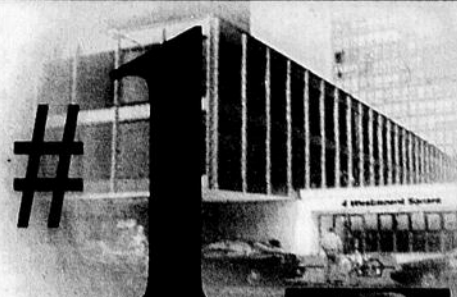


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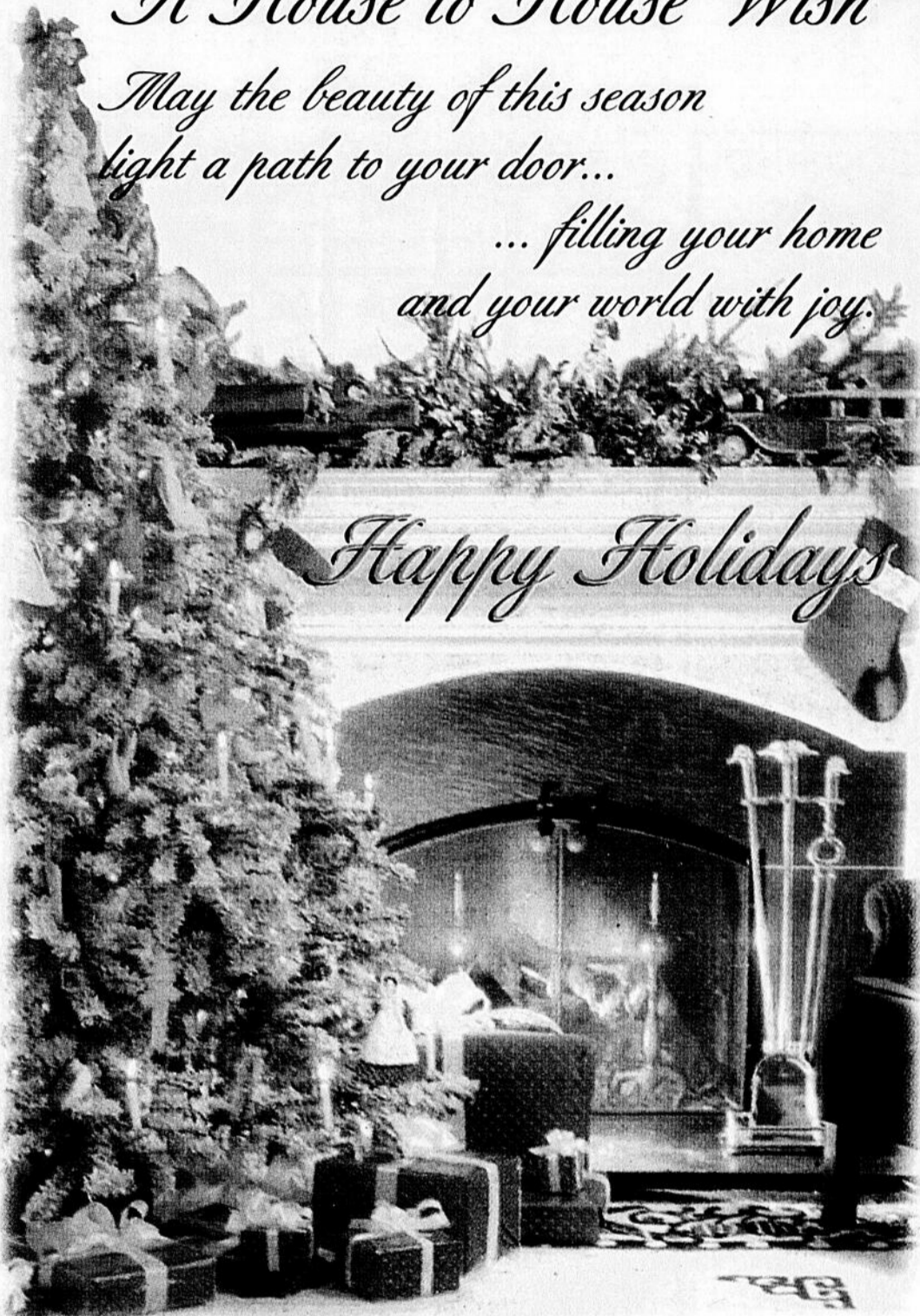
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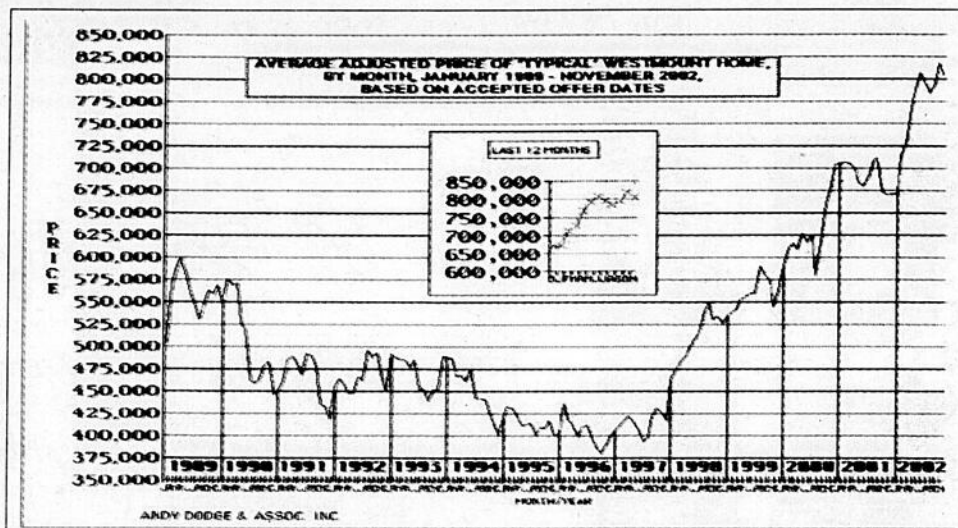
# NOVEMBER SALES: CLEARING THE DECK

**Andy Dodge, CRA**

(NOTE: The following article relates to offers to purchase Westmount residential dwellings which were reported by local realtors as having been accepted in November. Because they are not final registered sales, the addresses and prices cannot be made public, but give a good idea of current trends in local real estate activity. The graph on this page offers a picture of these trends over time.)

Westmount's real estate market was winding down for the holidays in November, and few houses were being listed, but buyers were still hungry for whatever remained and paid good prices while clearing the decks for 2003.

Nine houses were reported sold in November by local agents, down from 11 in October, but the average days on market skyrocketed from 58 to 227 days, and only two of the houses sold in November had been on the market less than 30 days. Two more had been listed for well over a year, another two for more than seven months. Still, two of the nine sales were for more than \$1 million and three more for prices



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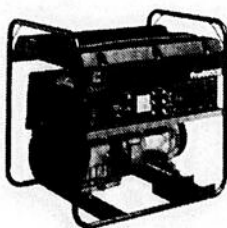
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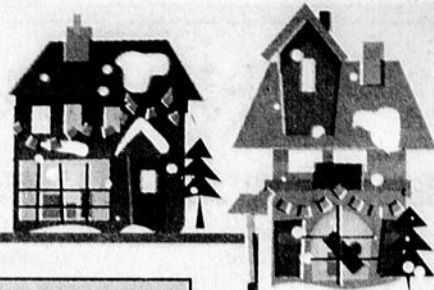


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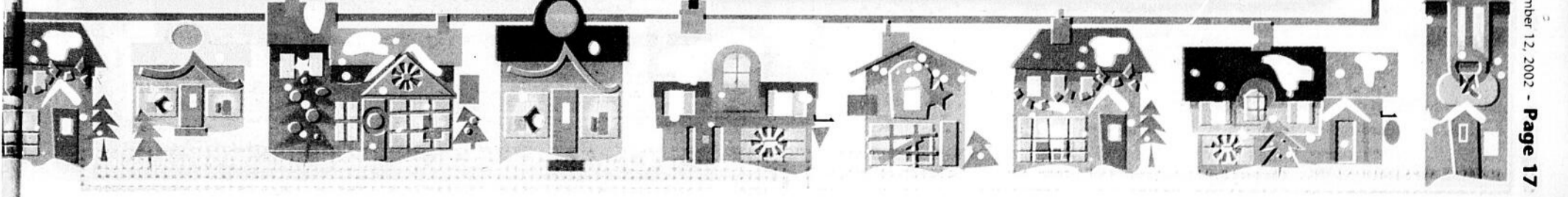
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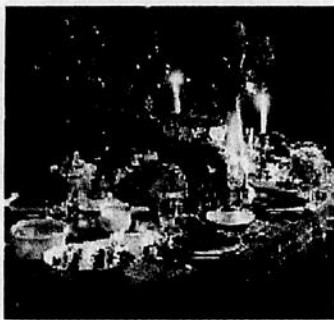


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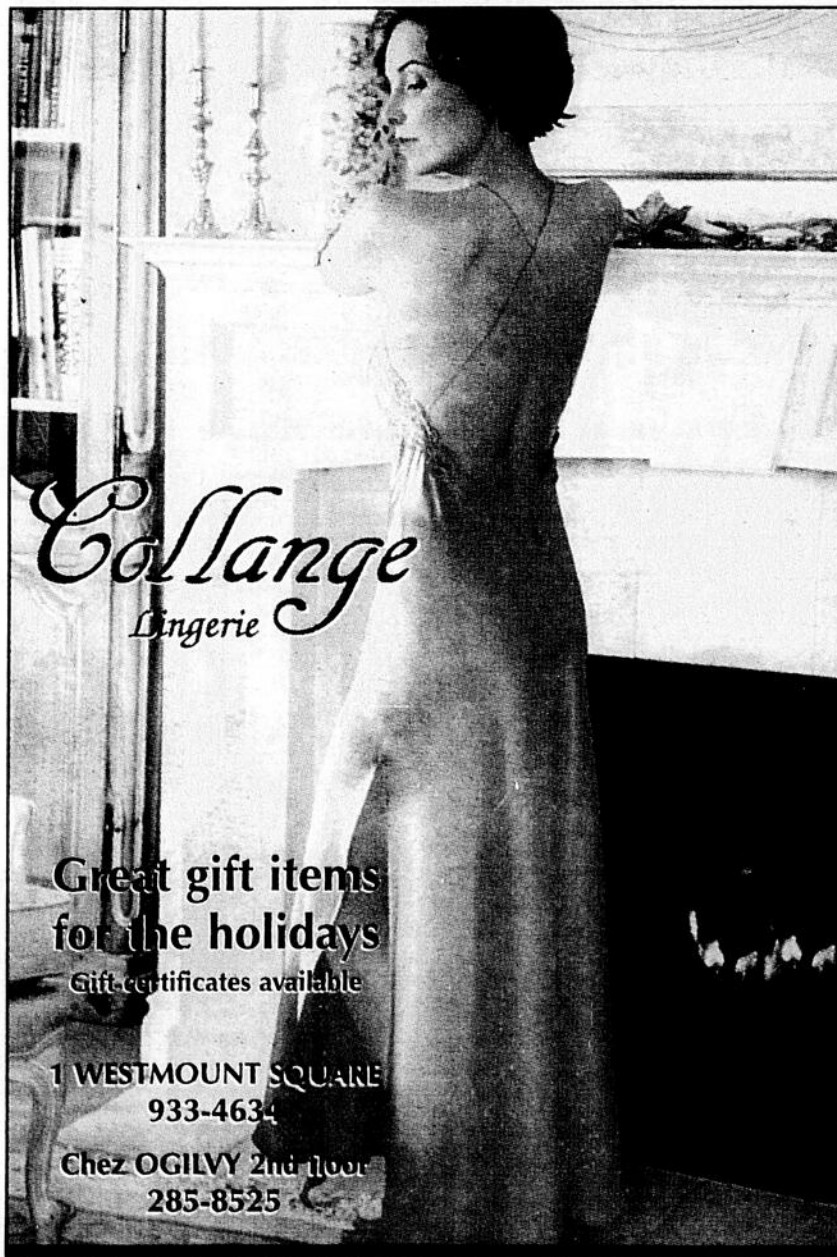
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# Tree sales support Missing Children's Network

Mark Rieger

**H**oliday time is upon us, and families everywhere are getting ready to share the season's good will and cheer.

But for some parents this season brings more pain than joy, as they cope with being without their children at this most family-oriented time of year.

More than 8,000 children went missing in Quebec last year, almost 80 of whom were abducted, said Pina Arcamone, co-executive director of the Missing Children's Network. While most of the 8,000 were found within a week, Arcamone said that more than 1,000 of the children still hadn't returned home.

The MCN helps police and parents locate those missing children, and also gives workshops in schools to teach kids how to avoid potentially dangerous situations.

The MacLeod family, whose Christmas Tree lot outside the Cinq Saisons grocery store at the corner of Greene Avenue and de Maisonneuve has been a December fixture in Westmount for more than 20 years, has been donating part of the proceeds from their tree sales to the MCN since 1992.

"We try to raise \$1,000 or more," Peter MacLeod said last week, sitting in the front seat of his car sipping a coffee, avoiding the late afternoon chill. "It works out to a couple of dollars per tree."

MacLeod said the family's reasons

for supporting the MCN were simple. "It makes us feel good," he said. "It's our way of saying Merry Christmas to everybody and at the same time doing something good for the community."

His sister Jane, out in the cold minding the trees, added, "It's always been a family tradition."

Peter said the MacLeods had given to the Montreal Children's Hospital prior to 1992, "and then along came the Missing Children's Network, and they were on a shoestring budget."

The MCN's Arcamone is thankful for the family's contributions. "All the services we provide are free of

charge," she said. "Something like what the MacLeods do is really important."

Peter said his family realized how much of a difference their donations made about three years ago.

"A guy came up to me and he said, 'thank you very much.' I said 'why?' He said 'through the Missing Children's Network, you found me.'"

Peter's father Boots, in a brightly-coloured, festive toque, wandered over to the car while Peter was telling the story. The elder MacLeod continued his son's tale: "He came up and pointed to his picture on the poster, and he said 'that's me. They

found me in Vancouver.' That made the whole thing worth it."

The MacLeods will be selling their trees, which range in price from \$10 to \$70, at Cinq Saisons every day from 10 a.m. until 9 p.m.

MARYSE BERDUGO

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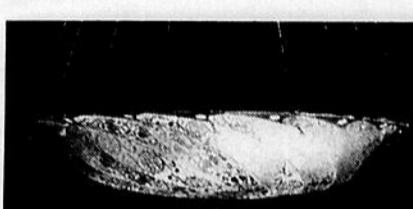
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# Contactivity mini-bazaars offer Christmas ideas

**Rania Habib**

**F**ollowing its big November bazaar, Westmount's Contactivity Centre is keeping the holiday spirit alive with an ongoing series of mini-bazaars.

Twice a week, the local seniors' community centre's Nook opens to the public and showcases arts and crafts made by members.

"After the big sale in November, we have a mini-sale where people come in and watch us work and look around," said Ginny Thomas, one of the centre's animators. "These women raise funds for the center

with these wonderful goods that they make." Handcrafted objects range from stuffed toys and Christmas decorations to jewelry and knitted clothes.

Some of the centre's members have been involved for many years. Myrtle Whealen, 92, has been an active member for more than two decades and comes into the Nook regularly to create some of the items that are on display.

"They take a great deal of pride in what they do," said Mary Stark, director of Contactivity Centre. "They try new things and get a lot of joy from being creative and being

together. Some people learn new skills—Myrtle hadn't painted until she came to the centre."


The bazaars have been held since the early days of the centre, when funding was not always very secure. After gaining recognition from the City of Westmount and groups such as Centraide, Contactivity's funding has become less of a problem. "But still, fundraising is important and also fun for everyone," Stark insisted. "It gives a creative outlet to people throughout the year."

Since its inception, the centre's various activities have entertained and assisted many of Westmount's

senior citizens. "It's a place where they can come together, socialize and be recognized in every sense of the word," added Stark, "They come to form a little community in itself, plus they participate in the community at large."

So if you're looking for some great Christmas gifts, drop by the Nook in the basement of Westmount Park United Church, corner de Maisonneuve and Lansdowne, and help out the centre that has done so much for the people. The mini-bazaars are held each Monday and Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. through Dec. 18.

# Happy Holidays



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# Comfort and joy with our canine friends

**Bridget Blackader**

**D**ear readers, well, the season has rolled around again, and we're all looking for a little comfort, a little joy.

I guess we have to find and make our own this year, as usual, although the dogs, bless their generous hearts, provide us with much of both from their happy companionship and unswerving loyalty.

Some comfort and joy may even be ours from Quebec City. Within days, the font of curious pronouncements will pronounce on the future, status, boundaries, and administrative mechanisms, of Mount Royal. The present



## Going to the dogs

we're looking for, of course, is that Summit Park remains under Westmount administration, with exist-

ing bylaws. So either implore all known good spirits or keep your fingers and toes crossed, that the free-running rules continue, and that there will be no question of public transit routes being extended up Belvedere!

Little comfort or joy is available from the new license costs. The price of the annual dog permit rises from \$10 to \$15. Still, to be fair, it is the first increase in some 15 years. While Westmount can no longer charge non-residents \$100 for access to the runs, any dog wishing to use the runs must have a Westmount tag. Hey, it's the canine version of the recreation pass.

So, on to real comfort. Real comfort includes dry feet. Wet feet, feet soaked

in salty water, and feet with road salt crystals between the pads, are truly uncomfortable, even painful. And some tootsies are more sensitive than others. Happily, there are several options to help. Fleece and wool booties keep all the salt out, but aren't waterproof.

Leather booties are proof against everything, but some dogs dislike them, because, I think, these booties make it more difficult to maintain a 'good feel' of the ground surface. Velcro straps make putting the booties on an easy affair, but allow them to disappear in play with astounding speed.

(continued on page 22)

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From comfort to joy

(continued from page 21)

Colourful suspenders assure the booties won't walk off on their own, but send the cost skyward. Very effective for temporary salt repairs, is to gently rub powder snow over the pads several times, followed by running a finger between pads to extract any crystals. Bag Balm is a wonderful concoction. Reasonably priced, it provides a good barrier when swiped onto and between pads, lasting at least the length of the walk. It conditions pads and our hands and lips, and won't leave gooey footprints in the house. True desperation suggests carrying your woof across the street. Hey, it works for the smaller breeds!

More real comfort is a warm bod. Only the northern breeds are well adapted to the ridiculous temps we get here. There are any number of colours and styles of cover-ups on the market, ranging from classic to punk, and from expensive to "This costs WHAT?!" Many of them do not really cover throats and chests. Assuming fashion is second to function, a very workable alternative is an old sweatshirt or sweater, sleeves rolled or newly hemmed.

A long scarf, or two sewn together, wrapped from the back, behind front legs, across chest, up over shoulders and around the lower chest/belly, is also effective. Well, fashion statements are freeform art now, eh?

And, of course, comfort is a warm tummy, especially on the coldest mornings or evenings. Without revisiting

food in general, you will provide real coziness by adding warm water or bouillon to a meal, or even microwaving it for a few moments.

From comfort to joy. Have we discussed the joy of whole-body hugs?

Position yourself very close to your four-footed darling. This may mean kneeling on the floor or perching on the edge of the sofa. Put one arm around the neck, near the shoulders. Put the other arm around the chest. Both arms can pat, hold, or stroke.

This position allows for strokes and tickles from nose to tail. As your mouth will probably end up near an ear, try whispering sweet nothings! If this sort of activity is new to your woof, he/she may look at you askance for a moment, but be assured, he/she will enter into this new play with enthusiasm and joy.

Trust me, you'll feel wonderful for these few moments of peace and sharing. The dog will be ecstatic. Truly wonderful is the knowledge that this activity is every bit as applicable to your beloveds with two feet!

And as with all forms of demonstrated affection, practice makes it all even better. The final joy is the knowledge that this is one of the world's greatest stress-busters, costing much less in time and money than a psychiatrist's couch, or booze!

Stay warm, stay healthy this holiday season. And hug your honey, all your honeys, with gay abandon.

*Bridget Blackader is president of the Westmount Dog Owners Association.*

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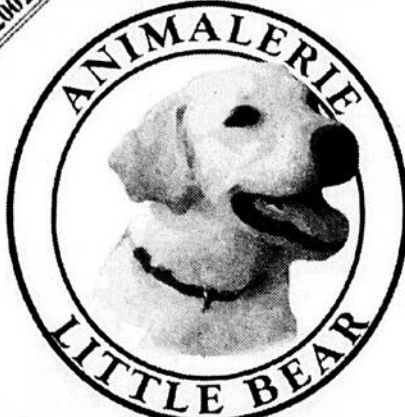
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# WYO wows Vic Hall crowd with outstanding performance

Martin C. Barry

**T**he Westmount Youth Orchestra just keeps getting better.

Since its creation in the mid-1990s, the 60-member company has evolved from what used to sound more like a high school band, to the point where the quality of their performances now is remarkably professional.

That's no mean feat for young musicians, most of whom are in their teens.

Last Sunday, the WYO staged their annual pre-Christmas performance at Victoria Hall, an event which many of those attending agreed was the most spectacular yet. The performance is being repeated this Sunday at 3 p.m.

The concert featured Albert Millaire, the well-known French-Canadian actor and a Westmount resident, reading a text by Jean de Brunhoff of 'Babar the Elephant,' written for Francis Poulenc's composition on the theme.

With performances of Beethoven's Overture Zu Goethes Trauspiel and Atterberg's Suite #3 for Violin, Viola and String Orchestra (with soloists Luanne Homzy and Juan-Miguel Hernandez) serving as the main fare, a sumptuous dessert—Aram Khachaturian's Masquerade Suite performed on stage by the Ballet Divertimento company—was kept for last.

"It's definitely the best show," said borough councillor Cynthia Lulham. "Over



Photo Martin C. Barry

**Ballet Divertimento performing at Victoria Hall last Sunday**

the last six years they've grown and they're wonderful. You can see a lot of love and work went into the programme and it shows. It's so nice to see this place used for culture. To be able to come and see this type of performance in your own community is really nice."

Mark Simons, the WYO's director, could

scarcely contain his own enthusiasm.

"We're improving!" he declared enthusiastically afterwards when the pressure was finally over. "I'm proud of le chemin we've taken."

Simons said that this was the first time the WYO had decided to combine its

talents with those of Ballet Divertimento, a Montreal-based non-profit school of dance whose artistic director is former Grands Ballets Canadiens choreographer Brydon Paige.


Millaire, whose reputation as a classical stage actor complements the international fame he achieved as a cast member on the Canadian television series Road to Avonlea, said that Babar has become a familiar character to most people.

"Babar is very well known in European countries and the United States, because there are books about Babar; you can see him with his bowler hat, his little car," he said.

The WYO is currently trying to raise money to send 50 members and four adults to Germany for two weeks next summer as part of a musical and cultural exchange with a youth orchestra there.

As part of the effort, those attending their performances are invited to make donations ranging from \$32 to \$2,411. The organizers have cleverly affixed gift-wrapped boxes with donation labels on the bannisters of Victoria Hall's main staircase, which audience members can choose during intermission and afterwards.




Those who missed last week's outstanding performance will not want to miss it again this Sunday afternoon at Victoria Hall.



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(continued from page 4)

She said the borough plods on in trying to explain at the centre-city level that Westmount always paid more than its share in supporting Montreal through the MUC. It is currently trying to compile figures to demonstrate how much the centre-city collects from Westmount compared to the amount it returns to the borough. "We want to make it abundantly clear," she said. "We're continually giving out more and getting back significantly less."

**Improving democracy**

The Commission de la Présidence, one of the two megacity committees on which Marks sits, presented its recommendations last month to increase accessibility for citizens to the council chamber and extend the question period. It also proposed that all committees meet three times a year to monitor budgets "which is a really good thing," and that the executive committee be required to answer all committee recommendations within 60 days.

**Why need centre-city librarians?**

Marks said that through her position on the arts and culture committee, she discovered "with astonishment that 95 people are working in the centre-city for the library (service) which is supposed to be decentralized."

Libraries at the borough are desperately understaffed, she explained, especially those in the former Montreal borough. "It's one of the rare times I sided with (former mayor Pierre) Bourque," she said in that those boroughs should have the same staff as the former suburbs. "We see more and more centralizing taking place."

**Mount Royal looks positive**

Westmount's continued discussions to preserve its own control over its portion of Mount Royal are looking "fairly positive," Marks said.

It certainly helped the borough's record of responsibility in that area to have received recent recognition in that respect, she pointed out. One was an award of thanks from Les Amis de la Montagne. The other was the Prix d'Orange from Save Montreal. Two years ago, Westmount purchased land along Cote des Neiges on the northeast slopes of Westmount mountain and demolished the Clifton apartment building to re-landscape and claim the site as green space.

Control of Mount Royal is to be decided by the Quebec government. "The last thing we want is for our residents (on the summit) to have to jump through a series of hoops," in seeking property changes, she said, in the event that the borough no longer has jurisdiction.

**Ottawa is good megacity model**

In a fact-finding visit to Ottawa's megacity operation, Marks was impressed that the council structure had no executive committee and no political parties. "They put us all to shame," she said. She also found there to be "a lot of public consultation and citizen committees on everything." She said she hopes in the new year that ways may be found for citizens to become more involved in helping to define priorities for the next year's budget.

"I think we can move ahead and encourage the big city to do it. It would be good for Montreal and for Westmount," she said.

**Library members and revenue climb**

Membership at Westmount Public Library keeps increasing, borough councillor Cynthia Lulham reported. At the start of December, there were 7,769 new members for the year, bringing the total to 13,947. Circulation is up 58 per cent. The book sale held by Friends of the Library raised \$3,330 for the purchase of new reading and audio-visual materials. A donation of \$2,258 has been received from the Evelyn de Rostaing McMann trust fund for the benefit of all library users.

**Ste. Marcelline zoning change**

All three borough council members plus Borough Director Bruce St. Louis attended the public consultation meeting held by the adjacent borough of NDG.-Cote des Neiges immediately before Westmount's Dec. 2 council meeting.

"It seems like an unusual thing to do," remarked borough councillor John de Castell, but it demonstrates the concerns that Westmount borough has with the proceedings. Although the school is presently located in Westmount at 815 Upper Belmont Ave., the land on which it plans to build an extension lies over the border into the other borough. It was recently acquired from St. Joseph's Oratory. The impact of the expansion will be felt in Westmount, de Castell said.

**Hydro beats first storm**

The first severe winter storm of the season on Nov. 17 dumped more than 25 cm of snow along with freezing rain and winds up to 70 km/h. "We're pleased to report that Hydro Westmount survived without any power outages," de Castell said. The electric utility did encounter problems at 6 p.m. on Nov. 28, however, when an apparent overload caused a blackout in a five-block area in the eastern section north of Sherbrooke around Mount Pleasant and de Lavigne.

**Breathalyzer tests taking place**

De Castell also cautioned residents that police are conducting breathalyzer tests over the holiday period. "Please remember not to drink and drive," he said.

*Presented by the Westmount Municipal Association to keep the community informed on issues relating to Westmount's changing complexion as a borough within the megacity of Montreal.*

**Cutler pens tribute to William Kurelek**

(continued from page 5)

Who, he wondered, would notice if Jesus were born in a barn today? He painted the Nativity taking place in various Canadian settings—on a fishing boat, in an igloo, on a cattle ranch—unheeded by the world.

It was Cutler herself, as owner of Tundra Books, who convinced Kurelek to write and illustrate children's books. 'A Prairie Boy's Winter' and 'A Prairie Boy's Summer,' which were published by Tundra in 1973 and 1975 respectively, were both deemed Best Illustrated Book of the Year by the New York Times and went on to sell 750,000 copies world-wide.

Like his father, Kurelek was a workaholic. He died at the age of 50, many believe from overwork, leaving more than 2,000 paintings, murals and drawings. Kurelek paid tribute to Cutler, saying that she, along with his Toronto art dealer Av Isaacs, "introduced me to success I'd not even dreamed of."

'Breaking Free' is Cutler's tribute to Kurelek, as his friend and publisher. Above all, 'Breaking Free' is the story of how art saved a man.

"I wanted to show how he overcame the depression left from that mean childhood to give confidence to others that it is possible," said Cutler, whose insightful commentary complements Kurelek's own anecdotes and illustrations in this compelling account of immigrant life and the therapeutic powers of art. Although designed and billed as a children's book, it makes for a delightful read - for young and old alike.

*'Breaking Free: The Story of William Kurelek' by May Ebbitt Cutler, is published by Tundra Books and currently available at most bookstores.*

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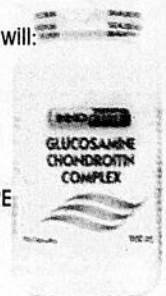
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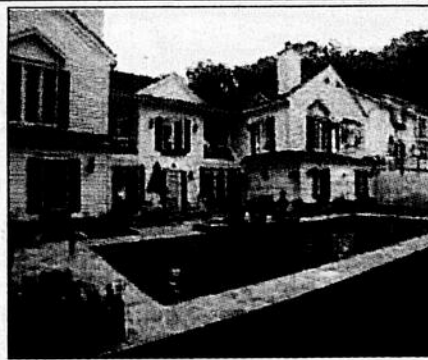
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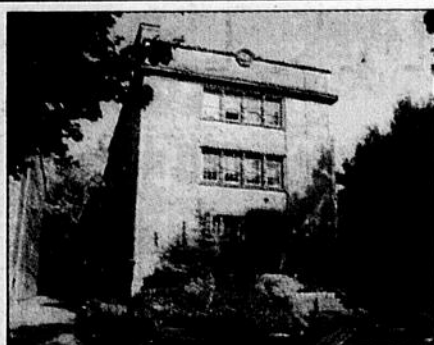
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