Montreal – At first glance, Dov Charney does not look like a newspaper editor. He looks more like an 11-year-old schoolboy.

In fact, he is both and Dov’s newspaper, What’s Up, sold in the suburban Westmont area at 20 cents a copy, currently has a circulation of about 500.

Dov started his newspaper a year ago and he has since put out eight issues. The response from both adults and children was enthusiastic from the outset, with people phoning to request additional copies and subscriptions. The paper contain the crosswords, mazes, puzzles and games one would expect in a children’s newspaper, but the content of the articles is as relevant to adults as to Dov’s peers, reflecting a kid’s-eye view of that wonderful but often curious world out there.

In an article entitled “Sorry Kids, For Adults Only,” Dov comments on the puzzling phenomenon of the Halifax showing of The Muppet Movie, restricted to persons over 16.

“When the Ice Follies come to town, will it be restricted because the Muppets will be on?” Dov asks as he considers the inevitable consequence of such irrational censorship.

“It’s important for kids to know that these things can happen. If they become aware of it, they can learn to be more careful.” Dov has come a long way in the past year from the first story he chased down. On the trail of that story, Dov went to Westmount city hall to get some information from the police department. “They refused to give it to me because I was a kid,” he recalls.

Dov attends Fine Arts Core Elementary, a progressive school emphasizing fine arts. Much of the material is drawn from personal experience or from interviews. Dov and his staff “usually cover things that happen to us or around us. Someone on our staff was molested and we got the story first-hand.

Dov is a perfectionist. The response from the adult world has been generally supportive but there are exceptions. Canvassing his Westmount neighborhood, Dov has been surprisingly successful generating advertising. On occasion, however, advertisers have taken advantage of his youth.

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As with all newspapers, Dov is supported heavily by advertising revenue and he is showing a growing concern with professionalism of presentation. “If it doesn’t look good, you don’t get and ad,” he observes.

Once content to type his newspaper on an antiquated typewriter, he now has his issues typeset professionally. Sylvia Safdie Charney, Dov’s mother, is a noted Montreal artist who encourages her children to express their own creativity. She commented that Dov’s work on the paper has made him much more aware of the environment.

He is an avid news devotee, reading the newspaper daily and delaying the family’s supper until he has viewed the televised evening news.

Dov gets into areas of which a boy his age might not normally be aware and once he gets involved and interested, he tries to unravel and understand the implications,” Mrs. Charney said.

“While a teachers strike was one, Dov worked on his paper for two weeks straight and I feel he continued to learn, develop and make valuable use of his time,” she said.