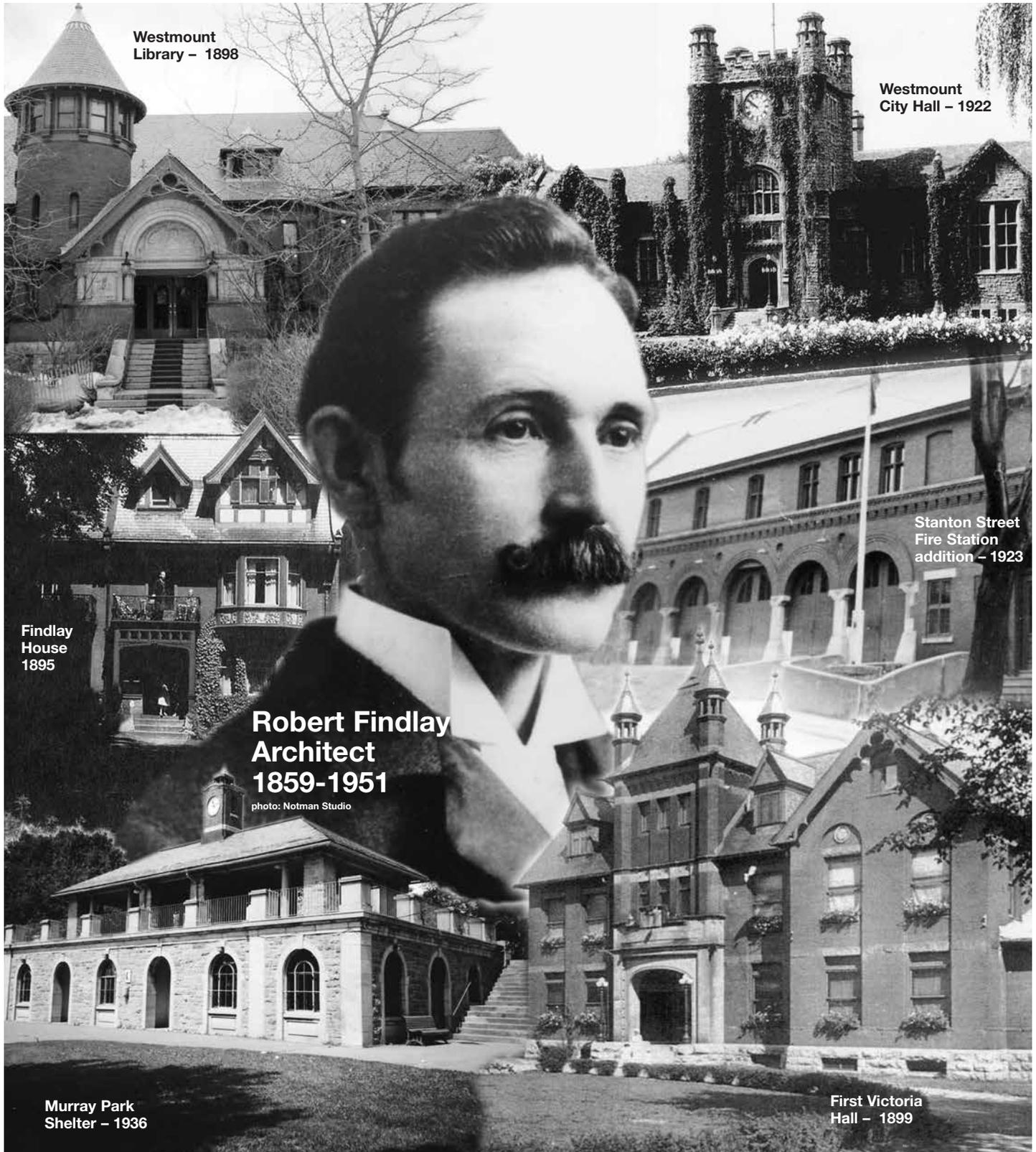


# The Westmount Historian

NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTMOUNT HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 7 NUMBER 1

SEPTEMBER 2006



Westmount  
Library - 1898

Westmount  
City Hall - 1922

Stanton Street  
Fire Station  
addition - 1923

Findlay  
House  
1895

Robert Findlay  
Architect  
1859-1951

photo: Notman Studio

Murray Park  
Shelter - 1936

First Victoria  
Hall - 1899

## *The Westmount Historian*

NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTMOUNT  
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

January 2006  
Volume 7 • Number 1

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am very pleased to be able to bring you this special issue celebrating the achievements of Westmount architect Robert Findlay. The valuable research undertaken by Caroline Breslaw and her assistants adds to our knowledge of the work and character of the architect of our City Hall, Public Library and Murray Park Shelter. These, plus many private homes which he designed for prominent families, created much of what we have inherited as the image of our City. Westmount can be proud to claim him as our own. In 1898, just three years after moving into the home he had designed for his family in this community, he was commissioned to design his first municipal building, the Westmount Public Library. We have reproduced the 1901 watercolour he painted of his Library building and his architect's drawing of the front view of his own house on Lansdowne Avenue.

A chronological listing of the buildings designed by Mr. Findlay within Westmount offers you the opportunity of following his stylistic ideas as they developed from 1891 when he designed a house on Dorchester Boulevard near the southern escarpment of Westmount until 1938 when he and his son Frank designed a house on Lexington Avenue further north near the top the mountain.

Enjoy learning more about Mr. Robert Findlay, architect and humanist.

DOREEN LINDSAY

## Raymond Mainville saved architectural plans and a drawing of the Findlay family home on Lansdowne Avenue.

For over forty years Mr. Raymond Mainville preserved the architectural plans and a drawing made by Robert Findlay for his pair of semi-attached town houses on Lansdowne Avenue. Then on Thursday evening, April 20, this year he presented them to the Westmount Historical Association. We thank our long time member Jacqueline Varin-Holm for making the connection. She knew the plans were in the possession of Mr. Mainville and told him about our series of lectures on the life and work of the architect. The more southerly house #419 was the Findlay family home.

Mr. Mainville rescued the roll of papers stuffed behind a pipe in a corner of the basement when he lived in the house between 1962 and 1985. He was intrigued by their detail, especial-

ly the drawing showing a wood barrel to collect rainwater from the roof. There are also five original architectural plans showing the front, side and rear elevations, the ground floor, first floor, basement and attic. Some are signed in neat architectural lettering by Robert Findlay.



*Raymond Mainville presenting Findlay drawing to Caroline Breslaw, coordinator of the Findlay lecture series.*

## THE ROBERT FINDLAY PROJECT



*Robert Findlay Family (left to right): Frank Findlay, Audrey, Robert Findlay, Jane-Amelia (wife), Arthur, Edythe.*

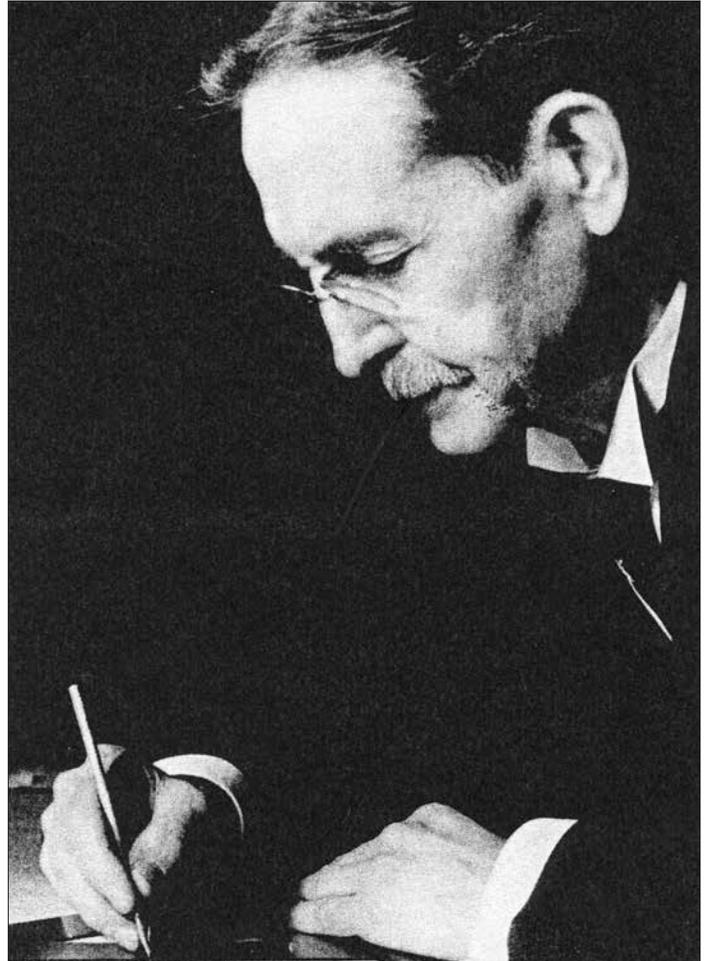
photo: WHA archive

This spring the Westmount Historical Association decided to honour architect Robert Findlay. Findlay has enriched the City of Westmount and the lives of its citizens through his vision for its municipal buildings and more than thirty private homes, built in an eclectic range of architectural styles. Findlay accommodated the tastes and needs of his clients, designing with integrity and paying great attention to detail and fine workmanship. His Westmount buildings can be seen from Dorchester Boulevard up to Surrey Gardens.

The 2006 Spring Lecture Series featured Robert Findlay and his work in Westmount. This fall, on Saturday, September 30, we will be leading guided walking tours of Findlay's Westmount for the Montreal Architectural Heritage Campaign. The routes for the two walks will include Findlay's municipal buildings and a selection of private residences designed by Robert Findlay, often with his son Frank.

Many people were involved in research for this project. Exciting discoveries have been made and original plans have been unearthed. We have concentrated our efforts on Robert Findlay's work in Westmount. He was also an important architect beyond our borders, designing many buildings in the Golden Square Mile and rural Quebec – the West Island, the Laurentians, and the Lower St. Lawrence.

The support of Robert Findlay's two surviving grandchildren has been invaluable. Helen and Henry Findlay have lent family photos, letters, and artifacts and have shared personal memories. Raymond Mainville, owner of



*Robert Findlay* photo: Frank Findlay, WHA archives

Findlay's home for 23 years, has contributed the original drawings, plans, and elevations of 419 Lansdowne and has lent us deeds of the property. Architect Bruce Anderson helped us to understand Findlay's domestic architecture. The speakers in our four lectures have provided us with a great deal of insight and information about Findlay's work. There has been a team effort in the Westmount Historical Association to realize this project. President Doreen Lindsay, tour guides Jane Martin, Ruth Allan-Rigby, Margarita Schultz, Barbara Covington, Monique Frezza, Jacqueline Varin-Holm, and myself are committed to making Robert Findlay's important contribution to Westmount better known.

CAROLINE BRESLAW

Robert Findlay's architectural plans and photographs are in the John Bland Canadian Architecture Collection, Blackader Lauderman Library of Architecture and Art at McGill University – [www.archives.mcgill.ca](http://www.archives.mcgill.ca)

## ROBERT FINDLAY'S LIFE (1859-1951)



Robert Findlay home, 419 Lansdowne Avenue photo: Findlay family album

Robert Findlay was born in 1859 in Inverness, Scotland. He began to train as an architect at the age of 17 with John Rhind in Inverness, then worked as an assistant of John Burnet in Glasgow. In 1885 he moved to Montreal where he served as on site architect for Alexander Dunlop of St. James Methodist Church on St. Catherine Street.

In 1887 Findlay won a competition for his design of the head office of the Sun Life Assurance Co. on Notre Dame Street West. This launched his career. Commissions poured in, mainly for the city residences of affluent Montrealers in the Golden Square Mile and Westmount, and country homes for the same clients in the Laurentians, the Lower St. Lawrence, and the West Island. His first work in Westmount was the home of Robertson Macaulay, President of the Sun Life Assurance Co., on Dorchester Boulevard.

Findlay married Jane Amelia Fleming of Edinburgh in 1887. They had four children – Frank, Arthur, Edythe, and Audrey. In 1895 the young family moved from 343 Olivier Avenue in Westmount to their own house at 419 Lansdowne Avenue. Findlay designed the semi-detached 3-story red brick house with red sandstone trim. The architect lived in this home, except for the years when his eldest son Frank was away in the States, until his death.

Every Sunday he and his wife walked to Melville Presbyterian Church (later known as St. Andrew's) on Côte St. Antoine Road.

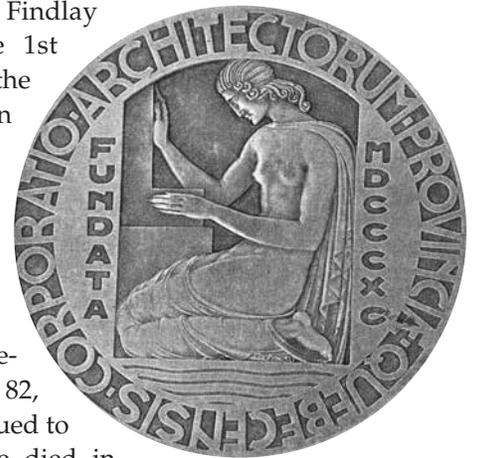
Over the years, Findlay was hired by the City of Westmount to design its main municipal buildings. In 1898 he was commissioned to plan the Westmount Public Library. The adjacent Children's Library followed in 1910, and an extension was added in 1924. In 1899 Findlay was chosen as architect of Victoria Hall, the city's community center. It was built of red brick in the Queen Anne style\* of the Library, with towers, large windows, and arches. This building burned down in 1924.

When Robert Findlay's son Frank returned from architecture studies at the University of Pennsylvania in 1913, he joined his father, working as a partner except for the war years. Their practice was known as Robert & F.R. Findlay, Architects. It was located at 1188 Phillips Place for more than 25 years.

In 1922 Robert and Frank Findlay designed the new Westmount City Hall in greystone in a neo-Tudor style. They made an extension to Fire Station #1 on Stanton Avenue in 1923. In 1936 they were responsible for the Murray Park Shelter. Robert Findlay also designed more than 30 residences in Westmount.

In 1938 Robert Findlay was awarded the 1st Medal of Merit by the Quebec Association of Architects for outstanding contribution to architecture. He had been a founding member in 1890.

Robert Findlay retired when he was 82, although he continued to work at home. He died in Montreal on February 5, 1951 at the age of 91 and was buried in Mount Royal Cemetery with a tombstone designed by his son Frank.



CAROLINE BRESLAW

*\*The Queen Anne style was informal, irregular and asymmetrical. It was the most elaborate and eccentric of all the Victorian house styles, fashionable in the 1880's and 1890's. The Industrial Revolution made factory made precut architectural parts available and pattern books were circulated.*

## THE ROBERT FINDLAY HOUSE, 1895



*Pen and ink drawing of #419/421 Lansdowne Avenue by Robert Findlay*

Robert Findlay lived at 419 Lansdowne Avenue for fifty-two years. He acquired the property in 1895 from Alexander Ramesay for \$1890 and designed a pair of semi-detached houses on the lot. The southern one, #419, remained his family home until his death.

The three-story house was built of red brick with red sandstone detail and a slate roof. It was designed in the Queen Anne style with a mixture of Tudor<sup>1</sup> (bay and oriel<sup>2</sup> windows, half-timbering of the dormers) and Gothic elements (tracery on the front door windows, quatrefoils<sup>3</sup> on the porch, the quatrefoil pattern on the big gable). The open front porch, the ornate wrought iron balcony, and the oriel window are especially noteworthy.

The floor plan of the interior was similar to that of upper middle class homes in Britain – the children's bedrooms were on the top floor, the living room was on the middle floor, and a reception room was located on the main floor. The house was heated by a hot water radiator system using a coal furnace. There were also four unique fireplaces. Plaster cornices were a feature in all the public rooms.

In Findlay's home, the reception room at the front of the house served as a business office. The dining room behind

it had a built-in curved side-board and wood paneling. A door from the dining room opened onto a butler's pantry with a servant's bell. Off the kitchen were a larder with ice-box and a scullery with sink and built-in drainboard.

The central staircase allowed light to pour down to the main floor. The ceilings were higher on the second floor than on the ground floor. The family gathered in the double front room on the second floor in the evenings and for special occasions. This space consisted of a large drawing room with a fireplace and a smaller sitting room with a piano and French doors which opened onto the gallery. The master bedroom, the bathroom, and a small bedroom were at the back of the house.

The four children's bedrooms were on the top floor. There was a divided bathroom, a feature of

British homes. A unique lightwell extended from the roof to the main floor, providing light to the middle section of the house. There was also a skylight above the top floor landing.

Findlay designed his home large enough to accommodate his family and to provide work space. The fireplaces, lightwell, and staircase are noteworthy features which still exist today.

CAROLINE BRESLAW

<sup>1</sup>*Tudor revival homes have a decidedly medieval flavor with heavy chimneys and decorative half-timbering*

<sup>2</sup>*An oriel window is a projecting bay window supported from below with a corbel or bracket.*

*Oriel windows are always sited on upper floors, while bays occur at all levels.*

<sup>3</sup>*A quatrefoil pattern consists of four equal lobes, like a four petaled flower.*

*It is common in Moorish and Gothic architecture.*

## ROBERT FINDLAY – 1859-1951

- 1859: born in Inverness, Scotland
- 1876-1881: apprenticed as architect to John Rhind in Inverness
- 1881-1885 worked with John James Burnet in Glasgow, Scotland
- 1885: moved to Montreal
- 1885-1890: worked with several architects including Alexander Dunlop  
 – worked as “on site” architect for St. James Methodist Church on Ste. Catherine Street
- 1887: won competition for design of Sun Life Assurance Co.  
 on Notre Dame Street West. Only 28 years old.  
 – married Jane Amelia Fleming of Edinburgh, Scotland
- 1889-1890: opened firm of *Wright & Findlay*  
 – **office at 3012 Ste-Catherine**, Côte St-Antoine, for one year
- 1890: founding member of the Province of Quebec Association of Architects  
 (sat on the Council of the Association from 1896-97)
- 1891-92- firm of *Robert Findlay, architect* HOME ADDRESS  
 – **office in New York Life Building, 11 Place d’Armes** ..... 47 Olivier Ave. Côte St-Antoine
- 1892-94: **office in Sun Life Building, 1766 Nôtre Dame Street**..... 47 Olivier Ave. Côte St-Antoine
- 1894-95: **office at 1766 Nôtre Dame Street**..... 343 Olivier Ave. Cote St-Antoine
- 1895: designed own home in Westmount..... 419 Lansdowne Ave. Westmount  
 and moved there with wife and four children
- 1895-96: **office at 260 St. James - until 1908**
- 1898: designed Westmount Public Library
- 1899: designed original Victoria Hall
- 1906-07: firm of *Findlay & McGregor, architects and valuers*
- 1907-08: firm of *Robert Findlay, architect & valuator*
- 1908: **office at 10 Phillips Place - until 1917** ..... 515 Clarke Ave. (1908-13)  
 firm of *Robert Findlay, architect and valuator* while son Frank studied at  
 U. of Pennsylvania
- 1910: designed Children’s Library with separate entrance  
 as an addition to original Westmount Library
- 1913: son Frank joined firm..... 419 Lansdowne Ave. Westmount
- 1916: appointed to Westmount Council’s newly-formed  
 architectural advisory committee (served until 1919)
- 1917: **office at 416 Phillips Place – until 1928**
- 1922: designed Westmount City Hall  
 – firm of *Robert & F.R. Findlay architects*
- 1923: designed addition to #1 Fire Station on Stanton Street
- 1924: designed extention to Westmount Public Library.
- 1928: **office at 1188 Phillips Place - until 1940**
- 1933: a member of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada  
 (won an honourable mention for Residential Buildings)
- 1936: designed Murray Park Shelter
- 1938: awarded the first Medal of Merit for outstanding  
 contribution to architecture by the Quebec Association  
 of Architects at their Annual General Meeting on Jan. 22
- 1940: **office at 1255 University**, for one year
- 1941: Robert Findlay retired
- 1951: died in Montreal on February 5 at age of 91

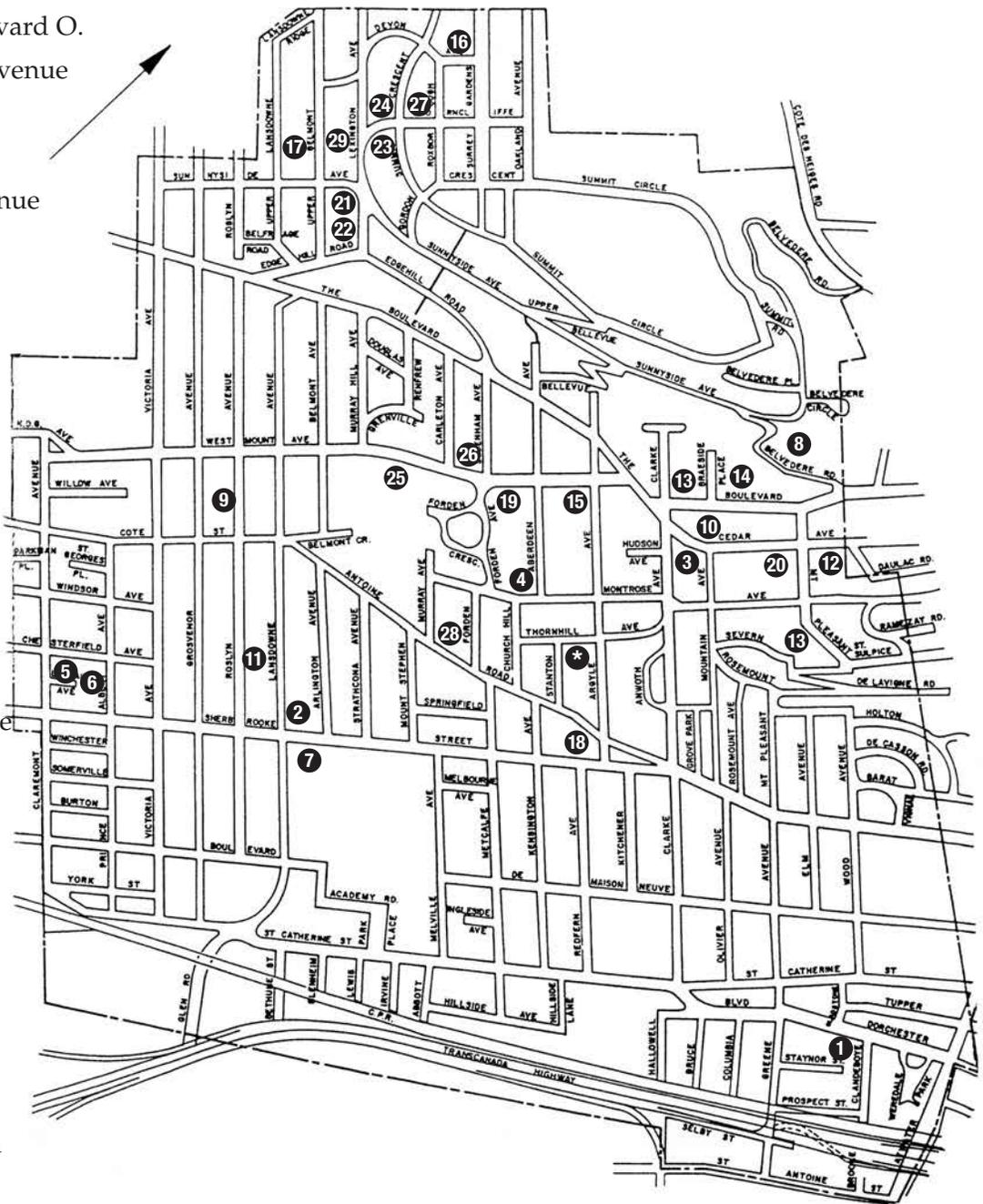
\* bold type indicates office and home address based on Lovell’s Directory

# ROBERT FINDLAY – BUILDINGS IN WESTMOUNT

1. 1891 4100 Dorchester Boulevard O.
2. 1895 419/421 Lansdowne Avenue
3. 1895 3282 Cedar Avenue
4. 1896 12 Aberdeen Avenue
5. 1898 42-56 Chesterfield Avenue
6. 1898 444/446 Prince Albert
7. 1898 Westmount Library
8. 1906 15 Belvedere Road
9. 1907 558 Roslyn Avenue
10. 1909 3303 Cedar Avenue
11. 1910 425 Roslyn Avenue
12. 1911 3228 Cedar Avenue
13. 1911 498 Mt Pleasant Ave.
14. 1912 1 Braeside Place
15. 1914 4334 Westmount Ave.
16. 1917 46 Surrey Gardens
17. 1920 459 Upper Lansdowne
18. 1922 Westmount City Hall  
\*1923 Fire Station addition  
15 Stanton Street
19. 1924 65 Forden Avenue
20. 1928 3246 Cedar Avenue
21. 1929 732 Lexington Ave.
22. 1929 730 Lexington Ave.
23. 1930 21 Shorncliffe Ave.
24. 1931 757 Lexington Ave.
25. 1936 Murray Park Pavilion
26. 1933 4363 Westmount Ave.
27. 1933 32 Shorncliffe Avenue
28. 1933 1 Murray Avenue
29. 1938 758 Lexington Ave.

\**détruit / destroyed*

- 1899 – 1924 – Victoria Hall
- 1900 – ???? – 601 Clarke Avenue
- 1912 – 1961 – Calvary Church



## GUIDED WALKING TOURS OF FINDLAY BUILDINGS

Saturday, September 30, 2006 at 1:00 and 1:30 pm

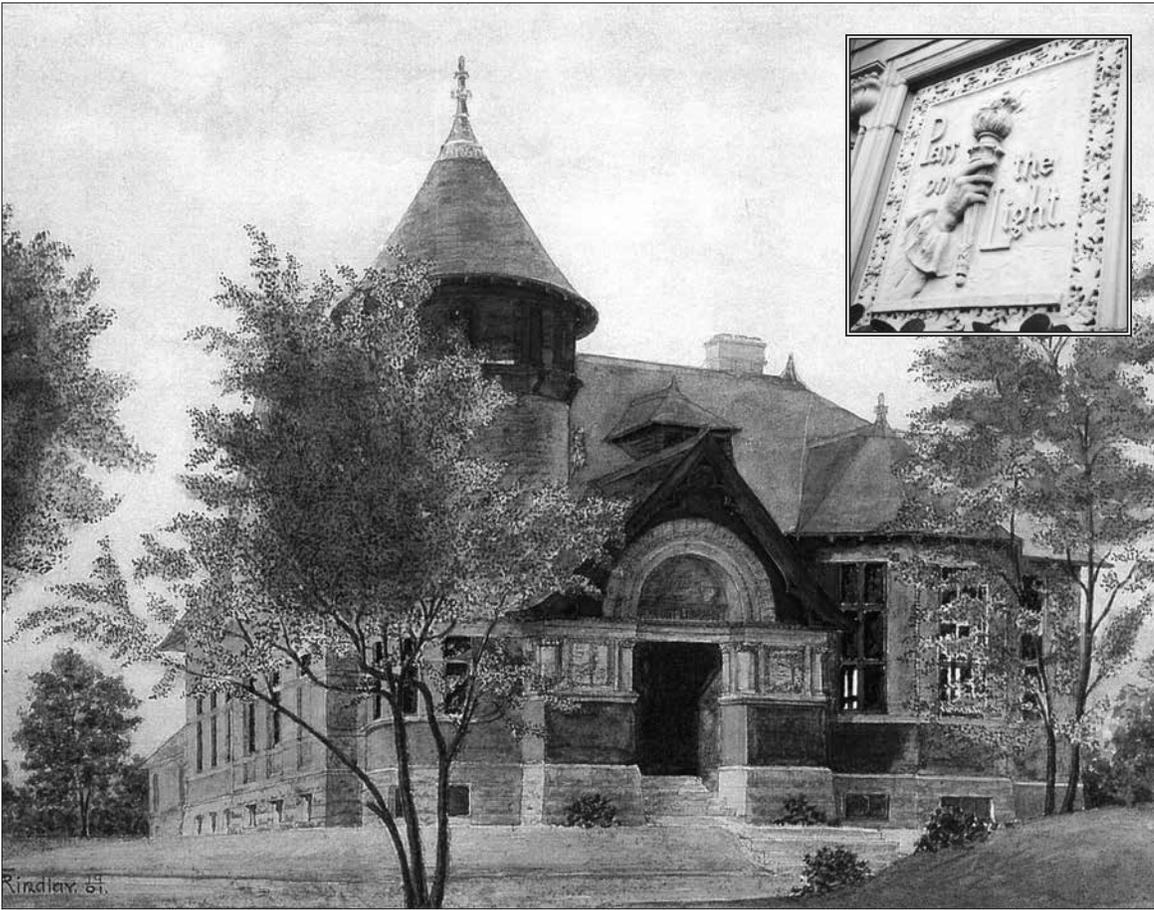
Tour 1 begins at Westmount Public Library, 4574 Sherbrooke St. W.  
Tour 2 begins at Pavilion in King George Park (Murray Park)

Admission is free, but space is limited and reservations are required.  
Sign-up for the walking tours (in French or English) begins September 22

514-989-5226

2006 MONTREAL ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE CAMPAIGN

## WESTMOUNT PUBLIC LIBRARY, 1898



*Watercolour of Westmount Public Library by Robert Findlay, 1901. Inset, detail of relief.*

In 1897 the City of Westmount decided to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee by building a public library and reading room in Westmount Park. It was to be paid for with \$13,000 owed to the City by a contractor. Robert Findlay was appointed project architect. Findlay had designed the headquarters for the Sun Life Assurance Company on Notre Dame Street West and the home of its President, Robertson Macaulay, at 4100 Dorchester Boulevard. He himself lived across from the park.

Findlay's design of the Library was influenced by American architect H.H. Richardson, whose work features solid masonry massing, large arches, sloped roofs, big windows, and towers. When the Westmount Public Library opened in 1898, it was the first municipal public library in the Province of Quebec. It was built of red brick and sandstone with a slate roof and an arched entrance facing the recently acquired park. It featured separate reading rooms for men and women with a double-sided fireplace.

In 1910 Findlay was commissioned to design a Children's Library, attached to the first building. This had its own entrance facing Sherbrooke Street. Its fireplace had a stone

store the Findlay Wing of the Westmount Public Library. Referring to original plans, drawings, photographs, and newspaper articles, they carried out a restoration in the spirit of the original. Columns were uncovered or copied and were marbled, stenciling was done at the top of the walls and the wood paneled ceilings were revealed. The walls were divided as they had been in Findlay's day with darker colours on the dado at the base, a filler of wallpaper above, and a frieze\* band that was either stenciled or highly decorated in the upper section. The Children's Library has become the Westmount Room, the venue for many community activities, such as the lectures of the Westmount Historical Association.

CAROLINE BRESLAW

*Based on a talk by Rosanne Moss on Feb.16, 2006*

*\*A frieze is a horizontal band which runs above doorways and windows or below the cornice.*

*It may be decorated with designs or carvings.*

inscription and tiles with scenes from Alice in Wonderland. This addition cost \$20,000.

In 1924 a second extension was designed by Findlay. It featured a bay window to the left of the main entrance. Additional reading rooms and a mezzanine were added. Over the years, further additions and alterations were made to the original building by other architects, obscuring Findlay's design.

In 1995 the architecture firm of Fournier, Gersovitz & Moss was mandated by the City of Westmount to re-

## "OAKLANDS" 15 BELVEDERE ROAD, 1906

"Oaklands" is the large red brick house situated on a one and a half acre site in the curve of Belvedere Road near the top of Westmount Summit. It was designed in 1906 by architects Robert Findlay and John McGregor for import businessman George Sumner. The house can first be seen on the 1907 Pinsonneault map. Belvedere Road was not on the Rand McNally 1898 map, but is shown on the 1903 Goad Map.

In 1928 Sam Bronfman bought the house and land from the Sumner estate. His brother Allan bought the house to the east for his family and together they bought the Coristine house in between the two properties so it could be demolished and replaced by a garden. The following year Sam had enlargements and modifications done to 15 Belvedere Road by architects Hutchison and Wood. In 1931 a

second story was added above the garage as a residence for the chauffeur. The stone wall was rebuilt. A terrace was added and formal gardens were developed to be used for entertaining. Additional enlargements and modifications were made in 1938, 1939, 1949, 1954, 1971 and 1973. The main entrance to the house opens towards a dining room which lies straight ahead with a living room to the right. Both rooms have large windows providing views of the Saint Lawrence River. Findlay's attention to detail is evident in the integrated wood paneling, which still exists in the dining room and Mr. Bronfman's study.

The Bronfman family has owned the estate for seventy-five years. The current owner is Stephan Bronfman, grandson of Sam Bronfman. At the present time, the house is undergoing a restoration/renovation by the architectural firm Architem-Wolff Shapiro Kuskowski. They are undertaking an ecological overview to evaluate the sustainable development of site features, water and energy conservation and materials.

"Oaklands" is a Westmount Class 1\* residence because of the fine quality of the original architecture by Findlay, the extensive social history and its impressive site on one and a half acres of land in the middle of the city.

DOREEN LINDSAY

*Based on a talk by Andrea Wolff & Lyse Tremblay, May 18,*



*"Oaklands," 15 Belvedere Road, Westmount, hand coloured Christmas card, 1918 for Mr. George Sumner and Miss Sumner*

photo: WHA archives

2006

### **City of Westmount Annual Report 1923**

"The new City Hall which is situated on a large open space in the heart of the City and surrounded by Public Buildings, was completed during the year. The building which is of the Tudor type, constructed of Montreal Limestone with Indiana lime stone trimmings, is one story in height and covers an area of 150 feet by 85 feet in the greatest dimensions, while the heavy tower in front rises to the height of 65 feet. The design and finish of the building has been well carried out. The offices, Council and Committee rooms are large and airy and the working space laid out so as to give the greatest degree of efficiency. The cost of the building including the Architect's fees was \$145,900.00"

### **City of Westmount Annual Report 1936**

"In Murray Park the old Murray House was taken down and the location regraded and planted. A very handsome pavilion of cut stone was erected and provides rooms for skaters to change boots, lavatory accommodation, and shelter from the weather. Its upper floor provides an attractive sitting-out shelter, and the building is surmounted by a clock tower having a two-dial electric clock."

## WESTMOUNT MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS

Westmount's municipal buildings are important not only for their style, their materials, their architect but also their relationship with the city's development. In 1895 when the Town of Côte St. Antoine changed its name to "Westmount" in order to better describe its geographical site on the west side of the mountain and its increasing English



*Murray Park Shelter, 1936*

photo: WHA archives

speaking population, Robert Findlay was moving into the home he had designed for his family on Lansdowne Avenue. The previously rural community began to urbanize with the influx of more people. By 1890 there were 1850 people living here.

### Municipal building's in Westmount Park

City Council decided to concentrate municipal community buildings on the northwest corner of 16 acres of newly acquired parkland. The Côte St. Antoine Improvement Committee, which had formed in 1890, proposed to develop a public park out of this area where forests, ravines and springs made it difficult to farm or construct houses.

Westmount chose Robert Findlay to design the **West-**



*Fire Station addition by Findlay firm in 1923*

photo: WHA archives

**mount Public Library** in 1898. As it was being built, 300 residents petitioned for a Community Centre, Both were built in honour of Queen Victoria's Jubilee of 1897. This first **Victoria Hall** opened in 1899 at a cost of \$25,000 and included a large room for public meetings, small rooms for specialized groups, a gymnasium, swimming pool, a dance floor, a bowling alley and a billiard room. It was completely destroyed by fire in 1924.

### Municipal buildings around original Town Hall on Stanton Street

#### Westmount City Hall, 1922

Citizens liked the idea of a local architect designing the first building to be constructed specifically as a new City Hall. Previously space had been used in a building on Stanton Street which was shared with the Fire and Police departments. Robert Findlay and his son Frank designed a Tudor style building constructed of

Montreal limestone with Indiana limestone trim and a central tower. The inside included a wood paneled council chamber as well as office space for city councilors and municipal departments. The cost of the building was \$145,900.00, including architect's fees. In 1965 the interior underwent a renovation and these features can no longer be seen.



*Original Victoria Hall opened 1899* photo: WHA archives

#### Fire Station #1 Addition, 1923

The following year, the Findlays were asked to enlarge the Fire Station on Stanton Street. They added a second floor and two arches to the three already on the ground floor for fire trucks.

#### Murray Park Shelter, 1936

In 1936 the Findlay firm was asked to design a Public Shelter for a new park that the city was developing above Côte St. Antoine Road, on land which it had bought from the Murray Estate. An amusing detail from Findlay's personal life can be seen in the drawing of his Scotty dog which was part of the weather vane on the slate roof.

DOREEN LINDSAY

*Based on talk by Claudine Deom, March 16, 2006*

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

As this newsletter is dedicated to the architecture of Robert Findlay, it seemed appropriate to bring to your attention a wonderful book on architecture, donated to the Westmount Historical Association Archives by Professor Bruce Anderson, McGill University, School of Architecture. It is a collection of measured drawings, photographs and short historical text describing fifty houses in and around Montreal, many of which are located in Westmount.

50 HOUSES IN AN AROUND MONTREAL: AN ALBUM OF MEASURED DRAWINGS, by Bruce Anderson, Geneviève Bégin, and Ariane Truong. Westmount, QC: Anderson Architects, [2005]

Measured drawing has been part of the curriculum of the McGill University, School of Architecture since its beginning in 1896. Measured drawings are an accurate record, to scale of what has been built, including both exterior and interior architectural design elements, using hand measurements. Measured drawings can be used to reconstruct buildings, which have been damaged or destroyed.

Initially, measured drawings were produced using hand measurements, but at the present time drawings are being produced using special cameras and plotters, and computer software. Most of the drawings in this book were hand drawn using ruling pens and India ink on smooth hand-made watercolour paper.

In 1990 Professor Anderson introduced a new elective course to the McGill Architecture program, entitled "History of Domestic Architecture in Quebec". The course included lectures and seminars on the history of Quebec's domestic architecture, visits to houses of special architectural interest in many styles, French Canadian, British Colonial, Victorian, Beaux Arts and Arts and Crafts. It is interesting to note that an invaluable sourcebook, "The Old Architecture of Quebec", published in 1947 by Professor Ramesay Traquair, the third director of McGill's School of Architecture, includes measured drawings done by his students, who studied both domestic and institutional buildings in Quebec, dating from the 17th century. Professor Anderson's students chose a house to draw, followed by several visits to the house,

which resulted in photographs, historical text and measured drawings of the house.

As mentioned earlier, many of the houses described in this collection are located in Westmount. Metcalfe Terrace, 168 Côte St. Antoine, one of four Regency-style houses was built by Captain Moses Judah Hays, 1840-1844. Only two of the four houses remain to-day, #168 and #178 Côte St. Antoine. A brick cottage, The Gate Lodge, 1847-61, is located on a triangle of land dividing Mountain Avenue and Rosemount Crescent and was quite possibly a gardener's or coachman's house for the John Young, "Rosemount" estate. Rosemount Cottage, 1860-70, 451 Mountain Avenue, is another house that is located on the "Rosemount" estate and is attached to two other houses on Rosemount Avenue, which originally were the stables for the estate. Also on Mountain Avenue, #490, is the Daniel Wilson House, a gothic-style house on one of Westmount's steepest slopes. Its stone walls and detailed wood carvings on the gable

canopies and porch, the view of the Lachine Rapids from the second floor balcony, and the large bay windows stretching from basement to second floor, angled to take in the view of old Montreal are architectural details of note.

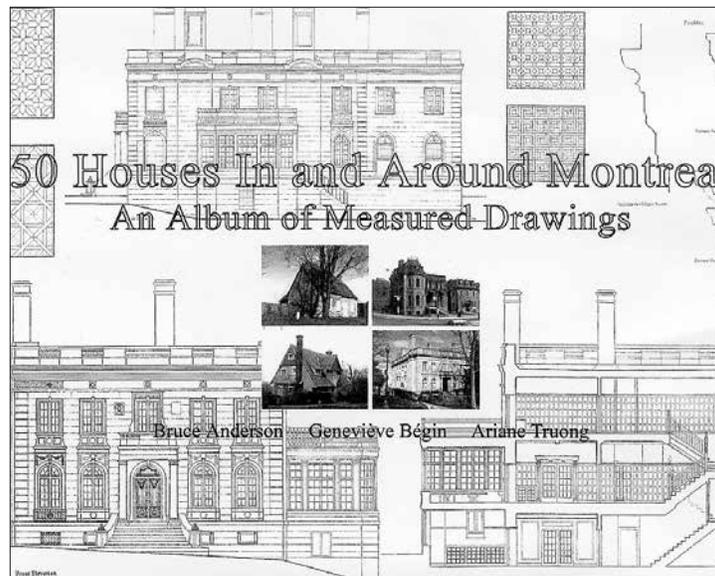
Robert Findlay built his own home in the form of semi-detached houses at 419-421 Landsdowne, 1895. These houses are Queen Anne in style, with Tudor and Gothic elements. The houses are built of red brick and red sandstone quoins,

dormers and half-timbered and stucco on the upper façade, with an intricate wrought iron balcony on the second floor level, wooden Gothic-style entrance porches, topped off by a slate mansard roof.

These are but a few of the Westmount houses drawn, photographed and described in this fascinating book.

Drawings from both the Traquair and the Anderson books are housed in the John Bland Canadian Architecture Collection, Blackader Lauderman Library of Architecture and Art at McGill University.

BARBARA COVINGTON  
ARCHIVIST, JULY 2006.



## NEW ACQUISITIONS

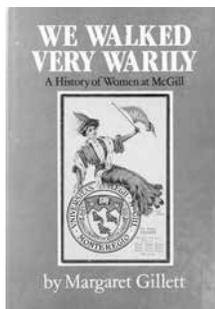
### Books

JORI SMITH; a celebration / une celebration, by Philip Stratford. Montreal: Concordia University, 1997.

THE McCORD MUSEUM ARCHIVES / LES ARCHIVES DU MUSÉE McCORD

By Pamela Miller. Montreal: McCord Museum of Canadian History, 1992.

MONT ROYAL – VILLE MARIE: Early plans and views of Montreal / Vues et plans anciens de Montréal, by Conrad Graham. Montreal: McCord Museum of Canadian History, 1992.



◆ WE WALKED VERY WARILY: A HISTORY OF WOMEN AT MCGILL, by Margaret Gillett. Montreal: Eden Press Women's Publications, 1981.

### Novels

The Bequest and Other Stories, by Jerry Wexler. Montreal: Véhicule Press, 1984.

The Man Who Loved Jane Austen: a novel, by Ray Smith. Erin, Ontario: The Porcupine's Quill, 1999

### Booklets

Anne Kahane: dualities. 1999.

McCord Museum of Canadian History. 1992

Montreal Public Libraries Network. 2005.

Montreal: That's Hockey. 1997.

The Women's Art Society of Montreal. 1985.



### Plaque

Robert & F.R. Findlay architect plaque. Donated by Helen Findlay ◆

### Photographs

Three photographs of fireplaces in George Sumner house 15 Belvedere Road. Donated by the daughters of William D. Sumner: Elizabeth Ann Sumner Murray and S. Frances Sumner MacGregor.

## Fall Lecture Series, 2006

### *Restoration of Older Homes in Westmount*

Preserving the Original Character of our Architectural Heritage

**Thursday, September 21, 2006**

Having a Home Restored:  
Help from the Experts

**Speaker: Astri Prugger, designer and homeowner**

Finding help to decide what needs to be done and the order of things to be done in your home restoration.

**Thursday, October 19, 2006**

Wardleworth House: Understanding  
the Importance of Metcalfe Terrace

**Speaker: Glen Bydwell, architect**

A talk about how the history of the origins and evolution of the Wardleworth house was used to shape its restoration.

**Thursday, November 16, 2006**

Characteristics of Westmount's Architecture:  
The Classical Idea, The Medieval Idea,  
The Modernist Idea.

**Speaker: Bruce Anderson, architect**

An illustrated talk explaining the numerous architectural styles occurring in Westmount buildings.

**Thursday, December 21, 2006**

Economic Demystification:  
Renovating Old Homes at Less Cost

**Speaker: Edouard El Kaim, homeowner & antique dealer**

Bringing houses back as close as possible to their original state and keeping costs down.

*All lectures will take place in the Westmount Public Library from 7 to 9 PM*