

The Westmount Historian

NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTMOUNT HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 10 NUMBER 1

SEPTEMBER 2009

WESTMOUNT, P.Q., SATURDAY, MAY 9, 1908.

The first meeting of the Westmount council under its new regime as a city, was held on Monday evening last, May 4, 1908. As first mayor of the city of Westmount, William Galbraith, Esq., presided, and all the aldermen were in attendance; viz., Messrs. Gall, Brady, Fetherston, Trenholme, Murphy, Rutherford and Campbell.

Inasmuch as it was a red letter day in the history of the municipality, the opening proceedings were somewhat of an inaugural and congratulatory character. Ex-Mayor W. D. Lighthall, K.C., occupied a seat beside the mayor; Col. Hibbard, representing the town solicitors, shared a seat at the desk of the city engineer, Mr. F. D. Fellowes, C.E. Secretary-Treasurer Wm. Minto, occupied his usual post as financial adviser to the corporation, and Mr. A. D. Shibley, acted as clerk to the council, while among the interested audience we noticed Police Magistrate McMahon, Mr. John Millen, treasurer of the Municipal Association, and others.

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HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

September 2009
Volume 10 • Number 1

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Photos: WHA Archives

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

If we had lived here 100 years ago we would have heard a cock crow in the morning and watched farmers plow their fields between the scattered houses along dirt roads. Fresh spring water flowed down the hill from the children's playground that we now call Murray Park. Westmount Park was a forest of trees with comfortable pathways along a deep ravine. If we looked up we could see the few large elegant villas that dotted our mountainside. We would, of course, walk proudly on wooden sidewalks along newly opened macadamized streets. Community life was active. We could read in the new free Public Library or attend a meeting in Victoria Hall. All our household necessities of milk, bread and ice would be delivered to our door by horse and wagon and we could enjoy shopping for shoes, jewelry, or food around Greene Avenue or if we lived closer to Victoria Avenue, at the new large Biltcliffe department store.

We became a City 100 years ago (1908) This newsletter combines the result of six months of research by Caroline Breslaw, Ruth Allan-Rigby and myself. Ruth concentrates on municipal services: the Police and Fire Departments, the CPR station, transport, the Library and Victoria Hall. Caroline describes the green spaces, private sporting clubs, public and private schools, and the shopping. Our own archives served as a rich information source as did the 1908 *Westmount News* in the Library.

DOREEN LINDSAY

WHA Fall 2009 Lecture Series

Viewing Westmount Through Photographs

Thursday, 17 September 2009

THE TURCOT INTERCHANGE IN WESTMOUNT: THEN AND NOW

Speakers: **Brian Merrett**, photographer

David Carruthers activist with Westmount Action Committee.

Jason Prince, urban planner and coordinator of CURA:

Making Mega-Projects Work for Communities.

Thursday, 15 October 2009

THE JAMES K. WARD FAMILY and PHOTOGRAPHIC ALBUM

Speakers: **Gary Aitken**, Westmount resident and author of

Good People: The Kertlands of Canada, 2008

Denis Longchamps, administrator of the Gail and Stephen

A. Jarislowsky Institute for Studies in

Canadian Art, Concordia University.

Thursday 19 November 2009

WILLIAM NOTMAN: PHOTOGRAPHER

Speaker: **Nora Hague**, photographic archivist in the Notman Archives, McCord Museum

Thursday 17 December 2009

THE ROBERT HARVIE PHOTOGRAPHIC ALBUM

Speaker: **Doreen Lindsay** WHA researcher and photographer

Talks will take place in WESTMOUNT PUBLIC LIBRARY

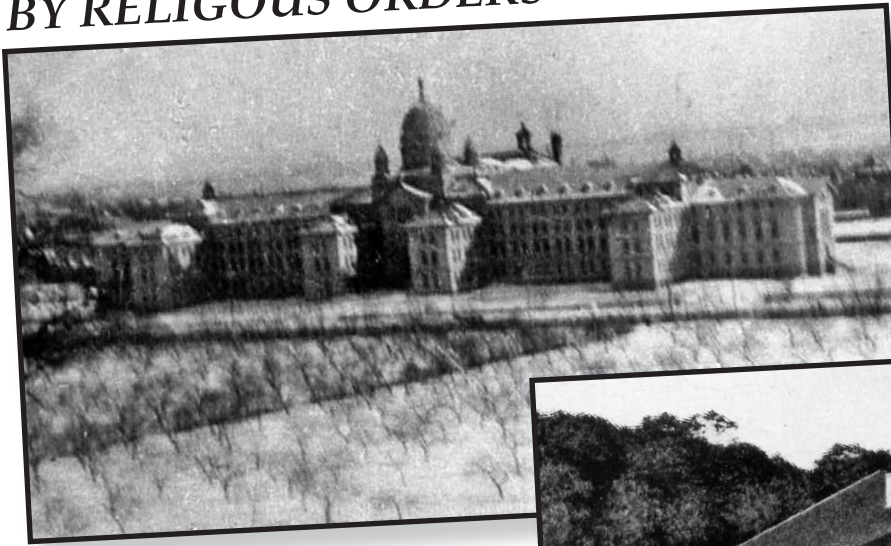
4574 Sherbrooke Street West – 7 to 9 pm

Admission free for members. Non-members \$5:00 at the door.

514-989-5510 or 514-932-6688

LIFE IN WESTMOUNT 1908 – 1909

MANY GREEN SPACES WERE OWNED BY RELIGIOUS ORDERS



Priest's Farm land north of Sherbrooke St. and the new Mother House of the Congrégation de Notre-Dame which opened in 1908. Photographed from Wood Avenue.

Westmount Golf Club House where present day Surrey Gardens is above Summit Circle.



A PROLIFERATION OF PRIVATE SPORTING CLUBS

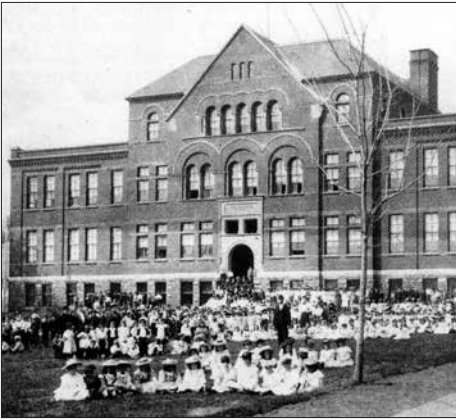
Text (pages 3 to 7): Caroline Breslaw
Photos: WHA Archives

In 1908 Westmount was a semi-rural municipality with only 16% of its land developed. Springs and streams, large gardens, and vestiges of the fields from the early farms and estates still existed. Various Catholic orders owned large tracts of land. The Sulpicians' property known as the Priests' Farm stretched from the corner of Sherbrooke and Atwater over the Little Mountain. The Congrégation de Notre Dame owned two large properties: one in the north-west corner of Westmount down to the Côte Road and the Mother House property on the eastern edge at Sherbrooke and Atwater. The Grey Nuns retained part of their farm on both sides of Western Avenue (de Maisonneuve) at the corner of Clarke.

Sports played an important role in Westmount during this period and many private sporting clubs existed in the municipality. The largest was the MAAA (the Montreal Amateur Athletics Association) which established itself in 1887 on St. Catherine Street at Hallowell.

Its 10 acres featured a large field/skating rink, clubhouse, and roofed grandstand. St. George's Snowshoe Club and St. George's Cricket Club were above the Boulevard at Aberdeen Avenue. The Heather Curling Club was built on Kensington Avenue in 1887. The Montreal Baseball Grounds on St. Catherine Street at Atwater was east of the Montreal Arena with its hockey rink and exhibition hall at Wood Avenue. The Westmount Golf Links had its home on the plateau at the Summit. The ski run of the Montreal Ski club went down Clarke Avenue and over Sherbrooke Street! The Westmount Lawn Bowling Club, established in 1902, is the only one of the 1908 sporting organizations that is still in existence.

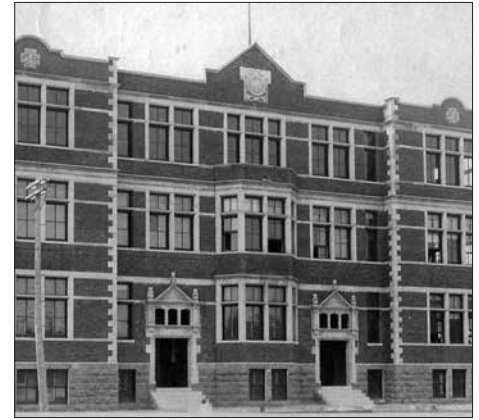
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS – CATHOLIC AND PROTESTANT



New Côte St. Antoine Academy
opened in April 1894 for 600 students on Côte St. Antoine corner of Stanton St. around the corner from the first building.



King's School
opened 1896 on Western Avenue (today 4800 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West) at the foot of Roslyn Avenue. Space for 350 students. Originally called *The Glen School*.



Queen's School
on Olivier Avenue below Sherbrooke St. It was built three years after King's School to accommodate 550 pupils.



St. Paul's Catholic Girls' School
in row housing on Sherbrooke St. corner of Greene Ave. Classes taught in both French and English by the *Congrégation de Notre-Dame* sisters.



Wykeham House School
A private boy's school on Clark Avenue



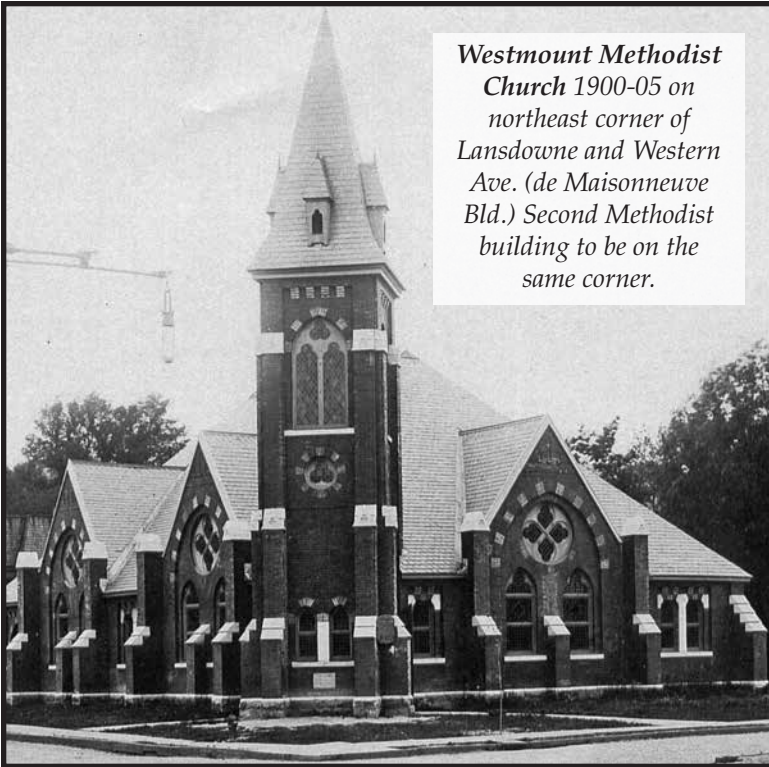
Roslyn Avenue School
opened in September 1908 on Westmount Avenue between Grosvenor and Roslyn Aves. to accommodate 550 children.

Many schools existed to educate the rising number of children in Westmount. By 1909 there were 4 Protestant schools in the city.

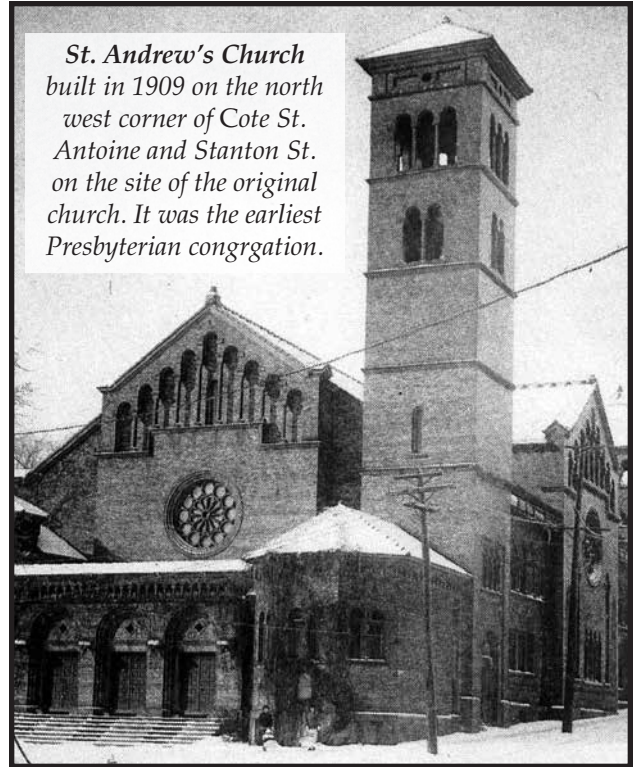
Westmount Academy on the Côte Road, King's School opened in 1896 on Western at the foot of Roslyn, Queen's opened in 1899 on Olivier, and the newly-constructed Roslyn School opened in 1908 on Westmount Avenue. St. Paul's Catholic Girls' School on Sherbrooke at Greene and St. Leo's Academy in Elm Hall provided elementary and sec-

ondary education in both English and French for the small Catholic population. There were also a number of small private schools' Sunnyside, the Misses Shanks' School, Wykeham House, and Roslyn Ladies' College, among others. The French Methodist Institute on Greene at Staynor was a boarding school for Protestant boys and girls. The Notre Dame Ladies' College was located in the new Mother House of the CND.

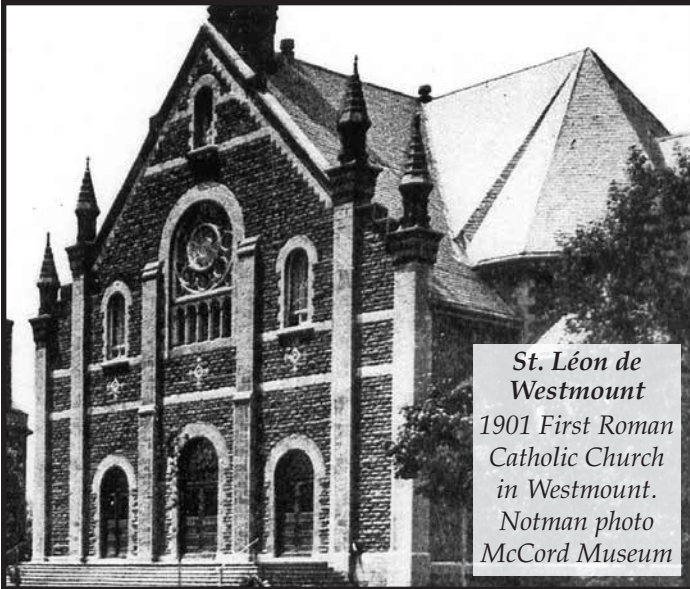
LOCAL CHURCHES OF VARIOUS DENOMINATIONS



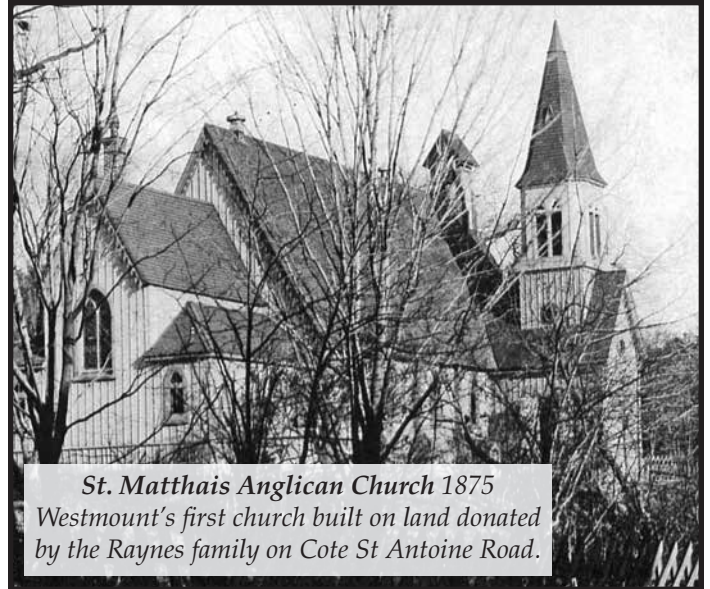
Westmount Methodist Church 1900-05 on northeast corner of Lansdowne and Western Ave. (de Maisonneuve Bld.) Second Methodist building to be on the same corner.



St. Andrew's Church built in 1909 on the north west corner of Cote St. Antoine and Stanton St. on the site of the original church. It was the earliest Presbyterian congregation.



St. Léon de Westmount 1901 First Roman Catholic Church in Westmount. Notman photo McCord Museum

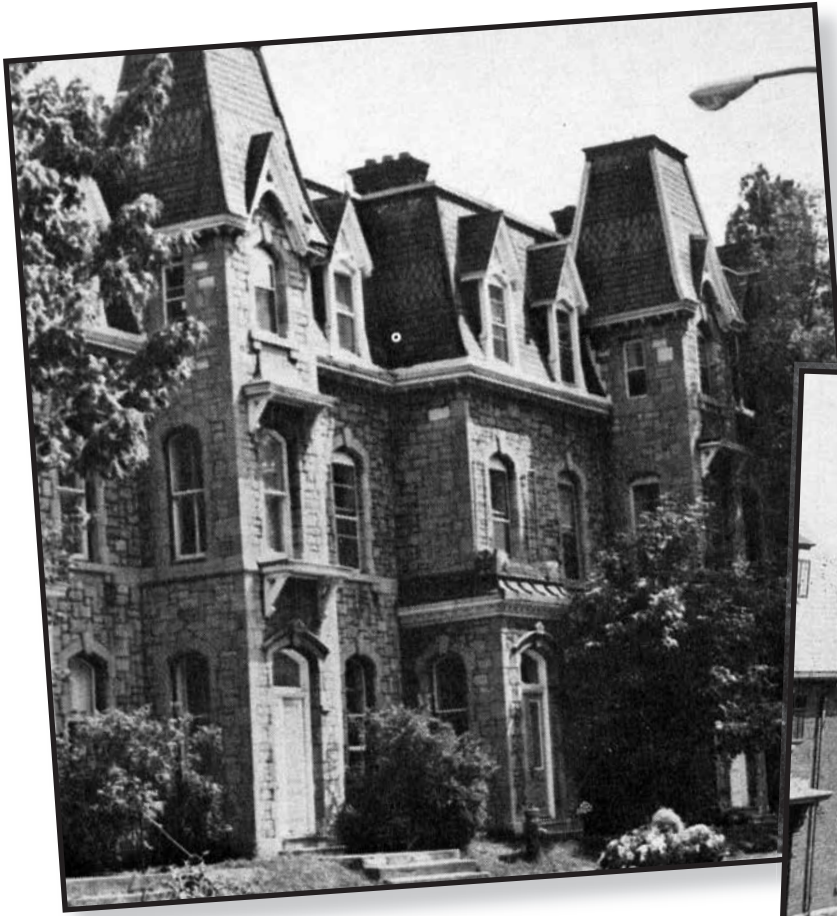


St. Matthais Anglican Church 1875 Westmount's first church built on land donated by the Raynes family on Cote St Antoine Road.

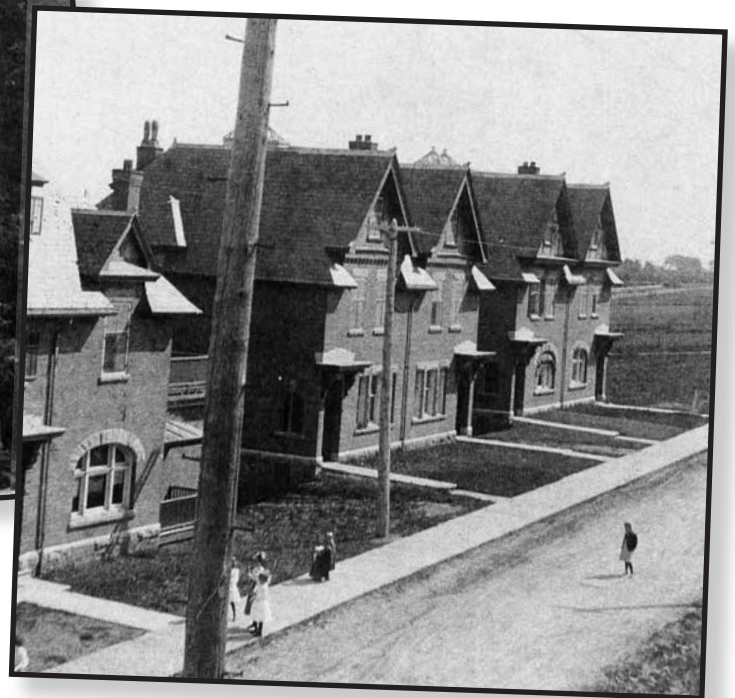
The residents of Westmount were mainly Protestant and belonged to many denominations. The Anglicans attended St. Matthais on the Côte Road, St. Stephen's on Dorchester, and the Church of the Advent at Western and Wood. There were 2 Presbyterian churches: St. Andrew's on the Cote was 'wet' and Melville Presbyterian on Elgin (Melville) was 'dry'. The red brick Westmount Methodist Church stood on Western at the corner of Lansdowne. As

well, citizens belonged to Bethlehem Congregational, Westmount Baptist Church, and the First Church of Christian Scientist. The only Catholic church in the city was the recently completed St. Léon de Westmount which offered services in French and English. The Mother House of the Congrégation de Notre Dame also had a large chapel designed by its architect J. Omer Marchand.

WESTMOUNT RESIDENCES A CENTURY AGO



***"The Towers"**
4130-40 Dorchester Boul. c. 1880
Westmount's first terrace. Six houses constructed
of local limestone. Mansard-roofed gables.
Houses are angled to the street.*



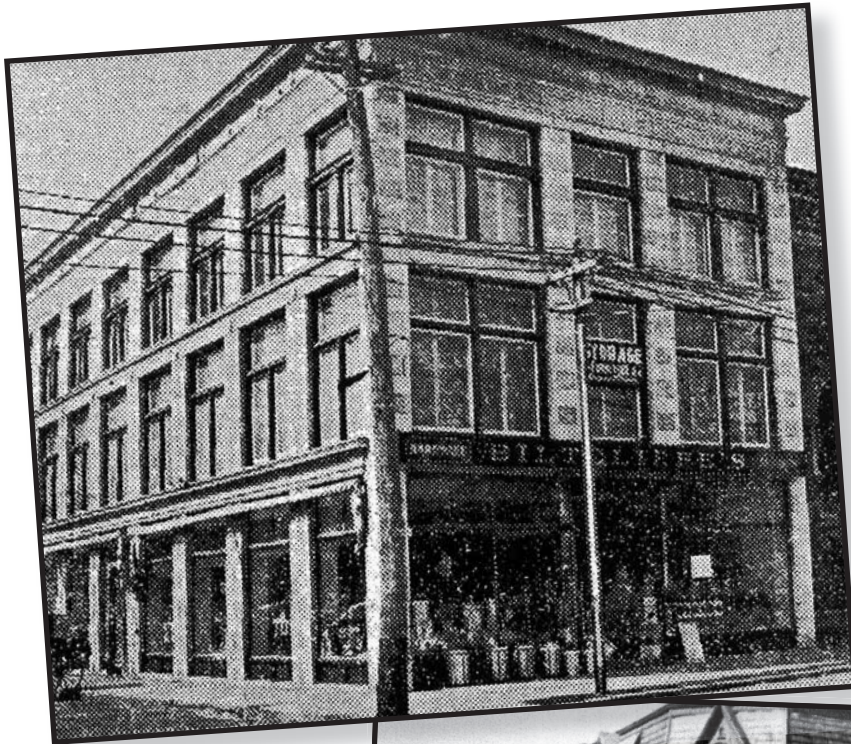
***Houses on Chesterfield Avenue**
1910 Designed by architect Robert Findlay
and built at corner of Prince Albert.*

Westmounters lived in a wide variety of homes one hundred years ago. A few were French-Canadian stone farmhouses, such as the St. Germain and Hurtubise houses. Some wealthy residents lived in villas from the original estates – Weredale Lodge, West Mount, Forden, Braemar and Rosemount. Smaller villas of more recent construction were built on the drives and land of these estates, such as the homes on Rosemount Avenue and Forden. Wooden houses were scattered throughout the city, but were being replaced by more fireproof housing.

However, the majority of Westmounters lived in newer homes built from the 1880's onwards on land stretching from the escarpment north to Cote St. Antoine Road. First

to be constructed were the stone terraces in the southwest corner around Dorchester. Next to be built were the brick rowhouses between the railway tracks and St. Catherine Street near the Abbott Street train station. When the new train station opened in 1907 at the foot of Victoria Avenue, development continued up to Sherbrooke Street. A huge number of semidetached homes were constructed around 1908 between Claremont and Mount Stephen, close to Sherbrooke Street and below the Côte Road. Detached and semi-detached houses on larger lots were scattered north of the Cote. Few apartment buildings existed at the time, since city council disapproved of them.

SHOPPING AROUND GREENE AND VICTORIA AVENUES



*Biltcliffe's Department Store
opened 1910. Built on corner of Victoria and
Somerville Avenues. Westmount's earliest
department store. They sold groceries,
hardware and school books.
Architects MacDuff and Lemieux*



*Corner of Greene Ave.
and St. Catherine St.
1889*

In 1908 there were two commercial hubs in Westmount which catered to the needs of local residents' around Greene Avenue and St. Catherine Street in the east end of the city and at Victoria Avenue near Somerville in the west end. The shops were located near streetcar stops. Their proprietors were mainly English, except for the Chinese-owned laundries. Few businesses existed on Sherbrooke Street. Commercial and residential zones were kept strictly separated, with industrial development limited to the area

near the escarpment.

Residents shopped locally since very few families owned motorcars. Orders from the local businesses were delivered by horse and cart/sleigh or by a boy on a bicycle. Coal was dumped down the coal chute in one ton loads. In summer, 25 lb. blocks of ice were left daily (except Sunday) on the doorstep. Mail was sent out three times daily from the Westmount Post Office at 4200 St. Catherine Street West.

ROSLYN AVENUE SCHOOL OPENED IN SEPTEMBER 1908



John McKergow, Chairman of the Board of Westmount School Commissioners laying the cornerstone of Roslyn Avenue School on Oct. 12, 1907.

Text: Doreen Lindsay – Photos: WHA Archives

Roslyn Avenue School opened in September 1908 with 264 children, 10 teachers and 15 classrooms. The principal was Miss F. W. A. Young who remained as the headmistress for two years. Students remembered the bright sunny schoolrooms with large windows. Monthly assemblies were held on the second floor in the large Assembly Hall, which had a piano and a table and chair on a paneled platform. The Assembly Hall was also used for Christmas concerts and as a gymnasium. The schoolyard had an iron fence all around the perimeter and down the middle to separate the boys' side from the girls' side. During the winter months, part of the boys' yard on Grosvenor Avenue was flooded to create a skating rink.

Roslyn Avenue School was built to accommodate the many children of families moving into the hillside streets above Sherbrooke. The population had risen to twelve thousand by 1907 as families moved in from the overcrowded City of Montreal. Solid well-built semi detached houses were being built on Victoria, Grosvenor, Roslyn and Lansdowne Avenues above Sherbrooke Street and the

children needed schooling. The Board of the Westmount School Commissioners had decided to build their new school on the upper level and insisted on good architectural design.

John Mc Kergow, Chairman of the School Commissioners, using a silver trowel (which has since disappeared) placed a box containing a history of Westmount schools, coins, newspapers and the architects specifications under the cornerstone. Both G. A. Ross the architect who designed the building, and John Stewart the building contractor were Westmounters. Also in attendance were William Galbraith, Mayor of Westmount (1907-08), and W. D. Lighthall, former Mayor of Westmount (1900-02) who was Chairman of the School Board the previous year and was given credit for insisting on excellence of design. The Honourable James K. Ward, former Mayor of Notre Dame de Grace from 1875 to 1883 and Chairman of the Westmount School Commissioners for 20 years, also attended.

First addition in 1924

By 1922 the further increase in enrollment necessitated an addition. There were now 632 students and 19 teachers. Ross and MacDonald constructed the addition behind the original building during the summer of 1924 at a cost of \$102,000. Nearly 80 men worked day and night. Eight classrooms were added, the auditorium was enlarged and air conditioning installed.

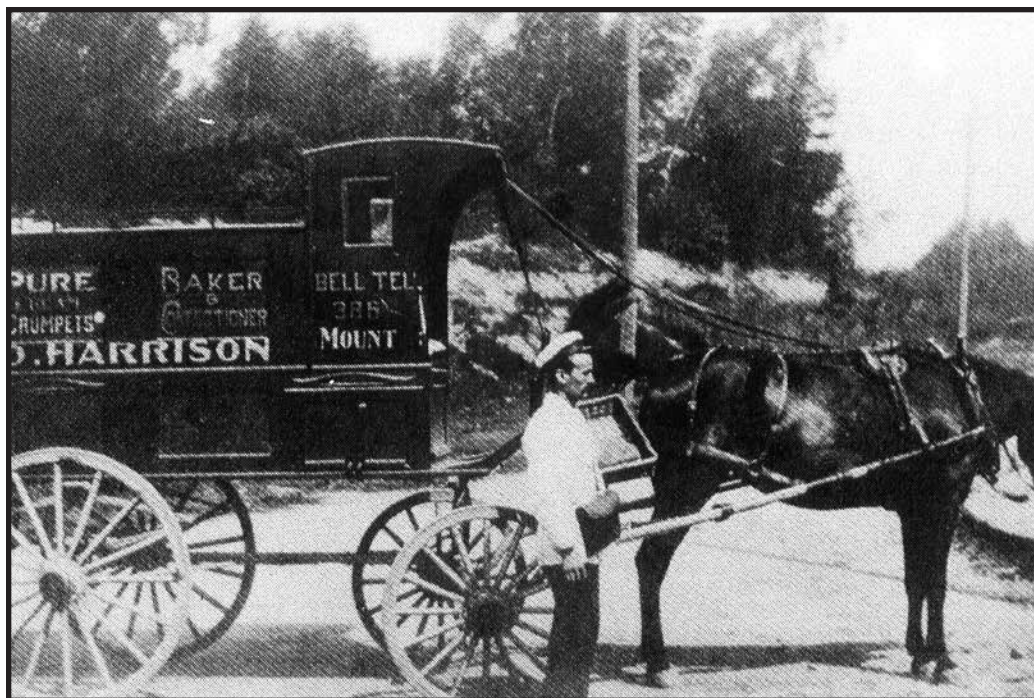
Second addition opened on January 19, 1954

The school population increased to over 950 and the architect Leslie Perry who specialized in school planning was hired. Two kindergartens and a new gymnasium with a rising stage were built.

Along with the expansion of the building, the curriculum expanded to embrace new needs. Classes were introduced for children having difficulty and for those who were exceptionally gifted and needed enriched courses. The developing interest in speaking French led to the French Immersion program introduced into Roslyn School in September 1968. Two mothers Carol Kahn and Joan Rothman had organized extra-curricular French classes in 1965 in response to the political unrest. Today the entire school is French Immersion.

Information based on the book *ROSLYN: The Story of a Canadian School*, 1977 by M. Fripp, A. Elbourne and M. Waters

IN 1909 THE POM BAKERY WAS *THE MODEL BAKERY*



Dent Harrison founder of Harrison and Sons Bakery, with horse drawn delivery wagon.

Later the Model Bakery, then the Marvel Bakery and later POM Bakery.

He started by making crumpets based on a family recipe from Yorkshire, England.

Text: Doreen Lindsay – Photos: WHA Archives

In 1908 Dent Harrison Junior was born in the house at 14 Somerville. He was the youngest son of Dent Harrison and his wife Ellen Whiley. The family had first lived at 342 Victoria Avenue, and then moved to 14 Somerville with their other five children. In 1910 they moved to 9 Winchester and then in 1914 to 609 Roslyn Avenue where they stayed. Dent Harrison and his family lived in Westmount for 45 years.

In 1908 the bakery founded and owned by Dent Harrison was at 319 Prince Albert Avenue, just around the corner from the family home. He had moved there six years earlier, from the smaller shop, *Baker and Confectioner, Wholesale and Retail*, at 1 Dunlop Place between Greene and Wood Avenue where Westmount Square stands today.

Dent Harrison was an innovator who was always looking for ways to improve production. He had come to Montreal as an engineer with the Singer Sewing Machine Company and had already adapted an industrial mixing machine in 1898 to use as the first mechanical dough mixer in Canada. During 1908, Harrison worked with a designer he had met

while attending a conference on the future of ovens. He invited the designer Percy Roberts to come to Montreal and commissioned him to build an oven. After only eighteen months of work, the world's first traveling oven was installed into his *Model Bakery* in 1909. The oven, built of enameled white brick, was 6 feet wide and 50 feet long. The first night it produced 3300 loaves of bread. It was definitely a success and people came from around the world to see it. The bakery could now produce 17,000 loaves of bread a week and maintained 8 wagons to deliver door to door.

By 1916, Harrison extended his newly named *Marvel Bakery* around the corner onto Somerville. He now had three traveling

ovens. The largest oven was 9 feet wide and 132 feet long and heated by gas. Harrison added an automatic bread cooler wrapping machine. The bakery became the largest manufacturing industry in the predominately residential Westmount and one of its biggest taxpayers.

Mr. Harrison was a very active member of his community. He sat on the Westmount City Council from 1927 until 1935 where he was in charge of the departments of Parks and Playgrounds, Electricity, Light and Power, and Public Works at different times. Because of his innate ability and interest in machinery, he was sent to Detroit, Michigan to examine a machine to clear streets of snow. He brought back the first snow blower to the Montreal region.

All that remains of the bakery in addition to people's fond memories of the smell of freshly baked bread, is the brown wooden plaque with his initials D. H. It was above the fireplace in Dent Harrison's office and is today treasured by his great grandson Peter Harrison.

Based on the talk by Peter Harrison great grandson of Dent Harrison, on April 16, 2009

THE CITY OF WESTMOUNT – A CENTURY AGO

Text (pages 10, 11, 12): Ruth Allan-Rigby – Photos: WHA Archives



"West Mount"

home of William Murray, head of Beaver Steamship Lines. He could see his ships on the St. Lawrence River from his house half way up the mountainside.



Mayor William Galbraith, Mayor of Westmount in 1908 when it achieved City status. A businessman who built up "William Galbraith & Sons" wholesale grocery business.



New City of Westmount Badge used from 1908 to 1945 with the maple leaf in the centre.

Westmount was designated the City of Westmount in 1908 after being the Town of Westmount for 13 years (1895-1908). The name **West Mount** was appropriated from the home of William Murray, formerly located at the level of the tennis courts in present day King George Park, Murray Park to most of us. The borders of the City of Westmount were defined as they are currently: the eastern border was the vale of Côte-des-Neiges and Atwater, Claremont Street on the west, the

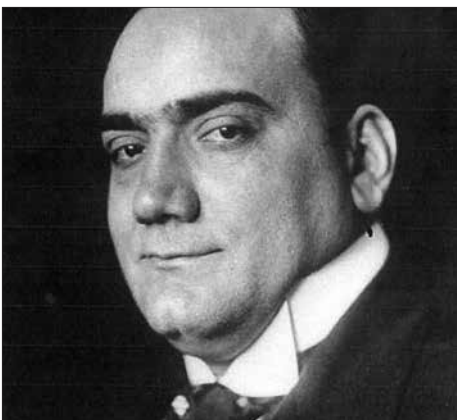
top of the "Little Mountain" to the north and the escarpment on its southern border.

The *Westmount News* on Saturday May 9th 1908 recorded: "His Majesty, (King Edward VII) with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council, and of the Legislative Assembly of Quebec has conferred on our municipality, the title and rights of a city. Henceforth it is no longer the "Town" but the "City of Westmount" – duly incorporated under the Cities & Town's Act of 1903. Our

local legislators are now aldermen, not councillors and all future mayors must be elected, not appointed."

The City Council was composed of a mayor, William Galbraith and 8 Aldermen representing 4 wards. There were monthly Council meetings and various Committees including Finance, Municipal Buildings, Legal, Water, Police & Fire, Health, Roads, Parks, Railways, Light and Public Library.

In early spring 1908 a ceremony was held celebrating the designation of



Enrico Caruso

World-renowned Italian tenor, performed in Westmount Arena on Ste. Catherine St. corner of Wood Ave. postcard photo c. 1910



Westmount City Hall

shared space with the Fire department and Police department in the old Stanton Street school until 1922 when the new City Hall was built.



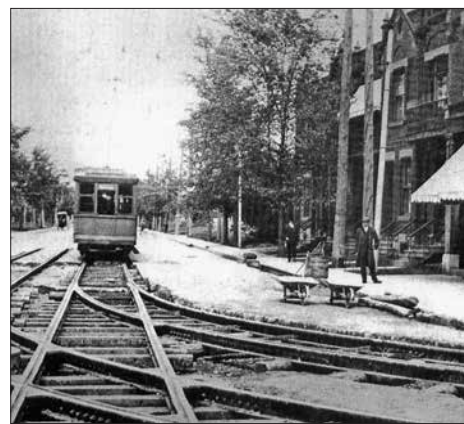
Police and Fire Station at 21 Stanton St., photo 1909



Rosemount Avenue
showing preparation of road before
being "macadamized"



C.P.R. Station opened in 1907 at the
bottom of Victoria Ave. photo: 1909
from CPR Corporation archives.



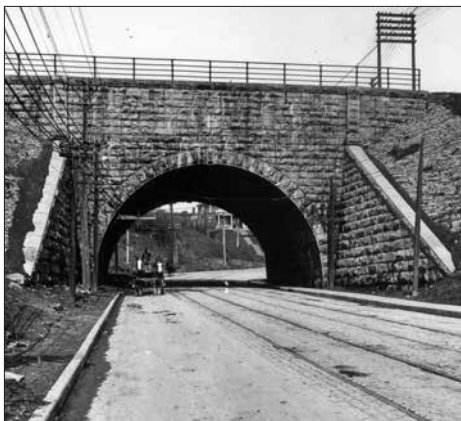
The first **electric streetcar** was in 1892.
Service was every 5 minutes and fare
was 5 cents a ticket.

Westmount as a city, and what a ceremony it must have been. No less than the world famous Italian tenor Enrico Caruso gave a concert and performed in front of a crowd of nearly 4,000 at the Westmount Arena, then on Ste. Catherine St. West at the corner of Wood Avenue.

The new city badge of 1908 displayed a maple leaf in the center, crowned with castle ramparts and identified as the City of Westmount. This badge was used until 1944.

Municipal Services

The "city fathers" of Westmount were, mindful that, for their city to grow, good municipal services were required. They hoped that by providing superior utilities, such as high quality streets, lighting and cheap, reliable public transportation the citizens would be attracted from neighbouring Montreal,



The stone **Glen Bridge** was constructed
in 1892 It was Westmount's first
public work.

a place many of them journeyed to and from for work each day.

In 1906 a municipal power plant had been installed by using a remarkable new system, a first in Canada. This system combined an electric power and lighting plant which obtained its power by burning the city's garbage waste. Westmount Power thereby became the first municipally owned utility in Canada. The whole plant was very discreetly tucked into the hollow of the Glen.

The Fire & Police service was transforming from its initial small unit into the beginnings of a professional force. The old City Hall & the Police & Fire Station were both located at 21 Stanton Street in the building of the former Stanton Street School. The Fire station was located on the first floor and consisted of a fire hall, a sleeping room and stables. The force was composed of eighteen men for protection against fire and the preservation of the peace.

Photo shows Rosemount Avenue in the process of being prepared for "macadamization". Macadam is a type of road construction pioneered by the Scotsman John Loudan McAdam around 1820)

The Roads Department had several defined functions: Wooden sidewalks were being replaced by concrete and the roads were being "macadamized" or in our modern parlance "asphalted." In the previous year, 1907, 8 more roads had been macadamized making a total of 22 miles of roads.

In winter this department was re-

sponsible for the removal of snow: in 1908 this meant carting away 20,922 loads at a cost to the city of \$1658. Snow removal priority was given to those streets on which streetcar tracks were laid as the cost was shared with Montreal Street Railway Company. Garbage was collected and transported to the garbage destructor in the Glen. 11,500 loads of garbage were hauled away by the seven horses and rigs that performed this service.

It had been essential to tame the Glen and its extensive network of streams flowing off the mountain prior to the construction of the railway tracks and the extension of streetcar services westwards through lower Westmount. The stone Glen Bridge had been constructed in 1892 to carry the CPR rail line to the recently opened station at the foot of Victoria Avenue in 1907 replacing the one initially constructed at the bottom of Abbott Street in 1896.

This station had been built on land occupied by a brickyard owned by the Decarie family. The architect was W.S. Painter whose simple building featuring three low-hipped roofs was based on the *Prairie House* design pioneered by the renowned American architect Frank Lloyd Wright.

Ste Catherine developed after the arrival of the streetcar and train service to become an important east-west street in the southern part of the city. Claremont was an important street defining the western border of Westmount.

In the era under discussion the large villas and estates on the upper moun-



Westmount Public Library

opened in 1899. It was the first free public library in the Province of Quebec. Mary Solace Saxe was the Chief Librarian from 1901 to 1931. Architect was Westmounter Robert Findlay.



First Victoria Hall,

designed by Robert Findlay, opened in 1899. While the Public Library was being built, 300 residents had signed a petition to have a municipal centre for public meetings.

tain relied on private means of transport – carriages in summer & sleighs in winter, pulled by horses. Most of these estates therefore had their own stables.

For the general public, horse cabs existed: By-law 191 specified a fare structure. The first hour for 1 or 2 persons cost \$0.75 and for three to four persons \$1.00.

As regular public transport became more widely available, homes could be built further from the Montreal city centre around St James (now St Jacques), the then business centre of Montreal.

Streetcars in the lower town.

The streetcar loop around the lower city had been established since 1893 along Ste. Catherine, Victoria, Sherbrooke and Greene, clearly diagrammed on the Pinsonneault map of 1907. In winter each streetcar was heated by a stove, using coal in the middle of the aisle. Fares remained 5 cents for many years.

Streetcars above Sherbrooke Street

The service in the upper part of the city went up Côte-des-Neiges, along the

Boulevard, south on Lansdowne to Westmount Avenue west to Claremont, south to Sherbrooke and east back to Côte-des-Neiges.

Few private motorcars were observed prior to 1910 but a by-law imposed a speed limit: "No person shall ride or drive faster than at an ordinary trot". A popular alternative method of transport was the bicycle.

This is the library as it was in 1908 designed by the Westmount architect Robert Findlay in celebration of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee of 1897 and opened in 1899. Such a building reflected the heritage and character of its citizens – mainly then of English and Scottish roots that held education and reading in highest esteem. The planning and construction of the Library was achieved in just two years. It was the first municipally owned public library in the province of Quebec. In 1908 there were 2725 registered borrowers and 8277 volumes.

The original Victoria Hall, also designed by Robert Findlay and opened the same year, reflected the same archi-

tectural style as the library. It provided public meeting rooms with a lodge room for fraternal societies, a gymnasium (prior to the "Y"), and a swimming pool. A curling rink was not included as one already existed – Heather Curling Club on Kensington Street, now Heather Manor.

The present Westmount Summit Park was then McGill University property. This property had been bought under six different deeds in 1895 by McGill University, primarily with the generosity of Sir William MacDonald, who had bought up land, farms and estates on and around the summit. The McGill Survey School had been established in 1906 and had set up telescopes on the concrete blocks (still visible) to survey the stars and named the "Macdonald Observatory". The City of Westmount rented the area on the proviso that it would remain as a designated bird and wildlife sanctuary.

Then as now Westmount continues to be seen as a unique and unified whole due to the richness of its architecture and the quality of life it represents.

ALDERMAN GALL'S SPEECH.

Alderman A. D. Gall, before formally submitting his report as chairman of the Finance Committee, delivered an optimistic speech on the new dignity the municipality had just taken on, and predicted a bright and prosperous future.

"He said if feelings of pride were ever pardonable, and he thought sometimes they were, he felt that they all had reason to be proud on an occasion like this. Westmount has grown by leaps and bounds from a small country village to a city which he was sure they all felt proud of, and this within the memory of all, and yet it is only in its infancy. Situated as it is on the confines of the commercial metropolis of Canada, and destined as it is, and as it must be, to be the best residential section of the Island of Montreal, they had every reason to believe that within the next decade its proportions and wealth will be nearly doubled. Of course, much depends upon the civic government, but if they could forecast the future from the past, they had no cause for alarm on that score. There were, of course, those in their midst who always complain, and for his part he did not try to please everybody, but thought he could truthfully make the statement that, notwithstanding all the criticism, Westmount is one of the best governed cities in the Dominion to-day. They might not all see eye to eye in civic problems, and it was just as well perhaps that they did not, at the same time he was convinced, notwithstanding differences of opinion, that all had the same interest of the city at heart, and were prepared to work for its future progress and development. He was glad to be able to say that the provincial government has in contemplation the formation of a new constituency, to be known as the City of Westmount, and the probabilities were that in the near future they would have their own representative to look after the interests of the city in the legislature. He was of opinion that they might feel that they had secured from the legislature a very good charter, and that under its wise provisions many of the anomalies existing in the old charter would be remedied, and the civic administration made more satisfactory. While there were many things in connection with the administration of the finances of the town that did not meet with his approval, he might say that these were in a fair way to be remedied, and if they all worked with the same end in view, the desired result would be obtained. Speaking of the finances of the town, he noticed in one newspaper recently that the Council of Maisonneuve had sold \$165,000 of 4½ per cent. bonds at 95, and \$35,000 of 4½ per cent. bonds at 95½. He called their attention to the fact that they had recently sold bonds bearing the same rate of interest at par, and were not making any fuss about it either. In conclusion, he said it had been the desire of many of the residents of Westmount to have a new post office, and with that end in view members of the council had interviewed the Hon. R. Lemieux, Postmaster-General and the Hon. Mr. Pugsley, Minister of Public Works, and he was pleased to say that while in Ottawa last week he was informed that they were likely to have a new post office erected by the Dominion government and that provisions for the same had been made in the supplementary estimates which were about to be brought down. He thought however, that they required more than a new post office. One thing most urgently needed was a new fire station and a new town hall, and he trusted that these matters would receive the serious consideration of the council."

Alderman Trenholme extended his congratulations to the city, as also did Ald. Brady; who exclaimed with evident pride, "Gallbraith is its first mayor." Ald. Rutherford attributed it largely to the ability of the mayor, that they had got such a favorable charter. Ald. Murphy eulogized the labors of the deputation. He was followed by ex-Mayor Lighthall who declared that although the aldermen have differences of opinion they were nevertheless interested in the best welfare of the city. In happy and felicitous terms he congratulated the mayor and aldermen.

Report on the WHA Annual General Meeting

Held in the Westmount Public Library, May 21, 2009 at 6:00 pm.

Following our normal procedure we held our Annual General Meeting one hour before the last lecture of the Spring Lecture Series so that members could easily attend both if they desired.

The following written reports were presented and read as follows:

President Doreen Lindsay reported on activities over the past year.

Treasurer David Freeman reported receipts of \$3,500.20 and expenditures of \$2,903.69 for the year.

Membership Secretary Anne Barkman reported a total of 94 members.

Archivist Barbara Covington reported that all the old Fonds had been identified, catalogued, described and entered into the Fonds database. She thanked Ruth Allan-Rigby and Anne Barkman for their excellent assistance.

The Board of Directors for 2009-2010

PRESIDENT: Doreen Lindsay

VICE-PRESIDENT: Caroline Breslaw

TREASURER: David Freeman

SECRETARY: Margarita Schultz

MEMBERSHIP AND WEBSITE: Anne Barkman

ARCHIVIST: Barbara Covington

ASSISTANT ARCHIVIST: Ruth Allan-Rigby

AT LARGE: Joan Clark

Jane Martin

2009 Montreal Architectural Heritage Campaign Saturday October 3, 2009

The WHA in collaboration with Dawson College and the City of Westmount invite you to join a heritage tour of the Dawson College building designed by architect J. Omar Marchand and built between 1905 and 1908.

English tours begin at 2 and 3 pm

French tours begin at 2:30 and 3:30 pm.

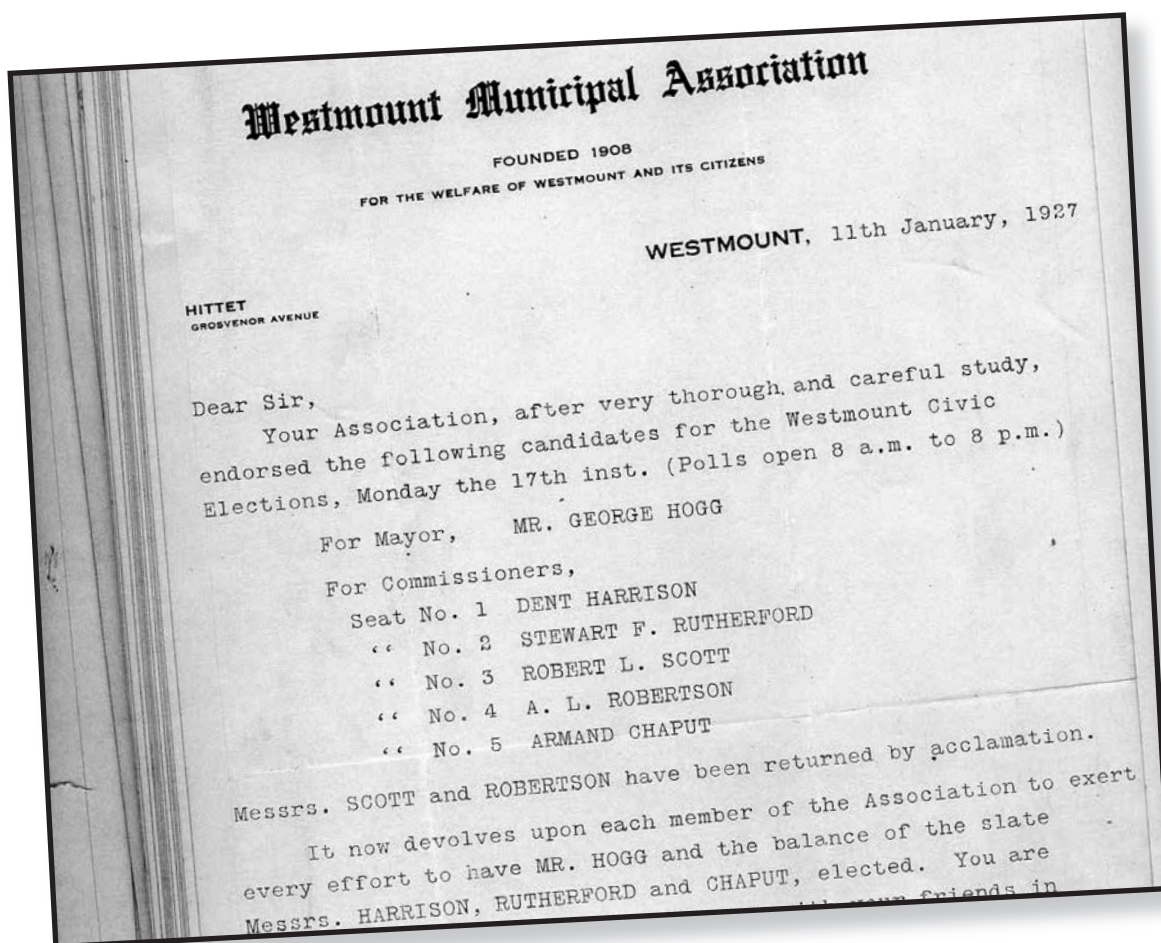
Admission is free and no reservations are needed.

Meet inside the main entrance of Dawson College, 3040 Sherbrooke Street West.

← continued from cover page

The proceedings of the Westmount City Council as reported in *The Westmount News*, Saturday, May 9, 1908.

THE WESTMOUNT MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION 1908



Text: Caroline Breslaw

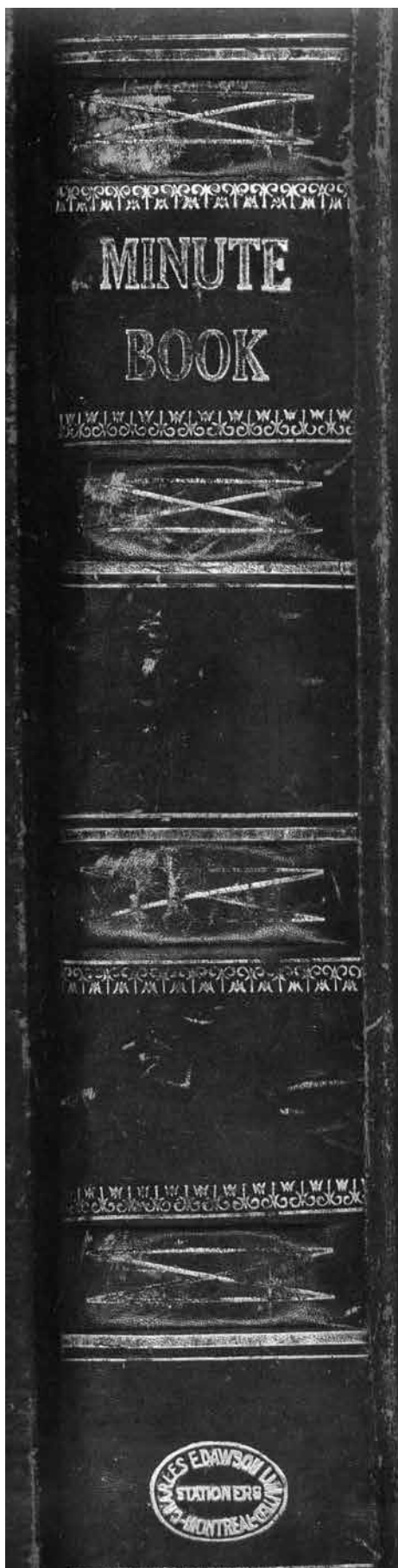
The Westmount Municipal Association (WMA) was formed in January 1908, the year that Westmount gained city status. The purpose of this citizens' group was to discuss various aspects of municipal affairs, develop policies through committee work, and present the results to city council. Regular meetings were held in Victoria Hall, with the Mayor often asked to attend.

The WMA played a major role in municipal politics and provided a training ground for Westmount city councillors. Through the work of its various committees (such as the budget and legislation committees formed in 1910), it performed the duties of many of today's municipal administration and services. Until 1971 it presented an unopposed slate of candidates for city council. The mayor, endorsed by the WMA, was voted in by acclamation.

Over the years, the WMA has been involved in many important projects. Together with the City of Westmount, it promoted a Battalion to enter the First World War and in 1925 a municipally funded Armoury was built to house this

battalion. After a fire destroyed the first Victoria Hall in 1924, the WMA helped plan its replacement. The creation of Murray Park was a result of intervention by concerned citizens and the WMA. During the Depression, the WMA's motto was "Make Do!" During World War II, the WMA and citizens of Westmount purchased two ships for the war effort. In 1944 the WMA supported the formation of the Westmount Historical Association. After the FLQ bomb attacks in 1963 and 1964, the WMA played an active role with its safety committee and emergency measures. Challenges to its pivotal role in local elections arose in 1987 when May Cutler became the first non-WMA candidate to become mayor. After this, the WMA was revitalized to highlight its interest in community affairs.

The Westmount Municipal Association has fought annexation by the City of Montreal three times. During the forced merger with the City of Montreal from 2002 to 2005, it played a leading role in the grassroots demerger movement and the successful referendum campaign for demerger. The WMA has reverted to its role as a citizens' forum and a link between Westmount residents and city council.



Westmount Municipal Association Minute Book

Donated by Kathleen Duncan

The Archives of the Westmount Historical Association has received a gift of the Minute Book of the Westmount Municipal Association, containing the minutes of their meetings from May 28th 1919 until November 9th, 1937.

The book itself is worthy of note, as it is the old-fashioned ledger-type book, measuring 14 x 8 inches, bound in red leather, and produced by the Stationers, Charles E. Dawson Limited, Montreal. The spine is decorated with gold scroll work and the lettering is in gold. Inside the lovely old leather binding are the colourful end papers, complete with the stationers' name plate and the reference number if you should wish to order the same book again.

The minutes themselves are interesting to examine, as some have been typed with a typewriter and others are hand written, in beautiful script. (Some of us may remember writing classes in elementary school where we were taught to write "properly" with pen and ink!)

On browsing through some of the entries there are references to problems that continue to exist to-day i.e. automobile parking from December 13th 1919 *"Moved by Mr. Hogg, and Seconded by Mr. Lee, that the following Committee, composed of Messrs. Hand, Francis and Morrison, be appointed to look into the matter of the privileges to the lane at the rear of Lansdowne Avenue and part of the Park property, the use of which the proprietors in the vicinity were making with their automobiles"*

Another entry for October 19th, 1919 pertained to another problem not applicable to-day *"It was moved by Dr. Morgan and Seconded by Dr. Patton, that our City Council should find a better method of collecting the manure from the Streets, as at present the droppings are swept into heaps, leaving behind a considerable quantity. The Mover and Seconder suggested that a push cart, with broom and shovel, be supplied, as is the practice in many American cities."*

There is an interesting section at the end of the minutes of meetings entitled *"Record of Attendance at Meetings"* with ticks beside the names of members who were present at meetings, and in a couple of cases there were the notations *"deceased"* and *"resigned"*.

When all is said and done, a remarkable history of one of Westmount's most long-standing and active associations.

BARBARA COVINGTON
ARCHIVIST
JUNE 2009

NEW ACQUISITIONS

BOOKS



◀ **ANNE KAHANE CELEBRATION:** in honour of the artist's 85th birthday: Stewart Hall Art Gallery, Pointe Claire, 2009

GHITTA CAISERMAN-ROTH: ▶ a retrospective view = un aperçu rétrospectif 1947-1980. [Montreal: Sir George Williams Art Galleries of Concordia University, 1981]. Donated by Doreen Lindsay.

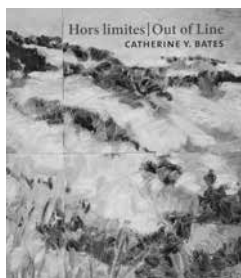


Ghitta Caiserman-Roth



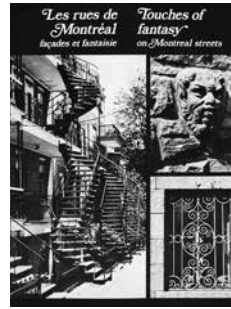
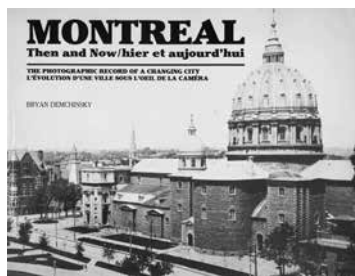
◀ **GREEN JELLY BEANS:** poems and monoprints, by Virginia McClure. Montreal: Visual Arts Centre, McClure Gallery, 2006. Donated by Doreen Lindsay.

HEART SPECIALIST, ▶ by Claire Holden-Rothman. Toronto: Cormorant Books, 2009. *From the back cover... is a beautiful, moving, utterly captivating novel about a woman who became one of Montreal's first female doctors...* Donated by Barbara Covington.



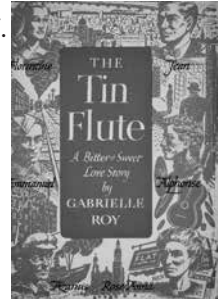
◀ **HORS LIMITES/OUT OF LINE: RETROSPECTIVE,** Catherine Y. Bates. Montreal: Visual Arts Centre, McClure Gallery, 2009. Donated by Doreen Lindsay.

MONTREAL: THEN AND NOW / HIER ET AUJOURD'HUI: ▶ The photographic record of a changing city = L'évolution d'une ville sous l'œil de la caméra, by Bryan Demchinsky. Montreal: The Gazette, 1985.



THE TIN FLUTE, by Gabrielle Roy. ▶ Translated from the French by Hannah Josephson. New York: Reynal & Hitchcock, 1947. Donated by Doreen Lindsay.

◀ **LES RUES DE MONTREAL:** façades et fantaisie = **TOUCHES OF FANTASY ON MONTREAL STREETS,** by Edith Mather (photographs) and René Chicoine (text). Montreal: Tundra Books, 1977.



◀ **THE YELLOW PAINTING:** a memoir, by Virginia McClure. Montreal: Visual Arts Centre, McClure Gallery, 2009. Donated by Doreen Lindsay.

DONATIONS OF VARIOUS MATERIALS

Nobbs Westmount War Memorial [CD] and Drawing by Nobbs of Westmount War Memorial Plan, dated 6 August 1920. Prepared and Donated by Patrick Fitz Gerald.

Goad and Pinsonnault Maps, ▶ City of Westmount, for the WHA April 2009 [CD]



◀ **Minute Book of the Westmount Municipal Association, 1919-1937.** Donated by Kathleen Duncan.



The Fire-hose Sleigh and The Royal Mail Sleigh, two prints by Carlo Italiano dated 1974. From the book "Sleighs of my Childhood" Tundra Books. Donated by Mary Lund.



BARBARA COVINGTON, ARCHIVIST, JUNE 2009