

The Westmount Historian

NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTMOUNT HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 14 NUMBER 1

32ND EDITION

SEPTEMBER 2013



DOMES & TOWERS

The Westmount Historian

NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTMOUNT
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

September 2013
Volume 14 • Number 1

EDITOR:
Doreen Lindsay

COPY EDITOR:
Jane Martin

CONTRIBUTORS:
Doreen Lindsay
Caroline Breslaw
Jane Martin

Photos: WHA Archives
unless otherwise indicated

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The Westmount Historian is published
twice a year in February and September
by the Westmount Historical
Association, Westmount, Quebec,
a non-profit charitable association.
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WESTMOUNT HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
P. O. Box 23037 Vendome
Montreal, Quebec H4A 3V46
514-989-5510

E-MAIL:
info@westmounthistorical.org

WEBSITE:
www.westmounthistorical.org

ISSN: 1496-4066

GRAPHIC DESIGN:
Studio Melrose
310 Victoria Avenue, #105
514-488-7366
info@studiomelrose.ca



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

During the past century, as families moved out of overcrowded Montreal to the fresh air and inviting sunny, treed slopes of the mountain, the construction of their religious institutions followed.

The first church building within Côte Saint-Antoine (today's Westmount) was the Protestant St. Matthias'. The wooden church was built in 1875 on the unpaved Côte Saint-Antoine road as it curved uphill toward the wayside cross that had been maintained by the St. Germain family for many years.

The first synagogue was Temple Emanu-El that opened in 1911 on Sherbrooke Street, followed by the orthodox Shaar Hashomayim that opened on the other side of the Côte Road from St. Matthias' in 1922. The first Roman Catholic Church was Saint-Léon-de-Westmount, constructed in 1901 on land acquired from the Grey Nuns. In 1914 the Dominion Methodists established a small church on Roslyn Avenue. After amalgamating 14 other congregations it has become the much larger present-day Mountainside United Church on Westmount Boulevard.

I am pleased to bring you descriptions of the origins and evolution of these churches and synagogues, as well as a special overview meticulously compiled by Caroline Breslaw of all the religious institutions that have developed over the years in Westmount.

DOREEN LINDSAY

WHA Fall 2013 Lecture Series

PROTECTING WESTMOUNT HERITAGE

Thursday, September 19, 2013

RECOGNIZING AND PROTECTING OUR HERITAGE

Speaker: Mehdi Ghafouri, architect and educator in heritage conservation

Thursday, October 17, 2013

FOUR WESTMOUNT HERITAGE SITES

Speaker: Doreen Lindsay, John Fretz, Ruth Allan-Rigby, Caroline Breslaw

Thursday, November 21, 2013

STORIES FROM THE MOUNT ROYAL CEMETERY

Speaker: Myriam Cloutier,

Director of Heritage Programs at Mount Royal Cemetery

Thursday, December 19, 2013

A TALE of 3 HOUSES: #178, 333 & 334 Côte St. Antoine Road

Speaker: Caroline Breslaw, WHA researcher and Vice-President

All talks 7 pm to 9 pm

Westmount Public Library, 4574 Sherbrooke St. West

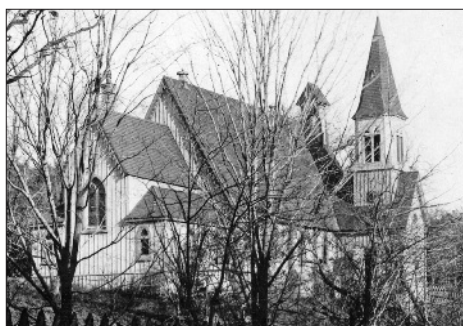
Series prepared by Doreen Lindsay and Mehdi Ghafouri 514-932-6688

Admission free for members – non-members \$5 at the door

RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS IN WESTMOUNT

The early residents of the municipality of Côte St. Antoine/Westmount were mainly English-speaking Protestants of various denominations. The first churches were often country missions of large downtown congregations, which met in private homes or temporary premises. When there were enough members, a proper church building was constructed. This was true for St. Matthias', the Church of the Advent, and Melville Presbyterian Church. By 1901 Westmount's French Roman Catholics finally had a parish church. In 1911 the first synagogue was opened for Jewish residents. Congregations split, as happened at Mel-

ville Presbyterian over the temperance issue. Sometimes they merged (Westmount Congregational Church and Calvary Church) or moved to Westmount from Montreal (Dominion Church, Calvary Church, St. Stephen's, and Congregation Shaar Hashomayim). Some were taken over by other denominations, but only one church building has lost its vocation. Although they have been enlarged and rebuilt, no new religious building has been constructed for many decades. Some of them are the work of well-known architects, such as Alexander Hutchison, Edward Maxwell, Robert Findlay, and J. Omer Marchand.



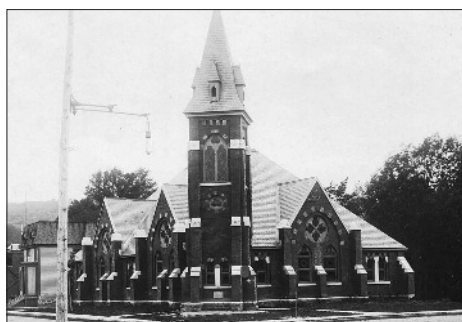
In 1875 Westmount's first church, **Anglican St. Matthias'**, opened its doors. The white clapboard building stood above Côte St. Antoine Road at the corner of today's Church Hill Avenue on land donated by Mrs. R.T. Raynes at the corner of her 'Forden' estate.



In 1912 the wooden church was replaced by a stone building designed by Ross & MacFarlane in the neo-Gothic style. The original structure continued to be used as a parish hall by the Anglican congregation for many years. A bell from the first church sits on the lawn today.



The Methodists constructed the small, clapboard Tabernacle chapel in 1885 at the corner of Western Avenue (today's De Maisonneuve) and Lansdowne.



In 1896 it was replaced by the larger brick **Westmount Methodist Church**.



Westmount Park United Church,

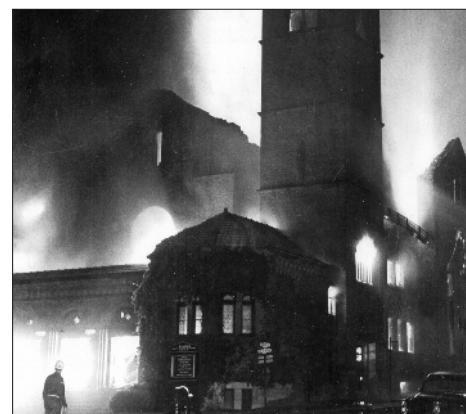
designed by architect A. Leslie Perry and built of stone in the neo-Gothic style, took its place in 1929 after Church Union. In 1961 the congregation of Calvary Church joined, followed by that of Melville Presbyterian.

In 1886 a Presbyterian congregation

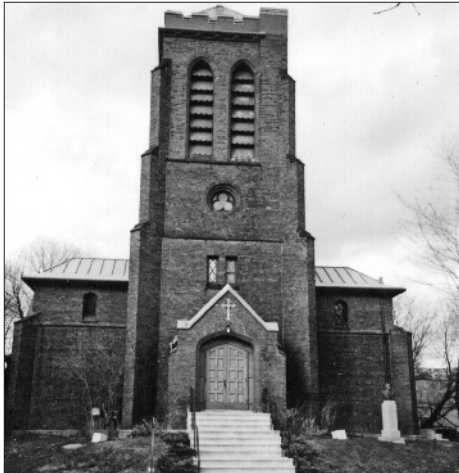


opened the wooden **Melville Presbyterian Church** on Côte Saint-Antoine Road at Stanton. There was a split over the temperance issue in 1900.

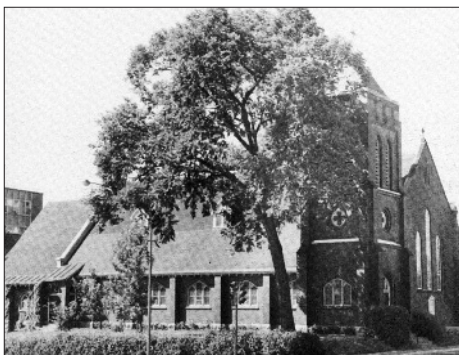
The Presbyterians who stayed changed the name to **St. Andrew's**. It later joined the United Church of Canada. In 1909 the church was rebuilt in brick by



architect member A.C. Hutchison in the neo-Romanesque style. After a huge fire in 1965 (see photo previous page), it was reconstructed in concrete, brick, and oak. The modern building was acquired by Selwyn House School in 1986.

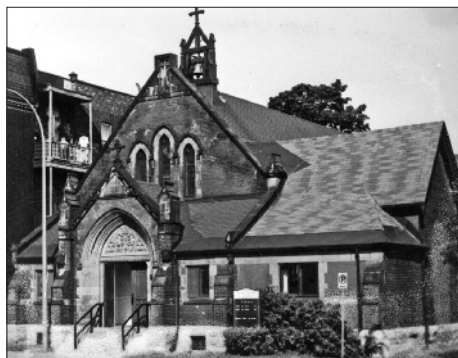


The non-drinkers moved to **Melville Church**, a neo-Gothic brick building designed by Edward Maxwell, on Elgin Avenue (which was renamed Melville Avenue in its honour). The building was taken over by the Serbian Orthodox Church in 1976.



St. Stephen's Anglican Church began in 1889 as a small chapel on Dorchester Blvd. at Atwater. In 1903 an austere brick neo-Gothic church with a square tower, designed by architect J.R. Gardiner, was built in front of the original structure, which became the parish hall.

The Church of the Advent is Westmount's oldest surviving religious building. It was begun as a mission of St. James the Apostle, opened in 1892 on Western at the corner of Wood. The



neo-Gothic brick building by architects Cox and Amos was originally named the 'Chapel of Ease' by the High Anglican congregation. During the 1890s, it was twice enlarged. It is now occupied by the **House of Prayer of All Nations**.



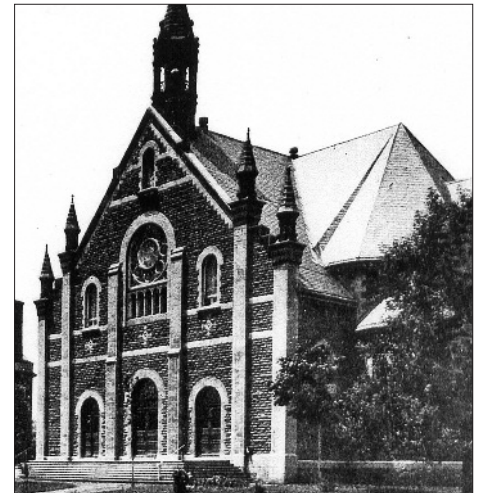
Grace Baptist Church, constructed in brick in the neo-Romanesque style in 1893 on Western at Olivier, changed its name to Westmount Baptist Church in 1902. The De Maisonneuve premises was taken over by the Seventh Day Adventists. After 1972 **Bethel Gospel Chapel** occupied the building.



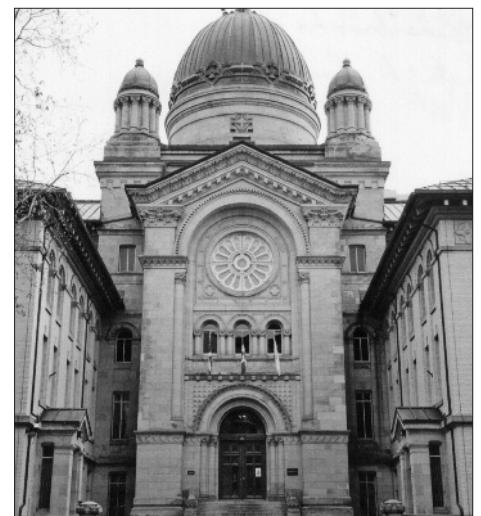
In 1925 the **Westmount Baptist Church** moved to a larger Beaux-Arts building designed by Sydney Comber on Sherbrooke at Roslyn.

Bethlehem Congregational Church was established in 1896 at the corner of Western and Clarke. It moved to larger

quarters in 1912 after uniting with Montreal's Calvary Church. The Lutherans took over the first building and renamed it **Church of the Redeemer**. They remained there until 1923 after which there was no church occupant.

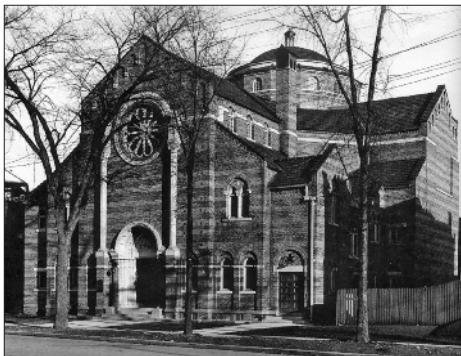


In 1901 the first Catholic church in Westmount, **Saint-Léon-de-Westmount**, was constructed on farmland purchased from the Grey Nuns. Architect G.A. Monette designed in the neo-Romanesque style both the original and the radical alterations made to the exterior in 1920. Italian-born artist Guido Nincheri was responsible for the interior decorations begun in 1920. Saint-Léon's interior was declared a National Heritage Site in 1997.



The buff brick **Motherhouse of the Congrégation de Notre-Dame** on Sherbrooke Street at Atwater opened in

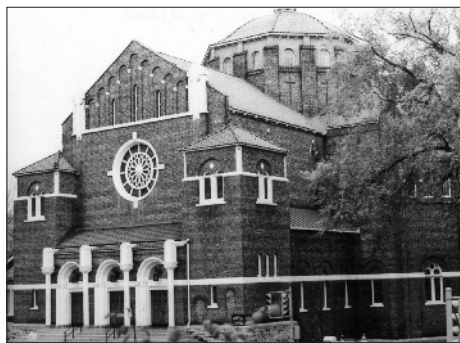
1908. It was designed using Romanesque and Byzantine forms by J. Omer Marchand. The large central chapel, lying beneath the dome, now houses the library of Dawson College, which moved to the building in 1988. The building was classified as an historic site in 1977 by the Ministère des affaires culturelles du Québec.



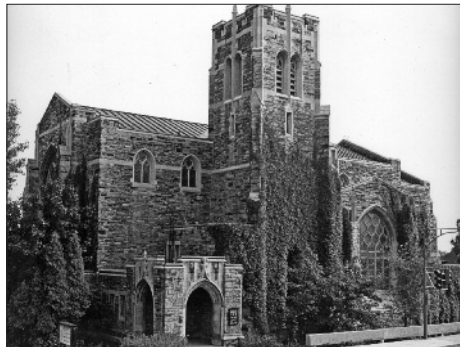
In 1911 Westmount's Jewish community established its first synagogue, **Temple Emanu-El** on Sherbrooke Street at Elm. The founders were followers of Reform Judaism. The Byzantine Revival building by the firm Hutchison, Wood & Miller was destroyed by fire in 1957. It was completely rebuilt in 1960. Today it is the oldest Liberal Reform synagogue in Canada and it remains Montreal's only reform synagogue.



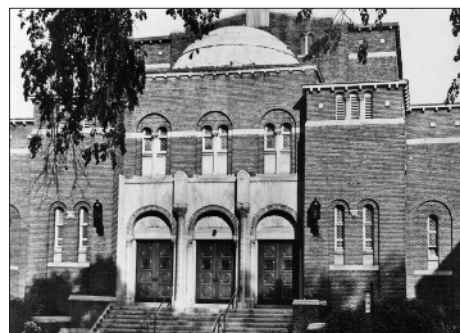
Architect Robert Findlay designed the sober brick **Calvary Church** on Dorchester at the corner of Greene in 1912 for the Congregationalist members. Calvary Church amalgamated with Westmount Park United Church in 1961 and the building was demolished.



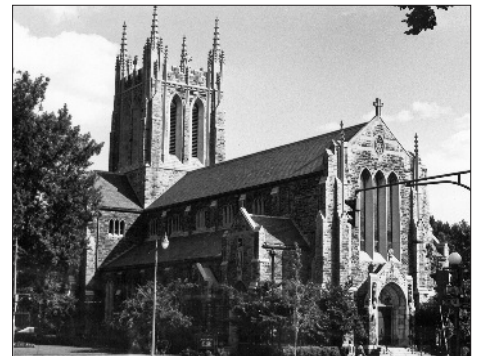
Stanley Presbyterian Church was constructed in brick on Westmount Avenue at Victoria in 1913. It was designed by Hutchison, Wood & Miller in the neo-Byzantine style featuring a dome and semi-circular arches. **The Seventh Day Adventists** have occupied the premises since 1972.



In 1914, the **Dominion Methodist Church** moved into a modest hall on Roslyn Avenue. Massive neo-Gothic Dominion Douglas United Church by American architects Badgley & Nicklas was constructed adjacent to the first building in 1927, after a merger with Douglas Methodist. In 1985 members of St. Andrew's United and in 2004 members of Erskine and American Church joined the congregation. As a result of these amalgamations, the church was renamed Mountainside United Church.



Shaar Hashomayim (see photo), an Orthodox congregation, opened its doors on Côte St. Antoine Road at Kensington in 1922. Melville Miller was the architect, combining middle eastern domes with classical details. In 1967 a major expansion was undertaken. The Shaar is the oldest and largest Ashkenazi congregation in Canada.



The Ascension of Our Lord, Westmount's first English Catholic church, was constructed in 1928 on land purchased from the Grey Nuns. The architects of the neo-Gothic stone building were E.J. Turcotte, Magennis & Walsh of Boston.



In 1968 the **First Church of Christ Scientist** appeared in a single storey modern structure on Lansdowne Avenue. The building was taken over by the **West End Christian Fellowship** in 1984. It was recently sold and is now a private residence.

Today the religious institutions in the municipality serve more than spiritual uses. They accommodate Contactivity groups, Meals-On-Wheels, Boy Scouts, polling stations for elections, and many other activities. Their towers and domes continue to add architectural richness to our community.

CAROLINE BRESLAW

TEMPLE EMANU-EL-BETH SHOLOM IN WESTMOUNT



*In 1911 Temple Emanu-El opened its Reform synagogue on Sherbrooke Street West between Wood and Elm Avenues. The building, designed by Hutchison, Wood and Miller in the Byzantine Revival style with seating for 700 people, was dedicated on September 17, 1911 under Rabbi Nathan Gordon and president Maxwell Goldstein.
Notman photo View No. 11684.*



The Temple Emanu El-Beth Shalom today. The Temple was rebuilt in 1960 in a Modern Style to blend in with the remnants of the original building. Note the polygonal star-shaped roof of the sanctuary and the front entry bay in a Modern Byzantine Revival Style. The architects were Max Roth, Henry Greenspoon, Fred Lebensold and Joseph Dunne with Alfred Miller as the Chairman of the Building Committee.

Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, on Sherbrooke Street in Westmount, is the oldest Reform synagogue in Canada and the only Reform congregation in Quebec. The events leading to Reform began with a group of progressively minded men in the 1880s who met to establish Montreal's first Reform congregation.

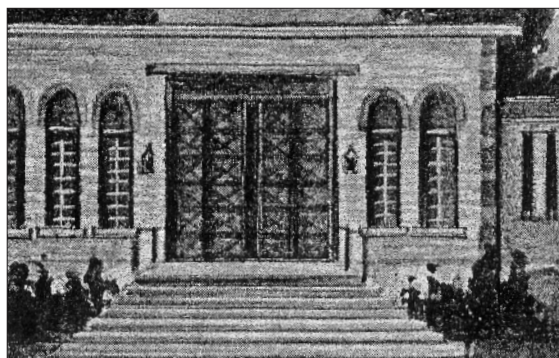
In 1882 there were only two synagogues in Montreal, both of them orthodox. On August 23 of that year, 19 men organized a meeting to develop a Reform congregation and apply for a charter. They were trustees of the English, German, Polish congregation known as St. Constant Street Synagogue (today's Congregation Shaar Hashomayim) and the Portuguese Congregation-Shearith Israel (now known as the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue of Montreal). The name *Temple Emanu-El* was adopted. The first rabbi was the Rev. Samuel Marks who came from the U.S. with new American ideas of organizing a progressive congregation.

On March 30, 1883 the act of in-

corporation was granted by the Quebec Legislature. After meeting in various halls the congregation decided to erect its own building.

On September 16, 1892, the first Temple Emanu-El was dedicated on Stanley Street opposite Cypress Street near the Windsor Hotel. Only twenty years later the congregation became too large for this building, so land was acquired on Sherbrooke Street between Wood and Elm Avenues.

In September 1911 the second Temple Emanu-El was dedicated in Westmount. It was designed in the Byzantine



First Temple Emanu-El built on Stanley Street opposite Cypress Street, near the Windsor Hotel. Dedicated on September 16, 1892.

Revival style at a cost of \$65,000 with seating for 700 people. By 1922 the building had to be enlarged. It had a cruciform plan with Romanesque details resembling a church. There was an auditorium with mixed seating and it included facilities for education, social gatherings and small auxiliary groups.

In 1927 with the arrival of Rabbi Harry Stern, the era of interfaith work began. Rabbi Stern devel-



The Sanctuary of Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom is a spiritual and inspirational space. It is the only Reform Congregation in Quebec.

oped many educational meetings between Montreal Jews and their Catholic and Protestant neighbours. He became the first minister/lecturer/teacher.

In 1940 a Community House with classrooms and a hall were added on the Elm Avenue side, and in 1957 a modern addition to the sanctuary was completed on the Wood Avenue side with a basement hall and more classrooms for the over 600 families who attend.

In 1953 the Aron Museum of Ceremonial Objects was founded by Josef and Mrs. Aron.

In December 1957 a fire destroyed the building. However, the scrolls of the law, the Museum of Ceremonial Objects and the Library were salvaged. Re-building was done within 12 months by architects Max Roth, Henry Greenspoon, Fred Lebensold and Joseph Dunne, with building chairman Alfred Miller.

On Friday, April 22, 1960 the new Temple Emanu-El building was dedicated by Dr. Harry J. Stern, leader of the congregation.

In 1980 – Temple Beth Sholom, a sister congregation formed in 1952, united with Temple Emanu-El to form the present Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom.

DOREEN LINDSAY

*Information gathered on the occasion of a lecture by
Dr. Victor Goldbloom on April 18, 2013*

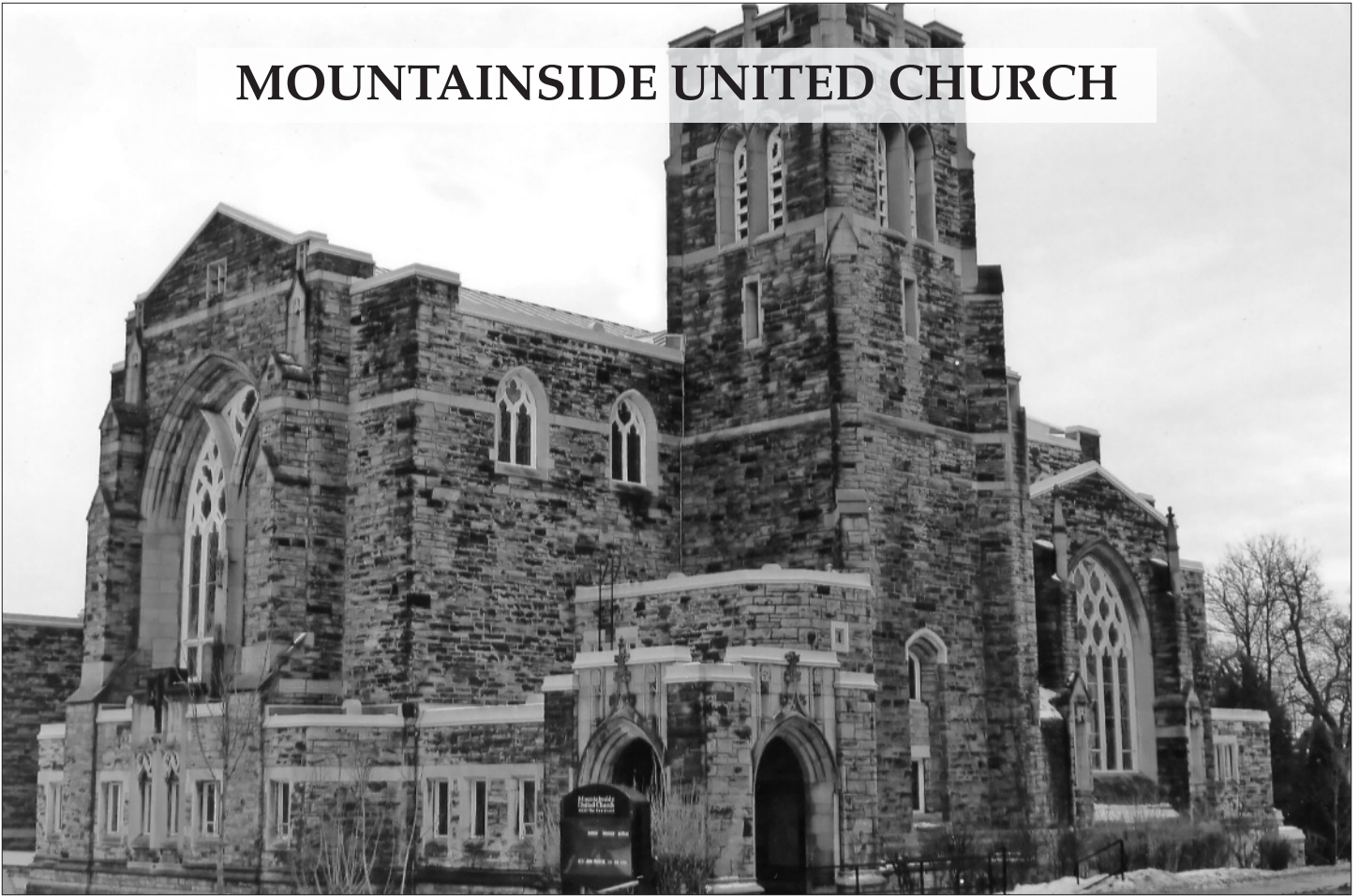


The congregation's Torah scrolls are kept in the Ark. Each sabbath the Ark is opened and a Torah scroll is taken out and the portion for that week is read.



The Aron Museum of Ceremonial Objects was founded in 1953 by Josef and Mrs. Aron. It is part of the Maurice Pollack Cultural Centre within the Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom.

MOUNTAINSIDE UNITED CHURCH



Mountainside United Church as it looks today is situated on The Boulevard between Roslyn and Lansdowne Avenues. It was built in 1927 after Dominion Methodist joined with Douglas Methodist to be called Dominion-Douglas and become part of the United Church of Canada after 1925. Designed by Badgley and Nicklas architects in a Neo-Gothic style.

Mountainside United Church, as it is called today, has a long and complex lineage. The church standing proudly on The Boulevard between Roslyn and Lansdowne Avenues in Westmount was enlarged from its original small 1914 building in 1927 and has incorporated ten congregations over the years.



The first small church building named Dominion-Methodist opened for services in September 1914 on Roslyn Avenue by the congregation of the Dominion Square Methodist Church. It serves as office space today.

Its origins can be traced to 1865 when the original **Dominion Square Methodist Church** was at the southwest corner of Dorchester and Windsor Streets. The Rev. James Henderson, who was appointed as minister in 1883, was a strict Methodist, opposed to smoking, drinking, dancing, theatre going, and travelling on Sunday. The property was sold in 1912 and the congregation moved up the mountain to the residential area of Westmount, where they built a new church and named it **Dominion Methodist**.

In 1914 **Dominion Methodist** opened on Roslyn Avenue south of The Boulevard between Lansdowne and Roslyn Avenues. The original small yellow brick building still stands today and continues to provide office space.

In 1925 **Dominion Methodist** was joined by **Douglas Methodist**, a church built in 1875 on St. Catherine Street at the corner of Chomedey. It was named in honour of Rev. George Douglas, the principal of Wesleyan Theological College in Montreal where Methodist ministers were trained.

The church then renamed itself **Dominion-Douglas** and



Mountainside United Church altar today.

became part of the United Church of Canada following the union of Presbyterians, Methodists and Congregationalists on June 10, 1925.

In 1927 **Dominion-Douglas** built the massive new church building fronting on The Boulevard. It was designed by Badgley and Nicklas architects in a Neo-Gothic style.

In 1985 **Dominion-Douglas** welcomed the congregation of **St. Andrew's United Church**, which had developed from Melville Presbyterian Church built in 1885 on Côte Saint-Antoine Road at the corner of Stanton Street. In 1900 some of the congregation left, taking their name Melville with them. The church was then renamed St. Andrew's. It was sold to Selwyn House School in 1985 when the St. Andrew's congregation joined Dominion-Douglas Church.

In 2004, **St. Andrew's-Dominion-Douglas** integrated the congregation of the **Ersine and American United Church** when they sold their building on Sherbrooke St. at Crescent to the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. With the addition of another double name to their church, the congregation chose



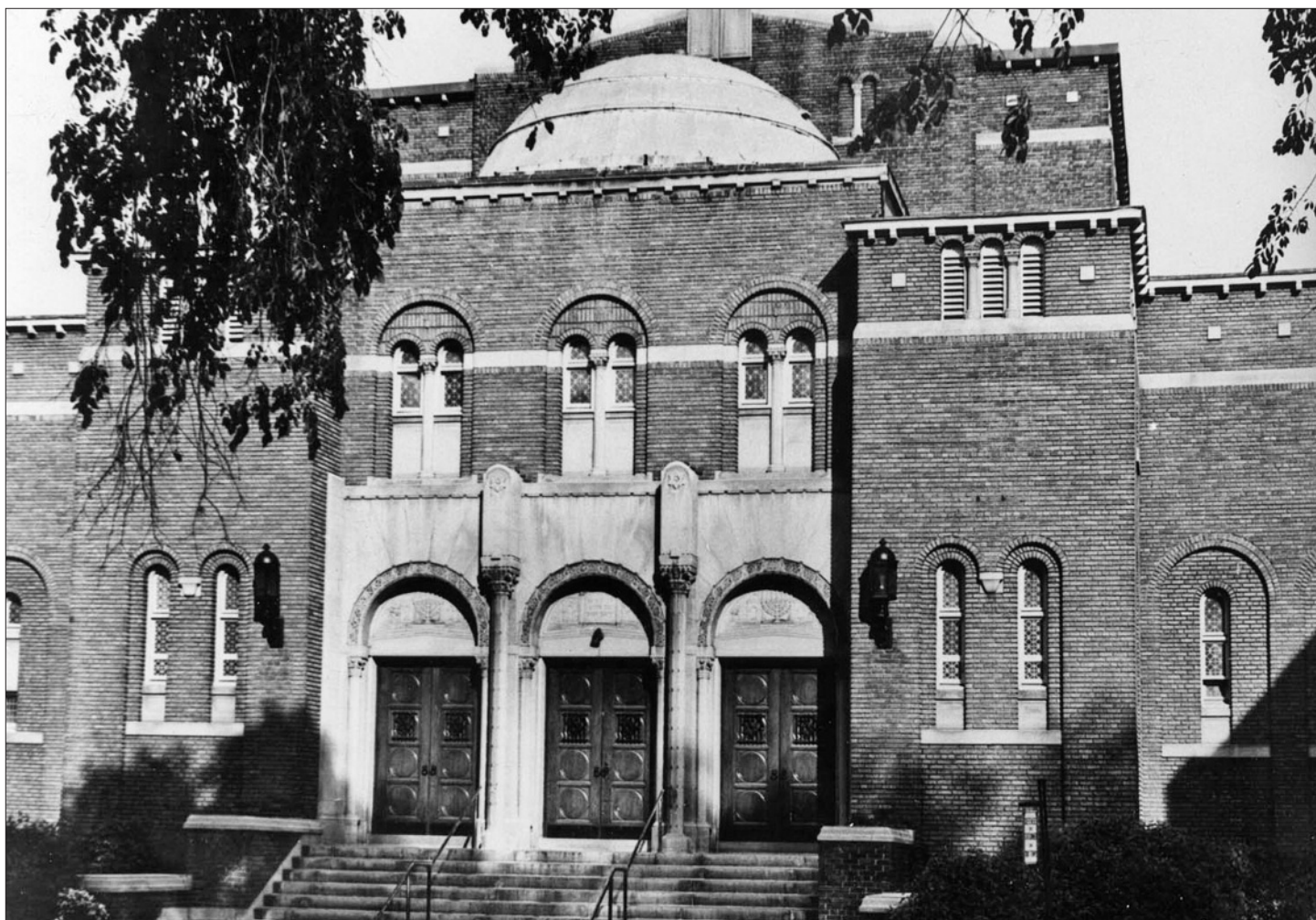
Stained glass window dedication "In loving memory of our only son FLE. Lieut. Jack L'Affoley RCAF Killed in flying battle March 4, 1945". One of many large stained glass windows in the church.

the simpler descriptive name **Mountainside** to describe their location on the side of a mountain in Westmount.

DOREEN LINDSAY

Information gathered on the occasion of a lecture by Dr. J. Edwin Coffey, trustee of Mountainside United Church.

CONGREGATION SHAAR HASHOMAYIM



Congregation Shaar Hashomayim opened in Westmount on Kensington Avenue and Côte Saint-Antoine Road in 1922. The Synagogue was designed by Montreal architect J. Melville Miller in the Byzantine style. The cornerstone was laid by president Lyon Cohen in 1921, and the Synagogue was dedicated on September 17, 1922.

In September of 1922 Congregation Shaar Hashomayim opened its doors on Côte St. Antoine Road in Westmount. It was the fourth space the congregation had occupied. From 1777, its members from Eastern Europe and Britain were part of the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue on St. James and St. Gabriel, the first synagogue in Canada. In 1846 they had founded the English, German and Polish Congregation on St. Constant Street (De Bullion), the first Ashkenazi synagogue in British North America. The Orthodox synagogue had men and women sitting separately. It was modelled on the Great Synagogue in London and provided an Ashkenazi service with familiar melodies. After the premises became too small, the congregation moved in 1886 to 59 McGill College Avenue and was renamed Congregation Shaar Hashomayim. This Hebrew name means 'Gate of Heaven'

and refers to the story in Genesis of Jacob's dream of a ladder ascending to heaven. The grey vitrified brick and sandstone temple was capped by a series of small Moorish cupolas. It included several large galleries for the women. During this elegant era men wore top hats during the service. The Jewish population in Montreal increased greatly from the 1880s because of persecutions in Russia and more space was required. The synagogue looked for land in the west end where the membership was relocating. Temple Emanu-El had already established itself on Sherbrooke Street at Elm in 1911. Plans to relocate the Shaar were put on hold with the outbreak of World War I.

It was only in 1920 that property was purchased on Côte St. Antoine Road at the corner of Kensington Avenue. This area was already a centre of large religious, municipal, and



Additions by Berkowitz and Eliasoff were made in 1967 in a Modern Byzantine Revival Style.

educational institutions. The block with the land for construction included residences to the west and south. Rabbi Herman Abramowitz, the spiritual leader of the Shaar from 1902 until 1947, oversaw the move to Westmount. The furnishings from the McGill College temple, including the ark, the marble staircase, the benches, and the lighting fixtures, went to the Bagg Street Synagogue at the corner of Clark.

The cornerstone was laid in 1921 by the president Lyon Cohen, grandfather of poet Leonard Cohen. The new synagogue, dedicated in 1922, was designed by Montreal architect J. Melville Miller in a new style for an Orthodox synagogue, with domes of middle eastern influence combined with classical details. The seating in the main sanctuary was segregated by a slight elevation on two sides for the women, allowing them to see and be seen. In 1945 Rabbi Wilfred Shuchat came to the Shaar where he is rabbi emeritus today.

In 1967 the Shaar undertook a major expansion, under architect Saul Bercowitz, on the front and west sides. An older apartment building on Côte St. Antoine Road and row-houses on Metcalfe Avenue were demolished to make way for the additions. The stairs and entrance were moved to the west, close to the new chapel which seats 300 people. The original exterior doors were placed inside. A balcony in the main sanctuary increased seating. Downstairs, large banquet halls and reception areas, kitchens for meat and dairy, and an underground garage were added. Stained glass windows, a museum, gift shop, library, and rose garden were special features of the addition.

Since then, other additions and changes have occurred. The synagogue and Akiva School now occupy almost the entire city block. In 2006 an underground gymnasium and

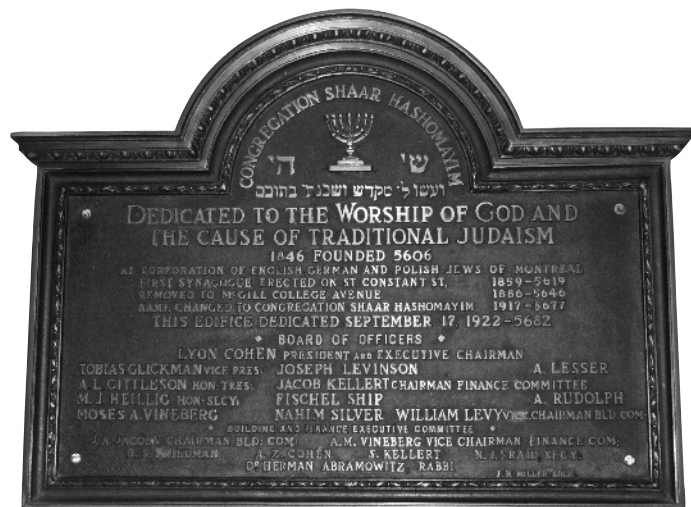


Chapel today has seating for 300 people.

an outside stairwell were designed by the Architem firm.

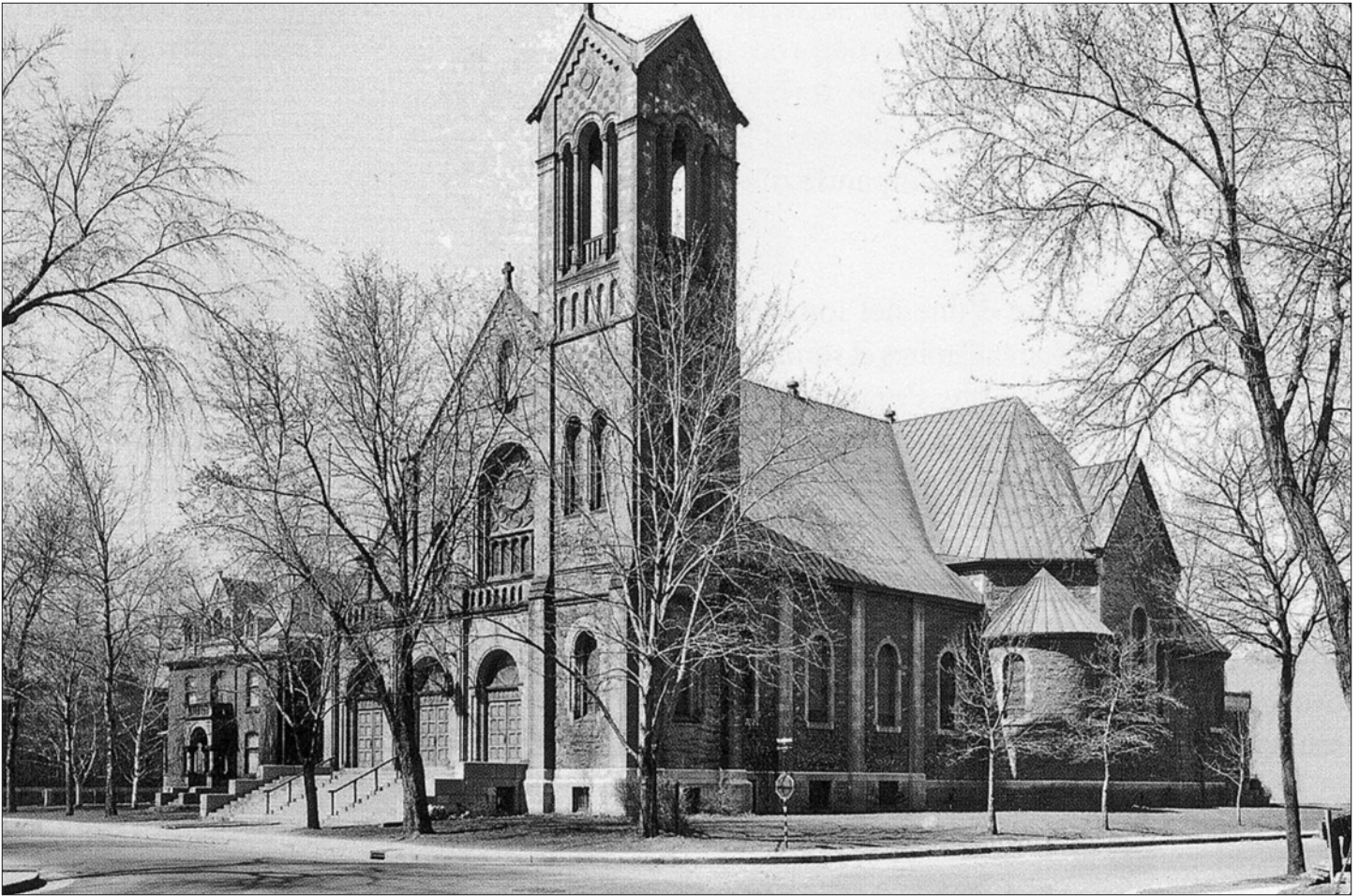
Congregation Shaar Hashomayim is the oldest and largest Ashkenazi congregation in Canada. Forty-nine of its congregants have received the Order of Canada. Adam Sheier is the current rabbi. The Shaar is well-known for its inspiring music, provided by the Director of Music, Stephen Glass, Cantor Gideon Zelermyer, and the synagogue male choir.

CAROLINE BRESLAW



Plaque from 1922

CHURCH OF SAINT-LÉON-DE-WESTMOUNT



The Church of Saint-Léon-de-Westmount on De Maisonneuve Bld. West at the corner of Clarke Avenue was designated a National Historic Site in 1997. Based on a Latin cross plan it features an Italianate façade with bell tower. It was enlarged in 1920 by George-Alphonse Monette, the same architect who designed the first church in 1901.

The Church of Saint-Léon-de-Westmount was the first Catholic church built in Westmount. It originally accommodated both French and English parishioners, many of whom had previously attended Eglise Notre-Dame-de-Grâce just over the municipal border in NDG. The church and adjacent rectory were built in 1901 on farmland acquired from the Grey Nuns on Western Avenue (today's De Maisonneuve) at the corner of Clarke Avenue. The church, designed by architect G.A. Monette, was in the shape of a Greek cross.

Beginning in 1920, the second parish priest, Father Oscar Gauthier, undertook an ambitious enlargement in the neo-Romanesque style using the same architect. Father Gauthier devoted almost 50 years of his life and his personal wealth to create a beautiful, fireproof church building. Italian born artist Guido Nincheri was retained to undertake a massive

transformation of the interior in the Italian Renaissance style, using authentic materials. Nincheri was a decorator, painter, architect, and conceptual artist. He was given complete charge of the interior decoration – frescoes, stained glass windows, and the design of all the decorative elements. Nincheri hired Italian artists to assist him and follow his drawings – sculptors to work in wood, marble, and bronze and stained glass artists. Honduran walnut was used for the woodwork. There was an extensive use of marble – for the floors, the high altar, the communion rail, and the pulpit. The walls were decorated with Florentine mosaic consisting of interlocking coloured pieces of marble.

The ceiling frescoes above the apse, nave, and transept were done following the Renaissance tradition of painting directly onto a fresh coat of plaster. There are three large frescoes executed by Nincheri in the church. The one above the



Guido Nincheri executed the interior wet-plaster frescos and conceived all aspects of the church interior, including the stained glass windows, stonework, woodcarving and bronzework. The large fresco above the apse depicts Saint Leo with St. Paul surrounded by historic figures of the 4th century.

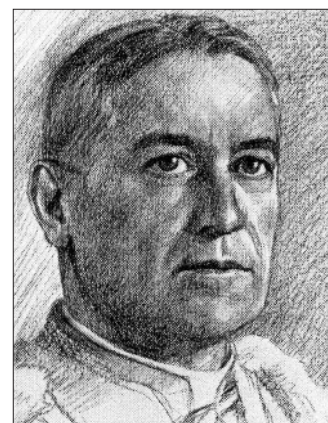
apse shows Saint Leo with Saint Peter, surrounded by prominent historic figures of the 4th century during the papacy of Leo the Great. Included are the invaders of Rome – Attila the Hun and the Vandal Gaiseric. The ceiling of the transept interprets the Book of Revelations and the Apocalypse. Guido Nincheri appears as one of the four horsemen of the Apocalypse. The emphasis of the nave frescoes is on the spread of Christianity, with Saint Helena, Saint Francis of Assisi, and Saint Cecilia highlighted. The frescoes alone took five years to complete.

The stained glass windows gracing the walls of Saint-Léon show scenes from the Scriptures. They accurately depict places and architecture in the Holy Land. Those to the right of the nave depict original sin, predestination, and expulsion from the Garden of Eden in a triptych, and the child-

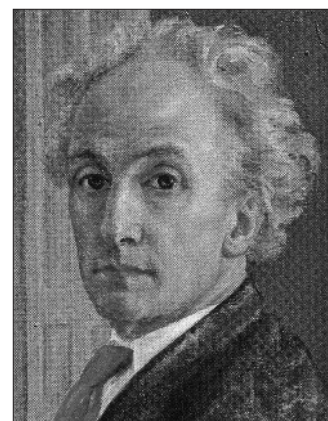
hood of Jesus. Appearing to the left of the nave are scenes from the life of Jesus, including a triptych of the Crucifixion, Christ the King, and the Resurrection. Various historical people are portrayed in these windows. The stained glass work was begun in Nincheri's workshop on Pie IX Blvd. in the 1930s and was completed in 1957.

The work on Saint-Léon extended from 1928 until 1957. In 1928 the English Catholic parishioners had built their own church, Ascension of Our Lord, constructed just around the corner on Sherbrooke Street. The interior of Saint-Léon-de-Westmount was classified as a National Historical Site of Canada in 1997. A plaque to commemorate this designation was unveiled in front of the church in 1999.

CAROLINE BRESLAW



Father Oscar Gauthier, drawing by G. Nincheri. The second parish priest who devoted 50 years of his life to the restoration and decoration of the church.



Guido Nincheri, self-portrait, 1952. The prolific conceptual artist, painter and decorator designed the interior of the Church of Saint-Léon-de-Westmount between 1928 and 1944.



The original Church of Saint-Léon-de-Westmount was designed by Montreal architect Georges-Alphonse Monette in 1901 in the Romanesque Revival style. It was the first Catholic church in Westmount.

*** UPCOMING WALKING TOUR ***

Sunday, September 29, 2013

CHURCH of SAINT-LÉON-DE-WESTMOUNT

Meet at the Lawn Bowling Club
on Sherbrooke St. (at Kensington Ave.)
at 2 pm

English and French guides will explain
the development of the land owned by the
Grey Nuns between Saint Catherine St.
and Côte Saint Antoine Road
before the Church of Saint-Léon was built.

Your guide will lead you to the
CHURCH of SAINT-LÉON-DE-WESTMOUNT
(declared a **NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE** in 1997)

where **ROGER NINCHERI** will talk about
the fresco paintings, stained glass windows,
and wood carvings designed by his
grandfather Guido Nincheri.

AWARD in 2013



DOREEN LINDSAY received VOLUNTEER CITIZEN-OF-THE-YEAR AWARD

Wednesday, May 8, 2013 The Derek Walker Volunteer Citizen-of-the-Year Award was presented to Doreen by the Westmount Municipal Association at their AGM in Victoria Hall, Westmount.

WHA UPDATES

TIME CAPSULE August 5, 2013

The WHA contributed three recent copies of our Newsletter and *A View of Their Own* book by Aline Gubbay to the time capsule being buried at the new Westmount Recreation Centre.

WHA-AGM Thursday, May 16, 2013

Yearly Reports were given by president, Doreen Lindsay, treasurer, David Freeman, membership secretary and webmaster, Anne Barkman, and archivist Jane Martin. The present Board of Directors returned to office with two new members being elected: Sharon Sparling and Louise Carpentier.

GRANT OF \$4000 FOR 2013-14

Monday, May 6, 2013. WHA received a grant of \$4000 for the year 2013-2014 from the City of Westmount. Thanks to Jane Martin for writing the proposal.

LA MÉDAILLE DU LIEUTENANT- GOUVERNEUR DU QUEBEC – May 5, 2013

David Freeman, Doreen Lindsay and Thomas Thompson received la Médaille du Lieutenant-gouverneur pur les aînés (argent) for remarkable volunteer engagement within their Westmount community.



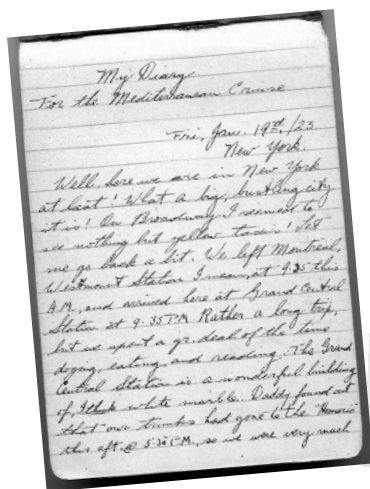
JANE'S WALK on VICTORIA AVENUE

Sunday, May 5, 2013. WHA conducted a successful walking tour along Victoria Avenue from Sherbrooke Street down to the former CPR Station on St. Catherine St. Forty-five people participated. Organized within the JANE'S WALK banner by Ruth Allan-Rigby and Doreen Lindsay.

HERITAGE DAY February 18, 2013

WHA celebrated HERITAGE DAY with a one-day display in the Library of three Westmount neighbourhoods. This is the first year we have celebrated Heritage Day.

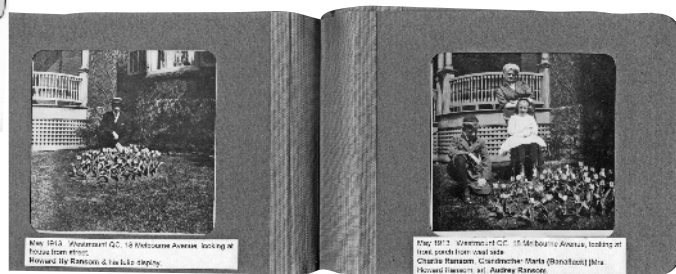
NEW ACQUISITIONS



Photographs and related material: Items related to early Westmount resident Audrey (Ransom) Scadding, late of 18 Melbourne Ave.

Includes 20 family photos, mostly ca.1902-1922, plus genealogical information about the Ransom family, as well as Audrey Ransom's handwritten diary of her 3-month trip to Europe and the Mediterranean in 1923.

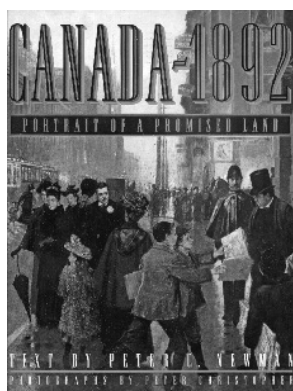
Donated by Barbara Winn



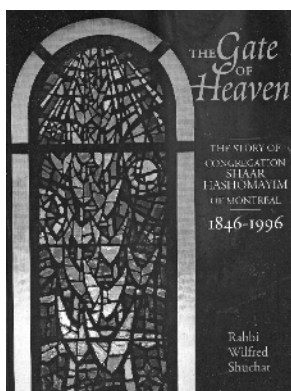
4 early photos of 403 Côte St. Antoine Rd.
Donated by Bruce Anderson



4 early photos of 21 Gordon Crescent, ca.1940s.
Donated by Virginia LeMoyné



Book: CANADA – 1892: Portrait of a Promised Land, by Peter C. Newman, 1992.



Book: GATE OF HEAVEN: the story of Congregation Shaar Hashomayim of Montreal, 1846-1996, by Rabbi Wilfred Shuchat. *Donated by Stephen Glass, Director of Music, Congregation Shaar Hashomayim*

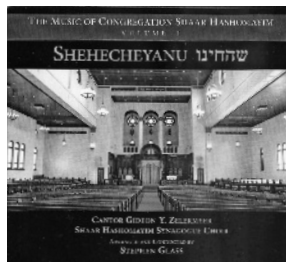


6 photos related to 555 Victoria Ave. "The Well House" and its then-owner, Mrs. Monica Grahame, ca. 1960s, and a newspaper clipping related to Mrs. Grahame.

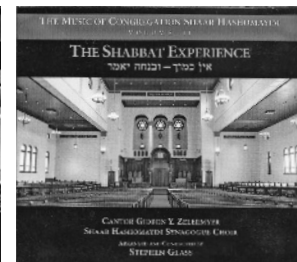
Donated by Cynthia Grahame



Brochure and fold-out map: "Westmount", 1971, published by City of Westmount.



CDs: "The Music of Congregation Shaar Hashomayim: the Shabbat Experience", Vol. 1 & 2, 2012.



Donated by Stephen Glass

To our readers: please contact us if items of local interest come to light as you downsize, or clear out attics or drawers. In particular, we seek good quality photographs that show

identifiable aspects of life in Westmount over the years, but many other types of memorabilia are also welcomed.

JANE MARTIN, WHA ARCHIVIST