

The Westmount Historian

NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTMOUNT HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 8 NUMBER 1

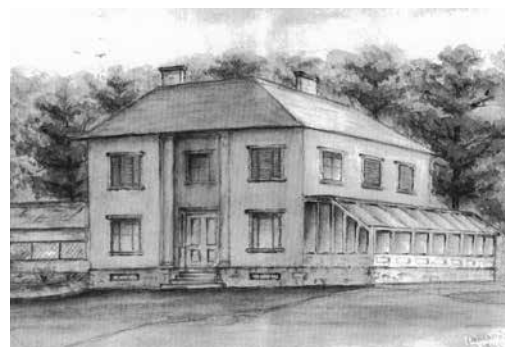
SEPTEMBER 2007



*William Hallowell house, 1806
demolished 1967*



*"GREENHYTHE," 1846 demolished c. 1901
Philip Durnford home*



*"OAKLANDS," 1848
built by Judge William Badgley*

DORCHESTER BOULEVARD FROM ATWATER AVENUE TO HALLOWELL IN WESTMOUNT



*"Thynwald" house, 1892-95
#4064 Dorchester Boul. West*



*Macaulay house, 1891 arch. Robert Findlay
#4100 Dorchester Boul. West*



*"The Towers," 1880-86. First terraced housing in Westmount
#4130 to #4140 Dorchester Boul. West*



*"Gaunt" house, demolished 1967
#4263 Dorchester Boul. West*

The Westmount Historian

NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTMOUNT
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

September 2007
Volume 8 • Number 1

EDITOR:
Doreen Lindsay

CONTRIBUTORS:
Ruth Allan-Rigby
Caroline Breslaw
Barbara Covington
Doreen Lindsay

All photos: WHA Archives
except pages 8 and 9

WESTMOUNT HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2007 – 2008

Doreen Lindsay, president
Caroline Breslaw, vice-president
David Freeman, treasurer
Anne Barkman, membership & website
Margarita Schultz, recording secretary
Barbara Covington, archivist
Joan Clark
Jane Martin
Ruth Allan-Rigby

PAST PRESIDENTS

Flora-Lee Wagner 2000-2003
Aline Gubbay 1994-2000
Mrs. Vogel 1986-1987
Miss Harvie 1984-1986
Dr. Hélène Saly 1981-1984
Eleanor Earle 1979-1981
Sally Hooft 1975-1979
Alice Lighthall (Chair) 1944-1948

WESTMOUNT HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
P. O. Box 198 Victoria Station
Westmount, Quebec H3Z 2Y6
514 925-1404

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

Developing this newsletter about Dorchester Boulevard in Westmount has taken me through the fascinating evolution of this southeastern sector of our city. From fur traders and military men to developers and urban planners. You can read about William Hallowell, a shareholder in the North West Fur Trading Company who bought 100 acres of land in 1806 and built a large country home on top of the escarpment. Captain Philip Durnford built a stone home in 1846 for his family called **Green Hythe** north of Dorchester on land that he owned between Atwater Avenue and Gladstone Street. Judge William Badgley built his home **Oaklands** just two years later south of

Dorchester and east of the Hallowell house.

We were given a fascinating family album containing actual newspaper articles with writings and drawings by George Durnford from 1896. I have reproduced two pages here to share with you, which tell his account of this area of Westmount.

You will also be able to see a photograph of the last house left standing on the north side of Dorchester after all the others were demolished in 1966-67 in order to widen the Boulevard. I thank Mrs. Margery Gaunt Mackenzie for letting us reproduce her photograph of the Gaunt house.

Although the houses on the north side have been demolished, today we can still experience the architectural richness of late 1800 and early 1900 houses, which delight our eyes on the south side of Dorchester between Atwater Avenue and Hallowell Street. The six attached homes at # 4130 to #4140 built in 1880-86 were the first terraced housing in Westmount. The original house at #4100 designed by Robert Findlay for Thomas B. Macaulay and built in 1891, the *Thynwald* house across the corner to the east at #4064 was designed in 1892-95 with its door set in a double roman arch.

My sincere thanks to Caroline Breslaw, Ruth Allan-Rigby and Barbara Covington for their well researched, detailed, informative writings on their chosen topics.

DOREEN LINDSAY

WHA Fall Lecture Series 2007 "ALL IN THE FAMILY"

A Look at Prominent Westmounters

September 20, 2007

The Hogg Family: Five Generations of Westmounters

Speaker: Grace Hogg, great granddaughter of George Hogg and grants coordinator for the George Hogg Family Foundation

October 18, 2007

Down in the Titanic: Hartland Molson and the Allisons

Speaker: Alan Hustak, author and Gazette journalist

November 15, 2007

John Young and the Estate of "Rosemount"

Speaker: Caroline Breslaw, WHA board member and researcher

December 13, 2007

Alice Lighthall (1891-1991): A Beloved Westmounter

Speaker: Ruth Allan-Rigby, WHA Board Member

Research: Ruth Allan-Rigby and Barbara Covington WHA archivist

Talks will take place in the Westmount Public Library, 7 to 9 pm.

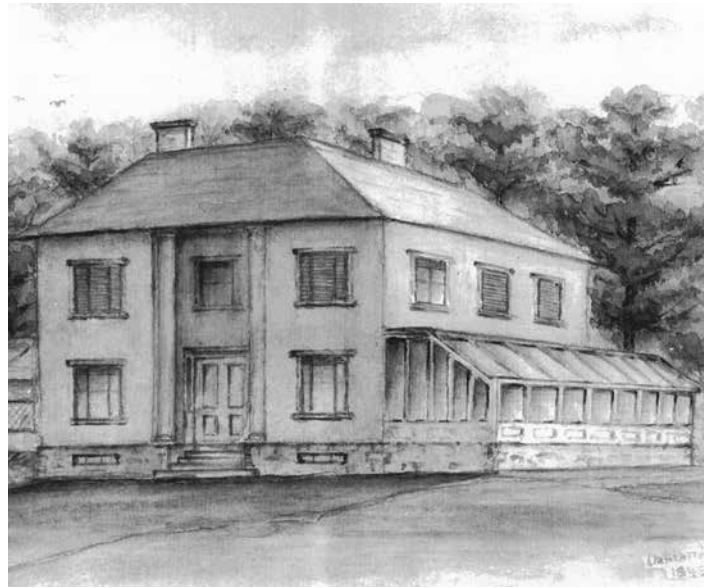
Admission free for Members, non-members \$5 at door.

514-925-1404 or 514-932-6688

DEVELOPMENT OF DORCHESTER BOULEVARD AREA



*Hallowell house, 1806.
Built by William Hallowell,
shareholder of the North West Fur Trading Company.
Demolished in 1967 when the Ville Marie Expressway
was constructed.*



*"Oaklands," 1848. Built by Judge William Badgley.
Drawing by George Durnford, 1896*

When **Dorchester Boulevard** was constructed in 1844 in the City of Montreal, it extended only as far west as today's Atwater Avenue. A ravine with a stream formed the eastern border of the village of Cote St. Antoine. This southeast corner of what is now Westmount had originally been part of the Fief of St. Augustin, ceded to Jeanne Mance and the Hotel Dieu de Maisonneuve.

In the early days, two large estates occupied the land. The first was that of William Hallowell, shareholder of the North West Company. His property of about 100 acres could be reached only from the south. Part of the Hallowell property was later owned by Dr. Selby, then by Postmaster-General Thomas Stayner, and finally by the French Methodist Institute.

The second large estate, "Oaklands", was owned by Judge William Badgley who sold it to the Hon. George Moffatt, founder of Canada's first railroad. Moffatt's home was named "Weredale". The area was rural with orchards and farmland. Building close to the Moffatt residence only began in 1878 when Weredale Lodge (8 Weredale Park) was constructed.

This southeast corner became the entrance to the town of Westmount. After 1873 Dorchester was extended west of Atwater and continued up to Sherbrooke Street. There was a tollgate on Dorchester across from the entrance to Weredale Lodge. In 1884 the name of the section of the street going north was changed to Greene Avenue.

After the introduction of the streetcar loopline in 1892, there was a real estate boom in the area. Land from the two estates was sold to developers and expropriated for the railway and new streets. Most of the land was purchased by small investors who built houses for resale or short-term rental. Narrow lots fronting on Dorchester gave the street an urban character.

The Town of Westmount became a favoured residential area for English merchants of Montreal. By 1890, the north side of the street was almost completely built up and the first development between Greene and Hallowell began.

A brick building was constructed in 1903 to replace a wooden one housing St. Stephen's Church on Dorchester at Atwater. Calvary Congregational Church was built at the corner of Dorchester and Greene in 1911. Westmount acquired part of the former Hallowell estate in 1936 and created Stayner Park.

Gradually the southeast sector went out of fashion. Many properties on both sides of Dorchester were converted into rooming houses. Between 1966 and 1967, 135 buildings on the street's north side were demolished in order to widen Dorchester Boulevard and improve traffic flow. Today this north side of Dorchester consists mainly of parking lots.

CAROLINE BRESLAW

Based on research for talk on February 15, 2007

MACAULAY HOUSE 1891 AND CALVARY CHURCH 1911 – DESIGNED BY ROBERT FINDLAY

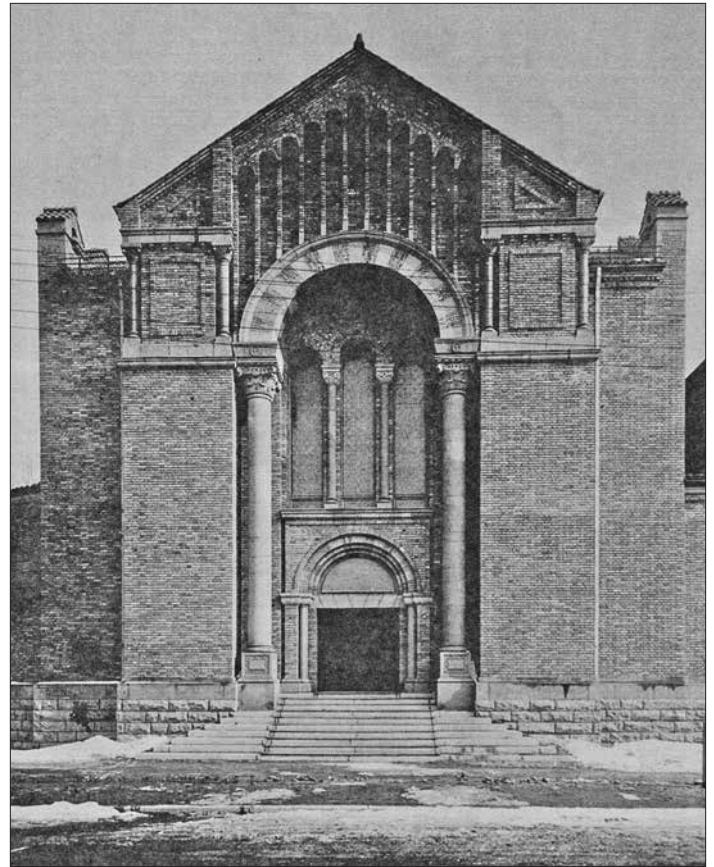


*Macaulay house, 1891 arch. Robert Findlay
#4100 Dorchester Boulevard West, corner of Clandeboye*

In 1890 Robertson Macaulay and his son Thomas, who were both Directors of the Sun Life Assurance Company, commissioned the architect Jean-Baptiste Resther to design their houses at #1277 and #1279 Dorchester Boulevard on land purchased from their neighbour George Durnford. They lived there for over two decades. The buildings were demolished in 1966-67, along with the entire north side of Dorchester when the street was widened.

After architect Robert Findlay won the design competition for the Headquarters of the Sun Life Assurance Company at 266 Notre Dame Street West in 1887, Thomas Bassett Macaulay requested the architect to design a home for him. This Queen Anne style mansion was built on the southwest corner of Dorchester at Clandeboye in 1891. This was the first Westmount commission for Robert Findlay. The house, which still stands today, is asymmetrical, constructed of red brick with an eccentric slate roof. The entrance features heavy masonry typical of the work of architect H.H. Richardson. This design shares many architectural features with the Westmount Public Library designed by Findlay in 1898. Thomas Macaulay never lived in this house but arranged for it to be rented and then sold to the Edgar family.

Robert Findlay went on to design the Calvary Church in 1911 at the corner of Dorchester and Greene. The Macaulays were members of the church and Thomas Bassett laid the cornerstone of the new building on June 8, 1912 in his capacity as President of the Congregational Union of Canada. The design was for a sober brick church with a massive recessed entrance. This entrance had a sweeping Roman arch with parallel Corinthian columns almost to the



*Calvary Church, 1912 arch. Robert Findlay demolished 1963
corner of Dorchester Boul. and Greene Avenue*

roofline. Within this were two further columns above a smaller Roman arch forming the main entrance. In 1961, due to a declining congregation, the Calvary Church amalgamated with Westmount Park United Church at the north-east corner of Lansdowne Avenue and De Maisonneuve Boulevard.

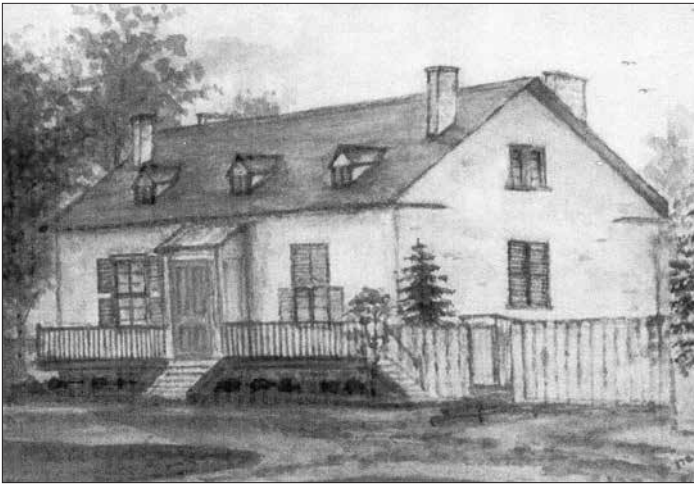
This church at Greene and Dorchester was demolished in December 1963 and the site became the headquarters of l'Ordre des infirmières et infirmiers du Québec. Findlay kept the patronage of the affluent Macaulays for over three decades and went on to design two prestigious homes for them in Upper Westmount.

RUTH ALLAN-RIGBY

Based on her talk The Macaulays and Robert Findlay on February 15, 2007.

Robertson Macaulay commissioned architect Robert Findlay to design his house at 3228 Cedar Avenue in 1911. Today it is Miss Edgar's & Miss Cramps School. His son, Thomas Bassett Macaulay had his home built at 3233 The Boulevard the following year. It is The Study school today.

"GREEN HYTHE" THE PHILIP DURNFORD FAMILY HOME, 1846



GREEN HYTHE Philip Durnford family home.
Built on Dorchester Boulevard in 1846. demolished c. 1901.
Painting by George Durnford in 1896.

Dunganon Fort, Ireland and died October 15, 1881 in *Green Hythe* the home that he had built. Philip Durnford was part of a prominent military family whose members had served in the Corps of Royal Engineers since 1759. He became a captain in His Majesty's 68th Regiment, Durham Light Infantry. He married Augusta Sewell on August 3, 1833 in Portsmouth, and they had twelve children.

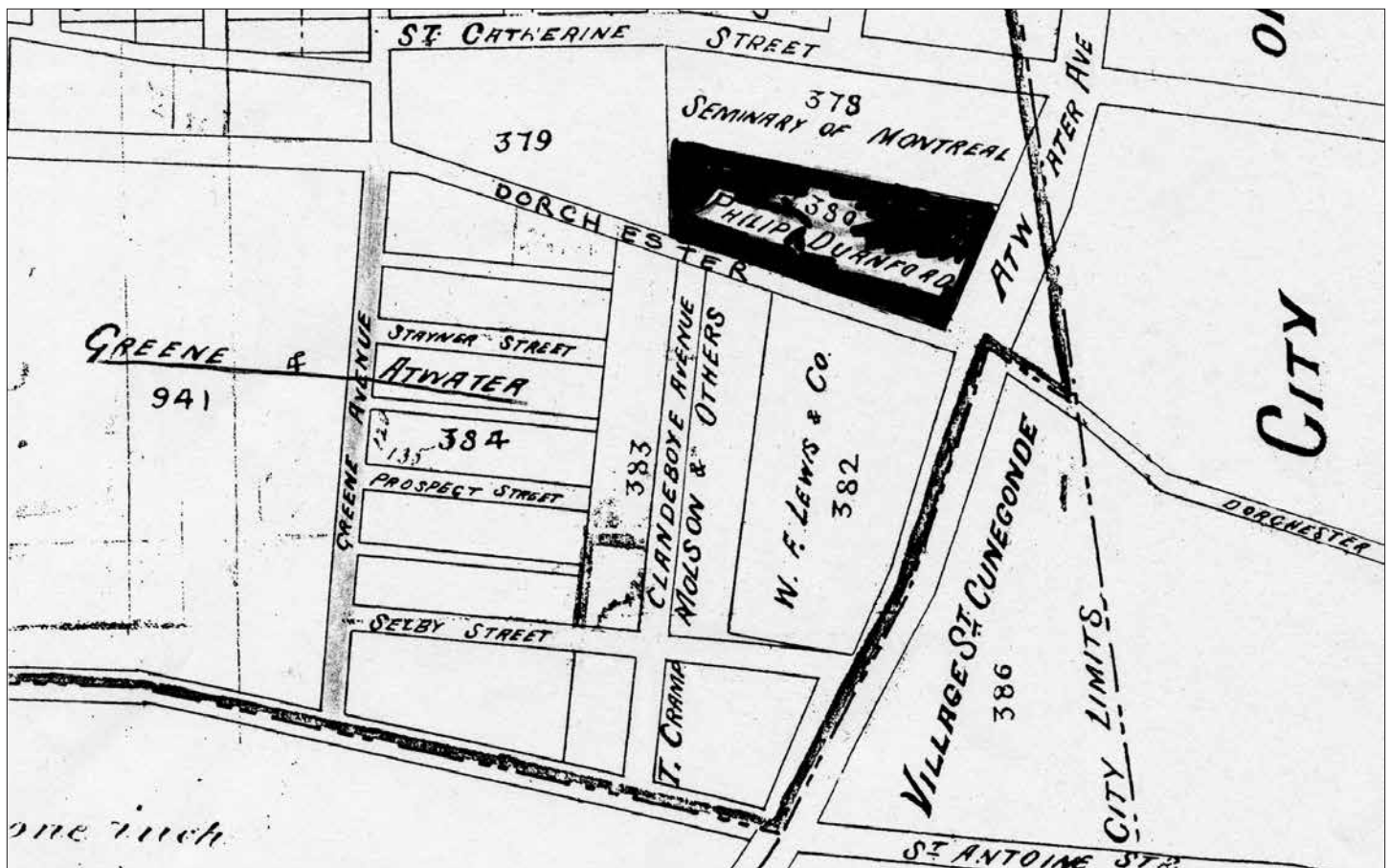
Green Hythe was a stone house covered with stucco built one year after Post-Master General Thomas Staynor had purchased and begun to live at Selby Grange the original Hallowell estate south of Dorchester. Two years later, in 1848, Judge William Badgely built his house *Oaklands* on the escarpment east of Mr. Stayner.

The Mackay Montreal Directory of 1849 listed him as Durnford, Philip, revenue inspector, 2nd. division, 94 Notre Dame, house *Green Hythe*, Cote St. Antoine, west of tollgate, which confirms the location of his house.

DOREEN LINDSAY

Based on talk by Michael Ellwood (great, great grandson of Philip Durnford) on May 17, 2007

Philip Durnford built a family home in 1846 on land he owned on the north side of Dorchester Boulevard. Captain Philip Durnford was born on February 3, 1804 in



This map shows the Durnford land on the north side of Dorchester between Atwater and today's Gladstone Avenue.

3
Second
Part.

DAILY

MONTREAL

THE WITNESS JUBILEE SYMPOSIUM.

Stories of Fifty Years Ago.

OLD COTE ST. ANTOINE.

(To the Editor of the 'Witness'.)

Sir,—On speaking to you of a sketch I made when a boy of the old tollgate which stood on Dorchester street, near what is now Atwater avenue, probably just about opposite the residence of Mr. Jonathan Brown, you asked me if I would not write something of Cote St. Antoine, its then inhabitants and its legends, and I may as well commence with a scene that impressed itself indelibly on my memory that took place at this selfsame toll bar. It happened a few days after April 25, 1849, the day memorable for the burning of the Parliament House. I spied on the town side of the gate there, drawn up, a troop of cavalry, and with the natural boyish love of horses and soldiers, I hastened down and planted myself opposite a group of officers and quickly recognized I was in front of Captain Jones and his troop of the Queen's Provincial Light Dragoons, a force raised and kept embodied from the time of the rebellion of 1837-38. The late Col. Guly was in at-

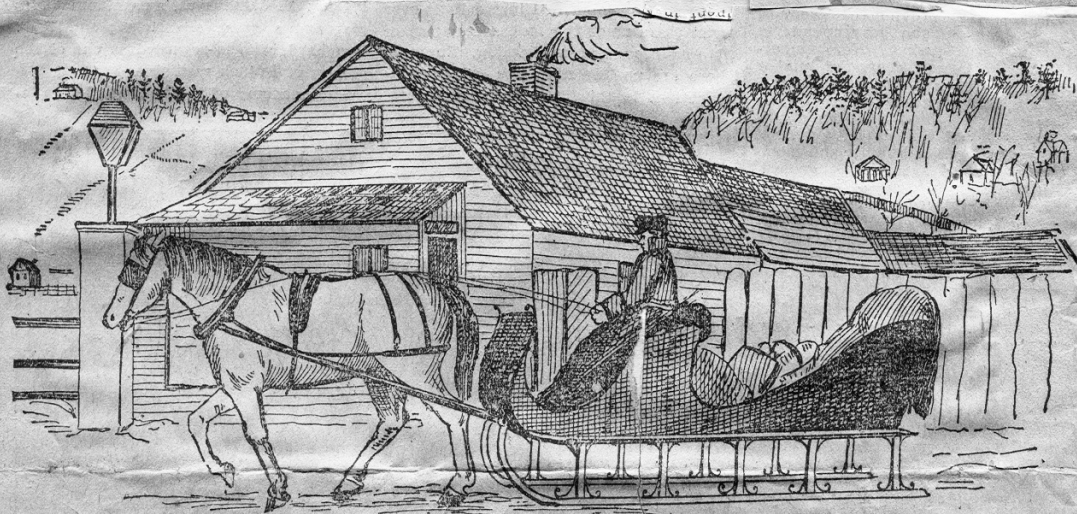
tendance, in his capacity as a magistrate (I afterwards learned). He, Capt. Jones and the other officers were chatting and smoking together. I was joined by another spectator, also a boy, a stranger to me, probably on an errand which had to wait. Presently up galloped an aide de camp who saluted and gave Captain Jones an order, or instruction of some kind. I was surprised at the change that took place in his usually jovial countenance. Surprise, anger and astonishment were plainly depicted and he turned to Col. Guly for counsel. He shook his head and shrugged his shoulders. Captain Jones turned his horse and facing the A.D.C. roared out, 'Who the d—, sir, ever heard of cavalry riding with their carbines loaded, I'll be d— if I will,' and he properly did not. The A.D.C. said little and the position was doubtless exciting, when Col. Guly, possibly to make a diversion, rode his horse at my companion and I, saying: 'I must disperse these rebels.' He fled. I had a small stick in my hand, and feeling that the gallant colonel was having his joke, determined to have my share; so I dropped on one knee, brought myself into the position of a soldier in the front rank of a square, prepared to receive cavalry. This action probably

caused him to recognize me, for he burst out laughing as he reined up his horse in front of me and called out, 'Hello, Jones! here's a soldier's son.' At that instant the Governor-General's carriage dashed up, the trumpet sounded, a few words of command, and the troop filed off at a sharp trot after it, and the whole cavalcade quickly disappeared. I heard that evening that the Governor had gone home from his office, the Chateau de Ramezay, by St. Denis street. The mob had met him at the corner of St. Lawrence Main and Sherbrooke

streets, and that in trying to shield his brother from the stones that were thrown the Hon. Col. Bruce had been hurt. I cannot but wonder sometimes whether any of the troopers present that day are yet in the land of the living. The chief actors of the scene have long been at rest.

Returning to the tollgate proper, when Sherbrooke street was opened from Guy street to Cote St. Antoine road, a check gate was placed at the city limits. The position it occupied may be seen in the sketch. Both were removed somewhere about 1858, in which year the stone building, pulled down a few years ago that stood on the corner of Greene avenue and Sherbrooke streets was erected.

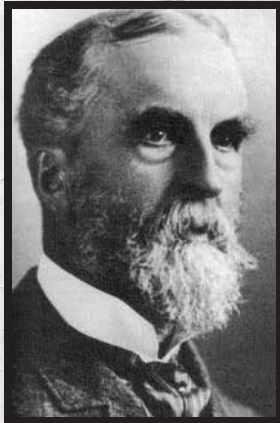
However, to return to Cote St. Antoine: Leaving the tollgate you crossed an old wooden bridge under which ran, over a rocky bed, a bright little stream, fed by two others which came from the Mountain through the Priests' Farm, joining each other where Quiblier street now crosses Atwater avenue, meandered through the property of the late Mr. Quesnel, now known as the Souvenir property, and after feeding his lake ran through the fields on which is now built the city of Ste. Cuneconde. Where the houses of the town now stand I have seen and caught speckled trout. But



OLD DORCHESTER STREET TOLL GATE.

WITNESS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1896.



George Durnford
(1838-1922) pages from
his family album

this is out of the limit of the Cote. Proceeding by the turnpike road, the first gate on the left opened into the grounds of Oaklands, the residence of the late Judge Badgley, which was afterwards sold to the Hon. George Moffatt, who pulled down the house to build the one at present standing, and known as 'Weredale.' Shortly after Mr. Moffatt moved in the mains for the water works were laid down on Atwater avenue, and a very pretty point of land was expropriated for the purpose, much to his disgust and annoyance, and I have a very distinct recollection of hearing him say that the amount awarded was no compensation for the beauty lost. The Hon. Mr. Badgley was a member of the government at the time of the signing of the Rebellion Losses bill and an attack on his house was in consequence of some threats expected, and windows were boarded up, and a number of armed men garrisoned the house for a few days. The arrangements had to be made very hastily. I remember his plate and other valuables being sent over to my father's house to be taken care of, and my envy was excited by his son William, now Major-General Badgley, telling me he was to be allowed to form one of the garrison.



OAKLANDS.

The Residence of the Hon. Wm. Badgley.

Next to the Badgley grounds came the land known as the Routh property, in the woods of which, prior to the building of the Lachine Railway, wild pigeons used to come in the spring. On the opposite side of the road stood, and still stands, but with the surroundings greatly changed, 'Green Hythe,' the residence of my father, the late Captain Durnford, the foundations of which were laid in 1845. To the west of 'Green Hythe' was the farm of the late Mr. Geo. Savage, the then Tiffany of Montreal, which extended over the mountain to the Cote

des Neiges road. The old residence has disappeared within the last few years, but in Mr. Savage's time the farm, orchards and gardens were models of perfection. Opposite the Dorchester street boundary of the Savage farm commenced the land of the Selby Grange farm. The old Grange is still in existence and is occupied by Mr. W. Kerr, who somewhat modernized it. Some of the trees of the old park are still standing in St. Henri. It was, I think, at this time the property of the then Deputy-Postmaster-General, Mr. T. A. Stayner, and farmed by a Mr. Robert Wark.

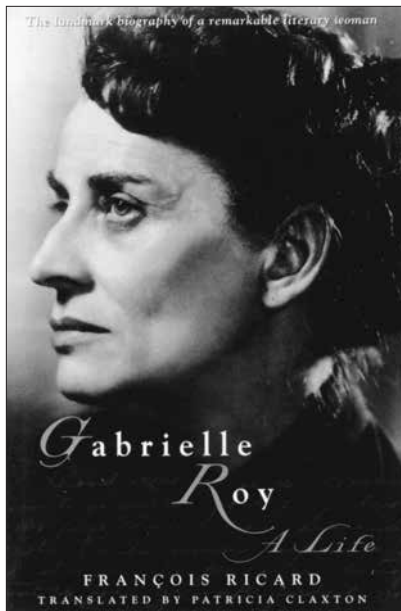
We are now near what was then known as Sisson's lane, now St. Catherine street west, called after an old retired officer, the graves and tombstones of some of whose family may be seen in the Papineau road military cemetery. The Selby Grange property faced on this lane as far as Hallowell street, which in those days was an avenue or road leading to the Grange. Next to it came the Bethune and Hallowell farm, part of which is the M. A. A. grounds, also farmed by Mr. Wark, and opposite the land belonging to the nuns, who still own it. It was cultivated as a market garden. Then came the Sisson farm. My principal recollection of the old gentleman is that he drove a funny old gig, something like a small Tilbury, which was always terribly muddy. I remember asking why he did not have it washed, and was told it was because he was farming. The answer did not satisfy me as I could not see the connection between a dirty gig and farming, but I never got a more satisfactory reason. Next to the Sisson farm came the Small farm, then occupied by a widow and her three sons, some of whom are still farming on another part of the island. Opposite the Smalls' farm was what was known as the Government Field, and it was intended prior to the famous Tanneries

land swap, for the site of a lunatic asylum. Strange to say, it was noticed that the lunatics, who were then not cared for as at present, were at times fond of wandering about it. The lane had an evil reputation of being haunted, and the ghost's favorite headquarters was an old house on the Bethune-Hallowell farm, and a clump of trees that stood a little back from the junction with the Dorchester road (now Greene avenue). The only occasion I remember of it being seen was when it came out from this wood, and followed a Mr. Archibald, gardener to the Hon. John Young, up Sherbrooke street (Cote. St. Antoine road now) every now and then pushing him into the ditch. Of the ditch part I have no doubt, as the same man was at times given to spirits not ghostly; nevertheless it was recorded as a veritable fact among a certain portion of our small population.

GABRIELLE ROY LIVED ON DORCHESTER BOUL. WEST WHILE WRITING *THE TIN FLUTE*

Gabrielle Roy, writer 1909–1983

Gabrielle Roy lived in a rooming house at #4059 Dorchester Boulevard in Westmount from 1940 until 1943.



Gabrielle Roy A Life, 1969 by François Ricard, translated by Patricia Claxton, 1999.

er Street in Westmount. Later she moved to the north side to a more comfortable rooming house run by Miss McLean.

"You'd think you had just come upon the antiquated heart of some sleepy small town. All is placid and serene. The hundred-year-old trees that flood this corner of Montreal with shade vie together to link their boughs and form a peaceful avenue that gives shelter to houses with quiet facades... But best of all on this peaceful Dorchester Street is a big house with tiers of gables and cornices in which, high up facing the street, is a row of three identical little windows; three enchanting little windows, each made, you'd think, especially to frame a young and pensive face..."

Enchantment and Sorrow, 1984, p. 64.

While living on Dorchester Street, in this English speaking part of Montreal, Gabrielle Roy continued to write in French as a freelance writer for *Le jour*, *Le bulletin des agriculteurs* and *La revue moderne* publications. To explore the city, she often walked north along the streets to Westmount Park, the Public Library, the mountain or south down Atwater Avenue into the village-like streets of working-class, French speaking Saint-Henri. Her experience in these very different environments led her to write her first

novel *Bonheur d'occasion*, a story about the hardships of working class life before World War II. She wrote a series of four articles entitled *Tout Montreal* for *Le bulletin* from June to September 1941, which can be seen as gathering experience for her first fiction book to be.



Eaton's window in Montreal, 1947

Gabrielle Roy was receiving awards and prizes as both a French writer and an English writer.

Photo from "Gabrielle Roy A Life".

novel *Bonheur d'occasion*, a story about the hardships of working class life before World War II. She wrote a series of four articles entitled *Tout Montreal* for *Le bulletin* from June to September 1941, which can be seen as gathering experience for her first fiction book to be.

Bonheur d'occasion was published in 1945 and translated into English as *The Tin Flute* in 1946. It became an instant success. When she returned to Saint Boniface in the same year, Gabrielle met and married Dr. Marcel Charbotte. They lived in France for three years before settling in Quebec City.

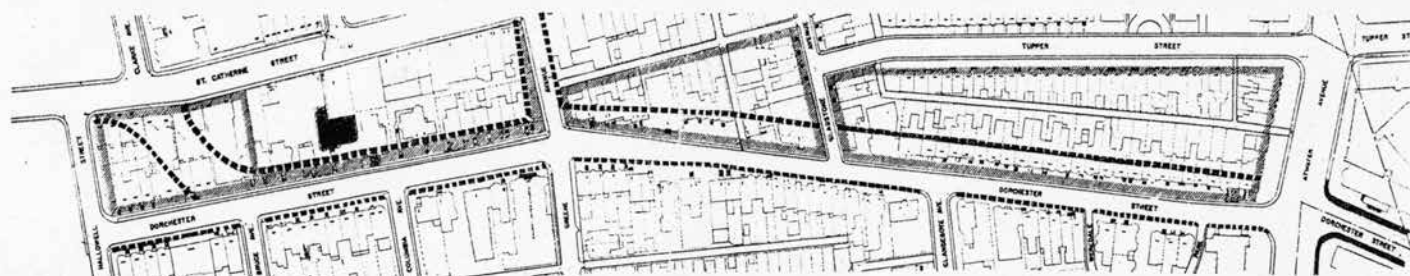
In 1947 Gabrielle Roy won the **Prix Fémina**, a major literary prize in France and the **Literary Guild of America Award** made it their book of the month. She became the first woman accepted into the **Royal Society of Canada** and was awarded their Lorne Pierce Medal the following year. She was awarded three **Governor General's Awards** (*The Tin Flute*, *Street of Riches*, and *Children of My Heart*). Her perceptive autobiography *Enchantment and Sorrow* was published the year after her death on July 13, 1983. Gabrielle Roy was 74 and had published 15 books.

DOREEN LINDSAY

Based on talks by Jane Everett, March 15, 2007 and Sophie Marcotte PH.D. April 19, 2007

DORCHESTER BOUL. WEST WIDENED FROM ATWATER TO HALLOWELL IN 1966 AND 1967

Westmount Council Approves Plan To Widen Section Of Dorchester Blvd.



Expropriation Of 135 Properties Along This Route Authorized For Multi-Million Project

Map from Gazette Tuesday, January 8, 1963

In 1963 Westmount City Council authorized the expropriation of 135 properties on the north side of Dorchester Boulevard to be able to go ahead with the project to widen the section of Dorchester Boulevard West within the city limits from Atwater Avenue to Hallowell Street. Mayor J.C. Cushing was reported in the Gazette newspaper of Tuesday, January 8, 1963 as explaining that the plan had been before council for five or six years but it was "only recently deemed desirable to act under powers obtained from the provincial legislature". Alderman Peter Mc Entyre told *The Gazette* that "it's going to run into millions (of dollars), just how many we can't say at present."

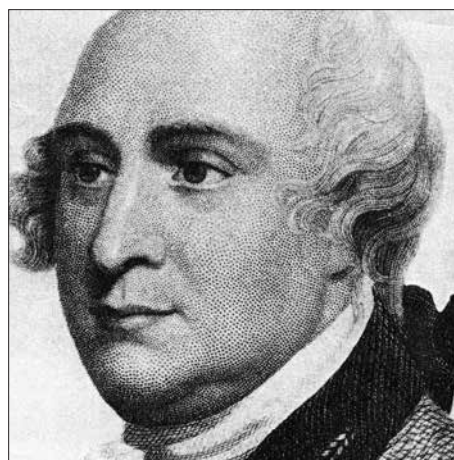
The City of Montreal had completed the widening of Dorchester Street as far west as Guy Street in 1954. They wanted to continue to widen it as far as Atwater, but were waiting to find out if Westmount intended to do the same within its City limits.

In a Gazette report on January 7, 1964 city officials announced the widening and redevelopment would cost \$4,000,000. "The new boulevard will be widened to 90 feet between Atwater and Greene and to 84 feet from Greene to Ste. Catherine at Clarke/Hallowell junction. Greene Avenue will be widened on the west side between Dorchester and St.Catherine. The 25 foot centre mall will follow approximately the line of the north sidewalk and city engineers pointed out that the majority of trees will be saved to enhance the appearance of the middle strip."

Walking along Dorchester Boulevard today residents can see and experience the results of these urban planning decisions. Parking lots and large administrative buildings stand on the north side as opposed to a row of homogeneous turn-of-the-century private homes on the south side.

DOREEN LINDSAY

Who was Dorchester?



Lord Dorchester, was the Governor-General of all the colonies of British North America, for ten years from 1786 to 1796. As Sir Guy Carleton he had been appointed the second British Governor (from 1768 to 1778) of the Province of Quebec.

Before he was given the title of Lord Dorchester his name was Guy Carleton; born 1724 in Tyrone, Ireland. After fighting in the battle of the Plains of Abraham at Quebec, which gave control to the English, he tried to ease problems between the French and the English. He convinced the British Parliament to pass the Quebec Act of 1774. In it the English criminal law was retained, French Civil Law was established and privileges were extended to the church. He felt that the predominately French population should be governed according to French laws.

We also have a Carlton Avenue named after him between Westmount Avenue and The Boulevard east of King George Park.

Source: **Canada** 1947. McInnis
Photo from Public Archives of Canada

THE GAUNT HOUSE #4263 DORCHESTER BOULEVARD WEST, DEMOLISHED.



The Gaunt house was the last of all the houses on the north side of Dorchester Boulevard to be demolished in 1966-67.

Margery Gaunt Mackenzie lived in the house with her family from the time she was 18 in 1938 and attending McGill University until she married Malcolm Mackenzie on May 16, 1943.

Before moving into the Dorchester Street house, her family had lived on Western Avenue. The children would walk with their mother twice a week to have lunch with their grandmother on Dorchester Boulevard. They always used the back door from the garden on Ste. Catherine Street. Her family of five moved into the house after her grandmother died. Since they needed extra rooms for the three children plus visitors, her father, Reginald T. Gaunt added an addition to the east side of the house that he had inherited from his parents who had bought it in 1903.

Margery explained that the house was set back from Dorchester with a veranda across half the front. When you passed through the front hallway and turned left you entered the Library, which had a gas fireplace. Across the hall was one of two doors leading to the drawing room/dining room with two gas fireplaces and three windows. The family dining room was behind the Library. Behind it was the kitchen with a winding stairway to the servant's quarters upstairs.

Margery continued to reminisce about her family home telling me about her Wedding Reception being in the drawing room around the large table in front of a window overlooking the garden on Ste. Catherine Street.

*Doreen Lindsay in conversation with
Margery Gaunt Mackenzie 88 years old residing at
Manoir Westmount, June 18, 2007.*

Turn-of-the-Century Houses on south side of Dorchester Boulevard

The south side of Dorchester Boulevard together with the eight streets running south to the edge of the escarpment provide a wonderfully unified neighbourhood of turn-of-the-century housing. Here are two examples taken from the Beaupré et Michaud architectural report of 1987 in the Westmount Public Library.

"This house presents exceptional architectural qualities. The Neo-Roman treatment of the ground floor is special. The windows grouped in pairs are set back within a double arch supported by a column



*THYNWALD house, 1892-1895,
#4064 Dorchester Boulevard*

with Corinthian capital. The main entrance is included in a double arch within which the door and the window are placed. On a sidewall, a tower with a conic roof is part of the house. Above the main door, an oriel with pediment is supported by columns. All the ground floor windows have kept their stained glass with fleur-de-lys motif."



*THE TOWERS, 1888. Westmount's First Terrace housing,
#4130 to #4140 Dorchester Boul. West*

"A magnificent Second Empire ensemble of 6 buildings presents a series of stepped facades. Each stone building is made up of three stories of which one is a false mansard. The openings are provided within elliptical arches, a rather large corbelled overhang is capped with a low wrought-iron grille, and the black slate mansard roof is decorated with red and green slate geometric motifs."

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Durnford Scrapbook

After the fourth Spring Lecture, entitled, "GREEN HYTHE: House Built by Philip Durnford in 1846 on Dorchester Boulevard", given by Michael Ellwood, great-grandson of Philip Durnford, Mr. Ellwood very generously donated his great grandfather's, George Durnford's, scrapbook to the Westmount Historical Association. The scrapbook reflects George Durnford's interests, hobbies and some personal memorabilia, and extends from 1896 to 1919.

George Durnford was born in Toronto, ON in 1838, but educated in Montreal. He worked for a ship-building company, Loomis & Swell, in Quebec City for 2 years, and then returned to Montreal and entered the service of the Upper Canada Bank, eventually moving to Kingston, ON. Here he worked as manager of the Bank of British North America, 1874-1880. After this he returned, once again, to Montreal and set up his own firm of chartered accountancy. He had a very distinguished clientele and remained in Montreal until his death in December 1922. His obituary in *The Gazette*, December 7th, 1922, states that he was a member of a prominent U.E.L. family, and his interests were in Military Association, the Anglican Church and Benevolent Societies.

Mr. Durnford was very active in the Anglican church and connected for many years, with the church of St. James the Apostle, on St. Catherine St. where his funeral took place. The scrapbook contains a number of church programs for special services, one of note is a service of "Thanksgiving for Victory and Peace", following the end of "The Great War", World War I. Along with many others in Canada, the progress of the war was of great interest to George Durnford, as evidenced by the many newspaper clippings about the war pasted into the scrapbook.

George Durnford was also a member of the Montreal Antiquarian and Numismatic Society and of the Historical Landmarks Association. One of the legacies of this interest is an article that he wrote for *The Daily Witness*, published September 19, 1896, entitled "Stories of Fifty Years Ago. Old

Cote St. Antoine". In it he describes many of the old houses along Cote St. Antoine Road and their inhabitants. Along with the text Mr. Durnford included a number of delightful line drawings such as

"Old Dorchester Street Toll Gate"

"Oaklands; The Residence of Hon. Wm. Badgley"

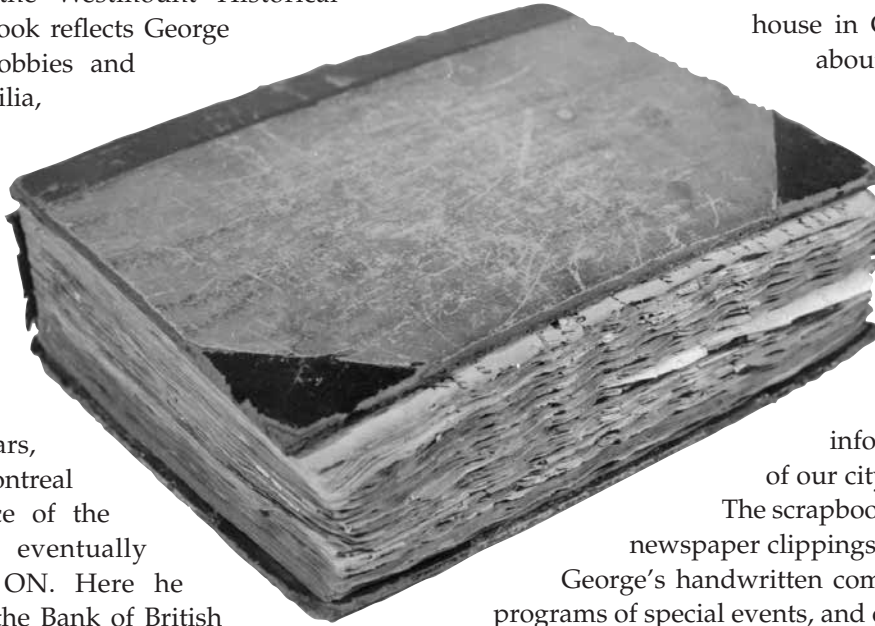
"The Decarrie Farm House and Elm" and

"The St. Germain's Residence: oldest house in Cote St. Antoine, built about 200 years ago"

Following the appearance of his historical article *The Daily Witness* published a number of other articles on the history of Montreal, which are preserved in the scrapbook, and provide a fund of information on the history of our city and its surroundings.

The scrapbook is a wonderful mix of newspaper clippings on various topics with George's handwritten comments in the margins, programs of special events, and obituaries, interspersed with personal family letters, like letters from George's grandfather Elias Walter Durnford to his grandson, and an enchanting hand-drawn Valentine, drawn by whom, for whom and from whom we do not know. The scrapbook gives us a vivid picture of the times and a number of fascinating historical facts about Westmount and Montreal in those times.

BARBARA COVINGTON, ARCHIVIST, AUGUST 2007



Michael Ellwood donating his great grandfather's scrapbook to Barbara Covington and Doreen Lindsay.

NEW ACQUISITIONS



- ◀ **ACADEMIC BOOK SHOP (MONTREAL): A HISTORY**, by Gerald Glass.
Montreal: the author, 1990

- ◀ **LETTERS & IDEAS** with some autobiographical notes and memorabilia and part three of the history of the Academic and General Book Shop (since 1963), Montreal, Canada, By Gerald Glass. Montreal: the author, 2002. (*Donated by Gerald Glass*)



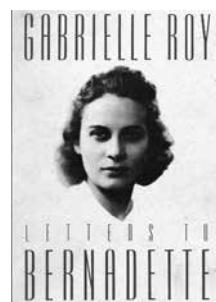
- ◀ **ENCHANTMENT AND SORROW: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF GABRIELLE ROY**, translated by Patricia Claxton.
Toronto: Lester & Orpen Dennys Limited, 1987.
(*Donated by Doreen Lindsay*)

- GABRIELLE ROY: A LIFE**, by François Ricard: translated by Patricia Claxton. Toronto: McClelland and Stuart, 1999.
(*Donated by Doreen Lindsay*)



- ◀ **GROUPE BEAVER HALL 25-28 AVRIL 2007**. Montréal:
Galerie Walter Klinkoff, 2007. (*Donated by Doreen Lindsay*)

- LETTERS TO BERNADETTE**, by Gabrielle Roy: translated by Patricia Claxton. Toronto: Lester & Orpen Dennys Limited, 1990.
(*Donated by Doreen Lindsay*)



- ◀ **MON CHER GRAND FOU: LETTRES à Marcel Carbotte 1947-1979**, by Gabrielle Roy. Montréal: Les Éditions du Boréal, 2001.
(*Donated by Doreen Lindsay*)

- MONTREAL, VILLE FORTIFIÉE AU XVIIIe SIECLE**, sous la direction de Phyllis Lambert et Alan Stewart. Montréal: Centre Canadien d'Architecture, 1992. (*Donated by Doreen Lindsay*)



NOVELS

The Bequest & Other Stories, by Jerry Wexler. Montréal: Véhicule Press, 1984.

The Man Who Loved Jane Austin, by Ray Smith. Erin, ON: Porcupine's Quill, 1999.

Queen's Court: a novel, by Edward O. Phillips. Toronto: Cormorant Books, 2007. (*Donated by Doreen Lindsay*)

DONATIONS

Assorted Photographs and three cassette tapes pertaining to Westmount and the Westmount Historical Association.
Donated by Sally Hooff, February 2007.



Scrapbook of miscellaneous clippings and drawings pertaining to Durnford/Ellwood Families.
Donated by Michael Ellwood, May 2007.

Various School memorabilia including photographs from Westmount Academy, Roslyn School, and Westmount High School; WILLIS Family History booklet.
Donated by Mark W. Gallop, Feb. 2007