

The Westmount Historian

NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTMOUNT HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 7 NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY 2007

PRESERVING



561-563 Côte St. Antoine (1739)



490 Mountain Avenue (1868)

WESTMOUNT'S UNIQUE & DIVERSE



517 Roslyn Avenue (1913)

Work in various architectural styles by prominent architects can be seen in the community. The designs stem from the **Medieval**, the **Classical**, and the **Modernist Idea**.



168 Côte St. Antoine (1840)



52 Sunnyside Avenue (1930)

ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

The Westmount Historian

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All photos: WHA Archives

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Preserving our Architectural Heritage

We can learn to read our history by reading our architecture. If we look at buildings through historical eyes it will help us see the evolution of the various architectural styles, which form the visual fiber of our city. Understanding the historic styles that define our past will help us become more aware of the value of today's built environment.

Houses have been constructed over the past 268 years on our Westmount side of the mountain. Farmers, fur traders, merchants, shippers, bankers, entrepreneurs and land speculators have built homes that reflect their society and communicate their values. Today, how do we care for this extremely rich variety of architectural styles? I think we have a responsibility to make decisions today about how we preserve this heritage for the future. Each homeowner has the power to preserve their own home, which adds to our collective heritage.

In this newsletter, you will find a guide to the styles of Architecture throughout the City, a review of the preservation of one of our earliest homes, Metcalfe Terrace, built in the 1840's, one family's transformation of a commercial establishment, originally built as residences in the 1890's on Victoria Avenue, back into a private home and an entrepreneur's personal "hands-on" preservation of his newly acquired elegant turn of the Century home on Sherbrooke Street.

Architecture is living history.

DOREEN LINDSAY

WHA Spring Lecture Series, 2007

DORCHESTER BOULEVARD IN WESTMOUNT

Note: Our first talk is a continuation of a look at the houses of architect Robert Findlay. The next two talks are devoted to the life and work of writer Gabrielle Roy who lived on Dorchester Boulevard from 1939 to 1947 while she was writing her first novel "The Tin Flute" (Bonheur d'occasion).

Thursday, February 15, 2007

The Macaulays and Robert Findlay: 4100 Dorchester Boulevard West
Speakers: Caroline Breslaw and Ruth Allan-Rigby, WHA researchers

Thursday, March 15, 2007 – *Translating Gabrielle Roy*

Speaker: Jane Everett, Associate professor, McGill University, Editor of *"In Translation: The Gabrielle Roy-Joyce Marshall Correspondence,"* 2005

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Gabrielle Roy: from "The Tin Flute" to "Enchantment and Sorrow"
Speaker: Sophie Marcotte Ph.D Assistant Professor, Concordia University.
Edited letters of Gabrielle Roy to her husband, published as *"Mon cher Grand Fou,"* 2005

Thursday, May 17, 2007 – *"Greenhythe" a Country Home in 1846 on Dorchester Boulevard*

Speaker: Michael Ellwood

All talks will take place in the Westmount Public Library from 7 to 9 pm
Members free – others \$5. at the door.

WESTMOUNT'S DOMESTIC ARCHITECTURE

Westmount contains some of the richest housing stock in Canada.

Houses represented by the **Medieval Idea** are in the Norman, Gothic Revival, Romanesque Revival, Tudor Revival, Queen Anne, Exotic Victorian, and Arts and Crafts styles. Early French Canadian houses reflect the **Norman** style. They project a sense of aesthetic harmony, being constructed of natural, local materials. The Hurtubise House at 561-563 Cote St. Antoine Road is an example. The Montreal interpretations of this style feature heavy stone walls and a comfortable scale. A Norman-inspired house by architect Leslie Perry is at 90 Summit Circle.



2 Sunnyside

Gothic Revival homes are asymmetrical with steeply sloping roofs and prominent chimneys. Two notable examples are the 1868 home at 490 Mountain Avenue and 8 Weredale Park, designed by J.J. Browne.

The **Romanesque Revival**, inspired by American architect H.H. Richardson, featured heavy walls and round arches. Westmount homes in this style are 62 Rosemount Avenue by architect John Hopkins and 373-383 Olivier Avenue by Alexander Hutchison.



376-384 Metcalfe

The **Tudor Revival** style has a façade of half-timbering with infill and may be elongated. The Archibald & Saxe house at 466 Cote St. Antoine Road and the Leslie Perry house at 72 Belmont Crescent are two examples.

Queen Anne homes contain elements from various architectural styles, often including polychrome roofs. 'River-view' at 513-515 Cote St. Antoine Road and the row houses at 376-384 Metcalfe Avenue are Queen Anne in inspiration.

Exotic Victorian buildings are found at 65 Prospect Avenue and 41-47 Holton Avenue. Moorish and Indian influence can be seen at 237-241 Clark Avenue.



77 Sunnyside

Arts and Crafts houses have simple forms and great articulation in the facades and roofs. Some Westmount examples are the Percy Erskine Nobbs' house at 38 Belvedere Road, 2 Sunnyside Avenue by Saxe and Archibald, and the Shorey &

Richie homes in the Priests' Farm.

Houses reflecting the **Classical Idea** have symmetry, regularity, and an axis. These elegant homes feature clean lines, high ceilings, and double-hung windows. They include the British Colonial and Classical Revival styles.

British Colonial Classicism existed in Montreal from the early part of the nineteenth century. The residence 'Braemar' designed by Footner at 3219 The Boulevard and the two remaining houses of Metcalfe Terrace at 168 and 178 Cote St. Antoine Road are in this tradition.

Classical Revival features temple fronts and wings on each side. Robert Findlay designed 65 Braemar, 3219 The Boulevard Forden in the Georgian tradition. Saxe built 517 Roslyn in the French Classical style. An ensemble of houses at 51-57 Holton Avenue forms a temple front.

The **Modernist Idea** developed in the early decades of the twentieth century. It involved new ideas about space, form, and the mass of buildings. Art Deco and Prairie Style architecture are included in this grouping.

Art Deco combines modernism and classicism. A home designed by J.Omer Marchand at 52 Sunnyside Avenue and another at 77 Sunnyside Avenue by Featherstonhaugh and Durnford are among the few examples in Westmount.

Prairie Style architecture, developed by Lloyd Frank Wright in the United States, featured bungalows with floating roofs. The house by Robert Findlay at 3303 Cedar Avenue and the homes at 36 Surrey Gardens and 41 Summit Crescent are designed in this style. Early Modernist homes in the bungalow style, with horizontal planes and strip windows, can be seen on Cote St. Antoine Road, Willow Avenue, Summit Crescent, Claremont, and the Boulevard.

Many Westmount homes are built in these architectural styles. The 1988 Heritage Study of Westmount by Beaupré et Michaud (copies in the Reference Room of the Westmount Public Library) provides architectural information on specific houses in the City of Westmount.



38 Belvedere

CAROLINE BRESLAW

Based on the lecture given to the W.H.A. by architect Bruce Anderson on November 16, 2006.

THE WARDLEWORTH HOUSE: 168 CÔTE ST. ANTOINE ROAD



In 1839 Moses Judah Hayes mortgaged land on the south side of Côte St. Antoine Road from the Sulpicians, 'Seigneurs of Montreal'. Hayes, a prominent Montreal entrepreneur and civil servant, proceeded to build four matching Regency-style cottages as real estate investment. They became known as Metcalfe Terrace after the Governor-General, Lord Metcalfe.

The houses were two stories high with shallow sloping roofs and wide projecting eaves. Built of stone covered with a thin layer of painted 'crépi', they were conceived in the neoclassical style, with spare, yet elegant, Regency detailing. The kitchens were housed in the basements; fireplaces in a central brick chimney warmed the living and dining rooms. The first floor bedrooms had generous closets, an unusual feature for the time. In the nineteenth century, orchards reached up the slope to the rear of the houses and to the west side of each house stood various utilitarian dependencies, including stables, outhouses and workshops.

Only two of the original houses remain. The eastern house burned down in the nineteenth century, and the father of architects Edward and William Maxwell tore down the westerly house to build the Victorian residence now standing. Of the two remaining houses, 178 Côte St. Antoine most closely retains the original model, except that its 'crépi' finish has been removed. The 'railway' fence, fronting 178, is typical of the robust fencing that once stretched along both sides of Côte St. Antoine.

The Wardleworth House, at 168 Côte St. Antoine Road, has seen various changes over the years. Around 1890, a third story with a sweeping mansard roof was added, creating the house's most memorable feature. At the same

time the kitchen was moved from the basement to a wood-ed addition at the rear of the main floor. In the first decades of the 20th century a greenhouse was added off the dining room, the orchards were replaced by flower gardens and lawn, and the size of the property was reduced by the sale of building lots on Springfield Avenue. Gradually the exterior dependencies disappeared as modern services were incorporated into the house. The house has kept its stucco painted façade.

Three families dominate the history of 168 Côte St. Antoine Road – the Hayes family who built the house, the Kerrs who purchased the house from Catherine Hayes in 1857 and lived in it until 1907, and the Wardleworth family who succeeded the Kerrs and lived in the house for over 90 years. In 1993 they bequeathed the property to Canadian Heritage of Quebec who extensively restored the house under the supervision of architect Glenn Bydwell. Wardleworth House is now privately owned. It retains the aura of a nineteenth century country cottage in the 21st century.

CAROLINE BRESLAW AND GLEN BYDWELL

Based on the lecture given to the W.H.A. by architect Glenn Bydwell on October 19, 2006.

Guidelines for Renovation and Building Homes in Westmount.

A series of guidelines for renovating and building homes within Westmount includes topics such as Exterior walls, Roofs, Windows and Doors, New Buildings, Additions and Major Modifications, Landscape Design, Storefronts and Signs as well as How to obtain a Building Permit, an Introduction to the Guidelines and the Glen Yards. The guidelines were set out in 1985 then revised and updated in 2004.

These **Guidelines** along with **Character Area information sheets** are available at Westmount City Hall to assist citizens who wish to determine how their house fits into the larger overall fibre of the Cityscape. To help explain the architectural character of Westmount's varied buildings the city has divided its streets into 39 character areas which have common physical or historical characteristics.

The Architectural and Planning Commission of Westmount, established in 1916, regulates all building and renovation according to these Guidelines.

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RESTORING A BUSINESS TO A PRIVATE RESIDENCE: 322 VICTORIA



The house at 322 Victoria Avenue is one unit of a 6-residence project designed by Gamelin & Huot. The year of construction is given as 1897 in the Beupré and Michaud Heritage Study of 1988 and as 1890 in the records of the City of Westmount and the City of Montreal. It was a commercial venture for the owner Jean Baptiste Brouillette who never lived there, but rented out to tenants.

The present owners, Astri Prugger and her husband John McGaughey bought the house from Mrs. Wong who had

decided to sell the building where she and her husband George Wong had owned and managed their Chinese Laundry for forty-two years, since 1962. Before that, the business had been across the street at 311 Victoria (today Martin Swiss Repair).

This renovation is the fulfillment of a dream to save an old house and combine a small business with a family home. A contractor was hired who could prepare a plan, work with the City and suggest skilled workmen to do the various jobs. The commercial status was retained for Astri's lower level business and the upper two floors were converted to residential for family living. On March 1st the family got the key and began two months of intensive construction work, including redoing the electrical and plumbing systems. A sprinkler system had to be put in because of the commercial business downstairs and the city required them to install two inch plumbing pipes from the road to their house. Costs began to far exceed their expectations.

When the family moved in on May 1st 2004, the workmen began to excavate the basement, then construct a separate entrance for the business and build a bathroom. On the first floor, they stripped and varnished the main stairway, leaving the risers painted brown. The cracked, falling ceilings were redone. They opened a wall that had been built separating the living room from the front hall and re-installed a doorway.

In spite of massive cleaning and reconstruction, this house, now over a hundred years old, retains its original wooden shutters folding out of the front windows, its hot water radiators, wooden doorframes, baseboards and ceilings. These elements of our traditional architecture have been preserved and the residence has been restored to its original use.

DOREEN LINDSAY

Based on the lecture given to the W.H.A. by Astri Prugger on September 21, 2006.



6-Residence Project designed by Gamelin & Huot in 1890 or 1897 on Victoria Avenue.

PRESERVING A 1905 CAJETAN DUFORT HOUSE: 4547 SHERBROOKE

The Montreal born architect Cajetan Dufort (1868-1936) designed 4547 Sherbrooke Street for Orille-Louise Hénault who then sold it to Anne-Marie Morin. To build the house next door at 4549, Dufort reversed the floorplan. These two houses are listed as "important" in the Beupré Michaud Heritage Study of 1988. The architect also designed another pair of houses at 319-323 Redfern Avenue in Westmount and the Hochelega Maisonneuve City Hall in 1910.



These two elegant yellow brick houses were built on the north side of Sherbrooke Street, facing the forested 20 acres of farmland recently bought by the Town to preserve as parkland. This area had become the athletic and social centre of Westmount after the Westmount Public Library and first Victoria Hall were built in 1898-99. The Hall provided a swimming pool, bowling alley, billiard room, gymnasium and dance hall for residents. Three years after the houses were built, the Town became the City of Westmount (1908) and the park began to be organised. A pond was built, trees were cut and two cannons were installed.

The first person listed in Lovell's Montreal Directory living at 4547 Sherbrooke was Joseph Morin in 1907-1908. The second person was Jos. Godbout Jr. in 1912-1913, followed by eight other families up until 2006. Most families stayed only one or two years. One family, the Laflamms, whose occupation was pattern & model maker, lived in the house for thirty-three years, from 1945 to 1978.

After many years of neglect, the house was bought by Edouard El Kaim in 2006. He employed workmen who used paint and varnish remover to clean the wooden doors, windows, stairways, and moldings of layers of coloured paint. They raised the falling ceilings and replaced missing ornamental plaster moldings.

The new owner used his expertise in the antique business to bring this turn of the century house back to its original beauty.

DOREEN LINDSAY

Based on the lecture given to the W.H.A. by Edouard El Kaim on December 21, 2006.

Congratulations to the 2006 Award Winners. Heritage Awards were given to two Westmounters.



4274 Dorchester Boulevard – owner: Mr. Michael McAdoo
photo: Doreen Lindsay, WHA archives

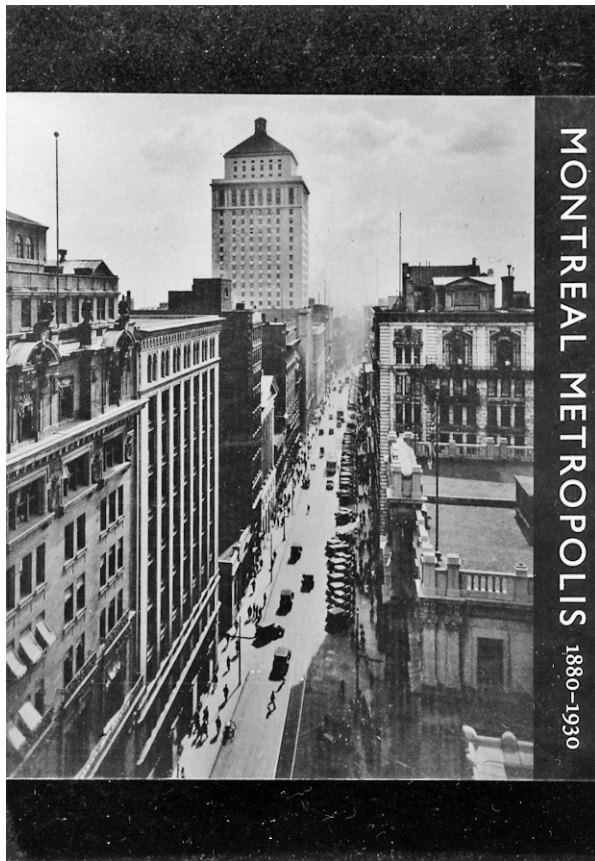


Sheinart's 3001 St. Antoine Street West, corner Atwater Avenue – owner: Mr. Sheinart
photo: Doreen Lindsay, WHA archives

The Montréal Architectural Heritage Campaign grants awards and distinctions to individuals and groups who distinguish themselves through the excellence of their work in the area of Montreal's architectural heritage preservation. These awards were created 16 years ago and have since honoured more than 450 property owners. This year twenty-three Heritage Awards were given out to homeowners and twelve to business at an official ceremony at Montreal City Hall on Friday, September 22, 2007.

We congratulate Michael McAdoo, owner of 4274 Dorchester Boulevard, for maintaining and restoring his family residence. He received the Heritage Emeritus Award given by Heritage Montreal this year. Heritage Montreal also presented an award in the commercial sector to Mr. Sheinart for his renovation of the exterior of his 88 year old family business, Sheinart's clothing store, on the north-west corner of St. Antoine Street West and Atwater Avenue.

FROM THE ARCHIVES



MONTREAL METROPOLIS 1880-1930, edited by Isabelle Gournay, France Vanlaethem. Toronto: Stoddart in association with The Canadian Centre for Architecture, 1998.

This excellent resource was published in conjunction with the exhibition "Montréal Metropole 1880-1930" which was held at the Canadian Centre for Architecture, Montreal in May 1998, and the National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa in November 1998-January 1999. There are a number of authors from different disciplines, a Forward by Phyllis Lambert, Director of the Canadian Centre for Architecture and a comprehensive Introduction by the two editors.

What is a metropolis? An online dictionary tells us that a metropolis is a major city, especially the chief city of a country or a region. During the 50 years from 1880-1930 Montreal developed and expanded due to the prosperity of the times. Montreal was a prosperous trading centre due to its geographical location as the meeting place for trans-Atlantic shipping and the continental railway. It prospered from the many immigrants who landed in Montreal from Europe, and who contributed so much to the European flavour of the city. It became the business and financial cen-

tre of the country. In short, it became the metropolis of Canada.

This book examines in detail the many factors that played such a big part in the growth of Montreal. It is divided into three parts entitled "PART I. A CITY IN CONTEXT; PART II. TERRITORIAL AMBITIONS; PART III. BUILDING THE METROPOLIS."

PART I. A CITY IN CONTEXT looks at the cultural, religious, ethnic, linguistic and social factors that affected the development of Montreal.

PART II. TERRITORIAL AMBITIONS examines the effect of transportation, especially shipping and the railways, in making Montreal the hub of trade and commerce. The building of the Lachine Canal and the modernization of the Port of Montreal were prime factors in this development. A chapter is devoted to the expansion of "Greater Montreal" by the vigorous growth of the suburbs, and in many cases, their standards of excellence in town planning, architecture and community services.

PART III. BUILDING THE METROPOLIS discusses in detail many of our architectural treasures, with detailed architectural drawings, and photographs of our architectural heritage.

For example: the Notman photograph of Place d'Armes, dated 1895 on page 24; the detailed drawing of the entrance and dome of Congregation of Notre Dame Mother House/Dawson College, by Marchand and Haskell, dated 1905, on page 98; or the photograph and architectural drawings for the Bank of Montreal (1901-1905) from the New York Historical Society Collection, on pages 128,129.

Individual architects, their backgrounds and influences, their buildings and philosophies, and how architectural training developed at McGill University, Ecole Technique de Montréal, and the Université de Montréal are presented.

The professionalization of architecture in Montreal is described and highlighted with the impressive photograph of the founding members of the Province of Quebec Association of Architects, (PQAA) which was founded in 1890 (page 73). The PQAA was instrumental in gaining respect for Montreal architects, who, heretofore, had been outbid for many commissions in Montreal by American architecture firms, whose were better known.

As Archivist for the WHA I have dipped into this resource hundreds of times in order to give accurate answers to the many questions that people ask me, about architects and their buildings, and I have always found an answer in this wonderful architectural reference book.

BARBARA COVINGTON, ARCHIVIST, JANUARY 2007

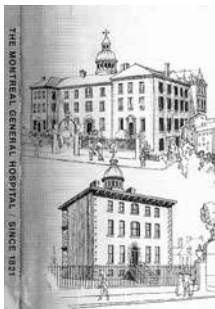
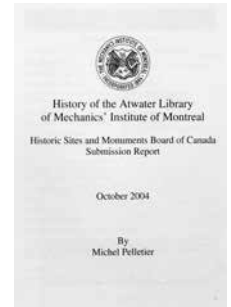
NEW ACQUISITIONS

Books



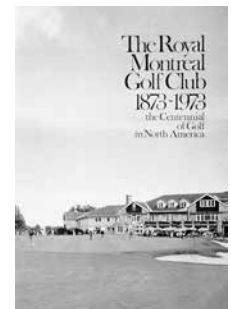
- ◀ **CITY HOUSE CALLING: THE SACRED HEART SCHOOL OF MONTREAL 1861-1986**, by Maude Elliott, Aruna de Mello. Montreal: Optimum Publishing, 1986.

THE HISTORY OF THE ATWATER LIBRARY OF MECHANICS' INSTITUTE OF MONTREAL: Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada Submission Report, by Michel Pelletier. [Ottawa]: HSBC, October 2004.

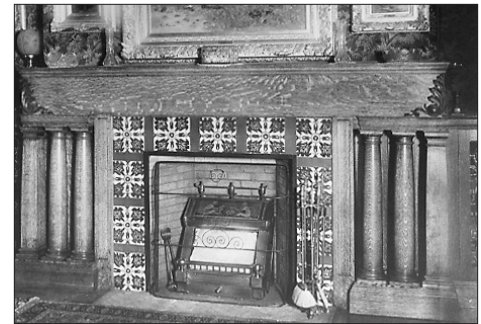


- ◀ **THE MONTREAL GENERAL HOSPITAL: SINCE 1821**. Montreal: The Hospital, 1971.

THE ROYAL MONTREAL GOLF CLUB 1873-1973: THE CENTENNIAL OF GOLF IN NORTH AMERICA. Montreal: The Club, 1973.



DONATIONS



PHOTOGRAPHS of "OAKLANDS" 15 Belvedere Road, architect Robert Findlay. Interior photographs of the three original fireplaces, and exterior photographs of the house in 1916. "From the daughters of William D. Sumner: Elizabeth Ann Sumner Murray, and S. Frances Sumner MacGregor."

SCRAP BOOK belonging to ELIZABETH JERROLD CHURCH, (1877-1937) artist, author & playwright, who lived on Roslyn Avenue. Donated by Robert Lemire, Danville, Québec.

BARBARA COVINGTON, DECEMBER 2006