PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

In this spring issue of *The Westmount Historian*, we will walk into the history of Côte Saint-Antoine, Westmount’s first road and one of the original côtes on the island of Montreal. You will find maps and descriptions of the origins of Côte Saint-Antoine in 1698 and the Côte Saint-Antoine Road as it extended northwest from Notre-Dame Street in Ville Marie. There are photographs of the original French *habitant* stone farmhouses built in the 1700s by the Décarie, Hurtubise, St. Germain and Leduc families, who established farms on land granted to them by the Sulpicians, *seigneurs* of the island of Montreal since 1657.

By the 1800s, the land had become more valuable for its beauty than its agricultural use. Wealthy Scottish merchants wanted to build large homes on the gentle treed slopes of Mount Royal. They valued the fresh mountain air and scenic views over the St. Lawrence River and beyond. You will be charmed by the elegance of the Italianate Forden villa, built in 1827 by wealthy businessman Charles Bowman above the Côte Road, and fascinated by the account of the rebuilt barn on his property. The original St. Matthias’ Church was the first Protestant church in Westmount, built in 1875 on land donated from the same property.

We invite you to experience the diversity of architectural history that has been built over the past 274 years as you walk along the Côte Road today.

Doreen Lindsay

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**WHA Spring 2013 Lecture Series**

**DOMES and TOWERS**

2 Synagogues and 2 Churches in Westmount

Thursday, February 21, 2013

**CONGREGATION SHAAR HASHOMAYIM**, founded 1846

**Speaker:** Stephen Glass, Director of Music

Thursday, March 21, 2013

**MOUNTAINSIDE UNITED**, 1786

**Speaker:** Dr. Edwin Coffey, secretary, Board of Trustees

Thursday, April 18, 2013

**TEMPLE EMANU-EL-BETH SHOLOM**, first Synagogue in Westmount.

**Speaker:** Dr. Victor Goldbloom, past-president, 2000-2004

Thursday, May 16, 2013

**GUIDO NINCHERI**, ARTIST OF ST. LÉON de WESTMOUNT

**Speaker:** Roger Nincheri, curator of the Nincheri Studio.

All talks 7 pm to 9 pm in the Westmount Public Library, 4574 Sherbrooke St. West.

Series prepared by Doreen Lindsay 514-932-6688

Admission free for members – non-members $5 at the door.
Côte Saint-Antoine was one of the original côtes that were created in the spring of 1698 on the island of Montreal by the Sulpician superior, François Dollier de Casson. De Casson asked Gédéon de Catalogne, the king’s engineer, to divide the island into arrondissements, or neighbourhoods, to entice the early French settlers to move inland. These côtes were divided into numbered concessions that were granted to individuals. De Casson signed the early contracts, but after 1690, the Sulpician priest François Vachon de Belmont signed grants in the côté. These early land grants all started at the Petite rivière Saint-Pierre south of the escarpment, where St. Henri is today, and extended north to meet Côte St-Luc and Côte-des-Neiges.

Within Westmount, the concessions were numbered from 615 in the west to 625 in the east.

Concessions 615 to 618 were granted to Décarie, Hurtubise, Leduc. These families found the côté an excellent area for farming because of the warm microclimate provided by the angle of the land on the southwest side of the mountain and protection from harsh northwest winds. There are descriptions of orchards and gardens where wheat, oats, peas, hay, apples, peaches, apricots and plums grew. The Décarie family was famous for their melons. The aveu et dénombrement, or census, of 1731 lists 22 houses, both wood and stone. In the 1781 census, 12 dwellings were recorded, all stone.

By 1825 the population of Côte Saint-Antoine was 145 people. Starting in the 1860’s, most farms were divided into smaller lots. In 1879 the name Côte Saint-Antoine was taken by the small village originally called Village of Notre-Dame that had developed in 1874, where Côte Saint-Antoine met Côte St-Luc. In the same year, the land belonging to the Hurtubise family between Côte Saint-Antoine and St. Catherine...
Street was divided and offered for sale. (See Rielle map) By that time, five other roads crossing the Côte Road had been built: Metcalfe, Clarke, Olivier, Rosemount, and Mountain. In 1890, the Village of Côte Saint-Antoine became a town, and five years later it was renamed Westmount to reflect the shift from French to English residents. By the late 1800s, the farms and estates began to be broken up into individual lots for sale. (See article on Domestic Architecture p. 5)

Côte Saint-Antoine Road began at Notre-Dame Street in Ville-Marie, continued west after leaving the western gate of the fortified mission, then turned north between concessions 624 and 625 (Greene Avenue today). Early maps show Greene Avenue as St. Antoine.

Map showing road running north between concessions 624 and 625 (today’s Greene Avenue) then continuing west where it continues to be called Côte Saint-Antoine Road. Detail of map from Terrier, Île de Montréal, 1834-5 Archives de la Ville de Montréal. No.2708.

Detail of Joseph Rielle map, Plan of property belonging to Ephrem Hudon Jun. situate at Cote St. Antoine, Municipality of Notre Dame de Grace, Showing Environ, 1874. (sic) Côte Saint-Antoine Road at top of map; left to right: Hurtubise Road, Metcalfe, Clarke, Olivier, Rosemount, Mountain. McGill University, Rare Books and Special Collections.
Soon after Cote St. Antoine Road was laid out in the late 1760s by the Sulpicians, the French farmers who had been granted land there built small, simple wooden houses similar to those in Normandy and Brittany. As the farms prospered, these dwellings were replaced with 1½-storey stone homes which had steeply pitched roofs with one or two chimneys and dormer windows. The farmhouses were scattered along the northern edge of the Cote Road. Only two of these remain in Westmount today – the Hurtubise house at the corner of Victoria Avenue, and the Décarie house at Argyle Avenue.

Cote St. Antoine Road maintained its rural character after Montreal became part of the British colony in 1763. During the 1800s, wealthy merchants purchased several of the long, narrow farms as estates. On them they built large villas with spectacular views and expansive gardens and orchards. These were accessed by long, private driveways. The earliest was Forden, an Italianate villa owned by Charles Bowman, a Scottish merchant. (See the article about Forden on page 8). It remained standing until 1948, where Forden Crescent is today. The second was West Mount, which was built after 1848 by William Murray, founder of the Beaver Steamship Line. West Mount was designed in the Italian provincial style. The stone residence featured a gabled roof with a belvedere and a large veranda. In 1935, the City of Westmount razed it to make way for the present tennis courts in Murray Park, which had been created from a section of the Murray estate.

In the mid 1800s, several cottages were built by English-speaking town dwellers on small lots purchased from the

"West Mount" country residence of William Murray, head of Beaver Steamship Line. Two views from stereoscopic cards of the house Murray built on the Leduc farmland that he purchased in 1848. "Westmount" was chosen in 1895 to replace Cote St. Antoine as the name of the village. The City of Westmount purchased the estate in 1929 to create a public park. The Murray house, which stood where the tennis courts are today, was demolished in 1936.
farms, fronting onto the road. They had one or two chimneys, a hipped roof (often with dormer windows), and eaves extending over the verandas. These summer residences survived into the 1890s, but were all eventually demolished.

In 1840, four identical stone houses called Metcalfe Terrace were built across from Forden as rental properties by Moses Judah Hays, a prominent Montrealer and local resident. Two were destroyed by fire, but the middle ones remain today and are, after the Hurtubise house, the oldest surviving homes on the Cote (and in Westmount). They are in the Regency style with neo-Grecian elements, such as the corner pilasters, ornamented window lintels, and porticos. The green picket fence standing in front of 178 is the sole survivor of the many that once lined the Cote.

Two large country houses in the Second Empire style are found on the Cote. Riverview is a Victorian addition to an 1847 house built beside the Hurtubise family home. Another residence in this Victorian style is at the corner of Claremont Avenue. Both have turrets, elaborate woodwork, decorative wrought-iron work, and multicoloured roof slates.

Soon after the Village of Cote St. Antoine was formed in 1879, three houses with a rural character were constructed on both sides of Arlington Lane. After Sherbrooke Street was extended in 1893 and the name of the municipality changed to Westmount (1895), a residential building boom took place around the Cote Road. Many year-round houses were built on small, narrow lots for middle class families. These homes were in various architectural styles. Some were designed by important Montreal architects.

Simone Clarke Cottage was constructed in 1822-23 and demolished by 1906. It was a one-and-a-half storey brick cottage with a stone foundation 42 x 33½ feet. The gallery was a later addition, date unknown.

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Caroline Breslaw

Metcalfe Terrace 168 Côte St. Antoine Road.
Third storey and mansard roof were added. The House was lived in for many years by the Wardleworth family, who gave it to Canadian Heritage of Québec, who completely renovated it in 2000, then sold the house and property.

Metcalfe Terrace 178 Côte St. Antoine Road.
Regency style with neo-Grecian elements of corner pilasters and ornamented window lintels. Stucco was removed in 1967 to reveal the stone. The Goode family has lived in the house for more than 130 years.
649 Cote St. Antoine, 1869
This Second Empire style house was built for Isabella Nicol and her entrepreneur husband Richard Warminton. The three-storey façade has a porch entrance with pillars and a mansard roof with rounded windows framed with Ionic pillars.

Riverview 513-515 Cote St. Antoine Road, 1847 and 1879
Original red brick house at rear was constructed for Justine Solomée Hurtubise by her husband, Ephrem Hudon in 1847. William Simpson, of the Bank of Commerce, bought the house in 1876. He enlarged it and made alterations in the Second Empire style. He named it Riverview. The house was extensively restored in the 1980s by the Roncheti family.

334 Cote St. Antoine c. 1880
Red brick house on the east side of Arlington Lane with small oval and quarter moon windows. In 1907, a west wing was added by architect Robert Findlay.

Arlington Lane, considered to be an old native trail leading down through the Glen to the St. Pierre River.

354 Cote St. Antoine Road, 1886
The Queen Anne style house on the west side of Arlington Lane has front bay windows with half-timbered walls and tiles above ground floor windows.
In 1826, prosperous Scottish importer Charles Bowman purchased the upper part of the former Lacroix farm. The land was three arpents (570 ft.) wide and extended to Cote des Neiges Road. The following year, Bowman built a stone home at the top of a long, winding driveway with its entrance on Cote St. Antoine Road. His original home was a simple 2½-storey structure with four rooms on the main floor and another four upstairs. The front façade was grey stone; the gables and the rear were black stone. The stone was obtained from the Decarie quarry (at the top of today’s Stanton Street), just to the east of the property. In 1828, additions were made to transform Forden into a Palladian villa. Two wings were added, consisting of identical side pavilions connected by galleries to the main house. The galleries were originally open, but were later enclosed due to the Montreal weather. The house was heated by fireplaces and had 14 chimneys. The estate had extensive landscaped gardens, a circular driveway, and old farm orchards.

Forden eventually became the home of Charles Bowman’s granddaughter, Elizabeth, and her husband, Captain Robert Raynes. They lived there with their eight children, none of whom married. In 1948, Forden was demolished after being purchased by Gerald Bronfman. Shortly before this hap-
Alice Lighthall, a local activist and board member of the Westmount Historical Association, had a series of photographs taken of its exterior and interior. These are in the WHA Archives. Today’s Forden Avenue and Forden Crescent mark the locations of the Bowman-Raynes’ driveway and villa. Four large homes now stand on the site of the demolished residence.

In 1873 the Raynes family donated land at the southeast corner of the property to the Anglican community. St. Matthias’ Church, a white clapboard building constructed in 1875, was the first Protestant church in the area. There were other buildings on the estate, including barns, a stable, and the gardener’s lodge by the entrance on Cote St. Antoine Road. Today, only the vestiges of the completely transformed stone barn remain (See the following article about 50 Forden Crescent). Four large homes now stand on the site of the demolished Forden villa: 43 Forden Crescent (1951) by Meyerovitch and Bernstein, 45 Forden Crescent (1952) by C. Davis Goodman, 47 Forden Crescent (1949) by Meyerovitch and Bernstein, and 67 Forden Crescent (1956) by Fred Lebensold.

**Hand drawing of Forden, 1844, depicting first house and barns or stables with driveway and garden. Artist unknown.**

**Detail of City of Westmount Character Area map showing location of the four present-day houses on site of the original Forden villa.**

CAROLINE BRESLAW
The stone residence at 50 Forden Crescent, which borders the Murray Park (now King George Park) hillside, underwent a lengthy renovation several years ago. The home is located where a stone stable (or possibly a barn) stood on the western edge of the ‘Forden’ estate. It had replaced a wooden barn and stable, described in an 1826 contract with the carpenter. The masonry farm building was constructed before 1844 and appeared on the Fortification Survey map of 1871. Two photographs of it, taken about 1900 (in the WHA Archives), show a rectangular Victorian building with gable ends. On the north side, there were two gables with arched openings, one of which was used in the storage of hay. A picturesque tower in the middle of the roof provided ventilation. The stable and barn were linked by an enclosed courtyard with a wooden fence.

Architect Sumner Davenport purchased the farm building in the 1920s. When he discovered that two of its limestone walls were out of line, the barn was demolished. Using the same weathered stone and following the same basic footprint, by 1923 he had built a house for his family. The pitch of the roof was increased to provide an upper floor for bedrooms, and dormer windows were installed upstairs. French windows opened onto small wrought iron balconies. Cedar logs, which had been the original floor supports, were reused for the same purpose. The barn stones left over after the reconstruction were used to make a front garden wall in slate, small dormer windows, casement windows with small panes, and a walled courtyard.

Businessman Brian Jones purchased the property in 2004. He hired architect Bruce Anderson to plan an addition and a complete renovation of the existing building. The work was carried out using the highest quality materials, such as pre-oxidized copper on the roof and steel beams to support the top floor. A matching wing was added on the western side, the driveway and garages were placed at the top of Murray Avenue, and an appropriate front portico was introduced. Extensive gardens with terraces were also planted. The transformed residence and beautifully landscaped grounds are visible from the street and from adjacent Murray Park (King George Park).

CAROLINE BRESLAW

50 Forden Crescent.

Stone house built by architect/owner S. G. Davenport in the style of an English Cotswold cottage. This photo by W. H. Scott dated 3 Nov. 1923 shows the house and garden wall with arched gateway constructed of fieldstone saved from the Forden barn. Mr. Davenport had demolished the original barn and constructed his house on the same site using the weathered original stones.
50 Forden Crescent, photo c. 1923
showing inside front courtyard of Mr. Davenport’s English style Cotswold cottage with stone arched gateway.

50 Forden Crescent.
This recent photo 14 Jan. 2013 shows the house as seen from Murray Park (King George Park).
The Raynes family and the Murray family had been neighbours.

50 Forden Crescent.
This recent photo 14 Jan. 2013 shows north side (front) of house with garden in front of the stone arched gateway leading to an inner courtyard.

Original Forden barn, photo c. 1900
shows a rectangular stone building with two gables on north side (front) of barn and gables at both ends. The central tower provided ventilation.
A wood fence encloses the barn yard.
The first St. Matthias’ Church was a country mission church congregation established by the Young Men’s Christian Association of St. George’s Church, Montreal. In 1873 they selected the local of Côte St. Antoine and arranged to hold evening services in the home of Mr. Thomas Overing. After his house was destroyed by fire, a small frame building was constructed the following year and opened in December 1875 on a lot of land donated by Mrs. R.T. Raynes from her large family estate above Côte St. Antoine Road. (See article about FORDEN on page 8) The Raynes family was very involved with the developing religious community. One of their daughters became the second organist for the church. As the community grew, so did the church. Gradually, the number of parishioners exceeded the 120-person capacity of the 40 x 25 foot space.

Between 1877 and 1890, the parish was served by three priests: the Rev. John Empson (1877-1882), the Rev. R.W. Norman (1883-1886) and the Rev. Jarvois A. Newnham (1886-1890). The Rev. Mr. Newnham left the parish to become a missionary in Western Canada and in the North. He eventually became the Bishop of the Diocese of Moosonee. In 1890, the parish appointed the Rev. Edward Bushell, a deeply religious man, to serve as rector. He continued for 38 years, through Westmount’s evolution from the Town of Côte Saint-Antoine to the Town of Westmount in 1895, through the Great War of 1914-1918, and through the construction of the new church. When he retired in 1928, a memorial plaque, expressing gratitude for his service, was placed in the chancel of the church by his many friends. A beautiful altar of oak was also donated to the parish in his memory and consecrated for the parish’s use. It has been
used every week even to this day. Rev. Kenneth Near has been the Rector of St. Matthias’ since January 6, 2009.

**New St. Matthias’ Church opened on April 28, 1912**

The new Gothic style St. Matthias’ limestone church, 90 x 150 feet, was constructed from plans by Ross & MacFarlane, architects, and opened on April 28, 1912. The original wooden church building continued to be used as a Sunday school for the children and a meeting hall for social events until it was demolished in 1934, when the new parish hall was built.

Following the Reverend Mr. Bushell’s tenure, the Rev. Canon Gilbert Oliver served as rector from 1926 to 1955. Thus between 1890 and 1955 the parish had only two rectors who provided consistency to the congregation. The church’s development over the years also radiated from the energy of the strong men and women forming the membership.

There has always been a missionary spirit among those who make up the congregation. Among the membership of the early Mission were notable Westmounters: Messrs. Raynes, Ward, Brehant (Bréhaut), Sweeny, Moffat, Dunlop, Penfold, Goode, Warminton, F. W. Elms, Hill, Clark, Durnford, Col. Crawford and Miss Quiggan.

Music has been an important aspect of the activities of St. Matthias’ Church since 1958, when a boys’ choir programme was renewed. The choir has produced several recordings and toured throughout Europe. As early as 1889 the church obtained a fine organ for congregational services. In 1973, during the years of Venerable Jack Doidge, an extraordinary Karl Wilhelm pipe organ was installed, adding prestige to the excellent music programme.

**St. Matthias’ Church, 2012**

Photo: Ralph Thompson.

Photograph was presented to the WHA on the occasion of the talk about the history of St. Matthias’ Church by Rev. Kenneth M. Near on Nov. 15, 2012.

**Bell from first St. Matthias’ Church.**

Doreen Lindsay
UNVEILING OF PLAQUE

At 3 p.m. on a sunny Wednesday afternoon in November, WHA members, City of Westmount councillors, photographers and journalists formed an admiring group around a plaque designed and installed by the Westmount Historical Association to commemorate the historical significance of the site.

The heritage value of the GLEN is explained in the text on the plaque: This narrow valley where mountain streams converged and cut through the escarpment was called the Glen by early Scottish residents. By the 1880s, there was a footpath beside the water leading down to St. Henri. Glen Arch was erected in 1892 to span the ravine and connect downtown’s Windsor Station to points west. Replacing a wooden trestle, the graceful limestone arch was owned by the Canadian Pacific Railway, but was built and paid for by the Town of Côte Saint-Antoine (now Westmount) in exchange for the right to construct a road and divert the streams underground.

Glen arch was Westmount’s first major public works project.

WHA UPDATES & NEWS

NATIONAL HERITAGE SUMMIT CONFERENCE 2012

The National Summit on Heritage Conservation in Canada was organized by the Heritage Canada Foundation and held at the Fairmount Queen Elizabeth Hotel in Montreal, October 11-13, 2012.

Doreen Lindsay, president of Westmount Historical Association, attended as a representative of the City of Westmount. The conference was entitled “Heritage Conservation in Canada: What’s Working and What Needs to Change?”

The conference included presentations on the evolving perspectives on heritage in Canadian society, heritage conservation, community renewal and sustainable growth. The presentation on Quebec’s new heritage law, Bill 82, was of particular interest to the WHA in its plans to protect heritage sites.

FEDERAL ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES COMMISSION HEARING

WHA archivist and board member Jane Martin wrote and presented a submission from the WHA asking that the Federal Riding name continue to include the word Westmount. The hearing was held in the Montreal Court House on November 12, 2012.

REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY

On Sunday, Nov. 4, 2012 Doreen Lindsay and Richard Lord joined other representatives of Westmount organizations to lay a wreath at the Westmount Cenotaph.

WHA THANKS OUR 2012 DONORS & PATRON FOR THEIR PERSONAL THOUGHTFULNESS

Allan Aitken  
Nan Carlin  
Lawrence Hutchison  
Helene Le Bel  
Judith Mappin  
Soryl Rosenberg  
Sharyn Scott  
Jean Turgeon  
Beryl Watson  
Patrons: Adele Turgeon-Smith  
Sharon Sparling  
Judith Anderson  
Karen Findlay  
Eleanor Hynes  
Elizabeth Lewis  
Frank & Judith Philpott  
Mary and Don Ross  
Dusty Solomon  
Nancy Walkling  

WHA directors Jane Martin, Caroline Breslaw and president Doreen Lindsay stand with Westmount Mayor Peter Trent, who officiated at the unveiling of the Glen Plaque on Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2012.
This delightful original hand-drawn map, plus six photographs of the house that is 50 Forden Crescent today, were recently donated to the WHA by Bruce Anderson.

His timely gift enabled us to include an article about the house and illustrate it.

The WHA is proud of its growing archival collection, which is rich in photographs of our evolving cityscape, and also contains a range of documents, maps, artifacts and memorabilia relevant to the community’s long history. We sincerely thank all those who have donated original items to the archives, or published materials for our reference shelves.

To our readers: please feel free to 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
NEW ACQUISITIONS

PHOTOGRAPHS:

Photo of 515 Côte St. Antoine ("Riverview"), ca. 1898.  
Donated by Sigrid Wontke-Kruger

6 Photos of 50 Forde Crescent, dated 1923, plus an original hand drawn street map giving travel directions to the home, ca. 1920s.  
Donated by Bruce Anderson

Photo of St. Matthias’ Church, by Ralph Thompson, 2012. (photo on page 13)  
Donated by Ralph Thompson

BOOKS:

A detailed and passionate first-person account of last decade’s merger movement and its troubling legacy.  
Donated by Patrick and Jane Martin

WAS IT GOOD FOR YOU? and other recent cartoons by AISLIN, with an introduction by Rick Mercer; text by Terry Mosher, 2012.

OTHER:


E.J. LOOKING BACK: Montreal Society from the fifties to the eighties, by E. J. Gordon, 1993.

AISLIN: Another 180 caricatures, by Aislin, 1980.

Document:  
Donated by Doreen Lindsay

WAS IT GOOD FOR YOU?  
and other recent cartoons by AISLIN, with an introduction by Rick Mercer; text by Terry Mosher, 2012.

ART CATALOGUE: Goodridge Roberts: Pictures at an exhibition: Galerie Roger Bellemare, May 2012.  
Donated by Doreen Lindsay

THE CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS. Four facsimiles of issues from 1869, 1870, 1871, and 1879 in a commemorative portfolio, published 1970.

THE FORMATIVE YEARS: Canada 1812-1871.  

Framed Recognition Certificate and 1st Place Ribbon awarded to Miriam Kerr by Westmount Schools Hobby Show, 1939.  
Donated by Cynthia Graham

News clippings related to WHA activities ca. 2000.  
Donated by Flora-Lee Wagner