

# *The Westmount Historian*

NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTMOUNT HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 12 NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY 2012



## **WESTMOUNT LADIES HOCKEY CLUB – 1902**

Back row: M. MACKENZIE, G. AYER, L.W. EVENS, M. MACFARLANE, B. RIDDELL, M. WALKER.

Middle row: M. COWEN, B. EVENS, A. DAWSON.

Front row: E. SCLATER, A. BALFOUR, G. TOOKE.

# **SPORTS IN WESTMOUNT**

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NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTMOUNT  
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

February 2012  
Volume 12 • Number 2

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Photos: WHA Archives  
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Cover photo: Sports and Recreation  
office, Victoria Hall

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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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ISSN: 1496-4066

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sport is an activity or experience that gives enjoyment and recreation – a pastime, a diversion. It is an activity requiring more or less vigorous bodily exertion and carried on according to some traditional form or set of rules, whether outdoors, as football, hunting, golf, racing, etc. or indoors, as basketball, bowling, squash, etc.

Sporting activities have been played and organized for over 100 years on the slopes of our Westmount mountain and below on the plateau. At the corner of Ste. Catherine St. and Atwater, lacrosse, a game learned from native peoples, was played in the 1800s. Above The Boulevard, St. George's Snowshoe Club members began meeting in 1886. On Kensington Avenue, a Curling Club opened in 1887 and a Lawn Tennis Club in 1888. On Ste. Catherine St. the MAAA (Montreal Amateur Athletic Association) bought ten acres of land in 1887 that attracted speed skaters and was a place where people waltzed on the ice under lights at night.

In this issue of our newsletter, we have articles about some of these clubs, as well as about the original, privately-owned Montreal (Westmount) Arena where the Wanderers and the Canadiens both won the Stanley Cup in hockey. We have printed the rules that guided the conduct of members of the Westmount Golf Club founded above The Boulevard in 1900. You may also read about the City of Westmount's support of athletics and residents' memories of playing sports many decades ago.

DOREEN LINDSAY

## WHA Spring 2012 Lecture Series

### We will look at the four sides of Westmount *South, East, North, West of Westmount*

Thursday 16 February 2012 (SOUTH) C.P.R. and the GLEN  
Speaker: **Michael Leduc**, author of *THE GLEN*

Thursday 15 March 2012 (EAST) ATWATER LIBRARY  
Speaker: **Susan McGuire**, historical researcher.

Thursday 19 April 2012 (NORTH) SUMMIT WOODS  
Speaker: **John Fretz**, Chairperson of *Summit Woods Advisory Committee*.

Thursday 17 May 2012 (WEST) DECARIE (THE PINK) HOUSE  
Speakers: **Patricia Claxton**, resident of Decarie House

#### IN ADDITION – A SPECIAL LECTURE

Thursday 21 June 2012

#### HOCKEY IN WESTMOUNT AND THE ROSS TROPHY

Speakers: **Mike Deegan**, Director of Sports, Recreation and Community  
Events for the City of Westmount

All talks are in Westmount Public Library 4574 Sherbrooke St. W., 7 to 9 pm  
Admission free for members, non-members \$5 at door.

**514-989-5510 or 514-932-6688**



## SPORTS CLUBS AND FACILITIES IN WESTMOUNT SINCE 1880's

- ???? – **The Caledonia Curling Club** was at #11 Hillside Avenue until 1982. (second Westmount location)  
The building was demolished in 2010.
- 1880's – **Lacrosse Grounds** opened at corner of Ste. Catherine St. and Atwater.  
Later became part of the MAAA and land became the **Montreal Baseball Ground**
- 1886 – **Saint George's Cricket Club** opened at top of Aberdeen Avenue.
- 1886 – **Saint George's Snowshoe Club** opened at top of Aberdeen Avenue on The Boulevard.  
*The club was founded in 1874 with members drawn from St. George's Cricket Club in Montreal and a militia unit, the No. 3 Company Victoria Rifles ... The location is now St. George's Elementary School.\**
- 1887 – **Heather Curling Club** opened on the west side of Kensington Avenue,  
then relocated to 239 Kensington in 1905.  
On Christmas Eve, 1887, the Heather Curling Club opened on Kensington Avenue. *A little wooden building housed two sheets of ice that were kept in constant use by a membership of almost 200.\**
- 1887 – **MAAA Montreal Amateur Athletic Association** was originally formed in 1881 and located downtown. In 1887 they bought land in Westmount on Ste. Catherine St.  
*It was a union of 3 sporting groups – Montreal Snowshoe, Lacrosse and the Bicycle Club. The new grounds opened to members in 1887, with an original entrance on Dorchester. Acquired 10 acres of the former Hallowell and Ward estates adjoining the Irvine Farm in 1886.\**
- 1888 – **Montreal Toboggan Club**
- 1888 – **Westmount Rugby Club** at the MAAA Grounds
- 1888 – **Côte St. Antoine Tennis Club** opened on Kensington Ave. at the southwest corner of Sherbrooke St. until 1906 when they moved to Grey Ave. in NDG.  
*Another sport was organized in the summer of 1889 when a group of enthusiasts formed the Côte St. Antoine Tennis Club. On rented land at the corner of Kensington Ave. and Sherbrooke St. they laid out four grass courts and two cinder courts and were soon taking part in matches with other tennis clubs in the region.\**
- 1898 – **Montreal Arena** opened New Year's Eve, 1898 at the corner of Ste. Catherine and Wood.  
It was destroyed by fire on Jan. 2, 1918.
- 1899 – **Victoria Hall** *was built by the City of Westmount, at the request of residents, as a municipal centre for sports groups that had no clubhouse. It included a gymnasium, baths, billiard room, drill hall, and small rooms for chess clubs, drama and music groups, as well as a large dance floor.\**
- 1900 – **Westmount Golf Club** was founded in 1900 and incorporated in 1902 above the Boulevard.
- 1900 – **Mount Royal Riding Academy** on Hillside Avenue.
- 1900 – **Montreal Gun Club** on land below The Boulevard.
- 1902 – **The Lawn Bowling Club** opened between Sherbrooke St. and Côte St. Antoine Road.  
The City of Westmount rebuilt the clubhouse in 1996-97 and assumed ownership.
- 1904 – **Montreal (Westmount) Ski Club** *acquired rights to use a run down Clarke Avenue with a ski jump landing on the south side of Sherbrooke Street. Reportedly used in a Canadian Championship in 1912.\**
- 1912 – **Westmount YMCA** was built at 4585 Sherbrooke St. across from the Westmount Public Library and Victoria Hall.

\*text in *italics* is from Aline Gubbay's *The Story of Westmount*, 1998.

## MAAA FORMED IN 1881 – CAME TO WESTMOUNT IN 1887



*Speed Skating on the rink at the MAAA grounds in Westmount c.1900. In the background is Hollowell Street.*

*Note starter at right side. photo: McCord Museum, #3146 view*



*Waltzing on skates on the rink at the MAAA grounds in Westmount. photo: McCord Museum #MP887(11)*

***The MAAA (Montreal Amateur Athletic Association) was formed with the joining together of the Montreal Snow Shoe Club, the Montreal Lacrosse Club and the Montreal Bicycle Club in June 1881. They shared space in the Montreal Gymnasium at Mansfield and De Maisonneuve Boulevard.***

In 1887 the MAAA bought 10 acres of land from the Hollowell estate and the Irvine farm fronting on Ste. Catherine Street. Westmount was still the Village of Côte St. Antoine at that time.

Aline Gubbay in her *Story of Westmount*, 1998, tells us “there was a central playing field with a banked cinder track around its rim underlaid with drainage tiles. The field itself held room for a cricket crease and nine tennis courts, seven of grass and

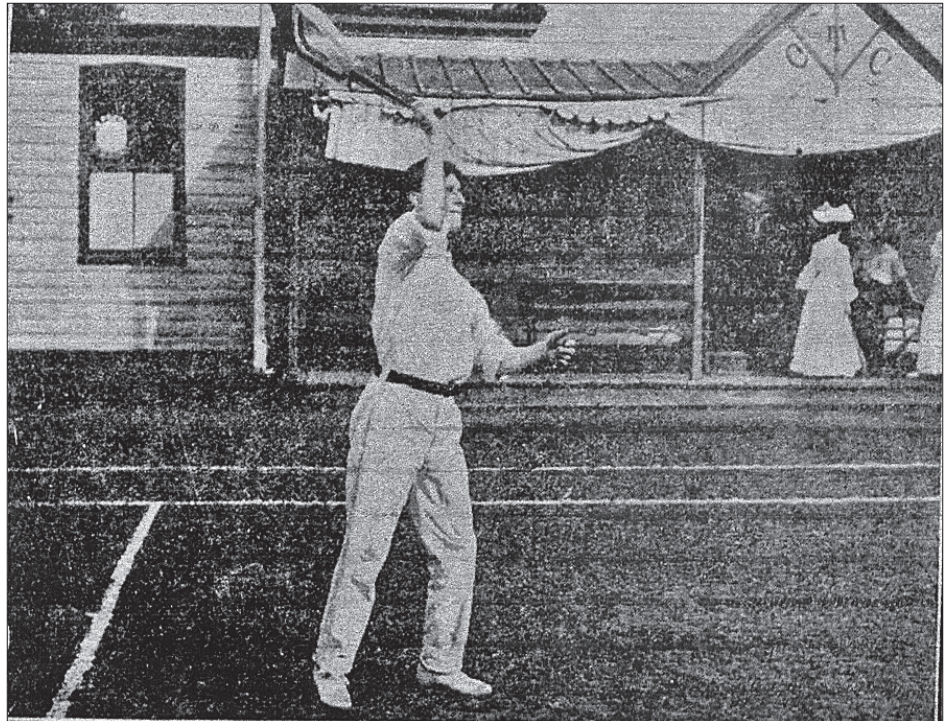
two of cinder. A roofed grandstand ran the entire north side of the field. There were seven tiers of seats, with a directors’ pavilion slightly elevated in the centre. Spectators seated in the stands had a magnificent view beyond the grounds over the river to the south shore, with the Lachine rapids to the west and the Victoria Bridge to the East. Track and field events were organized every spring and fall, attracting the best athletes in North America.”



## CÔTE ST. ANTOINE LAWN TENNIS CLUB AT 370 KENSINGTON AVE. 1888



*Drawings from the Dominion Illustrated July 11, 1891 depict a lawn tennis match and garden party held in Côte St. Antoine (Westmount). The Côte St. Antoine Lawn Tennis Club and the McGill College club played four "singles" and four "doubles" on Saturday, June 27, 1891.*



*Côte St. Antoine Lawn Tennis Club founded 1888, photo c.1905. Photograph shows a tennis player in action in front of a clubhouse with the initials CTC (Côte St. Antoine Tennis Club) above the entrance.*



*Patrick Martin, past president of the Mount Royal Tennis Club and Westmount City Councillor.*

Patrick Martin began to research the origins of the Mount Royal Tennis Club, formerly the Côte St. Antoine Tennis Club, when he became club president in 2007, the same year the club was celebrating the centenary of its founding. The club had originally been built in Westmount at the corner of Sherbrooke St. and Kensington Ave. in 1888, and played on land rented from the Monk family. In 1891 the *Dominion Illustrated* wrote that "Côte St. Antoine is fortunate in having such a fine live club in its midst, as it provides

healthy, innocent recreation for the residents, and is beneficial in many other directions. The wooden clubhouse facing the mountain provides a most beautiful view." Members played in competitions with the MAAA, McGill and clubs from Ottawa and Toronto.

Drawings in the *Dominion Illustrated* of July 11, 1891, depict an umpire's chair, spectators, a refreshment tent and a string band as they appeared on Saturday, June 26, 1891, during a match with a team from McGill. The drawings illustrate an

article that exclaims, "This club... now ranks among the foremost in the Dominion, as regards the number of courts and its membership. There are seven courts, all in excellent condition and about one hundred and fifty members."

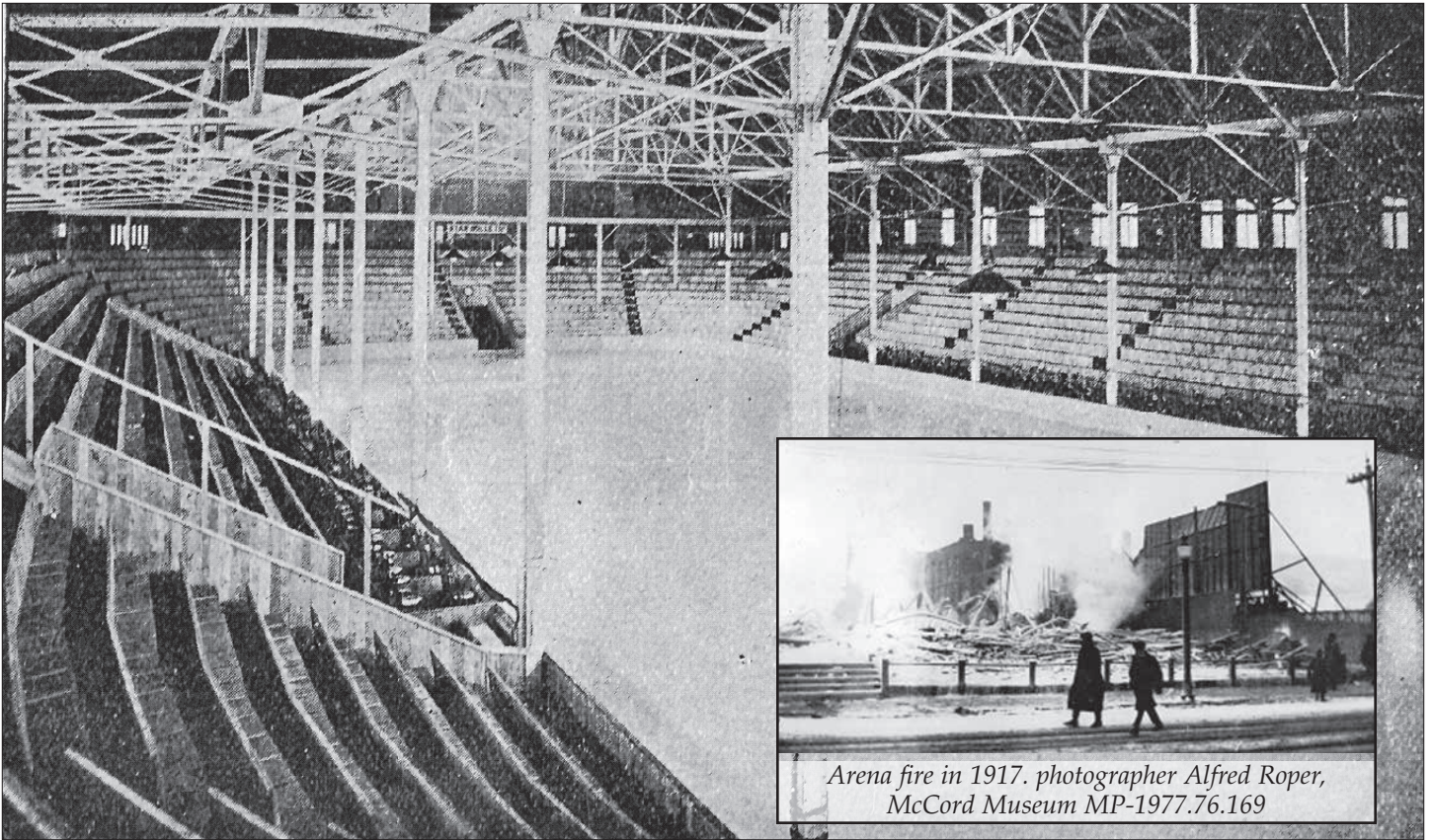
In 1906 the club had to move when the land was sold for building lots. They purchased a much larger piece of land from the Décarie family and moved the clubhouse west to NDG on a sledge pulled by draught horses, following a route along Western Avenue (De Maisonneuve Boulevard today). The new club was situated on terrain that stretched from Vendôme Avenue to Grey Avenue, roughly mid-block below Sherbrooke Street. Members reached the Mount Royal Tennis Club, as it was then renamed, by the Sherbrooke Street tramway line that had recently been extended to Claremont.

While exploring the club's history, Patrick Martin was surprised to realize that the home where he grew up at 372 Kensington, in Westmount, was virtually on top of the original site of the Côte St. Antoine Tennis Club.

Information from talk by Patrick Martin to WHA on September 15, 2011.



## WESTMOUNT (MONTREAL) ARENA – OPENED DECEMBER 31, 1898



*Montreal Arena was built on Ste. Catherine Street at the corner of Wood Avenue in Westmount in 1898. photo 1899.*

The Westmount (Montreal) Arena opened on Ste. Catherine Street at the corner of Wood Avenue on December 31, 1898. It was a privately owned indoor arena, the preferred site for both amateur and professional ice hockey until it was unfortunately destroyed by fire on January 2, 1917. The surface was natural ice until 1915, when Montreal's first artificial ice making plant for hockey was installed. An innovative feature was the rounded corners instead of square corners. A puck could slide easily around the corners behind the goal and come out the other side. It also introduced the use of three-foot high boards to protect viewers from being hit by the puck.

Four thousand, three hundred people could sit comfortably to watch their favorite hockey team. Including standing room, it could actually hold up to 10,000 people. A buffet for refreshments as well as smoking rooms for the comfort of the spectators, were included. Westmounter Art Ross played hockey here, and the Art Ross trophy is still given to the highest scoring player in the Stanley Cup.

The Canadian Arena Company who owned the Arena also leased out the building for exhibition space, horse shows,

car shows, motorboat displays as well as concerts and bazaars. Opera singer Enrico Caruso gave a concert in the Arena on May 19, 1908 to celebrate the designation of Westmount as a city. The Governor General and his family were in attendance. In 1924 the company helped construct the famous Montreal Forum on Ste. Catherine Street just east of the original Arena.

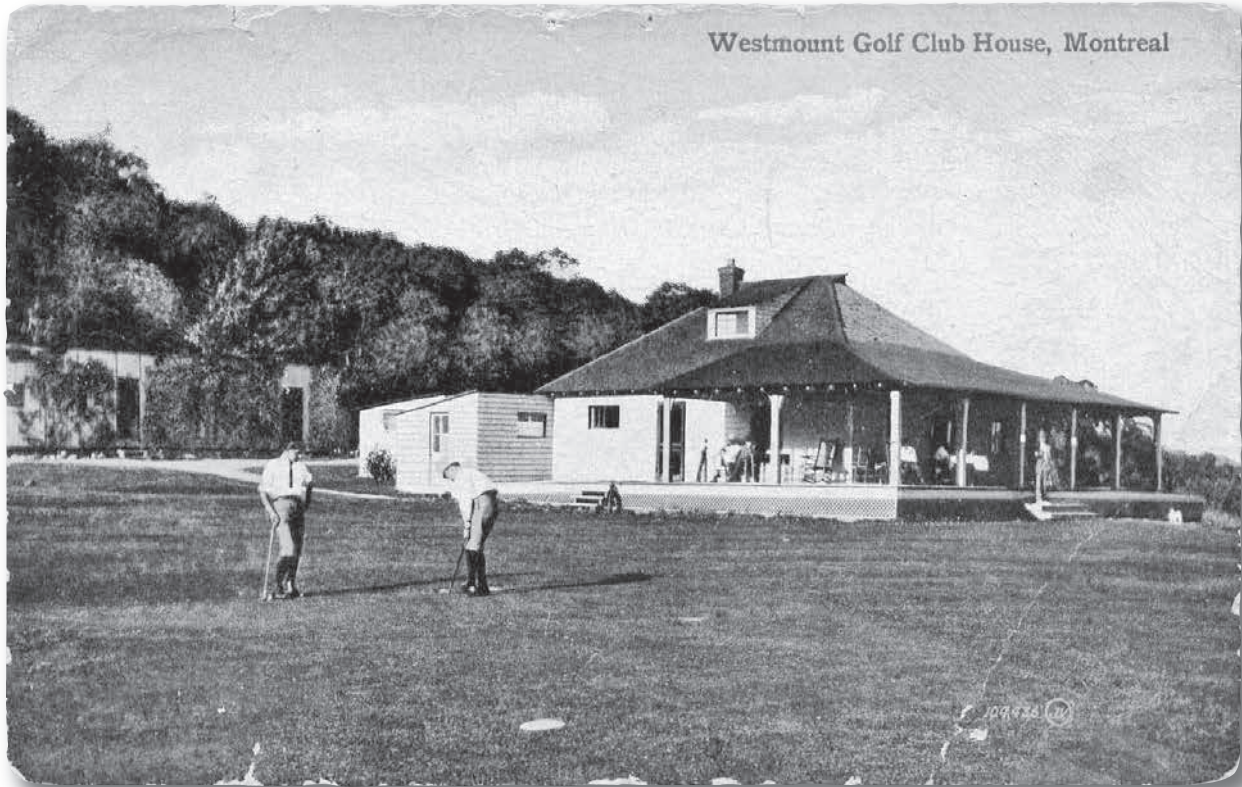
**Westmount Arena was the home of the Montreal Wanderers (NHA, NHL) from 1904 to 1909 and again from 1911 to 1918. They won four Stanley Cups (1906, 1907, 1908, 1910).**

The **Montreal Canadiens (NHA, NHL)** played there from 1911 to 1918.

You can see replicas of 12 Stanley Cup Banners (*Victorias* 1895, 96, 97, 98, *Shamrocks* 1899 and 1900, *Wanderers* 1906, 07, 08, 10, and *Maroons* 1926, 35) in the ice-skating arena built further west on Ste. Catherine Street by Westmount in 1957 to serve its residents. It will be demolished this year and the City of Westmount will construct a new two-rink arena in the same location.



## THE WESTMOUNT GOLF CLUB – FOUNDED APRIL 20, 1900



*Two gentlemen playing at the Westmount Golf Clubhouse above The Boulevard between Lexington Avenue and Edgehill Road. c.1910. WHA post card collection*

***The oldest Golf Club in North America is the Royal Montreal Golf Club. It was founded on November 4, 1873 by eight gentlemen, who met on Wednesdays and Saturdays at Fletcher's Field (the east side of Mount Royal Park) for 9 holes of golf. In 1896 the club moved to Dorval, then in 1959 the club moved to Île Bizard where they are still active today.***

Thanks to David McCall, who donated photocopies of the *Constitution of the Westmount Golf Club* to us in December 2011, we now know that the Westmount Golf Club was founded on April 20, 1900 and incorporated on April 11, 1902. He locates it at the top of Grosvenor and Lansdowne Avenues north of The Boulevard. According to a note on the

back of a postcard, the location of the Golf Club was between Lexington Avenue and Edgehill Road. The names of some of the holes give us an indication of where they were: No. 6 was named Belmont, No. 7 was Roslyn and No. 8 was Monklands.

### Constitution of the Westmount Golf Club

#### According to the Rules and Regulations.

*The rules of Golf as fixed from time to time by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, shall, with such amendments as may be made by the Royal Canadian Golf Association, and such Local Rules as may be made by the Green Committee, be the only rules of Golf observed by this Club.*

*The Club's professional, Peter Hendrie, will give instruction to members at the rate of 40 cents an hour provided they make an appointment with him.*

WESTMOUNT GOLF CLUB.		CONSTITUTION OF THE	
OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES, 1903.		WESTMOUNT GOLF CLUB.	
Hon. President	- -	GRAHAME C. DUNLOP.	
President	- -	C. E. ARCHIBALD.	
1st Vice President	- -	F. HOWARD WILSON.	
2nd Vice President	- -	ARCHIE D. ANDERSON.	
Hon. Treasurer	- -	EDWARD STANGER.	
		6 St. Sacramento St.	
Hon. Secretary	- -	Chas. T. HARE,	
		Bank of Toronto Chambers.	
Captain	- -	JOHN S. LEWIS.	
GREEN COMMITTEE.		Adopted at the Annual Meeting, 19 December, 1902.	
GEORGE P. BUTTERS, <i>Convener</i> .		ARTICLE I. (Name.)	
C. W. DAVIS.	ALLAN MCKAY.	The name of the Club shall be the	
JOHN S. LEWIS.	REV. E. SCOTT.	"WESTMOUNT GOLF CLUB."	
HOUSE COMMITTEE.		ARTICLE II. (Officers and Executive.)	
F. HOWARD WILSON, <i>Convener</i> .		SECTION 1. The officers of the Clubs shall be as follows:	
A. D. ANDERSON.	E. W. DAWSON.	A President, First and Second Vice-Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer. The Executive of the Club shall be composed of its officers and a general committee of six members. The Club may at any Annual Meeting elect one or more Honorary Presidents who need not necessarily be members of the Committee.	
The President, Secretary and Treasurer are "ex officio" members of all Committees.		SECTION 2. The officers and committee shall be elected annually by the Club by nomination and ballot, and in the event of any vacancy occurring in the Executive during the year, such vacancy shall be filled by the Executive at any of its regular meetings.	
LADIES		SECTION 3. The Executive shall have the general administration of the property and affairs of the Club. More	
Hon. President	- -		
Captain	- -		
Hon. Secretary-Treasurer	- -		
LADIES' MATCH COMMITTEE.			
MRS. CHAS. T. HARE, <i>Convener</i> .			
MISS MARCIA CASSILS.	MRS. WELLINGTON DIXON.		
MISS DAWSON.	MRS. W. S. LOUSON.		
LADIES' HOUSE COMMITTEE.			
MRS. C. E. ARCHIBALD, <i>Convener</i> .			
MRS. J. M. ALMOND.	MRS. G. C. DUNLOP.		
MRS. ARCHIE MACFARLANE.	MRS. A. A. SANDEMAN.		

*Constitution of the Westmount Golf Club adopted at the annual meeting on Dec. 19, 1902.*

The entrance fee for all regular members shall be \$10. The Annual Subscription for Gentlemen shall be \$12. and for Ladies \$6. The Annual Subscription is due on the 1st of May of each year. Non-payment of the Annual Subscription before 1st July may, at the discretion of the Committee, be considered as resignation from the Club.

### Admission of New Members

On the election of a new candidate for membership the Hon. Secretary shall notify him accordingly in writing, shall furnish him with a copy of the Rules and Regulations, and call upon him to pay his Entrance Fee and Annual Subscription. No candidate newly elected shall participate in any of the privileges of membership until all such dues are paid. Members must produce their certificates, or proof of membership, whenever called upon by the attendant, or any officer of the Club to do so. The links will not be open for play on Sunday.

### Lady Members

shall not use the links after two o'clock on the afternoons of Saturday. Thursday morning is Ladies' special practice morning. Tuesday afternoon is "Ladies' Afternoon."

### Club House Hours

The Steward shall not be required to open the House in the morning before six o'clock. The lights shall be extinguished and the House closed at eleven o'clock at night.

### Meals

Breakfast will not be served before half past seven. Afternoon tea will not be served after half past five. Members desiring dinner must notify the Steward before five o'clock. No servant of the Club shall be required to serve provisions brought into the House by members.

### Dogs

No member shall bring a dog into the Club House. Dogs will not be permitted on the links unless on leash.



## WESTMOUNT LAWN BOWLING CLUB – FOUNDED MAY 28, 1902



*The Westmount Lawn Bowling Club, Westmount. WHA Postcard collection. Note the traditional white pants and shirts.*

***BOWLS has been played since the 13th Century. It is popular in the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Hong Kong, and Japan as well as Canada. It is a sport in which asymmetric balls are rolled as close to a smaller “jack” as possible, similar to bocce or pétanque.***

The first formal meeting of the Westmount Lawn Bowling Club was held on May 28, 1902.

Three James: James Brown, James Baillie and James Rogers, had met together ten months earlier, in the Municipal offices on Stanton Street, to discuss the formation of a lawn bowling club. These three Scots rented land from the Monk Estate at the northwest corner of Sherbrooke St. and Kensington for nine years for \$1,000. They proposed to build a clubhouse for \$500 and hire a groundskeeper for \$9 per week. When James Brown died after being president for the first three years, his son Willie Brown was appointed secretary. A Willie Brown trophy was created in 1961 and is awarded each year to the best mixed-pair in an invitational tournament.

In 1916 the club expanded north to Côte St. Antoine Road so a north green could be added. In 1920 the City of Westmount purchased the land from the Monk Estate and leased it to the club for \$1,800 a year. In 1983 the City again came to the rescue of the Club by buying it for \$1.

### **New Clubhouse opened on September 27, 1997.**

In 1996 Westmount was looking for space to build an electrical substation, and they ingeniously combined building one underground and constructing a replica of the old clubhouse on ground level.

Westmount Lawn Bowling vice-president Richard Menear talks about reinventing tradition. He tells us Westmount has 65 active bowlers this year and they are recruiting new younger members. The club likes to start new traditions. In 2006 they initiated a tournament for the employees of the City of Westmount that has expanded to 12 teams of four players each.

Wives of the members formed a Ladies Branch in 1935. For 67 years the club had accepted only men as members. At first an extension was made to the clubhouse, but the men and women's sides were not connected. Finally by 1989 the men and women merged together under one president. Today women are completely integrated, and the Westmount Lawn Bowling Club welcomes three times as many women as men.

## FREDERICK TEES – STUDENT AND TEACHER AT SELWYN HOUSE SCHOOL



*Selwyn House School Senior Soccer team 1961. Frederick Tees, top row at right. photo: Selwyn House School archives.*



*Frederick Tees,  
Selwyn House  
School alumnus and  
former teacher.*

**I** have been associated with Selwyn House for 25 years of my life, eight years as a student and 17 years as a teacher. I started in the fall of 1933 when Selwyn House School was still on Redpath Street. In my student days it had no grounds except for a rather small natural ice hockey rink for winter use where we used to play. All of the boys became members of the MAAA, still in the same building on Peel Street, with a gymnasium that we used for off-season activities.

The MAAA also had a football field where it is today behind Westmount High School. This football field had rather rugged looking stands on the north side and a Club House, which as I remember was like a dark tunnel leading from the field to Ste. Catherine Street. All my friends and I were allowed to play games in this wonderful place. After the game was over we came through the Club House, and

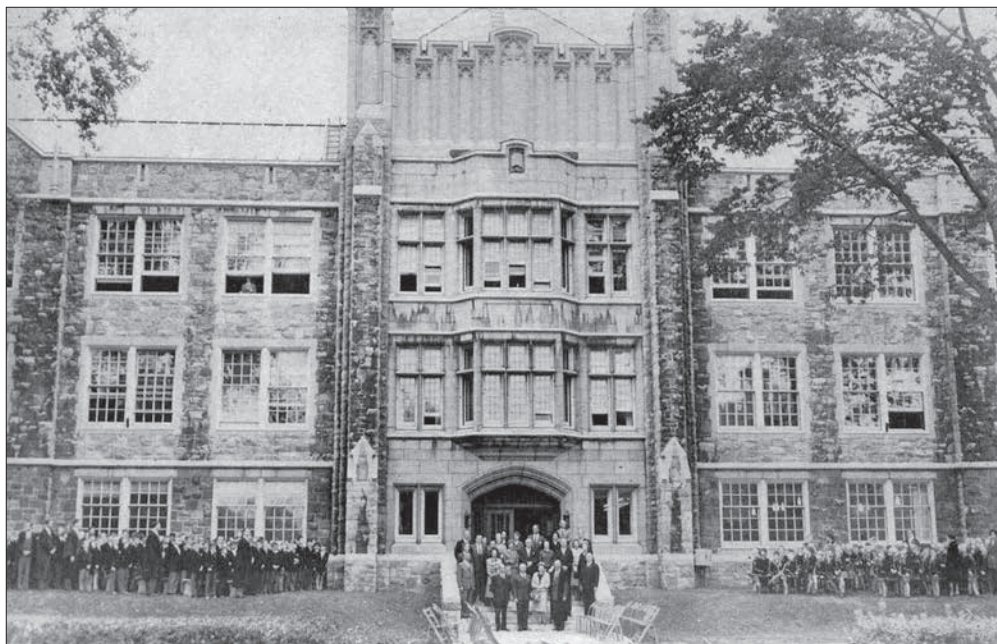
there, facing us between Ste. Catherine Street and what used to be called Western Avenue to the west of Clarke Avenue, was a FARM! It occupied that whole block and belonged to the Grey Nuns of Montreal.

While I was teaching, in February 1961, a notice went up on the staff notice board that the Board of Governors was considering buying the old Westmount Senior High School building at the corner of Côte St. Antoine, as Westmount Senior High School was moving to newer facilities on Ste. Catherine St. where the MAAA had once stood. We did buy it ... and tried to build a rink in the rather large space that was just below the Police Station on Stanton Street. The rink was not a success. It was not sufficiently levelled and we never had good ice. The sun used to melt the ice by the 10th of February each year. Only the little boys played hockey there."

Taken from talk by Frederick Tees to WHA on October 20, 2011.



## SELWYN HOUSE SCHOOL MOVED TO CÔTE ST. ANTOINE ROAD IN 1961



*Opening day of Selwyn House School in their new location on Côte St. Antoine Road between Stanton St. and Argyle Ave. in Westmount. photo: Selwyn House School archives*

***BEFORE MOVING TO WESTMOUNT Selwyn House School was first called Lucas School, after its founder Algernon Lucas, when it opened at the corner of Ste. Catherine and Crescent Streets in 1908; then in 1910, when enrollment reached 50 the school moved to Mackay Street. In 1912 Lucas turned the school over to his friend Colin Macaulay who renamed it Selwyn House after Selwyn College at Cambridge University where they were both classmates. In 1930 the school moved into a house on Redpath St. where there was space for a hockey rink. Father/son hockey matches were initiated.***

Selwyn House School moved into the former Westmount Senior High School building at #95 Côte St. Antoine Road on September 22, 1961. Westmount Mayor J.C. Cushing conducted the opening ceremony. The board of governors of the school attended as well as Mrs. Algernon Lucas, wife of the founder of the school. To accommodate expanding programs, the school built additions and remodelled to provide a double gymnasium underneath the original building. In 1986 Selwyn House School bought the former St. Andrews Church on Côte St. Antoine. Here they developed a much needed basketball court.

### **High athletics and high academic standing**

Michael Maurovich, a teacher and coach for 28 years, became the new Director of Athletics at Selwyn House School in 2011. "The emphasis has always been on both high athletics and high academic standing," he said. "The athletic program had been redesigned in the 1970s to incorporate the motto *sound mind, sound body*. From kindergarten to grade

six boys would play soccer, hockey, football, and various tag games. At the secondary level, from grades seven to eleven, the boys formed teams."

In 1974 the school athletic program changed to an options program. Sports periods were scheduled after school, enabling all students to participate. In order to give boys more options they built a climbing wall and added programs in rowing at the Montreal Rowing Basin. The school began to hire buses to transport players to Molson Stadium or Nuns Island for games. In the 1980s, as the school became more prominent in athletics, hockey was played in the Verdun Auditorium and many memories date from that experience. This year will be the 26th season of Selwyn boys playing hockey in Verdun.

The school now has an athletic Hall of Fame to honour former students.

Information from talk by Michael Maurovich to WHA on November 17, 2011.



*Lawn Bowling Balls donated to WHA in 2005  
by Sidney and Helena Langdon.*



*Skiing at 22 Summit Circle, Westmount.  
Walker family used to live in 22 Summit Circle.  
Donated by Roslyn Walker in 2005.*



*"A" Basketball Champions at Westmount High School in 1945.  
Captain Joan Ross Clark front centre. photo Vox Ducum 1945.*



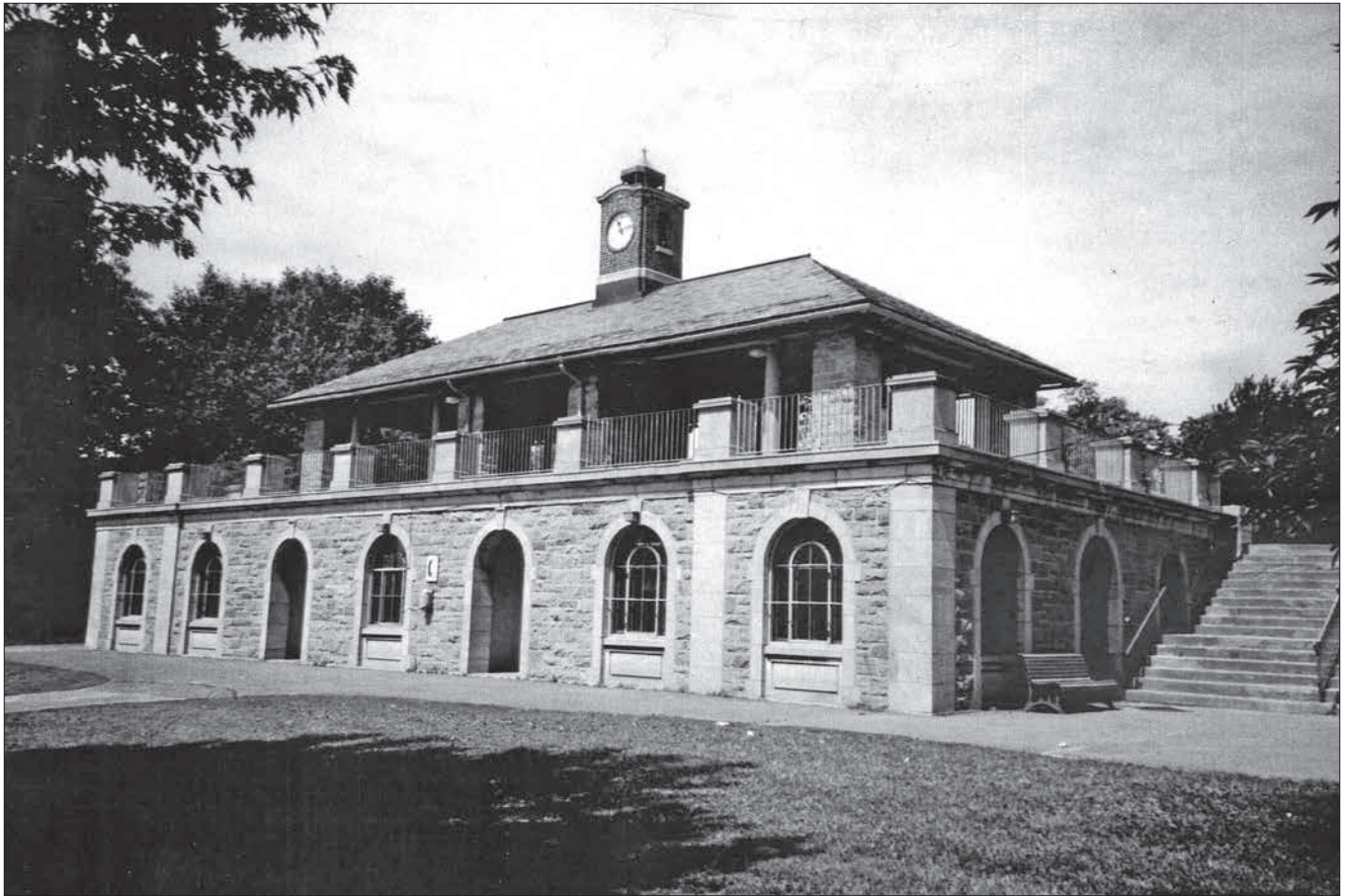
*Martha Morgan McKenna, skiing with brother John  
and sister Anne on top of Westmount Mountain. c.1938*



*#254 Clark Avenue. Father with children on snowshoes, 1907.*



## LONG HISTORY OF MUNICIPALLY SUPPORTED SPORTS PROGRAMS



*Murray Park Pavilion opened in Murray Park in 1936. Designed by Westmount architects Robert and Frank Findlay to provide shelter from the weather and rooms for skaters to change boots.*



*WHA member Mark Boundy reading to members on December 15, 2011 from the Annual Reports of the City of Westmount about the extent to which the City provided support to residents.*

WHA member Mark Boundy spent three afternoons in our Westmount Public Library reading through the Annual Reports of the City of Westmount for the years 1911 to 1936. He meticulously selected information related to athletics so that he could report to WHA members the extent to which the City of Westmount promoted sports for residents during those years.

"In 1911 the Capital Expenditure for Parks was \$157,717.12. In 1915, \$2,216.54 was allotted to maintain skating rinks. The reports noted that in 1916 and 1917 Westmount Park was used extensively by the militia for drills and recruiting purposes. In 1918 the usual tulip bulbs from Holland were in a ship that was torpedoed on the

way over.

In 1930 the city issued 4,180 passes for residents to use ten hockey and skating rinks. They maintained 18 tennis courts, 12 in Westmount Park, four in Murray Park, and one each in Devon and Selby parks; and 3,101 passes were issued for tennis. In 1931 a committee of citizens encouraged the organization of a cricket club amongst boys.

During the year 1934, 3,600 permits were issued for seven skating and three hockey rinks. 3,060 tickets issued for play on 18 tennis courts and 2 golf putting greens. The year 1935 showed expenditures for the Parks Department of \$55,007.84, or \$2.26 per capita.

The annual reports tell us that in 1936, "a very handsome pavilion of cut stone was erected (in Murray Park) and provides rooms for skaters to change boots, lavatory accommodation, and shelter from the weather."

Selected from talk by Mark Boundy to WHA December 15, 2011.

## WHA MEMBERS' MEMORIES OF SPORTS IN WESTMOUNT



**Barbara Moore**

"My family moved to Westmount in the 1940s when my parents bought a home on Claremont Avenue just below Sherbrooke Street. There was no arena at the time, but a number of outdoor rinks that were well maintained and lighted at night. I loved to skate, so imagine my delight when I discovered that one of those rinks was in Prince Albert Park! The park was just two blocks north of Sherbrooke Street between Claremont and Prince Albert Avenues and had a rink that was lighted at night and a little house, still there to this day, where you could change your skates. It couldn't have been more convenient!"

Some times were reserved for hockey but there was lots of time for free skating. Many evenings after my homework was done, I headed for the rink to enjoy a short or long skate depending on the time. There were always other skaters but the rink was never crowded. Round and round in the crisp night air – what wonderful memories! "



**Richard Lord**

"When I was a young boy attending Queen's School I walked from 3169 St. Antoine St. to Greene Ave. every morning, crossed Dorchester to Ste. Catherine St., turned west to Olivier and up Olivier to Queens School. Every morning Mr. Boright, the president of West Steel Products on Richelieu Street, walked from upper Westmount down Greene to Dorchester to Selby to Saint Antoine to La Porte to Richelieu. We started to say "hello." One day Mr. Boright said that if I started a team in Stayner Park, he would supply sweaters. I organized Pee Wee, Bantam, Midget and Senior in Hockey and Baseball.

I went to a Sports company at the corner of Bleury and La Gauchetière to chose the colours, then carried three big bags of sweaters all by myself and gave them to the boys on Selby Street. The teams were named the "Tornadoes." It was about 1939."



**Martha Morgan McKenna**

"When I was a little girl we lived on Sunnyside Avenue just below Summit Circle. We had lots of vacant lots right across the street. It was the perfect place for my sister, brother and me to learn how to ski (photo p.12). We would side step up and pack our little slope and happily slide down. Up and down we would go until it was time for lunch. When I decided to build a ski jump on a steeper hill, I took an old orange crate from the house, carefully packed the snow around it and tried my first ski jump. Of course I fell and luckily for me I broke my ski instead of my leg. Next it was time to climb up to Summit Circle, cross over the top of the Westmount mountain, ski down what we called the gulley, across the road around the back of the mountain and then into the real skiing. I spent many hours of my growing up years skiing on the mountain.



## SKATING, SKIING, TOBOGGANING, HOCKEY, LAWN BOWLING



**Wendy Scott**

"My memories go back to the 1930s, as in 1940 my family moved from our home at 608 Victoria Avenue to Beaurepaire. Murray Park was closer than Westmount Park, so my first attempts at skating were in the rink that is now a tennis court in the summer – first on cheese-cutters, then, after I had had a couple of lessons, on white figure skates. I wore a red velvet skirt and matching jacket trimmed with white fur, and white leggings (I think I was more conscious of my outfit than of my skating abilities). We tobogganed down the hill there, piled one on top of the other, and sometimes on the icy slide .... what a thrill!

I remember skating in Westmount Park after dark. The meandering pond in front of the changing-house was shaped somewhat like the Serpentine in London, and I remember skating to music, the rink lit by coloured lights."



**Nancy Walkling**

"Winter Carnival in the 60's. – Our family moved back to Westmount in 1961 after a four-year absence. I went to Queen's School for grades 5 and 6, and then graduated to the new Westmount High School. For a few winters in the early 60's I recall entering the costume contest in the Winter Carnival at Westmount's arena. I remember skating inside a colourful painted cardboard box totem pole, while my sister Janet wore a big hat as the Mad Hatter. Another year one of us was an alarm clock. My brother Gord, who is 5 years younger than I, remembers being a turtle with a cardboard shell. He won as most original costume in 1965. A male classmate was brave enough to dress up as a baby with diapers, pacifier and bottle. We had fun showing off our homemade outfits!"

These annual ice carnivals were organized by Westmount Park School.



**Joan Ross Clark**

"Me and my gang." In the 1945 Westmount High School Year Book you can find four photographs of Joan Clark, whose maiden name was Ross, excelling in sports. (photo p.12) "That was the only reason we went to school. We had a gang of three or four girls who played on all the teams and we were good; we won against all the other schools. There were two gym teachers. Miss Smith taught grade seven and eight and Miss Moore, who was a tiny person who moved quickly and frightened everyone, taught the older ones. She wanted to make sure that we won, that was important for her. We had gym twice a week and played basketball games every day after school.

In the winter we use to bring our skis to school and walk up to the top of the mountain. From school on Côte St. Antoine Road, up Argyle, then up the stairs past St. Georges School and kept going up to a bend in the road to the lookout."

## NEW ACQUISITIONS

### BOOKS



**CHEZ NOUS (Our Old Quebec Home)**, by Adjutor Rivard, translated by W.H. Blake, illustrations by A.Y. Jackson. Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 1924. *Donated by Doreen Lindsay.*



**HISTORIC MONTREAL, Past and Present.** Montreal: Henry Morgan & Co. Limited, (no date). *Donated by Doreen Lindsay.*



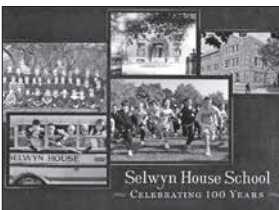
**IMAGES PREMIERES/PRIMAL IMAGES: Mutations d'une icône nationale/Transmutations of a National Icon**, by Vincent Lavoie. Paris: Centre Culturel Canadien, 2004. *Donated by Doreen Lindsay.*



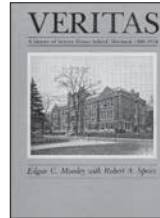
**LA PETITE POULE D'EAU**, by Gabrielle Roy. Canada: Clarke Irwin & Company Limited, 1956. *Donated by Doreen Lindsay. (Fiction)*



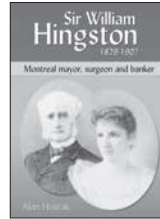
**OLD WESTMOUNT: The Story of Westmount in pictures and words – an historical album from Indian times to 1920.** Westmount, Quebec: Old Westmount Club of Westmount High School, 1967. *Donated by Peter Lanken.*



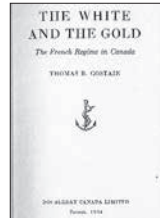
**SELWYN HOUSE SCHOOL: Celebrating 100 Years.** Westmount, Quebec: Selwyn House Association, 2007. *Presented to the WHA by Hal Hannaford, Headmaster, Selwyn House School.*



**VERITAS: A History of Selwyn House School, Montreal 1908-1978**, by Edgar C. Moodey with Robert A. Speirs. Westmount, Quebec: Selwyn House Association, 1978. *Presented to the WHA by Richard Wills, Publications Editor, Selwyn House School.*



**SIR WILLIAM HINGSTON, Montreal (1829-1907)**, Montreal mayor, surgeon and banker, by Alan Hustak. Westmount, Quebec: Price Patterson Ltd., 2004. *Donated by Caroline Breslaw.*



**THE WHITE AND THE GOLD: The French Regime in Canada**, by Thomas B. Costain. Toronto: Doubleday Canada Limited, 1954.

### OTHER ITEMS

**Audio-Visual Materials:** 45 photographic slides (35mm) and CD of Westmount homes and streets, taken by Henry Findlay between 1963 and 1992. *Donated by Karen Findlay.*



**Document:** *Text Books for Year 1941-42, Grade VI.* School Commissioners of the City of Westmount, 1941. *Donated by Cynthia Graham.*



**Ephemera:** *Montreal Scene Magazine* (a publication of *The Montreal Star*), August 3, 1974 issue bearing cover reproduction of a painting of the Hurlbut House in Westmount. *Donated by Dr. Roy Forsey.*



**Memorabilia:** Westmount mayoral campaign button: "We want May in November; Vote May Cutler for Mayor". *Donated by Sylvia Wedge.*