
WESTMOUNT :: THE CITY BEAUTIFUL

side of the mountain, and the side towards which the prevailing breezes blow.

The southern limits of Westmount begin at about the line which the C.P.R. chose for running its high-level tracks into the city of Montreal. Thence the city runs up over the slope to the south-western end of the mountain which gives Montreal its name. Thus it comprises within its boundary a beautiful high-level plateau, backed by a gentle slope affording terraced effects, and crowned by steep, well-wooded heights where some of the loveliest and most picturesque residences to be found anywhere look out upon the noble St. Lawrence river.

Westmount's Historical Associations

WHILE Westmount is a very young city—most of its houses have been built within the last five, ten, or fifteen years—it yet has historical associations dating back almost to the foundation of the city of Montreal, by Maisonneuve, in 1642. Two hundred and eighty-eight years ago, what is now Westmount was an extra-mural settlement—just beyond the pale of safety—a place where the life of a white face was not worth much.

The most ancient landmark which the city now holds is the house at 563 Cote St. Antoine road, which was built in 1699—220 years ago—by the Hurtubise family, whose descendants have continuously occupied it down to the present time. It will surprise many to know that the Hurtubise house is older than the famous Chateau de Ramezay in Montreal.

When the municipality first took suburban form it was known by the name of Cote St. Antoine. The archives of the municipality date back to 1874, when it is recorded that the community stoutly refused to be annexed to Montreal. As the character of the place became more urban, and the race and language of the population became overwhelmingly English, the name was changed to Westmount, the word being suggested by the fact that the western shoulder of Mount Royal is included in the area of the city. The municipality was incorporated as a town in 1890, and later as a city.

At the time of incorporation the population numbered only 1,850. By 1908 this had increased to 12,000. In 1915 the population numbered 18,500, and at present it is reckoned as approximately 19,000.

A Fine Community Spirit

THE character of the community may be judged from the fact that in proportion to its population Westmount has the largest number of handsome private dwellings in the Dominion, while the beautiful homes