

# In the Footsteps of the Scots

## MOUNT ROYAL DISCOVERY WALK



les amis de la montagne

**THE TRAIL** 2.5 km, 1.5 hours • Height elevation: 130 m  
Difficulty: descent – easy • ascent – intermediate

## KONDIARONK LOOKOUT

White pine, lily, rose, clover and thistle. The flag of Montréal flutters above the Kondiaronk lookout. Its coat of arms reflects the origins of the five peoples largely responsible for the city's founding and historical development: the Indigenous Peoples, French, English, Irish and Scots. From the founding of Ville-Marie in 1642 to the British Conquest, explorers, missionaries and French families settled on the island of Montréal, participating in the development of the city and laying the foundations of the society we now know. The ceding of Canada to Great Britain in 1763 would transform this society. Numerous Scottish merchants settled and became successful in the fur trade. They



joined Montréal society and developed a special bond with Mount Royal. This trail offers an opportunity to retrace the historical ties bonding Montréal's Scottish forbears to the mountain.

Enjoy the *bonnie* walk!

## THE CREATION OF A PARK

Montréal, 1862: a burgeoning population, economic growth and the onset of industrialization transformed the city. The need for nature, for a place to walk and contemplate became urgent. The administration considered the creation of a park on Mount Royal, but this elicited strong reactions. Some affirmed that the site was insufficiently accessible. To prove the contrary, Colonel Stevenson hauled cannons to the summit, where he fired off several volleys. On May 24, 1876, the day of the inauguration of Mount Royal Park, he fired 100 cannon volleys to herald the event.

**ALEXANDER ALLAN STEVENSON**  
Born: 1829, Riccarton, Scotland  
Arrival in Montréal: 1846  
Deceased: 1910, Montréal  
Buried in Mount Royal Cemetery



Printer, politician and lieutenant-colonel, Alexander Allan Stevenson was engaged in the Montréal community. He played a role in forming a military unit, the Montreal Field Battery, which became the 2nd Field Artillery Regiment, a regiment still bastioned on the mountain. He is also recognized for his commitment to creating a park on Mount Royal.

Northwest view from Notre-Dame Basilica, Montréal, 1872  
© McCord Museum, I-77457

## THE MCTAVISH MONUMENT

Simon McTavish personally chose a picturesque site on his property for the construction of a mausoleum. Dominated by an impressive rocky outcrop, the site offers a spectacular panoramic view of his property and the city. Upon his death, his nephews built a memorial over his tomb enclosed by a walled mausoleum. A twenty-foot column erected in honour

of the departed towered over the site. Abandoned and in disrepair, the site was integrated into the park in 1937, then the mausoleum was demolished. The current column was erected in 1943 and a retaining wall was built to enclose the small lookout.

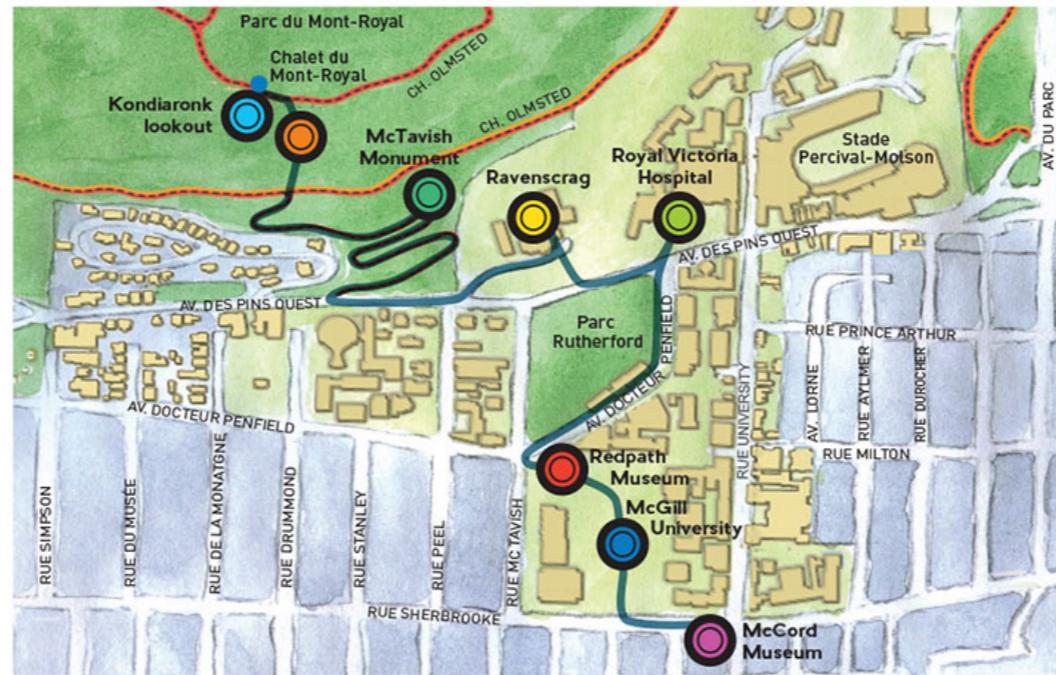


The McTavish Monument  
John Henry Walker, 1850-1860 • © McCord Museum, M75

The column photographed by Edgar Gariépy, circa 1941  
BAnQ, E6,S8,SS1,SS5655,0377,PA8

### ALSO OF NOTE

- The stones from the ancient mausoleum used in the retaining wall
- The limestone columns in the background



## RAVENSCRAG

Hugh Allan built an elegant mansion on the mountain overlooking the city, naming it after a 15th century Scottish castle, Ravenscrag (literally, crow's nest). In the Italian Renaissance style, it was completed in 1863. From an imposing central tower, apparently Allan could observe the activities of his ships in the port below. In 1940, Hugh Allan's son, Hugh Montagu Allan, decided to donate the family estate to the Royal Victoria Hospital.

### ALSO OF NOTE

- The keystone for the stable entrance, adorned with a horse's head
- The view of the mansion from the main gate



Monument to Simon McTavish, 1804, 1943  
Collection Ville de Montréal • © David Giral, 2010



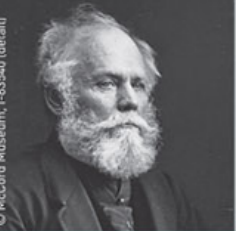
**SIMON MCTAVISH**  
Born: ~ 1750, Stratherrick, Scotland  
Arrival in Montréal: 1776  
Deceased: 1804  
Buried on his property on the mountain

When Simon McTavish arrived in Montréal from the United States, he was already a major player in the fur trade. An ambitious merchant, he was one of the first associates of the North West Company and became the city's pre-eminent merchant in the late eighteenth century. This earned him the nickname "the Marquis". In 1803, he acquired a large property on the slopes of Mount Royal and began construction of an elegant home. But he

contracted a disease during the work and died in July 1804. Like many notables of his time, he is buried on his land. The house, left unfinished and rumoured to be haunted, was eventually demolished.

## HUGH ALLAN

Born: 1810, Seltcoats, Scotland  
Arrival in Montréal: 1826  
Deceased: 1882, Edinburgh, Scotland  
Buried in Mount Royal Cemetery



Born into a shipbuilding family, Hugh Allan emigrated to Montréal to represent his interests in Canada. The Montreal Ocean Steamship Company he launched as a part of the Allan Line transported immigrants from the British Isles. It also shipped manufactured goods and natural resources. Allan expanded his empire into a multitude of domains to become one of the most influential capitalists in Canada. In 1853, the "new Marquis" bought part of the estate of Simon McTavish in order to build the most impressive mansion in all of Montréal.

Ravenscrag seen from the McTavish Reservoir  
J.-M. Villanove • Collection Les amis de la montagne

## ROYAL VICTORIA HOSPITAL

The site chosen by the donors for the future hospital was in harmony with the hygienist trend of the time: seeking respite from the dense and polluted city to provide a healthy and pleasant environment for patients. The first building, inaugurated in 1894, was inspired by the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh and thus recalls the origins of its founders. Since its inception, the hospital has been affiliated with McGill University, whose campus is adjacent. Having relocated to a new hospital center, the hospital closed in 2015. The future vocation of the site remains under study and presents one of the challenges facing Mount Royal.

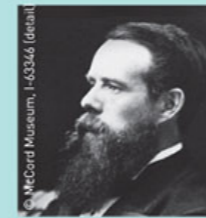
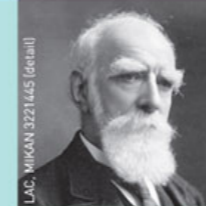
**DONALD ALEXANDER SMITH, 1<sup>ST</sup> BARON STRATHCONA AND MOUNT ROYAL**

Born: 1820, Fortes, Scotland  
Arrival in Lower Canada: 1838  
Deceased: 1914, London, England

**GEORGE STEPHEN, 1<sup>ST</sup> BARON MOUNT STEPHEN**

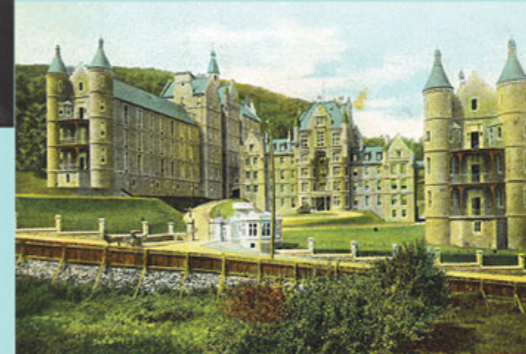
Born: 1829, Dufftown, Scotland  
Arrival in Montréal: 1850  
Deceased: 1921, Welwyn, England

Donald Alexander Smith and George Stephen were two cousins of Scottish origin. Wealthy businessmen, shareholders and on the boards of many companies, directors of the Bank of



Montréal and in close contact with political networks, they joined forces to ensure the lucrative development of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Both philanthropists, in 1887 they made a donation of one million dollars for the construction of a hospital that would provide free care to Montrealers.

Royal Victoria Hospital • Old postcard



This has been made possible with the support of the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal.  
standrews.qc.ca



Les amis de la montagne is a non-profit organization that protects, improves and promotes the sustainability of Montréal's Mount Royal through advocacy, community involvement, environmental education and stewardship.

lemontroyal.qc.ca

1642

Founding of Ville-Marie



© Francis Back

Reconstitution of Montréal in 1701  
Population: 1,075 inhabitants

### MONTRÉAL, NEW FRANCE

A few decades after the founding of Montréal, French settlers, along with their Algonquin allies, engaged in the fur trade, making this the main commercial activity of New France. The Great Peace of Montréal in 1701 allowed the city to become the strategic hub for the fur trade. The city prospered, neighbourhoods began to form beyond the fortifications and already some prominent Francophones began to acquire estates on the periphery of the mountain.

Cover image:  
*Snowshoeing Indian File, 1879.*  
Alexander Henderson © McCord Museum, MP.0000.261.3

1701

Signature of the Great Peace of Montréal

1763

Ceding of New France to Great Britain



James Peachey - LAC, MIKAN 2895302

A View of the City of Montréal in 1784  
Population: 4,250 inhabitants

### MONTRÉAL, CAPITAL OF THE FUR TRADE

After the Conquest of 1760, Francophones remained in the majority and their mores and customs prevailed for several decades. Immigration from the British Isles gradually increased and began to transform Montréal society. Scottish merchants convinced of the city's strategic potential settled there, such as Simon McTavish and James McGill, and assumed control of the fur trade. Having amassed great fortunes, they gravitated to the mountain and acquired large rural estates.

1817

Founding of the Bank of Montreal

1825

Inauguration of the Lachine Canal



William Notman & Son - McCord Museum, VIEW-2398

View of Montréal from Mount Royal, 1890  
Population: 250,000 inhabitants

### INDUSTRIAL AND FINANCIAL METROPOLIS

In 1815, a wave of immigration from the British Isles began that gradually consolidated the Scottish community. After the fur barons, other Scots built new empires. The economy prospered, artisanal production diversified and industrial production increased. The development of maritime and rail transport allowed new business activities to develop. Montréal's became Canada's metropolis. From the 1850s, Montreal's upper middle class settled in their own community on the southern flank of the mountain, forming the prestigious Golden Square Mile district. Urbanization weighed on the quality of life of Montrealers, leading to the creation of large urban parks, including Mount Royal in 1876.

1876

Inauguration of Mount Royal Park

1900

Heyday of the Golden Square Mile



Anonymus - McCord Museum, MP. 1978.180

Montreal from Mount Royal, 1961  
Population: 1.2 million inhabitants

### MONTRÉAL, MODERN CITY

In the early 20th century as skyscrapers rose, Montréal enjoyed its glory years. In the 1930s, the decline of the Golden Square Mile began as the city centre encroached, with the well-heeled preferring to invest elsewhere. The war effort fuelled industrial production, and then followed the baby boom, the rural exodus and European immigration, all infusing the city with fresh energy. But despite its burgeoning growth, at the turn of the 1960s, Montréal lost its status as Canada's major metropolis to Toronto's benefit. The mountain's environs continue to attract residents, and major medical and educational institutions pursue their development.

1962

Inauguration of Place Ville Marie

1967

Expo



Oliver Ferguson-Taylor

View of Montréal from Mount Royal, 2018  
Population: 1.7 million inhabitants

### MONTRÉAL, CULTURAL METROPOLIS

With the Quiet Revolution, French-speaking Québec caught its stride and the city underwent a great cultural effervescence. Hosting Expo 67 and the 1976 Olympic Games, Montréal welcomed the world. International immigration continued apace, further strengthening the city's cosmopolitan character. Although today the Scottish presence appears less prevalent in society, their cultural heritage has left its imprint on the city, contributing to the wealth that is the Mount Royal heritage site.

### SPORTS, SCOTS AND THE MOUNTAIN

During the second half of the nineteenth century, leisure activities gained popularity in well-to-do circles, and sports were of significant social import for Scots. Mount Royal was one of Montréal's favourite playgrounds. In 1840, local Scots founded the Montreal Snowshoe Club, the city's first snowshoe club, which crisscrossed the slopes of the mountain. In the

summer, golf rallied the community together. The first six holes in North America were inaugurated on the eastern slope of the mountain in 1873 by the Royal Montreal Golf Club. This sporting tradition prevails with the holding of the Montreal Highland Games, which have helped celebrate Scottish culture for the past 40 years.

Royal Montreal Golf Club  
Notman & Sandham, 1882 © McCord Museum, VIEW-18906



Redpath Library

### SCOTTISH SOCIETIES AND GROUPS

At the end of the 18th century, McTavish, McGill and the other fur barons would convene at the Beaver Club. This club organized grand banquets where members related their adventures traversing the country in the fur trade and talked business. With increased immigration from the British Isles, other organizations were formed, such as the Saint Andrew's Society, founded in 1835. Their mission

was to celebrate and strengthen the Scottish nation. To this day, these societies promote the expansion and preservation of Scottish art and culture.



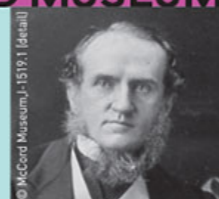
Highland Games 2017  
Michael Nemes  
© St. Andrew's Society

## THE NOTMAN ARCHIVES AT MCCORD MUSEUM

The McCord Museum houses the Notman photographic archives, a major collection of over 450,000 negatives from the Notman Studio founded in Montréal in 1856 by William Notman and managed by his sons until 1935 under the Wm. Notman & Son banner. This exceptional collection immortalizes Canadian landscapes, but above all, Montréal and its inhabitants. Among these treasures are unique photos of the mountain in the 19th century, including those of the famous Montreal Snowshoe Club. To explore the Notman Archives: [musee-mccord.qc.ca/en](http://musee-mccord.qc.ca/en)

### WILLIAM NOTMAN

Born: 1826, Paisley, Scotland  
Arrival in Montréal: 1856  
Deceased: 1891, Montréal  
Buried in Mount Royal Cemetery



William Notman settled in Montréal after the bankruptcy of the family firm in Glasgow and ensuing legal difficulties, opting to flee the depression afflicting Scotland. An amateur photographer, he set up a studio and landed his first contracts, in particular documenting construction of the Victoria Bridge. A pioneer and visionary in the advancement of the photographic art, he became famous for his portraits and photo montages. An active participant in the artistic milieu, he gained international renown.



Old postcard after a William Notman photograph  
*Tandem Drive on Mountain, 1889*  
© McCord Museum, VIEW-2404

## MCGILL UNIVERSITY

The first classes at McGill College were given in 1829 at the former country house of James McGill. True to his final wishes, the mountain thus began its vocation as a place of education. In 1843, this house was replaced by a larger building, the Arts Building. The campus grew and in 1870 the university gradually began to open its doors to women. Donald Alexander Smith, 1st Baron Strathcona and Mount Royal, provided the necessary funds to construct a building to house them. Inaugurated in 1900, this was signed by Percy Erskine Nobbs, a Scottish architect teaching at the McGill School of Architecture. He also designed several other notable buildings on the campus, including the Redpath Library and the Macdonald Engineering Building.

### JAMES MCGILL

Born: 1744, Glasgow, Scotland  
Arrival in Montréal: ~ 1766  
Deceased: 1813, Montréal  
Buried on the grounds of McGill University



James McGill immigrated to Canada as a teenager. He started out in the fur trade and became one of the famous "fur barons". A major shareholder of the North West Company, McGill was also active in Montréal public life and invested heartily in improving education. Upon his death, he willed his Burnside estate and farm on the slopes of Mount Royal along with a generous sum to found the city's first university.

To explore the McGill campus: [maps.mcgill.ca](http://maps.mcgill.ca)

## REDPATH MUSEUM

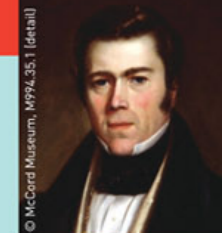
Peter Redpath, son of John Redpath, financed the construction of a museum to house the natural history collections of Sir William Dawson, principal of McGill University. Inaugurated in 1882, this is the country's first building constructed with a museum vocation. The imposing grey limestone building is a prime example of the Greek Revival style. The museum currently houses palaeontology, zoology, mineralogy and ethnology collections.



Redpath Museum Interior

### JOHN REDPATH

Born: 1796, Earlston, Scotland  
Arrival in Montréal: 1816  
Deceased: 1869, Montréal  
Buried in Mount Royal Cemetery



Trained as a mason in Scotland, John Redpath arrived in Montréal at the age of 20 and quickly gained a solid reputation as a construction contractor. Upon becoming a successful businessman, he played an active role in finance, insurance and shipping and was involved in politics. In 1854, by then controlling a great fortune, he founded Canada's first sugar refinery. He acquired a large estate on Mount Royal and built a sumptuous residence known as Terrace Bank.