

Exhibit P-133

Sacred but Forgotten: *Prehistoric Burials on the Island of Montreal*

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TAPHOPHILIA

- Fascination with graves and cemeteries.
- Many people don't *like* cemeteries (creepy, sad...)



- Cemeteries can be more interesting and telling than museums. They allow “time travel”.
- People and entire community histories have been significantly memorialized in graveyards.



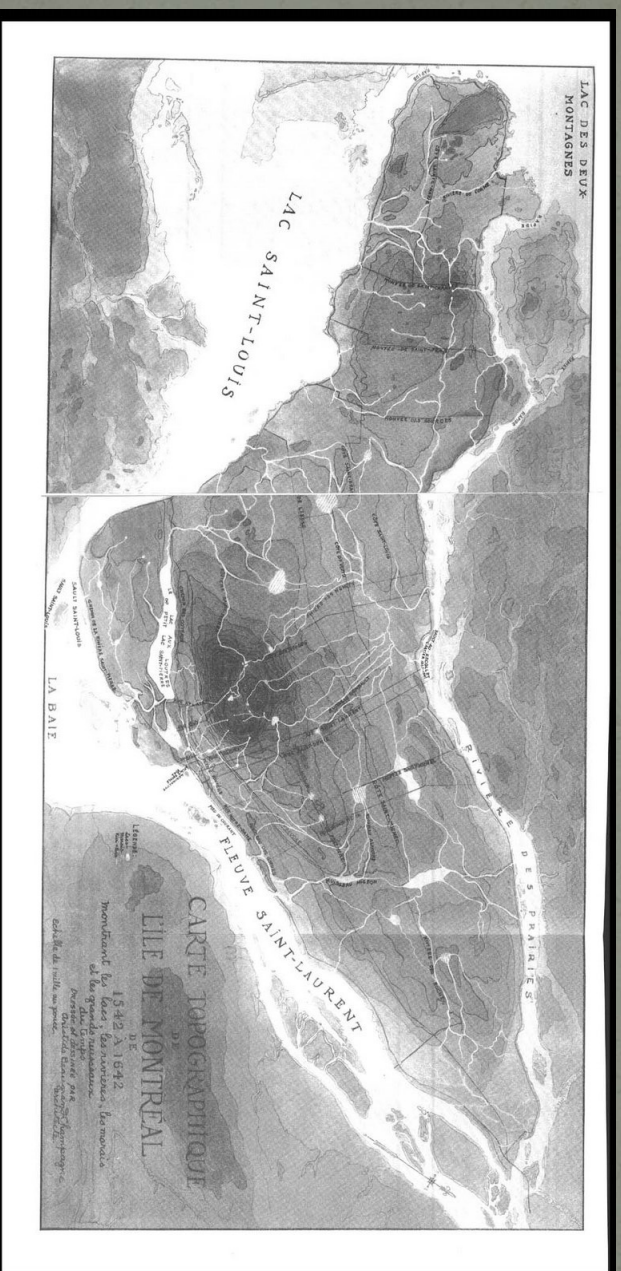
- We can learn a lot about those who are buried and their culture or society. We can see much fascinating architecture, sculpture and art.
- There are stories everywhere you look; family histories, memorials, and precious memories.



- What about burials that have been forgotten?
- I will document the known locations of prehistoric burials found so far on the Island of Montreal.
- These are of Native ancestry and are quite rare.
- Many similar sites have been destroyed due to development and urbanization. Yet, I have no doubt similar burials may still be found in the few areas that have not been disturbed.

Montreal Archeology

- This map shows the many streams and rivers that once flowed in Montreal, before the arrival of Europeans.



- Many current streets (Arlington in Westmount, as well as Côte-des-Neiges) are located on the site of old Indian trails, and follow their routes.
- Many ancient lakes and streams have dried up – others still run their course (Glen stream), while others have been channeled through underground pipes.

- Underneath Vanier College, a set of large pipes were constructed to allow the Raimbault stream to pursue its natural course. This stream started at the corner of Ste-Croix and the Metropolitan, and reached out to O'Brien and du Ruisseau street, north of Poirier and beyond.



1) Dawson Site

- There are hundreds of archeological sites in Montreal.



- The first ever site be found is the Dawson Site: located between Sherbrooke, de Maisonneuve, Mansfield and Metcalfe.

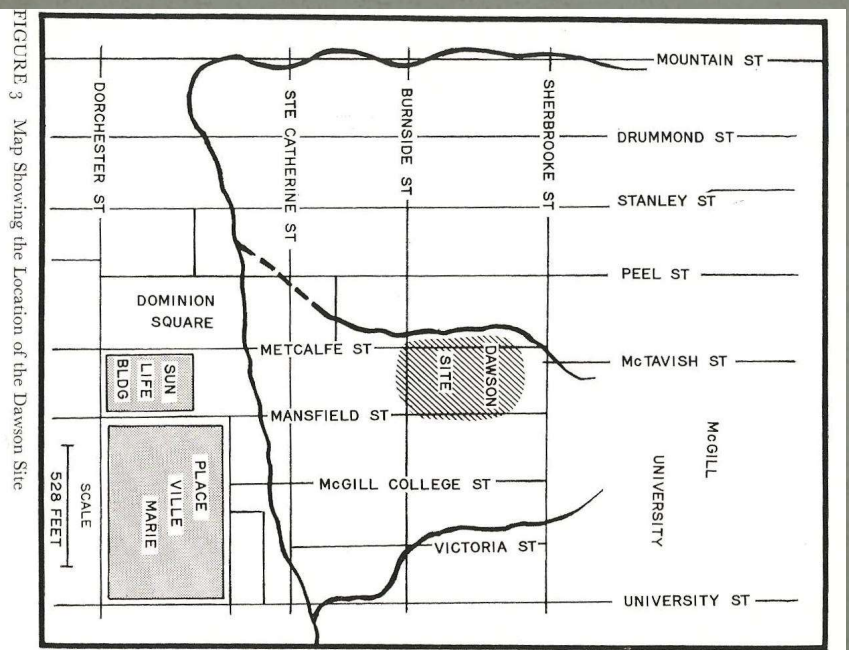
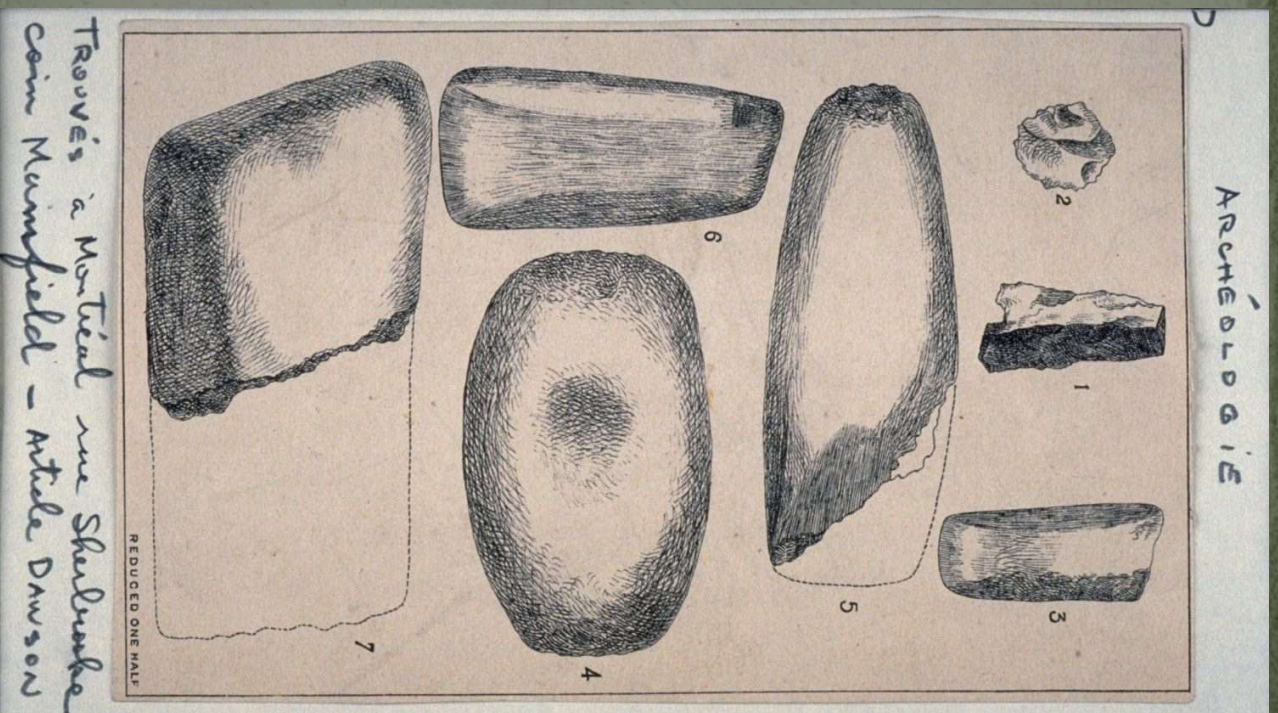


FIGURE 3 Map Showing the Location of the Dawson Site

- It was discovered accidentally in 1860.
- Sir John William Dawson, the director of McGill, organized one of the first archeological digs in Canada.



- The digs led to the discovery of thousands of Iroquoian artefacts, including polished-stone axes.
- The workers also found hundreds of fireplaces, small animal bones, bone tools, corn, beans, and tobacco.



- Also discovered were hundreds of pieces of broken pottery and clay pipes

de cercles imprimés dans l'argile et d'impressions faites avec l'extrémité du doigt. L'ouverture et le col sont ornés de lignes et de figures en creux; les dessins sont variés et souvent pleins de goût; quelques-uns sont représentés avec leurs dimensions réduites de moitié, figures 5 à 10. La matière employée est l'argile mêlée au sable, souvent bien polie et bien finie, mais sans aucun vernis. Quelques pièces sont bien cuites et la plupart des morceaux sont

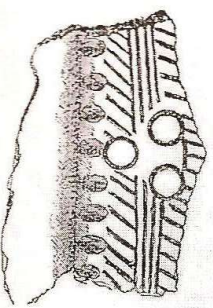


Fig. 5.

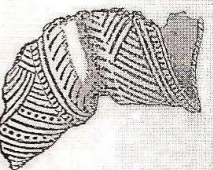


Fig. 6.

noircis par un long usage, tandis que d'autres semblent entièrement neufs comme s'ils n'avaient point servi du moins aux usages de la cuisine.

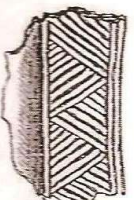


Fig. 7.



Fig. 8.

6. *Pipes*.—On en trouve beaucoup de morceaux; elles sont toutes d'une argile bien cuite et souvent de belle qualité. Les dimensions sont variées et quelques-uns de très élégants; un des plus

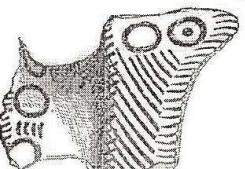


Fig. 9.



Fig. 10.

8. *Objet en os*.—Le plus intéressant de ces objets est un poinçon conique bien fait, dont la pointe la plus large, forme une ornamens circulaire; il servait évidemment à imprimer les ornemens sur les poteries avec lesquelles il a été trouvé, car l'estampe s'adapte dans les cercles de quelques-uns de ces vases, et la pointe est bien

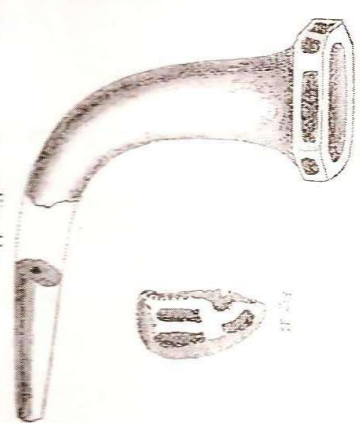
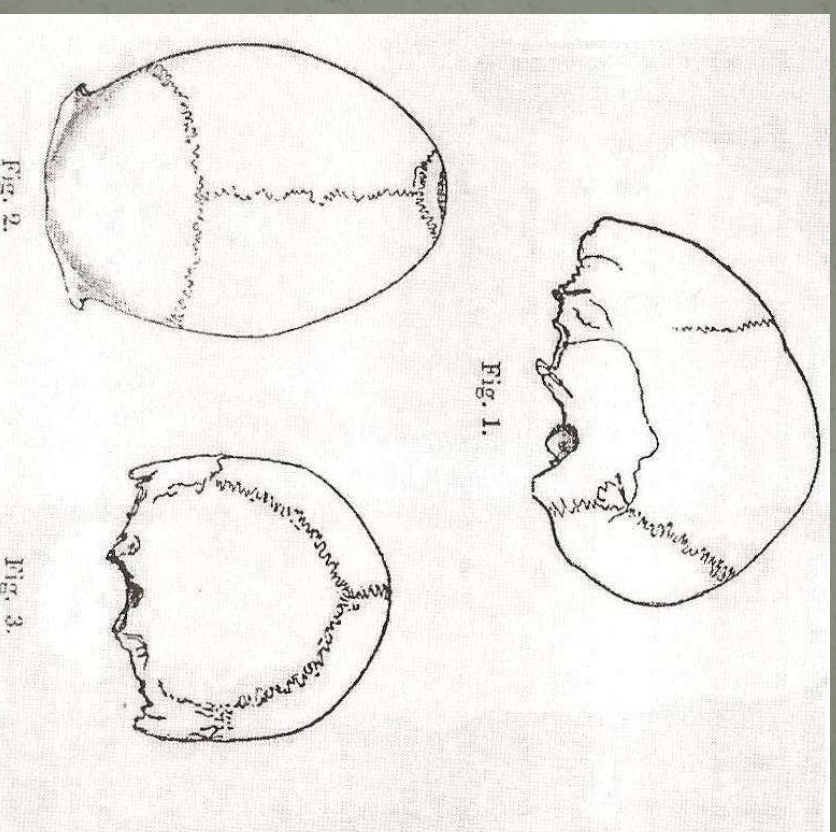


Fig. 11.



- The Dawson Site also includes many burials (found mostly on the corner of Sherbrooke and Metcalfe).
- The remains of at least 20 individuals were found.
- Dawson speculated that several hundred people were buried there.





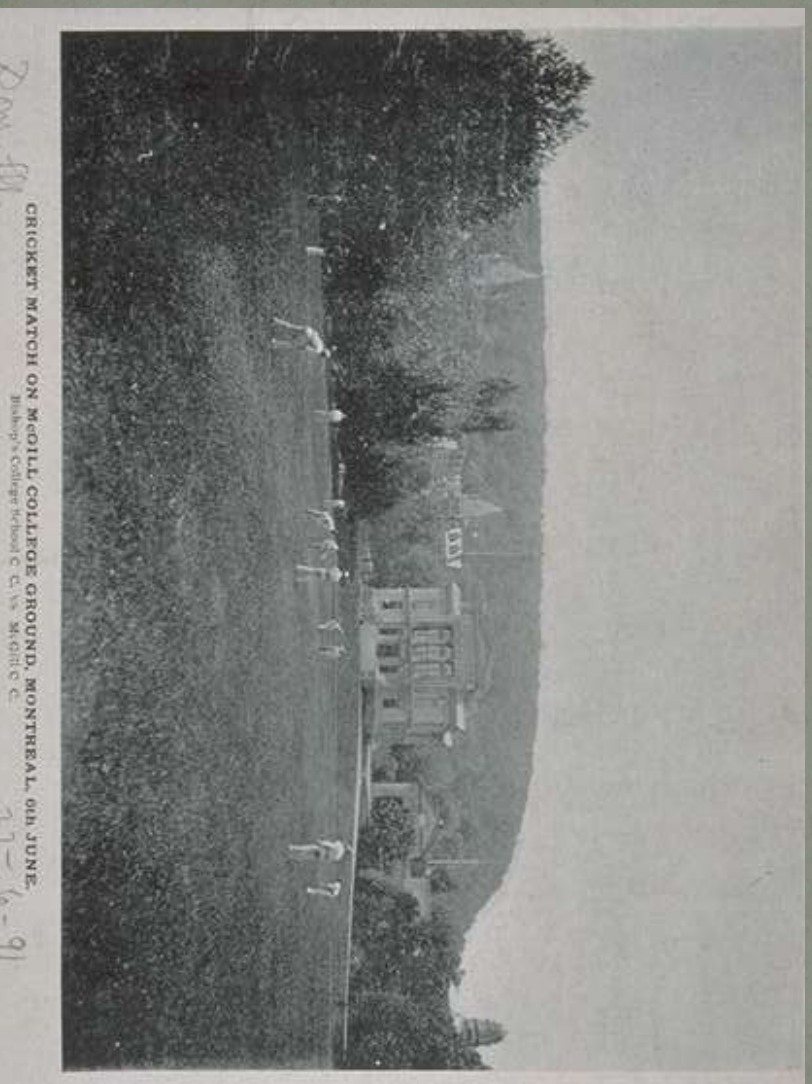
- A view of Montreal from the Mount Royal, 1852.

Several people who lived in the area in the 1850s remembered that when they were young, they would frequently recover human bones and pottery by simply exploring the surface of the soil .

- The Dawson Site was located between Sherbrooke, de Maisonneuve, Mansfield and Metcalfe.
- This is the corner of Sherbrooke and Metcalfe, where 20 skeletons were found in 1860.



- The McGill campus in 1891, 31 years after the discovery of the Dawson Site.



- The Dawson Site is an Iroquoian village that dates back to the 1500s. Some believe it is the village of Hochelaga, which was visited by Jacques Cartier in 1535, but this is unlikely.

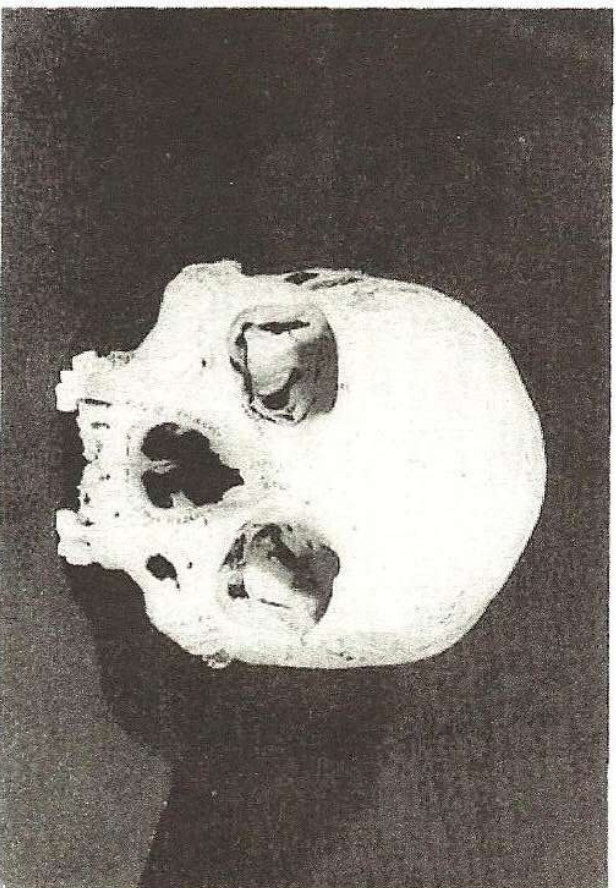


Musée de la civilisation, 2010

- This plaque on the McGill campus states that the Dawson site was the village of Hochelaga that was visited by Jacques Cartier in 1535, before climbing up (and naming) the Mount Royal.

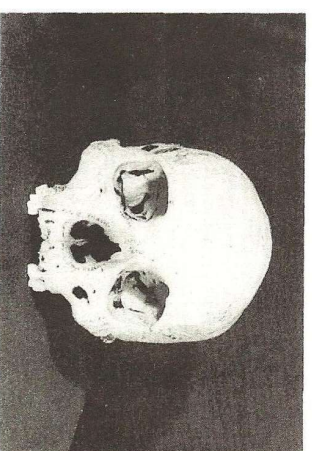


2) The 1850 Skull



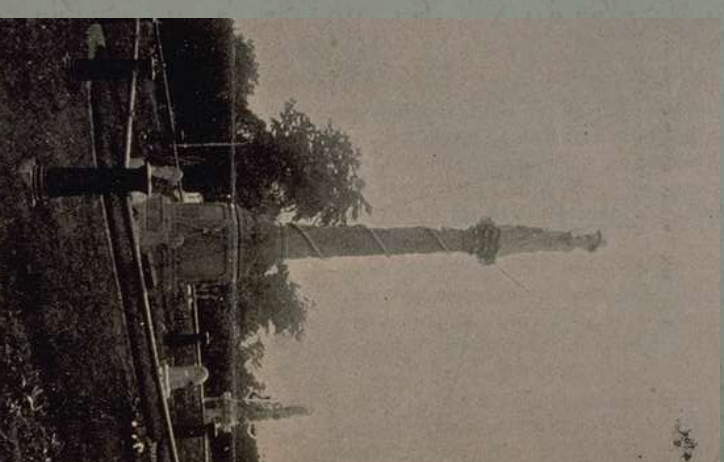
Le crâne du Château Ramezay trouvé à l'emplacement du cimetière du Mont-Royal vers 1850 et offert par G. B. Day en juillet 1899.

- This skull was found in 1850 in what is now Mount-Royal Cemetery.
- The skull was found before this area was transformed into a graveyard.
- The skull seems to have a bullet hole on the front. Its exact age remains unknown.



Le crâne du Château Ramezay trouvé à l'emplacement du cimetière du Mont-Royal vers 1850 et offert par G. B. Day en juillet 1899.

- The 1850 skull was found in an area that would eventually become a section of the Mount-Royal cemetery dedicated to fallen fire-fighters.
- Today, the skull, which belonged to a male, is hidden in the collection of the Château Ramezay.



The Westmount Burials

- Between 1890 and 1920, the lower and higher summits of Mount Royal saw the construction of large homes.
- As new homes and streets took shape, 21 Indian prehistoric graves were discovered by gardeners and residents, and studied by William Lighthall.



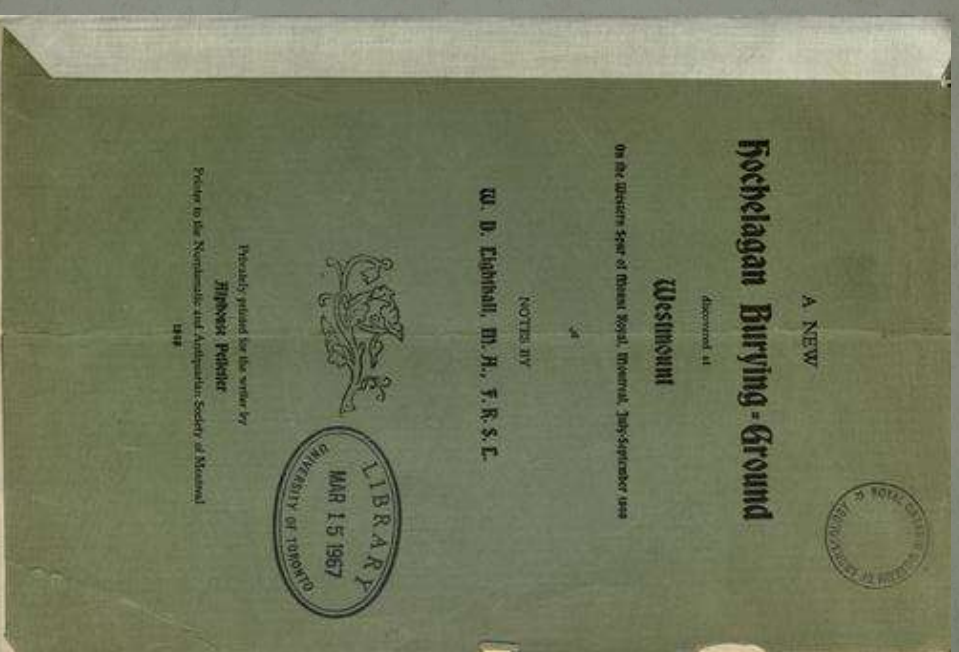
Mr. W.D. LIGHTHALL, c.r., de Montréal, étiquet comme président de l'Association, à la convention tenue récemment à Halifax. M. Lighthall succède au Dr. Charles-G.-D. Roberts. — (Photo Canadian Newspaper Service.)

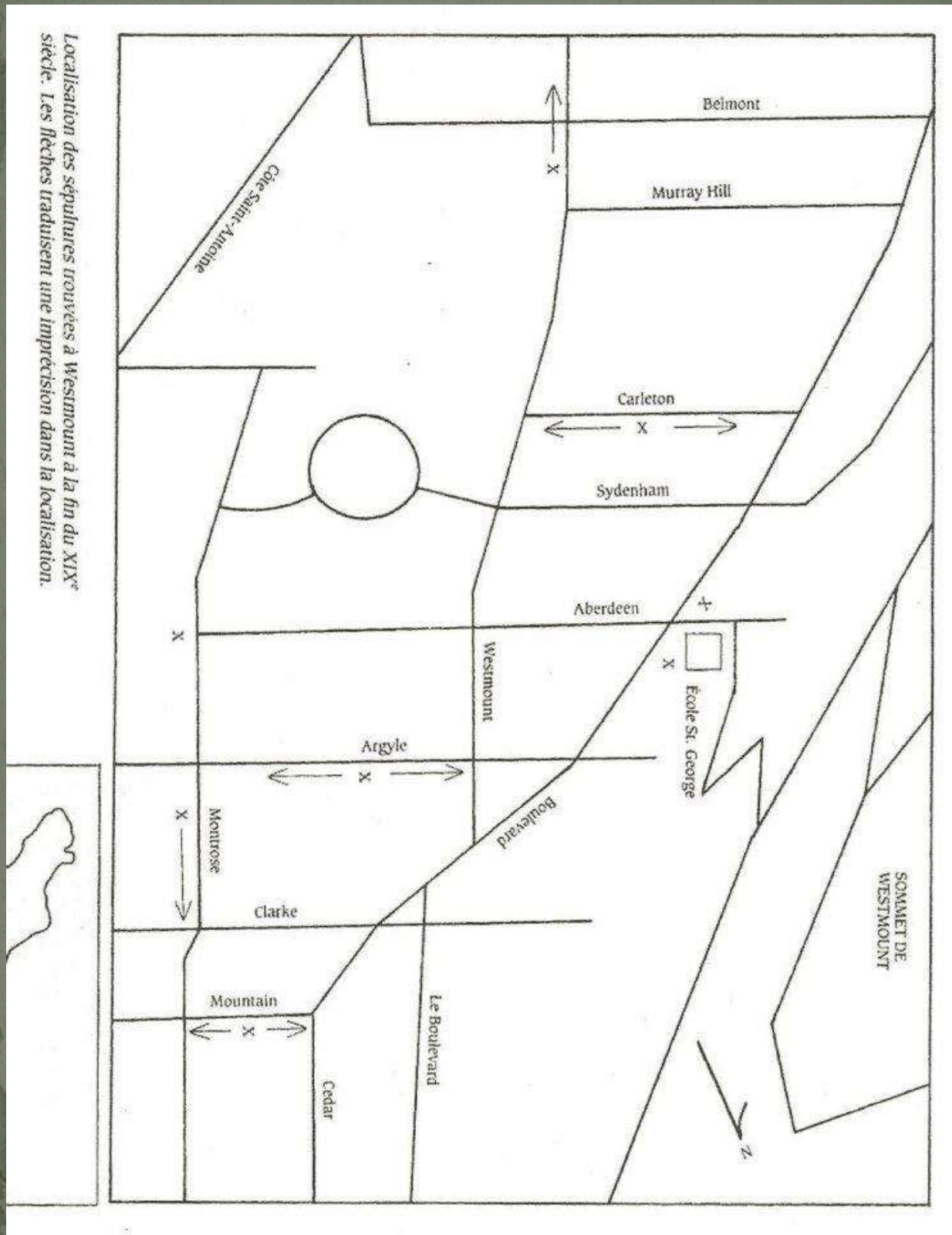
Ville de Montréal. Gestion de documents et archives

- The skeletons of Westmount were all found resting on their sides. These are not Christian graves and thus date back to prior to the arrival of Europeans.
- Some were found with animal bones and only one was found with an artefact (a wampum bead), which was stolen a few years later and never found again.



- Of the 21 burials, the remains of only 7 (1 complete skeleton and 6 skulls) can be found in museums today.
- The Westmount graves date back to 1000 - 1534 AD. It is unclear if the people were Algonquian hunter / gatherers or Iroquoian villagers.





- MOUNTAIN STREET, between Cedar and Montrose –
1 burial was found here in 1875



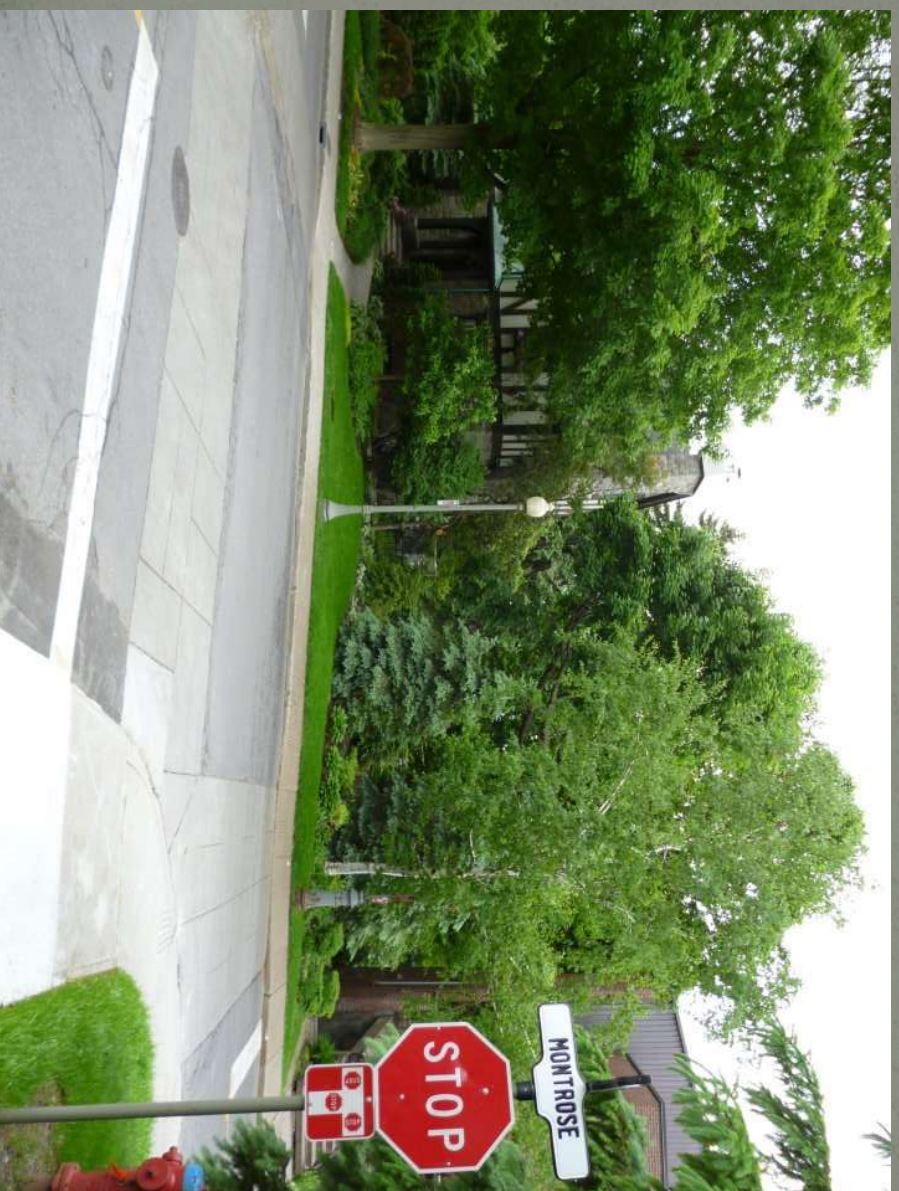
- Three burials were found on Argyle street (between Westmount and Montrose), all before 1898



- *“A number of years ago a skeleton was discovered, near the surface, on the cutting of Argyle Avenue on about a westerly line from the residence of Mr. Earle. As the remains were rumored to be possibly Indian, Mr. Earle secured the skull, which had been used as a football by boys, some of the teeth, which had originally been complete in number, being thus lost. (...) Roots of grass interlaced in it show the lightness of the covering.”*



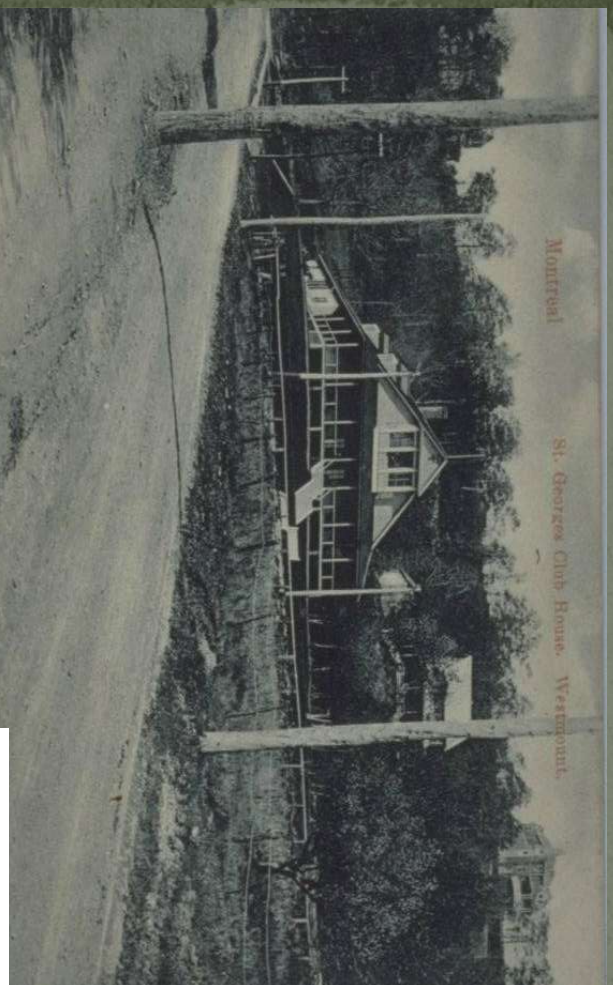
- One burial was found on the corner of Montrose and Aberdeen prior to 1898.



- *“On another occasion many years ago, a skeleton was found, also lightly buried, and with the knees drawn up, just east of the residence of Mr. John Macfarlane on Montrose Avenue, during the digging of a flower-bed. It was over six feet long. After being exposed for a few days it was re-interred in the same spot by order of Mr. Macfarlane, and could doubtless be obtained for examination if desirable.”*



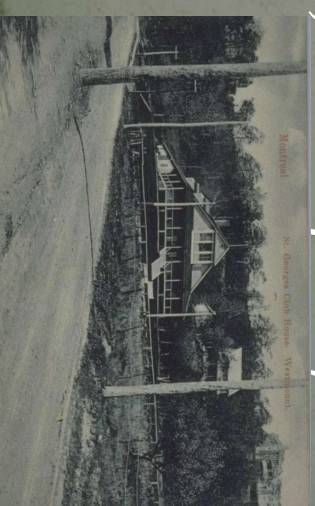
- In the 1890s, and especially in 1898, the remains of 6 to 8 individuals (there is some confusion in the original reports) were found on the property of the St George Snowshoe Club and its surroundings.
- The site of the old Snowshoe Club is where we find the St George private school today, on the corner of The Boulevard and Aberdeen



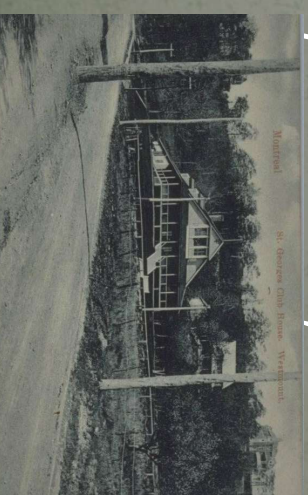
“On the 22nd of July last (1898) a gardener excavating in the St. George’s Club-house grounds interred three skeletons interred at a depth of from two to two and a half feet and with knees drawn up.” - Lighthall



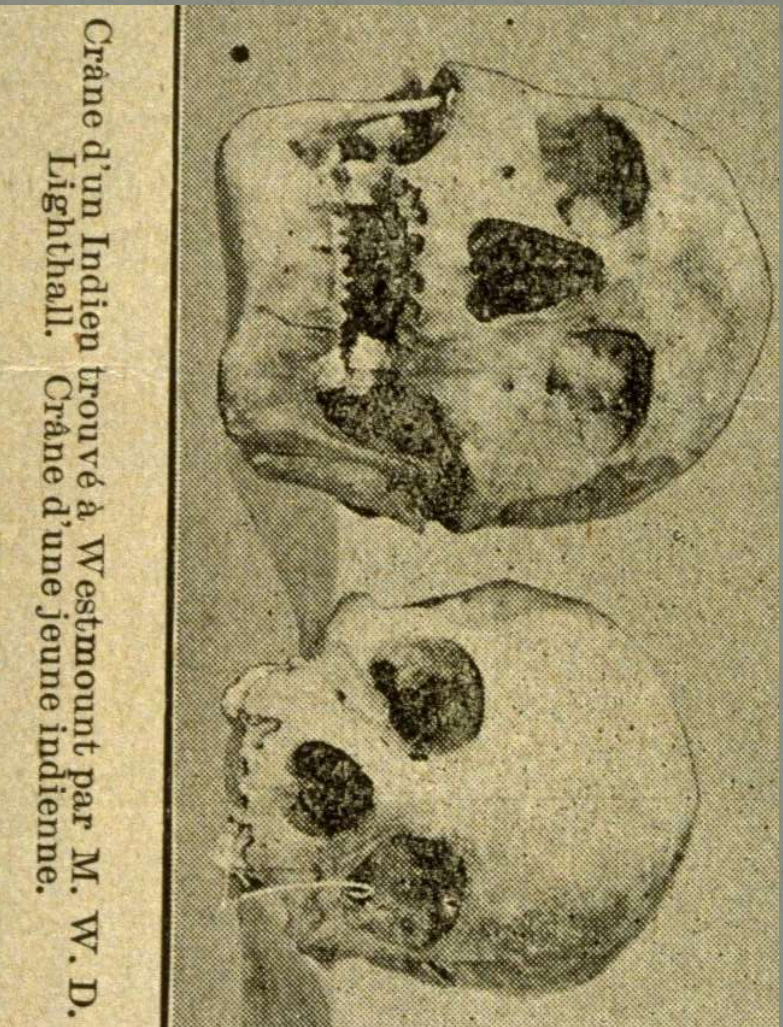
- *“On Saturday the 10th September, 1898, I went with two laborers granted by the Town of Westmount to the excavation on the club house grounds, and choosing a spot on its edge cut a short trench some two feet deep. About ten feet southward of the three skeletons previously found, this trench revealed two large stones placed in the form of a reversed V, clearly in order, as it afterwards appeared, to partly cover a body. On raising these, a skeleton was found of a tall young man laid on the hard-pan, on his right side, with face down, head towards the west, knees drawn up, and covered with the mealy dry whitish earth of the locality, to a depth of about two and a half feet.” - Lighthall*



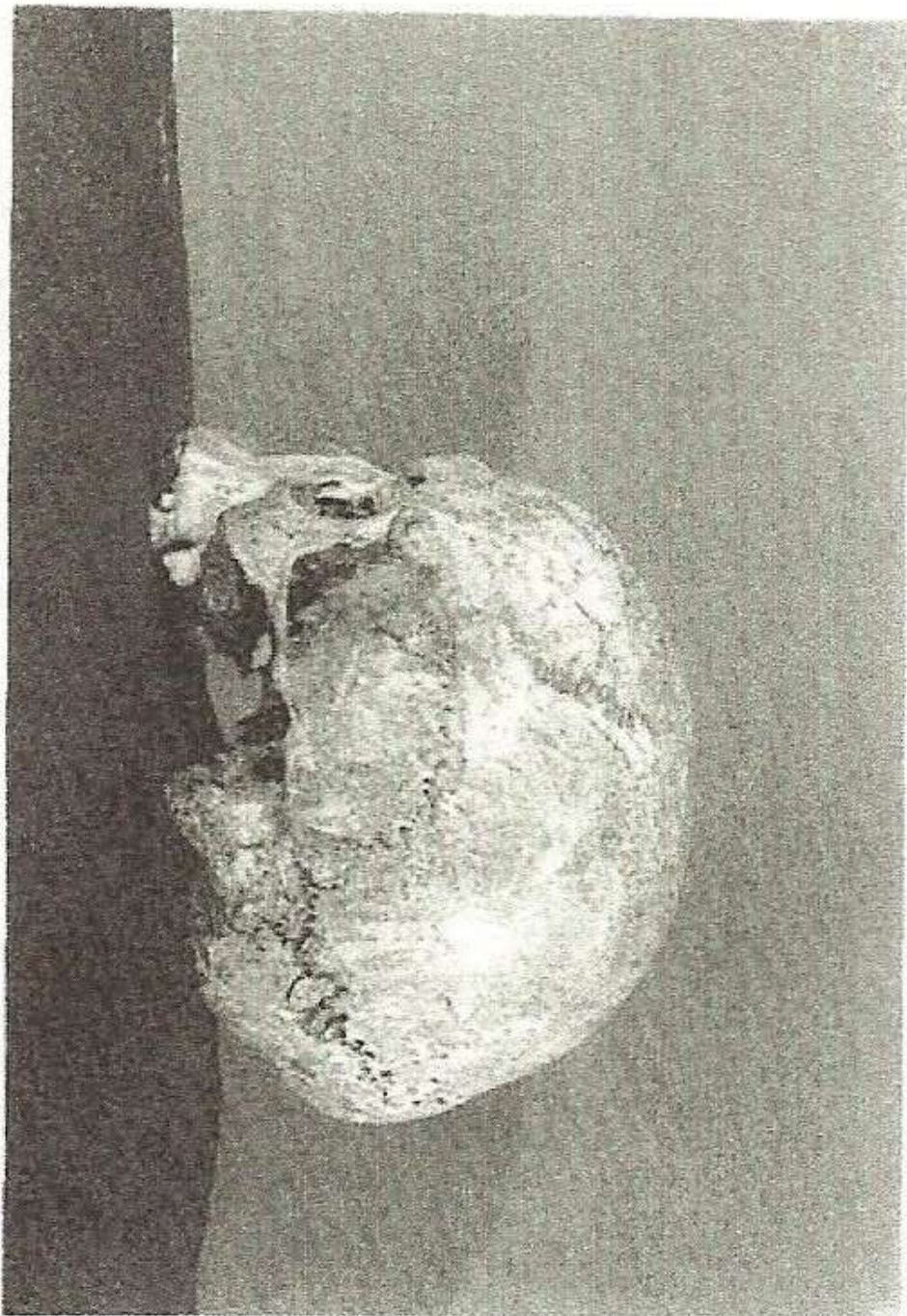
- “On the 17th of September, the excavations were continued (...). About four or five feet north of the grave last-mentioned, large stones were again struck and on being lifted, the skeleton of a young girl was unearthed whose wisdom teeth had just begun to appear in the jaw. The large bone of her upper left arm had at one time been broken near the shoulder. Her slender skeleton was in the same crouching position as the others but much more closely bunched together; the top of the head was laid towards the north and looking partly downwards. Above her were found several flat stones which may have been used as scoops for the excavation. Under her neck was discovered the first manufactured object found, a single rude bead of white wampum of the prehistoric form.” - Lighthall



- Skulls found in September 1898



Crâne d'un Indien trouvé à Westmount par M. W. D. Lighthall. Crâne d'une jeune indienne.



*Le crâne du Musée McCord trouvé par Lighthall à Westmount, près
du St. George's Snowshoe Club.*

- Two burials were found on Carlton street in 1899, on the Raynes property



- Two burials were found on the corner of Aberdeen and The Boulevard in 1899.



- *“At a later period, the gardener, Mr. Latter, who had found the Macfarlane skeleton, dug up and re-interred another just within the bounds of his own property adjoining the head of Aberdeen Avenue opposite the St. George’s Snowshoe Club-house.” - Lighthall*



- One burial was found on Montrose, east of Argyle, in October 1901.



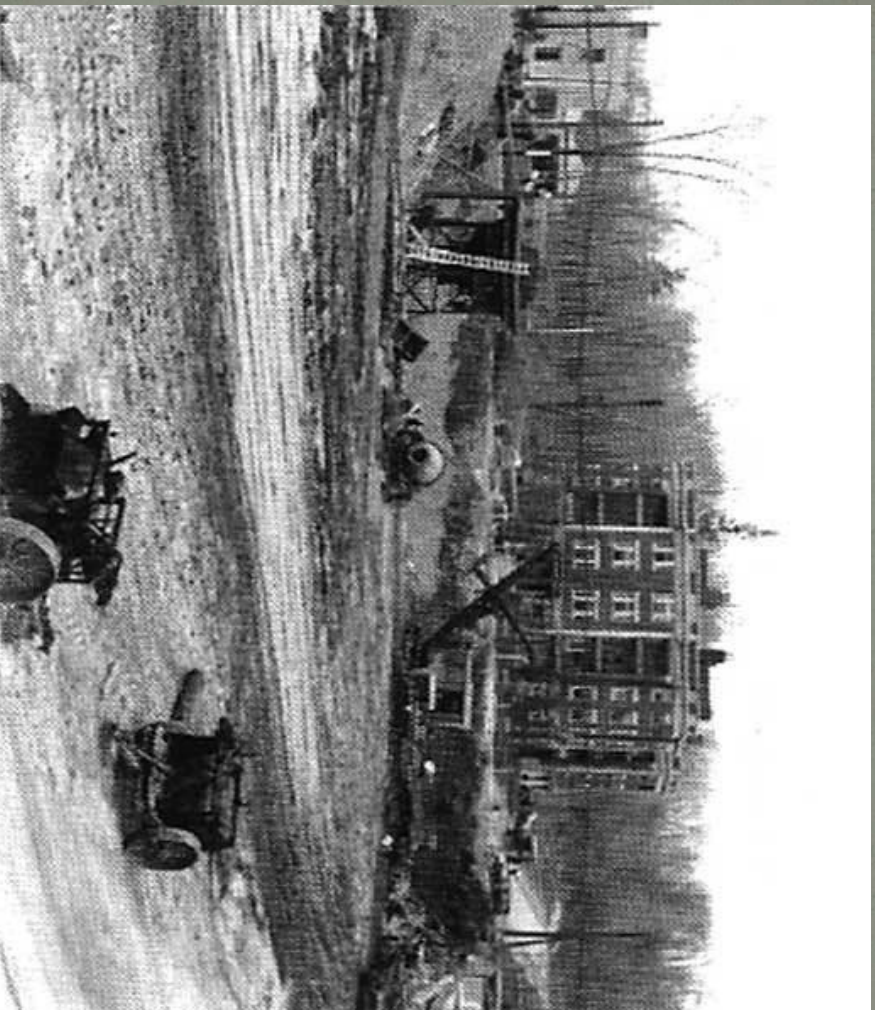
- One burial were found on Westmount, to the West of Murray, in October 1901



- Four skulls were found near the Côte-des-Neiges water reservoir. There is some confusion as to WHEN they were found. Some sources mention the year 1916 and others say 1924.



- The picture shows the construction of the Côte-des-Neiges municipal water reservoir. A total of four skulls were discovered in this area by William Lighthall



- The four Côte-des-Neiges reservoir skulls were discovered in a cave along the cliff to the west of the municipal facility: 3 adult males and one 12 to 15 year-old female.



Outremont

- Another pioneer in Quebec archeology was Aristide Beaugrand-Champagne.
- He was trained as an architect: he is the designer of the Mount-Royal chalet.



- In the 1920s, he discovered 20 prehistoric burials along Côte-Sainte-Catherine, just before reaching Boulevard Mont-Royal



- Also in the 1920s, an additional 20 Indian burials were found on the corner of Van Horne and Pratt. Today, the burial ground is located near and around Pratt Parc, in Outremont.



Rosemont

- In 1996, the owner of a house at 5653 7ième Avenue found skeletal remains as he was digging in his basement.
- After an initial dig by the SQ, which would reveal 2 ancient beads, and a lab analysis by the famous forensic anthropologist Kathy Reichs, investigators realized that the burial dated back to ancient times, way before the construction of the house (early 1900s).

- Bifj-98



- The young woman (20-35 y/o) was resting on her side, and had been buried there in the 1500s.
- An archeological dig was organized; the research team discovered 21 pieces of pottery, a pipe fragment and other remains of Iroquoian culture.



- The young woman showed several malformations. Due to a possible birth defect, combined with irregular sitting posture throughout her life, as well as other issues in her spine, her femurs were problematic: basically, her left leg faced the exterior of her body and her right leg faced inwards, which made walking generally difficult.

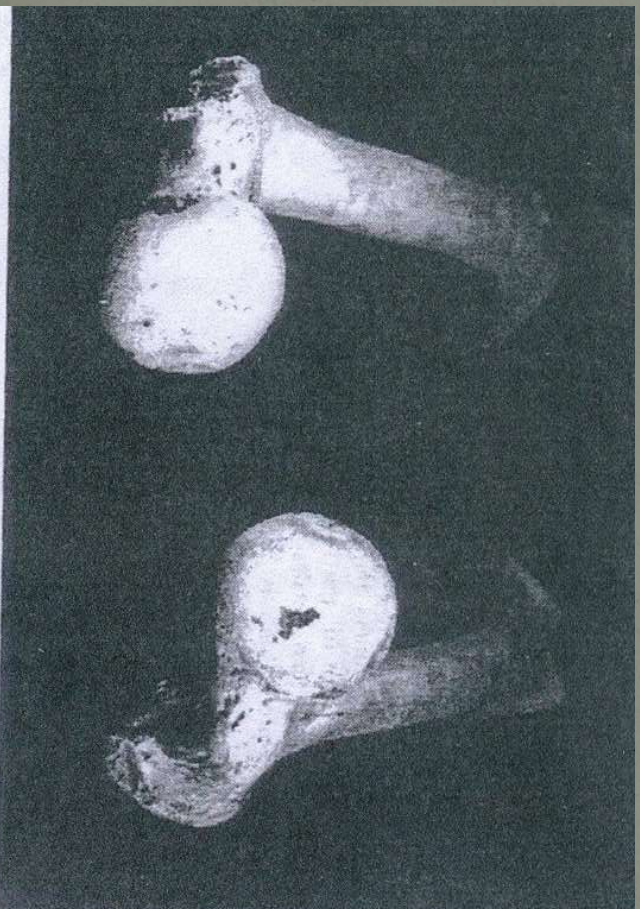


Figure 1. Les deux fémurs en vue caudale, montrant la différence dans l'angle de déclinaison de leur col. Le fémur gauche est à gauche sur la photo. (Robert Larocque)

SOURCES

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