The Irish Catholic Churches in Montreal

From about 1815 to the 1960's

Years in bracket indicate the year a church was organized as an Irish parish.

I have only listed parishes in which the Irish presence was appreciable or parishes which were actually inaugurated by members of the Irish communities.

Compiled and researched: by: Jacques Gagné Last updated August, 2012

Montréal

There were some Irish in Montréal as early as the seventeenth century. unfortunately they were absorbed into the local French population. However, as was the case in Québec City, the Irish did not begin to settle in any large numbers until after 1815. Prior to the establishment of **St**-**Patrick** in 1847 and **St-Ann** in 1854, the churches of the Irish in Montréal were Notre Dame de Bon Secours, the Church of the Récollet Fathers and Notre Dame Basilica – The early Irish settlers of Montréal resided in Old Montréal plus the surrounding districts such as East, Centre, West Wards. At a later time period, the Irish would move westward, eastward and northward into Saint Ann's, Saint Mary's, Saint Antoine's, Saint James, Saint Lawrence's, Saint Louis Wards. The Irish were the primary résidents in districts such as Griffintown, Point-St-**Charles**, **St. Henry**, **Verdun**, **Ville Émard** districts. About the same time, others would move eastward into the **Rosemount**, **Hochelaga** districts. Finally in the early 1900's, the Irish would join the British, Scottish Catholics into regions which previously were the domains of the Protestants and the French, Furthermore, the Irish Catholics were not afraid to take residence where work was available or in many cases, many of the early Irish settlers became farmers and would settle in regions across Québec which were previously inhabited by the French, the Scots and the British, and many of these rural Irish families would eventually inter-marry with the latter groups and thus create a new Québec, a legacy which will forever be part of the folklore of this Province. Please note the years in bracket reflect the year I was able to ascertain as being the beginning of the Irish / Scottish / British presence in various Catholic Churches across the Province, a conclusion

- reached by referring, over a number of years to the more than 3,000 books at the Archives nationales du Québec dealing with marriages.
- Old Montreal Vieux Montréal Notre Dame Basilica (1815) First erected in 1642. From about 1815, the Irish would join the congregation, and for a 25 year period prior to the opening of Saint Patrick in 1846 and Saint Ann's in 1848, the Irish parishioners at Notre Dame outnumbered the French at this House of Worship From about 1825 and through the next 27 years, Father Patrick Phelan would minister to the Irish community BAnQ under Église Notre-Dame (1815-1942) / Ancestry.ca (1815-1942) Church photo, see; Les églises de mon

quartier - www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/504.html

Old Montreal - Vieux Montréal - Notre Dame de Bon
Secours - Bonsecours Church (1817) – Father Richard Jackson, an Irish priest, presiding in 1817. Church services were held in this ancient church, also referred to as Bonsecours Church for about 100 Irish families as early as 1817 - Rev. P. O'Connell, presiding in 1846 – First erected in 1658, the church was also known as Bonsecours Church – The church is located to this day on St. Paul street, opposite Bonsecours street in Old Montreal - BAnQ under Église Notre-Dame (1817-1942) / Ancestry.ca (1817-1942) Church photo, see; Les églises de mon

quartier www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/505a.html

- Old Montreal Vieux Montréal Church of the Récollets (1824) First erected in 1692, this church would welcome it's first Irish emigrants in 1824 From 1830 to 1847, the church was predominantly the Church of the Irish. In 1846, Saint Patrick would open its doors. In 1854, the Récollets Church lost other parishioners when Saint Ann was established in Griffintown. The church was located on the corner of St. Helen (Hèlene) street near Notre Dame in Old Montréal, it was demolished in 1867, although the interior décor including the church altar were preserved and moved to the church of Notre-Dame des Anges on Lagauchetière street. The latter building would later become the church of the Chinese community, it still exist to this day *BAnQ* under Église Notre-Dame (1824-1854) / *Ancestry.ca* (1824-1854) Church photo, see; http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fichier:Ancienne_eglise_des_Recollets_Montreal.jpg
- Downtown / Saint Antoine Ward Saint Patrick Basilica (1846) − So much has been written about this Irish House of God, another narrative would be superfluous to say the least *BAnQ* under Saint Patrick (1859-1941) under Église Notre-Dame (1846-1859) / *Ancestry.ca* (1859-1941 & 1846-1859) Church photo, see; *Les églises de mon*

quartier www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/698.html

- Depoint St. Charles Fever Sheds (1847) In 1847, the Emigrant Fever among the Irish immigrants had spread to Québec City and Montréal – In Montréal alone thousands of immigrants mostly Irish were affected by the dreaded typhus fever, thus affecting the general population – Up to 22 Fever Sheds were established in the Point St. Charles district in order to segregate the Irish immigrants from the rest of the citizens. One source places the deaths at 6000 – see also 1859 under Victoria Bridge / see also Grosse Isle, the latter following the Québec City church listing - **BAnQ** under Église Notre-Dame is most likely the best sources in order to identify some of the individuals who perished during this appalling period of Montreal's history -A book by **Sharon Doyle Driedger** entitled **An Irish Heart** does describe "The District of Death" as referred by many at the time - Another book by *Herbert Brown Ames*, published in 1897 does described the poverty and overcrowding of Griffintown - Another book by *Tim Slattery*, an historian who wrote a number of books about the Irish of Montreal, among them one entitled "The assasination of D'Arcy McGee" is an excellent source of the Irish people of Montreal. see also *McCord Museum* www.mccordmuseum.ca under: The Irish
- □ **Griffintown Saint Ann's** (1848) Rev. J. O'Farrell, Rev. M. O'Brien, Rev. James Hogan, presiding Established about 1848 as a Mission The church opened in 1854 This church was the soul and inspiration of the Irish Community Although, it has been closed and demolished for years, Saint Ann is still referred to in numerous writings about the Irish of South Central Montréal In 1884, a portion of the congregation of the Parish of Saint Ann were asked to join the ranks of Saint Gabriel. It appears that a fair number of Irish families agreed to the move In 1982, the parish of St Ann would close its doors. **BAnQ** under Saint Ann's (1873-1941) / **Ancestry.ca** (1873-1941) see also **McCord Museum www.mccord-museum.qc.ca**under: St. Anne's Ward
- □ Saint Lawrence Ward Church of the Gésu / Saint
 Mary (1852) Located at 144 Bleury street at Dorchester, the elaborate
 church was part of Collège Ste-Marie (St. Mary's College), and for many
 years the college would welcome members of the Irish community who
 resided uptown. Up to 5 daily masses were conducted in English at the
 church Baptisms, marriages, burials were not conducted at this prestigious
 church, they were conducted at *Notre Dame* Church photos. see: *McCord Museum* at www.mccord-museum.qc.ca under: Église Gésu see also; *Les*églises de mon quartier www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/gesu.html
- Québec Suburb / Saint James Ward Saint Peter's Church (1854) Rev. C. Leonard, Rev. T. Fitzhenry, presiding in 1854- Located at the corner of

Visitation and Dorchester streets in a district known then as Québec Suburb, a region near today's Jacques Cartier Bridge, the church was originally established about 1826 by the Oblats Fathers as the Parish of Saint-Pierre. The first parishioners were mostly French, but about the 1850's, the Irish outnumbered the original parishioners. Visitation street, was located from St. Mary street northward to the then City Boundary - Church registers under Notre-Dame - *BAnQ* (1900-1942) / *Ancestry.ca* (1900-1942) / Church photos, see; *McCord-Museum* www.mccord-museum.ca under access number MP-0000.851.3 / *Les églises de mon quartier* www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/706.html / *Originis* www.originis.ca/paroisse_montreal-saint-pierre-apotre.html

- N.D.G.- Notre Dame de Grâce (1856) The region of N.D.G. became in the late 1850's a primary destination of citizens with a higher level of education and income, among them a large number of Irish, Scottish, British Catholics BAnQ (1856-1941) / Ancestry.ca (1856-1941) Church photo, see; Les églises de mon quartier www.leseglisesdemonquartier .com/508. html
- □ Victoria Bridge (1859) The Irish Burying-Ground In 1859, when the approaches to the newly erected Victoria Bridge were being dug, hundreds of skeletons were turned-up by workers, most of whom were Irish. Upon learning that they originated from the fever sheds in Point St. Charles and were actually the bones of their countrymen, the Irish workers would assemble the remains into one location and would place a large round boulder as a monument to which a plaque was riveted which says in part: "To preserve from desecration the remains of 6000 immigrants who died of ship fever, A.D. 1847, this stone is erected by the workers employed in the construction of the Victoria Bridge, A.D. 1859" see also 1847 under Point St. Charles Fever Sheds see also Grosse Isle, following the Québec City church listing
- □ Downtown / Saint Antoine Ward Mary Queen of the World Cathedral (1862) Prior to 1956, known as Saint Jacques Cathedral The Cathedral on Dorchester Boulevard (now René-Lévesque) had an appreciable number of Irish, Scottish, British parishioners BAnQ (1873-1941) / Ancestry.ca (1873-1941) Church photo, see; Les églises de mon quartierwww.leseglisesdemonquartier .com/499.html

- ☐ Québec Suburb / Saint James Ward Saint Brigide Parish (1867) Rev. M.J. Lonergan, presiding – Although it appears that some type of church services were offered to the Irish Catholic families of the region as early as 1846 for vabout 400 Irish families who resided in a district known at the time, as Québec Suburb, the latter located in south central Montréal in an area near the Jacques Cartier Bridge, wanted their own church. A few years later, in 1867 the Irish families of this district would finally get their wish, Saint Brigide (Bridget) Parish was first organized in a school for boys, the latter located on Dorchester street between Champlain and de Maisonneuve - In 1872 Saint Brigide (Bridget) was erected on de Maisonneuve street. The church records from 1872 to 1941 at the Archives can be found under Sainte Brigide - Prior to 1872, from as early as 1846, church records for this region can be found among those of Notre-Dame Basilica - BAnQ (1872-1941) / Ancestry.ca (1872-1941) / Church photos, see: Les éalises de mon quartier www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/573.html - see
 - also; Oeiginis www.originis.ca/paroisse_montreal_sainte_ brigide.html
- ☐ St. Henry / St. Henri Ward Saint Joseph (1868) The St. Henry Ward was a hub of manufacturing which attracted hundreds of immigrants with their families, among them the Irish. Also known as St. Henri des Tanneries Catholic Church - BAnQ (1868-1941) / Ancestry.ca (1868-1941) Church photo, see; Les églises de mon
 - quartierwww.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/630.html
- □ South East / Saint Mary's Ward Most Holy Trinity Chapel Sisters of **Charity** (1868) - An orphanage on St. Catherine street east, it appears that an appreciable number of Irish orphans resided in this establishment. - BAnQ under Crèche de la Miséricorde & Hospice de la Maternity (1873-1941) / Ancestry.ca (1873-1941) / Church photos, see; http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Domaine_des_S%CS%93urs_grises_de_ Montr%C3%A9al
- □ South East / Saint Mary's Ward Saint Vincent de Paul (1868) Located at 2310 Ste-Catherine street east, the Irish families of a region referred to sometime as St. Mary's Ward were worshippers in this parish - BAnQ (1868-1941) / Ancestry.ca (1868-1941) / Church photos, see; Les églises de mon quartier www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/740.html
- □ **Point St. Charles Saint Gabriel** (1873) Rev. William O'Meara, presiding - Saint Gabriel, the third oldest Irish Parish in Montréal - Point St. Charles, referred to by the Irish community as "The Point", a southwest region of Montreal dedicated to low and mid-income immigrants, many were employees of large factories which were stretched-out across the whole

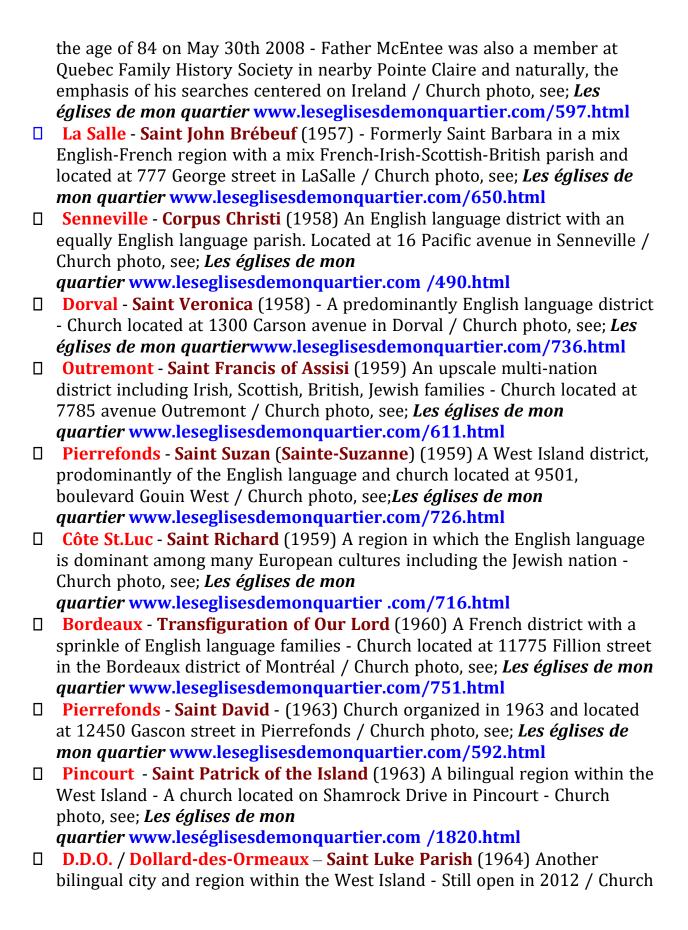
region. - **BAnQ** (1873-1941) / **Ancestry.ca** (1873-1941) / Church photo, see: Les éalises de mon quartier www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/617.html Côte St. Paul - Saint Paul (1874) – The Verdun / Côte St. Paul district has been another bastion of the Irish community since the 1870's. Located next to "The Point", the region catered to the mid-income dwellers, among them the immigrants from various European nations including the Irish, Scots and the British. - BAnQ (1874-1941) / Ancestry.ca (1874-1941) / Church photo, see; *Les églises de mon* quartier www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/699.html ☐ Quebec Suburb / Saint Mary Ward - Our Lady of Good Counsel / Saint Mary (1879) – Rev. M. Campion, Rev. P.F. O'Donnell, presiding - Located in south central Montréal, this Irish church was somehow associated with Saint Bridget, another Irish parish of the same district of Faubourg Québec. Our Lady of Good Counsel was located at the corner of Craig and Panet streets. The parish closed in 1984 - The church records at the Archives can be found under Notre Dame du Bon Conseil. - **BAnQ** (1881-1941) / *Ancestry.ca* (1891-1941) / Church photo, see; ☐ **Griffintown - Saint Mary's** (1879) – Also known then as the **Irish Congregation** – The church was located on the corner of Panet and Craig streets – It no longer exist – **Saint Mary** was also a parish which competed for the heart of the Irish community of Lower Southwest Montréal with Saint Ann, Saint Gabriel and Saint Bridget. □ **Point St. Charles - Saint Charles** (1883) – Another favorite parish of the Irish in "The Point" – Although the Parish of Saint Charles had been consecrated in 1883 as a parish for French Canadians, a number of Irish families also attended services in this house of worship - **BAnQ** (1883-1941) / Ancestry.ca (1883-1941) / Church photo, see; Les églises de mon quartier www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/580.html ☐ St. Antoine Street / Saint Antoine Ward - Saint Anthony's of **Padua** (1884) – Was located on Saint Antoine Street next to the railway yards, as described in 1884. This parish was an Irish Church for the families involved with the various Railroad Companies. Today it is referred to as as Saint Anthony of Padua and located at 1950 St-Antoine street - The church closed in 1970 - BAnQ (1884-1941) / Ancestry.ca (1884-1941) / Church photo, see; Les églises de mon quartier www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/557.html □ South West / Saint Antoine Ward – Sisters of Mercy Chapel (1890's) - Dorchester street west - Church related documents dealing with baptisms or adoption papers are unknown to this writer.

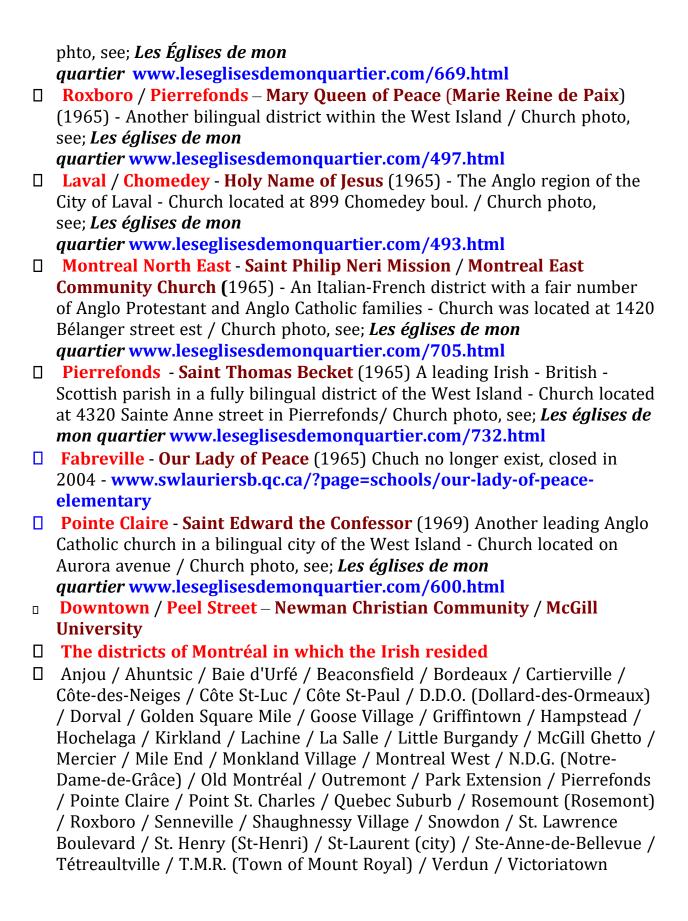
	Lachine - Saints Anges Gardiens (1890's) – First established in 1676, the
	congregation would become the first Irish-Scottish-British parish on the
	West Island.
	Pointe Claire - Saint Joachim (1890's) – First established in 1713, this
	parish became another early in which the Irish, Scottish and British were
	welcomed on the West Island
	Dorval – Presentation of the Virgin Mary (1895) - A fully bilingual district
	on the West Island
	Quebec South Central - St. Mary's Ward - Saint Eusèbe (1897) Located at
	647 Fullum street in southeast Montreal - BAnQ (1897-1941)
	/ Ancestry.ca (1897-1941) - Church photos, see; Les églises de mon
	quartier - www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/609.html - see
	also; Originis www.originis.ca/paroisse_montreal_saint_eusebe_de_
	verceil.html
	Verdun – Notre Dame (1899) - A parish mostly with French families,
	within an Irish district. A few Irish families were church members.
	Hudson - Saint Thomas Aquinas (1899) An Irish-Scottish-British parish
	among a predominantly English language district.
	Westmount - Saint Léon (1901) A French-Irish-Scottish-British parish in a
	predominantly English language region.
	Côte des Neiges – Notre Dame des Neiges (1901) Another Irish-French-
	Scottish-British parish within a mix French-English district - <i>BAnQ</i> (1901-
	1941) / Ancestry.ca (1901-1941) / Church photos, see; Les églises de mon
	quartier www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/526.html
	Griffintown - Saint Helen (1902) – Located on St. Maurice street south of
	Notre Dame, close to Mc Gill street, the church was demolished in 1971 - An
	Irish church
	St. Urbain Street / Saint Lawrence Ward - Saint Michael the
	Archangel (1902) – Located Uptown on St. Urbain street, this parish was the
	destination of immigrants from various nations, including the Irish and
	members of Eastern European nations - In 1964, the parish became part of
	the Polish church - BAnQ (1902-1941) / Ancestry.ca (1902-1941) / Church
	photo, see; <i>Les églises de mon</i>
_	quartier www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/687.html
	Monk Avenue / Ville Émard - Saint Mary of the Good
	Council (1906) – Monk Avenue in Ville Émard, a region located west of "The
_	Point" was also a region favored by the immigrants including the Irish.
	Montreal East - Saint Agnes (1906) - Located at 3980 St-Denis street - This
	church organized in 1906 would last until 1953. In 1954, the congregation
	would merge with Saint Jude Parish and Sanctuary, the latter parish no

```
longer exist - BAnQ (1904-1941) / Ancestry.ca (1904-1941) / Church photo,
   see: Les églises de mon
   quartier www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/1864.html
■ Montreal South East - Saint Aloysius (1906) – Located in the
   Maisonneuve district of South East Montreal, the church was destroyed by
   fire in 1953 – The parish now worship at Saint George's Anglican on
   Baldwin street - The parish included Irish-Scottish-British families
   - BAnQ (1908-1941) / Ancestry.ca (1908-1941) / Church photo,
  see; McCord Museum under St. Aloysius www.mccord-museum.qc.ca
□ South West - St. Henry District - Saint Thomas Aguinas (1908) - An Irish
   church opened in 1908 and closed in 1990 and was located at 124 du
   Couvent street in St-Henri - BAnQ (1908-1941) / Ancestry.ca (1908-1941) -
  Côte des Neiges - Saint Pascal Baylon (1910) The Côte-des-Neiges district
  became about the same time period a destination of families from European
   nations including the Irish, Scottish and British. - BAnQ (1910-1942)
   / Ancestry.ca (1910-1942) / Church photo, see; Les églises de mon
  quartier www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/697.html
☐ Lachine - Holy Sacrement (Très Saint-Sacrement) (1910) Another partial
   Irish region, this one on the West Island.
☐ Cartierville / Norwood – Notre Dame des Neiges (1910) The Irish were
   present in Cartierville from the early 1900's onwards.
  Mile End District - Saint Dominic's Rectory (1912) - Irish families resided
   in the district - Was located on Parthenais street in the Mile-End district. The
   original church building was sold after 1941, the congregation is now
   located as part of the Parish of Saint Casimir - BAnQ (1912-1941)
   / Ancestry.ca (1912-1941) / Church photo, see; Les églises de mon
  quartierwww.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/576.html
Quebec Suburb - Amherst Park District - Saint Catherine (1912) Located
   at 408 Amherst street in today's region of Lafontaine - BAnO (1912-1941)
   / Ancestry.ca (1912-1941) - Church photo, see; Originis www.originis.ca/
   paroisse_montreal_sainte_catherine_dalexandrie.html
U Verdun - Saint Willibrod (1913) An Irish town, an Irish parish, one of the
  leading Irish Catholic Church in southwest Montréal - BAnQ (1913-1941)
   / Ancestry.ca (1913-1941) / Church photo, see; Les églises de mon
   quartier www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/746.html
□ Westmount - Saint Augustine of Canterbury (1916) A British, Scottish,
   Irish parish in an English language region - Located at 5565 Côte St-Antoine
   Road. In 2001 the parish would move to N.D.G. Notre-Dame-de-Grâce
   - BAnQ (1917-1941) / Ancestry.ca (1917-1941) / Church photo, see; Les
   églises de mon quartier www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/561.html
```

	Montreal West - Saint Ignatius of Loyola / Loyola Chapel
	Community (1917) - Another British, Scottish, Irish parish in an English
	language region - <i>BAnQ</i> 1917-1941) / <i>Ancestry.ca</i> (1917-1941) / Church
	photo, see; <i>Les églises de mon</i>
	quartier www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/633.html
	Verdun - Notre Dame of Peace (de la Paix) (1917) - An Irish town, an
	Irish parish shared with the Scots, British and French.
	Vaudreuil - Trinity (Sainte Trinité) (1924) - A few Irish family resided in
	the region, the latter located off the West Island.
	Ville Émard - Holy Cross (1925) An Irish district, and a mix Irish-Scottish-
	British-French parish - <i>BAnQ</i> (1926-1941) / <i>Ancestry.ca</i> (1926-1941) /
	Church photo; see; <i>Les églises de mon</i>
	quartier www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/ 490.html
	Ahuntsic - Holy Family (1926) - Irish-Scottish-British families resided in
	the district. and most likely still do BAnQ (1926-1941)
	/ Ancestry.ca (1926-1941) / Church photo, see; Les églises de mon
	quartier www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/492.html
	La Salle - Notre Dame of the Sacred Heart (1927) - Many Irish families
	resided in La Salle
	Rosemount / Rosemont - Saint Brendan (1928) - An Irish district and an
	Irish parish - <i>BAnQ</i> (1928-1941) / <i>Ancestry.ca</i> (1928-1941) / Church
	photo; <i>Les églises de mon</i>
	quartier www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/572.html
	Verdun – Notre Dame of Lourdes (1928) - A parish with a limited Irish
	presence.
	Outremont - Saint Raphael the Archangel (1930) An upscale French
	region with a British, Scottish, Irish mix - <i>BAnQ</i> (1930-1941)
	/ Ancestry.ca (1930-1941) / Church photo, see; Les églises de mon
_	quartier - www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/711.html
	Côte St. Luc - Saint Antonin of Snowdon (1930) Many Irish families
	resided in the NDG, Côte-St-Luc, Somerled, Snowdon, Montreal West,
	Hampstead region <i>BAnQ</i> (1939-1941) / <i>Ancestry.ca</i> (1930-1941) / Church
	photo, see; Les églises de mon quartier www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com
_	/559.html
	Côte des Neiges - Saint Kevin's Rectory (1938) An Irish parish in an Irish
	district - <i>BAnQ</i> (1938-1941) / <i>Ancestry.ca</i> (1938-1941) / Church photo,
	see; Les églises de mon
П	quartier www.leseglisesdemonquartier.com/659.html
	Hampstead - Saint Malachy (1938) A British, Scottish, Irish church within
	an English language district - BAnQ (1938-1941) / Ancestry.ca (1938-1941)







(Victoria Bridge) / Ville Émard / Villeray / Westmount / Windmill Point (Victoria Bridge)