

More about the Alex and email correspondance with Kiley Goyette researcher

Gilles Douaire

**More about the Alexandra
Hospital - Pte St Charles
Charon Street**

Pointe-St-Charles, Alexandra Hospital

The old Alexandra Hospital located way south in Point-St-Charles, Charon street, has been converted into appartments.

Some buildings from that complex have been destroyed, however.

see an old picture of that hospital here:

bibnum2.banq.qc.ca/bna/massic/high/1-122-b.jpg

not too much documentation available on that hospital. i dug up the lovell directories... here are my findings:

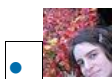
- 1) the hospital was founded in 1906, devoted to the treatment of infectious diseases; J C Fysch MD, med supt; E A Barton, sec; Miss Annie Montgomery, lady supt;
- 2) Somewhere between 1971 and 1975, it became part of the Montreal Children Hospital;
- 3) The place was operated as an hospital until 1982/83, in those days, their phone number was 932-5171;
- 4) From 1984-1988, it was occupied by the Protestant School Board of the Greater Montreal - Social Affairs School (Alexandra Pavilion), 937-8511;
- 5) By 1990, the building was either converted into apts or abandoned.

Street Charon was known as Charron in those days, but that changed around 1975.



jojolove2012 6y

now it s a bulding coop alexandras they call it now



yeye 2y

Hi,

I am writing a paper on this site. I can fill in some blanks for you.

The Alexandra stopped treating contagious diseases in 1968, its mandate changed to longterm care of chronically ill children with physical and mental disabilities. It became the Alexandra Pavilion of the Montreal Children's Hospital in 1973. The hospital was closed in 1988 as part of the deinstitutionalization of mental healthcare (this closure was protested by the residents of point saint charles). The City of Montreal bought the property in 1989. public (HLM - Habitations Alexandra) housing was built with some recycled buildings (like the administration building, in your picture) and some new structures). Also on that site two other social housing projects were built ~1994 (La Parchemin, Eveill II). One was coop and one non-profit (OSBL). I haven't found any mention about the school board in my research, except a brief mention that they sent teachers to the Pavilion for the patients. I will have to look into this further!!

----- Original Message -----

From: Kiley Goyette <kileygoyette@gmail.com>

To: Wanda Potrykus <haloswoop@aol.com>

Sent: Mon, May 28, 2018 1:32 pm

Subject: Re: Children's Stories - Part 3 and 4 of the ALCC Living History Collection

Hi Wanda,

I haven't forgotten you! In fact, I started drafting an email to you last night. I have finally gotten around to looking at this project again this weekend.

It's good to see what you have written already. A few observations for Part 3 :

- The heading reads: "The Alexandra Hospital for Contagious Diseases "not in my backyard" 1906-1998" but the latter date should be **1988**;
- This date (1998) is repeated in the last line of the text --- I'm sorry if I sent you the wrong date, it was definitely a typo!!! it should be **1988**;
- You may want to mention that after it stopped taking contagious disease cases (including TB) in 1968 its new mandate was long-term care for children with chronic mental and physical illnesses. It was closed as part of the de-institutionalization of MENTAL healthcare toward group home care. (I feel like it might be confusing for a reader to not have these details since most of the discussion is its role as a contagious disease hospital -- but for 20 years it was not a contagious disease hospital at all!)

For me it feels like you covered a lot on the Alex in Part 3, I'm not sure what I would discuss in another article. From the perspective of the reader it might seem like a lot of repetition to have another article about the Alex. I feel like I have very little to say about the housing projects (probably 1 or maybe 2 paragraphs max) and I certainly have very little to say about children specifically!! But if you think the nursing part is interesting I could try to do something with that.

I will think about it for now. How long should it be? What kind of deadline do you have in mind? Kiley

THE ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL FOR CONTAGIOUS DISEASES "NOT IN MY BACKYARD" 1906-1988

Its priorities were the treatment of whooping cough (pertussis) along with scarlet fever, measles, and diphtheria (croup). It would also take in children with a variety of other diseases that included chickenpox, polio and rheumatic fever but not TB. Not until later that is, as the institution opened a tuberculosis isolation unit in 1948, specializing in the treatment of, and research into, tuberculosis meningitis, and which operated for 20 years until 1968 (which is also when the hospital stopped taking contagious disease cases altogether) and that appellation was dropped from its name. It became the Alexandra Pavilion of the Montreal Children's and the Montreal General. **Its new mandate was long-term care for children with chronic mental and physical illnesses.** It was permanently closed in 1988 as part of the provincial

government major shifts in how healthcare is delivered in Quebec **and as part of the de-institutionalization of mental healthcare in favour of group home care.**

----- Original Message -----

From: Kiley Goyette <kileygoyette@gmail.com>

To: Wanda Potrykus <haloswoop@aol.com>

Sent: Fri, Apr 6, 2018 9:20 am

Subject: Re: Your research paper and your story

Hi Wanda,

Sorry for the delayed response!

Of course it would be lovely if you would credit and make a copy available in the library. I would like it to be accessible, even though there are still changes I would like to make.

I would love to write an article for the issue on children's hospitals. However, I am very busy with the end of term. What is the timeline? I could potentially write something for the end of April or early May.

I will be back in Montreal for the summer starting the end of April. I would be happy to meet with.

I'm attaching the nurses paper here. Re-reading it I am not sure if it is very interesting however.

Also, if you are interested in the history of the West End, my masters thesis was on the legacies of the urban renewal program in Little Burgundy, so I have some sources regarding the social movements and urban development in that neighborhood from the 1960s - 1990s. It is available here: <https://spectrum.library.concordia.ca/983104/>

Hope you are doing well!

-k

On Tue, Apr 3, 2018 at 12:52 PM, Wanda Potrykus <haloswoop@aol.com> wrote:

Hi Kiley,

Thanks for your swift reply and fascinating research paper. I am citing it in my article but I want to ask your permission to include in the background documentation for the Atwater Library Living History files that will be available to future researchers, social historians and the general public at the Library as support material to the Living History collection recordings.

"A story as yet untold

Thanks also to Kiley Goyette for her detailed research paper on the life and times of the Alexandra Hospital for Contagious Diseases in Pointe-St-Charles. A fascinating look into a part of 20th century West-end Montreal medical and social history that is not widely known, or appreciated, and whose story is as yet unpublished. Her research paper will be available for access at the ALCC Living History files."

Would this be okay with you? Thus your paper on the nurses would also be wonderful to have on file too. And yes, indeed, I would love to read it, please send ;-)

I have two other suggestions:

a) Would you like to write an article on the Alexandra for an online magazine that my article on Montreal's Children's hospitals will soon appear in (the WestmountMag.ca since you have done all the hard work? If you are too busy, or prefer not, I would be very interested in writing it (using your source material) because as I am saying in my current article, it is indeed " a story as yet untold" and I think it well deserves a wider audience as my mention of it in my current article is very brief. Mostly because the majority of my article focuses on the Montreal Children's, which tends to hog the limelight along with Ste Justine's in terms of the history of paediatric care in Montreal and as I have discovered in my research, there were other hospitals but not a great deal of info easily available on them until I stumbled on your work. If you prefer, I can write it and send to the magazine but it could be submitted under both our names, or I can also write it as an interview with you on your research work? Any and all options available for discussion.

b) Would you agree to be interviewed on camera by me about your work researching the history of the Alexandra as well as your life (so far) and your interests? It would take approximately an hour, maybe more, maybe less (it all depends on what you wish to say) and so you would become part of the Living History collection as well as having your research papers at the Library?

Here are my links to the first two articles on the Living History project at the Atwater Library to provide you with some background. Beware, they are long...no 1000 word essays for me ;-)

Part 1:

<https://www.westmountmag.ca/living-history-collection/>

Part 2:

<https://www.westmountmag.ca/living-history-collection-2/>

Wanda Potrykus

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514-481-9891

----- Original Message -----

From: Kiley Goyette <kileygoyette@gmail.com>

To: Wanda Potrykus <haloswoop@aol.com>

Sent: Tue, Apr 3, 2018 2:56 am

Subject: Re: Dates Alexandra Hospital functioned as a hospital (if known)

Hi Wanda

I'm very happy to assist!

I'm attaching the paper I wrote for my working class public history course with Steven High a few years ago. It contains some of the details you are interested in but not all. There are various things I would like to add to it but in the meantime I hope it is interesting to you!

I guess the "claim to fame" is that John McCrae (in Flanders Fields) was the resident physician in the scarlet fever ward for the years prior to leaving for the war. I found a photo of him with some children and medical students at the Alexandra which I think is not in the attached report.

I don't need a lot of info on the hospital (since what you have provided to date on the site has been invaluable) but am interested in your research topic as I had never heard that there was a hospital located in the Point before. Most were further up the escarpment

Yes, bright and airy locations was the vogue for hospitals but securing the land was difficult.

How it ended up in PSC seems to be a matter of no one wanting a contagious disease hospital in their backyard! (There was a proposal to put it in Fletcher's Field , today's Jeanne Mance park, but homeowners protested).

I was wondering if you could provide me with the following information:

a) the years the hospital was in operation i..e. 1910 to 1968?

Opened in 1906

1968 Stopped taking contagious disease cases and "contagious disease" dropped from the name. Its new vocation is longterm care for children with chronic mental and physical illnesses.

1973 annexed by the Children's Hospital.

1988 Decommissioned as part of the program to deinstitutionalize mental healthcare.

1990-4 certain buildings (nurses residence, administration building) are preserved and converted to social housing (HLM).

The rest is demolished and new social housing (co-op and non-profit) is constructed on the site.

b) Who founded and funded the hospital? Or the names of the founders? i.e. most hospitals at that time were funded by the concerned people in the community or the Catholic Church. i.e. the Montreal Children's hospital was founded in 1920 by the Vipond brothers, who were doctors, as well as their colleague Dr Duncan Anderson. The Children's Memorial Hospital was founded by Dr Mackenzie Forbes in 1902,, the Montreal Foundling and Baby hospital was founded in 1892 by a group of concerned citizens, etc..

Okay, I have done a lot of primary-source research on this, and there is a very long answer to this question. But I haven't had a chance to write it up properly yet.

The origins of this hospital date back to the small pox epidemic of 1885; the special inquiry on the epidemic recognised that the facilities for the treatment (containment, really) of contagious disease in the city were inadequate. However it was many years before the political will could be mustered.

The hospital to replace the civic hospital should be a new, modern one of the most up-to-date ideas about hospital construction. But being Montreal, there was debate about whether it should be one hospital (centrally operated with both a French Catholic and English wing) or two separate hospitals. (Everyone agreed it should not be "neutral" or secular). Ultimately the two hospitals format won, thanks in no small part to the efforts of Mgr Bruchesci. (The French Hospital was St-Paul, run by Hôpital Notre Dame, St-Paul closed in 1932).

So the Alexandra was a municipal hospital, but jointly run by a board of the Montreal General, Montreal Children's,

Western and Royal Vic (also the city had a rep on the board for the first period, I can't remember how many years now);

The construction funds were independently raised by the usual philanthropic business figures from these hospitals. Angus, Birks, Redpath etc. I can get you a thorough list of you are really interested.

The city provided an annual budget and a rate per occupied bed per night, but this was largely insufficient so there was

continual fundraising by subscription. They also had "private beds" options for people who would pay for their own room.

After the 1930s the province is the public funding source (if I recall correctly! Certainly for the tuberculosis beds).

c) Did the hospital close down in 1968? Or just stop accepting patients with contagious diseases? If so, when did it permanently close?

^ See above ^

d) Did it stay empty for a while i..e what year was it converted to social housing?

It was empty from 1988 when it was bought by the city until 1990 when construction began. The construction was completed in 1994;

I realise you are busy but if you would be so kind to answer my questions (that is if you know the answers). Perhaps you could simply insert the info I am asking for next to my questions and send it back to me. It would be deeply appreciated.

No trouble! please feel free to ask any more questions.

I would also appreciate knowing when your research is published.

Oh I am really not sure when/if I will get it published! I had been in contact with the PSC historical society but we didn't make any official plans about making something more publically accessible.

I have written another piece on the nurses working conditions and housing which is much closer to being published but it is at the bottom of my pile. I can send this one also, if you are interested, but it involves some academic theory that might make it less accessible. There are some specifics that I don't go into in the main report however, so you might find it interesting.

Let me know if there is anything else you want to know about!

Hope this helps!

Kiley