

A walk through Mount Royal Cemetery

In our regular feature of “A walk through Mount Royal Cemetery” we talk briefly about famous people who are buried in the cemetery and who have become part of our annual Historical Walking Tours, their stories are talked about in more depth by tour guide Myriam Cloutier, Director of Heritage Programs at Mount Royal Cemetery. Myriam may be reached by email at myriam@mountroyalcem.com or 514-279-7358.

Last month we presented the historic figure Joe Beef whose tavern, which opened in 1868, was perhaps the most famous in the Port of Montreal. He served whoever came to his door without discrimination and provided food and shelter at night at no cost to those who had nowhere to go.

In this month's edition we present another historic figure, J William Notman who was Canada's first renowned photographer. He arrived from Scotland in the mid-1850s and opened a photo studio in Montreal. Notman was known for his innovations with composite photos and colour that he added on black and white pictures. Very quickly, his studio gained such a great reputation, and was in such demand, that he opened other studios throughout Canada and the United States. Later on, his sons joined him in the business and the William Notman & Son Company remained in the family until 1935 when it was sold to Associated Screen News Ltd. Over 450,000 photographs were taken by the Notman Studios during its 78 years of existence and are now part of the Notman Photographic Archives at the McCord Museum providing a visual history of Montreal and Canada from 1857 to 1935. Nowadays, it is very common to see Notman pictures in publications on the history of Montreal, Quebec or Canada.

Picture: William Notman was a leader in new photographic techniques and immensely successful



“The Magic of Light” Photography Exhibition

Traditionally held on the last weekend in May and with guided Tree Tours and Bird Watching Tours, this exhibition helps to celebrate the Month of the Mountain as well as promoting awareness of the important role that the Mount Royal Cemetery plays in Montreal. This exhibition also provides photographers with opportunities to expose their works in a very unique public venue as well as to win cash prizes and have their work appear in publications of the “*Friends of the Mount Royal Cemetery*” such as the annual calendar, the Calendar of Activities Pamphlet, posters and articles in *The Montrealer*.

This year we are looking for photographs depicting how “The Magic of Light” affects every aspect of life. It may be the sun simply appearing and disappearing over the horizon or transforming barren landscapes with warmth as it melts away the last remnants of the cold winter months; perhaps it is glimmers of light peeking out between the trees or lifting the veil of darkness at dawn. Whatever the

case may be, “The Magic of Light” affects our everyday lives in endless ways, often graciously bringing with it a sense of peace.

Grab your cameras and discover the hidden treasures that exist in the tranquility of this magnificent garden cemetery; help celebrate the Month of the Mountain through your interpretations of “The Magic of Light”. Join us on May 26 and 27 for this unique exhibition accompanied by the enchanting music of Harpist, Myriam Reid and the Guitar Duo of Marcel Anicic, all held in the incomparable setting of the Mount Royal Funeral Complex located at 1297 Chemin de la Forêt on beautiful Mount Royal in Outremont.

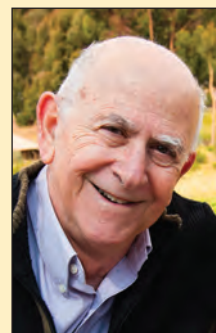
For more information on this and other events please visit our website www.mountroyalcem.com; to register for the exhibition please contact Andrew Sarrasin at aws@mountroyalcem.com or 514-279-7358.

Through the eyes of Photographers



“Our appreciation goes out to Nabil Zariffa for contributing to this article.”

Quite often historic figures provide inspiration for events held at the Mount Royal Cemetery and in 2007, on the occasion of our inaugural photography exhibition, copies of some of the work of the great photographer J William Notman were integral to the success of that exhibition. Now in its 12th consecutive year, this exhibition has



Nabil Zariffa

grown to be a much anticipated event attracting hundreds of visitors and numerous wonderful photographers. Over the life of this unique exhibition we have been blessed with works of many very talented photographers, each with their own distinctive styles; in many ways they have opened our eyes to the hidden treasures that exist in this beautiful garden cemetery. One such photographer is Nabil Zariffa, whose work we have truly enjoyed during the majority of these exhibitions; Nabil has graciously agreed to contribute to this article by sharing some of his thoughts “Through the eyes of Photographers”. Nabil writes...

“I have been living in Montreal for 34 years, and 7 years ago I discovered a jewel called the Mount Royal Cemetery! It has become one of my favorite places to explore the splendor of nature. As a photographer I am always on the lookout for something unusual, and the Cemetery offers plenty of that given the richness of its fauna and flora. Light, color, textures are always changing and I try to capture their beauty for the delight of my friends and viewers. Every year I look forward to participate in the Cemetery photo Exhibition and admire the work of my fellow photographers”.