

SAYING FAREWELL TO THE FULFORD RESIDENCE

Many of you have heard the news of the closing of the Fulford Residence. This has been a difficult time for all who have worked at Fulford. I have been on the Board of Directors for many years, and have always enjoyed providing activities and special occasions for the ladies living there. It has always been a happy place with loving care for the residents.

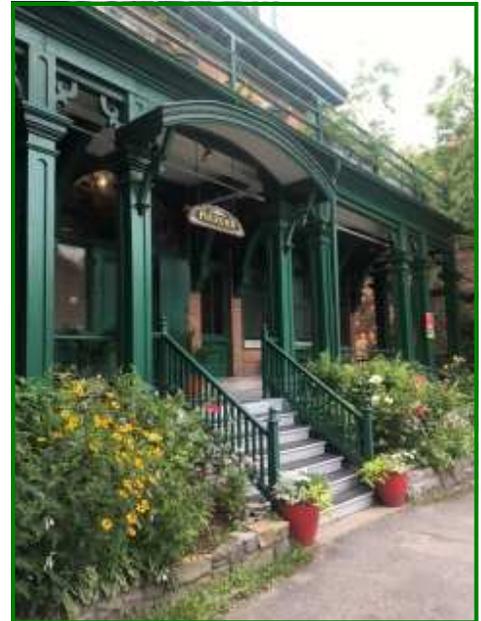
Fulford is an historic home, originally a country residence for an early Montreal Family. It was called Erin Cottage and was surrounded by large gardens! Imagine...on Guy Street between Ste. Catherine and Dorchester, before that part of the city was fully developed with commercial establishments.

It is a Victorian building with high ceilings and stained glass, an old wooden staircase, furniture and paintings contributed by wealthy Westmount families. It was home to many well-known Montreal ladies including the first woman to graduate in law from McGill university, a head nurse at the Royal Victoria Hospital in the 1930s, the mother of Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, women with fascinating stories of lives well-lived and well-travelled. Delightful individuals even as memories faded and bodies succumbed to age.

The Board of Directors has recognized for some time that we were facing a rising deficit and fund-raising has been a challenge. Our Quebec government urges seniors to remain in their homes, so women were arriving in their late 90s when they needed care.

This old house could not offer a bathroom with every bedroom, something today's families expect. This was never a hardship for ladies like my mother-in-law who had a bathroom right outside her door. She felt as though she was back at boarding school.

The broad verandas on two levels were inviting for ladies to sit with visitors, to watch the birds alight in the huge trees surrounding the house. Colourful flower gardens enhanced the view and provided bouquets for the dining room tables. Breakfasts on the balcony were a favourite activity in the summer months.



With the sudden arrival of Covid19, a third of the residents were taken, and many staff members were also sick, so this was a costly time on every level. Funds remaining would be needed to care for ladies and staff members as we ceased operations as a residence. Our staff and management team were exhausted, and needed to step away to rest.

We are sorry that some were taken by surprise by our necessary decision to cease operations as a residence. At the same time we have been heartened by the love expressed and appreciation of care received for so many years.

continued on next page

We allocated six months in order to close with utmost care, with full support for the reallocation of each lady, and assistance to staff who are seeking new positions. Every single individual is important to us and will continue to be given all support as needed.

At this time we need to move forward with this plan, and will be grateful for support in doing this. We have asked our families to understand that this decision was made with much sadness and sense of loss, and after careful consideration of the short and long-term realities facing Fulford Residence. We directors have been proud and privileged to serve in this historic home for so many years.



Planning wisely with the funds remaining to us in the coming months, we are taking steps to ensure that our ladies and staff members can be well-served during this transition. . We will be working with integrity, openness and diligence to provide safety and comfort for our Fulford family. Working together will enable us

to celebrate the success of Fulford Residence, and the courage to accept the changes that must be faced by all who have loved this place. Finally, my hope is that the building will find a new purpose, one that will serve people with love, and one that will continue to invite the public to visit this historic house, to absorb the gentle ambience of times past.

Sue Winn