

Montreal Essentials

Origin of the Name: It's generally accepted that Montreal got its name from the mountain at its centre. The theory is that French explorer Jacques Cartier applied the name "Mont Royal" to the modest peak he ascended when he visited the area in 1535. While the French settlement that was established a century later was initially called Ville Marie (in honour of the Virgin Mary), by the 1700s the name "Montreal" (a contraction of Mont Royal) was commonly used.

Coat of Arms: Adopted in 1833 and modified in 1938. Emblazoned on a silver field is a heraldic cross meant to reflect Christian motives and principles. On the coat of arms are also four emblems: The fleur-de-lis of the Royal House of Bourbon representing the French settlers, the Lancastrian rose for the English component of the city's population, the thistle represents those of Scottish descent; and the Irish shamrock represents early Irish settlers.

Montreal's Motto: *Concordia Salus* (Salvation through harmony).

Official Flag: First displayed in May 1939. The flag is emblazoned with the same heraldic symbols as those of the coat of arms.

Logo: Created in 1981, the logo is shaped like a flower, in which each petal forms the letters V and M, the initials of the name “Ville de Montréal.”

Official Flower: Crabapple

Voting Age: 18

Drinking Age: 18

System of measurement: Metric

Incorporated as a city: 1832

Time Zone: Eastern

Area Code: 514

Postal Code Span: H1Y 2G5 – H2A 3A8

Statutory Holidays: Most of Montreal’s statutory holidays are the same as those celebrated nationally, with a few exceptions. May’s long weekend is called fête de Dollard (after the early garrison commander who led an expedition from the fort of the newly founded town of Ville Marie in 1660 to ambush a much larger force of Iroquois) instead of Victoria Day and June 24th is celebrated only in Quebec as a national

holiday known as St. Jean-Baptiste Day (feast day of St. John the Baptist). Other holidays are New Years Day (January 1), Good Friday (the Friday before Easter), Canada Day (July 1), Labour Day (the first Monday in September), Thanksgiving (second Monday in October), Remembrance Day (November 11), Christmas Day (December 25) and Boxing Day (December 26).

POPULATION

Montreal is Quebec’s largest city. Montreal’s population stood at 1,873,971 in 2006, and that of the Greater Metropolitan Area (GMA) 3,635,733 (2005), making it the second largest metropolitan area in Canada. The GMA is home to more than 45 percent of Québec’s residents, and is the second largest French-speaking city in the world.

POPULATION GROWTH

Montreal continues to demonstrate consistent growth in the new millennium with the population expected to grow 3.6 percent by 2011.

POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX

AGE	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
0-14	317,140	304,555	621,695
15-24	231,780	229,255	461,035
25-44	534,250	542,565	1,076,815
45-64	475,425	504,930	980,355
65+	204,666	291,005	495,671

Source: Statistics Canada

Did you know...

that the customary way to greet friends in Montreal is to kiss them on both cheeks?

Did you know...

that in a survey of Canadians by Decima Research, Montreal ranked as the most romantic city in the country?

POPULATION IN PERSPECTIVE (GMA):

- Montreal: 3,635,571
- Calgary: 1,079,310
- Ottawa: 1,130,761
- Toronto: 5,597,000
- Vancouver: 2,187,721
- New York City: 21,976,224

POPULATION DENSITY (PEOPLE/KM²)

- Montreal: 4,438.7
- Edmonton: 1,067.2
- Calgary: 1,279
- Toronto: 3,939.4
- Vancouver: 5,039
- New York City: 10,194.2
- Tokyo: 13,416

Sources: Statistics Canada; World Atlas; US Census.

Take 5 MARGARET SOMERVILLE FIVE THINGS SHE LOVES ABOUT MONTREAL

Margaret Somerville is Samuel Gale Professor of Law in the faculty of medicine at McGill University. She is the author of a number of books including *The Ethical Canary: Science, Society and The Ethical Imagination: Journeys of the Human Spirit*. Somerville has received the Order of Australia and is a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. In 2003 she became the first recipient of the UNESCO Avicenna Prize for Ethics in Science.

1. **Montreal's Habitat 67:** I live at Habitat 67 and living there has been a large factor in my staying in Montreal. The building is a work of art — a striking schizoid combination of stark, menacing, prison-like concrete and yet the whole is a playful, joyous sculpture. Its setting between the Old Port and the great Fleuve St. Laurent is magical and breathtaking.

2. **McGill University:** There are only a few “Great Universities” and to have stumbled into one of them is one of the major privileges of my life. Like Montreal itself, McGill sits at a crossroads of Europe and America, French and English language and culture, civil and common law, tradition and modernity, religion and secularism, to name just some of the strands that inform and enrich its scholarship and make it particularly relevant to the contemporary world.

3. **Montreal as home:** I am a citizen of two of the “best” countries in the world, Australia and Canada, and both Montreal and Sydney feel like “home.”

4. **Spring and summer:** It's not just Montrealers who uninhibitedly celebrate the return of the warmth of the sun and, with it, new life, but Montreal itself has a smile on its face throughout spring and summer. It laughs, it plays, it dances, it parties and its pure joy in simply existing is infectious.

5. **Montreal's “Je ne sais quoi”:** All of the above are just a small taste of the people, places, experiences, sights, sounds, history, natural beauty, arts, music, architecture, food, style, sophistication and simple elegance that together create the soul of Montreal. It's an old soul – built from First Nations memory beyond time and from almost 400 years of more recent human memory.

YOU KNOW YOU'RE A

- You pronounce it “*Munn-tree-all*,” not “*Maaahhhntreal*.”
- You buy your beer and 6/49 tickets at the *dépanneur*.
- To get cash, you stop at the *guichet* (not the ATM or bank machine).
- You drive on the *autoroute* (not the highway or freeway).
- You criticize bad drivers but you are one too.
- Everyone on the street — drivers, pedestrians, cyclists — believe that they are immortal and that you'll stop first.
- You slow way down right before underpasses and overpasses, look for falling debris, then step on the gas . . . hard.
- You've been taking the Metro for years, but have never been able to understand a single word over the PA system after “Attention, Attention . . .”
- You've been to four Stanley Cup parades . . . in a row.
- You've rented something from Dickie Moore.
- You've had to air mail somebody smoked meat.
- You've eaten smoked meat at 4 a.m.
- You know what a five-and-a-half is.
- Hardwood floors are not a big deal.
- You know how to pronounce Pie IX.
- You refer to the Laurentians as “up North.”
- You regularly encounter bilingual homeless people.
- You have an aunt who still calls Saint Denis St, “Saint Dennis.” And she's never been there.
- Your only fear about jaywalking is getting a ticket.
- You call leaving the bar at 2:30 a.m. “an early night.”
- You constantly badmouth Toronto, but have secretly looked into the job market there.
- You cringe when Bob Cole pronounces French hockey player names.
- You call them “running shoes” (not sneakers or tennis shoes).

MONTREALER WHEN . . .

- A coke is a “soft drink” (not pop or soda).
- You were drinking café au lait before it was latté.
- You've taken the #45 bus with the Great Antonio.
- Two feet of snow must have fallen before you consider it too snowy to drive.
- You know the reason why Youppi couldn't give a “high-five.”
- You refuse to set foot in the AMC Forum for “moral reasons.”
- You were at Rocket Richard's funeral.
- Your dad was at Howie Morenz' funeral.
- You've seen Brother Andre's heart.
- You know where Leonard Cohen's house is.
- Bikers don't scare you anymore.
- You watched Travel Travel and always thought Don MacGowan did good work.
- You know the difference between the SQ, the SAQ and the SAAQ.
- You've graduated high school but have never been to Grade 12.
- You're proud about Pagliaro, Men Without Hats and the Arcade Fire.
- You're a little embarrassed about Corey Hart, Luba and Celine Dion.
- You know you can't order a steak at the Biftek (On St. Laurent).
- You like your pizza “all-dressed” or “plain.”
- You still think the coolest ride at La Ronde is “La Pitoune” (the log ride).
- You know there is no pool to be played at the Montreal Pool Room.
- Saying someone is “French from France” is not redundant.
- You've debated the merits of the “spoon guy” who plays on Ste Catherine St.
- Instead of celebrating Canada Day, you spend July 1 moving.

They Said It

"Montreal is a great city, a living example of how we can overcome the uniformity of global capitalism that is seeking to turn the world into one vast hotel system with McDonald's on the ground floor. If you grow up speaking two languages, you learn to perceive things in different ways and you resist conformity."

– American writer Norman Mailer.

FERTILITY RATE:

Estimated at 1.4 children per woman

LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH

	Quebec	Canada
Male	75.6	77.4
Female	81.4	82.4

AVERAGE AGE

- On the Island: 39.2
- In the GMA: 38.8
- Plateau Mont-Royal: 34.9

UP THERE

The city of Montreal has one of the oldest populations in the metropolitan region (15 percent are 65 and older). Côte St. Luc, the most predominantly Jewish community on the island, has almost four times the national average of people over 80 years old (14 percent).

GIRLS AND BOYS

- Percentage of Montrealers who are male: 49.1
- Female: 50.9

Did you know...

that more than one in four Montrealers is an immigrant?

Take 5 FIVE BOURGHOUS WHERE CULTURAL COMMUNITIES SETTLE MOST

1. **Saint-Laurent:** 48.5% of the population are immigrants
2. **Cote-des-Neiges, Notre-Dame-de-Grace:** 44.9%
3. **Villeray, Saint-Michel, Parc-Extension:** 41.3%
4. **Saint-Leonard:** 38.5%
5. **Cote-Saint-Luc, Hamstead, Montreal-Ouest:** 38.2%

Source: City of Montreal.

LEGAL MARITAL STATUS (POPULATION 15 AND OVER)

At 2.8 marriages for every 1,000 population, Quebec has the lowest marriage rate of anywhere in the country except Nunavut. Quebec's low marriage rate is due partly to the high proportion of cohabitation in this province. In Quebec, 29.8 percent of all couples live common-law, compared to 11.7 percent in the rest of Canada.

ETHNIC ORIGIN

Over 80 ethnic groups are represented in the Metropolitan Montréal area. The largest cultural communities are the following:

- Italian: 163,690
- Irish: 91,560
- English: 86,995
- Scottish: 59,470
- Haitian: 54,485
- Chinese: 44,735
- Greek: 35,385

They Said It

"Let Toronto become Milan. Montréal will always be Rome."

– Montreal Mayor Jean Drapeau on Montreal being eclipsed by Toronto as Canada's largest city.

Take 5 DAVID MCKNIGHT'S FIVE ESSENTIAL MONTREAL READS

David McKnight is a former McGill University librarian. He holds an MA in Canadian literature and has worked extensively in the area of 20th Century Canadian Print Culture. Mr. McKnight is presently working on several projects related to the unpublished notebooks and correspondence of Hugh MacLennan.

1. ***The Tin Flute (Bonheur d'occasion)*** (1947) by Gabrielle Roy. Set in the largely French working class district of St. Henri, it is the bitter-sweet love story about beautiful shop girl Florentine Lacasse and the ambitious Jean Lévesque. Cast in the shadow of Westmount, the home of Montreal's wealthy Anglophone elite, its looming presence serves as a reminder of the cultural, economic and social disparity that existed in Montreal until recently.

2. ***The Watch That Ends the Night*** (1959) by Hugh MacLennan. A complex story of love, action and faith set against the intellectual currents of the day (1930s). MacLennan loved Montreal. He published several classic essays about his adopted city: "The Best Loved Street in Canada," "City with Two Souls" and "The Street Car Conductor," but in "The Watch," MacLennan draws upon his most powerful descriptive gifts to bring the face of Mount Royal alive and present a vivid and sympathetic portrait of Montreal during the Depression.

3. ***The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz*** (1959) by Mordecai Richler. Duddy Kravitz's dream is to escape Montreal and build a hotel resort in the Laurentians. But what Richler presents in his ground-breaking fourth novel is a vivid and comedic portrait of Jewish life on St. Urbain Street. In what is perhaps one of the most brilliant openings in Canadian fiction, Richler introduces his ambitious and petulant hero, Duddy, through the lens of his classroom antics at Fletcher's Field

High School, modeled on Richler's own Baron Byng High School (long closed). Although much of the world Richler describes in Duddy Kravitz has disappeared, the spirit of Duddy and the St. Urbain Horesman survives as one walks along St. Urbain and over to Wilinsky's Light Lunch for a cherry coke and "special."

4. ***Around the Mountain: Scenes from Montreal Life*** (1967) by Hugh Hood. In 12 short stories or "scenes," Hood explores daily life in Montreal from the western to eastern tips of the island. He describes familiar Montreal neighborhoods, parks and streets in rich detail. The city comes alive in a series of encounters with a culturally diverse set of characters who are negotiating their aspirations to change and seek a better life. From a pick up hockey game in January; a separatist demonstration on St. Jean Baptiste Day; summer rambles across Mount Royal to midnight explorations of the bustling port, Hood captures the mood of a politically and culturally divided Montreal on the eve of magical Expo 67 and the ominous refrain of Charles De Gaulle's "Vive Le Quebec Libre!"

5. ***Crazy About Lili*** (2005) by William Weintraub. Almost a decade after publishing his superb social history of Montreal, *City Unique: Montreal Days and Nights in the 1940s and '50s* (1996), documentary filmmaker and author William Weintraub turned his hand to transforming his historical study into a raucous and risqué fictional encounter with the sultry Lili L'Amour, a character based on the infamous Lili St. Cyr, the Swedish-born American burlesque star who entertained audiences with her striptease act in Montreal for two decades. The novel is mostly a send up of McGill University, but more importantly it presents a vivacious portrait of Montreal's burlesque district during its naughty final years.

The Art of Swearing in French

While English-speaking Montrealers curse pretty much the way the rest of the world does, relying heavily on the sexual and scatological, French Montrealers use religious words to shock. Of course, they also employ the old standbys, exclaiming and defaming with words pertaining to body parts and certain bodily functions.

The tradition of taking not only God's name in vain but also some of the scared icons of the Roman Catholic Church, is a long one. In Quebec, the more of these expletives you string together, and the faster you rifle them off, the more powerful the curse. The classic is: "hostie de calice de tabarnac", literally "host of a chalice of a tabernacle!", but in meaning, basically, "f#ck!ng sh!t g%dd@mm!t!" Then there are the popular "crisse," "ciboire!" "calvaire!" and "sacrament," which work as exclamations or adjectives.

CHRIST WAS CRUCIFIED

Ironically, with the decline of the Church in Quebec, many of Montreal's younger cursers don't even know what they are saying. In fact, in 2006, the Roman Catholic Church in Quebec launched a campaign, complete with large banners hanging from church facades, sensitizing people to the actual meanings of the epithets they routinely hurl with abandon.

But the practice remains popular. Some English Montrealers spontaneously fire off a string of raunchy religious French epithets when they get riled up, especially when drinking, or watching hockey, or both. New Montrealers or those planning a trip to the city might want to get their hands on a copy of the bilingual comedy hit *Bon Cop, Bad Cop* to bone up on their French cursing.

Filmed in and around Montreal in 2005, the story of two cops (one Ontario Anglo, one Quebecois) partnered against their wills features a hilarious scene where grizzled Quebecois cop David gives a French swearing lesson to the prim and proper Martin from Toronto...with a tattooed biker goon named Luc Therrien that they have locked in the trunk of David's car helping out.

Take 5 TOP FIVE FRENCH SWEAR WORDS

1. **Tabarnac** Tabernacle: the boxlike receptacle or sanctuary where the Sacramental bread and wine are kept for holy communion.
2. **Hostie** Host: the holy wafer or "body of Christ"
3. **Calice** Chalice: the cup holding the holy wine: "blood of the lamb"
4. **Ciboire** Ciborium: chalice-like sacramental vessel, usually covered.
5. **Calvaire** Calvary: place outside Jerusalem where Christ was crucified.

WORD ON THE STREET

French in Quebec evolved from 16th Century Norman French, Normandy being home to many of New France's first settlers. Indeed, French citizens encountering French-speaking Montrealers just about anywhere in the world today are quick to recognize "Quebecois."

English Montrealers borrow from francophone co-citoyens, and the French Montrealers from English. Even the most hard core of Anglo rights crusaders say "d'épanneur" (meaning to get you out of a jam) for the corner store. Meanwhile, despite the best efforts of the language cops, they're still ordering "un hot dog all-dress" out in the East End — un "chien chaud" too silly for even the most ardent defenders of *la langue de Molière*.

They Said It

"When I see all the talent in Montreal, I get excited. I feel that this city has a great deal of character. It has a European flair and a North American way of doing things—a combination that is a great source of inspiration for me."

– Kent Nagano, Music Director of the Montréal Symphony Orchestra

LANGUAGE

In the Greater Montreal Area, 68 percent of the population are native French speakers, 12.5 percent have English as their mother tongue, and 15.5 percent of residents are Allophones (that is a person with non-official language as mother tongue).

With 53 percent of Montrealers fluent in both French and English, the city boasts the largest bilingual population in Canada. By comparison, only 8.5 percent of the population of Toronto is French-English bilingual. Even in Ottawa, the nation's capital, only 40 percent of the population is French-English bilingual.

Twenty percent of Montreal's population is fluent in a third language.

RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION

- Percentage who are Catholic: 74.5%
- Protestant: 10%
- No religious affiliation: 7.6%
- Muslim: 2.9%
- Jewish: 2.6%
- Buddhist: 1.1%
- Hindu: 1.1%
- Other Religions: 0.2%

Source: Statistics Canada.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

Quebec is overwhelmingly Roman Catholic, but church influence in the affairs of Quebecers continues to wane. Weekly attendance at church has dropped to 20 per cent from 88 per cent in the 1950s, according to Statistics Canada.

Did you know...

that Montreal universities award more than 38,000 degrees annually and account for more than 20 percent of all Master's and doctoral degrees awarded in Canada?

EDUCATION

There are five school boards on the Island of Montreal—three French and two English. In total, there are 124,590 students enrolled in elementary and 98,484 in high school.

HIGHER LEARNING

While Montreal is too big to be considered a college town, it doesn't lack for post secondary students. Among major centres, Montreal is second in North America (after Boston) in university students per capita. There are four major universities in the city: two English language (McGill and Concordia) and two French language (Université de Montreal and l'Université de Quebec à Montreal).

In addition, the École de technologie supérieures, an engineering school that is part of the University of Quebec system, is also located in Montreal, and the University of Sherbrooke has a campus in suburban Longueuil. Montreal's universities enroll 170,000 students, approximately the population of metropolitan St. John's, Newfoundland. The Montreal area is also home to sixty-six public and private CEGEPS (collèges d'enseignement général et professionnel) and colleges.

Did you know...

that Montreal has an official moving day—more than 100,000 Montrealers move every year on July 1st? This tradition most likely comes from Scotland, where every 1st of May people were allowed to “break” their lease in order to find a new home. Scottish immigrants continued this tradition when they settled in Québec. Moving day was eventually changed to July 1st so as not to disturb the children's school year.

EUREKA!

Montreal is the university research capital of Canada. The city has over 200 research centres and more than 1,500 institutions that are active in research and development. Approximately 46 percent of Montrealers aged 15 and above have a post-secondary diploma and 22 percent are university graduates.

HEALTHCARE

- Hospitals: 31
- Childhood and Youth Protection Centres: 2
- Local Community Service Centres: 13
- Long-Term Care Facilities: 68
- Rehabilitation Centres: 19
- Number of doctors in Montreal: 2,513

SPORTS

- Hockey (the Montréal Canadiens)
- Football (the Montréal Alouettes)
- Soccer (the Montréal Impact)
- Formula 1 (the Canadian Grand Prix)
- Tennis (the Rogers Cup)
- Basketball (Montreal Royal)

MEDIA

Montreal has four daily newspapers: three in French—*La Presse*, *Le Devoir* and *Le Journal de Montréal*—and one in English called *The Gazette*, which is one of the oldest English language newspapers in North America.

Weblinks

Montreal Gazette

www.canada.com/montrealgazette

The online source for Montreal news, business, sports, entertainment. The English language paper of record.

Montreal Cam

www.montrealcam.com

MontrealCAM is a network of cameras showing live pictures of Montreal.

Montreal.com

www.montreal.com/tourism/general.html

Almost everything you need to know about Montreal.