



I remember starting to go to Montgomery School in Grade 3. My parents had moved to Montgomery mid-year when I was in Grade 2 so I had to finish the year at St. John Bosco. We had the most amazing block when I grew up-we spend our days skipping, putting on plays and musicals and parades. It was a wonderfully safe environment for a child to grow up and be part of. There were birthday parties, Brownies and Cub Scouts, and of course school. I think we all had a secret crush on our principal Mr. Stilling. We walked to school every day, including winter.

We did get a break in the winter in that we were allowed to bring our lunch if it were deemed too cold to go home at lunch- and in those days, everyone went home at lunch as none of our mothers worked. I thought they just went around having coffee klatches, but I am sure now, thinking back, they probably did a whole lot more than that. We all had huge gardens which we all were expected to work in. We picked fresh peas, strawberries, raspberries, new potatoes, carrots- all were either canned or frozen by our industrious mothers. Many of the neighbours had crab apple trees- of course there were many midnight raids! Although thinking back, it was probably a lot earlier than midnight- we had very early curfews in those days. It was probably more like 9 o'clock latest.

Our world didn't exist beyond Montgomery Place when we were very young. But we were happy and content for that to be our world. Of course when we started high school, we all ventured to Mount Royal- a very big and scary place initially. But we always felt secure in having Montgomery Place to come home to at the end of the day. I still hold Montgomery Place close to my heart. I am very lucky in that I have two brothers who live in Montgomery Place so I can come "home" to visit anytime and am always welcomed. When I do come home, I always spend at least a day wandering all the old but still familiar streets, always looking for a familiar friendly face. I am rarely disappointed.

It was the best of times.

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