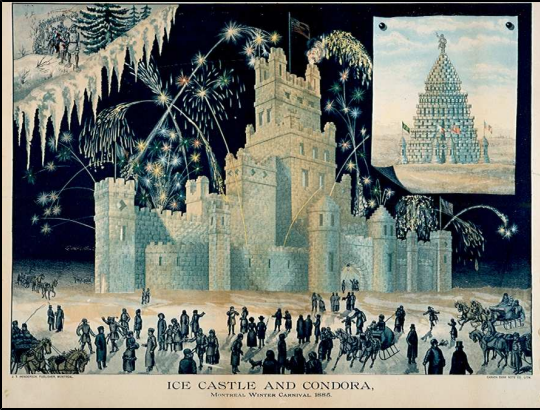




Carnivals during the terms of Jean-Louis Beaudry

**1883** – Year of the first winter carnival. Lovers of winter sports and outdoor activities had a full week to enjoy skiing, skating, gliding, and curling. The mayor was actively involved in its organization. Montrealers were given half a day off to celebrate. The highlight of the carnival was an attack on the ice palace.



Ice palace and Condora, Montréal carnival, 1885.  
Source : Lithograph, Centre d'histoire de Montréal.



Montréal winter carnival programme for 1884.  
Source : Centre d'histoire de Montréal Collection.

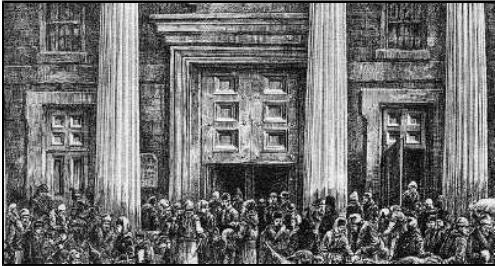
**1885** – From January 26 to 31. Activities were extended to other city districts. French-speaking people now had better access to activities. Ice sculptures enjoyed centre stage. In addition to the ice palace, there was a lion at Place d'Armes, the Condora ice sculpture at Champ-de-Mars, and a volcano at Île Sainte-Hélène.

**1884** – The ice palace was designed by an architect and erected on Dominion Square (now Place du Canada). It consisted of 10 000 to 15 000 blocks of ice cut by workers in the St. Lawrence River, and was electrically powered.



Jean-Louis Beaudry’s accomplishments  
at the municipal level

Jean-Louis Beaudry was a city councillor for two years. He was elected mayor in 1862, and served 10 one-year terms of office between 1862 and 1885.



Bonsecours Market, Montréal, 1880.  
Canadian Illustrated News, Vol. XXI, No. 2, page 17, January 10, 1880.  
Source : Reproduced from the website of Library and Archives Canada  
Nouvelles en images : Canadian Illustrated News.

Fire prevention

Before 1863, the city had to rely on volunteer firefighters. Fires were common because homeowners relied on wood heating and coal. In 1863, Beaudry established the fire prevention department. The first central fire station was built. The first telegraph alarm system was installed at city hall in Marché Bonsecours. Fire alarm boxes were put up on city streets. Firefighting became a profession.

More information on pages 2 and 3

A winter carnival in Montréal

Montréal celebrated its first winter carnival in 1883. A huge electrically operated ice palace was built for the occasion. Numerous sports events and activities were held during the week. A great ball was given at the Windsor Hotel. Countless American tourists took part in the festivities.

More information on page 4





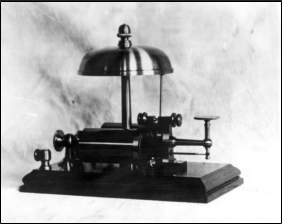


The worst fires in the city’s history



Fire at the Hayes home, Dalhousie Square, Montréal, 1852.  
Source : Illustrated London News.

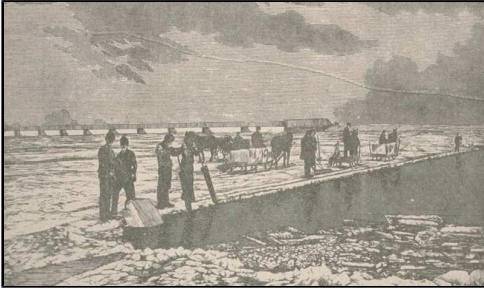
Fire! Fire!



Alarm telegraph.  
Source : Ville de Montréal.  
Gestion de documents et archives.

Thanks to the telegraph alarm system, firefighters knew exactly where a fire had occurred. Numbered alarm boxes were installed throughout the city. When a fire broke out, a designated person (who lived nearby) gave the alert by moving the crank handle. The signal was transmitted to the fire alarm central station at Marché Bonsecours, in Old Montréal, then relayed to all fire stations.

In 1863, the city inaugurated its telegraph alarm system, which also was used by “the water department and the police department.”



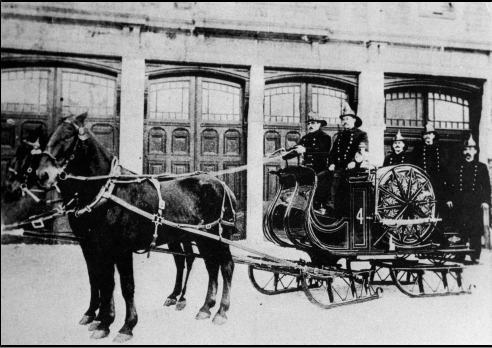
Cutting ice for the carnival palace, 1884.  
Source : Image from E.-Z. Massicotte's Album de rues,  
Bibliothèque nationale du Québec.

For an alarm from station 125, the bell would ring once, then twice, then five times. Firefighters in each station knew exactly where they had to go and what they had to do.

In June 1852, numerous stores and homes in Old Montréal were destroyed by fire. In July, a fire in a small house on Saint-Laurent Street (now Saint-Laurent Boulevard) quickly spread in the district. In the summer of 1852, more than 15 000 people were left homeless.

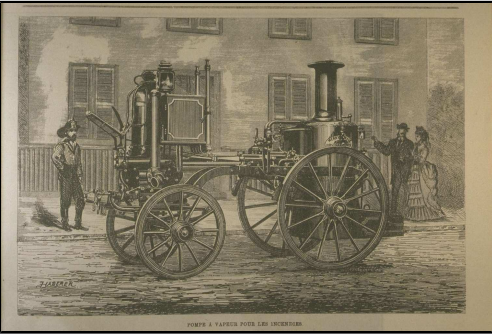


The first fire prevention department

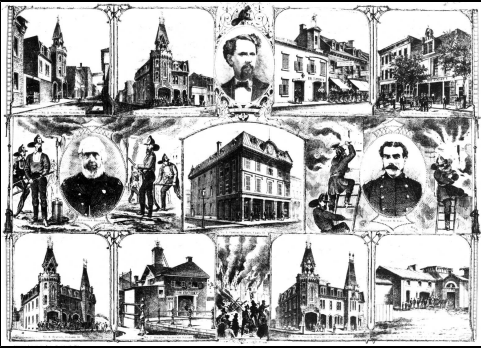


Fire fighters with horse-drawn vehicle, early 20th century.  
Source : Ville de Montréal. Gestion de documents et archives.

In 1863, the city now had its first real fire department. Professional firefighters were hired: fire chief, assistant fire chief, hosemen, 8 guards, 8 assistant guards, 8 drivers. They were posted in 8 fire stations and were equipped with horses and hand pumps. Thirty-six volunteer firefighters were also recruited.



Steam pump for fighting fires.  
Source : *Opinion publique*, Vol. 4, No. 2, p. 17 (January 9, 1873). From *Revue d'un autre siècle*, Bibliothèque nationale du Québec.



Montréal fire stations, the chairman of the Fire Committee, the chief engineer and the captain of the rescue crew.  
Source : Ville de Montréal. Gestion de documents et archives.

Devastating fires such as those of 1852 could have been avoided. People up to that time were used to acting as firefighters. Whenever church bells rang the alarm, people would rush to fetch buckets of water from rivers and streams. There were no water mains or pumps. Buckets, axes, ladders and bells were their only firefighting tools. The city’s first waterworks system was set up at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and the first hand pump was purchased. In 1863, Montrealers could boast of having a modern fire department.