

## Lord of Learning

DUFFERIN SCHOOL opened on St. Urbain Street in Montreal in 1894. Its name honours British diplomat Frederick Hamilton-Temple-Blackwood, 1st Marquess of Dufferin and Ava, who served as Canada's governor general from 1872 to 1878. The school's name is apt, as Lord Dufferin had a strong impact on education by establishing the Governor General's Academic Medals for academic achievement, awards still presented to Canadian students today.

Welcoming a student body comprised of the former students of the British and Canadian School and the Dorchester Street School, the new Dufferin School was overseen by the Protestant Board of School Commissioners. However, Dufferin also educated many Jewish students—in fact, for much of its existence, the student population was largely Jewish. This was due to the closure of a local Jewish school, the Baron de Hirsch School. Students from Baron de Hirsch transferred to Dufferin as well as to Aberdeen and Mount Royal schools.

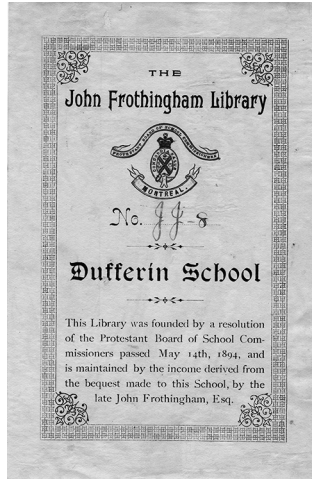
A tense relationship between the Protestant Board of School Commissioners and the Baron de Hirsch Institute (which had run the school) existed after the closure of the school, as the institute positioned itself to look out for the rights of Jewish students in the Protestant system. A clash over curriculum, such as the teaching of the New Testament, brought the two organizations into conflict. It was a challenging time that cannot be done justice here, in so few words. However, the tension was short-lived. The neighbourhood of Dufferin School saw a decrease in both immigrants and local Protestants in the 1920s, enrolment decreased, and in 1928 the school closed.

The library at Dufferin, as indicated on this bookplate, was named for its benefactor, John

Frothingham (1788–1870), an American-born businessman who established himself in Montreal in 1809. He prospered in the city, enjoying success as a merchant of wholesale hardware and iron, but

also as a supporter and organizer of the business community.

He was associated with the Montreal Board of Trade, the St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railroad, the Montreal Stock Exchange, the Canadian Inland Steam Navigation Co., the British and Canadian School, the Montreal Horticultural Society, and the City Bank of Montreal. As a prominent Presbyterian, he gave a portion of his wealth to support the Protestant Board of School Commissioners for Montreal, among other causes.



Notable on this bookplate's design is the coat of arms, which is based on the first coat of arms of the city of Montreal. The four images within the quartered shield symbolize the main founders of Montreal: English (rose), Scottish (thistle), Irish (clover) and French (beaver). The Latin phrase *Concordia Salus* translates—according to the city's website—as “Salvation through harmony.” However, other interpretations can also be found, such as “Well-being through harmony” (offered by Concordia University). Regardless, this bookplate reminds us that a healthy education depends on libraries, and the bequests that make them possible.

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The Rare Books and Special Collections Bookplate Collection can be accessed from the UBC Library Digital Collections and Services site, <http://digitalcollections.library.ubc.ca>.