



# WHAT'S DOING IN Montreal

By ROCHELLE LASH

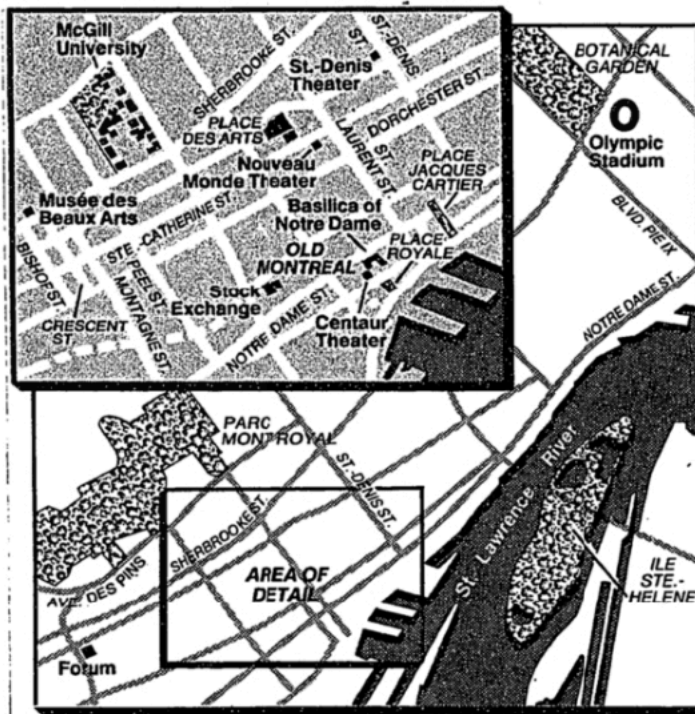
Winter in Montreal can be as old-fashioned as a horse-drawn sleigh on Le Mont-Royal, the 500-acre park at the city's center, or as futuristic as the Olympic Stadium, built for the 1976 Summer Games and crowned a year ago with a 556-foot tower to hold up its retractable, seasonal roof. It's this blend of the Old World and New France that makes Montreal intriguing. Only an hour's flight from New York, Montreal looks and sounds like Europe — without jet lag. Imagine Paris at reasonable prices, with the added advantage of the United States dollar being worth approximately \$1.20 in Canada. (Prices given throughout in United States dollars.)

Though the almost three million residents of Montreal cope with snow from October to April and temperatures as low as 20 degrees below zero in January, winter sports abound and commerce thrives in a weatherproof

Tuesday to Sunday, 10 A.M. to 7 P.M., until Feb. 26. Admission: \$5.50, 50 cents for children, \$2.40 for students and older people.

At Place des Arts (St.-Catherine and Bleury Streets; 514-842-2112), Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal performs Feb. 21 and 22 (\$6 to \$27). Les Grands Ballets Canadiens offers three works in "An Evening of Contemporary Dance," Feb. 14 to 18 (\$10 to \$30). L'Opéra de Montréal performs Puccini's "Bohème," Tuesday and Saturday and Feb. 2, 4, 8 and 11 (\$13 to \$50).

The French-speaking humorist André-Philippe Gagnon, known for his impression of "We Are the World," performs comedy and song routines at Théâtre St.-Denis Feb. 1 to 26 (\$15 to \$20; 1594 St.-Denis Street; 514-849-4211). Théâtre du Nouveau Monde (84 St.-Catherine Street West; 514-931-4113), presents "Les Liaisons Dangereuses," Feb. 21 to March 18. Tickets: \$13 to \$20, with discounts for older people and students.



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have good-size bathrooms with shower; TV on request. There's a bar and restaurant but no room service or bellman.

Hôtel Ruby Foo's (7655 Décarie Boulevard; 800-361-5419 or 514-731-7701), 10 minutes from downtown or Dorval Airport, has been made over with contemporary décor, business center, health club and 450-seat coffee shop. Free parking; doubles from \$70 to \$80 during the week, \$54 to \$60 weekends.

Montreal Bed and Breakfast Association (4912 Victoria Avenue, Montreal, Quebec H3W 2N1; 514-738-9410) offers lodgings (\$40 to \$70 for two) ranging from pensions to manor houses.

## Dining

By law, menus are posted outside

at the bar are festooned with paper parasols. Asian fare includes Bali chowder, Thai scampi with coconut and Chinese rice cakes with mango. Lunch \$7 to \$12, dinner \$25.

Café Mozart (2090 Mountain Street; 514-849-1482), an Old World-style hideaway, always has fresh flowers atop brightly colored tablecloths. Specialties are blinis with caviar, Wiener schnitzel, stuffed cabbage and, for dessert, sachertorte. Lunch \$5 to \$10, dinner \$15 to \$20.

Frosted glass lamps and mahogany walls give the fashionable Harry's New York Bar (1444 Metcalfe Street; 514-499-9838) a turn-of-the-century look. The Bellini — peach juice and sparkling white wine (\$5) — is the house drink. The menu features carpaccio in mustard sauce, spaghetti with basil and grilled veal chops. Lunch from \$20, dinner \$35.

The l'Orchidée de Chine (2017 Peel Street; 514-287-1878) creates delicate, piquant dishes from five of China's provinces. Chicken with peppers and crispy greens, shrimp with cashews, fried duck and doré steamed with ginger are among the choices. Lunch from \$10, dinner \$30.

The sprawling Beverly Hills Cafe (Hôtel Ruby Foo's, 7655 Décarie Boulevard; 514-345-1113) is built around an indoor cactus garden and waterfall. Customers line up for bagels, smoked meat, ribs and 24 kinds of cheesecake, among 150 menu items, all priced at less than \$10.

## Night Life

Studebaker's (1255 Crescent Street; 514-836-1101) takes rock 'n' roll dancers back to the 50's with hits by Dion, the Shirelles and Motown groups. Neon lights, jukeboxes and red leatherette booths create a diner-like décor and waitresses sport cheerleader costumes.

The Japanese-style Shado (3723 St.-Dominique Street; 514-845-2881), a singing bar, provides a microphone, lyric sheets and taped music for aspiring crooners. Patrons take turns, at no charge, singing solo to music from Gershwin to George Michael.

At the Comedy Nest (1234 Bishop Street; 514-395-8118) — "We take U.S. money at par" — the line-up Thursday through Sunday includes Allen Enlow, a New Yorker who does impressions ranging from Truman Capote to Carol Channing (\$5 to \$7). New talent appears Wednesdays, when admission is \$2.50.

Among more than a dozen dance clubs downtown: Metropolis (59 St.-Catherine Street East; 514-288-5559) throbs in a renovated theater where Sarah Bernhardt performed in 1905. Up to 2,200 dancers, most under 30, crowd two balconies and a 2,500-square-foot dance floor. A 25-to-40 year old group gathers at the more intimate Jodee's (2025 Drummond Street; 514-285-6307), where the owner Dieter Piekart greets arrivals.

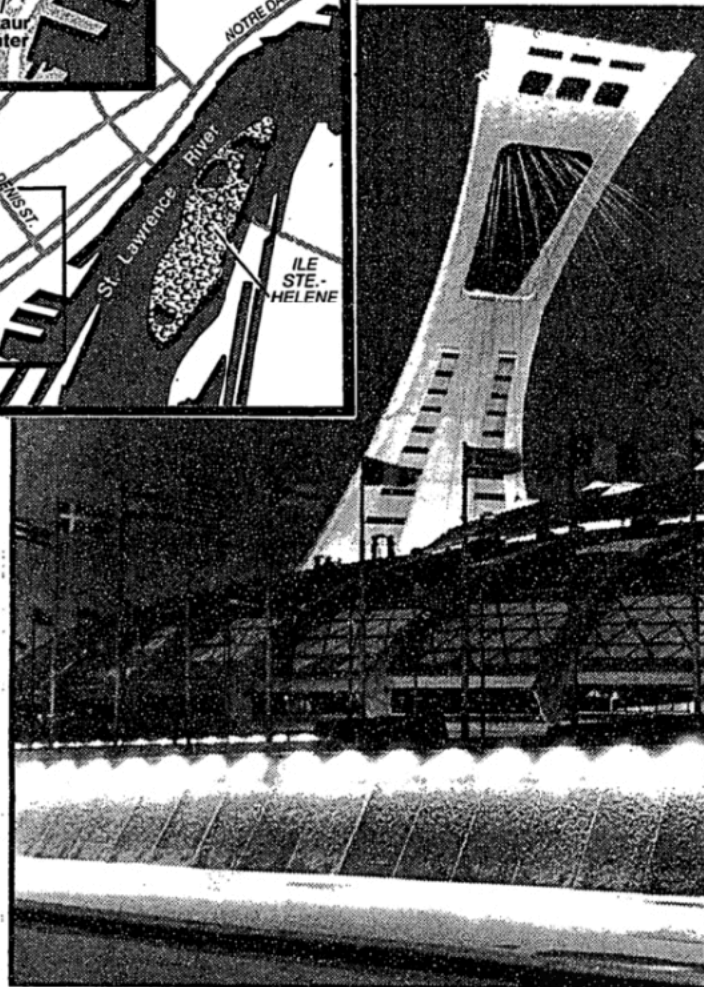
## Shopping

The garment industry, including accessories and furs, accounts for almost 40 per cent of all manufacturing jobs in Montreal, one of the fashion capitals of North America. At 555 Chabanel Street, about a 20-minute drive from downtown, many manufacturers and importers' showrooms are open to the public on Saturday mornings, selling women and men's wear, as well as leathers, at about 20 per cent less than the retail price.

Expensive wares are downtown, many in indoor shopping areas linked underground to the Métro, office buildings and three department stores. In the Cours Mont-Royal (Peel and de Maisonneuve Streets) pricey boutiques fan out on three levels around a winding staircase, in what was once the lobby of a hotel, since remade into deluxe condominiums. At Lancia Uomo, men's suits imported from Italy cost \$1,500 to \$2,500, shoes up to \$2,000. Next door at Giorgio for women, ensembles by Armani and Moschino top \$1,500.



Promenades de la Cathédral, a new underground mall, above; observation tower and dome of Olympic Stadium, right; the Chagall exhibit at Musée des Beaux Arts, below.



second city below street level. Within the past year alone, two architecturally distinctive office towers, Maison de Coopérants and Place Montréal Trust, and a condominium development, Les Cours Mont-Royal, have been built downtown atop underground promenades. While changing the skyline, they have also expanded to about 10 miles the network of 1,250 shops, 200 restaurants and 25 theaters linked below icy sidewalks to eight hotels, 10 million square feet of office space and a train station.

## Events

The city's premier English-language theater, Centaur (453 St.-François Xavier Street; 514-288-1229), will mark its 20th season with a new play by David Fennario, Montreal resident and author of the 1979 hit "Balconville." Tickets: \$11 to \$18 with discounts for students and older people.

The Musée des Beaux Arts (1379 Sherbrooke Street West; 514-285-1600) is exhibiting 47 paintings and 110 drawings by Marc Chagall from the Pompidou Center, Paris. Open

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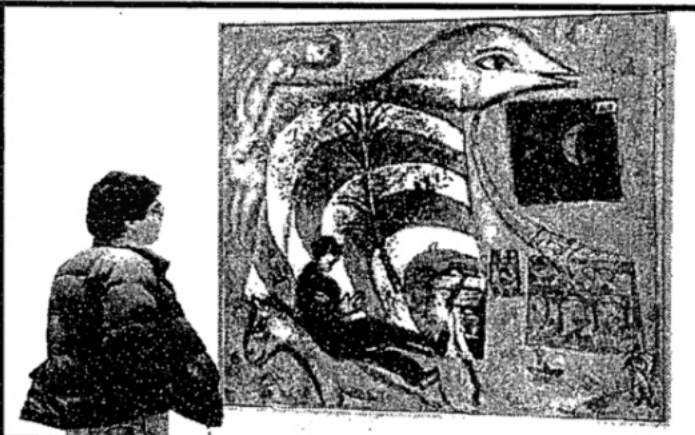
The new head coach of the Montreal Canadiens, Pat Burns, will lead the National Hockey League team against the New York Rangers on Feb. 4 in Montreal. Hard-to-get tickets for the Canadiens, record holders for North American professional league championships with 23 Stanley Cups, cost \$9 to \$15 at the Forum (2313 St.-Catherine Street West; 514-989-2841).

The Fête des Neiges (514-872-1118) will celebrate winter outdoors, beginning Friday (and running to Feb. 5) with country fair activities, many, like a snow sculpture contest, free to the public. Cross-country skiers race on Ile Ste.-Hélène, an island with its own subway stop minutes from downtown. The surface of the basin dug for rowing events of the 1976 Olympic Summer Games has been frozen for dogsled races and public skating.

On Mont-Royal, a horse-drawn sleigh costs \$30 an hour.

## Lodgings

The deluxe Hôtel Quatre Saisons (1050 Sherbrooke Street West; 800-332-3442 or 514-284-1110), a modern tower, supplies three telephones in each of 300 rooms, thick terry bathrobes and TV's tucked into Georgian



armoires. Double rooms cost \$175 to \$195 a night; a two-night package for \$110 a night, on weekends, includes a free drink and health club access.

The Hôtel Reine Elizabeth (900 René Lévesque Boulevard; 800-828-7447 or 514-861-3511) is linked underground to the Métro. There are 1,000 rooms from \$110 to \$160. Double rooms at \$135 offer limousine service, private check-in, free local calls and Continental breakfast. Packages start at \$75 a night with buffet breakfast and 25 percent car rental discount.

The large half-moon windows of the Château Champlain (1050 Lagauchetière Street West; 800-823-7447 or 514-878-9000) yield panoramic views of Mont-Royal or the St. Lawrence River. Health club, access to the Métro and doubles from \$125 to \$160. A two-night weekend package at \$80 a night includes entrance to the Caf' Conc nightclub and car rental discount.

The Arcade (50 René Lévesque Boulevard West; 514-874-9090), a no-frills hotel, opened in December a block from the Palais des Congrès convention center. Doubles at \$47

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