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Dorothy Williams, Raeanne Francis, and Jennifer Sinclair at the Dr. Charles Drew Blood Drive (Page 4)

Rue Notre-Dame

By Ashlie Bienvenu; Edited by Dr. Dorothy Williams

With many restaurants, antique dealers and parks, Rue Notre-Dame West is a very busy and popular street within the district of Little Burgundy. During the early 20th century, the area around rue Notre-Dame became heavily populated due to its proximity to the Grand Trunk and Canadian Pacific railways, as well as the railway stops and the Lachine Canal. It was also in close to many factories and warehouses, such as Stelco, Redpath Sugar, Nordelec, and Dominion Glass.

Also known as Antique Row or Quartier des Antiquaires, the street was, and still is, lined with antique shops showcasing collectibles from



furniture, art, to lamps. Once a buyer's paradise for cheap odds and ends, the street has become a center of artistic and cultural expression. Though a bustling storefront area, little green oases

occasionally break the landscape. Chatham Park, one of the many parks that line the long street, used to be a place of great gathering of the Black community when they would go to watch movies in the park. At one time Notre-Dame was one of the local nightlife strips. The Corona Theater was also a gathering of the community when there were shows, such as comedies, dance numbers and musicals. There was also the Atwater Market, situated at just below Notre-Dame on Atwater. The Market was also a gathering place, where...

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The Creation of the Black History Round Table: a Tribute to the late Jean Doré, former Mayor of Montreal

By Dr. Clarence S. Bayne

Adieu Jean Doré. Doré, former Mayor of Montreal, opened

City Hall to all minorities by inviting them to participate in the democratic process of decision-making about the kind of city they wanted. During the Jean Drapeau administration, the Black community had acquired limited access to the city's civil service due to the interventions of the Black Community Council of Quebec. As a result, some substantial community services in sport and recreation were provided but Drapeau remained distant from our events and community.

However, under the Doré administration we sat at the policy tables at the levels of the MCM party, the city and the boroughs. This set a pattern for the years that straddled the two subsequent administrations of Borque and Tremblay. Doré's style of administration was characterized by his receptiveness to voices from the minority communities and the administration's commitment to creating a socially cohesive Montreal with safe, welcoming neighborhoods.

Black cultural activities flourished under Doré's administration as part of a very direct and planned strategy of cultural tourism and community development. There was significant support of Black culture, theatre, carnival arts, and festivals. The city's support and funding of the Caribbean Carnival was at no time stronger than during the Doré administration. In fact, *Vue D'Afrique*, *Carifete/Carifesta*, *Rhythm du Monde* and *Black Theatre Work-*

shop were formally considered as integral elements in the city's strategic plan for cultural tourism during Doré's term.

For the first time in the history of Montreal, the City's administration created a department responsible for cultural communities' development and hired a significant number of Blacks. Perhaps the most visible association and trend-breaking policy of his administration was the recognition of February as the month that all Montrealers would celebrate Black history and the contributions and presence of Blacks here. There are many Blacks who say that Black History Month should be celebrated every day, not just in February, and there is certainly no one stopping us from doing that thanks to Doré. However, draping City Hall in huge streamers that flow in the wind and read "Le Mois de l'Histoire des Noirs" is no simple achievement in French Quebec. It marks the depth of the relationship between Jean Doré and the Black communities, as well as the respect and value that his administration accorded our place in Montreal. It underlines the pluralism practiced by the new leadership in Montreal and by their initiatives to update and reform the attitudes of the informal, private culture of the city's civil-service, and police about Blacks.

Doré leaves behind his legacy of humanism, his support and encouragement of our participation in Montreal's social and political life, as well as the decision-making processes of the city.

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Youth

Standing on Their Shoulders at the Little Burgundy Spring Festival

By Standing on Their Shoulders

The Standing on Their Shoulders team, along with our friends and partners from Youth in Motion and B.U.M.P, participated at Little Burgundy's Annual Spring Festival on May 23rd. The Little Burgundy community came out to get their spring flowers, plants and earth for planting as well as to enjoy the sunshine.

The beautiful spring day also brought out some wonderful artists, young and old, who were invited to colour in images on our poster of historical sites of Little Burgundy: the NCC, Union United Church, Oscar Peterson Park, Rockhead's Paradise, the Atwater Market, and Georges Vanier Cultural Centre, which used to house the City Hall of Saint-Cunegonde.



We had a great time creating our work of art. It was inspiring to have children expressing themselves through colour and shapes, and relating to these historical places. When we see someone colour in their favourite park, or hear about Rockhead's Paradise for the first time, or ask a parent if they had ever gone to the NCC, we know that they are connecting with the rich history of Little Burgundy in a meaningful way. To truly re-energize the memories of a place, we must pass on these memories to the young. It is through these activities and all the other activities at the Little Burgundy Spring Festival that they will come to appreciate what a truly beautiful neighborhood they have.



Dr. Charles Drew Blood Drive



Our Volunteers: Raeanne Francis and Jennifer Sinclair



Grande Salle of the CRC, where the blood drive was held



Hilarious Riders' Bar-b-q

Saturday, June 13th turned out to be a beautiful, sunny day. Perfect, not only for the Dr. Charles Drew Blood Drive, but for the outdoor bar-b-q. This was possible thanks to BCRC's partnership with the Hilarious Riders. This group of young professionals have created quite a buzz on their motorcycles fundraising for worthy projects in Montreal and abroad. Through their initiative they got numerous sponsors, including tapping into the generosity of our neighbour, Maxi, who provided the food and even allowed Hilarious Riders to use their parking lot to flip the burgers and grill the hot-dogs. The bar-b-q attracted a whole new crowd to the drive in our center--exactly what it was intended to do. We are happy to announce that the Blood Drive was a smashing success. We surpassed our goal of 75 and reached 92 donors.

Unfortunately, many of our generous community members were not able to give blood due to their low blood iron levels. Statistically, Black women have lower blood iron levels than white women, on which the standard iron levels are based. Good news, however! Héma-Québec will be lowering their iron level restrictions in August 2015 allowing more Blacks to donate.

Thanks to all of our community members who donated their time and their blood to a good cause. Thank you also, to our sponsors Maxi, Tim Hortons, and McDonald's. We would also like to thank our partners in this undertaking, the Hilarious Riders. While this may have been a new partnership, it was very successful. We look forward to further collaboration in the future.



Our Volunteers: Jennifer Sinclair and Narinder Kaur



Bar-b-q DJ Station



Hilarious Riders hard at work



Truck from Hema-Québec



Hilarious Riders hard at work

HISTORY

Continued from Cover...

...residents of Little Burgundy could buy their fresh produce and see one another. Before its upgrade several years ago, for young kids, the market was one of the favourite stops on the route. With a quarter in your pocket you could spend a whole morning there. That quarter would be enough to get a banana, an apple, or other fruit, and you could pick up a hot dog or some other hot food to boot.

There have always been many restaurants, taverns and greasy spoons along Notre-Dame. Today the street has gone upscale to attract the gentrified dwellers in the nearby townhouses and condos. The taverns on every corner have been replaced by fashionable pubs, coffee cafes, specialty eateries like the Burgundy Lion Pub and Joe Beef's restaurant and tavern. Joe Beef remains an exceptional spot. Joe Beef (nee Charles McKiernan) was an Irish-Canadian quartermaster in the



Crimean War who later came to Montreal and opened a tavern called Joe

Beef. It was originally in Old Montreal but was later moved to Rue Notre-Dame in the heart of Little Burgundy due to Joe's policy of never turning away a customer, no matter the colour of their skin or religious affiliation.



For the local Black community Notre-Dame was the strip where you could buy clothing, shoes, and groceries at affordable prices. Many of those stores were run by Jewish

families who took it upon themselves to develop loyalty with the St. Henri and Little Burgundy residents. Today increasingly, few of the family-owned, cut-rate retail establishments remain, though the large Dollarama continues to draw foot traffic along the street. Rue Notre-Dame was the centre of retail for residents below the escarpment. It came to be the economic heart of Little Burgundy, much as St. Catherine's Street is for downtown Montreal. It hosted community gatherings at venues such as parks, theaters and a favourite outdoor market. It also came to embody a sense of artistic culture while at the same time being a stone's throw away from a heavy industrial center.



Announcement!!

We are pleased to announce the remodeling of the BCRC website. This new, updated website makes it easier to view our current and past projects, such as Standing on Their Shoulders, Tandem, In the Know, and Taking Hold. It also brings BCRC resources right to your fingertips with online versions of Semaji, our scholarship information, publications and resources so you can stay connected to Montreal's Black community.

We also encourage you to take a look at the Events & Updates to keep track of our new developments and news. The new website will also make the Semaji more accessible. We are currently in the process of putting all past issues of Semaji in the archives section. It also allows easy and fast subscription to our quarterly newsletter.

If you have any comments, or wish to send in articles for submission, feel free to contact us.

Visit our new website at:
www.brcrmontreal.com

Union United Church Reopened at Last!

Photos Courtesy of Hannah Ofori

After four years of renovations, on Sunday, June 14th, the Union United Church, on Delisle Street bordering Little Burgundy, was reopened with a service of thanksgiving thanks to funding amounting to about 1.2 million dollars. The building was originally closed in 2011 in order to deal with the issues of mould and asbestos, as well as water damage and outdated wiring and plumbing. The reason for the four-year delay was because it was not an easy task to fundraise. In fact, they have only been able to obtain money to do the basic renovations, but luckily the rest of the renovations needed can be done with the congregation in attendance. During the four years the Union United Church services were held at Rosedale United in NDG but needed to move to Wesley United three months ago when Rosedale was sold.



Heritage



The Church was filled with its many members who were elated to be back to their original Church. The Church Choir was joyful and their songs of praise were the perfect backdrop to the congregation's hymns of thanksgiving. It seemed like the entire Union United Church family and dignitaries of the community were in the pews, including Dr. Williams, so the best wishes flowed. Ms. Anthony, the Chair, acknowledged our historical project [Standing on Their Shoulders] and BCRC.

The congregation, which filled every pew and balcony in the Church, was treated to a performance from long-time Union United Church member and jazz legend, Oliver Jones. He played on the baby grand piano that he had just donated to the Church. Jones, quite dedicated to bringing the Church back to its former glory, will also be hosting a fundraiser on August 14th called the Dr. Oliver Jones Golf Tournament.



Leisure Club



Inspiration: Profiles of Black Women Changing Our World By Crystal McCrary.

Inspiration shares the personal stories and unique voices of 30 extraordinary black women. Luminaries such as Patti LaBelle, Venus Williams, Susan Taylor, and Judith Jamison speak about the challenges they've faced and the victories they've won throughout their careers. These inspiring black women pass their knowledge and lessons on to a new generation of women in intimate first-person essays and stunning color portraits. --Excerpt from Amazon.com



Blackberry, Sweet Juice: On Being Black and White in Canada By Lawrence Hill.

In this book, Hill movingly reveals his struggle to understand his own personal and racial identity. Raised by human rights activist parents in a predominantly white Ontario suburb, he is imbued with lingering memories and offers a unique perspective. In a satirical yet serious tone, Hill describes the ambiguity involved in searching for his identity – an especially complex and difficult journey in a country that prefers to see him as neither black nor white. --Excerpt from Amazon.ca



Modelland By Tyra Banks.

Thrown into a world where she doesn't seem to belong, Tookie glimpses a future that could be hers—if she survives the beastly Catwalk Corridor and terrifying Thigh-High Boot Camp. Along the way, she learns all about friendship, courage, laughter and what it feels like to start to believe in yourself. --Excerpt from Amazon.com

These books can be found at the Atwater Library's Black Collection.

Stay Tuned For These Movies!!!



The Good Lie (2014). Cast: Reese Witherspoon, Arnold Oceng, Ger Duany.

A group of Sudanese refugees given the chance to resettle in America arrive in Kansas City, Missouri, where their encounter with an employment agency counselor forever changes all of their lives. --Excerpt from IMDb



Black Coffee (2014). Cast: Darrin Dewitt Henson, Christian Keyes, Lamman Rucker.

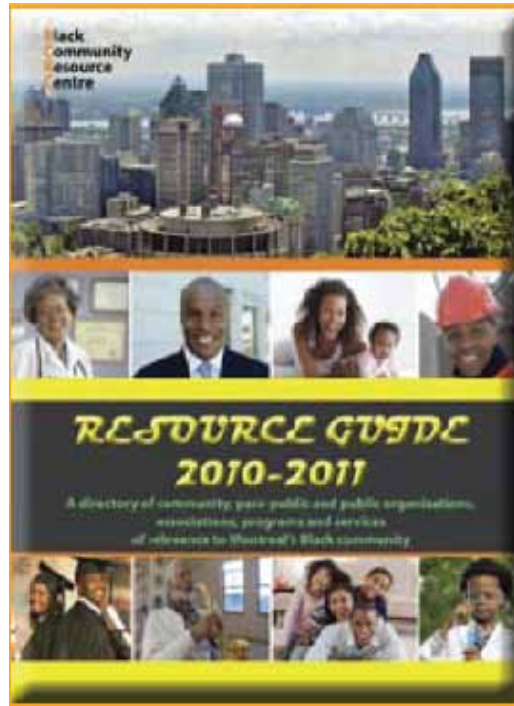
Robert (Henson) picked the wrong time to meet his soul mate! After being fired from his own father's company, he feels like his luck has run out - until Morgan (Dennis) enters into his life. Just as things start to heat up between them, trouble brews as Morgan's ex-husband (Rucker) vows to get her back and Robert's gold-digging ex-girlfriend (Hubbard) returns with an agenda of her own. With the help of his cousin (Keyes), Robert's about to find out how much good can come out of a bad situation in this charming romantic comedy that's good to the last drop. --Excerpt from IMDb



Training Day (2001). Cast: Denzel Washington, Ethan Hawke, Scott Glenn.

Glenn.

On his first day on the job as a Los Angeles narcotics officer, a rookie cop goes on a 24-hour training course with a rogue detective who isn't what he appears. --Excerpt from IMDb



Our Resource Guide highlights a variety of non-profit, public and para-public organizations serving the English-speaking Black community

The Black Community Resource Centre (BCRC) is an organization that strengthens community capacity by providing professional support to organizations and individuals in need. Our team is committed to assisting visible-minority youth rekindle their dreams and achieve their full potential.

Our Funders:

- ◆ Patrimoine canadien /Canadian Heritage, Official Languages
- ◆ Agence de la santé et des services sociaux de Montréal
- ◆ Ministère de L'Immigration, de la Diversité et de L'Inclusion

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