

T & E Report

Montreal

Osheaga Festival, Aug. 2-4



GO TIME WALKING TOUR

TALK

@AZEALIA
BANKS
US &
CANADA:
OSHEAGA
IN
MONTREAL
8/2,
LOLLAPALOOZA
IN CHICAGO
8/3, HARD
SUMMER IN
LA ON 8/4!!!

@solange
knowles
Montreal...
there was
magic in the
room! Thank
you for being
so beautiful!
All love.....

@DIIV
@osheaga
August 2nd,
lolla August
4

@Jessie_
Ware
See you
in the
Summer
Osheaga!
Xxx

@tegan
andsara
We're
making
our first
appearance
at @osheaga,
in Saras city
of Montreal,
Aug 3! Presale
starts Wed,
info + line up
@ http://
www.osheaga.
com

Leonard Cohen

Iconic singer, poet and novelist Leonard Cohen has a rich history in Montreal, his birth city and the inspiration of many of his biggest hits (as well as those of several other artists who were close to him). Although many of his longtime favorite haunts are now closed, you can still experience the city's charm through Cohen's eyes, ears and taste buds at the following local highlights. —Andrew Hampp

● Cohen was raised in **Westmount**, a wealthy neighborhood on the southern slopes of Mont Royal. He would return to his childhood home (located at **599 Belmont Ave.**) with onetime girlfriend Joni Mitchell, who immortalized her visit in the song "Rainy Night House." Often described as the Beverly Hills of Montreal, Westmount is ideal to explore on foot, with beautiful mansions and sweeping views of the city, particularly from **King George Park**, located just a few blocks from Cohen's former residence.

● "When I was about 13 years old," Cohen wrote in an unpublished piece called "The Juke-Box Heart: Excerpt From a Journal," "I'd walk miles along **Saint Catherine Street**, a night-lover, peeking into marble-tabled cafeterias where men wore overcoats even in the summer." Dunn's Birdland, a small club over a Jewish deli where Cohen got his start, is long gone, but Montreal's main commercial strip remains home to many of the city's best venues, including the prestigious **Place des Arts** (lplacedesarts.com), **Métropolis** (metropolismontreal.ca) and jazz-focused **Upstairs** (upstairsjazz.com), which channels the smoky poetry clubs of Cohen's youth.

● Cobblestoned **Old Montreal**, just off the St. Lawrence River, is the backdrop of Cohen's song "Suzanne," inspired by his relationship with Suzanne Verdal (and famously covered by Judy Collins). The couple would walk together and watch sailors enter from the harbor near the 18th-century **Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours Chapel** (marguerite-bourgeois.com). Climb the steeple for amazing harbor views.

● Hoping to spot Cohen in the flesh? Try **Parc du Portugal**, near his current home in the Plateau, where Cohen sometimes sits with old friends. After you've taken in the scenery, stroll down **Saint-Laurent Boulevard** for a slice of Old Montreal at one of Cohen's go-to eateries, **Main Deli Steak House** (maindelisteakhouse.com), a perfect introduction to the city's famous smoked-meat sandwiches. ●

The success of Arcade Fire has drawn enormous attention to Montreal in recent years, but the city's heady blend of French and English influences has long cultivated left-field music talent, from **Leonard Cohen** (see story, right) to A-Trak. The raucous nightlife and Old World vibes have also made Quebec's cultural capital a highlight for touring acts. "Our bands always say it's their favorite stop," Glassnote Records head of touring **Zach Hundley** says. The show opportunities increase drastically when Montreal's remarkably busy festival season kicks in. The world-famous International Jazz Festival took over downtown this month, but the **Osheaga Festival** (osheaga.com)—set on the tranquil **Île Ste Hélène**, just off the city's main island—rules the first weekend of August. This year the Evenko-produced event includes Beck, Phoenix, Frank Ocean and local sensation **Sam Roberts Band**, whose name-sake says, "The festival site is magical, with the city skyline across the river as a backdrop." But be sure to leave time to explore the walkable city's distinct neighborhoods. Capitol A&R rep **Mollie Moore** enjoys taking in the "stone walkways, small lanes and old churches" of atmospheric **Old Montréal**. **Caila Thompson-Hannant** (aka electro act **Mozart's Sister**) shouts out **Pointe St. Charles** and **St. Henri**, "sweet spots for both punk shows and super-high-end cuisine." Trendy hood **the Plateau**, in the shadow of beautiful **Mont Royal**, "can look a bit like Brooklyn," Evenko VP of concerts and events **Nick Farkas** admits, but he says the affordable rents attract creatives. The adjacent **Mile End** district, home to Arcade Fire, is the local

indie music hub; **Alex Ortiz** of We Are Wolves loves its "clash of cultures, from puppies to hipsters to old immigrants."



STAY The glamorous **Hotel le St.-James** (hotellest-james.com) is a magnet for superstars like Bono and Madonna. They book its spectacular penthouse, but all the rooms are swish, and its **XO** restaurant is one of the most highly regarded in the city. For something more mod, the **W Montreal** (wmontrealhotel.com) has sleek rooms and the surreally designed **Wunderbar**, which pulls top DJ talent. During the festival, a collection of **McGill University** residences are converted to the funky, low-cost **Osheaga Accommodations** (osheaga.com); stays include special perks like artist meet-and-greets.

EAT Celebrity chef Chuck Hughes does a band catering tent at Osheaga; Universal regional director **Sophie Barbe** calls his innovative **Garde Manger** (crownsalts.com/gardemanger) restaurant "a must-try." Singer **Torquil Campbell** of local darlings Stars hits **L'Express** (restaurantexpress.ca) for classic bistro fare,

but also loves the antique lunch counter at **Dépanneur le Pick Up** (depanneurlepickup.com): "It's suffocatingly hip," he admits, "but it's really good." Evenko business development exec **Brent Steer** recommends "the tacos at **Grumman 78** [grumman78.com], in an old industrial garage." Moore says **Snack N' Blues** (5260 St. Laurent Blvd.) is great "after you've hit the bars and have the munchies. It's basically Willy Wonka's factory for music lovers."

PLAY For hanging with rock'n'rollers, **Laurence Nerbonne** of Gallic folk band **Hôtel Morphée** recommends **Taverne Saint-Sacrement** (saint-sacrement.com): "It has a warm ambience, and there are always



a bunch of musicians there." Campbell "will always have a special feeling for **Sala Rossa** [casadelpopolo.com] in the Plateau, run by people who care about music." And **Liam O'Neill** of local psych-rock band Suuns says its sister venue, **Casa del Popolo**, "is a great place to drink, party and dance." **Brad Oberhofer**, whose namesake band will appear at Osheaga, loves **Cabaret du Mile-End's** (lemileend.org) wildly eclectic programming, despite some harrowing memories: "When we played [there], it caught on fire and everyone had to evacuate." But the Montreal music scene's spontaneous spirit may best be exemplified by the live shows of hometown heroes Arcade Fire: "We've played some great shows at **the Corona Theatre** (theatreconavirginmobile.com)," drummer **Jeremy Gara** says, "but also in basements, lofts and a parking lot in **Longueuil**." —Ken Scudato

Clockwise from far left: **Brent Steer**, lobby of the Hotel le St.-James, **Main Deli Steak House** burger, **Mollie Moore**

