

Montreal

July 1-5, 2019

Monday, July 1 - Google map directions sent me through [Auburn](#) to begin the drive through Western Maine. However, the instructions to go from Lake Street to Hotel Street in Auburn were incomprehensible since I was unable to find Hotel Street. So I stopped for lunch at Denny's on Court Street to access their wi-fi and assess the situation. I tried my trusty Maine Almanac and Gazetteer but it was not helpful. So when I got to the convergence of streets at the end of Lake Street, I took a chance and was able to find the right road.

The drive through Western Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont was beautiful, although very slow due to narrow, winding roads and traffic. Finally, I made it into Canada Autoroute 55 then Autoroute 10 to Montreal. I was instructed to turn left onto Rue William but I missed the turn and ended up in the downtown area. I stopped at a Tim Horton's on Rue de la Gauchetière Ouest where the friendly manager helped me find my way back to Rue William and, ultimately, the apartment I rented on Rue Richmond.

By the time I arrived, checked in and settled into the apartment, it was quite late. So I decided to have dinner at [Grinder's Viandes & Vins](#), around the corner from where I was staying. It was a warm evening but I procured a bar stool near the sidewalk to take advantage of the light breeze there. I ordered a badly needed martini and a half dozen oysters to start. Then I had Pâtes Garganelli (Gruyère, truffe & sauce Mornay à la truffe, boeuf braisé, gratin de Parmesan) and a glass of Côtes du Roussillon Villages. After the long day and a satisfying dinner, I was ready for a long night's rest.

Tuesday, July 2 - Tried to find Weedoo but the address on Rue Saint-Laurent did not exist (more on that later). I tried to find the Tourist Information office which was supposed to be on Saint-Laurent also but wasn't able to find it. However, I did find a map of Montreal at a gift shop nearby. So I drove to [Parc du Mont-Royal](#) and, after a few misses, I finally found a parking lot near [Lac de Cattors](#). From there, I walked past [Maison Smith](#) on the way to the [Grand Chalet](#) near the top. It was a long uphill trek and it was very hot so I had to abandon the walk. While driving out of the park on Voie Camilin-Houde, I discovered a turnout where I stopped to take the pictures from the western side of [Mont-Royal](#):





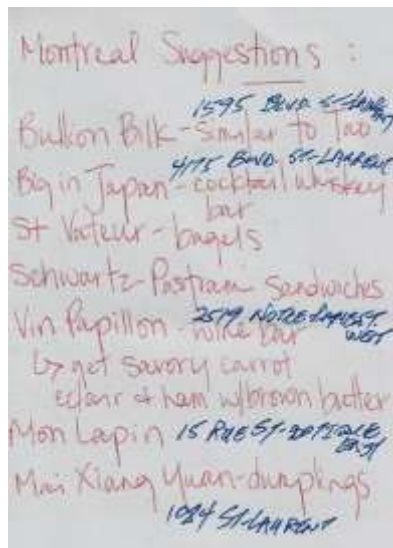
After all the hassles with the traffic and heat, I decided to have dinner at the restaurant across the street from my apartment building. [Le Richmond](#) is a fine dining establishment so I was prepared for a good meal. Strangely enough, the Grilled Octopus Salad I ordered from the menu was unavailable so I had oysters. Then I ordered Lamb Ravioli but was told that the menu I had was not current and that was unavailable today as well. So I ordered Mozzarella Gnocchi. Then I ordered a glass of Chianti Classico but was told they were out of it. Strike three!

Wednesday, July 3 - Visited [Musée des beaux-arts](#) where there was an exhibit of [Thierry Mugler](#)

[Couturissime](#). It was fascinating and the regular exhibitions were great as well. I decided to have dinner at a restaurant that was recommended



by the sous chef at Tao. [Le Vin Papillon](#). Although it was a short drive away, the



trip took three times longer than the directions specified and the temperature was 105° according to the car thermometer. She suggested I have the Savory Carrot Éclair if available, which it was. The strips of smoked carrot and thinly sliced ham in the savory éclair were great with a glass of Cabernet Franc. A chocolate tart for dessert was a perfect ending and went well with second glass of Cabernet Franc. When I returned to the apartment, I decided that, because of the heat and traffic, I would return to Brunswick tomorrow.

Thursday, July 4 - Tried driving home by using reverse original directions from Google maps. I had spotted a gas station on the way out of town so I tried to get gas but their pumps didn't work for the Volvo for some unknown reason. Fortunately, I knew there was a Shell station a few blocks away in the opposite direction so I was able to fill up and get on my way. Everything went well until, after stopping for lunch in [Coaticook](#), I missed the turn onto ME-26 East from US-

2 South. But I realized that I was heading toward the White Mountains in New Hampshire so I turned around and was finally able to find my way home. I was very happy to be home.

