

SCORCHER OF A WEEK

Grab the suntan lotion, because sweltering temperatures are expected to last until Saturday. **Megan Martin** writes about the soaring mercury, **Page A6**

HEAT STROKE RISK HIGH

Health experts caution against overheating after a 14-year-old boy collapses and dies at a water park. **James Mennie** reports, **Page A6**

SAY NO TO DIETS



June Thompson says it's time to take the pressure and restrictions off and start eating in a way that feels more natural, **Page C4**

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SPORTS FINAL

PLACE DES FESTIVALS: SHOWCASE FOR THE MONTREAL OF THE THIRD MILLENNIUM

'This is Montreal defining itself according to its strengths: culture and knowledge'



DARIO AYALA THE GAZETTE

HOT SPOT Two-year-old Anthony Neptune from South Shore St. Hubert cools off as he runs through bursts of water from the sprinklers at Place des Festivals, next to Place des Arts, during the 2010 Montreal International Jazz Festival. **Lynn Moore** reports on the city's hottest gathering place that links neighbourhoods and redefines the future of Montreal. **Page C1**

JAZZ FESTIVAL SMOKE AND SIZZLE

Gypsy band Emile Kusturica & the No Smoking Orchestra took the stage last night in front of a heaving, dancing crowd. **Mark Lepage** and **John Griffin** review the show. **Page C5**



JUST FOR LAUGHS PARENTING HILARITY

From toddlers to teenagers, the mistakes kids make get bigger—and funnier—each year. **Mom's the Word 2: Unhinged** premieres tonight. **Kathryn Greenaway** has details, **Page C1**

PARK AVE. TO UNDERGO SURGERY

**MERCHANTS FEAR
SAME WOES AS
ST. LAURENT BLVD.**

Traffic lanes to close
until 2012 for repairs

Merchants along Park Ave. are bracing themselves for major construction work from mid-July to 2012 that they say may cause traffic nightmares and affect business the way St. Laurent Blvd. suffered.

Monique Beaudin speaks with merchants and city councillor Alex Norris about the construction project that's digging up fears.

STORY, PAGE A4

JAY BRYAN cautions against the sell-off frenzy

The stock market dip will sway many an emotional current, but stem the tide by avoiding the urge to purge.

Page B1



JUST FOR LAUGHS

Seeing humour in teens

Mom's the Word gets a little older

KATHRYN GREENAWAY
THE GAZETTE

When you're a toddler, your mistakes might involve crayons and the living room wall, or Spunky the turtle and the downstairs toilet.

When you are a teenager, the mistakes get bigger and more complicated.

Mom's the Word 2: Unhinged takes a look at parenting teenagers and the treacherous territory that lies within.

The show opens tonight at Centaur Theatre and is part of the Just for Laughs festival.

Mom's the Word 2 is the sequel to a show about living with toddlers that played to sold-out crowds at Just for Laughs in 2001. A French version, translated by Michel Tremblay and directed by Denise Filiatrault, played *Juste pour rire* the same year.

Jill Daum, Alison Kelly, Robin Nichol, Barbara Pollard and Deborah Williams make up the writing team for Mom's the Word. The women create collectively, each one contributing personal stories.

"It's very autobiographical - there is something for everyone with teenagers to relate to," Kelly said during a telephone interview from Vancouver, the collective's home base.

"And everybody else remembers what they were like when they were teenagers."

Kelly has a 21-year-old son and an 18-year-old daughter.

"It's my girl that's the challenge," she said. "For example, today it's sunny, so as she was going out the door I said, 'Don't forget your sunscreen today,' and she said, 'Don't forget I'm 18 today.' They don't want us telling them what to do."

Mom's the Word 2: Unhinged debuted at the Arts Club Theatre Company in Vancouver in 2005 and now has productions in Australia and Scotland.

"When we see the other versions, we realize how universal the world of motherhood is," Kelly said.

The show is a mix of funny and emotional.

"Put five mothers in a hot tub and you're sure to have one battling cancer, one with a crumbling marriage and one with a teenager on drugs," co-writer Daum said.

Please see MOM, Page C6

MONTREAL INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL



Urban design expert Clarence Epstein surveys Place des Festivals and likes what he sees. The facade of the Musée d'art contemporain has been softened with banners that reflect different festivals and events.

PHOTOS: DARIO AYALA - THE GAZETTE



The steps from Place des Festivals provide different sightlines and a link to nearby neighbourhoods.



Anthony Neptune, 2, from St. Hubert finds the dancing waters of the Place des Festivals fountains a great tonic for the heat.

The city's hottest place

Place des Festivals is more than a gathering place for music; it serves as a focus for the new vision of the Place des Arts area, while linking old and new neighbourhoods and providing a site for fun

LYNN MOORE
THE GAZETTE

Place des Festivals, the open-air heart of the arts neighbourhood Quartier des Spectacles, has as many descriptors as it has uses.

Tonight, it will live up to its name as tens of thousands of people partake in the closing evening of the Montreal International Jazz Festival.

It is also the site of Canada's lar-

gest interactive fountain network and a \$40-million chunk of the ongoing \$120-million venture to transform a square kilometre of the city's southeastern core into a refurbished, reanimated entertainment-and-arts district.

But even before it fully comes of age, Place des Festivals has manifested Montreal's vision of itself at the beginning of the millennium, according to Clarence Epstein, Concordia University's director of spe-

cial projects and cultural affairs.

"This is our new identity now," Epstein said as he toured Montreal's newest public concourse with a journalist last week.

"A project like this is one of the examples of Montreal defining itself according to its strengths: culture and knowledge," said Epstein, whose expertise includes architectural history, urban planning and public art.

Please see PLACE, Page C2

TONIGHT'S MARDI GRAS IS LAST BLOWOUT OF FEST

The 2010 edition of the Montreal jazz festival wraps tonight with a Mardi Gras parade and concert at Place des Festivals. More coverage: Page C5, or montrealgazette.com/jazzfest



Lights warm the walls of the Musée d'art contemporain, enhancing the Place des Festivals atmosphere during the Brian Setzer concert that kicked off the jazz festival on June 25. PHOTOS: DARIO AVALA THE GAZETTE

PLACE 'There is a conviviality and ease of movement'

CONTINUED FROM C1

With the largest concentration of universities of any city in Canada, and competing with Boston for the North American title, Montreal is a destination of choice for students. And Montreal's status as a consumer and producer of culture also is unrivalled in Canada, Epstein said, echoing Montreal politicians and opinion-makers.

Although Place des Festivals was officially opened in June 2009, the site was only about 75 per cent complete last year and the location of the main stage was provisional.

Now, with almost all of its systems fully operational and a designated location for the main stage - facing south on Jeanne Mance St. from near de Maisonneuve Blvd. - Place des Festivals is showing Montreal residents a broader range of its attributes.

During festival season, it distinguishes itself as an urban plaza that can be closed to vehicular traffic to host all manner of excitements.

Place des Festivals is bounded by Jeanne Mance St. to the east, Balmoral St. to the west, Ste. Catherine St. to the south and de Maisonneuve Blvd. to the north.

Its geography makes it a link between high art and popular culture.

On the east, it abuts the Musée d'art contemporain and Place des Arts. Fast rising on the northeast corner of Place des Arts is a new concert hall, which will open in 2011. Its major tenant will be the Montreal Symphony Orchestra.

To the west is the Maison du Festival Rio Tinto Alcan, the permanent home of the jazz fest, a club and a bistro. And beyond is the stretch of Ste. Catherine St. most popular with shoppers.

In designing the site, the architectural firm Daoust Lestage Inc. had to deal with "a real pastiche" of existing buildings, Epstein noted. Originally Place des Arts was one of those big-picture ideas that drew inspiration from New York City's Lincoln Centre. It was supposed to be an assembly of buildings with a common architectural language and a common purpose.

But that master plan was never fully implemented.

Jeanne Mance is fronted by the "blind arcade" of the museum, a windowless wall that is uninviting and large garage doors that lead to underground parking.

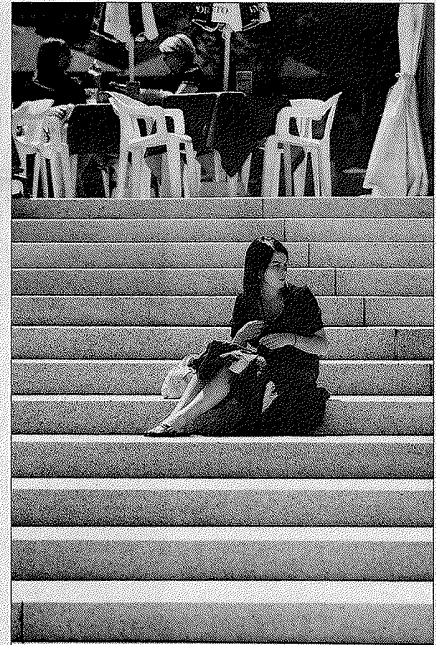
The site designers have



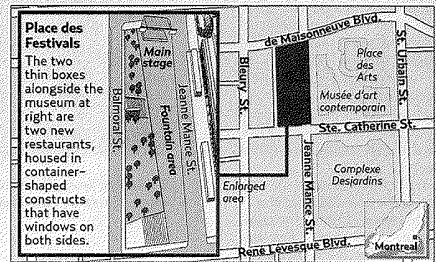
People relax in the afternoon sun on the grassy hill at Place des Festivals, while children take a break from the heat by playing in the water fountains.



Anthony Neptune, 2, from St. Hubert, waits for the fountains to spring to life.



Karine Lassard finds a quiet spot on the steps leading from Place des Festivals.



THE GAZETTE

taken steps to soften that look. Banners, which will change as the festivals come and go, provide a "second skin" for the facade, Epstein noted. The introduction of restaurants housed in container-shaped constructs that have windows on both sides also breaks up the monotony.

A new staircase on the western side of the plateau leads to Mayor St. - "a very smart way of integrating" the site into the adjacent neighbourhood, which includes the storied fur district, Epstein said.

He pointed to the four towering light standards as signature pieces that recall the frames of buildings and help the space be seen from a dis-

tance. When Paul Fonteyn was asked his opinion of Place des Festivals one night last week, he spoke first as a visitor from Belgium who had last seen the area six years ago, before its transformation.

"I think it's splendid. A big improvement," he said. "There is a conviviality and an ease of movement here."

Then Fonteyn considered it from a professional vantage, as a producer who often works with large groups of extras, getting them to move back to the spot where the scene started "in a short period of time and without too much commotion."

Again, the site got full marks. "You can have a view

of the stage and the artist (from the western slope) without having to get too close or get too involved," said Fonteyn, who had earlier watched how some people near the main outdoor stage "were able to move away easily," despite crowds.

That slope was created by excavating 50,000 tonnes of earth, making some of that land level with a narrowed Jeanne Mance, adding a plaza along the length of the block and then building up the ground to the west, according to site managers.

While Epstein and Fonteyn looked at form and function, 5-year-old Wilson Myers was looking for the fun.

He found that in Place des

Festivals' unique dancing waters, fountains that he can run through: there is no lip because the water reservoirs are underground.

"He can't be any happier than he is here," his mother, Carmen, said as she kept an eye on Wilson and his older and equally delighted sister Felicity.

"And when they are happy, I'm happy," the visitor from Boston said.

Not only is the fountain network, which has 235 jets, cooling and fun for kids, it can be shut off to maximize space during peak festival periods. The network is a closed system and loses only about one per cent of its water every two days - "a minimal amount,"

said Marc Randall, head of operations for the Quartier des Spectacles Partnership, the non-profit management group for the sector.

The lighting and animated fountains serve as a quiet reprieve for area residents in between festivals, Randall said.

The jazz fest, the Just for Laughs festival and the FrancoFolies de Montréal alone draw more than 5 million people every summer to the site.

In the winter, such events as the Montreal High Lights Festival also will bring people to the site, Randall said.

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