

BEST ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT STORY



Goose Wings

The lost music of James Bay and beyond gains an international audience

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JESSE STANIFORTH *the Nation*

This is a charming story told from a local angle, but with national breadth. It documents a little known chapter in our cultural history while announcing that "lost" recordings will be available again. The writing is engaging and solid. Subject voices are captured with grounded authenticity. The layout and photographs are entirely appropriate and support the text very well.

RUBY PRATKA

Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph

Look to! introduces the reader to a unique space of deeply shared cultural practice. This is the kind of local story that would generate much wider interest. The writing is playful. The explanation of current practices and their connection to historical tradition flows seamlessly. A delightful read.

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Look to! The bells of the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity

RUBY PRATKA
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It's Wednesday evening in the bell tower of the Anglican Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in Vieux-Québec. About a dozen men and women arrive chattering, mostly in French. A voice-speaking English, cuts through the discussion.

"Look to!" The ringers snip to attention, taking hold of the ropes leading to the heavy bronze bells 60 feet and two levels above their heads. The bells, the lightest of which weighs 545 pounds, are not to be toyed with.

"The bells are going... she's gone!" The highest-pitched bell rings out over the Old Town, followed in descending order by its seven sisters. The ringers transition into more complex sequences of notes, interlocking patterns dating back to England in the 1500s.

The ringers are carrying on a Quebec City tradition dating back to 1830. "Someone who was ringing at the time of Queen Elizabeth I could ring with us today," says ringer Douglas Kitson, wearing a t-shirt with the words "ringing nerd" on the front. "Change ringing" is a technique of intricate, fully spaced bell ringing

unique to the Anglican Church. It is practiced in seven churches in Quebec and two of those are in the City—Holy Trinity and Saint-Matthew's, now a branch of the municipal library.

At Holy Trinity, commands for the bells are given in English but the official language of the bell tower—as announced on a large notice on the wall—is French, about half the current ringers are Francophones. "We're the only bilingual French-English bell tower in North America," says bell captain Isabelle Couture. And change ringing, she says, has a "very special language all its own."

"Stand next!" calls the ringing master. The scale in-ches and the bells abruptly fall silent. Ringing looks like an athletic endeavour—following the bell rope, pulling with your arms (and abs) and at times rising on tiptoe to move with the bell—but ringers say patience, timing and coordination matter far more than brute strength.

"I've seen 10-, 11- and 15-year-old kids ringing in England," says Australian-born Kitson, who has been part of the Quebec City guild for 15 years. "What you really need is patience, patience and patience. Ringing is a different skill from anything you've ever done before."

The youngest ringers in the Quebec City Guild of Change Ringers are in their early twenties, the oldest are retirees. Many of them became ringers by chance, and ringing quickly became a passion.

"I was taking a guided tour of Quebec's religious heritage, and the guide was explaining the differences between Catholic and Anglican churches, and Douglas (Kitson) happened to be giving a demonstration," says ringer René Moisan. "He explained everything, and I was in love with ringing from the beginning."

Couture discovered ringing in much the same way. "Playing guitar," in her words, in Vieux-Québec, she happened upon a ringing demonstration. "I couldn't understand how they could ring together without saying anything," she remembers. "It looks easy when you watch, but then the rope jumps out of your hand at first and you don't have time to think... normally you learn an instrument and then work your way up to the symphony, but this is like learning your instrument while playing with the symphony!"

Couture has rung in towers all over North America, from Toronto to Boston to New York to Charleston, South Carolina. "It's a great way to travel," she says. "Everywhere I went, I was welcomed and helped by more experienced ringers." For Couture, change ringing is "something to be proud of, like any musician with their instrument."

Kitson says those who ring for religious reasons are a minority in the ringing community. "I'm an atheist, but I spend more time in church towers than any Christian I know," he and Couture, at least, ring for fun. "I ring with a group at the Old North Church in Boston where there are at least five Jews and an equal number of atheists. I've rung with blind people and people with severe mental retardation. Ringers are the most heterogeneous group I've ever seen."

"Ringing brings people from all faiths and all professions," adds Couture. "I've been ringing for six years, which makes me young, in ringing years," says Moisan, 66. "It's a real mental workout, a significant physical workout, and above all, I'm with wonderful people."

If you are interested in learning more about change ringing, please contact bell captain Isabelle Couture (bells@cathedral.ca).



The bells of Holy Trinity, the oldest change-ringing bells in Canada, were installed in the Cathedral in 1830. They were made by Whitechapel Bell Foundry, in London, England. The largest of the Holy Trinity bells, the tenor, weighs 1,600 pounds; the smallest, the treble, weighs 545 pounds.



Jan Larle, Benjamin Waterhouse and Douglas Kitson are the picture of concentration during a Sunday morning ringing session.

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Ring gets stylish in Saint-Roch

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Langlois Optique (337 Rue Saint-Joseph Est) took to the catwalk alongside garments from local boutiques such as Teaspoon (301 Avenue Dorchester), Sweet & Ginger (705 Rue Saint-Joseph Est) and Bainsville (601 Saint-Joseph Est).

From the languid, flowing and feminine lines that are the statement of Mango's style, to the seriously funky, structured ensembles from Teaspoon, the show provided a trend-spotter's guide to what will be seen in the coolest city this summer.

Take note QCT readers: denim, silk, chiffon, bold prints and big platform shoes should all be on your spring shopping checklist.

During a brief intermission, the well-dressed audience composed mainly of women made a beeline for the bar, where they displayed perfectly painted nails clapping their glass of wine. Then the lights dimmed, the music volume went up and the catwalk blazed back to life.

The second part of the show profiled high fashion à la québécoise. Crazy about Black (320 Boulevard Saint-Laurent, Montreal) presented a nostalgic collection that fused modern and 1950s styles — big prints, bright colours and high hemlines. Meanwhile, Autrefois Saigon (55 Boulevard Levesque Est) showed off a mouth-watering collection of lime green, turquoise blue and geranium-pink chiffon prints — bold as brass.

Local designer Marie-Josée Bergeron entertained the crowd with a medley of crax and styles: 1970s-inspired bouffant dresses, 1980s trouser-suits and 1990s monochromes were all present. The result was less of a mish-mash than it sounds, and the sublimity clearly appealed to the audience.

Passionate fashion blogger MaryLynn from lafabriqueepoque.com was hugely enthusiastic about the feel of the show. "This show was full of 'wow' looks!" she said, before citing Teaspoon's collection as her true favourite of the entire event. As the show came to an end she hurried off to the boutique which, like all the shops offering the other labels exhibited, was keeping its doors open until 11:00 p.m. for those who had seen the item of clothing they simply had to have.

At the international fashion shows, what the front-row celebrities are wearing is just as good a gauge of upcoming trends as the clothes on the catwalk itself. In the front row of the Fashion Québec Mode event I spotted nautical stripes, laddered tights, trilly hats and some seriously toned-up also framed by high-waisted stacks and crop-tops (abs not available in the shops). Add these key pieces to your spring fashion list and you're sure to look the part in the city this summer. At least you will in Saint-Roch.



Crazyabout Black combined bold, 1950s-inspired prints and high hemlines to dramatic effect.



Autrefois Saigon offers a mouth-watering collection highlighting such hues as lime green, turquoise blue and geranium pink.

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LAURENT ROBILLARD-CARDINAL

Bulletin d'Aylmer

This story captures one of those magical moments when art, education and community values come together. The reporter manages to strike just the right balance between the vision of the artists, the participation of students in a very elaborate creative process, and the regard that the school community holds for this continuing expressive project.

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Wednesday March 5, 2014 Vol. 33 No. 9 *Vivre en harmonie—Together in harmony* Le mercredi 5 mars 2014

Les murs des écoles Symmes et D'Arcy McGee prennent vie!

Lara Jimenez participe à la création de la murale, le 26 février.

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Charabias, rocké à big music competition, *Omnium du Rock*.
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La Fondation Bernard Cain, *Mourir à la maison, une option toute naturelle!*
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Des chaises de sauveteurs en permanence.
Page 12

Circular dans les corridors d'une école d'années, le professeur d'arts Sylvia Bretzlöff et l'artiste Marcio Melo agrémentent ces corridors de murales colorées et impressionnantes. (LRC)

Walls of Symmes and D'Arcy McGee schools come alive with colour

Laurent Robillard-Cardinal

Walking through school halls can be a bleak experience, but not at Symmes Junior High School and D'Arcy McGee High School. For roughly a decade, Symmes Junior High School visual art teacher Sylvia Bretzlöff and Pontiac artist Marcio Melo have spruced up school corridors with colorful, mesmerizing murals. The duo's forces again during the 1st week of February to attack and beautify another part of the district.

part of the district from main-street Mango (529 Rue Saint-Joseph Est) and

artist Marcio Melo have spruced up school corridors with colorful, mesmerizing murals. The duo's forces again during the 1st week of February to attack and beautify another part of the district.

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Judge: James McLean, Associate Professor, Concordia University/Department of Journalism, Montreal, QC • Number of entries in the Best Arts and Entertainment Story category: 31