

Game: The Alouettes offer outstanding entertainment at Percival Molson Stadium

Game and Grub

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I have been a fan of The Montreal Alouettes football team dating back to when I was a young child and games were played at the old Autostade.

The 1980s represented tough times for Als fans. In 1982 the club went bankrupt and were reborn as the Concordes. That lasted for four seasons, until the Alouettes name was brought back in 1986. It was short lived and just prior to the following campaign they disbanded, seemingly for good. Nearly a decade later the Baltimore Stallions, one of the American teams that had joined the Canadian Football League, relocated to Montreal and naturally assumed the iconic Alouettes name. It was rough going attendance-wise at Olympic Stadium and when a U2 concert in 1997 forced the team to schedule a playoff game elsewhere they wisely choose



Server Martine and manager Jasmine at Le Bijou

McGill's Percival Molson Stadium. It was an immediate hit and they have not left since.

Yes, the team almost folded twice more. First they were rescued by Toronto businessman Gary Stern. When he gave up ownership, the savior Pierre Karl Péladeau stepped up. Now in his third season, he has been praised for his supportive role.

I love the ambiance at McGill and I was there for the home opener, a thrilling 37-30 victory over Toronto. I got to interview quarterback Davis Alexander and receiver Tyson Philpot – two star players. What true ambassadors they are for the sport here! This is an exciting team. If you have not seen them play at home, check out what you are missing.

GRUB: The Bijou Resto Bar is the go-to dining restaurant at Trudeau Airport

Are you looking for a fine dining experience at Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport in Dorval? How about a way to avoid the frequent traffic congestion and exchange it for a relaxing experience? Well, then I have something to share with you.

Recently I had to pick up family at the airport. Due to the construction on a new parking lot, you can spend more than an hour on the highway before getting to arrivals or departure depending upon the time of day. I chose to leave my home more than five hours before the flight and my destination was the Montreal Airport Marriott In-Terminal Hotel. If you dine at The Bijou Resto Bar at the Marriott and spend at least \$75, your valet parking fee (based on availability) for four hours is free. I was

lucky to get a coveted valet parking spot right at the entrance. With my laptop computer in my bag, I headed to the business center where I got some work done. I made a 6 pm reservation at Le Bijou.

My server Martine was superb. I began my meal with a delicious order of Salmon tartare, composed of salmon, avocado, coriander, cucumber, roasted pumpkin seeds, Sriracha mayonnaise, tobiko and crispy nori. In addition, I sampled the braised short rib tacos. This was another winner, made with pickled enoki mushrooms, cilantro in between a flour tortilla. Just to ensure I tried something else, Martine brought me a sampling of their fabulous risotto.

Next came the main course. The menu has quite a nice variety, but when I saw confit duck leg there was no other choice, accompanied by sweet potatoes, braised white turnip and sherry vinegar reduction.

For dessert I had my eyes on the S'mores and the decadent creation did not disappoint.

There is no question this is the best dining establishment on the airport property. The hotel and restaurant are located at 800 Place Leigh-Capreol. For more information call 514-828-5117. Go to www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/yulma-montreal-airport-marriott-in-terminal-hotel/dining/



Tyson Philpot in an interview with Mike