



bière / vin

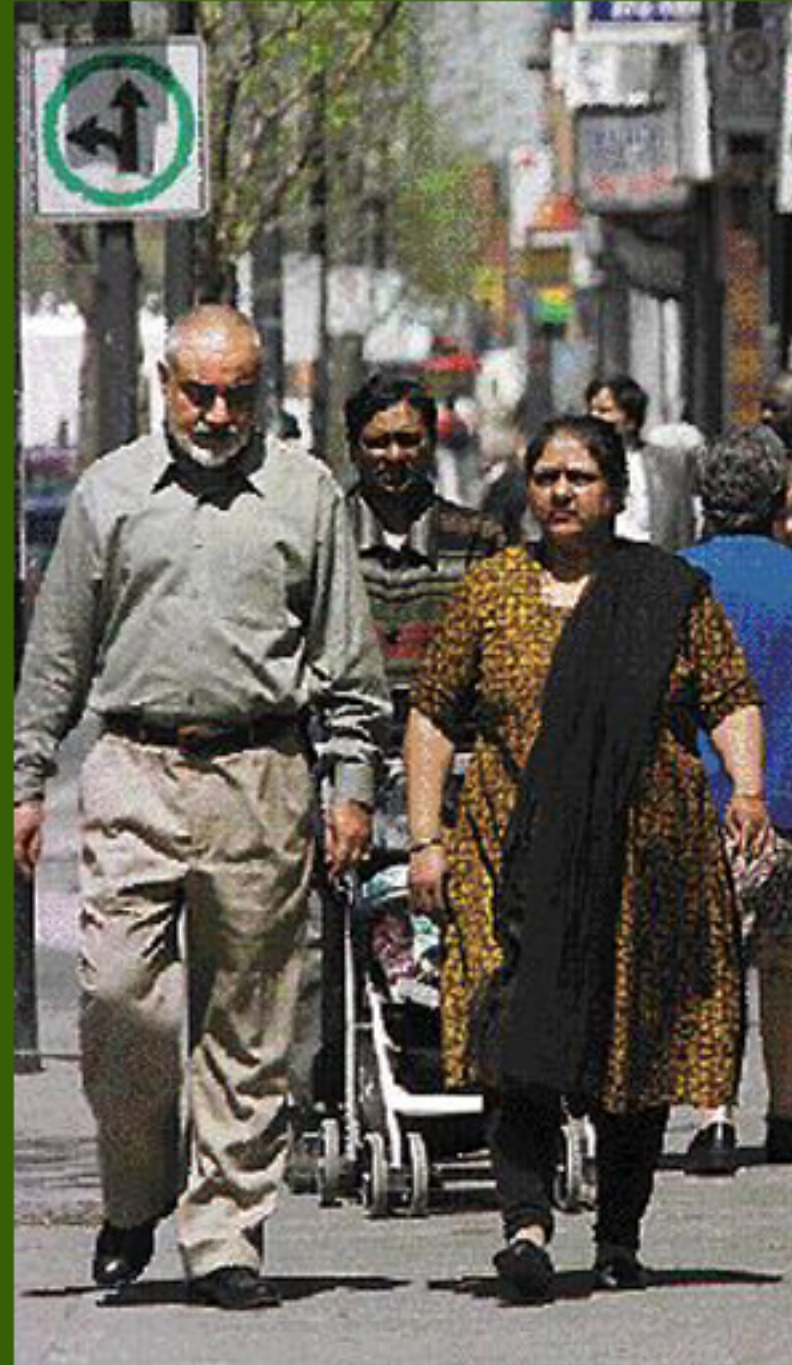
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## The Gazette

Mardi 8 Mai 2001 Nous avons figuré sur la page couverture de 'The Gazette'. Le journal anglais de Montréal...

TUESDAY MAY 8, 2001 57¢

### Welcome to Little India



Restaurateurs Dalbir Singh and his wife, Daljit Kaur, are just two of the thousands of people of South Asian origin who moved into the Park Extension district in recent years

### Park Ex has new face

Excerpt From: *The Gazette (Montreal)*

Written By: *Irwin Block*

Date: *Tuesday May 8, 2001*

### GOT A FOOTHOLD

Daljit (Dolly) Kaur and her husband, Dalbir Singh, started their Punjab Palace restaurant in what used to be a pool hall. They opened 10 years ago to get a foothold in the neighbourhood before it takes off.

"Toronto has Gerrard St., and there are two Indian Bazaars in Surry, B.C.," Singh observed. This is Montreal's Little India. It's becoming an Indian neighbourhood and there is no other quite like it."

The lease was up on their former eatery, called Nataraj, on Ste. Catherine St. near Guy St., and the couple thought the timing was right to relocate to Park Ex..

"Things are just getting started. The rent was reasonable," Kaur recalled of the area, where several shops today have for-rent signs.

On Jean Talon St. these days, you can see sari-clad women shopping for curry and chutney. Enter one of its many Indian restaurants and you might hear a love song from Hindi soundtrack of Churi Churi (Still My Love) as you wait for a plate of vegetarian thali.

At the local Jean Coutu pharmacy, you can be served in Creole or Hindi by the new owner, a Mauritius-born pharmacist named Nirvishi Jawaheer, who studied in France and England. These are the new sights and sounds of Park Extension's main street, fast emerging as Montreal's first Little India.

It is a transformation propelled by the arrival of 7,000 Asians who now live and shop among the 30,000 residents in the area bounded by Beaumont Ave., Cremazie and l'Acadie Blvds. And the CP Rail tracks.

The South Asian influence in commerce is growing, spreading east from l'Acadie along Jean Talon toward the Park Ave. metro station.

Walk their and you will see five Indian restaurants competing for space and clientele in an area that for years was called Greek Town.

It's still home to 8,400 people of Greek origin, but the new reality here is of a strong and growing presence of visible minorities from South Asia and West Indies.

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## Nouvelles @ Punjab Palace

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