

Early report from  
Auroville International Meeting  
in Montreal, Canada,  
September 2007



Dear Friends,

We're really all appreciating this wonderful city, especially as the temperature is very mild. It is highly multicultural, with over 100 nationalities present, complete with their food and religions. And everywhere people are bicycling, whizzing around fast!

After an authentic Durga Pooja at a temple created by Sri Lankan Tamil refugees, we had lunch at an Indian restaurant run by Sikhs from near Amritsar .



Shraddhalu explains the symbolism of the temple

Cirque du Soleil, the famous international circus, has created a campus on the edge of an old limestone quarry which became a huge landfill. Methane from the landfill is now being tapped to generate electricity and the yellow leechate (made infamous in Cape Town by ZERI expert George Chan) is being reprocessed in an oxygen rich bubbling to break it down. They are also doing major recycling and chipping wood and composting leaves. The Tohu building itself uses recycled materials and the whole complex will one day be part of a circus university on the edge of a large park:

[http://www.cirquedusoleil.com/CirqueDuSoleil/en/Pressroom/cirquedusoleil/factsheets/international\\_HQ.htm](http://www.cirquedusoleil.com/CirqueDuSoleil/en/Pressroom/cirquedusoleil/factsheets/international_HQ.htm)

<http://greenbuilding.ca/iisbe/gbc2k5/teams/canada/TOHU/TOHU-pg6.htm>

Some of our tour were so hoping to see a performance they returned in the evening for

<http://www.tohu.ca/en/activities/calendar.aspx?ID=184>

Some of our group met with the young cast afterwards.





Today we were at the National Library (another paradox in Quebec which has a strong pride in their French heritage and leans towards separation from time to time from the rest of Canada).



In any language, it is a beautiful and functional building which, like other public buildings, makes Art a required part of the architecture.

We had a very moving visit with Madeleine Gosselyn, founder of Le Centre Sri Aurobindo, the Canadian Auroville Association and bringer of the Canadian soil to the foundation ceremony. Her loving presence and stories touched us all.

We now represent Quebec, Canada, US, UK, France, Spain, Italy, Germany, Brazil, Holland, India, with Mexico & South Africa on the way...

Au revoir,  
Julian

Report from AVI Meeting  
at Spa Eastman, Quebec , Canada  
24 28th September 2007

Greetings from Quebec !





It is Wednesday evening and we have been meeting for 3 days at Spa Eastman a beautiful resort offered at a special rate to the AVI association for this meeting by the owner, Jocelyna, who was part of Aux Petites Oiseaux in Montreal and visited the Ashram and Auroville between 1971-1973. In her own words, she expressed wanting to do something in her life that carried forth the vision that inspired her during these times and Spa Eastman is that creation. She was utterly delighted to have the chance to host this meeting and it has been very nourishing (in every possible way): [www.spa-eastman.com](http://www.spa-eastman.com)

As is often the case, this meeting has been pretty jam packed with dynamic discussions hence the infrequency of reports for which I apologize. To give a quick overview this is what we have been up to:

Day 1:

Meeting of AVI board where discussion included voting for the new board and discussion on collaboration between IAC and AVI. There was also some discussion about the latest developments in the IZ who have just begun meeting again in Auroville and L'Avenir. In the afternoon, this was the first meeting of the general assembly and it began with a unanimous agreement to the new AVI board.



After this Yanne Dimay gave a stimulating presentation on the preparation of the UNESCO event planned for next year Auroville's 40th at UNESCO headquarters Paris which will coincide with the UNESCO general assembly meeting. This event will be facilitated at the highest level by Dr. Karan Singh. Dr. Doudou Diene, Dr. Kashyap Desiraju (HRD ministry) and Enzo Fazzino in UNESCO will also be involved.

It was mentioned that this is a perfect opportunity for linking embassies and Auroville via UNESCO and could be a real stimulus for the IZ. Six different countries agreed to translating the recently completed MM film in their respective languages.

In the evening a film was shown made in France showing the remarkable role one bone in the base of the head may have played. It is shaped like a butterfly!!:

<http://www.guba.com/general/video/Independent/home>

<http://www.metanexus.net/conference2005/pdf/staune.pdf>



#### Day 2:

The morning was devoted to working on AVI participation for Auroville's 40th birthday. This began after an hour long introduction round to welcome and introduce Adrianne Portillo, new liaison from Mexico who just arrived and Aravinda and Jasmin who had also managed to visit for the day.

The rest of the morning was spent in a "workshop" to try and gain more clarity on how to develop the "soil ceremony" idea which has been drafted in concept but needs much more detailed elaboration. Surbhi facilitated this session including small group brainstorming and an attempt to synthesize the different ideas. In the end a committee agreed to work further to try and present a more coherent proposal in order to help manifest this idea.

In the afternoon, a few more topic points relating to Auroville's 40th were mentioned a summary of events known till now, mention of the possibility for a youth conference in collaboration with Dena Merriam from the Women's World Peace Initiative.

This was followed by Auroville presentations including on ACCESS, Isai Amabalam and NCBS, mediation service, Auroville transport initiatives, open source software proposal, Auroville Industrial school and a brief report from South Africa Liaison (as Jasmin and Aravinda had to leave again). At the end of the presentations, the group adjourned to watch the short film "listening to our children" and the new Matrimandir video which was appreciated by everyone tremendously.

In the evening, we had a cultural program with Devasmita and Paolo both dancing for the group and then we all participated in folk and Sufi dances led by 2 of our Canadian hosts Stephan and Marie Jose.



#### Day 3 (today):

began with a special program organized by Stephan who introduced us through sharing stories and film about a native Algonquin elder known as Grandfather William Commanda. As a result of a kind of "conversion experienc" he has become a leader and voice for both indigenous people and inspiration to many as he works in his special way through his life and message for creating a circle of all nations. Stephane and Marie Jose were very much wanting to offer this exposure as they feel his vision and Auroville's are very close. William is 94 years old and made a special prayer for us at his homeplace at 9:30 am in the morning as he was unable to travel to the meeting.



We also spent some time in a sharing circle speaking of the impact of the films on his life and work as we were personally touched.

In the afternoon, Monique began with a detailed update about the land situation in Auroville some recent history leading to the proposal of exchange of lands and discussion followed which highlighted the complexity of the problem that appears not to have any easy human solution. This presentation was followed by centre reports from all centres except



Netherlands as we ran out of time.

Tomorrow is last day. After a 14 km morning hike (first time some of us have really been outside for more than getting from bed to meals to meeting!) we will gather in the afternoon to complete unfinished topics, work a bit more on the 40th birthday proposal and the new board will meet.

In the evening we will have a round for closing reflections.

We have all been greatly appreciating the detailed organization of Christian and the Canadian team and especially the beauty of this current location.

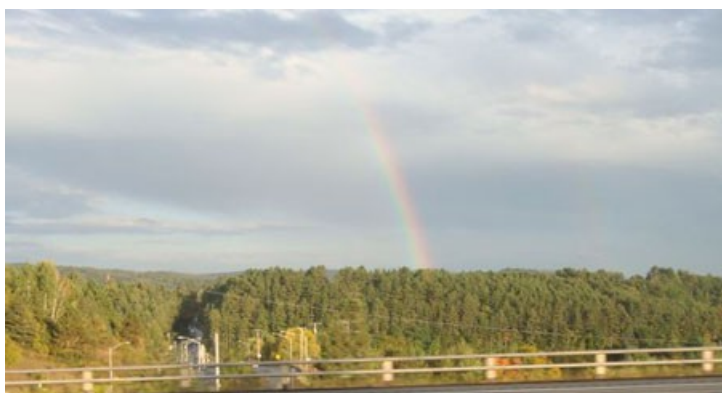
September 28 at 5:30pm



Rainbow over Plateau Mont-Royal while most of the AVI participants of this wonderful meeting were leaving Montreal.

OM NAMO BHAGAVATE SRI ARAVINDAYA

Christian Feuillette



Dear Christian,

It seems our rainbow(s) taken in Vermont as we drove South were reaching back to Montreal to join yours to show that we are still connected...

Love and Thanks,

Julian (Wendy, Kathy & Friedericke)

[Click here](#) for plenty more photos on AVI UK website

Announcing Auroville International Meeting in Canada,  
September 2007



Theme: Auroville and the Future of Human Race

The main AVI meeting of the year with board meeting and election on new board will be held from (19-28) in Montreal , Canada .

This meeting follows an exhibition and conference on Auroville at the end of last year, which laid the foundation for local participation and networking.

Invitation to participate is open to all.

Shradhalu Renade from the Sri Aurobindo Ashram, and Mr Marc Luyckx and Mr Doudou Diene from Auroville's International Advisory Council have been invited to participate.

The preparatory schedule for this meeting is as follows

September 19:

Arrival of participants to Montreal

19-23:

Stay at the Center 7400 in Montreal

<http://www.viateurs.ca/aujourd'hui.html>

20-22:

- Cultural visits and tours in Montreal, presenting the local, creative and multicultural sides of Montreal (Mont-Royal Parc;Vieux-Port; Biosphere; Biodome, visit at Cirque du Soleil Headquarters and Multi-ethnic and multi-cultural Montréal).
- Visit to the Sri Aurobindo Center in the heart of the city – Plateau Mont-Royal – (where there are Sri Aurobindo's relics since 1987)
- Meetings in the evening
- On Saturday 22: afternoon/evening: Public Meeting and conference on Auroville
- On Sunday 23: At twelve, leave for beautiful Spa Eastman (1 hour south of Montreal ).

23-28:

Stay at Spa Eastman

<http://www.spa-eastman.com/accueil.php?lang=en>

Board meetings including election of new AVI board

Open meetings and presentations on Auroville , Quebec ,  
Canada and Natives culture  
Local visits...

On Friday 28 at 12 noon: end of meeting.

The price (all included, lodging, food, visits, etc.) will be around \$125Can. per day. As the places are limited and we have to make a payment in advance, we please ask the people who want to come to make a reservation in sending a deposit of minimum Can\$300 - U\$ 260 or Euros 200 -, before April 15 2007. Cheque to the order of Auroville International Canada, mentioning MTL meeting 007 to be sent to this address:

Auroville International Canada  
c/o Christian Feuillette  
4252, rue Chambord  
Montréal , Qc  
Téléphone (514) 521-8203  
H2J 3M2, Canada

The balance should be received at the latest by the first of August. Please notice (according with the hotel's reservations) there will be no possibility to get a refund for cancellation after this date.

More info by Christian, mailto: [editchfeuillette@yahoo.com](mailto:editchfeuillette@yahoo.com)  
<http://aurovillecanada.org/montreal2007.html>