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# Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

## Summering: a Photographic Essay on a State of Mind

Maurice Amiel · Saturday, July 9th, 2022

**Summering, as a state of mind**, involves a benign relationship to the outdoor after a long cold winter. It is the time when we feel liberated in our movements and freed to experience the outdoors simply, whether as individuals or in company of others, whether in contemplation or in social activities and cultural events.

**The feature image**, reprised below, shows the entry to a Montreal office building, where a sculpture of Atlas carrying the weight of the world on his shoulder keeps company with greening nature and an anonymous working stiff, on a cigarette break, who seems to experience a foretaste of summer.



Simply being there

**The following photographic essay** illustrates social aspects of that experience, from a meditative individual at a “café terrasse,” to a couple of elderly friends resting on a park bench, a birthday celebration in a park and the musical closure of an annual outdoor art exhibition.

**The meditative lady** seated alone at a table of the Westmount Park “café terrasse” seems lost to a world symbolized perhaps by her utilitarian bag, and the distant corner of an upscale apartment building ... a penny for her thoughts!



a penny for her thought

**The two elderly ladies** seated on a bench by the pond of the same park seem to leisurely take in the view of the distant greening landscape, while the standing man at the edge of that pond seems more interested in its wading ducks. A momentary crisscrossing of interests held together by the spirit of summering.



Whiling their time by the pond

**The spirit of summer** of this outdoor birthday celebration is colourfully rendered by the multicoloured balloons, the red bags and table cloth and the distant yellow children play equipment. Our visual attention to the scene is helped by being sunlit while the surrounding trees shadow pattern seems to “enclose” the event.



balloons and a sunny patch of park

**The musical ending of an outdoor art exhibition** is provided by a marching band performance of “When the Saints Come Marching In.” That performance attracts the visitors to momentarily gather near it while still carrying on their conversation and their enjoyment of the art and riverside viewing ... the pleasures of summering.



oh when the saints come marching in

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## End words

Any passage from one season to another will bring its share of relief from their extremes. As the tender greenery and mild temperatures of spring give way to announced summer climatic extremes we may soon be retreating to climatized indoor venues.

Let us therefore enjoy the beginnings of this summer, making it easier to bear what could come next!

## Credits

All photos were taken by the author.

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