



PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## *Ben's Delicatessen ...on its way to the Museum!*



Montreal, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2007 — The McCord Museum, sensitive to what shapes Montreal's unique character, is participating in the preservation of Ben's story and history.

Ben's delicatessen was founded in 1908 by Lithuanian immigrants Ben and Fanny Kravitz. After some time, the restaurant moved from St. Laurent Boulevard to a new location, on the corner of de Maisonneuve Boulevard and Metcalfe Street. It was to become one of Montreal's landmarks; and many celebrities and artists such as Leonard Cohen or Pierre Elliott Trudeau were regular customers of Ben's. From its humble beginnings to the present day, Ben's has been run and managed by different generations of the Kravitz family. After 98 years of existence, Ben's closed definitively, in December 2006.

Because of the important part delicatessens played in this city's recent history, because this restaurant is witness to the success story of Eastern European immigrants who came to Montreal, and because of all the stories that are waiting to be told about Ben's, the McCord staff knew they had to preserve the rich history of this institution.



Two Montreal museums will take part in this historical salvage operation : the McCord Museum and the Musée de la Personne, an initiative of the Centre d'histoire de Montréal. To ensure that this multi-layered heritage is kept alive, a three-step preservation project is underway: first, the gathering and preservation of significant artifacts and archives related to Ben's history; second, a series of interviews that will allow individuals linked to Ben's (the Kravitz family, the former employees and the patrons) to share memories, stories and anecdotes; and third, at a later date, an exhibition that will include a wider scope: the fundamental role of delicatessens in Montreal's culinary history.

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**LA PRESSE**

**The Gazette**

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