

David Koch was living in Victoria, BC when the thought floated into his mind that he should try living in Montreal. So he went to school there, yet sometimes found his soul seemed out of gear with the world around him. Making radio at CKUT changed that.

*About the program:* On May 29, 2009 I showed up at a rally in Southwest Montreal, an area crisscrossed by a railway and an old canal -- relics of Montreal's old manufacturing sector.

Buildings that once contained factories now stand empty in the Southwest. Some are being razed for the construction of condominiums, which are pushing up rent prices throughout the low-income neighbourhood of Point Saint Charles, according to community advocates.

To oppose this process, residents and activists assembled in "the Point" on May 29 to parade through the streets and occupy an abandoned factory, where activists would establish a community centre.

The parade was celebratory, and that feeling persisted as activists entered an abandoned candle factory and began to build barricades.

The next day, I received an email calling for an emergency demonstration. Riot police were showing the squatters to the door.

My report, which aired on Groundwire and CKUT, includes interviews with numerous activists and residents of Point Saint Charles, including one conducted by my friend and colleague Aaron Lakoff.

I also took photos of the events, which can be found along with a transcript of the report at <http://bit.ly/bBXL0>.