... recalls his Yesterdays

by Lynn Allison

Eddie Albert and Cloris Leachman.

More often than not, to be a great Montrealer you've got to be patient. And Larry Kent is no exception to this rule.

The Town of Mount Royal resident has just completed his first big budget film for Cinepix. The $2 million movie called *Yesterday* will take a total of 10 months to complete — almost a year out of Larry's life.

As director, Larry Kent put in 14 to 16 hour days, seven days a week. But for a man who has waited 16 years to get this break, it was a golden opportunity.

"I'm a little depressed right now," he said recently from his comfortable TMR home. "It's like an anti-climax."

"We had many problems. No, no — the actors were superb. The major problems concern time and money. No matter how big your budget, you never have enough of either."

The movie, scheduled for release next fall, will star Cloris Leachman, Eddie Albert and Vince van Patten.

Kent claims the American superstars were a pleasure to work with: "The more talented the performer, the more exciting they are. These were very dedicated people."

A recent interview depicted Leachman as an egocentric rather "bitchy" lady. Kent seemed very surprised. "Oh no. She's very inventive and considerate to deal with. Sure there are certain artistic conflicts, but the vision of the director must remain in focus."

Canada is enjoying a bonanza of feature filming right now, a situation that pleases Kent enormously. "We've got very talented people here — especially technical people. Our actors have either been too theatrical or too 'televisiony' in the past — but I think they're developing more realism."

One of the major factors

La Joie de vivre

Kent

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in this bonanza is the tax break available for contributions to Canadian film. The funding for *Yesterday* came from the public — via the stock market.

Of course, unless Canadian films sell — and they haven't done too well in the past — the period of expansion may not last too long.

For Kent, the crunch will come when *Yesterday* is released. As director, he has a 2½ percent share of the profits.

Yesterday is the love story of an American boy who meets a Québecoise girl during the Vietnam War era. It focuses on the effect of that time on their lives.

Final shooting will take place in the spring. Then Kent will spend three months editing, readying his baby for release.

In the meantime, he will start looking for a new project. His family has been very supportive throughout this difficult period, a time when money has been scarce, and tempers thin. Mary Kent works part-time as a nurse and looks after Sherri and Laurie who were very impressed with the star quality of *Yesterday*.

"The industry is addictive," he said. "There's nothing else I would ever want to do."