



GREGORY SIGNS

& ENGRAVING LIMITED

is proud to be part of the removal of the Sam the Record Man sign.

Vaughan, Ontario. October 2008.
www.gregorysigns.com

It's hard to believe that it's been a year and a half since it was announced that the legendary record shop would shutter its doors for good.

"It's a great honour to be involved in saving such a great sign and making sure it will be back in all of its glory," says David Grose, national sales manager with Gregory Signs of Vaughan, which is doing the work.

"It's truly one of a kind."

For decades, two giant neon spinning records served as a beacon to music lovers shopping on Yonge Street. Each "record" has 120 white neon tubes with corresponding transformers and flashing units that make it appear to be spinning. Every tube, bolt and wire as well as the sign's sheet-metal background will be lowered to the ground and crated.

Complicating the work is the fact the two discs—each 7.5 metres wide and 8 metres high—were built nearly a generation apart. The original dates to 1969, the second, just north, to 1987. Neon letters spelling "SAM"—with 550 bulbs—were added atop each disc in 1987, as were back-lit signs, "Yes, this is SAM the Record Man," below them. While the second disc was largely constructed off site and then attached, the original was crafted by crews on the spot, Grose says.

Ryerson lit up the sign for one last time in celebration of Nuit Blanche, an all-night art crawl held across a large swath of downtown Toronto.

Sam the Record Man



Ryerson's Student Union President, Sheldon Levy (President of Ryerson University), and Kyle Rae (local city councillor) turning the Sam sign on one last time.



Sheldon Levy (President of Ryerson University) removing the last neon tube from the Sam sign.



Gregory Signs crew on Nuit Blanche.



Sam the Record Man sign being dismantled.