

8th Edition of the Hydro-Québec Celebration of Light

Non-stop passion and performance from Ghislain Poirier, L'Assemblée, La Bande Magnétik, Dee, Charlypop, Qbanito...

Montreal, Wednesday, February 7, 2007 – This year, the **Hydro-Québec Celebration of Light**, the festive and thrilling outdoor program of the **MONTREAL HIGH LIGHTS Festival**, outdoes itself with a program of non-stop entertainment! Still beaming after last year's inaugural success on the Festival's new site in **Old Montreal** and **Quays of the Old Port**, organizers have conceived a roster of brilliant new events to warm the hearts and fire the imaginations of all who flock to the new locations. Over **two long weekends—Thursday, Feb. 22 to Sunday, Feb. 25, and Friday, March 2 to Sunday, March 4, 2007**—the party sets the very heart of winter aglow with a rich array of activities to tempt even the most timid out of hibernation! This year's schedule features a **completely different program of activities every night, including a free show on the Hydro-Québec outdoor stage, Loto-Québec fireworks displays** to light up every face in the city, **special events** featuring light-shows, percussion and music offered by the **Quays of the Old Port**, along with DJs and VJs in the heated **Loto-Québec Sphere**, a wholly original nightclub in the heart of Montreal winter. In short, expect two weekends of non-stop entertainment and festivities filled with warmth and joy! It's the perfect environment and opportunity for friends and family to gather together and take winter by storm! From **6 p.m. to 11 p.m. on Thursday and Fridays**, from **noon to 11 p.m. on Saturdays (and until 3 a.m. during the Montreal All-Nighter)** and from **noon to 6 p.m. on Sundays**.

Grand Opening Event

As announced last Tuesday, the Festival opens in full force with the first **Grand Opening Event presented by Labatt Bleue** on Thursday, February 22 at 7 p.m.! Two-fisted rocker **Éric Lapointe** and his band face down the elements from the **Hydro-Québec Stage**, while the urban pyrotechnics and fireworks of *Coup de foudre*, presented by **Loto-Québec**, match his music with a passionate light show! Next, **DJ Champion** fills the 20-metre inflatable sphere with a DJ set hot enough to send the February chill packing!

Different and Original Programming Every Day!

From **2 p.m. to 4 p.m.**, the **Hydro-Québec Stage** is transformed into an enchanting **theatre** to thrill the young, and the young at heart. Also, on Saturday, February 24, the **Théâtre de l'Aubergine de la Macédoine** presents *Paradox et Parodie!* and, the following Saturday, *Nez à nez!* On Sunday, February 25, **Les marionnettes du bout du monde** take the stage with *L'homme-castelet!*, and on March 4, **Les Productions Drôle de Monde** reveal the playful wonders of *Chassés-croisés!*

The party heats up on the **Hydro-Québec Stage** with passionate performers delivering two half-hour sets **every night at 7 p.m. and 8:15 p.m.**! Start with the fiery **Qbanito** (Feb. 23), then add the electrifying and committed hip-hop of **L'Assemblée** (Feb. 24), the unparalleled vocalese of **La Bande Magnétik** (March 2) and the inspired human-beatbox-and-beyond **Charlypop** (March 3)!

Special Events on the Quays of the Old Port

Winter moves to a whole new rhythm during the Special Events on the Quays of the Old Port, presented with the participation of **L'Entracte!** Join in the **Tam-tam Parade** starring **Zuruba**, **l'École de percussions Samajam**, **Studio Pro-Danse** and the **Théâtre Sans Fil** (February 23 and March 2), as well as the **Torchlight Procession**, with **Les Jongleurs de la Mandragore**, **l'Académie de Danse Martine Laferrière**, the **collège Regina Assumpta** and **Théâtre Sans Fil** (February 24). On March 3, enjoy **Fresco on Ice**, presented in cooperation with **Nuit Blanche sur Tableau Noir**. To close out the program, the **Port Symphonies of Pointe-à-Callière** set the theme of New York to music, Sunday, March 4 at 1:30 p.m.

Lighting Up the Winter Sky!

At 8 p.m., the **Loto-Québec Winter Fireworks** set the winter sky ablaze with colour! On opening night, the urban pyrotechnics of *Coup de foudre* punctuate the grand finale of **Éric Lapointe's** performance. After the brilliant success of last year's firecracker show, inspired by the famed latino *masquetas*, **La grande pétarade** doubles its payload: the pyro, percussion and firecrackers will be spread over **two Fridays!** Saturdays are also for fireworks displays, so don't miss the explosive March 3 finale when the **Grand All-Nighter Fireworks Display** brings that wild event to a fiery climax. Now that's how winter gets a little colour in its cheeks! **Presented with the participation of Concept Fiatlux.**

It's Sphere! A Unique Winter Nightclub! – a unique performance every evening!

The best way to beat the cold? Move! Every evening at 8:45 p.m., the **Loto-Québec Sphere** hosts DJ and VJ sets to shake winter's booty: February 22, **DJ Champion** grooves to visuals by **Pillow**; February 23, DJ **Dee** and VJ **YUL Montréal** reach rhythmic altitude; February 24, **Andy Williams** and **Po'Start** get the party started; March 2, **Ghislain Poirier** and **WLTV** jangle the electro; and on closing night March 3, DJs **Sounshaper** and **Nathan Burns** along with VJ **Crazy Tapis** host the Montreal All-Nighter event **Silence Disco!** at 8:15 p.m: thanks to wireless headphones loaned for free, party-goers can groove to the music... in silence! It's a North American premiere, **presented with the participation of Piknic Électronik.**

Daily Activities

Music, lights, pyro—and the Festival has other thrills in store! Welcome to the all-new **Milk Jumpaï**, a mix of trapeze, trampoline and bungee-jumping—all free! Enjoy **À la recherche de l'élixir perdu** presented by Milk, a treasure hunt for all our little detectives! And don't forget the always popular **Milk Ice Slide** in Place JacquesCartier, a 120-metre thrill ride that's safe for the whole family, and the **Milk Animation Zone**, a snowy playground featuring soccer, relay races and winter games! And what would winter be without lacing them up for a turn on the **Quays of the Old Port Skating Rink** (admission fee) at Bonsecours Basin?

Head indoors to recharge your batteries... Festival Style!

After enjoying winter to the max, it's time to warm up with a snack or a steaming hot beverage. Thankfully, the huge Old Port and Old Montreal site is an oasis for intrepid winter-goers. Gather around a brazier – unofficial symbol of the Festival since its inception – located in **Braziers Place**, featuring the entertainment and illuminated costumes of the **Regroupement des amuseurs publics de la place Jacques-Cartier**, and also in the warm and inviting **Bar Amarula**. Feed your winter hunger with roasted chestnuts of **La Locomotive**, sausages and marshmallows served in the **Braziers Bar**, and irresistible maple taffy-pull-on-snow at the **Milk Maple Kiosk**. Then recharge your batteries with a few revitalizing minutes under the infrared heaters of the **Hydro-Québec Dome**.

Another new addition: this year marks the return of the **SAQ Bistro!** After many happy rounds in Place des Arts, the Bistro moves to **Pavillon Jacques-Cartier** in Place Jacques Cartier, the very heart of the Hydro-Québec Celebration of Light! Besides the quality, diversity and consumer-friendly pricing of its wines, the Bistro offers a tasting menu of Quebec pâtés and cheeses, along with delicious flavoured coffees.

Hydro-Québec Celebration of Light Off-Site Activities

The Hydro-Québec Celebration of Light knows no bounds – with activities and events taking place off-site from Day One! On February 22, join in the 10th annual **Tuques Bleues Snowshoe Event**, sponsored by Les Amis de la montagne. A tradition dating back to 1840, this event spotlights continuing efforts to preserve the crucial and beloved Mount Royal environment. Register at lemontroyal.qc.ca. There are also thrills for foodies with the **Festival of Our Cheeses** presented in cooperation with **Complexe Desjardins**. This year, it's double the pleasure with six days instead of three (Feb. 22, 23 and 24, and March 1, 2 and 3) to delight cheese lovers. Meet Quebec's cheesemongers and discover their home-made treasures. On Sunday morning, March 4 – after the Montreal All-Nighter – join in the **Milk Convivial Breakfast**, served free to some 3,000 hungry night-owls!

Get All The Info...

Get all the exciting information on the Hydro-Québec Celebration of Light in the **free official Festival brochure**, available on the Festival's site, from many Old Montreal businesses, and from most Montreal tourist sites. You can also pick up the Festival's four other free publications: the **Air France Wine and Dine Experience presented by American Express** gastronomic program; the **Sun Life Financial Performing Arts** program; the guide to the **4th annual Montreal All-Nighter**, party extraordinaire for night-owls, running until dawn with more activities than ever in three of the city's most charismatic neighbourhoods; and the guide to the **2nd Montreal Downtown & Underground Event**, presented by **Hydro-Québec** in collaboration with **Milk**, a challenging and informative event featuring an athletic/exploratory 5 km tour of the corridors, tunnels and halls of Montreal's unique indoor/underground city. Call the **Info-HIGH LIGHTS** line at 514-288-9955, toll free at 1-888-477-9955, or visit montrealhighlights.com.

The 8th edition of the **MONTREAL HIGH LIGHTS Festival**, presented by **Hydro-Québec**, runs from **Thursday, February 22 to Sunday, March 4, 2007!**

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