



Hydro
Québec
**CELEBRATION
OF LIGHT**



FEBRUARY 21 TO MARCH 2, 2008

A non-stop array of free shows and activities

Montreal, Monday, February 11, 2008 — With the massive success of the **Hydro-Québec Celebration of Light**—doubling its attendance since moving to **Old Montreal** and the **Quays of the Old Port** three years ago—the **MONTREAL HIGH LIGHTS Festival** can't wait to welcome its fans back to the site! There will be plenty to heat up the heart of winter through **two long weekends of free activities** on the exciting outdoor program! The action includes **concert programming on the Hydro-Québec outdoor stage, with its giant new LED screen, Loto-Québec fireworks displays, special events** featuring lights, percussion and music on the **Quays of the Old Port**, as well as DJ and VJ sets in the **GiveltYourMinimum AXA Sphere**, which also hosts a **free winter circus for children** in the afternoon. Join us from **Thursday, February 21 to Sunday, February 24 and from Friday, February 29 to Sunday, March 2, 2008**—from **6 p.m. to 11 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays, from noon to 11 p.m. on Saturdays (until 3 a.m. during the Montreal All-Nighter)** and from **noon to 6 p.m. on Sundays**.

A grand Opening Night for the ages

The Festival hits the ground running with its **Grand Opening Event**, presented as part of the **Quays of the Old Port Special Events**. A salute to the 400th anniversary of Quebec City, the show stars **Les Respectables** with special guest **Antoine Gratton**, lighting up the Hydro-Québec Stage on **Thursday, February 21, at 7 p.m.** And speaking of light, they'll be followed at **8 p.m.** by **pyrotechnics** and **artistic lighting displays on de la Commune Street** (from St. Gabriel Street to Bonsecours Street), presented in collaboration with **Concept Fiatlux**, as part of the **Loto-Québec Winter Fireworks**. Festival fans can keep the party going in the **GiveltYourMinimum AXA Sphere**, where **DJ Moonstarr** and **VJ Euterke** keep the music pumping and the crowd dancing. This segment of the evening, beginning at **8:15 p.m.**, is presented in collaboration with **Piknic Électronik**.

A brand new giant 15-metre interactive LED screen!

This year, the Festival goes panoramic with a brand new **giant LED screen** measuring an eye-popping 15 metres! Before and after shows, fans will be invited to step up to the **interactive console at the Hydro-Québec Stage**, create designs, and watch as they are projected for all to see! Of course, concert performances and even the VJ creations in the Sphere will also be projected on the screen, which is visible from a great distance.

Exhilarating free outdoor shows

Along with Festival opening performers **Les Respectables** and **Antoine Gratton** on Thursday, February 21 (exclusively at 7 p.m.), the **Hydro-Québec Stage** welcomes electrifying performances (at **8:15 p.m.**) from **Taktika** (Friday, February 22), **Numéro#** (Saturday, February 23) and **CEA** (Friday, February 29). On Saturday, March 1, the **Christopher Williams Siberian Experience** invites fans to celebrate as the wild comedian closes the Hydro-Québec Celebration of Light and opens the 5th Montreal All-Nighter!

Special Events on the Quays of the Old Port

In the **Quays of the Old Port Special Events**, presented at **7:30 p.m.** with the participation of **L'Entracte**, fans are invited to join in the **Winter Tams-Tams** with actor **François Gadbois**, a walkabout featuring the personalities, dancers, musicians and percussionists of **Kumpa'nia**, **Studio ProDanse** and **Théâtre Sans Fil** (Fridays, February 22 and 29), and the **Torchlight Procession** (Saturday, February 23), when **François Gadbois** will be joined by **Christian Thomas**, **Les Jongleurs de la Mandragore**, the **Académie de Danse Martine Laferrière** and **Théâtre Sans Fil**. Bring your own light source and join the parade! On **Saturday, March 1, beginning at 8 p.m.** during the Montreal All-Nighter, the **Cerfs-volantstylistes** showcase their talents (from 7:30 p.m.) alongside the AUM (**Association Ultimate Montréal**) who will conduct demonstrations of **Ultimate Frisbee** in the snow (from 8 p.m.). Immediately afterwards, nighthawks will be invited to join in! Finally, this exciting program closes when the **Port Symphonies of Pointe-à-Callière**, in collaboration with the **Quays of the Old Port**, unleash their orchestral thunder on **Sunday, March 2, from 1:30 p.m.**

All fired up!

At 8 p.m., the **Loto-Québec Winter Fireworks** fill the sky—and your eyes and ears—with sound and fury, beginning opening night, when **pyrotechnic displays** lead into a concert from Les Respectables and Antoine Gratton. After last year's blockbuster success, **La Grande Pétarade**—inspired by the famed Hispanic *mascletas* and fired by percussion, pyro, firecrackers, and sonic bombs—spreads its payload over the Festival's two Fridays (after the winter Tams-Tams). On Saturdays, brace yourself for more fireworks, including the **All-Nighter Fireworks Display** on March 1. Presented with the participation of **Concept Fiatlux**.

A heated, inflatable sphere that's a ball for kids—of all ages!

For the first time, the **GiveltYourMinimum AXA Sphere** opens its doors during the daytime (**at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m., exclusively on weekends**) and welcomes families to the **Little Winter Circus presented by Milk**, starring **La Famille Tôt'Aime**, with **Nicoletta, Martyne, Franka, Adrian, Thüryn** and **Chocolat** the clown; the show is presented by **Productions Éclats de rire**. And we haven't forgotten teenaged and young adult fans of dance and techno, who are invited to a nightly revel **starting at 9 p.m.** in our wildly popular inflatable sphere—20metres in diameter and fully heated—where, in collaboration with **Piknic Électronik**, we present free sets by: **Moonstarr** accompanied by visuals from **VJ Euterke** (Thursday, February 21, exclusively at 8:15 p.m.); a DJ and VJ set from **Eddy Van Maiden** and **Baya** (Friday, February 22); **Maus** and **David Fafard** (Saturday, February 23); and **Ghostbeard** and **Voxpop** (Friday, February 29). The series climaxes during the Montreal All-Nighter with the full-on creativity of **The Autist Vega** and VJs **Futil** and **Mikiram** (exclusively from 8:45 p.m. on Saturday, March 1 to 3 a.m. Sunday, March 2).

Hot events in the heart of winter...

At the Jacques-Cartier entrance, dive headfirst into the **Milk Jumpaï**, a mad medley of trapeze, trampoline and bungee jumping introduced to the site last year, and the **Milk Ice Slide**, 120 metres of slippery excitement—all on Place Jacques-Cartier! And don't miss the **Quays of the Old Port Skating Rink and Winter Bar** (admission fee required, although admission is free during the All-Nighter), at Bonsecours Basin!

... and the afternoon starts with a (n)ice cold bath!

In tribute to Quebec City and its 400th anniversary celebrations, the MONTREAL HIGH LIGHTS Festival tips its hat to the **Mr. Christie Québec Winter Carnival**, hosting Montreal's first-ever **Snow Bath**. Presented in collaboration with **Quebec City Tourism** and the **Société du 400^e anniversaire de Québec**, a group of 75 brave bathers, including a delegation of 10 bathers from the Old Capital, will plunge into this exciting—and invigorating!—event. Accompanied by the **Bonhomme** himself, they'll dive into the snow wearing nothing more than a bathing suit, on **Saturday, February 23, from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m., at King-Edward Quay**, in front of the Montréal Science Centre. It's brrrrrrrrrracing! 18 and over. Participants must adhere to official guidelines. Registration required (before Monday, February 18): baindeneige@equipespectra.ca.

Everything you need to recharge, replenish and relax

Needless to say, the Hydro-Québec Celebration of Light offers a wide variety of warming oases on its huge outdoor site, starting with the ever-popular **Bistro SAQ** in **Pavillon Jacques-Cartier**, now bigger than ever with a second floor, and featuring the addition of the **Bistro SAQ Express!** Along with the quality, diversity and affordability of its wines, the Bistro offers a tasting menu of Quebec cheeses and pâtés, as well as delicious flavoured coffees. Stop by **every evening from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., from noon during weekends and all the way through to 3 a.m. during the 5th Montreal All-Nighter**. **Brazier Place** makes its own eagerly-awaited return, featuring illuminated costume characters and **street entertainers**, along with **Bar Amarula**, an irresistible haven featuring daily performances from the **Tam-Tam Amarula** team, and the **Hydro-Québec Dome** with its warming infrared rays. The new **Snow—Ice Cider** tent presents an array of new products (with a weekend surprise—the famous “Snow on Snow” taffy-pull!), while the Festival offers a wide range of refreshments, with delicious taffy-pulls at the **Milk Maple Kiosk**, roasted chestnuts at **La Locomotive**, and sausages and marshmallows in the **Brazier Bar**.

Breathtaking photos of Chile

The Place Jacques-Cartier entrance hosts a memorable exhibition of photographs by **Victor Diaz Lamich**, *Contrastes d'Atacama*, revealing the exquisite landscapes of **Chile**, featured country at this year's Festival. This magnificent exhibition is sure to tempt some fans to immortalize their Festival experience at the new **GiveltYourMinimum AXA Photo Studio!**

Also, take note that, as part of the MONTREAL HIGH LIGHTS Festival, the **Montréal Science Centre** will offer Festival fans **free admission** (February 21 to 29, 2008, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.) to the **Odyssey of Light** exhibition, with a free pass available from the kiosk at the entrance to Pavillon Jacques-Cartier. This exhibition was produced by the **Musée de la civilisation** in Québec City, in close collaboration with the Montréal Science Centre and the **Canada Science and Technology Museum** in Ottawa.

An exciting array of off-site activities

The Hydro-Québec Celebration of Light also includes off-site activities and events. On **Friday, February 21 at 5:45 p.m.**, opening day of the Festival, join in the 11th edition of the **Tuques Bleues Celebration and Snowshoe Event on Mount Royal**, the annual nighttime benefit event hosted by Amis de la montagne. Featuring a healthy, invigorating hike and great food, the Snowshoe Event revives a tradition dating back to 1840, and also provides financing for the protection, conservation and enhancement of Mount Royal. Registration: lemontroyal.qc.ca

And gourmands rejoice! For six delicious days, the **Festival of Our Cheeses**, presented in collaboration with **Complexe Desjardins**, invites foodies to meet Quebec cheese makers, discover Our Cheeses, and check out an exciting array of new products! Then, as another incredible All-Nighter winds down in the early hours of March 2, the Festival of Our Cheeses gives way to the now-famous (and completely free) **Convivial Breakfast presented by Milk**.

The **SAT[Galerie]** contributes the third international exhibition mounted since its inception: after Sweden and Germany, **Chile** takes the spotlight in **Digital_Chile_08**, showcasing the works of multidisciplinary artists Isabel Aranda, Klaudia Kemper, Alberto Lagos, Roberto Larraguibel, Félix Lazo and Claudio Rivera-Seguel. Don't miss it, **Wednesday to Friday, from noon to 8 p.m.**, as well as **Saturdays and Sundays, from noon to 6 p.m.** (from February 23 to March 23, 2008). The free vernissage will be held **Thursday, February 21, at 6 p.m.** (doors open at 5 p.m.).

Get all the info...

All the info on the Hydro-Québec Celebration of Light is in the **free official brochure**, available on the Festival site, from many Old Montreal businesses and stores, and from most Montreal tourist sites. You can also call the **HIGH LIGHTS Info Line** at 514 288-9955 or toll-free at 1 888 477-9955, or visit montrealhighlights.com.

The 9th edition of the **MONTREAL HIGH LIGHTS Festival**, presented by **Hydro-Québec**, runs from **Thursday, February 21 to Sunday, March 2, 2008!**

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Download photos and press kits from the following address: <ftp://ftp.festivalmontrealenlumiere.com>
username: [fmlcommclient](#) password: [fmlcomm2008](#)

Sources:

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