



**MONTREAL  
HIGH LIGHTS  
FESTIVAL**



News release  
For immediate distribution

## Lighting up the 400th anniversary of Quebec City!



**Gérald Tremblay**, Mayor of Montréal, **Régis Labeaume**, Mayor of Quebec City,  
**Michel Labrecque**, President and CEO of MONTREAL HIGH LIGHTS Festival, **Samuel de Champlain**

**Montreal, Thursday, February 21, 2008** — With **Quebec City** celebrating its 400th anniversary this year, the **MONTREAL HIGH LIGHTS Festival** wanted to light up the birthday in style. Thanks to a longstanding warm relationship with the Carnaval de Québec and in collaboration with the Office de tourisme de Québec, the Festival offers Montreal fans this program of special events.

For the opening dinner of the Festival, the **Coup de chapeau au 400<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de la ville de Québec** invites five of the finest chefs in that city: **François Blais** (Panache / Auberge Saint-Antoine), **Yves Chrétien** (Le Champlain / Fairmont Le Château Frontenac), **Yvan Lebrun** (Restaurant Initiale), **Stéphane Modat** (L'Utopie) and **Daniel Vézina** (laurie raphaël). It's no surprise that this dinner, scheduled for tomorrow, February 22 at 6 p.m. in the Fairmont Queen Elizabeth ballroom, was an almost instant sellout.

In collaboration with the **Corporation de gestion des marchés publics de Montréal**, the Festival welcomes some of the Capital's most creative minds to **Jean-Talon Market**, where they'll present a series of exciting, mostly free activities on **Saturday, February 23** and **Sunday, February 24**. What's more, a delegation of producers from the **Gourmet Route** will make the trip to Montreal to share their treasures, talents and hard-won *savoir-faire*.

On the live performance side, we welcome some of Quebec's most popular acts to the **Grand Opening Event**, presented as part of the **Quays of the Old Port Special Events** during the **Hydro-Québec Celebration of Light: Les Respectables** and their special guest **Antoine Gratton**, take over the **Hydro-Québec Stage** to kick off the winter party.

The Festival also welcomes **CEA** (Friday, February 29, 8:15 p.m., Hydro-Québec Stage) and **Les Violons du Roy** (Saturday, February 23, 8 p.m., Salle Pierre-Mercure).

And we welcome another major Quebec "star" to the Montreal winter festivities during the bracing **Snow Bath, Saturday, February 23 at 3 p.m.** on **King-Edward Quay**: Bonhomme Carnaval will join a delegation of brave Quebec City "bathers", who will don their best swimming trunks and let us know if it's a nice day for a dip!

Among our guests, we are honoured to welcome **Régis Labeaume, Mayor of Quebec City, Jean Leclerc, Chairman of the Board of the Société du 400<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de Québec**, Daniel Gélinas, **director general of the Société du 400<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de Québec**, Jean Pelletier, **director general of the Carnaval de Québec** and **Pierre Labrie, director of the Office du tourisme de Québec**.

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**Source:**

**MONTREAL HIGH LIGHTS Festival** – 514 525-5990

**Information (media):**

Marie-Eve Boisvert, Senior Director — Media Relations — 514 525-5990, ext. 5666; [marie-eve.boisvert@equipespectra.ca](mailto:marie-eve.boisvert@equipespectra.ca)

Greg Kitzler, press attaché — 514 525-5990, ext. 5622; [greg.kitzler@equipespectra.ca](mailto:greg.kitzler@equipespectra.ca)

**Information (public):**

High Lights Info-Line – 514 288-9955 or toll-free 1 888 477-9955; [montrealhighlights.com](http://montrealhighlights.com)