

**Press release
For immediate release**

Pointe-à-Callière, Where Montréal Began, Offers Itself up as the Perfect Birthday Gift for its Own 25th Anniversary and Montréal's 375th Birthday

Montréal, January 25, 2017 – In 2017, Pointe-à-Callière will be one of the key sites for Montréal's 375th birthday celebrations, thanks to its rich and varied program of activities. The highlight will be the opening of a new historic site, the Fort Ville-Marie – Québecor Pavilion, and access to Montréal's first collector sewer. The Museum will be marking a quarter century this year, along with presenting four temporary exhibitions, displaying archaeological remains and offering over one hundred activities revolving around Montréal history. And to top it all off, the Museum will be giving its visitors a real birthday present: free admission to Montréal's birthplace and to all its exhibitions for one month, from May 19 to June 20.

"Pointe-à-Callière will certainly stand out as a key destination in Montréal in 2017. In barely 25 years, the Montréal Museum of Archaeology and History has raised the city's profile with its openness to the world, a reflection of Montrealers themselves. It has carved out an enviable place for itself in our fellow citizens' hearts, but above all it has become an essential attraction for all our visitors: young families, school groups, newcomers, grandparents, tourists, and even future historians and archaeologists. 2017 will be a better time than ever to come to Pointe-à-Callière, where Montreal began," says Andrew Molson, Chair of the Board of the Museum.

"Montréal has its roots here, at Pointe-à-Callière. We have long dreamed of making this exceptional evidence of the earliest days of the tiny colony of Ville-Marie, the future Montréal, accessible. Thanks to some 15 years of research on the birthplace of Montréal, through the Archaeological Field School, we discovered the remains of the first settlement, Fort Ville-Marie. We want to safeguard them for the future by showcasing them and offering them to Montrealers as a heritage legacy to mark Montréal's 375th anniversary," explains Francine Lelièvre, the Museum's Executive Director.

The new pavilion, created with financial assistance from the City of Montréal, will salute the very beginnings of the future city, along with founders Paul de Chomedey de Maisonneuve and Jeanne Mance, and the handful of men and women who accompanied them on this "foolish venture" on May 17, 1642. In 2017, Montrealers will have the opportunity to discover and rediscover their past, where it all began 375 years ago. Visitors will also be able to stroll through a 110-metre section of the collector sewer and enjoy a multisensory, contemplative experience thanks to *The Memory Collector*, an ingenious light installation projected onto the stone walls in a specially designed sound environment.

The Museum, which has also renewed its exhibitions in the underground remains and on the Great Peace of Montréal, will be putting on four new temporary exhibitions throughout the year: ***From Asian Lands. The Sam and Myrna Myers Collection, Hello, Montréal! Bell's Historical Collections, Amazonia. The Shaman and the Mind of the Forest*** and *Hockey*. In addition there will be a host of cultural activities, thematic tours, lectures, book launches, seminars and films, along with the Museum's superb multimedia show and its fascinating regular exhibitions specially designed for families.

Lastly, in addition to this month of free admission for everyone, anyone who is celebrating his or her 25th birthday, like Pointe-à-Callière, will get in free all year long, with proof of age. Another birthday present: every month, a lifetime membership to the Museum will be awarded to a visitor who has shared a photo taken at the Museum on Instagram, with the #pointeacalliere hashtag.

About Pointe-à-Callière

Rising above the site where Montréal was founded, Pointe-à-Callière is the city's largest history museum. It is a complex comprising a series of historic and archaeological sites of national significance that showcase major periods in the history of Montréal from 1350 to the present day. The only large-scale archaeology museum in Quebec and all of Canada, Pointe-à-Callière opened in 1992 to mark Montréal's 350th birthday. The Museum's mission is to bring visitors to know and appreciate the history of Quebec's metropolis and to forge bonds with regional, national and international networks in the areas of archaeology, history and urbanism. It is currently working on a planned expansion to develop about ten heritage and historic sites to form Pointe-à-Callière, the Montréal Archaeology and History Complex, a world-class cultural and tourist attraction.

Pointe-à-Callière thanks the City of Montréal for its financial support.

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Inauguration May 17, 2017

Where Montréal Began



Model of Fort Ville-Marie – Alain Vandal

On May 17, 2017, 375 years after Montréal was founded and following 15 years of archaeological research, Pointe-à-Callière will open its seventh pavilion – and the city’s most important heritage legacy project for its 375th anniversary – at a solemn and highly symbolic ceremony unveiling the site where the city where the city was founded.

The Fort Ville-Marie – Québecor Pavilion will house a new exhibition, *Where Montréal Began*, paying vibrant tribute to Paul de Chomedey de Maisonneuve and Jeanne Mance, from the very start of their venture inspired by the dream of founding a mission, converting the Indigenous people to Christianity and building a new society. The exhibition will open with an installation evoking the first Mass celebrated here, and will introduce each of the other settlers who also chose to leave France for the New World, inspired by their religious faith. A projection will fill the space and create an atmosphere evoking Montréal Island when the settlement was founded.

The tour route will then lead visitors across a glass floor overlooking the remains of Fort Ville-Marie unearthed during the different archaeological dig campaigns conducted by the Museum from 2002 to 2015. They include traces of an Indigenous fire pit pre-dating the city’s founding, a well dug by Jacques Archambault in 1658, the cellar of what may have been a guardhouse, some of the fort’s palisades, the stone foundations of a metal-working shop, and part of a stone wall from Callière's Residence.

Numerous artifacts found during the digs will also be displayed: a sundial etched into a piece of slate – the oldest ever found in North America – along with other objects reflecting religious practices and everyday life, munitions and gun parts, as well as trade goods. Objects left behind by First Nations peoples will also tell of the relations between the French and various nations, mainly the Algonquins, Hurons and Iroquois. Lastly, a bronze bell will be installed atop the new

pavilion to echo the one that hung in the Fort Ville-Marie chapel in 1642. It will be rung for the first time on May 17, 2017 – 375 years to the day after Montréal was founded.

Permanent exhibition, starting May 19, 2017

Museography: Daily tous les jours in co-operation with Sophie Deraspe, filmmaker

The Memory Collector



Collector sewer – Moment Factory

On May 17, 2017, the Museum will unveil a tribute to North America's first collector sewer, a majestic feat of civil engineering built between 1832 and 1838.

The sewer channelled the Little River underground and collected rainwater and wastewater right up until 1989. At that point it was taken out of service and the water was diverted to the network of interceptor sewers leading to the Rivière-des-Prairies treatment plant. Part of the collector sewer beneath Pointe-à-Callière, between the Éperon building and Place Royale, was integrated into the Museum in 1992.

Starting in May 2017, visitors will be able to stroll through a section of the collector sewer extending for 110 metres. They will enjoy a multisensory, contemplative experience thanks to *The Memory Collector*, an ingenious light installation projected onto the stone walls of the collector sewer, in a specially designed sound environment.

The exhibition will respect the spirit of this impressive site, plunging visitors into a mysterious underground world and leading them to a magical space imbued with history and emotion. An experience like Montréal has never known before!

Museography, collector sewer: Moment Factory
Permanent exhibition, starting May 19, 2017

Showcasing the Archaeological Remains

Building Montréal



Building Montréal – Alain Vandal; Animation for the Buildings of Montréal – GSM Project

2017 will also be the perfect time to discover (or rediscover) Montréal's past, thanks to the exhibition focusing on the archaeological remains.

In the *Building Montréal* exhibition, visitors are whisked back in time to relive key moments in our city's past under the French and British regimes, from the 17th to the 19th century. A new multimedia installation illustrates, explains and brings to life the remains in the Museum's archaeological crypt, including one of the only walls from the 1744 fortifications that has been preserved and can still be seen. Rising above remains of over 1,000 years of human occupancy and the very birthplace of Montréal, Pointe-à-Callière covers several centuries of history, from the First Nations period to the present, and houses remarkable architectural remains displayed *in situ*.

Museography: GSM Project

The Great Peace of Montréal



Animation for the Great Peace of Montréal – GSM Project

In the 1701, *The Great Peace of Montréal* exhibition, visitors will relive the events that led to the signing of the Great Peace treaty of Montréal. A new multimedia show will present the event, complementing the majestic artwork on the same theme by Nicolas Sollogub. It describes how, on August 4, 1701, Louis-Hector de Callière, Governor of New France, and delegates from 39 Aboriginal nations succeeded in signing a treaty, the Great Peace of Montréal, here on the Pointe à Callière site. This unique event was a turning point in the history of Montréal and international diplomacy.

Museography: GSM Project

Temporary Exhibitions in 2017

Hello, Montréal! Bell's Historical Collections



Snowdon pharmacy, at 5485 Décarie Boulevard, 1937 – Bell's Historical Collections

Hello, Montréal! Bell's Historical Collections looks at the history of telephony, from its beginnings in 1874 to the present, and at its earliest days in Montréal. Based on Bell Canada's rich historical collections, the exhibition features some 250 items and archival photographs, documents and films in this look at technological progress.

The tone is set as soon as visitors step into the modern, colourful and vibrant surroundings. At one of the six interactive stations, visitors of all ages can test their mettle as an early 20th century telephone operator. There are audiovisual displays, background projections, songs about telephones from different periods, oversize models and installations that also salute the generations of men and women behind the development of telephony.

After more than 140 years of advances, there's still no end in sight. *Hello, Montréal!* isn't just about the past. It also devotes plenty of attention to the modern day, from Expo 67 and its famous Telephone Pavilion, to the various kinds of telephones over the years, and ends with a look at today's phones and a peek into the future. Visitors are encouraged to think about their own use of the telephone and its central role in their lives, as they learn about the technological changes in telephony over the past more than one hundred years and how these devices have changed the way we communicate.

Temporary exhibition, from February 17, 2017 to January 7, 2018

Amazonia. The Shaman and the Mind of the Forest



A mask and two diadems – MEG J. Watts

Pointe-à-Callière is recognized for the original exhibitions it has mounted over the years with prestigious international partners. In 2017 it will be continuing this tradition, as it highlights the historical, cultural and artistic heritage of Montrealers of all origins. This time, *Amazonia. The Shaman and the Mind of the Forest* will introduce visitors to the Indigenous peoples of the Amazon basin, from the 18th century to the present.

The exhibition, presented in Montréal in partnership with the Musée d'ethnographie de Genève, looks at the cultural diversity of nine countries in the Amazon basin. Everyday and ritual objects, shimmering feathered finery, weapons and musical instruments all illustrate the refined arts of the Indigenous cultures living in symbiosis with their environment. The spirits of the forest will be summoned through shamanic rituals, accompanied by music that is also a key part of the exhibition. It's a whole new world, coming to Montréal!

Temporary exhibition, from April 20 to October 22, 2017

From Asian Lands. The Sam and Myrna Myers Collection, featuring some 400 items from one of the largest private collections of Asian objets d'art in the world, will be closing on May 19, 2017.

Come admire splendours from far-off lands!



Hockey



Aurèle Joliat, circa 1925; the Stanley Cup, 1930; Howie Morenz, circa 1925 – Montréal municipal archives

As everyone knows, Montréal is synonymous with hockey! And our passion for the sport will be the focus of this exhibition produced in partnership with the Canadian Museum of History, to celebrate hockey in Canada, the Montréal Canadiens, the centenary of the National Hockey League (NHL), and the 125th anniversary of the Stanley Cup.

For over one hundred years, Montréal has been a hockey city. Season after season, fans fill the seats, listen on the radio or gather in front of their TV screens to support their favourite team: the oldest and most legendary team in the league, the Montréal Canadiens. It was also in Montréal, in November 1917, that a group of hockey team owners from Quebec and Ontario came together to form the National Hockey League.

Going back even further, 125 years ago, then-Governor General of Canada Lord Stanley awarded the cup that would bear his name to Canada's hockey champions. Come rediscover the popular roots of hockey and take a look back at the achievements of legendary players who won the hearts of Montréal fans, like Maurice Richard and Guy Lafleur.

This exhibition featuring all kinds of audiovisual and interactive displays, as well as 250 objects including equipment, trophies, photos and videos, will bring the exploits of our hockey heroes to life and salute the many facets of our national sport.

Temporary exhibition, from November 25, 2017 to April 29, 2018

Program of Events for Montréal's 375th

Encounters in New France



Encounters in New France – www.anniecarbo.com

A huge celebratory happening designed exclusively for Montréal's 375th anniversary, *Encounters in New France* takes participants back in time. The event will span four days, giving visitors a chance to learn what daily life was like in 17th-century Montréal, meet characters who played a part in our history, and admire legendary First Nations know-how. This free event, produced in co-operation with the Société des célébrations du 375^e anniversaire de Montréal, promises lots of activities and entertainment for all tastes and ages.

Free admission, from May 19 to 22, 2017

Plenty of Family Activities

Families are always welcome at Pointe-à-Callière



Montréal's first Catholic cemetery – Studio du ruisseau ©SMQ

In addition to the many free activities for families throughout the year, the Museum offers a terrific exhibition designed specifically for ages 3 to 12: *Pirates or Privateers?*, a magical experience that immerses youngsters in the world of Montréal privateer Pierre Le Moyne d'Iberville. The exhibition is presented in a building that has been entirely redesigned for families, including a family reception area. Kids are invited to board a replica of a period ship and test their skills against those of long-ago sailors.

And to delve into the mysteries of archaeology, there's nothing in Montréal like the *Archaeo-Adventure workshop*. This Pointe-à-Callière exclusive lets young people and their families experience a simulated archaeological dig, on site as well as in the head archaeologist's tent and a laboratory space, as they seek out and identify traces of the past.

Video games for the whole family!

How would you fare as a 17th-century fur trader or an 18th-century firefighter? What sort of jobs do you think Montrealers did in the 19th century? Test your skills and knowledge with our three new interactive games. Fascinating challenges for all ages!

Pirates or Privateers? And the ***Archaeo-Adventure workshop***: exhibitions

25 Years of Archaeological Discoveries

Archaeology on the site of the first Parliament, in Montréal



Digs on the Parliament site – Alain Vandal

Pointe-à-Callière will be conducting one final extensive archaeological dig campaign on Place D'Youville Ouest, between McGill and Saint-Pierre streets, to continue excavating the remains of St. Ann's Market, which housed the first Parliament of the United Province of Canada from 1844 to 1849. This is where some crucial legislation for the creation of Canada was adopted, including the act establishing responsible government in 1848. In 1849, Tories furious at the Royal sanction of the act granting indemnification to victims of the 1837-1838 rebellions burned the Parliament down.

These archaeological digs are part of Phase 3 in the Museum's expansion and will make it possible to document this major page in Montréal's history. To explain the importance of the site, free guided tours on the history of the site and the archaeologists' work will be given by interpreter-guides from Pointe-à-Callière and the Centre d'histoire de Montréal.

Free, May to September 2017

A Wide Variety of Cultural Activities

Cultural activities organized by Pointe-à-Callière



Crowds in 2013 – Francis Hervieux

The Museum will also be producing plenty of other key events on a Montréal and Pointe-à-Callière theme in 2017: family Sundays, musical lunches and *Les Quartiers improvisés* are just some of the free activities to be offered over the summer, in the Urban space on Place D'Youville. Not to mention old favourites like the *Nuit blanche*, *Port Symphonies*, *Jack O'Lantern: Halloween at Pointe-à-Callière* and *Who Is the Real Santa Claus?* for the whole family. Then there are new attractions like the *24 hours of science* festival, the *Rendez-vous des arts métissés* and *Pointe-à-Callière complètement cirque*.

In tribute to a key page in Montréal history, Pointe-à-Callière will be holding an official ceremony on August 4, to commemorate the Great Peace of Montréal. The event will be held on the Place de la Grande paix, in fact, next to the Museum, and will be attended by key First Nations representatives.

Also in connection with Montréal history, two new mini-exhibitions are sure to capture visitors' attention. One will focus on the extraordinary era of *Man and His World, Expo 67*, saluting the event's 50th anniversary, and the other will look at Canadian Confederation, in tribute to its 150th anniversary, starting July 1.

Lastly, lectures on topics related to the Museum's permanent exhibitions, such as Fort Ville-Marie, will also be offered for Museum Members and the general public, through our partners including the Société historique de Montréal and *Les belles soirées* lecture series at the Université de Montréal.

To our partners in the year 2017, your support is invaluable and we thank you for your confidence in us.

Public financial partners

Gouvernement du Canada

Ministère du Patrimoine canadien

Développement des communautés par le biais des arts et du patrimoine

Parcs Canada

Gouvernement du Québec

Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones

Ville de Montréal

Entente sur le développement culturel de Montréal, entre le ministère de la Culture et des Communications du Québec et la Ville de Montréal

Arrondissement de Ville-Marie

Private financial partners

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