

WELCOME TO MONTREAL AUGUST 12-15, 2007

Quebec Convention Committee

Montréal is a unique and beautiful island-city that awaits you with an open heart. Walk through its streets and you will experience a mix of old world charm and modern style all of its own. Montréal is more than 360 years old. It has been a French settlement, a British stronghold and today is a multicultural vibrant city. Naturally, you will hear both English and French as you walk along the streets or travel on the Metro, but you will also find that this is a city rich in many other languages and ethnic cultures. Visit Little Italy, Montréal's largest ethnic neighbourhood, shop in the oldest Chinatown in North America or explore the Plateau Mont-Royal, home to Montréal's artists.

Old Montréal and the Old Port on the St. Lawrence River are where the story of Montréal began. Its cobblestone streets and stone buildings stand proudly as a memorial to Montréal's shipping and trade history. Mount Royal with its famous illuminated cross is a beloved central landmark and natural haven.

Montréal has an international reputation for: creative excellence in traditional arts; state-of-the-art technology; multimedia, sound and film production; being fashion savvy; gourmet food; and, fabulous green spaces and parks. *Cinq à Sept* (Happy Hour), a rich tapestry of music, arts, architecture, museums, art galleries and more than 40 festivals a year make Montréal the city to visit!

Montréal is two cities in one. Above ground is the largest concentration of stores in the country, while underneath lies miles of commercial space, where you can wander past hundreds of shops, boutiques, antique, craft and department stores.

The city is also known for its eclectic and edifying churches. There are so many that Mark Twain is said to have claimed, "This is the first time I was ever in a city where you couldn't throw a brick without breaking a church window!"

On Sunday, August 12, visit St. Joseph's Oratory, built between 1914 and 1967 and recognized as one of three great churches of the world. Its architectural design is simple with minimal decoration creating a place of peace and prayer. Brother André, beatified in 1982 and known as the miracle worker of Mount Royal, through the intercession of St. Joseph, is credited with helping cure thousands of pilgrims. In the Votive Chapel more than 10,000 vigil candles burn under thousands of crutches and prostheses left by grateful pilgrims.

St. Patrick's Basilica, built in the gothic-revival style in 1847 to serve the needs of Irish immigrants flooding into Montréal, is a national historic site. Recognized as the mother church of the English speaking Catholics of Montréal, St. Patrick's will be the site of the opening mass at 7:00 p.m.

Mary Queen of the World Cathedral is the site of the closing mass. This neo-renaissance, historic site was modelled on St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, and took more than 30 years to complete. It boasts one of the largest Casavant organs in the world – 93 pipes on four levels.

Here are some activities that have been carefully planned to help you enjoy the beauty and richness of our city. There are three choices for **Saturday, August 11:**

- **Option #1** is a three hour guided bus tour of Montréal, which includes the historic and modern sites of the city and concludes with dinner at the Restaurant du Vieux Port. Departure is at 4:30 p.m.
- **Option #2** is a one hour guided bus tour of the city followed by a one hour walking tour of historic Old Montréal, also ending with dinner at the Restaurant du Vieux Port. This tour departs at 5:00 p.m.
- **Option #3** starts with dinner at the Restaurant du Vieux Port, followed by a light and sound show at the beautiful Notre Dame Basilica. Departure time is 5:30 p.m.

On **Sunday, August 12**, participants will be treated to a guided tour of St. Joseph's Oratory and its museum, followed by a picnic lunch at the beautiful setting of Beaver Lake on Mount Royal. The bus will drive by the street on which our first national president, Bellelle Guerin, lived. Departure time is 9:00 a.m.

After the convention is over, participate in a guided tour of Quebec City and region. Participants will visit the famous shrine of Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré. This tour will include the walled city of Quebec in Upper Town, Place Royale in Lower Town, and the Plains of Abraham, site of the battle for Canada in 1759. There will be stops for lunch and dinner (at your own expense). Departure time is 8:30 a.m., returning at 8:30 p.m.

In addition, there will be a typical Quebec evening on Monday, the life members' and spiritual advisors' luncheons on Tuesday, and the closing banquet on Wednesday.

If you would like to find more information about Montréal, visit www.tourism-montreal.org.

Hurry! Make your travel plans right away!