



Friends of the Gardens Newsletter

Summer 2012

Jardins de Métis

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Aussi disponible en français.



Partenaire depuis 1999

June 2012

Gardens Now Open

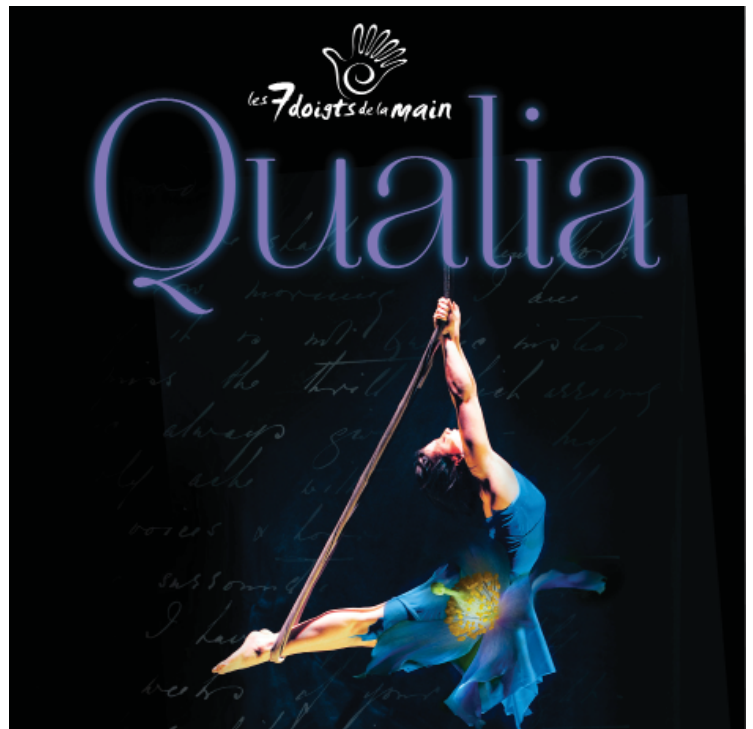
Les Jardins de Métis opened for their 50th season on Saturday, June 2. The season promises an extraordinary edition of the International Garden Festival, literary teas featuring leading authors, musical brunches every Sunday, a circusshow and many new features in the gardens.

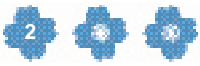
Musical Brunches Begin on Father's Day

Father's Day is a wonderful occasion to celebrate a special man and with family around a table in Estevan Lodge with a delicious musical meal. The special Father's Day brunch (Sunday, June 17) will be the first of the season and will feature local pianist Claude Bélisle. Musical brunches will be held every Sunday thereafter. Consult our web site to learn more about the musicians and their programs. Sponsors for this year's brunches are: MacDougall, MacDougall and MacTier, Caisse Desjardins de Mont-Joli, Fédération des caisses Desjardins du Bas-Saint-Laurent et IGA Alimentation de La Mitis.

Presenting *Qualia*, a new circus performance by *Les 7 doigts de la main*

The Gardens will host *Les 7 doigts de la main*, one of Québec's acclaimed and best-known circus troupes this August. Based in Montréal, *Les 7 doigts* have shows on stage at present in Paris, New York and in Mexico. With the assistance of the Canada Council for the Arts and in collaboration with Heritage Lower St. Lawrence, they will be presenting a new performance, *Qualia*, on Friday, August 24 and Saturday, August 25.





Known for creating circuses with identifiable characters that offer the audience dramatic arcs brought to life through the physical exploits and acrobatic dance of the performers, *Les 7 doigts de la main* will perform this new piece on the lawn in front of Estevan Lodge. Inspired by the life of Elsie Reford and her lifelong efforts to bring her gardens to life, *Qualia* will offer the audience a memorable event. Tickets will be on sale for \$25 per person and \$5 for children ages 5 to 13.

The film *La Grenouille et la baleine* returns to the Gardens

Twenty-five years ago, the gardens hosted the crew filming *La Grenouille et la baleine*, one of Québec's most popular young adult films. The gardens will host a special screening of the film on Sunday, July 8 in the presence of the artisans of the film. A VIP contest will be held from June 11 to 23 to choose members of the public to attend the special screening, picnic and door prize. To participate, go to www.journaldequebec.com/concours. Prize winners will be chosen on June 26.

New Works Added to Sculpture Walk

The contemporary sculpture walk is expanding with the addition of five sculptures on loan from the Canada Council Art Bank. Works by Kosso Eloul, Patrick Thibert, Jean-Pierre Morin and Robert Murray will join the collection of 12 works already on display in the gardens. Two new works have been created for the gardens, *Vortex* by Marie-Claude Hamel and *L'île* by Gautier Leclerc. The unveiling of the new works and a visit of the sculpture walk will be held on Sunday, June 17 at 3 pm for members of the Gardens and of the Musée régional de Rimouski. A guided tour of the contemporary sculpture walk will be offered by the new curator of the Musée régional de Rimouski, Andréanne Roy.

Portrait exhibitions

The rooms of Estevan Lodge have been transformed by the addition of new portraits on display for the Gardens' summer exhibitions. *Portrait of a Family* brings together more than a dozen portraits by artists ranging from Princess Louise (the daughter of Queen Victoria) to P. A. de László who painted the portraits of Bruce Reford and Elsie Reford. Other artists include Oswald Birley, Adolfo Müller-Ury, Frank Holl and Rasa Pavilanis.

New Faces – Portraits from the collection of the Canada Council Art Bank is on exhibit in the main rooms of Estevan Lodge. Selected by Art Bank Director, Victoria Henry, this exhibition offers a glimpse of portraits by Canadian painters over the past four decades. The Canada Council Art bank is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year.



Jin, 2010 - Meryl McMaster

Literary Teas Featuring Authors and Musicians

The Gardens will play host to 8 authors as part of the 2012 lineup of the popular literary tea series developed by the Carrefour de la littérature, des arts et de la culture (CLAC). The literary teas are held on Sunday afternoons and this year feature authors Pierre Nepveu and Annie Landreville (July 8), Dominique Demers and Cordâmes (July 22), Serge Bouchard, Marie-Claire Lévesque and le Trio Populaire (August 12), Marjolaine Potvin and Séguin-Poirier (August 26), Jean-Simon Desrochers, Stéphanie Pelletier and La belle et l'ingénu (September 16) and Thierry Leuzy and Lucie Gendron (September 30). The first two literary teas of the season presented Élise Turcotte and Martin Roussel (May 20), Jean Desy and Magali Turcotte (June 10). Books by the authors are available for sale at each event. The Gardens are also hosting the CLAC's annual wine and cheese event on Saturday, September 15, a fixture in the region's culinary and cultural calendar. For more information on the literary teas and the CLAC consult the literary tea flyer or www.clac-mitis.org.

A New Garden Landscape at the Entrance to the Gardens



A new partnership between Reford Gardens and the Centre de formation professionnelle Mont-Joli-Mitis has resulted in the creation of a new garden landscape at the entrance to the gardens. Students in landscaping invested more than a thousand hours in the design and construction of an urban backyard garden that simulates different forms of residential construction. The goal is to inspire visitors and to offer students new challenges in both design and build, such as creating a pond and a green room. Professors Huguette Potvin and Jean-Yves Roy (who is also the assistant director of the gardens), were responsible for overseeing this project.

This landscaping course is one that offers high employment opportunities for students. Course registration for the fall session is now open. Call 418-775-7577 for more information.

International Garden Festival

The 13th edition of the Festival exhibits a record 26 conceptual gardens created by 65 landscape architects, architects and artists. Five new gardens were selected from 158 projects submitted in response to the international call for proposals by 350 designers from 23 countries. Stacks of wood that evoke the beauty of the forest, a cloud of vines suspended over helium-filled balloons, a collection of nature's beauty on display in elegant boxes, flax whipped into life by winds of 15 knots and a gargantuan structure of tubes reaching skywards, are just some of the gardens that will take place as part of the Festival that will be held from June 23 to September 30. The official opening will be held on Friday, June 22 at 5 pm. Visit our website (www.refordgardens.com) for more details.



15 knots - ATLAS and Forbes Lipschitz

Fundraising Events in aid to Les Amis des Jardins de Métis

On Friday, July 13, our chef Pierre-Olivier Ferry invites you to relive the culinary experience of June 8, 1912 aboard the Canadian Pacific steamship, the *Empress of Britain*. On the menu: Norwegian lax, consommé Talma, halibut, venison cutlets, rhubarb tart and coconut Madeleines. Tickets are on sale for \$100 (tax receipt for \$50). Reservation: 418 775-2222, # 230. The donations received for this event are earmarked for the endowment fund of Les Amis des Jardins de Métis and will be matched \$2 for \$1 by the Mécénat Placements Culture program of the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec.

Gardens to host chefs Marc-André Jetté and Patrice Demers at Culinary Event on August 5



Chef Pierre-Olivier Ferry will again welcome guest chefs Marc-André Jetté and Patrice Demers from Montréal [Restaurant Les 400 coups](#). Ranked by *enRoute* magazine as one of the 10 best new restaurants in Canada, the chefs return with their brigade and sommelier Marie-Josée Beaudoin. The special dinner on Sunday, August 5 will be a fundraising event in aid of the International Garden Festival. Proceeds are for the Festival's endowment fund. Whatever is raised will be matched by Mécénat Placements Culture. Tickets are \$200 (price includes meal, wine, tax and service and a donation receipt of \$130). The special menu prepared by Marc-André Jetté and Patrice Demers will feature a selection of local produce and some of the exuberant culinary creations and desserts for which this duo of chefs are well-known. For tickets call 418 775-2221, x 230.

Gardens to begin work to protect Estevan Lodge and restore the Guardian's Cottage

Major work will begin in September on two important restoration projects. Estevan Lodge will be given a state-of-the-art fire protection and sprinkler system. Built in 1887 and recognized as a national historic site, Estevan Lodge is one of the architectural jewels of eastern Québec.

The guardian's cottage was also constructed in 1887. For almost 80 years it housed the guardian and his family. In the 1960s, the building was transformed into administrative offices for the gardens. Under the supervision of architect Bernard Serge Gagné of ABCP Architecture, the building will be transformed into an office complex with energy efficient windows, a meeting room and work stations for the garden's marketing and administrative staff.

Work on both projects is slated to begin in September. Funding for the project has been promised by Québec's ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition féminine and Parks Canada.

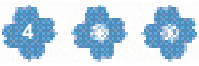
London Calling



Floating Forest - NIPpaysage

The International Garden Festival presented an extra-mural garden by Montreal designers NIPpaysage as part of the inaugural edition of Chelsea Fringe, a new garden festival held in London on the fringes of the Chelsea Flower Show. At the invitation of the Fringe's founder and director, Tim Richardson, the Festival presented *Floating Forest*, a new garden by NIPpaysage at The Dockworks, a chic restaurant overlooking the Portobello Dock on the Grand Union Canal at Ladbroke Grove. The Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec and the Canada Council for the Arts supported this project.

Alexander Reford spoke to an audience of 100 at the Eccles Centre at the British Library on Tuesday, May 22 where he presented the story of the gardens and the history of British travel to Quebec over the centuries. The event was part of the 50th anniversary celebrations of the Quebec Government Office in London.



Festival designers honoured for their work and achievements

Awards and honours were recently showered on several designers and artists whose work we have presented. Rosetta Elkin, designer of *Tiny Taxonomy*, was awarded the prestigious Daniel Kiley Fellowship at Harvard University. Her garden will be on exhibit for a 3rd year this summer.

Chris Reed and his firm Stoss have been named winner of the 2012 Cooper-Hewitt's National Design Award in the category of Landscape Architecture. The prestigious award recognizes remarkable and exemplary work in park and garden design or urban planning. Stoss created the garden *Safe Zone* that was exhibited at the International Garden Festival from 2006 to 2009.

A recent book *Playground Design*, published by Braun in Switzerland, features several gardens presented at the International Garden Festival, *Dymaxion Sleep* by Adrian Blackwell and Jane Hutton, *Safe Zone* by Chris Reed.

Artist Louise Belcourt is one of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation fellows for 2012. The Guggenheim fellowship recognizes impressive achievement in the past and exceptional promise for future accomplishment. The gardens featured the work of Louise Belcourt in a solo exhibition, *In the Land*, held in Estevan Lodge in 2009.



Dymaxion Sleep (Curled Up) - Jane Hutton and Adrian Blackwell

Elsie on Exhibition in Toronto

Some of the treasures of the gardens' collection are on view as part of a new exhibition « How Does *My Garden Grow: The Education of a Gardener* », at the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library on the campus of the University of Toronto (until September 14). The exhibition displays some of the seminal books on horticulture from the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library collection and some wonderful plans, drawings and botanical illustrations. On exhibit are several of Elsie Reford's garden diaries and plant order books. For more information, go to <http://fisher.library.utoronto.ca/events-exhibits/current-exhibition>

Financial Support from Hydro-Québec

Hydro-Québec has been the lead partner of Les Amis des Jardins de Métis since 1999 and presenter of the garden *Le bon arbre au bon endroit* (*The right tree in the right place*) for the past six years. The designers from NIPPaysage of Montréal have designed variations of their garden *Le bon arbre au bon endroit* to the delight of visitors to the Festival. This year's garden features a giant picnic table and a plantation of trees. To celebrate the 50th anniversary, Hydro-Québec is offering a grand prize for a garden visitor to travel to the James Bay region.

Jardins de Métis / Reford Gardens

Partners

Conseil des arts du Canada, Patrimoine canadien, ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition féminine, Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, ministère du Tourisme, Emploi-Québec, MRC de La Mitis, Conférence régionale des éluEs du Bas-Saint-Laurent, Investissement Québec, Fondation Hydro-Québec pour l'environnement, Heritage Lower St. Lawrence, Association des musées canadiens, Carrefour jeunesse-emploi Mitis, Emploi d'été Canada, Fédération des chambres de commerces du Québec, Fondation Héritage Canada, Offices jeunesse internationaux du Québec, Katimavik, Ville de Mont-Joli, Municipalité de Sainte-Flavie, Régie intermunicipale de l'aéroport de Mont-Joli, Parks Canada, Telus.

Sponsors

Hydro-Québec, Caisse Desjardins de Mont-Joli, Municipalité de Grand-Métis, SAQ, Toyota, Fédération des caisses Desjardins du Bas-Saint-Laurent, IGA Alimentation de La Mitis, MacDougall, MacDougall & MacTier, Premier Horticulture, Pépinière Charlevoix, Canada Blooms, Institut des sciences de la mer de Rimouski (ISMER), Empco, Varicon Aqua Solutions Ltd, Miellerie Tête en Fleurs, Glendyne.

Collaborators

Les Ateliers Plein Soleil, Fondation du Grand Montréal, Restaurant Les 400 coups, Les 7 doigts de la main, Banque d'œuvres d'art du Conseil des arts du Canada, Carrefour de la littérature, des arts et de la culture, Musée régional de Rimouski, Festi Jazz international de Rimouski, Comité ZIP du Sud-de-l'Estuaire, Parc de la rivière Mitis, Gaspésie Sauvage, Commission canadienne du tourisme, Délégation du Québec à Londres, Chelsea Fringe, Château Ramezay – Musée et site historique de Montréal, Société de développement du Vieux-Montréal, Programme Les Exceptionnelles, Rouge 100.3 FM, Groupe TVA Québecor média, Metro, Tortuga Films.

Les Jardins de Métis are members of : Association des jardins du Québec, Association des musées canadiens, Association des musées québécois, Association touristique régionale de la Gaspésie, Le Québec maritime et Tourisme Mitis.