

LOOK! UP THERE! IT'S SIMBA THE LION AND A WHALE

PRE-SALE OF WRISTBAND-PASSPORTS: A TERRIFIC OPPORTUNITY UNTIL AUGUST 27!

Gatineau, August 7, 2017 – Gatineau Hot Air Balloon Festival spokesperson **Patrice Bélanger** announced today the full program lineup for its 30th edition, which will run from August 31 to September 4 in parc de la Baie. “The biggest names in Quebec rock, country, pop and comedy are heading to Gatineau for the five most cultural and festive days of the year. And that’s not counting the amusement rides, inflatable structures, strength athletes, and...the hot air balloons, which are still breathtaking after 30 years!” exclaimed the energetic host.

Lots of new offerings for visitors over the Labour Day long weekend. A whole new activity area will be set up on the gigantic site, in collaboration with the Gatineau Playground Festival. It will include a mini-golf course, foam canons, giant games, and...sack races. In potato sacks, no less!

HOT AIR BALLOONS

There is nothing more beautiful than the **Desjardins Lift-offs!** This year once again, there will be dozens of hot air balloons, including no less than 12 special shapes. A whale will be making its first public flight in Gatineau. Simba the Lion will also accompany our one and only SUPER FMG. As always, the public will get to enjoy the ultimate experience: seeing the region from up high. And this year, there will be the low-cost **tethered flights**, more limited and less dizzying. Visitors will still get to explore the inside of a hot air balloon and to meet the pilots. The unmatched **nightglow** aerial ballet, dedicated to the 30th edition, will be performed to the sounds of the music from the film *Cinema Paradiso*.

HYDRO-QUÉBEC STAGE

The highly anticipated program lineup for the Hydro-Québec Stage will feature up-and-coming artists as well as the great classics of Quebec. On the Friday, we will be treated to a delightful and unexpected appearance by **UZEB**. The fusion jazz band is reuniting after 25 years—much too long—with a record of 5 Félix awards, 1,000 concerts and more than 500,000 albums sold! On the Saturday, **Michel Louvain** will be celebrating his 60th anniversary in the business. Franco-Saskatchewan artist **Anique Granger**, **Stephan McNicoll** and the **Geneviève RB et Alain Barbeau** duo will get to warm up the audience beforehand. On the Sunday, we will get to welcome **Nicolas Pellerin et les Grands Hurlleurs**, Gatineau’s **A Leverage For Mountains**, **Martin Deschamps** and **Laurence Jalbert**. Finally, we will have **Abel Maxwell**, the **Gypsy Kumbia Orchestra** and none other than the big winner of *La Voix IV*, **Stéphanie St-Jean**, who will wrap up the succession of performances on the Hydro-Québec Stage.

FAMILY STAGE

On **Saturday, September 2**, Télé-Québec day will feature **Baragouin**, **Djingo** and **Pixelle** of *Salmigondis*, **Benoit Archambault** and his acolytes, **Les Tiguidous**, and **Tim Holland**, a master ventriloquist, juggler and acrobat. And of course, the wee ones’ favourites, **Chase** and **Stella** of the *Paw Patrol*, will make three appearances. Some lucky families will even get to meet them backstage, if they happen to win a contest, the details of which will be unveiled shortly. On **Sunday, September 3**, the stage will be handed over to Gatineau’s very own, the very popular magician **Daniel Coutu**, as well as **BAM** and **Kalimba**. On **Monday, September 4**, we will be treated to **Caillou**, **Fredo** the magician, and **Brimbelle**.

CASINO LAC-LEAMY STAGE

The names of the stars of the Casino Lac-Leamy Stage were released back in April. However, a few names have been added since then. The full list at this point is as follows:

Thursday, August 31: Les Cowboys Fringants and 2Frères

Friday, September 1: Grand comedy gala featuring **Alexandre Barrette, Cathy Gauthier, Philippe Laprise** and **Stéphane Rousseau**

Saturday, September 2: Lift-Off 150, a grand tribute to the 150 years of joie de vivre à Gatineau, featuring **Claude Dubois, Debbie Lynch-White, Martin Giroux, Martin Rouette, Philippe Touzel, Bryan Audet, Bruno Pelletier, Luce Dufault, Samian, Nicolas Pellerin, Geneviève Leclerc** and host **Patrick Groulx**

Sunday, September 3: Éric Lapointe

And, as the first part: **Ricky Paquette** and his guests, **Guy Bélanger** and **Martin Deschamps**

Monday, September 4: La fièvre du country with **Guylaine Tanguay** and her guests, **Marc Hervieux, Daniel Bertrand, Patrick Norman** and **Michel Pagliaro**

These established artists will have the privilege of being able to count on the presence of **talented local up and coming artists** for the first part of their shows every night. Those new talents were selected through various contests, in particular *Secondaire en spectacle* and *Cégeps en spectacle*, as well as *Concours de la relève culturelle de Gatineau*.

ACTIVITIES GALORE

It is a well-known fact that the FMG site has an endless variety of activities. The US' Nick Hadge will defend his last year's title from the **Ville de Gatineau Ultimate Strongman Junior World Championship**. There will be the **Metro Inflatable Games Zone**, the spectacular **Michel Quesnel, pharmacien Fireworks** and the **Amusement Ride Area**. Visitors also get to take a break and refuel at the **SAQ Bistros**, at the **Coors Light Terrace**, at one of the 30 food concessions, or even the **Tim Hortons Picnic Area**.

UP TO 27% OFF ON WRISTBANDS!

From now until August 27, you can take advantage of a discount of up to **27% off the regular price of wristband-passports!** It couldn't be easier. They are on sale now through our Web site at www.balloongatineau.com and, starting on August 10, at our many points of sale. Remember, **children aged 10 and under get in free!** A number of products are also available online, including access to amusement rides, **AéroClub Maisons usinées Côté** packages and overnight stays at the **Leisure Days – Le Centre du VR Gatineau RV park**.

"As the presenting sponsor, Loto-Québec is proud to be associated for a 16th consecutive year with the Gatineau Hot Air Balloon Festival. This festival not only brings people together in a festive atmosphere, but it also clearly illustrates our sponsorship program mandate as one of the most successful events in the Outaouais, giving everyone a chance to live it up," noted Loto-Québec's Corporate Director of Sponsorships and Social Commitment, Lucie Lamoureux. "We invite all festival-goers to come and attend the performances by the many different local artists on the Casino Lac-Leamy Stage, and, for those who are interested, to come and keep the party going at the Casino in a totally retro setting," added Casino du Lac-Leamy General Manager Alain Miroux.

Social media



#SuperFMG

-30-

Sources:

Pascale Gagnon

Communications Director

819-243-2331, extension 1-4

Cell: 613-276-0282

gagnon.pascale@montgolfieresgatineau.com

Éric Brulotte

Communications Officer

819-243-2331, extension 1-8-3

Cell: 819-319-0387

brulotte.eric@montgolfieresgatineau.com