

Montréal, June 22, 2022

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

An architectural jewel witness to part of our history

The Old Port's Clock Tower Celebrates its Centennial

Summary

- The Old Port of Montréal's iconic Clock Tower monument turns 100
Learn more about the tower's history in the accompanying media kit
- Located at the foot of the tower, Clock Tower Beach is open for the summer
- The Sky Belongs to the DJ — evening events offering visitors a quintessential Montréal experience and the best views of the Clock Tower and Loto-Québec's international fireworks shows
- Riverside yoga sessions right on the beach to reconnect body and mind
- Easy access to the Old Port using public and active transportation

One hundred years ago, in 1922, the Old Port's Clock Tower was built in an area we know today as the Old Port of Montréal. Now a cherished monument, the tower's beauty continues to grace the riverside all year around as an iconic architectural gem and witness to part of the city's history.

A Tower Rich in History

“Originally called the **Sailors’ Memorial Tower**, the Old Port’s Clock Tower was designed and built following World War I to honour the great many who were lost during the conflict. The monument reflects the political, cultural and economic context of the time — a period after a war that deeply and forever marked the lives of Montréalers, individuals, families and institutions alike, notably those of British descent. The tower project was one among a number of others that were built to pay tribute to those who lost their lives in the war. In light of the Port of Montréal’s role in securing arms, food, and provisions for Great Britain’s troops and allies, the Montreal Harbour Commission was called upon to honour the courage and memory of members of the Canadian Merchant Marine and the British Merchant Navy.

Within a few months of the war ending, the Commission set out to build the memorial and in October 1919, in the presence of the Prince of Wales who later ascended to the throne as King Edward VIII, a block of granite was laid on what would later be location of the monument’s commemorative plaque. Paul Leclaire, the Commission’s engineering assistant and graduate of the city’s École Polytechnique, was mandated to design the monument. His vision was to design a white, 45-metre-tall tower in keeping with the Beaux-Art style. He planned for the tower to feature a set of bells (which never came to be) and four immense clockfaces on each of the tower’s sides, whose workings would be designed by the prestigious English clockmakers Gillett & Johnson. The monument’s commemorative plaque was placed on the tower’s east face looking downstream on the Mighty St. Lawrence. Leclaire’s tower design was in keeping with the times as other WWI monuments were also designed as towers and skyscrapers erected around this time also echo this architectural form.”

To learn more about the history of the Clock Tower, please refer to the text provided in the media kit, originally authored by UQAM History Professor Joanne Burgess, director of UQAM’s Laboratoire d’histoire et de patrimoine de Montréal.

The Clock Tower – One Hundred Years Later

Still a prominent feature of the city skyline, the Clock Tower continues to welcome visitors, watercraft, and tourists alike as they make their way along the Mighty St. Lawrence. The historic site, now known as the Old Port of Montréal and home to the province’s most visited recreation and tourist hotspot, allows seven million visitors each year to enjoy and appreciate the architectural beauty and history of the tower, now simply known as The Clock Tower.

Clock Tower Beach - Fantastic Views at the Foot of the Tower

Located right at the foot of the historic tower is **Clock Tower Beach**, which officially **opened for the summer season last Thursday, June 17**. Boasting of fine sand, Adirondack chairs, and bright blue parasols, this urban beach offers visitors a chance to escape the everyday – a holiday just steps away from downtown Montréal! With magnificent views of the Mighty St. Lawrence and the iconic Clock Tower up above, the beach offers visitors a spectacular vantage point on Jacques-Cartier Bridge, Saint Helen’s Island, and Old Montréal.

Special Events for Loto-Québec’s International Fireworks Shows

In view of offering visitors an **exceptional and quintessential Montréal experience**, Clock Tower Beach will feature as one of the city’s **best spots to view the Clock Tower and Loto-Québec’s international fireworks shows**. From June 25 to August 6, Clock Tower Beach will present special “The Sky Belongs to the DJ” evening events as part of its summer program!

June 25: DJ Kelly / July 2: DJ Jared Ross / July 9: DJ ASMA
 July 13: DJ Wordy Word / July 16: DJ FunkyFalz / July 20: DJ Pop Tart
 July 27: DJ Tallandskiinny / August 3: DJ Truspin / August 6: DJ Alex Murphy

These DJ events run from 7pm to 10pm and tickets are \$7. Learn more about it [here](#).

Yoga to the Sounds of the Breeze at the Foot of the Tower

Offer yourself a **moment to breathe and reconnect with body and mind**. Bring your yoga mat and enjoy an **outdoor yoga session in a charming riverside location** at Clock Tower Beach. Every Tuesday from 6pm to 7pm from June 28 to August 30.

Tickets available now [here](#).

Travel to the Old Port by Public Transit

The Old Port of Montréal is one of the province’s most treasured spots and welcomes visitors each and every day. **Getting there is as easy as 1-2-3 using either public or active transportation**, from bus and metro to maritime shuttle, BIXI, or Bixi!

Starting June 24 and for the entire summer season, **a number of metro stations, including those near Old Montréal and the Old Port (Champ-de-Mars and Place-d’Armes), will offer riders free access** on weekends.

Clock Tower Beach is **accessible** for those with reduced mobility and includes a wheelchair ramp.

About the Old Port of Montréal

The Old Port of Montréal, a division of the Canada Lands Company, has offered a variety of interactive, cultural and recreational activities for more than 25 years. As home to the Montréal Science Centre, the second most visited science centre in the country, it also offers many opportunities for scientific discovery. Bordering a 2.5-kilometre stretch of the St. Lawrence River, the Old Port of Montréal is the most popular recreational tourism site in Quebec, with more than six million visitors annually. Its partners are Coca-Cola, Eska, Natrell, Sleeman, TELUS, Rythme 105.7, 92.5 The Beat, 96.9 CKOI and 98.5 FM.

www.oldportofmontreal.com

Information

Etienne Collins
 Manager, Public Relations
 Mobile: (514) 838-4593
ecollins@vieuxportdemontreal.com

Source

Old Port of Montréal