

Montréal in Action

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First phase in the Bell Campus now complete

On August 18, Canderel Ltd., the project developer and builder, inaugurated the first phase in the Bell Campus project, with three buildings totalling 605,000 square feet of space. The second phase, including 235,000 sq. ft., is slated for delivery in February 2009. A third phase, with about 300,000 sq. ft., is also planned, to bring the total Campus to some 1.14 million sq. ft. According to Candarel President and CEO Jonathan Wener, "It would never have been possible to build such a huge project so quickly in Toronto. We have a tremendous, high-quality workforce here in Quebec."

McGill University inaugurates its new Life Sciences Complex

The new complex brings together some 600 researchers who were formerly housed in several different buildings. The project was completed on time and within the \$73 M construction budget. Some \$27 M worth of equipment has been installed, including an imaging device capable of observing the movements of individual molecules, technology available at fewer than half a dozen research centres around the world. – they have repeated this "half a dozen"



Holiday Inn opens near Montréal-Trudeau Airport

The Montréal Airport Holiday Inn Express & Suites will welcome its first guests in September. Located on Chemin de la Côte de Liesse, 2 km from the airport, the hotel has 154 rooms, including 79 suites with space for several guests, and is fully equipped for longer and family stays. The Montréal Airport Holiday Inn is expected to have a staff of 25 to 30.

Griffintown: New partners and an internationally renowned architect

According to *La Presse*, the Devimco group, the Griffintown project developer, has revised its financial strategy and found new institutional partners to inject \$30 M. Moreover, Devimco has hired the London office of internationally renowned American architect Eric R. Kuhne to design the project.



Rolls-Royce invests \$19.5 M

Rolls-Royce has inaugurated its first V2500 engine overhaul base in North America. The new centre, located at the Montréal Rolls-Royce Canada facility, in Lachine, will repair and overhaul IAE V2500 series engines. The project called for \$19.5 M in investment and will create 125 jobs.



Value of building permits up in July

The value of building permits was up by 20.8% in Montréal in July. Across the country, 18 of 34 metropolitan regions posted growth. Canada-wide, the value of building permits rose by 1.8%, to stand at \$6.4 billion.

Filming: A \$200 M American production to begin shooting in January

In January 2009, Montréal will be hosting a major \$200 M American production. It will be coming here at the start of the year for six months, to complete the production, filming and post-production phases of the work.

Montréal to host World Congress on Art Deco

Some 300 participants are expected to attend the 10th World Congress on Art Deco, to be held here in Montréal in May 2009.

Hush Puppies Canada wins a global mandate

Hush Puppies Canada, headquartered in Montréal, has been given a global mandate by its international group. The mandate should help boost Hush Puppies Canada sales, already 50% higher than in the rest of the footwear industry. Hush Puppies Canada has already made a name for itself within the international group, with its stylish, waterproof boots.

Pointe-à-Callière Museum organizes an international conference on cultural tourism

Montréal will be hosting the annual conference of the International Council of Museums and its International Committee for Education and Cultural Action, from September 29 to October 3. The conference will examine trends and major issues in cultural tourism and feature some forty speakers.

Imperial Tobacco conversion project continues

Groupe Prével is continuing its Imperial Tobacco conversion project, and going ahead with Phase 5. The 135 lofts are slated for delivery in December 2009. The eight-phase project will total 500 lofts.

Montréal launches a housing ad campaign

Montréal is launching an original ad campaign, gently poking fun at suburban living and selling the advantages of homeownership in Montréal, especially to young families. Posters have gone up everywhere, and ads promoting life in the city can be heard on the main radio stations.

Next, the city will be concentrating its efforts on the Internet, with animated ads, since that is where most prospective home buyers do their research. Montréal firm Bleu Blanc Rouge designed the campaign.

Quartier des spectacles



► Sidev launches construction work on its new complex

SIDEV has obtained its permit to begin the preliminary work on its complex at the corner of Sainte-Catherine and Bleury. Work currently underway to demolish the existing buildings should take 45 days. Sidev plans to erect a commercial and residential building on the site.



► New Place des Arts lobby

The Quebec government will be investing \$12.5 M to transform the Sainte-Catherine street entrance and the lobby. Work is to begin in January and should be completed by the end of 2009.



► Sleeb project reborn under a new name

A new developer, Dalle Nogare, is taking over the Sleeb realty development project, now to be known as the Loft des Arts. The new developer will relaunch and complete the first phase of this project designed by Groupe Cardinal Hardy. Phase II calls for the construction of a new 20-storey building with some 250 condo units, rising above boulevard de Maisonneuve and running along rue Clark, with a clear view of the Quartier des spectacles.