



Ottawa

Celebrates 150 years of Canada

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Dragons, spiders and strange lights, oh my! Suddenly, the city is invaded by an enormous robotic spider and a fire-breathing dragon. The giant creatures roam the downtown streets, as screaming people run for cover or just stop and stare. North America has never witnessed a site such as this.

Nearby, flashing lights and strange sounds are coming from a subway tunnel. Brave souls climb deep into the earth's bowels to discover the source of the mystery. When they emerge, they tell of strange tales of a "time-travel" like

multimedia experience.

Have aliens or giant beasts invaded the earth? Is this the latest Steven Spielberg summer blockbuster movie?

It's none of the above.

This is downtown Ottawa!

Leave it to the imagination of Guy Laflamme, the former Executive Producer of the iconic Canada Day sound and light show on Parliament Hill; now the Executive Director/Producer of Ottawa 2017, to come up with a series of jaw-dropping, Hollywood-worthy stunts and thrills aimed at

attracting visitors of all ages to flock to Ottawa this year. From giant robotic creatures to Canada's largest dinner party on Parliament Hill, Ottawa 2017 is the summation of Guy's imaginative 400-page plan of events scattered across the Nation's Capital in this year-long celebration of Canada's 150th birthday.

"We know how to produce a party!" laughs Guy Laflamme. "Ottawa as the Nation's Capital is assuming responsibility to be the hub of Canada's 150th celebrations. Ottawa Mayor Watson gave the green light on a pretty spectacular plan which is going to be the largest the city or country has ever seen. Including visitors and people in the region, 11 million people are expected to come and celebrate Canada's Sesquicentennial."

The events will have a massive positive impact on the area Guy says they are predicting \$320 million in consumer spending.

"Our hope is to refresh the image of Ottawa and to enhance the level of pride in our city and Nation's Capital," adds Guy. "With the New York Times and other key media in the U.S. named Canada as the number one travel destination for 2017, and Ottawa is right up there, we expect a strong influx of visitors from the U.S., as well as from founding nations like France and Great Britain, with the largest percentage coming mostly from Quebec and Ontario."

After the bigger than ever Canada Day celebrations that included a giant picnic on a freshly turfed Alexander Bridge, Ottawa will host "Canada's table," a dinner for 1,000 people by Parliament Hill on August 27th.

"I have been dreaming about producing this event for five years," says Guy. "It is one long, uninterrupted 305 metre long (1,000 feet) table on Wellington Street set for 1,000 people. This once-in-a-lifetime culinary event features 10 top local chefs partnered with 10 top chefs from five regions across Canada who will prepare a legendary four-course dinner with wine pairing, offering a backdrop of Parliament Hill and the finale being the sound and Light Show! Canada's Table is a non-profit event with proceeds going to aid local and national food security causes. Despite the \$175 plus tax and service fee, in two seconds, all of the tickets were gone."

You may be wondering, what events are still available to go and see. Plenty. Not only are many events a first for our nation, several are free to the public. Reservations are required for many events so visit the Canada 2017 website for more information and to book your time slot, at www.ottawa2017.ca. For more information on events in Ottawa, visit Ottawa Tourism at www.ottawatourism.ca.

TOP 10 FUN THINGS

*to do in the Nation's capital
for Canada's 150th*



Ottawa Welcomes the World, Lansdowne Park

78 embassies from around the globe will celebrate their culture at free parties being held from spring to December in this celebration of food, music and dance. Admission to the park is free with minimal fees for food and beverages purchased.



Ignite 150 Series

A series of stunts as dancers perform in fountains around the city—from flamingo dancers to ballet, this artistic endeavor is designed to go viral! Another important part of the series could be called "You Light up my Life" as thousands of lights are put in various ever-changing locations which rotate on a regular basis.



Agri-150

This “bootleg” boat cruise features local produce and food that wasn’t legal in the 50’s, provided by local farmers and food producers and served on a paddle-wheel steam boat. Other events include a performance in the middle of a corn field by aerial dancers, a meat-lovers tour and more



Inspiration Village

A parking lot becomes home to 40 shipping containers which have been modified to serve as an exhibit space to pay tribute to the provinces with displays, performances and more.

Image courtesy of Bell. Similar to Bell’s pavilion concept seen in this photo, Inspiration Village will be a beautiful display of transformed sea containers on York Street in downtown Ottawa, paying tribute to Canadian provinces and territories.



Kontinuum

The world premiere of this futuristic, multimedia production will be held at Lyon Station which is part of Ottawa’s future LRT. “Visitors travel the 500 metres into the world’s first underground science fiction walk to discover cutting-edge technology for a multimedia experience that’s modern, and purely emotional,” explains Guy. “It’s a spectacular sound and light fantasy voyage.



La Machine

From July 27 to 30, enjoy ambulatory urban theatre on the streets of downtown Ottawa as the city unleashes a giant robotic spider and dragon created in France. Free for visitors; check the website for performance dates and times.



Chaudière Falls Autumn Sound and Light Show

A piazza has been created on the edge of the falls as visitors experience the first sound and light production on the magnificent water fall. Other fall events include the Canadian Video Game Awards in November, the reopening of the Science and Technology Museum, the opening of the new Bank of Canada Currency Museum and more.



Sky Lounge

The Sky Lounge takes culinary experiences to new heights as people are lifted 150 feet above the grounds of City Hall for a breathtaking panoramic view of Parliament Hill, the Rideau Canal and the City of Ottawa. The three-course menu begins with a gourmet appetizer and an aperitif, then take to the skies and enjoy a selection of Canadian cheese and wine followed by a gourmet meal created by Chef Stephen La Salle of Andaz Feast+Revel featuring locally sourced Canadian food products. Tickets sold out in minutes flat so Ottawa 2017 has added additional dates in July—check the website for current availability, www.ottawa2017.ca



The 105th Grey Cup

The festival kicks off on Tuesday November 21st and goes until Sunday November 26th, the day of the big game. And over above all of this, book a time to tour the Parliament Buildings or take the Hop-on-Hop-Off Bus and tour the many museums. For more information visit Ottawa Tourism 2017 at www.ottawatourism.ca.

photo supplied by Ottawa Sports and Entertainment Group



Celebrate Canada's Game at the NHL 100 Classic Outdoor Hockey Match on December 16th

There's nothing more Canadian than hockey and what better way to celebrate the NHL's opening night in 1917 then attending the 2017 Scotiabank NHL100 Classic™ on December 16th when the Montreal Canadiens take on the Ottawa Senators in an outdoor game. The game will be played at Ottawa's Lansdowne Park. *photo by James Peltzer*