

Unearthing Montréal's luminous past A living archeological legacy!

Montréal, July 31, 2017 – For the city's 375th anniversary, **Château Ramezay – Historic Site and Museum of Montréal** is holding an exhibition called *Unearthing Montréal's luminous past – A Living Archeological Legacy!* The exhibition, presented by Desjardins, showcases Montréal archeology and features a selection of artifacts that illustrate the lives of the island's occupants, from prehistoric Indigenous peoples to industrial era Montrealers.

Shedding light on Montrealers' past

Archeology changes our approach to the past in surprising and poignant ways. This exhibition is an attempt to give back to Montrealers by showcasing concrete research findings and focusing on the valuable contribution of archeology to our understanding of the developmental milestones that forged their identity.

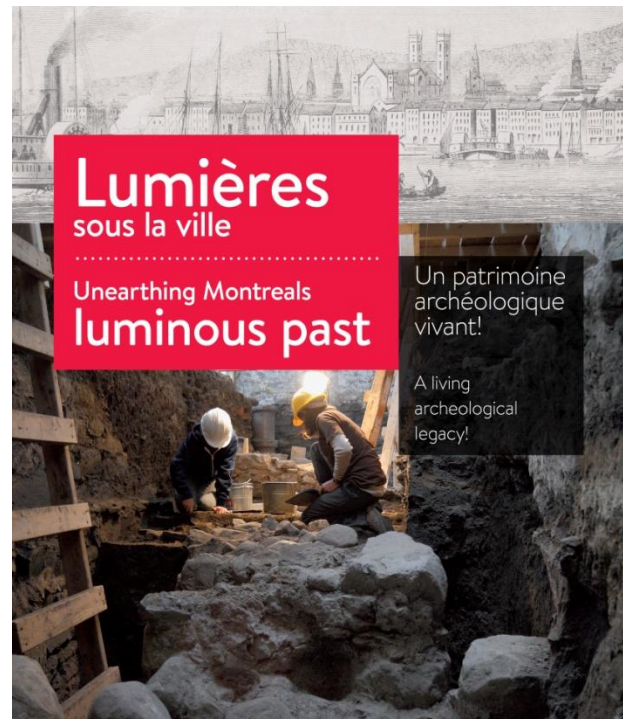
4000 years of archeological treasures

Inspired by the book *Lumières sous la ville: Quand l'archéologie raconte Montréal*, the exhibition presents the key stages in the city's history as seen in its iconic archeological sites. From Fort Ville-Marie and the military complex at Saint Helen's Island to Château de Vaudreuil and the Lachine Canal, the exhibition presents more than 200 different artifacts: Indigenous pottery and tools, trade items from the early colonial days and everyday objects from wealthy and poor households alike. Visitors can even see a huge post from the wooden palisade protecting the old city! There is a display dedicated to the Dawson site, whose artifacts were discovered in the city centre in 1860 and raised the question as to whether archeologists had found the remains of Hochelaga, the Iroquoian village visited by Jacques Cartier in 1535.

Celebrate Archeology Month at the Château!

If you are curious or passionate about archeology, don't miss the Archeology Month conferences (in french) at Château Ramezay. On August 2, see four short films about our archeological heritage, *Sous le parvis de Notre-Dame* (2006), *Fragments de mémoire* (2011), *Montréal, ville forte de son passé* (2011) and *Esprits du lieu* (2017), with commentary. On August 9, François C. Bélanger, Ville de Montréal archeologist and co-director of *Lumières sous la ville: Quand l'archéologie raconte Montréal*, will present the book that inspired the exhibition.

The *Unearthing Montréal's luminous past – A Living Archeological Legacy!* exhibition will be on until September 3, 2018. Take advantage of your visit to the Château to admire the outdoor work *Traces – First Waterways* by artist William Vazan, presented as part of Métis-sur-Montréal at Place De La Dauversière.



Lumières sous la ville: Quand l'archéologie raconte Montréal is the very first major publication on Montréal archeology. The work is intended for history, heritage and archeology buffs, and is a collaborative effort of some 40 specialists under the direction of Anne-Marie Balac and François C. Bélanger.

Since 2005, Archeology Month has been an important national event, the only one of its kind in the country, bringing together and giving voice to more than a hundred members, partners and collaborators. Archeology Month is an unparalleled opportunity to bring archeology to life and make it accessible to everyone. It raises public awareness of the importance of Québec's rich archeological heritage. Visit www.moisdelarcheo.com for more information.

The Château Ramezay – Historic Site and Museum of Montréal, a non-profit organization, safeguards and makes accessible a collection that reflects and attests to the history of Montréal and Quebec. It was the first building in Quebec to be classified an historic monument and is the province's oldest private historical museum. Visit our website: chateauramezay.qc.ca

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Exhibition presented by :



LE MOIS DE L'ARCHÉOLOGIE 2017

