



Press Release
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A Dazzling Finale to an Exceptional Year
The 475th Anniversary Celebration's last great gathering

Gaspé, 1 January, 2010 – The 475th Anniversary Celebration of Jacques Cartier's arrival on American land held a last great public gathering yesterday in downtown Gaspé to wrap up a year full of festivities and unforgettable encounters.

Presented by Hydro-Québec, the closing ceremony to the 475th Anniversary Celebration was a true success, with some 5,000 people assembled on downtown streets. Enthusiasm rose to a peak as hundreds of photos of the Celebration streamed past on a giant screen. A number of musical artists kept rhythm with this retrospective, performing against the backdrop of festivities in Gaspé. According to 475th Anniversary Celebration President Claudine Roy, "The people of Gaspé responded to this last invitation as they have throughout our Celebration, and 2009 will no doubt remain imprinted on our memories as well as in the glorious history of Gaspé!"

Music was also featured front and centre during the "Autour des dernières Retrouvailles" (Around Our Last Gathering) show, presented onstage by Gaspesian musicians Dan Gaudreau, Joël Lebreux, Simon Poirier, Martin Hogen and the Chanteurs du Village. With this gigantic karaoke format, spectators were also able to participate in the show, joining in song. "It was spectacular to hear both young and old singing in chorus, and quite simply a magical evening," confirmed Hélène Francoeur, General Manager of the 475th Anniversary Celebration.

The closing ceremony was also the occasion for the City of Gaspé to open the Celebrations for both Bonaventure and Cloridorme. These Celebrations will continue through 2010, as another full year of festivities is shaping up in those two cities. Details about the activities for Bonaventure's 250th and Cloridorme's 175th Anniversary are available online at www.festivites250bona.c.la and www.canton-de-cloridorme.com.

The true grand finale of the evening was, of course, the Loto-Québec Fireworks Show that dazzled the crowd, lighting up the sky for an electrifying entry into 2010.

The 475th anniversary celebrations were made possible by the financial support of the Canadian government and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Regions and Land Occupancy.

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