



MONTREAL'S CULINARY SCENE HEATS UP: CITY'S BEST CHEFS NAMED TO COMPETE IN GOLD MEDAL PLATES EVENT TO SUPPORT CANADIAN OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC ATHLETES

November 13, 2007

Montreal, long revered as a culinary destination, will see the city's best chefs competing against the clock and each other at the prestigious Gold Medal Plates, this season's most exciting gala event to be held Tuesday, November 13 at the Marché Bonsecours, 350 St-Paul Street East. The event will support Canadian Olympic and Paralympic athletes. The winning gold medal chef will then represent Montreal at the Canadian Culinary Championships to be held in Toronto in February 2008 over an intense three-day national competition.

"Montreal is very proud of its rich culinary tradition and this event is a celebration of excellence that applauds Canada's Olympic and Paralympic athletes and showcases the culinary talent of Montreal's finest chefs," says Patrick Palerme, CEO, GE Capital Solutions and title sponsor of GMP. "Gold Medal Plates inspires the community to support and cheer on our athletes as they strive for the podium."

The following talented chefs have been selected by Montreal's top food and wine critics and will compete for gold, silver and bronze medals:

Daren Bergeron - Decca 77
Jérôme Ferrer - Europea
Gérard Jalby - Le Saint-Christophe
Louis-François Marcotte - Simpléchic
Roland Ménard - Manoir Hovey
Mario Navarrete Jr. - Raza
Marino Tavares - Café Ferreira
Jean-François Vachon - M sur Masson
Alba Delgado - BU Restaurant et bar à vin
Laurent Godbout - Chez L'Épicier

Each chef will be paired with an Olympic or Paralympic athlete to create their ultimate dish, which will then be assessed by a panel of judges.

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There will be an incredible roster of Olympians and Paralympians whose skill and agility will be put to the test as they play the role of sous chef to Montreal's finest chefs. Some of the 15+ expected athletes currently confirmed are:

Emilie Heymans - Diving	Olympic Silver and Bronze medallist
Joannie Rochette – Figure Skating	Olympian
Jonathan Guilmette – Short Track Speed Skating medallist	Olympic Gold and Silver
Mathieu Turcotte – Short Track Speed Skating medallist	Olympic Gold, Silver and Bronze
Benoit Huot - Swimming	Paralympic Eight- time Gold medallist and Four-time silver medallist
Kim St Pierre – Ice Hockey	Double Gold medallist
Sylvie Bernier - Diving	Gold medallist and Chef de Mission – Canadian Olympic Team, Beijing 2008 Olympic Games

Guests will also enjoy silent and live auctions; two of the most sought-after prizes available include a four-day cycling and rare wine tour of the Napa Valley hosted by Olympic gold medallist in triathlon, Simon Whitfield, and a week-long cooking and cycling adventure in Provence, France, with Olympic gold medallist in cycling, Lori-Ann Muenzer. **Jennifer Heil**, 2006 Olympic gold medallist in freestyle skiing and **Alexandre Despatie**, 2004 Olympic silver medallist in diving, will cap the evening with motivational presentations that best exemplify the goal of Gold Medal Plates.

“Being a part of Gold Medal Plates all across this country is very special. I have seen the passion and enthusiasm that all Canadians have toward helping our future Olympians and Paralympians reach their goals,” says Catriona Le May Doan, Olympic double gold and bronze medallist in speed skating and Gold Medal Plates 2006 presenter. “These dinners are about fundraising, but also about the awareness of how much pride our athletes put into spending a good part of their lives training to be a part of the Olympic and Paralympic movement.”

Since its inception, Gold Medal Plates has donated more than \$1.5 million to support Canadian Olympic and Paralympic athletes and has elevated the profile of Canadian cuisine and wine.

For a complete listing of competing chefs across the country visit goldmedalplates.com.
For more information about the Montreal fundraiser please contact Johanne Royer at Gold Medal Plates Montreal at 514-276-9038 or at johanne@konige.com

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Media enquiries: Karen Petcoff 416-275-6844/ kvp@rogers.com

Johanne Royer 514-276-9038, johanne@konige.com