



Welcome  
To the fall 2006  
Transformers Committee Meeting



Welcome to Montréal, the city with *joie de vivre* (enjoy life!), for the IEEE/PES Transformers Committee. Just a few months away from this event, my wife Tuyet and I are very eager to share the pleasures of Montréal with you, through the city's people, places, events and cuisine. We hope that your stay will give you an opportunity to fully experience Montréal, its exuberance, party-like atmosphere, rich cultural heritage, diversity and *joie de vivre*!

Montréal is a multifaceted city that is proud of its contrasts. The world's second-largest French-speaking city after Paris, with 3.4 million residents, Montréal is also a melting pot of cultures from around the world, as its mosaic of neighborhoods (such as Chinatown, the "underground city", the international district, the Latin Quarter and the little Italy, to name just a few) and diversity of restaurants will attest to. You can be served everywhere in English! The city's rich architectural heritage spans four centuries of history from the French Regime to the modern era. An island that's anything but insular, Montreal is a lively town that's always in the mood to celebrate and is waiting for you to join it!

Montréal invites you to experience its *joie de vivre* in every shape and form. It is a city where there is much to do and discover. For instance, Tohu, the national circus school ([www.tohu.ca](http://www.tohu.ca)), will be featuring the world premiere of its latest show, **Traces**, starting October 25. You will also have a chance to discover **Terra Cirqua**, Tohu's permanent exhibit.

Music lovers will be thrilled by the magnificent performances of the city's major classical music orchestras. The Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal ([www.osm.ca](http://www.osm.ca)) is performing Shostakovich's 15<sup>th</sup> Symphony, on October 24 at Montréal Place-des-Arts concert hall. On October 26, 27 and 30, the Orchestre Métropolitain du Grand Montréal ([www.orchestremetropolitain.com](http://www.orchestremetropolitain.com)) is performing a series of concerts featuring Hayden's London symphonies and a magnificent concerto to mark the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mozart's birth.

Dance lovers will be thrilled to see **Romeo and Juliet: Eternal Love** presented by Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal ([www.grandsballets.qc.ca](http://www.grandsballets.qc.ca)) on October 19, 20, 21, 26 and 28, 2006.

Formerly the French and Québec pavilions of **Montréal Expo 67**, the **Casino de Montréal** ([www.casinos-quebec.com](http://www.casinos-quebec.com)) offers excitement and a dazzling atmosphere, with world-class variety shows that include matinee and evening performances.

Sports fans will have a wide array of events to choose from, including NHL hockey games featuring the Montréal Canadiens legendary local hockey team ([www.canadiens.com](http://www.canadiens.com)) and CFL football games featuring the Montréal Alouettes famous local football team ([www.montrealalouettes.com](http://www.montrealalouettes.com)).

Montréal also features exceptional sites dedicated to science and environment. The Montréal Botanical Garden ([www2.ville.montreal.qc.ca](http://www2.ville.montreal.qc.ca)) with 10 exhibition greenhouses and about 30 thematic gardens, presents flowers, plants and trees from all over the world. The Botanical Garden, which is celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, has a colorful schedule of events for the fall, including the Anniversary Path and the Great Pumpkin Ball for Halloween. Come experience the Magic of Lanterns festival



("A dazzling spectacle you don't want to miss!") at the Botanical Garden's **Chinese Garden** and this year theme is Chinese Celebrations. For this event, the Botanical Garden will remain open until 9 p.m. daily from September 8 to October 31, 2006.

At the Japanese Garden, step into the cultural, religious and social world of Japan as you explore the role of sake. You can also experience the Tree House as well as the First Nation Garden, where you can discover the role of nature in Native culture.

At this same location, the **Insectarium** features a fascinating collection of both mounted and live specimens of insects. Just a step away, the Biodôme will allow you to explore four of the most beautiful ecosystems found in the Americas. A visit to the Biodôme is in fact scheduled for our Wednesday evening social event, where the last stop will be at the magnificent **Restaurant Hélène de Champlain** located on enchanting *Île Sainte-Hélène* (Sainte-Hélène Island).

Montréal is also home to many museums such as the **Montréal Museum of Fine Arts** ([www.mbam.qc.ca](http://www.mbam.qc.ca)), the **Musée d'Art Contemporain** ([www.macm.org](http://www.macm.org)) and the **Pointe-à-Callières Museum** (Museum of Archeology and History).

The presentation during our Tuesday luncheon will allow you to discover Joseph-Armand Bombardier, "the man, the genius, the legend". A fascinating individual, brilliant inventor and businessman. J. A. Bombardier marked an entire era of Québec history and revolutionized snow transportation. This visionary genius laid the foundation for Bombardier Inc., a multinational company, specialized in aerospace (commercial and regional aircrafts) and transportation (rail vehicles and mass transit systems).

The companion tour on Monday will visit some sites of interest in Montréal. On Monday there will be a tour of Old Montréal, Mount Royal, St-Joseph's Oratory and a visit to The Botanical Garden in the afternoon. An excursion is planned for Tuesday in the Montérégie (Montréal east region), with a visit to the Droulers / Tsiionkiakwatha archaeological site and the Saint-Antoine Abbé Microbrewery to discover craft beer, honey, wines and other delicacies.

For those of you who have registered for the Saturday visit to Québec City, the scheduled departure time is 7:00 a.m. at the Delta Centre-Ville hotel.

Note that the Delta Centre-Ville is located in the heart of downtown Montréal, at the crossroads of Old Montréal and the new business district. The hotel is close to the Bell Centre, home of the Montréal Canadiens and not far away from the Casino of Montréal. The Delta is steps away from museum, trendy restaurants (remember that on the top of the Delta, you have a revolving restaurant) and attractions. The Métro (subway) and underground city can be accessed by the hotel.

Though fall always promises nice weather – at least we hope so – the temperature is usually cool (average day-time temperature: 11°C [51°F] and average night-time temperature: 2°C [35°F]).

We want to thank everyone for attending this fall's Transformers Committee Meeting.

If you need anything to make your stay better, please don't hesitate to see me or other Hydro-Québec staff members.

Sincerely,

*Tuyet & Thang*