



For immediate release
PRESS RELEASE

FREE HOLIDAY SEASON EXHIBITION **Santas Are Taking Over the Stewart Museum**

Destination île Sainte-Hélène for a magical afternoon!

Montréal, November 11, 2014 - Ho! Ho! Ho! A cohort of happy Santa Claus takes the Stewart Museum by storm. From November 14, 2014 to January 4, 2015, families are invited to meet these pleasant figurines and take part in exciting activities. That's not all: **access** to the Museum is free throughout the entire duration of the exhibition!

Most Santas were handmade by American artists such as Beth Cameron, Lynn West and Lynn Haney and have earned their creator several prestigious awards. Others were handmade by Quebec artist Carole Landreville. They illustrate a fascinating aspect of doll making and reveal an evolution in the artistic representation of one of the most famous and beloved folk characters.



"This exhibition will delight children of all ages. Santas presented are unique both for the material used and for their personality, says Suzanne Sauvage, President and CEO of the Stewart Museum. Talking on the phone, riding a polar bear, practicing cross-country skiing or proudly wearing the arrow sash, they reveal more than one face".

Activities for children who have been good

To immerse families in the holiday spirit the Stewart Museum has created a special program of three activities:

- A Little Elves Workshop. Children are invited to take home their craft for display on the mantelpiece, a windowsill or the Christmas tree.
- A themed treasure hunt for children 3 to 9 years including "Find five differences", "I spy" and "Observation" games. At the end of this mission, the clever little ones will find the mystery word related to the Holiday Season.
- A screening of two animated short films. *Crac* by Frédéric Back, a 1982 Oscar awarded film, courtesy of Ici Radio Canada, and *L'hiver de Léon*, directed by Pierre-Luc Granjon and Pascal Le Nôtre of the National Film Board of Canada,.

Children who have been good can watch the films while filling up on hot chocolate and cookies (\$). The Stewart Museum is open from Wednesday to Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and exceptionally on December 22, 23, 29 and 30. Closed on December 25 and January 1.

About the Stewart Museum

The Stewart Museum, a private, non-profit history museum, was founded in 1955 by philanthropist David M. Stewart. The institution holds a unique collection of nearly 27,000 artifacts, archival documents and rare books that show the European presence in New France and North America up to the present. The Museum's main mission: to conserve and exhibit these objects, which relate to the voyages, scientific advances, feats of arms, beliefs and daily life of our ancestors. This Montréal organization, is located in *Parc Jean-Drapeau*, in the arsenal of the British fortified depot on *Île Sainte-Hélène*, a 19th century military construction registered in the *Répertoire du patrimoine culturel du Québec*.

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