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For Immediate release

10 years is something to celebrate, so join the party as Hudson kicks off its St. Patrick's parade season

Orchard and O'Farrell lend new trend to tradition

HUDSON – The organizing committee of the 2019 annual Hudson St. Patrick's Parade is proud to announce the official start to Irish festivities this year with a roster of events to celebrate the parade's 10th anniversary.

New events and a new twist to an old tradition mark the 10-year milestone.

“We are aiming to make this the best and the biggest community celebration,” said organizing committee chairman Jay de la Durantaye. “What started as a little parade has grown into a marquee festival that shows the strength and vitality of this community.”

This year's parade **Grand Marshal** is Global Television anchor Jamie Orchard. Familiar to English-speaking Montrealers, Orchard will lead the parade on Saturday, March 16, and be honoured at the traditional Grand Marshal's Roast & Toast evening on March 2.

New this year, and to mark the parade's 10-year anniversary, the organizing committee felt it was time to start a new tradition by naming the first **Irishwoman of the Year**, selecting to honour St. Lazare resident and well-known journalist and editor Brenda O'Farrell.

(more)

Rounding out the roster of honorees this year is radio host Jay Farrar, who has been named **Chief Reviewing Officer**. Farrar is technical director and host at CJAD Radio and a host on TSN Radio 690.

The Hudson parade is set for Saturday, March 16 – one day before Montreal’s annual parade, which, this year, will be on Sunday, March 17. But the Hudson festivities begin this weekend, as the organizing committee host its inaugural **Irish Breakfast** on Saturday, Jan. 19, at the Cozy Café. /2

This weekend also marks the official call for applications to be **Queen of the Hudson St. Patrick’s parade**. The role of Queen highlights public speaking and community involvement. Online applications for Queen are being accepted at www.hudsonparade.ca. The deadline for submissions is Feb. 15.

Among the events leading up to the Hudson parade this year are:

- Inaugural **Irish Breakfast**, Saturday, Jan. 19, at Le Cozy Café, beginning at 10 a.m.
- **Irish Mingle** set for Saturday, Feb. 9, at Cunningham’s Pub, beginning at 1 p.m.
- **The Queen’s Selection Night** on Sunday, Feb. 24 at Auberge Willow Inn.
- The **Grand Marshal’s Roast and Toast** on Saturday, March 2, at the Whitlock Golf Club.
- The **Irishwoman of the Year Gala** on Saturday, March 9, at the Whitlock Golf Club

Tickets must be reserved for all events. Details can be found at the parade’s website: www.hudsonparade.ca

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