



The Hamilton Spectator (Hamilton, ON)

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Harley-Davidson museum revs up

MILWAUKEE ♦ Attention bikers and Harley fans: A Harley-Davidson Museum is opening July 12 in the iconic company's hometown, Milwaukee.

The museum has a collection of 400 bikes, including bikes that belonged to celebrities such as Evel Knievel and Elvis Presley, along with a motorcycle from 1903. That was the year that two young friends from Milwaukee, William S. Harley and Arthur Davidson, first made their product available to the public.

Also on display will be historic items such as posters, ads, clothes, trophies and accessories that tell the story of the company and its history; footage of motorcycling, both vintage and contemporary; and a design lab that shows how bikes are developed and engineered. Visitors can sit on 10 vintage and contemporary motorcycles in the final gallery.

The company celebrates its 105th anniversary Aug. 28 to 31 with a series of special events, including an Aug. 30 Bruce Springsteen concert. (Admission to the concert is only available to anniversary ticket-holders in a package that costs \$107.50 US per person. Tickets to the anniversary celebration without the concert are \$65 and include a two-day festival, admission to the museum and various keepsakes.)

Although the legendary motorcycle company offers tours at its Capital Drive facility in Milwaukee and at its factory in York, Pa., this is Harley's only comprehensive museum. For tickets or more information, go to harley-davidson.com and click on "museum."

Admission is \$16 for adults, \$12 for

seniors and students and \$10 for children five to 17. The museum is at Sixth and Canal.

Water tour close to nature

WAKEFIELD, Que. ♦ The Ottawa area has a new ecotourism attraction: a water maze called Eco-Odysee.

Visitors use paddleboats to explore canals and discover animal and plant life in a 28-hectare marsh labyrinth.

This is the first year of the Eco-Odysee, which has been in development since 2002. It's in the heart of Outaouais, 30 minutes from Gatineau-Ottawa.

An excursion is offered from 7 to 9:30 p.m. to see the awakening of nocturnal animals — including minks, beavers, muskrats and great-horned owls — as diurnal animals, such as ducks and birds of prey, settle in for the night. There is also a dawn outing between 5:30 and 8:30 a.m. when animal activity is at its peak.

Some other adventures, lasting about two hours, involve searching for clues and identifying specific elements, such as an animal or a bird-house.

For prices and other details, visit eco-odysee.ca.

Learn French in your **hote**

MONTREAL ♦ For visitors who want to learn some of the local lingo, a pair of Montreal **hoteles** have partnered with Berlitz Canada to offer French lessons to guests.

hote Nelligan and Le Place d'Armes **hote** & Suites — part of the Antonopoulos Group of boutique **hoteles** and restaurants — are offering a package that includes five nights ac-

commodation and 18 hours of private French lessons designed for tourists.

"With these lessons, guests will be able to ... practise their newly developed language skills throughout daily exploration of Montreal," according to a news release.

Berlitz Canada president Darryl Simsovic said language training is a growing trend in both business and leisure activities.

"This package will also appeal to busy executives who do business in Montreal and wish to connect better with Quebec clients or colleagues in French."

The package starts at \$3,494 for two people.

On the web: hotelplacedarmes.com.

Fairways with a view

The views will wreak havoc with your score, but for sheer inspiration you can't beat golfing with the peaks of the Rockies around you. The mountains offer their very own golf trail — just connect the dots in Alberta and British Columbia to create an outstanding road trip from fairway to fairway.

You can take the trail from Calgary or from the airport in Cranbrook, B.C.





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In Alberta, the route features Wintergreen in Bragg Creek, Kananaskis Country Golf Course, Silvertip in Canmore, and the Fairmont Banff Spring Golf Course.

In British Columbia, it includes Copper Point in Invermere, Grey Wolf at Panorama, Trickle Creek Golf Resort, St. Eugene Mission, Kimberley Golf Club and Bootleg Gap in the Kimberley area, and the Fernie Golf Club.

You can add accommodation with Fairmont **Hotels** and Resorts, **Sheraton** and Delta **Hotels**. Packages can also be tailored to add courses, plus other adventures, such as whitewater rafting, hiking, mountain biking and sightseeing.

On the web:

canadianrockiessummer.com

Sport looks to make inroads in Calgary

CALGARY ♦ The World Paddle Championships are coming to Calgary — and no, the event has nothing to do with canoes or kayaks.

Paddle is a racket sport that originated in Mexico about 40 years ago and combines elements of tennis and squash. It is among the most commonly played sports in Latin America and parts of Europe, with professional tours in Argentina and Spain.

The championships, featuring men's and women's teams from 18 countries, will take place Aug. 23 to 30 at the Calgary West Soccer Centre, which has seating for about 1,200 spectators.

Calgary beat out Sao Paulo, Brazil, for the rights as host.

"Hosting this event in Calgary will significantly increase the exposure of our sport in North America and greatly assist the Paddle Association of Canada in promoting the sport across Canada," said association

president Bill Stamile.

Played on an enclosed court by opposing pairs, paddle is a "fast-paced display of agility, athleticism and strategy," according to a news release.

Single-day tickets for the championships cost \$20 per person, \$30 for families. A pass for the entire eight-day event is \$100 per person, \$150 for families. Tickets can be reserved at 2008worldpaddle.com.

The last paddle championships were held in Spain in 2006.

Airport **Hotels** go trendy

MONTREAL ♦ A new **Hotel** that opened this week marks not just a place to stay before your early-morning flight from Montreal, but a whole new brand of **Hotel**.

"We're so excited, it's absolutely gorgeous," said Cynthia Bond, a spokesperson for **Starwood Hotels** and Resorts.

Starwood (the company that owns **Sheraton**, **Westin**, **Le Meridien**, **W** and other **Hotel** brands) unveiled aloft, a 136-room **Hotel**, at Montreal's Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport at Dorval, just in time for the Grand Prix this weekend. Reservations are already being taken for aloft **Hotels** at five more locations, including Lexington, Mass. and at airports in Philadelphia and Charleston, S.C.

Aloft Hotels are also to open soon in Toronto, Laval, Chicago (at O'Hare Airport), Beijing and Las Vegas.

"The aloft brand has already announced more than 80 development projects, in more than 10 countries," Bond said.

Starwood plans to have as many 500 aloft **Hotels** around the world by 2012.

About half of the new **Hotels** will be

built at airports "because that's a market that has always been neglected in most cities," says Stephane Jasmin, general manager of the new Montreal **Hotel**. "There's never anything trendy at the airport; you always have to go downtown."

Starwood hopes to set the aloft brand apart from regular — often dreary — airport hotels with high design at low cost.

"It's the new twist in travel," said Jasmin. "If you know **W** hotels, you know the style, but this is more affordable and less complicated."

The aloft at the Montreal airport, for example, has a lounge area where you can get a drink and appetizers, but there's no sit-down restaurant. At a food-and-beverage area called re:fuel, you can buy snacks and drinks, including Starbucks coffee, to go, 24 hours a day.

Small cruises, big perks

Huge cruise ships have glitz and glamour, fabulous food and nonstop things to do. But at the other end of the spectrum, small expedition ships can take you places that the itinerary planners for the big boys won't (or can't) consider.

You can go volcano hopping with Hebridean Cruises on a 98-passenger vessel whose area of exploration is probably no more than 300 square kilometres. But in that small patch of sea are the exotic old town of Palermo, Sicily, and the ruins of a Roman amphitheatre with one of the best views anywhere.

Patrons sit on the side of the mountain and the stage is backdropped by Mount Etna smoking above and the white curve of the coast several hundred metres below.

The vessel serves food as scrump-