

NEWS RELEASE

Gala evening to celebrate 75 years of inspiration and success for the Ouimet-Cordon Bleu-Tomasso group

Montreal, September 29th, 2008 – The Ouimet-Cordon Bleu-Tomasso group, one of Canada's major food services groups, will hold a gala evening, next Thursday October 2nd 2008, under the theme « Peace and Joy » to launch the celebrations marking its 75th anniversary.

Mr. J.-Robert Ouimet, Chairman of the Board and CEO of Holding O.C.B Inc. and Vice-Chairman of the Board of the Ouimet-Cordon Bleu-Tomasso group explains with joy that the recipe for success and longevity of the family business is largely based on a management model that rests on authentic relationships and human values as well as spirituality. According to Mr. Ouimet, « by implementing activities that are based on humanity and by adhering to fundamental values such as human dignity, justice and equity, employees gain a better sense of what they need to do and results in more satisfied employees who aim to produce more, thus increasing competitive returns on investment. » This management model, begun in 1933 by founder J.-René Ouimet and his son, J.-Robert Ouimet, is also the subject of an autobiography titled « Tout vous a été confié », published at Éditions Presses de la Renaissance, with a preface by Mr. Jacques Lamarre, President and CEO of Groupe SNC-Lavallin Inc. A copy of the book will be given to guests at the gala evening.

In North America, less than 4% of businesses are successfully handed down to the third generation. The Ouimet-Cordon Bleu-Tomasso group of companies is one of them.

His Imperial and Royal Highness Archduke Rudolf of Austria, head of the European Anthropology Centre of Switzerland will preside over the celebration. Included among the 560 guests are members of the Canadian Council of Chief Executives, as well as various dignitaries, namely three former premiers of Quebec, Messrs Bernard Landry, Jacques Parizeau and Pierre-Marc Johnson; as well as Montréal Mayor Gérald Tremblay; the official leader of the Official Opposition and head of l'Action démocratique du Québec, Mr. Mario Dumont; Mrs. Vera Danyluk, Mayor of the Town of Mont-Royal and Mrs. Karin Marks, Mayor of Westmount. Because of the federal election, many other elected officials will be unable to attend.

Many senior business executives and several representatives of academia from Canada and abroad will also be present. Let us mention the Chairman of the board of Bombardier, Mr. Laurent Beaudoin; the President of Federal Express Canada, Mr. David Binks; the Chairman and CEO of Standard Life Insurance Company of Canada, Mr. Joseph Lannicelli; the Principal of Laval University, Mr. Denis Brière; the Chairman of La Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec, Mr.

Pierre Brunet; the President of The Canadian Council of Chief Executives, Mr. Thomas D'Aquino; the Chair of the board of directors of HEC and the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, Mrs. H  l  ne Desmarais; the Chancellor of the Concordia University, Mrs. Judith Woodsworth; Mr. Georges Aoun, Dean of the Faculty of management of the Universit   Saint-Joseph of Beirut; Mr. Marcel Dutil, Chairman and CEO of Canam Manac; Mr. Richard G. Gervais, President of GGA communications and Consul of the Republic of Mauritius; Mr. James Hewitt, Chairman and CEO of Hewitt Equipment; Mrs. Isabelle Hudon, President of the Board of trade of Metropolitan Montreal; Mr. Michel Kelly-Gagnon, President of the Conseil du Patronat du Qu  bec; Mr. Jean Laurin, Chairman and CEO of GVA Devencore; Mr. Marc Le M  nestrel, of the University of Pompeu Fabra, Madrid; Mr. John Le Boutillier, Chairman of the board of l'Industrielle Alliance; Mr. R  mi Marcoux, Executive President of Transcontinental; Mr. Roger No  l, Dean of the Faculty of administration of the University of Sherbrooke; Mr. Michel Patry, Director, HEC Montreal; Mr. G  rald Pelletier, Chairman of the board of the St-Hubert Group; Mr. Guy Saint-Pierre, former minister and corporate director; Mr. Pierre Shedleur, Chairman of the board of the SGF; Mr. Michael Turcotte, Chairman of the board of Hydro-Qu  bec; Mr. Paul Hill, President, Harvard Developments, Edmonton; the Honourable Perrin Beatty, President, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce; Mr. David T. Fung, CEO of ACDEG, Vancouver; Mr. Jozef Vanco, Chairman and CEO of the Social Academy Slovakia Business Leaders Association, of Bratislava; and Mr. Dennis Wood, President, Dennis Wood Investments. Personalities from as far as India, amongst which the CEO of Opala RF Ltd., of Mumbai, Mr. Guruji Narayana; the USA, Lebanon, France, Spain, Holland and Slovakia will participate in the event.

Forever faithful to the human values of the group of companies, Mr. J.-Robert Ouimet has also personally invited some 50 employees who are now retired or who have been working with the group of companies for more than 25 years. In fact, one of the four musical pieces of the evening, specifically chosen by Mr. Ouimet, will be dedicated to them.

The gala will be held at the H  tel Delta Centre-ville, 777 University, Montr  al, on Thursday October 2nd, 2008.

Program of the evening:

6:00 – 7:00pm	Arrival of the guests and welcome by Mr. And Mrs. J.-Robert Ouimet, in the company of His Imperial and Royal Highness Archduke Rudolf of Austria Red carpet and welcome cocktail
7:00	Beginning of the gala
7:10	Speeches of His Imperial and Royal Highness Archduke Rudolf of Austria, Messrs J.-Robert Ouimet, Mario Dumont and G��rald Tremblay

7:25	Unveiling of J.-René Ouimet's bust, founder and father of J.-Robert Ouimet
7:35	Banquet, followed by the Grand concert
9:30	Testimonies
11:00	End of the gala

Throughout the evening, guests will be able to hear 40 musicians of the Orchestre de la Francophonie canadienne, under the direction of young Maestro Jean-Philippe Tremblay, accompanied by a 35 member choir, as well as four well-known opera singers: Manon Feubel, Geneviève Couillard-Després, Marc Hervieux and Gaétan Laperrière. The program will feature works by Vivaldi, Mozart, Handel, Beethoven and Georges Bizet.

Media are welcome to this gala evening.

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For more information or to confirm your presence, please communicate with:

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