

# RedBull **CRASHED** clatters into Quebec City march 17-19

words Alex Eberspaecher



photo by Jorg Mitter

The *March sun* had been rather pleasant during the day, *it is cold now* on the *winding streets* that run through the *old city*. It is party night in *Quebec City* but miraculously, none of the *120 thousand spectators* feel the cold.

Then suddenly they appear. The loud music is virtually drowned out by cheers from raucous spectators lining the track and when the first of the four athletes takes a dive into the boards and another one trips over him, only to get up faster than a skater can fall, the old city erupts into pandemonium... and you think hockey players can skate!

Already home to Carnaval de Quebec and all of its icy events—including that test-of-will canoe race across the frozen St. Lawrence—Quebec City is always on the lookout for a new source of fun.

For example, in December, a few thousand Nordiques supporters

headed south to Long Island, NY, for a friendly demonstration to convince the NHL that Quebec City should have their Nordis back. It was the loudest audience the Islanders had experienced for quite some time and it gives you a glimpse into this city's passion for adventure and sport.

So, it is befitting that a city ready to latch on to a crowd pleaser that embodies its very own passion for ice sports, raised a very large 'sourcil' (French eyebrow) and their ears perked up a decade ago when they heard about what the Swedes had cooked up.

# ICE

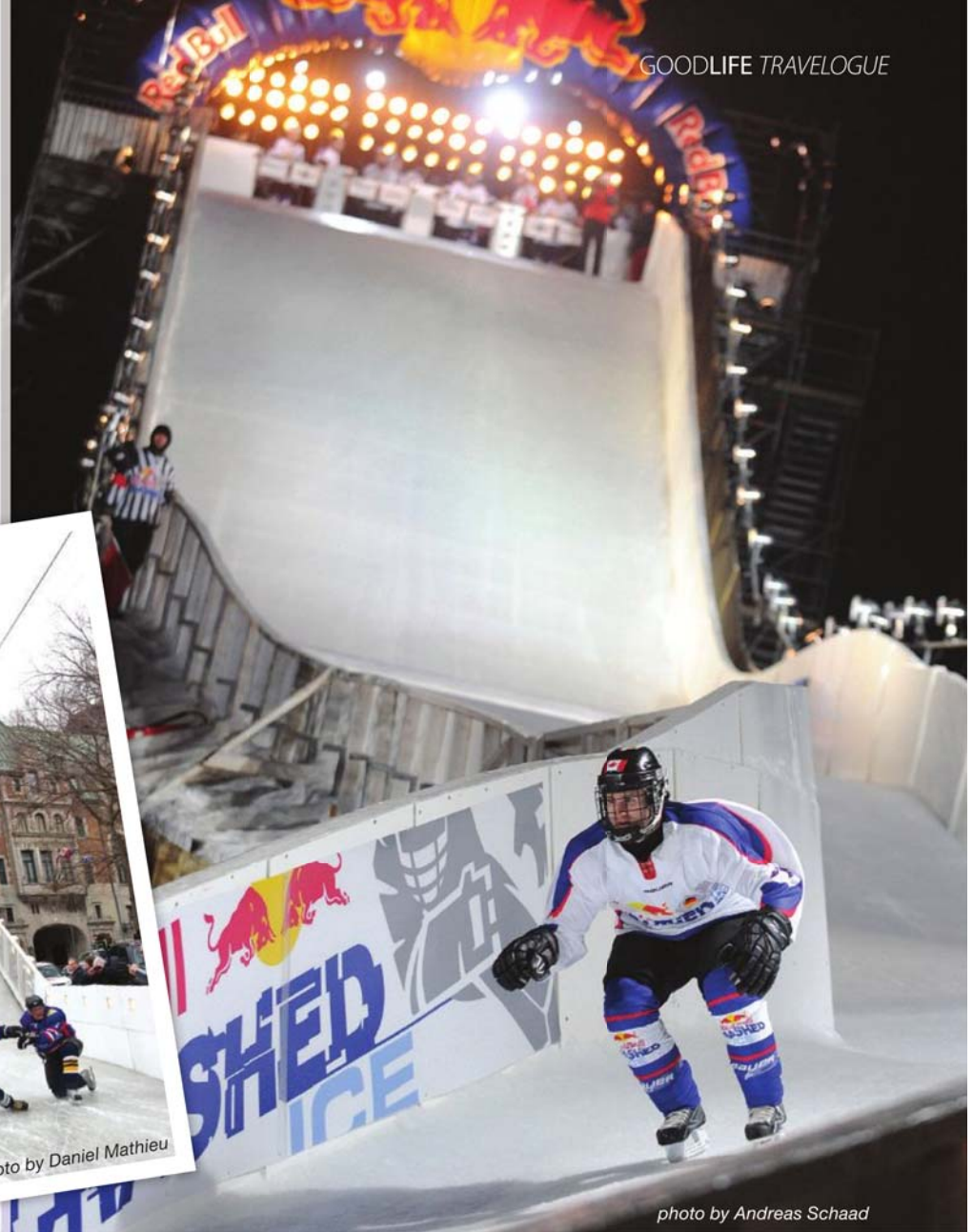


photo by Daniel Mathieu

photo by Andreas Schaad

During a blistering cold January day in 2000, one of the hottest winter sports in memory was born in Stockholm, Sweden, a sport in which Canadians are now known to excel.

Hockey skates and helmets in hand, athletes from around the world flocked to Stockholm to play a part in one of the wildest races imaginable. All vehicular traffic in Stockholm's fish market district came to a standstill on that day as man raced against man on an ice track down steep streets through sharp turns, jumped over long gaps on the track, several ice steps, then more jumps and countless moguls. The inaugural madness was called Cross Downhill and the race is now known as *Red Bull Crashed Ice*.

When it was all over and a few of the participants had been stitched up or worse, put in traction, the winner was Jasper Felder of Sweden.

Jasper Felder remained the undisputed *Red Bull Crashed Ice* champion as the race moved on to Austria the following year. From

there it had stops in Duluth, Moscow and Prague. By 2006, as the race had gathered speed and attention, Québec City hosted the race for the first time. Canadian, Gabriel André was declared world champion there. Crazy Canucks stood proudly on the winners' podium for the next few years and they have continued to do well ever since, although right now the Scandinavians are top dogs. (This only proves that Scandinavians are nuttier than Canadians!)

After 14 races in 8 countries, held not only on steep and narrow city streets but also on mountainous ski slopes, the race is returning to the neck-breaking 600-metre-long track in Québec City on the 17th to the 19th of March 2011. Starting outside the Fairmont Chateau Frontenac Hotel within the old part of the city, the steep track winds all the way down on Côte de la Montagne, takes another steep right turn at Place Royale, reaching speeds in excess of 50 kilometres per hour, and that's on the ice, who knows how fast they go when they hurtle through the ➤

## CRASHED COURSE

The **15th RED BULL CRASHED ICE RACE** takes place from March 17 to 19, 2011 in Quebec City.

**Course Length** - about 600 metres with a vertical drop of 60 metres

**Spectators expected** - 125 000 +

**Athletes** - 64 men, 16 women in finals.

**Speed** - 50 km/h +; professional hockey players can reach 35 km/h

**You can drive** to Quebec(816 km), take the train or Fly Porter or Air Canada.

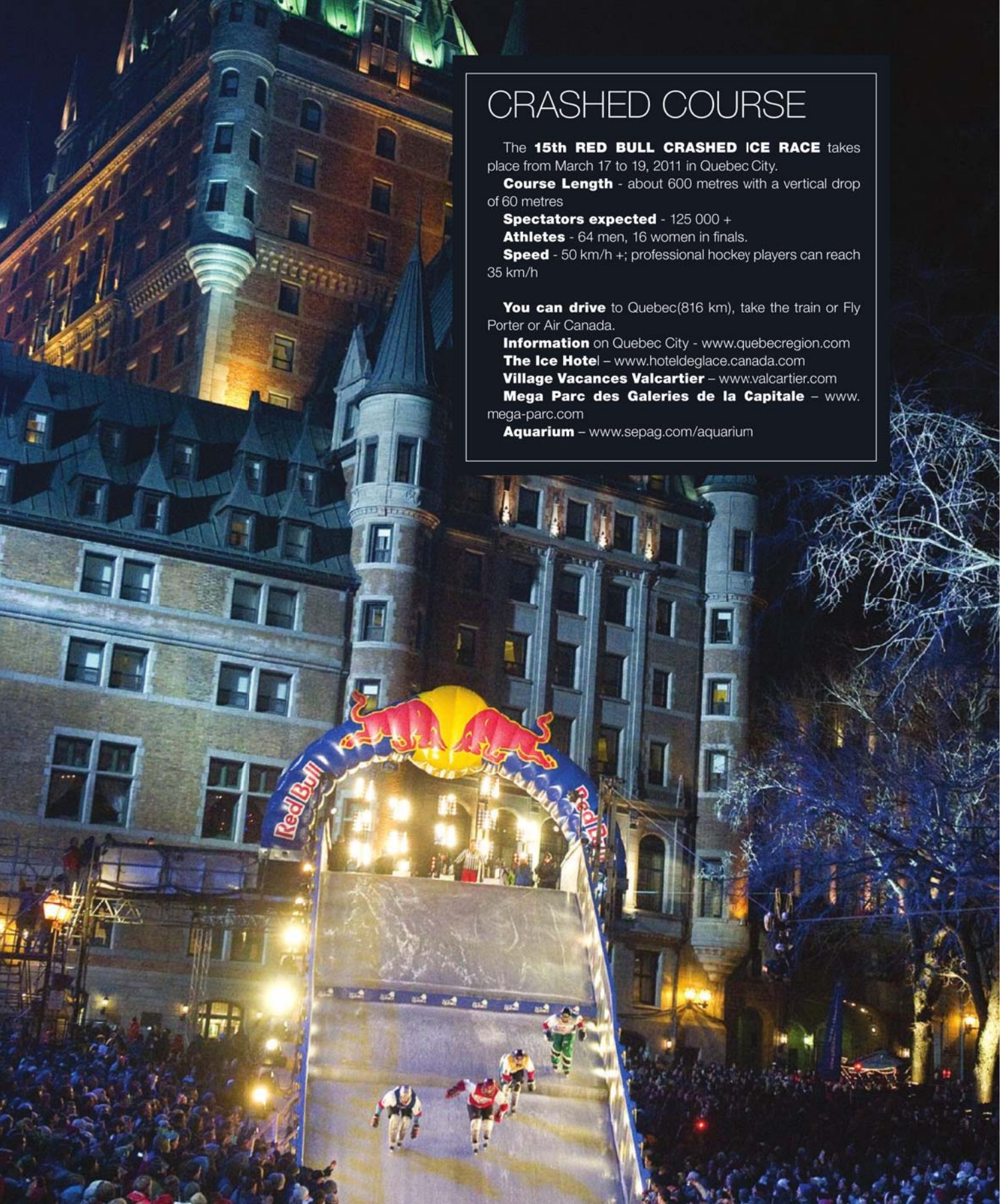
**Information** on Quebec City - [www.quebecregion.com](http://www.quebecregion.com)

**The Ice Hotel** - [www.hoteldeglace.canada.com](http://www.hoteldeglace.canada.com)

**Village Vacances Valcartier** - [www.valcartier.com](http://www.valcartier.com)

**Mega Parc des Galeries de la Capitale** - [www.mega-parc.com](http://www.mega-parc.com)

**Aquarium** - [www.sepag.com/aquarium](http://www.sepag.com/aquarium)



air, to a finish on Place Paris, near the St. Lawrence River (hopefully the river will still be frozen!)

The final race that will include 64 male and 16 female athletes (quite a few are professional hockey players and members of the armed services) takes place on Saturday March 19. Tryouts and elimination races for the upcoming Quebec City event have already taken place in Germany, Russia and the Netherlands.

**While you're there**


Winter in Quebec City has much more to offer. A visit to the **Ice Hotel** is a must. Located a few minutes from old downtown, you can either stay overnight or just take a tour.

Not far is the **Village Vacances Valcartier**, the largest winter playground in North America. With 42 slides, 17 lifts, skating path, ice rinks, restaurants and bars, it's a playground for the whole family. If you prefer indoor activities, look at the **Mega Park des Galeries de la Capitale**. It's the largest commercial indoor complex in Eastern Canada with 280 shops, 35 restaurants, 6 movie theatres and the largest **IMAX** screen in the country. 20 major family attractions as well as a 17,000 square foot skating rink round out the park. Finally, do not miss the **Aquarium du Quebec**. Located high on the banks of the St Lawrence River, this wonderful aquarium is open all year round, offering a unique opportunity to observe the local marine world close up in a natural setting.

In Mid-March in Quebec City the weather can be as unpredictable as it is here. Although spring comes somewhat later than here, it is advised to wear warm clothing including water repellent winter boots. GL

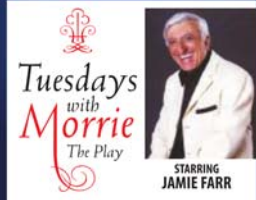
**Stage West**  
ALL SUITE HOTEL  
THEATRE RESTAURANT  
& INDOOR WATERSLIDE

**BOOK NOW!**



**HAPPY DAYS**  
A NEW MUSICAL

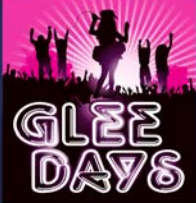
**Feb 18 - Apr 24, 2011**



**Tuesdays with Morrie**  
The Play  
STARRING JAMIE FARR

**Apr 28 - Jul 3, 2011**

**NEW KID'S SHOWS**



**Glee Days - March Break 2011**

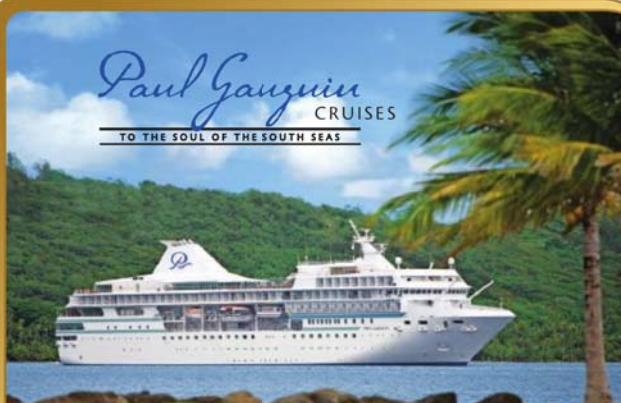
The S.W. Elementary School Glee Club faces its biggest challenge yet. Their lead singer hits her head in a dress rehearsal and now all she can sing are hit songs from the 1950's. Can they turn the golden oldies into today's top downloads?

**Playing Select Saturdays from March 12 to April 2, and during March Break on March 14, 15, 17 & 18.**

**BUFFET LUNCH & SHOW \$29<sup>99</sup> per person, per show PLUS TAX**

**Stage West**  
ALL SUITE HOTEL  
THEATRE RESTAURANT  
& INDOOR WATERSLIDE

**Box Office: 905-238-0042**  
Online booking & ticket printing at  
**www.stagewest.com**



**Paul Gauvin CRUISES**  
TO THE SOUL OF THE SOUTH SEAS

**Save 50% Plus FREE Air from Los Angeles on 2011 sailings!**



**VIKING RIVER CRUISES**  
Exploring the World in Comfort

**Magnificent Mekong!**  
Cruise scenic wonders from Ho Chi Minh City to Hanoi

Expedia CruiseShipCenters, Mississauga  
6465 Millcreek Road (at Erin Mills Parkway)  
www.cruiseshipcenters.ca/Mississauga  
905-821-7447

Expedia CruiseShipCenters, Mississauga Central  
6045 Creditview Road (at Britannia)  
www.cruiseshipcenters.ca/MississaugaCentral  
905-567-8747

Expedia CruiseShipCenters, Mississauga East  
4559 Hurontario Street (at Eglinton)  
www.cruiseshipcenters.ca/MississaugaEast  
905-502-7447



Aeroplan is a Registered Trademark of Aeroplan Limited Partnership. \*Aeroplan members can book cruises anytime. Members can redeem their certificates from the Aeroplan website for all cruises with departures after April 1, 2008. All prices are per person in Canadian dollars, based on double occupancy for specific stateroom categories and are subject to availability at time of booking on select departure dates. Airfare, transfers, government fees and taxes are additional unless otherwise specified. Rates subject to change without notice. Restrictions and blackout periods may apply. Itineraries may operate in reverse and may be subject to change. Bonus offers apply to new bookings only, based on double occupancy, are not combinable with any other offer, are capacity controlled and may be withdrawn at any time. CruiseShipCenters is not responsible for errors or information that may occur as a result of transfer of information from selected third parties, technical or human error.  
Expedia CruiseShipCenters, Mississauga Central TICO registration number 50017021. Expedia CruiseShipCenters, Mississauga East TICO registration number 50014838. Expedia CruiseShipCenters, Mississauga TICO registration number 4640140.