



Vaudreuil-Dorion

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Evening get-togethers: Valérie Roberts, France Castel and Mélanie Maynard come to the Opticentre this spring

Vaudreuil-Dorion, March 29, 2022 – The City of Vaudreuil-Dorion will once again be hosting evening get-togethers (*soirées rencontres*) this spring at the Opticentre St-Jean-Baptiste (145 Harwood Boulevard). Host Marjorie Vallée will welcome three well-known female figures from Quebec's artistic community: Valérie Roberts (April 14th), France Castel (May 18th) and Mélanie Maynard (June 2nd). Citizens are invited to come learn all about these personalities as they open up to the audience in this warm and intimate setting.

Valérie Roberts was winner of the *VJ Recherchée* contest on MusiquePlus in 2007 and has hosted various television shows. Known for her enthusiasm and tendency to be involved in just about everything, Valérie has been writing columns for several magazines since 2009 including *Clin d'œil* and *Cool!*. In 2020, she launched her very first book entitled *La blonde à papa*, a personal quest built on the testimonies of 19 women and a gift to the hearts of all stepmothers. Her work in radio has included her participation in both *Le Clan Macleod* and *Funk Club*. Today Valérie is a cultural commentator on the *Drainville PM* show on 98.5 FM and is part of the *Debout les comiques* team on CKOI 96.9.

Before becoming one of the great ladies of Quebec's television and film landscape, **France Castel** was first famous for her exceptional voice. She began her rich and successful career in 1976 as an actress on television. She has been featured in some forty productions over the years, including *Omerta*, *Sous un ciel variable*, *Urgence*, *Les super mamies*, and *Prozac*. More recently, we were able to see her in the series *M'entends-tu?* and in *Nuit Blanche*, which was partly shot at Maison Trestler. Since the beginning of her career, she has also distinguished herself as a television host. She has been at the helm of shows such as *Droit au cœur*, *Deux filles le matin* and *Pour le plaisir*. France Castel has also left her mark on the film world, playing in about thirty films, including *Coteau rouge*, *Embrasse-moi comme tu m'aimes* and *Tu te souviendras de moi*.

Mélanie Maynard shot to fame as a trained actress in 1995 with *La Ligue nationale d'improvisation*. She then appeared on TV in *Camera café*, *Une grenade avec ça?* and *Dans une galaxie près de chez vous*. She also co-hosted shows such as *Deux filles le matin* and *Ça finit bien la semaine*. More recently, she was awarded the role of talk show host on *Le Club Mel*, and simultaneously appeared in dramatic roles in *Belle-Baie* and *30 vies*. On the giant screen, she was cast in the film *Dans une galaxie près de chez vous* and its sequel. She has co-written various plays, including *La grande sortie* and *Pain blanc*. Over the years, she has also appeared on air on Énergie 94.3 FM, Rouge FM and 99.5 FM.

Those interested in attending these evening get-togethers are invited to register online at ville.vaudreuil-dorion.qc.ca starting this Friday, April 1st, at 9 a.m. Activities will take place at 7:30 p.m. and are free of charge.