

**Michel Gauthier** has distinguished himself in the festival and tourism industry.

He commenced his career in 1974 with the City of Ottawa Recreation and Culture Department as Director of Community Centres and then Manager of Community Relations and Special Events.

In 1981, he started at the National Capital Commission, where he served as Program Director for Winterlude before assuming the position of Executive Director from 1984 to 1988.

From 1988 to 1992, Michel managed and marketed various events in Montreal, Toronto and Ottawa.

He then managed the Canadian Tulip Festival, from 1992 to 2005.

From 2005 to 2007, he was the Executive Director of International Flora Montreal, Montreal's newest garden festival. He has now accepted to manage the Rideau Canal Festival in Ottawa.

Michel A. Gauthier has been a member of various professional associations including:

- President of the Canadian Association of Festivals and Events,
- Canadian representative on the International Festivals and Events Association and
- Canadian representative on the Federation of European Carnival Cities,
- President of Festival and Events Ontario,
- member of the Ottawa Festival Network
- Executive, member of the Ottawa Tourism Board,
- member of Festival et événement Quebec and is now
- board member of: the Ontario Tourism Marketing Partnership Corporation,
- Canada Blooms,
- International Peace Garden Foundation,
- Vivaconcept International and
- Chair of the World Tulip Summit.

He also has been guest speaker at numerous tourism, recreation and festival conferences.