The 1976 Summer Olympics were the most riveting Games the world had ever seen, but planning efforts in Montreal were complicated by a willful mayor, an inexperienced head of the IOC, a federal government that stayed at arm’s length, and a provincial government split along federalist/separatist lines.

Paul Howell, a planning consultant and key player in the Montreal Olympic Organizing Committee, offers an insider’s perspective on how a vast, complex, expensive, and highly politicized event was organized within the constraints imposed by limited resources, an unyielding deadline, and intense pressures from international and local special interest groups. He looks at both the struggles and what went uniquely right in Montreal, setting the record straight on operations, political involvement, and finance, including details of the well-publicized multi-billion dollar deficit that was misrepresented by the press and misunderstood by the public for decades.

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“The Montreal Olympics offers valuable information on the nature of planning and the need for constant revision and flexibility, as well as a good snapshot of the thousands of decisions that have to be made in the process of competing tasks of great magnitude and complexity.”
Brian Milner, The Globe and Mail

Paul Charles Howell, president of HT/TH Howell Technologie, has planned large projects worldwide, including several Olympic Games, and lectured in the McGill Faculty of Management and the HÉC, Université de Montréal.
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