



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Halloween Thrills and Chills At the Montréal Botanical Garden and Insectarium

Montréal, October 3, 2011 – The Space for Life is celebrating Halloween in abracadabra style this year. From October 6 to 31, the Botanical Garden and Insectarium will be offering all kinds of fun and spine-tingling activities. The Botanical Garden is inviting everyone to come out and enjoy its perennial Halloween favourites, including the Great Pumpkin Ball exhibition, a pumpkin-decorating contest, a chance to visit Esmeralda the witch, a play entitled “Pépo enquête,” the Sorcerer’s Apprentice Club and the Little Monsters Courtyard. The Insectarium will have some highly unusual presentations for you: spiders and acrobats will showing off their talents as tightrope artists, and an adventurer and some superheroes of the insect world will be taking over the museum, which recently got a facelift! All these strange encounters are sure to make Halloween even more fantastic this year!

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AT THE BOTANICAL GARDEN

The Great Pumpkin Ball, 26th edition

The pumpkin-decorating contest is back! Don’t forget to use recycled materials for your masterpiece. The deadline for entering this fabulous contest, with lots of cash prizes to be won, is October 15 at noon. The pumpkins will be on display until October 31 in the Garden’s Main Exhibition Greenhouse, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. *For full details and contest rules, go to montrealspaceforlife.ca.*

Esmeralda the Witch

Our friendly witch and her cat, Abracadabra, invite children to learn some magic spells.

October 6 to 31, in the Main Exhibition Greenhouse from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., 5- to 12-minute sketches

Esmeralda’s Sorcerer’s Apprentice Club – Get out your capes and hats!

Dress up as a witch or warlock and come meet Esmeralda. You’ll get a membership card signed by her, along with a small gift from Esmeralda, and you can have your picture posted on the bewitched celebrities’ wall on the Botanical Garden website!

October 22 – Main Exhibition Greenhouse – 10:30 a.m. and noon

Little Monsters Courtyard – Play area for the under-10 set

New games and even more fun await children this year. They can test their skills with the Insect Soup and Feed the Creatures games and have a blast trying to cross the tricky river and the shaky bridge!

Daily, on the lawn, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Squash kiosk – Learn all about the squash family!

Come learn all about the fifty different varieties of Cucurbitaceae grown at the Botanical Garden. Try our quiz and take home a collection of tasty recipes. *Daily, in the Reception Centre, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (until 7 p.m., Friday and Saturday)*

Pépo enquête – A play for ages 4 to 8

Pépo, our ever-popular pumpkin, sets out to discover who kidnapped his sister Peponide, questioning the cucumber, melon and decorative squash. Winner of the Masque des enfants terribles award in 2002 and 2005. *October 6 to 31, in the Henry Teuscher Auditorium, schedule and complimentary passes available in the Reception Centre.*

Halloween Origami – The magic of paper

Transform a simple square of paper into a pumpkin, spider or black cat. Have fun as you discover this art. *October 1 to 31, Japanese Pavilion, Saturday and Sunday, 2 to 4 p.m.*

Union des producteurs agricoles (UPA) kiosk

Come meet some growers who love what they do and try your hand at a quiz on agriculture in Quebec. Draw for baskets of local produce. *Saturday, October 15, 22 and 29 (2 to 7 p.m.) and Sunday, October 16, 23 and 30 (11 a.m. to 4 p.m.), in the Reception Centre.*

AT THE INSECTARIUM**Acrobatic Spiders – A dizzying experience you won't want to miss**

Spiders are accomplished athletes, champions at balancing, lassoing and sprinting. A nature interpreter and an acrobat join forces to pay tribute to spiders.

October 6 to 31, 20-minute presentations, 10 and 11:15 a.m. and 1 and 2 p.m.

Insects on Tour

Come meet the spiders and insects dressed up as superheroes and out of their vivariums for Halloween.

October 6 to 31, 20-minute presentations, 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. and 12:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30, 5:30 and 7 p.m.

Pop-Capsules – Keep your eyes wide open!

Some special characters will introduce you to the new permanent exhibition from a highly unusual angle. Watch out! You can never tell where they might pop up next.

October 6 to 31, 5-minute presentations, 12:15, 1:15 and 3:15 p.m.

Naturally Well Made!

Jumping spiders are amazing, with the ingenious ways they catch their prey, feed themselves and ... attract the opposite sex. You're bound to fall under their spell.

October 6 to 31, Patte-à-patte Room, 15-minute presentations, 9:30 a.m. and 1:30, 4, 5 and 6:30 p.m.

We Are the Insects – The all-new permanent exhibition

Come feast your eyes on some extraordinary natural beauties! Find out why there are so many insects on Earth and why they are true biodiversity champions.

Daily, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The Great Pumpkin Ball received financial support from the Space for Life Foundation.

For more information: montrealspaceforlife.ca

*The Biodôme, Insectarium, Botanical Garden and Planetarium are launching a daring, creative urban movement, urging everyone to rethink the bonds between humankind and nature. The **Space for Life** is also a place where people come together to create and to cultivate a new way of living, shaped by Montrealers and people from around the world.*