



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

2011 Henry Teuscher Award Hélène Leclerc Takes the Prize!



Montréal, May 27, 2011 – The Montréal Botanical Garden, a Space for Life, takes great pleasure in honouring **Hélène Leclerc**, Executive Director of the Fondation du Domaine Joly-De Lotbinière, by presenting her with the Henry Teuscher Award during the 2011 *Great Gardening Weekend*. Ms. Leclerc, through her unflagging commitment and devotion, has brilliantly overseen the restoration and development of the Domaine Joly-De Lotbinière and its magnificent gardens, today one of the jewels of our country's heritage. The Henry Teuscher Award, an annual distinction, is a way of saluting her exceptional contribution to the advancement of horticultural knowledge in Quebec.

A gigantic effort

Hélène Leclerc's name is closely connected with the Domaine Joly-De Lotbinière, which she has directed for the past 25 years. The Domaine had been abandoned for many years and was in a terribly dilapidated state, requiring considerable work to restore its buildings, structures and gardens. Ms. Leclerc not only masterfully directed this restoration work, but has also managed to protect the site from repeated threats over the years and win recognition for its importance not only in Canada but even internationally. Her sustained efforts led to the recognition of the Domaine Joly-De Lotbinière as an *official historic site and monument of Quebec* and a *National Historic Site of Canada*. The site's beauty in fact makes it one of the region's leading tourist attractions. She also wrote a book on the subject, *Domaine Joly-De Lotbinière*, published by Fides in 2002.

Extraordinary gardens

Ms. Leclerc has been a Board member of the Association des jardins du Québec since its founding in 1993, and saw the ecological potential of the Domaine right from the start. She integrated new species into the traditional landscaping arrangements, calling on the expertise of local horticulturists. Today, visitors can admire over 2,250 plant species, along with some remarkable trees – some of them up to two centuries old. The Domaine's forest has in fact been classified as an "exceptional forest ecosystem" by the Ministère de l'Environnement, which has also recognized the Pointe-Platon ecological reserve.

Through her efforts to educate and inform visitors and share knowledge, Hélène Leclerc has constantly worked to increase public awareness of the beauties of Quebec's gardens. She has transformed the Domaine Joly-De Lotbinière into a living, constantly changing museum, a vibrant tribute to nature and a precious legacy for future generations.

Henry Teuscher Award

The Henry Teuscher Award is an annual distinction saluting its recipient's exceptional contribution to the advancement of horticultural knowledge in Quebec. Over the years, it has been presented to: **Jacques André Rioux** (2010); **Elsie Reford and Alexander Reford** (2009); **Jean-Claude Vigor** (2008); **Émile Jacqmain** (2007); **Fred Oehmichen** (2006); **Daniel A. Séguin** (2005); **Gaëtan Hamel** (2004); **Milan B. Havlin** (2003); **Henri and Camille Perron** (2002); **Wilfrid Meloche** (2001); **Roger Van den Hende** (2000) and **Tony Huber** (1999).

Information

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