

PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

Montréal's Nature Museums and the Olympic Park Invite You to Their *Montréal All-Nighter*

Montréal, February 2, 2009 – Montréal's Nature Museums and the Olympic Park are joining forces again this year to give you a real eyeful, during the Montreal All-Nighter as part of the Montreal High Lights Festival, presented by Hydro-Québec. Montrealers can enjoy all kinds of original and unique activities, including a *Moonlit Evening* at the Biodôme and the Montréal Tower, a magic night among the *Butterflies Go Free* at the Botanical Garden, and a chance to see *Galileo's Sky* at the Planetarium, not to mention a whole variety of fun things to see and do at the Olympic Park until the wee hours of the morning.

"We are inviting all Montréal families to come tour the Pôle Maisonneuve district, on an all-new All-Nighter route. All the proposed activities are intended for families, with something for all ages, both indoors and out. They're sure to have an amazing time!" declared Charles-Mathieu Brunelle, Director of Montréal's Nature Museums. "The Planetarium has been a key part of the festivities since the very first All-Nighter," he added, "and remains an essential stop, especially since this is the International Year of Astronomy."

PÔLE MAISONNEUVE DISTRICT : AN EVENING ADVENTURE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

A night with the stars and butterflies at the Botanical Garden

Flashlights in hand, come explore the world of *Butterflies Go Free* in the Main Exhibition Greenhouse at the Botanical Garden. Stroll through the greenhouses, admiring all the nighttime splendours of nature. There's lots going on outdoors, too, as the Planetarium has arranged for amateur astronomers to be there with their telescopes to introduce you to the sky's secrets.

A *Moonlit Evening* at the Biodôme and the Montréal Tower

Come explore the paths through the blue-lit ecosystems at the **Biodôme**. In this soft light the animals move about more furtively ... and the "soundtrack" created by the calls of the crickets, toads and bats is impressive, to say the least! Show up at 5:30 p.m. and you can enjoy a Biodôme-style sundown. Then open your eyes and ears and get ready for a new experience!

Then it's off to the **observation deck of the Montréal Tower at the Olympic Stadium**. The Tower itself will be lit up in blue for the occasion. Take the funicular up to the top, for a view of the Montréal skyline as you've never seen it before, as storytellers entertain you with tales to make you laugh – or shiver.

A very busy night at the Olympic Park

Along with the *Moonlight Evening*, there will be plenty of family activities on offer at the Olympic Park, indoors and out. Film buffs will be delighted by the animation shorts projected on a screen made of snow. Sports enthusiasts can join in a game of Frisbee on the snow, take a dip at Québec's largest sports complex, and meet players from the Montréal Impact and the Montréal professional basketball club. Dreamers, meanwhile, are sure to be entranced by the soaring birds of prey, a demonstration put on in collaboration with the Montreal Port Authority.

DOWNTOWN, THE ALL-NIGHTER TRADITION CONTINUES AT THE PLANETARIUM

Galileo's Sky at the Planetarium

Since this is the International Year of Astronomy, the Planetarium will naturally be paying tribute to Galileo. This great scientist forever altered our vision of the cosmos in 1609, when he trained his telescope on the Moon and spied craters, mountains and valleys. The show at the Planetarium will reveal and explain the great man's discoveries, the persecution he experienced when he published his findings, and above all, the impact of his invention. Today, Canadian astronomers have access to leading observatories, and work in collaboration with some of the world's top observatories. The 25-minute show will be playing continuously from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. Outside, hardier night owls will be able to observe the sky over Montréal, guided by amateur astronomers.

The complete program of free and paid activities during the Montreal All-Nighter is available at museumsnature.ca
parcolympique.ca
montrealenlumiere.com/volets/nuit_blanche/en_bref_en.aspx.

- 30 -

Media information:

- Nadine Fortin, Communications Co-ordinator for the Biodôme and Planetarium, 514 868-3053
- Karine Jalbert, Communications Co-ordinator for the Insectarium and Botanical Garden, 514 872-1453
- Sylvie Bastien, Director of Communications and Public Affairs, Olympic Park, 514 252-4605

