



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

The Montréal Botanical Garden and Planetarium Are Still Open!

Visit *Butterflies Go Free* and Admire the Starry Sky

Montréal, March 31, 2010 – Montréal's Nature Museums wish to remind you that you can still celebrate nature and spring at the Botanical Garden and the Planetarium. That's right. Despite the labour dispute with Montréal municipal employees, ***Butterflies Go Free*** will be on in the Main Exhibition Greenhouse at the Botanical Garden until April 25. And the Planetarium is inviting you to attend its **multimedia show** and visit its **new exhibition** showcasing the 61 proposals entered in the architectural competition for the future Rio Tinto Alcan Planetarium.

BUTTERFLIES GO FREE AT THE BOTANICAL GARDEN

Montréal's Nature Museums invite you to enjoy the 13th edition of *Butterflies Go Free*, on until April 25. To date, more than 8,600 butterflies from 91 different species have flitted around the Main Exhibition Greenhouse at the Botanical Garden.

This year's theme of *Biodiversity on the Wing* explains butterflies' life cycle, how they have evolved along with plants and their adaptation strategies. Did you know that the first moths appeared on Earth 190 million years ago, and butterflies 70 million years ago? Dinosaurs may have disappeared, but butterflies are still with us!

Did you know that ...

- The **temperature** in the Main Exhibition Greenhouse is **up to 29°C**;
- You can **see some 1,500 butterflies** in the Main Exhibition Greenhouse;
- The butterflies are generally **more active** in the **morning**, on **sunny days** and when **the barometric pressure is changing**;
- **The largest butterflies in the event** are the **cobra moths, *Attacus atlas***, among the world's largest moths, with a wingspan of 15 to 25 cm;
- The butterflies for *Butterflies Go Free* **come from butterfly farms** in about a dozen countries. Over the years, this has made it possible to save **more than 50 hectares of forest in Costa Rica, or the equivalent of 100 soccer fields**.

INFORMATION

Tuesday to Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Monday, April 5 (Easter), 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Admission fees, which normally include access to the Botanical Garden and the Insectarium, will be reduced by 15%, to reflect these exceptional circumstances.



EASTER PROGRAM AT THE PLANETARIUM

Montréal's Nature Museums are inviting members of the public to visit the Planetarium over the Easter long weekend and discover the beauties of the night sky, thanks to a special program of activities. You can take in a **free exhibition on the architectural competition for the new Rio Tinto Alcan Planetarium**, a variety of shows for all ages and presentations on the starry sky.

APRIL 2 TO 4

10 a.m.: *Draco, the Celestial Dragon* (ages 4 to 7)

Whisking children off on a tour of the main constellations, all the way to the skies of the Southern Hemisphere in search of Draco's treasure. *(French only)*

Noon: *The Quest for Galactium* (ages 7 and up)

Jules and Mia are seeking a mysterious crystal that just might meet all the Earth's energy needs. Join them for a fantastic adventure as they explore our galaxy, the Milky Way, and its countless treasures.

2:30 p.m.: *Telescope: Passport to the Stars* (ages 9 and up)

A celebration of the beauties of the Universe and of human ingenuity, thanks to what the telescope has revealed.

7:15 p.m.: *In Search of Our Cosmic Origins* (ages 12 and up)

A presentation on the ALMA project, a vast radiotelescope array built in Chile, scheduled to begin operation in 2012. It will attempt to answer such questions as how our Universe was formed.

APRIL 5

The Planetarium's staff will be showing you how to pick out the main constellations in the spring sky and which planets are hiding amongst the stars right now. Thrills guaranteed under Montreal's starriest sky!

Noon and 2:30 p.m. in English

10 and 11 a.m. and 1:15 and 3:45 in French

For more information: museumsnature.ca

Montréal's Nature Museums – the Biodôme, Insectarium, Botanical Garden and Planetarium – helping people enjoy nature to the fullest.

- 30 -

Information:

Nadine Fortin
Communications Co-ordinator
514 868-3053
nadine.fortin@ville.montreal.qc.ca

Karine Jalbert
Communications Co-ordinator
514 872-1453
karinejalbert@ville.montreal.qc.ca