

PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

The Great Pumpkin Ball at the Botanical Garden

Montréal, September 25, 2006 – This fall, you'll definitely want to bring the family to the **Great Pumpkin Ball for some Halloween fun from October 4 to 31**. There's something new this year, too. Esmeralda, the Botanical Garden's friendly witch, invites you to visit her thatched cottage. And don't forget to go see her in the Main Exhibition Greenhouse. Pépo, the Pumpkin, will be back as well, with a play specially designed for ages 4 to 8.

New

An exclusive: visit Esmeralda's cottage

Esmeralda invites you to visit her thatched cottage. Young visitors in particular will enjoy the challenge of hunting for clues in each room! *Daily, outdoors* (near the fern greenhouse and parking lot), *October 4 to 31, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.*

Cucurbitaceae in the spotlight!

Esmeralda will be on hand in the Botanical Garden's Main Exhibition Greenhouse, with her cat Abracadabra and her broom Gontrand, regaling visitors with fabulous tales in her own inimitable fashion. *Daily, in the Main Exhibition Greenhouse, October 4 to 31, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.*

Hundreds of decorated pumpkins will be all decked out for the **Great Pumpkin Ball**. Come admire the wacky, creative efforts of their talented designers in this one-of-a-kind exhibition in Montréal. *Daily, in the Main Exhibition Greenhouse, October 4 to 31, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.*

Join our exceptionally knowledgeable activity staff at the **squash kiosk** for a fascinating look at some fifty different members of the Cucurbitaceae family. *Daily, in the Reception Centre, October 4 to 31, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (until 7 p.m., Friday and Saturday).*

You too can enter the pumpkin-decorating contest!

You're never too young or too old to enter the pumpkin-decorating contest! Give your imagination free rein and use your creative talents to transform your pumpkin into a unique work of art, for display during the Grand Ball in the Main Exhibition Greenhouse. Bring your decorated pumpkin to the Botanical Garden, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., from October 4 to 20 (until 7 p.m. starting October 14). Contest rules available at www.ville.montreal.qc.ca/jardin.

Il était un petit Pépo

(In French only)

Pépo is having an identity crisis – he wants to know about his life. Marie, the market gardener, explains how he grew, from a tiny seed to a flower, to a pumpkin. They keep getting interrupted by all sorts of unexpected visitors. All in all, it's a pretty emotional time for Pépo. *Free family passes available at the Reception Centre before the show. In the Henry Teuscher Auditorium, every Saturday and Sunday until October 29, at 11 a.m. (except October 7, 8 and 9), and 1:30, 2:30 and 3:30 p.m. 30. By reservation on weekdays.*

Union des producteurs agricoles (UPA) kiosk

Test your knowledge at the UPA kiosk in the Reception Centre, *October 13 to 29, Friday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. to noon and 2 to 4 p.m.*

Thematic activities at the Insectarium

Spiders Unmasked, ongoing, from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Join an adventurous guide and head off to explore the Insectarium. Find the hidden spiders and learn all their secrets!

Traps and Tricks, 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. (10 min.)

A great way to learn about spiders! Find out some of the tricks used by these clever, web-weaving, spell-binding eight-legged creatures to capture their prey.

The Great Pumpkin Ball and The Magic of Lanterns will be on until October 31, 2006

The Botanical Garden, including the Chinese Garden and the exhibition greenhouses, and the Insectarium will be open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily until October 31.

We wish to thank our official partner, Clarica, a member of the Sun Life Financial group of companies, the Fondation des Muséums Nature de Montréal and the Société du Jardin de Chine de Montréal, who made these events possible.

Admission (including access to the exhibition greenhouses, the outdoor gardens and the Insectarium): \$12.75 for adults, \$9.50 for students and seniors, \$6.50 for ages 5 to 17. Free for ages 4 and under. Discounts for Accès Montréal cardholders.

Location: Montréal Botanical Garden, 4101 Sherbrooke East, Pie-IX metro station

General information: 514 872-1400

Website: www.ville.montreal.qc.ca/jardin

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Visuals available on request.