



Government of Canada

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The National Battlefields  
Commission

Commission des champs  
de bataille nationaux

*Press Release*

*For immediate release*

## Great Celebration of Nature Nature experts, puppets and snakes get to meet on the Plains of Abraham

Québec, May 21, 2009 – A sign that spring is in the air on the Plains of Abraham, the National Battlefields Commission invites you to the 14<sup>th</sup> edition of the Great Celebration of Nature, which will lay down roots on May 24, 2009 from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the park's greenhouses. Special free activities are scheduled, and you can take advantage of this open house day to let yourself be imbued with this environment where some 50,000 plants are produced to beautify the park every summer.

In the greenhouses, the general public will get a whiff of highly inspiring smells and imagine the fabulous layouts that will spring from this new floral production of the Plains of Abraham. Don't miss this unique opportunity to go into these greenhouses, which are among the oldest still operating in the province of Québec. Discover the secrets of these small-scale greenhouses in the vanguard of ornamental horticulture: Why is paint applied on windows? What is a hotbed? When does the work schedule start in the greenhouses? The horticulturists of the National Battlefields Commission will be delighted to unveil some of their secrets, and to lavish **horticultural advice** to budding gardeners.



**Didier Girol and Rock Giguère**, former hosts and buddies of the TVA program *Côté cours... Côté jardins* will be on hand to exchange with visitors during a lecture on "Garden of the senses" given at 1:00 p.m. at the Pavilion (near the Edwin-Bélanger Bandstand). They will open their garden gates to show their love of nature through their landscape layouts.

Come and meet **some thirty exhibitors** gathered in the open, who hail from various backgrounds of nature and the environment. They will be sharing their know-how with you. Nature specialists will answer your questions and help you perfect your knowledge on horticulture, composting, agriculture, birds, astronomy, environmental, biological and equitable products, roses and peonies, aquatic plants, native trees, etc. You can also meet members of the Friends of the Plains of Abraham Society, horticultural societies, and much more!

Come and have your picture taken with a **snake or reptile**! Meet fascinating animals and demystify the various rumours concerning them, how to care for them, their lifestyle, and much more! What are their eating habits? Can they be touched? Are they dangerous? For the bravest it will be possible, in return for a \$5 fee, to have their picture taken with a snake or reptile and keep it as a memento.



**Inflatable and period games, funny characters and make-up** will also be available for the greatest pleasure of the children. As tradition would have it, the **children will plant a tree** (2:45 p.m.) for the well-being of the planet, immediately before the puppets enter the scene.

The **puppet show** "In the Scrap Metal Kingdom" will be presented at 3 p.m. on the stage of the Edwin-Bélanger Bandstand. But the times are changing, and plastic is gradually replacing metal. Old Potvin must

resign himself to close his Scrap Metal Kingdom. No more scouring the town in search of scrap metal for Rouillé (Rusty) the dog and his friend Ti-Pit the cat. But how will they regain hope? A fabulous interactive show (the children will sing with Ti-Pit), a beautiful decor, a funny and moving story.

In this year marking the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Québec battles, there will also be a first public showing of a **large-scale mural** measuring approximately 8 ft, produced by the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students of the École des Pionniers, depicting the changing vocation of the Plains of Abraham from military site to an environment of greenery and peace: *The plains of Abraham... a place of war, a place of leisure, 1759-2009*.

Marguerite will take over from her husband Abraham Martin, the same to whom we owe the park's name, and for \$2 she will invite you to board **Abraham's Bus** for a highly lively visit of the park's landscaping and floral displays. The bus leaves at: 11:30 a.m., 12 noon, 12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m., 2:00 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 3:00 p.m., 3:30 p.m. Tickets are sold at the information booth.

The **Abraham-Martin rosebush** (*Rosa Rugosa* 'Abraham-Martin'), launched last year to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the park, will be available for \$15 during this event. With its white blooms and slightly spicy scent, this rosebush is completely hardy and easy to grow. It can reach a height of 1.7 metres. Truly one of ours, this rosebush was developed by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada researchers at St-Jean-sur-Richelieu.

Located along the foot path leading to the Edwin-Bélanger Bandstand, attend the revival of the **New France vegetable garden** where, throughout the summer, a variety of earth products worthy of the 17<sup>th</sup> century Abraham Martin's era, will be grown.

Moreover, **1000 cuttings** of *Campanula rotundifolia* grown in the park's greenhouses will be distributed free of charge to the first visitors (limited quantities, one per person), the point being to keep their green thumb from getting rusty. For its part, the Association Forestière du Québec Métropolitain will hand out at its stand, free of charge, **800 tree seedlings** belonging to a number of varieties.



**The GREAT  
CELEBRATION  
OF NATURE**



**Sunday May 24, 2009, from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

At the Plains of Abraham greenhouses  
Corner of Briand and de Bernières streets  
(east of the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec)  
418 649-6157

[www.theplainsofabraham.ca](http://www.theplainsofabraham.ca)

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