



Government of Canada

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The National Battlefields  
Commission

Commission des champs  
de bataille nationaux

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## PRESS RELEASE

*For immediate release*

# Great Celebration of Nature The 17<sup>th</sup> edition of the Plains' horticultural rendezvous

Quebec, May 4, 2012 – During this month dedicated to trees and forest, next May 13, the National Battlefields Commission invites nature lovers and budding horticulturists to its annual spring rendezvous: the Great Celebration of Nature. This is a unique opportunity for the public to visit the greenhouses in a convivial atmosphere and absorb the first colours and smells of the plants soon to embellish the park. This year again, the 17<sup>th</sup> edition will gather over thirty exhibitors specializing in various environmental fields in an effort to promote exchanges with visitors. Families are welcome on the Plains of Abraham, where a wide range of activities awaits them, including the popular plant distribution of the *Mon arbre à moi* (My own tree') campaign.

The park's greenhouses, among the oldest still active in Quebec, grow approximately 50,000 annual, biennial and perennial plants that are needed, among other things, to beautify the Plains of Abraham and Des Braves Park. On this open house day you will see, exceptionally, how traditions can rub shoulders with pioneering horticulture. The staff of the National Battlefields Commission will be happy to share their knowledge with you and unsparingly provide sound horticultural and arboricultural advice.

Outside of the greenhouses, the Commission has invited a range of experts to give the public an opportunity to develop their knowledge on subjects dealing with various nature disciplines: urban ecological practices, mycology, ragweed control, native plants, forest heritage, plant maintenance, metals and minerals, solar observation, pruning, birds, flowers, insects, and much more. Come and meet members of the Friends of the Plains of Abraham Society and horticultural societies. Also, the Club Volkssport Nord-Sud of Quebec organises two 5-km walks with departures scheduled for 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.



Children will take advantage of the celebrations to have a field day. On the menu: inflatable games, arts and crafts, costume workshop and small farm. Funnymen Ketchup the Clown and Ludo, experts in the art of amusing little ones, will ask the children to join them at 2:30 p.m. to plant a magnolia tree, a concrete gesture for the planet. Approachable reptiles will also be on hand. For \$5 the boldest visitors will seize the chance, not to say one of these fascinating creatures, to immortalize their friendship in a photograph. Youngsters are also firmly expected by soldiers coming straight from the past, on the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Martello towers. Attention!

A highly popular attraction, 1000 seedlings of the 'Safari Scarlet' *tagetes patula*, grown in the park's greenhouses, will be offered free of charge to the first visitors (limited quantities, one plant per person). Also, the first 150 children who visit the stall of Pépinière et paysages Marcel Marin, will receive a flower to cultivate their green thumb.

Tree saplings will be distributed by the Ministère des Ressources naturelles et Faune Québec to parents enrolled in the '*Mon arbre à moi*' (My own tree) program for newborns, and the Association forestière des deux rives will hand out 2000 plants of various species. An ideal way to reforest an entire neighbourhood!

This spring, in the park, thousands of tulips will spring forth from the ground including 10,000 bulbs offered by the Commission de la capitale nationale in Ottawa. This burst of colours is worth the detour.

Because it is in our nature, the National Battlefields Commission continues to take a green turn. Join us in our efforts to preserve this unique heritage for everyone's benefit. And remember, 2012 is the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All!



## Great Celebration of Nature

Sunday May 13, 2012

From 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## at the Plains of Abraham greenhouses

at the 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) (check the list of exhibitors)



We are involved  
in sustainable development

Collaboration :



Ressources naturelles  
et Faune  
Québec



Source:

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