

Reflections on water



NATIONAL CAFÉ SCIENTIFIQUE SERIES

PRESS RELEASE

Will there be enough water? Museum-led discussions explore reliance on technology for future water resources

OTTAWA - The Canadian Museum of Nature and its partners are encouraging Canadians to dive into the subject of our most precious natural resource – *water* – and whether we can rely upon technology to guarantee it in the future.

The Museum is using its successful Café Scientifique format to stimulate these discussions during national *Rivers to Oceans Week* from June 8 to 14, 2009. (Café Scientifique is a forum where adults can explore current issues relating to science, technology and the environment in a relaxed atmosphere where all opinions are welcome). Similar discussions on this topic will be taking place at the Vancouver Aquarium, Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History in Halifax and New Brunswick Museum in Saint-John. These venues are all members of the Alliance of Natural History Museums of Canada.

On June 9 and 10, the Canadian Museum of Nature will host Café Scientifiques in English and French at the Fox and Feather Pub at 283 Elgin Street in Ottawa. Participants are presented with the following questions: With advances in water treatment technology, is it possible that in the future water resources will be infinitely available? Will there be enough to sustain the environment and for all of our needs and wants? Or does the answer lie in learning to do with less and conserving the clean water that we have left? Both the June 9 and 10 discussions will begin at 6:00 p.m.

Guest experts will be present to share their views and get the conversation rolling. The June 9 Café will take place in English with the following special guests: **Dr. Ioan Nistor**, Assistant Professor, Associate Vice-Dean Research, Department of Civil Engineering, University of Ottawa; **Dr. Frances Pick**, Professor, Department of Biology, University of Ottawa; and **Rob Kent**, Manager, National Water Quality Monitoring Office, A/Manager, Atlantic Water Quality Monitoring, Environment Canada.

On June 10, the discussion will take place in French with the following experts: Guests: **Gilles Verrier**, owner, Techn'eau Conseil; **Frédéric Tremblay**, environmental consultant, Urban Planning and Sustainable Development Module, City of Gatineau; **Lorraine Banville**, in charge of Research, Eau Secours! and **Nicole Desroches**, Director General of the CREDDO (Conseil régional de l'environnement et du développement de l'Outaouais).

Following the events, participants will be encouraged to join an online forum until June 30 to further the debate. The forum will allow citizens to share and compare their views with others across Canada.

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Admission is free but participants must pay for any food or drink they order. Seating is on a first-come basis.

This activity is part of the Canadian Museum of Nature's national Water Project. An information package for sites interesting in hosting a Café Scientifique is available at nature.ca.

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