

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Skeptics and Freethinkers host 2nd Annual Darwin Day Celebration

Saskatoon, February 2, 2010 - This February 12 is the 201st anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth. As most people know, Darwin famously formulated the theory of evolution that altered the very nature of biology and humanity's place within nature. For the second year, two Saskatoon-based groups, the Saskatoon Freethinkers and the Saskatoon Skeptics Society, have joined together to host a celebration of this great scientist's birthday. Coffee and birthday cake will be served, followed by a speaker, a film and public discussion.

Media are welcome to attend:

Date: Thursday, Feb. 12, 2009
Time: 6:30 pm - Cake and Coffee social
7:00 pm - Introductory Lecture by Prof. Brian R. Pratt
U of S Department of Geological Sciences
7:45 pm - Film (TBA) and Discussion
9:30 pm - Discussion to continue at Pub (TBA)
Location: Rusty Macdonald Branch Library - Auditorium
225 Primrose Drive
Saskatoon, SK S7K 5E4
(306) 975-7600
Admission: FREE (donations are appreciated)
Space is limited, please RSVP: saskatoondd@gmail.com

This event is open to the general public: everyone is welcome.

Hundreds of groups across Canada and the world will celebrate the date as "Darwin Day" in honour of the discoveries and life of the man who famously described biological evolution via natural selection.

"Darwin Day promotes understanding of evolution and the scientific method," said Larry Jones, president of the Institute for Humanist Studies which administers a similar event called The Darwin Day Celebration. "This celebration expresses gratitude for the enormous benefit that scientific knowledge has contributed to the advancement of humanity."

The highly public legal battles in the United States over creationism and its latest manifestation, intelligent design, are now quite familiar; however, the extent of creationist activity in Canada is less well known. Although less vocal than their American counterparts, creationists are certainly present in Canada, even in the public school system, as Jason Wiles points out in his article "A threat to geosciences education" published in *Geoscience Canada*, Sept. 1, 2006. In Saskatchewan, one can find numerous events listed on the Creation Science of Saskatchewan Inc. website at <http://www.creation-science.sk.ca> and Elim Tabernacle in Saskatoon is holding a four-part series on the "Case for Intelligent Design", beginning in early February. The need to emphasize science education in Canada is significant.

Darwin Day Celebrations started with one event in 1995, and by 2007, there were more than 850 Darwin Day events worldwide. Darwin Day festivities have included debates, lectures, essay contests, film festivals, museum exhibits, and art shows.

Additional information can be found at:

<http://www.darwinday.org>

<http://www.saskatoonskeptics.com>

<http://saskatoonfreethinkers.com>

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