



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

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For immediate release

## Popular annual event lights up the Devonian Botanic Garden

An enchanting display of thousands of candles will light up the Devonian Botanic Garden the evenings of December 10 & 11, 2011.

Many people have made it a tradition to return to Luminaria every year and meet with friends and family. In a season that is so often hurried and harried, people come for the beautiful simplicity of fresh air, candlelight, cider and song by the bonfire. They come to light a candle in honour of a loved one. They come to hold hands and walk together under the stars. Children watch for a glimpse of an illuminated Snow Sprite prancing in the distance.

Handmade natural decorative gifts and seasonal treasures will be available for purchase at the Crafters Workshop, as well as Luminaria kits for those who want to recreate a mini version of the event at home.

Providing seasonal singing entertainment around a bonfire will be “Chance Quartet”, “Leap of Faith Quartet” and the trio “O Christmas Tree”.

The event begins at 5 pm, with entry tickets sold until 8:30 pm. Located on Highway 60, 5 minutes north of Devon, the Devonian Botanic Garden is only 15 minutes from the west end of Edmonton. Admission to the Luminaria is \$10+GST for adults, \$8+GST for Seniors and Friends of the Garden members and \$5+GST for children age 7-12. Children age 6 and under are free.

Parking is limited at the Garden during this popular event. Visitors are encouraged to use a free shuttle service running continuously from the town of Devon, 5 kms south of the Garden. Directions and a map to the park-and-ride location at 17 Athabasca Avenue are on the website at [www.devonian.ualberta.ca](http://www.devonian.ualberta.ca)



The Luminaria was launched in 2000 at the Devonian Botanic Garden to celebrate the millennium, and thousands of visitors strolled through the peaceful scene. In honour of the U of A's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2008, the Devonian Botanic Garden re-ignited this popular event, and it has been met by an enthusiastic response from visitors.

Through the ages, the light of a fire has served as a beacon of hope in the dark. The Luminaria traces its roots to the Latin word *Luminarium*, meaning “lamp”. Festivals of light are celebrated world-wide during the dark days of winter, many associated with religious traditions and holidays.

For more information, contact the Devonian Botanic Garden at (780) 987-3054 ext. 2223 or visit [www.devonian.ualberta.ca](http://www.devonian.ualberta.ca).

### MEDIA INQUIRIES:

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