



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

2011 A Disappointing Year

The Full Moon Will Outshine the Perseids!

Montréal, August 1, 2011 - As part of the latest “edition” of the Perseids, the Montréal Planetarium, a Space for Life, wants to remind astronomy buffs that the famous shooting stars from comet Swift-Tuttle will be passing through the atmosphere in the Northern hemisphere during the night of August 12 to 13. Unfortunately, conditions for observing them will be very poor this year and the Perseids will barely be visible, even at the peak of their activity, around 2 a.m.

Too much Moon, not enough shooting stars!

The problem in 2011 is that the Moon will also be bright in the sky that night, reaching its apogee just a few hours after the Perseids peak. For star gazers, this means that the full Moon will be shining so brightly that it will interfere with their view of this astronomical phenomenon. From dusk until dawn on the few nights both before and after August 13, the Moon will obscure all but the very brightest of the meteors.

Keep your eyes open!

It will take lots of cunning and effort to be able to observe a few Perseids this year: you'll need to look in the sky in the opposite direction from the Moon, away from the moonlight, and avoid looking at any nearby light sources. It won't help to get out of town and away from light pollution, either, because the full Moon will be flooding the skies over all of Quebec. The Perseids will be very elusive, but it should still be possible to see about a dozen shooting stars per hour, provided of course that there aren't too many clouds in the sky! Don't forget that the best time for watching the shooting stars is from August 11 to 14, but the Perseids are active from late July until the third week of August.

So, on the night of August 12 to August 13, if you want to enjoy the full Moon and try to spot a few shooting stars, head outside ... and remember to make a wish! You never know ...

*The Biodôme, Insectarium, Botanical Garden and Planetarium are launching a daring, creative urban movement, urging everyone to rethink the bonds between humankind and nature. The **Space for Life** is also a place where people come together to create and to cultivate a new way of living, shaped by Montrealers and people from around the world.*

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