

# An 'innocent, fragile' butterfly blitz

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## Did you know?

- There are approximately 170,000 species of butterflies and moths.
- While moths are fatter and hairier, butterflies tend to be more colourful for survival reasons.

Ottawans are invited to share in the magic of butterflies as Carleton University hosts its live butterfly show starting this weekend.

An estimated 10,000 people are expected at the show, which this year features more than 1,000 tropical butterflies of 30 different species.

They were shipped in - still in their chrysalises - from London, England, said Ed Bruggink, the greenhouse manager at Carleton University. "I try to get different species every year because we get repeat visitors," he said.

Bruggink, Carleton's greenhouse manager for 27 years, opened the first show in 1999 after visiting a similar event at Montreal Botanical Gardens.

"Butterflies are innocent, delicate, fragile and unique creatures. And they're an indication if something is wrong in the

world, environmentally."

The tropical butterflies featured in the show have a life span of about three weeks. But for that time, they're living in paradise as they fly free in the Nesbitt Biology Building's greenhouse.

Jaclyn Bowen said the show is an ideal introduction to butterfly species from around the world. "This is a great way for people to develop appreciation and have a better understanding of insects," said Bowen, a third-year PhD student.

Admission for the butterfly show is by voluntary donation. The show is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. from Saturday through Thanksgiving Monday.



A butterfly pays PhD student Jaclyn Bowen an unexpected visit at Carleton University's greenhouse yesterday. The university's annual live butterfly show starts on Saturday and runs through Thanksgiving Monday.