



Explore the Final Frontier at Grey Roots in this summer's blockbuster exhibit, *Alien Earths: Are We Alone?*

For Immediate Release – March 5, 2009

Are we alone? This question is the subject of *Alien Earths: Are we alone?*, the new blockbuster exhibit opening at Grey Roots Museum & Archives on **May 16, 2009**. In this dynamic exhibit, visitors will interact with the creative methods and technologies that scientists are using today to conduct a search of our galactic neighbourhood. Through a wide range of hands-on experiments, movies, games, and the latest scientific research, *Alien Earths* invites visitors to join the ongoing search for life on other "Earths". This exhibit is comparable in both size and scope to several other large interactive exhibits seen at Grey Roots, such as last year's summer blockbuster, *LEGO®: Secrets of the Pharaohs*.

Key areas of space exploration presented in *Alien Earths: Are we alone?* include: methods of identifying alien life, star & planet formation, and finding planets that support life. The search for life into the far reaches of space begins from our own home - Earth. *Alien Earths* presents some of the current ways scientists are looking for extra-terrestrial life using life on Earth as a starting reference. Visitors to the exhibit can listen for life on distant planets, attempt to recognize life in all its shapes and sizes, and get a perspective on the billions of stars in our galaxy in the "Salt Room". Other interactive stations show the delicate balance of chemicals and nuclear reactions that form stars and planets. Central to the exhibit area is the "Planet Quest" sky dome where visitors will see how new planets are discovered using a coronagraph and view a large-scale model of our solar system.

Starting on April 25, 2009 with a tour of the night sky, Grey Roots is partnering with the Bruce County Astronomical Society to provide 12 additional events, sky tours, lectures, and programming for *Alien Earths* throughout the summer. Children and school groups will also be able to enjoy this exhibit with school programming focused on the scientific elements of space exploration.

Form a star, build a solar system, and search for life on distant planets in this out-of-this world exhibit. *Alien Earths: Are we alone?* is open at Grey Roots until September 7, 2009.

Full listing of *Alien Earths: Are we alone?* and Bruce County Astronomical Society events

Location: Grey Roots Museum & Archives

April 25 at 9 p.m. – Public sky tour

April 28 from 7:30–10 p.m. – Celebrate the Night Sky: Lecture & Public sky tour

April 30 at 7:30 p.m. – Great Astronomers Series: Lecture 1: Galileo

May 2 from 1–4 p.m. – Kids Cosmos

May 7 at 7:30 p.m. – Great Astronomers Series: Lecture 2: Hubble

May 14 at 7:30 p.m. – Great Astronomers Series: Lecture 3: Herschel
May 16 from 1–4 p.m. – *Alien Earths: Are we alone?* exhibit opening
May 21 at 7:30 p.m. – Great Astronomers Series: Lecture 4: Barnard
May 23 at 9 p.m. – Public sky tour
June 20 at 9 p.m. – Public sky tour
July 18 at 9 p.m. – Public sky tour
Sept 26 at 9 p.m. – Public sky tour
Oct 17 at 9 p.m. – Public sky tour

For a complete view of current and future events visit <http://www.greyroots.com/programs-events>.

-30-

About Grey Roots Museum & Archives:

Grey Roots Museum & Archives has grown and developed into a unique facility from the County Museum's beginning in 1955 and the later establishment of a County Archives in 2000 in order to promote and preserve the heritage of Grey County. With the consolidation of the Grey County Museum, Grey County Archives, and Tourism in 2004, Grey Roots has become a multi-faceted attraction with innovative and informative interpretive programs and demonstrations, rotating exhibits, a heritage village, archival resources, and superior customer service create an exciting and educational visitor experience.

Grey Roots Museum & Archives

102599 Grey Road 18, RR 4, Owen Sound N4K 5N6 519.376.3690 www.greyroots.com

For further information contact:

Petal Furness, Heritage Interpretation Supervisor, Grey Roots Museum & Archives
519-376-3690, ext. 126 pfurness@greyroots.com

Lara Javalyn, Community Relations Coordinator, Grey Roots Museum & Archives
519-376-3690, ext. 130 ljavalyn@greyroots.com