

The Ontario Science Centre presents *The Science of Spying*

Interactive exhibition explores the science behind the secrets of espionage

NEWS

(Toronto, ON, April 7 2009) Biometric scanners, hidden cameras, computer hacking, spy planes: These are some of the technologies in the toolkit of the 21st century spy. Do you have what it takes to join the world of espionage? Running from Apr. 9 to Sept. 7 2009, *The Science of Spying* is an exciting interactive exhibition that allows visitors to learn about the skills and technology today's spies need to fulfill their missions.

One of the many special exhibitions and programming the Ontario Science Centre is presenting during its 40th anniversary year, *The Science of Spying* offers curious young minds and intrigued adults a unique, entertaining and educational insight into the mysterious and daring world of modern-day espionage. *The Science of Spying* tests each visitor's ability to crack codes, gather information, and use the technologies of real-life spies as they embark on an undercover mission.

The action of spying itself is similar to completing a scientific investigation. Just like scientists, spies must observe, collect and analyse data, draw conclusions and report back on them. The exhibition features a wide range of different science and technology topics including the psychology of lie-detection and brain physiology, forensics, cryptography, biometric systems, data mining and analysis, image processing, scanning technology, GPS and RFID tracking and intelligent surveillance systems.

Each visitor will go through basic training, learn how technology can help or thwart spies, go undercover and qualify as an agent!

Designed and developed by 'The Science of...', a division of the Science Museum in London, England, this exhibition takes visitors through six areas:

- **Recruitment:** Pick up your Agent ID and find the hidden message
- **Training:** Try different activities to develop spy skills
- **Technology:** Use a face scanner and supercomputer to uncover your mission
- **Mission:** Find Spymaker's secret base and track down the code word
- **Future:** Discover the next generation of spy gadgets
- **Escape:** Escape without being caught and qualify as an agent.

Visitors to *The Science of Spying* get hands-on interaction with spy technology throughout the exhibition. Visitors need to bypass a brain scan or a body scan, use a supercomputer to track down a suspect, hack into wire taps and check out real life spy gadgets, such as night vision goggles, spy planes and hidden cameras to learn how they enhance traditional skills. Finally, all agents must escape the exhibition and get past an "intelligent" security system.

QUOTES

"*The Science of Spying* is a unique avenue to introduce visitors to the extraordinary applications of current science and technology through the techniques and equipment used in modern espionage," said Lesley Lewis, CEO of the Ontario Science Centre. "Spies of 40 years ago could not even dream of the technologies we take for granted today, such as GPS and webcams."

"'The Science of...'¹ is proud to be working with Ontario Science Centre to bring *The Science of Spying* to Toronto, said Antonia Spanos, exhibition director of 'The Science of...'¹ developers of the exhibition. "We are delighted that this thought-provoking exhibition is a part of the Science Centre's 40th anniversary year celebrations. We are confident that *The Science of Spying* will continue Ontario Science Centre's successful record of engaging visitors in educational and entertaining experiences, and bringing world-class attractions to audiences in Toronto."

About the Ontario Science Centre

The Ontario Science Centre opened on September 26, 1969, pioneering the concept of an interactive science museum. Since then, well over 40 million visitors have passed through its doors. It is a model for over 1,000 science centres around the world that have been built since its inception.

The Ontario Science Centre uses science as the lens to inspire and actively engage people in new ways of seeing, understanding and thinking about themselves and the world around them. The Ontario Science Centre is an agency of the Government of Ontario. Please visit us at www.ontariosciencecentre.ca

About 'The Science of...'

'The Science of...'¹ is a partnership between the world-renowned Science Museum, London and intellectual property experts Fleming Media. Conceived to bring popular science to a global audience, 'The Science of...'¹ produces exhibitions and other projects focused on bringing to life the impact of science and technology in everyone's lives. 'The Science of...'¹ exhibition series currently includes *The Science of Spying*, *The Science of Survival*, and *The Science of Aliens*, now touring through Europe, North America and Asia. 'The Science of...'¹ wants you to explore, play and learn through participating in a new, vibrant world of science. www.scienceof.com

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