

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Vaudreuil-Dorion welcomes ultra-marathoner Anthony Battah, en route to Mexico in defense of the monarch butterfly

Vaudreuil-Dorion, July 20, 2023 – The City of Vaudreuil-Dorion is happy to lend its support to ultra-marathoner Anthony Battah in his mission to draw the public's attention to the vulnerability of the monarch butterfly by welcoming the runner to the City on Saturday, July 29th. Battah will reach Vaudreuil-Dorion in the late afternoon, where he will stop at Parc Le 405 following the first stage of his journey, to tell the public about his Ultra-Trail Monarch project - a 4,500 km ultra-marathon trek that follows the same migration path as the monarchs.

The City will take advantage of Battah's visit to host environmental activities at Parc Le 405 starting at 3:00 p.m., including insect observation with Insectambulant, a seed bomb workshop, seed distribution, an information booth on pollinators, and more. The ultra-marathoner's arrival is scheduled for approximately 4:45 p.m. Incidentally, local runners are invited to join Mr. Battah on the final kilometres before reaching his destination at Parc Le 405. Those interested are welcome to meet at 4:30 p.m. at parc Sabourin (next to the Taschereau Bridge), at the entrance to Vaudreuil-Dorion.

"We sincerely commend Anthony Battah's determination and I encourage citizens to join us in welcoming him on July 29th. In spite of the physical challenges that await him in the coming months, the athlete is undertaking this trek to defend his convictions and promote a cause that is deeply meaningful to him and to the entire population. Hats off to Mr. Battah!" said Mayor Guy Pilon.

"The monarch butterfly is an iconic species of North America. Like all pollinators, the monarch plays an essential role in biodiversity. Unfortunately, its population has dropped by more than 90% in the last 20 years. When Mr. Battah approached us, City council immediately agreed to support his Ultra-Trail Monarch project by adopting a resolution to that effect. It is with great enthusiasm that we will welcome him to Vaudreuil-Dorion on July 29th," explains Oriana Farina, Head of the Environment section at the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion.

The City of Vaudreuil-Dorion has been certified as a Monarch-Friendly City by the David Suzuki Foundation since 2021. It has adopted a pollinator protection action plan that includes, among other things, the creation of monarch-friendly gardens, the ecological management of vegetation on City property, the reforestation of public spaces and the organization of events such as the horticultural fair.

Please note that Mr. Battah's goal is to raise \$1 per metre travelled, or \$4.5 million, to donate to organizations recognized for their mission to protect the monarch butterfly and their habitat. The complete details about Anthony Battah's Ultra-Trail Monarch project and his fundraising operation can be found at ultratrailmonarque.com.

For more information on monarchs and pollinators, citizens are invited to consult the Environment section of the City's website or contact the Environment Department at environnement@ville.vaudreuil-dorion.qc.ca or 450 455-3371, option 1.