

NEWS RELEASE

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Renaissance ROM Campaign Receives \$12 Million Gift from Robert Schad and Family

Campaign's third-largest single private donation will establish the
Schad Family Gallery of Life in Crisis

(Toronto, Ontario – November 7, 2006) The Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) announces a new major gift to its Renaissance ROM expansion and renovation project from Robert Schad and family. This remarkable \$12 million gift will be used to establish the *Schad Family Gallery of Life in Crisis* in the historic buildings of the Museum. The new gallery, devoted to the diversity of life on earth and significant challenges to its conservation and survival, will open in early 2009 as a central piece of the ROM's \$25 million initiative to create a new National Biodiversity and Conservation Centre.

“We’re thrilled to receive this transformative gift from Robert Schad and his family to expand our natural history research, galleries and programs,” said William Thorsell, ROM Director and CEO. “With this gift, we will realize a long-held dream to establish a major new international destination for biodiversity at the ROM—one that dramatically enhances our extensive world-wide research programs with a major new gallery, public and educational programs, and publications focused on conservation, on species survival and restoration, on fragile ecosystems, and what we as individuals can and must do to protect these essential biological assets that sustain life on this planet.”

The *Schad Family Gallery of Life in Crisis* at the ROM will be developed in parallel to a new exhibit at the Earth Rangers Centre in Vaughn, Ontario, focused on solutions to the biodiversity crisis. Together, the ROM Gallery and Earth Rangers exhibit and related joint programs will provide a comprehensive picture of the vast extent of life's diversity, the processes which drive speciation, and the significant threats and challenges to biodiversity, as well as individual actions and solutions.

“By establishing this new gallery and its programs at the ROM, I hope that we can reach out to millions of children and adults and touch their lives with a powerful, simple and ultimately hopeful message on the importance of biodiversity, how threatened it is currently, and what they can do today and tomorrow to preserve it,” said Robert Schad.

Robert Schad is the founder and chairman of Earth Rangers, a partnership-driven environmental charity established in 1999. Its mission is to inspire children with a lasting passion to build a better future by leveraging the affinity that young people have with wildlife and the environment to develop leadership and citizenship skills. Mr. Schad is also the founder and a Director of Husky Injection Molding Systems Ltd., the world's largest brand name supplier of injection molding equipment and services to the plastics industry, involved in the manufacture of a wide range of plastic products for the food, beverage, automotive, and consumer electronic industries.

The Schads' \$12 million gift will be used not only to develop and install the new gallery on Level 2 of the ROM's Centre Block, but also to create a gallery endowment fund supporting ongoing gallery development and public programs, as well as to conduct related scientific research by the ROM's internationally known curators and associates in the National Biodiversity and Conservation Centre.

Featuring the ROM's extensive collections and specimens, the 10,000 square-foot *Schad Family Gallery of Life in Crisis* will have four major components: Life Is Diverse, Life Evolves, Life Is In Crisis, and the Earth Rangers Studio - an innovative, flexible classroom and studio for lectures, discussions and educational programs, wired for broadcast capability. Strongly oriented towards the facts and challenges of biodiversity in crisis, the Schad Family Gallery will also offer optimistic solutions and actions that individuals may take.

With this generous contribution, the third-largest private donation received to date by the Renaissance ROM Campaign, the Museum welcomes Robert Schad and Family to the New Century Founders, a special category of Renaissance ROM donors who have given \$5 million and higher, now comprising

ten members. The New Century Founders will be recognized in the Spirit House within the new Michael Lee-Chin Crystal as the primary individuals leading the redevelopment of the ROM for the 21st century.

To date, the Renaissance ROM Campaign has raised \$238 million in total, which includes \$213 million of the total \$250 million capital construction costs, plus \$25 million for related program and endowment priorities. (For more details and a list of recent important gifts to the Campaign, please see the news release “Renaissance ROM Campaign reaches \$238 Million” at www.rom.on.ca/news/releases/index.php)

The Michael Lee-Chin Crystal, the new wing of the Museum designed by Daniel Libeskind as the centrepiece of the Renaissance ROM project, is now under construction and will have its public Architectural Opening and Building Dedication on June 2, 2007.

- 30 -

The **Royal Ontario Museum** (ROM) is an agency of the Government of Ontario. Opened in 1914, Canada’s largest museum of natural history and world cultures holds six million objects in its collections and presents galleries showcasing art, archaeology and natural science from around the world.

Renaissance ROM is an ambitious expansion and heritage renovation project designed by Daniel Libeskind that will transform the Royal Ontario Museum into one of North America's great museums and a leading cultural attraction for the city, province and country. For more information, please visit www.rom.on.ca/renaissance

For 24-hour information in English and French, please call **416.586.8000** or visit the ROM’s web site at www.rom.on.ca

