

## ***Blooms in Winter: An Orchid Celebration*** **Opens Today at The Leaf**

**For immediate release:** Winnipeg, January 30, 2025 – The biomes at The Leaf will re-open today after a scheduled closure during which the Babs Asper Display House was transformed in preparation for the opening of a new display. *Blooms in Winter: An Orchid Celebration*, which runs from January 30 to March 23, offers Leaf visitors a chance to admire the rich beauty of the orchid world while learning about their crucial role in ecosystems here in Manitoba and around the world.

“Orchids are one of the largest flowering plant families on earth and can be found on every continent except Antarctica, which is incredible given their sensitive and delicate nature,” said Gerald Dieleman, Senior Director of Horticulture, Assiniboine Park Conservancy. “Their adaptability, variability, and intricate beauty have made orchids a source of fascination and admiration.”

*Blooms in Winter: An Orchid Celebration* will feature 1,200 individual orchids representing five genera: Phalaenopsis, Cymbidium, mini-Cymbidium, Vanda, and Tolumnia. Display features will offer visitors an immersive sensory experience and opportunities to admire the beauty of orchids up close.

Did you know?

- Orchids, with over 15 million years of history and 29,000 species, thrive on nearly every continent, adapting to diverse habitats from forests to mountains.
- Their survival depends on intricate ecological relationships, including reliance on specific fungi for germination and specialized pollinators attracted by their unique shapes, colours, and scents.
- Vital to ecosystems, orchids support food webs and nutrient cycles but are highly sensitive to habitat changes, emphasizing their conservation importance.
- While you won't find them in this display, orchids in Manitoba are a unique and cherished part of the region's natural heritage, with over 37 species found in habitats ranging from wetlands and boreal forests to prairie meadows.

*Blooms in Winter: An Orchid Celebration* is included with regular Leaf admission. The biomes at The Leaf are open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. More information about visiting The Leaf can be found at [assiniboinepark.ca](https://www.assiniboinepark.ca).

-30-

**For interviews and information requests, please contact:**

Laura Cabak

Director, Public Relations & Communications

Cell: 204-795-0091

Email: [lcabak@assiniboinepark.ca](mailto:lcabak@assiniboinepark.ca)