

**The Montshire Museum features *Toys: The Inside Story* Exhibition
Saturday, May 30 – Sunday, August 16**

Toys, one of the most popular exhibitions for children and their families, returns to the Montshire Museum of Science in Norwich Vermont for the busy summer season.

NORWICH, VERMONT May 11, 2009 -- If your parents never let you break open your Etch-a-Sketch® to find out how it works, you'll love *Toys: The Inside Story*. First exhibited at the Montshire in 2007 after years of brainstorming, testing, and tinkering, *Toys* illustrates the simple mechanisms commonly found in toys. The exhibition features 12 engaging hands-on stations and lets visitors create their own toy-like combinations of gears, pulleys, linkages, cams, and circuits.

Jack Gets Out of His. Box gives you a close-up view of the cam combination that frees our hero “Jack,” while elsewhere we unmask the amazing collection of switches, cams and motors that make Elmo® dance and Mr. Machine® run.

Many of the exhibits are free-form and open-ended in the traditional Montshire fashion. *Gears at Play* illustrates the effects of gear ratios as you figure out how to arrange oversized gears to spin ballerinas and a carousel. The *Jeepers Peepers* challenge at the pulley table may take a little experimentation to solve; the *Circuit Table* lets you safely use your fingers to trace working sound and light circuits.

Toys was conceived and created by the Museum’s exhibit staff with funding from a National Science Foundation grant awarded to the Montshire in 2004 and shared with six museum partners around the country comprising the TEAMS (Traveling Exhibits at Museums of Science) collaborative. Since its Montshire debut in March of 2007, the *Toys: The Inside Story* exhibition has traveled to seven other science museums around the country.

About the Montshire Museum:

The Montshire Museum of Science is a nationally recognized hands-on science center in Norwich, Vermont. The impressive post-and-beam building holds two floors of interactive exhibits relating to the nature, technology, astronomy and the physical sciences. Outside visitors enjoy *Science Park* and nature trails winding through 100 acres bordering the Connecticut River. The Montshire Museum offers educational programs, special events, and visiting exhibitions throughout the year. The Museum is an official visitor center for the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge. The Museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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