



2023 DONOR IMPACT REPORT
MORE TO EXPERIENCE AT RBG



Royal
Botanical
Gardens
CANADA



OUR ROLE

Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG) is the not-for-profit caretaker of 2,700 acres of land and ecosystems surrounded by Canada's largest urban environment. It is an educator and experience creator delivering cultural, artistic and culinary experiences throughout its diverse network of gardens and natural spaces.

INITIATIVES

- Protecting and restoring nature sanctuaries and environmentally sensitive habitats that are home to over 50 species at risk.
- Teaching the public and educating school children about the importance of plants and nature.
- Creating display gardens and teaching people how to transfer best practices into their own backyard.
- Connecting people to nature by hosting events that celebrate our landscape and highlight our conservation activities.
- Engaging in research projects and networks to pursue environmental sustainability.

MISSION

We dedicate our expertise in horticulture, conservation, science and education to connect people, plants and place for the purpose of nurturing and preserving healthy growing life on our planet.

VISION

A world in which everyone is awake to the beauty, diversity and necessity of plants.



Fast Facts

- Officially incorporated in 1941
- Designated a National Historic Site in 1993
- Over 234,172 different living plant species recorded.

2,700 ACRES (1,092 HA) IN SIZE INCLUDING:

300 Acres (121 ha) of cultivated gardens

2,400 Acres (971 ha) of natural lands and 27km (17 mi) of nature trails



CEO'S MESSAGE

In 2023, RBG continued to focus on delivering the strategic plan approved by the Board in 2021. Efforts centred on planning for the future while continuing to deliver on our annual conservation, education and guest experience programs. We responded to peoples' renewed interest in real-life events and building deeper connections by presenting more activities to engage members and attract new audiences. As a result, visitor attendance outperformed pre-pandemic 2019 numbers and member households grew to 15,707.

On May 6, 2023, we experienced our best day ever for admissions, thanks to support from the Province in honour of the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III. This support resulted in free admission to RBG of almost 12,000 visitors that day. In addition, events like Winter Wonders, WinterTide, The Enchanted Garden and our Sarah Harmer Concert helped build momentum. A record-breaking 55,800 "Frogs Fans" viewed our Winter Exhibit, and another 1,000 community members, young and old, were able to hear Dr. Jane Goodall's message of hope when she visited RBG in October.

We introduced new experiences focused on Black History Month and Pride, and also celebrated Indigenous culture through a number of events, culminating in a panel discussion with the Woodland Cultural Centre for National Day of Truth and Reconciliation.

Our staff and volunteers continued their unwavering focus on our Mission, commitment to excellence, and the delivery of exceptional experiences. RBG's collections, gardens and natural areas also continued to attract and inspire visitors throughout the year.

We were fortunate to have several donors support our capacity building by funding new guest focused technologies that allowed us to streamline processes, track data and plan better visitor experiences. We also made RBG Centre easier to explore by updating some of our entrance and facility wayfinding. We renovated the Turner Pavilion into a welcoming Tea House that has delighted many in its first year of operations.

We hope you will enjoy reading this report on the impact your support made possible in 2023, and that you will come back soon!



Sincerely,

Nancy Rowland
CEO, Royal Botanical Gardens

2023 HIGHLIGHTS



Living Plants in our Collection

234,172

6,887 Taxa

151 Families

757 Genera

2,116 Species



380,000

Trail visitors



15,500

Native species planted



9,500

Plant accessions



210,000

Invasive plants removed

Species at RBG



277
Birds



37
Mammals



6
Amphibians



52
Fish



10
Freshwater
Mussels



4
Turtles



7,701

New Canadians visited
RBG through the Institute
for Canadian Citizenship's
Canoo program.



60,000+

Plant specimens preserved in our
herbarium for scientific research.

Memberships



15,707 membership households

26,545 members

Volunteers



619 Active Volunteers

40,644 Volunteer Hours

Educational Programs



5,739 students attended
365 virtual school programs



12,677 students attended
430 on-site school programs



2,479 March Break,
Summer and Winter day campers

Green Angels

Subsidy Program Supported



2,265 Student and youth participation
in on-site program experiences



1,542 Students provided with
55 Virtual field trip opportunities



43 Campers at RBG Day Camps



1023 Admission Passes

SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS

We continue to focus on sustainability and creating ways to reduce our impact on the environment for the purpose of nurturing and preserving healthy growing life on our planet. Some of our 2023 highlights include:

Offsetting the Frogs! Exhibit and our “A Day at RBG with Dr. Jane Goodall” event with Bullfrog Power clean electricity.

Installing bird safety markers on windows at the RBG Centre Atrium (centre), Tea House at the Turner Pavilion, and Rock Garden to protect birds.

Using compostable packaging for all take-out/concession packaging and making compostable straws available by request.

Using recycled China wares in the new Tea House and building the bar and shelving from reclaimed wood.

Using produce grown at RBG when available and ensuring our major vendor only sources local produce.

Purchasing new equipment to manage our plant waste and compost more efficiently so we can participate in municipal waste programs currently being offered.



57% Waste diverted from landfill through added recycling and internal composting collection.

2 Hybrid vehicles added to our fleet to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

100% Sustainably sourced water sold in containers made from renewable paperboard with a plant-based cap.

10 solar-powered lights installed at Laking Garden and **58** LED lights at the Rock Garden.

2,000 Christmas trees diverted from landfill to assist in rebuilding creek channels that facilitate regrowth of marsh plants and create habitat for native fish and wildlife.





WE ASKED & YOU RESPONDED!

It's truly inspiring to see what your support has made possible with respect to RBG's conservation efforts, especially in light of the urgent need to preserve our planet's biodiversity and habitats. It shows that together, we can all play an important role in making a better world.

Last year's annual mailed appeals—specifically focused on supporting conservation projects and initiatives like the Green Angels Subsidy Program — demonstrated the commitment of both RBG and its supporters to safeguarding our natural spaces for future generations and to provide access for all.

Through hundreds of generous donations and the support of individuals like you, RBG has raised more than \$200,000 to continue its vital work in protecting and preserving our nature sanctuaries. These funds will contribute to ongoing conservation projects, ensuring that our ecosystems remain healthy and vibrant habitats for all species.

Additionally, the generosity extended towards the Green Angels Subsidy Program has made a significant difference in the lives of many individuals facing financial challenges. Thanks to the support of donors, \$74,000 was raised, enabling numerous schools, children, adults, and families to experience the wonders of nature through subsidized admission passes, educational programs, and transportation costs.

Your contributions have not only helped conserve and restore our natural environment but have also provided invaluable opportunities for individuals to connect with the beauty and importance of the natural world. Thank you to everyone who supported RBG's conservation and outreach efforts, demonstrating a shared commitment to protecting our planet's precious resources.



LEGACY GIVING

Legacy gifts have a real impact on our work by providing critical undesignated funding to support RBG throughout the year. In 2023 we received Legacy gifts from Lori Ann Woodham, and the Estates of Margaret Jean Biggar, Jean Boakes, and Diane Linda Curno.

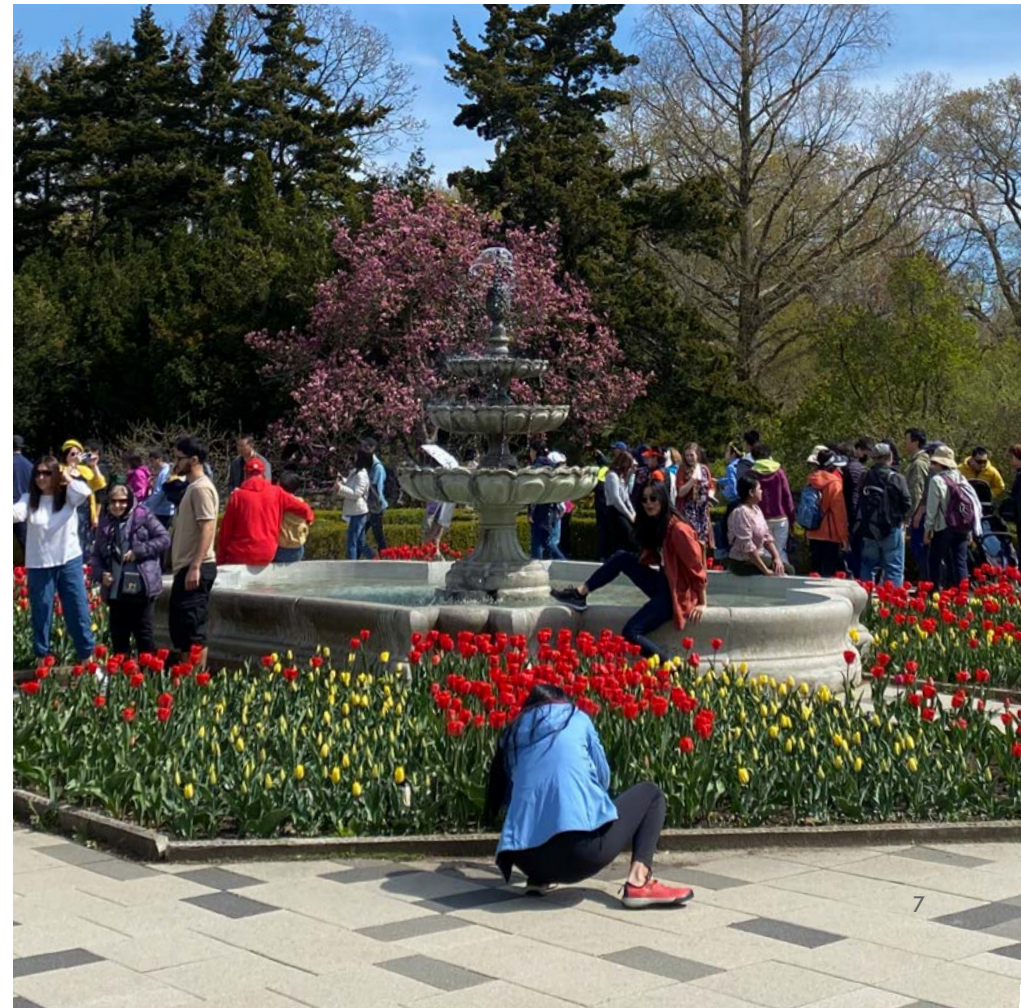
Our 1941 Club expanded in 2023 to include seven new Legacy donors who have confirmed they are leaving a gift to RBG through their wills, or via a gift of life insurance. Legacy donors are recognized as members of RBG's 1941 Club and are invited to special behind-the-scenes tours and lunches with the CEO (top left) as a thank you for their support. Through their generosity they are ensuring that the gardens, nature sanctuaries, and programs at RBG will continue to bring joy to all who follow in their footsteps.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

RBG's engagement with the community is evident through events like the 3rd annual Movie Night in Hendrie Park held on August 25, 2023 (top right). This fundraiser, in support of the Green Angels Subsidy Program, attracted over 300 guests who gathered to watch *The Super Mario Bros.* in a unique outdoor setting. Thanks to sponsors Burlington Kia and Giannetti Electric, and the overwhelming support and generosity of attendees, the event raised nearly \$13,000 for Green Angels, helping to ensure everyone is able to access RBG, regardless of their financial situation.

Additionally, RBG actively participated in Ontario's celebration of the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III on May 6, 2023, by offering free admission. This initiative resulted in almost 12,000 visitors engaging with RBG's heritage and environmental offerings (bottom), fostering a deeper connection to the organization and its Mission.

These community-driven initiatives highlight RBG's commitment to fostering environmental stewardship, heritage preservation, and public engagement, which is made possible through the collective support of our donors, volunteers, and partners.





IMPACTS OF FOUNDATION AND FUND SUPPORT

RBG is fortunate to have so many wonderful and long-standing relationships with Foundations who help support our mission. Here's a selection of some of the Foundations and funds that made 2023 remarkable:



incite Foundation, a long-time supporter, brought music to the gardens by sponsoring our summer music series and the Sarah Harmer concert (top right) in the fall, which sold out and was attended by 700 people. The Foundation also supported the Otsi'tsa'kio:wa – Beings of Light Indigenous Dance performances held in Hendrie Park in the fall.



Our aging fleet of canoes was rejuvenated with the purchase of two new ones (bottom) for use in our educational programs, courtesy of the T. Colgan and D. Jez Education Fund.



The Dana-Zara Fund and an anonymous US Foundation assisted in the purchase and licensing of our new customer relationship management tool, Tessitura, along with its accompanying LiveGauge Engagement Analytics tool. The data collected will enhance our ability to provide a superior visitor experience and aid in future planning.



RBG was able to offer year-long internships (top left) to recent university graduates through the RBG Environmental Intern Program, partially funded by The Heather and Ross Hamlin Family Fund. This program provides mentoring, invaluable hands-on experience, and access to RBG experts to advance their careers. Additionally, an anonymous foundation partnered with the Hamilton-Oshawa Port Authority (HOPA) in supporting our RBG Summer Student Program.



Blanding's turtles, a species at risk, are staging a comeback in our wetlands, thanks in part to the generous three-year commitment of the K.M. Hunter Charitable Foundation to aid in their protection and population growth (centre right).



IMPACTS OF CORPORATE SUPPORT

At RBG, we partner with corporations in many different ways with the intention of developing strong, lasting relationships. We help them increase their reach and brand awareness while raising critical funds for RBG programs that benefit our community.

Some corporations, like Walker Industries, provide necessary gift-in-kind product as well as donations to help support our work. For many years, Walker Industries has assisted RBG's Horticulture Team with gifts of composted mulch and soil (bottom left) to enrich our garden beds so plants can thrive. Others like Boehringer-Ingelheim Ltd., Deloitte LLP, Dillon Consulting Limited, Grantek Systems Integration, LIDD Consultants Inc. and MTE Consultants Inc. provide enthusiastic volunteers (top) to support our staff as they remove invasive plant species, carve pumpkins for the Great Pumpkin Trail event, or plant native trees and shrubs.

Hamilton-Oshawa Port Authority (HOPA) supported our RBG Summer Student Program (bottom right) and ensured that young people were able to advance their skills through relevant, hands-on career experience. RBG is an exceptional location to train and mentor university students, who provide essential support to staff as they help maintain gardens, restore habitats, care for our trails and connect visitors to the wonders of nature.

Other corporations sponsor events and help us provide wonderful experiences in the Garden. King Paving and Brownlow Partners supported our annual Winter Wonders event, and StoneRidge Insurance helped make our popular Frogs! exhibit possible. Thanks to a host of sponsors, including presenting sponsor, Queenston Automotive Group, RBG was able to bring Dr. Jane Goodall to RBG to share her message of hope.



A DAY AT RBG WITH DR. JANE GOODALL

Dr. Jane Goodall's visit to RBG on October 11th was a momentous occasion, during which she shared her message of hope and inspiration with over 1,113 individuals spanning various age groups. Renowned as the world's leading expert on chimpanzees, Dr. Goodall's passion, eloquence, and persuasive speaking style captivated the audience right from the onset.

During the daytime Ecofest event, attended by 400 school children & their teachers, Dr. Goodall emphasized the power of youth in conservation efforts globally. She encouraged them to take action, no matter how small, such as influencing their parents' purchasing decisions towards environmentally friendly products. Reflecting on her own journey, Dr. Goodall spoke of the challenges she faced in a time when societal

norms limited opportunities for women in science. Yet, her perseverance and determination serve as a beacon of inspiration for us all.

During the evening's sold-out public presentation, Dr. Goodall addressed the pressing environmental crisis and urged the newer generations to seek innovative solutions. Despite the challenges we face, she expressed optimism in humanity's intellect and highlighted ongoing scientific endeavours in renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, biodiversity preservation, and carbon capture technology. Dr. Goodall's unwavering belief in the resilience of nature instilled a sense of hope, emphasizing that with collective effort, we can turn the tide against environmental degradation.

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AUTOMOTIVE**

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- CANUSA Automotive
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- iA Dealer Services
- Insurance Insights Inc.
- Plus AV
- Bullfrog Power



THANK YOU TO OUR RBG VOLUNTEERS!



619

volunteers provided a total of
41,980 volunteer
hours in 2023!





YOUR IMPACT ON HORTICULTURE

- Staff mentored three Professional Gardener students from Niagara Parks School of Horticulture, giving them a unique opportunity to learn within a public garden.
- Twenty Student Gardeners (centre) got valuable hands-on experience at RBG this summer with our Horticulture staff.
- The Curator of Living Collections supervised an entomology student from the University of Guelph who added critical new data to RBG's records regarding insect abundance, native versus non-native insects, & populations of beneficial predatory insects versus rose pests.
- Hendrie Park, and a host of RBG grown sunflowers, served as an outdoor stage for the Otsi'tsa'kio:wa – Beings of Light Indigenous Dance performances held in the Fall as part of our Truth and Reconciliation events.
- Accessibility was improved at Laking Garden through major renovations to three staircases and a connecting stamped concrete walkway.
- A new "Potting Bench" (left) program area located within the Stedmen Hall at RBG Centre, was created collaboratively by Horticulture and Visitor Experience to engage visitors.
- Plant Records engraved and installed 2,006 plant labels throughout RBG's gardens so visitors can easily identify more plants.
- Contract arborists spent 16 days completing arboricultural work on 92 trees, including 19 removals, to make our cultivated gardens & collections safer.
- The Curator of Plant Records chaired the Local Planning Committee for the Perennial Plant Association's (PPA) National Symposium. As part of this event, RBG hosted 250 attendees providing garden tours and dinner. He also participated in panel presentations at the American Public Gardens Association Annual Conference.
- A new accessible walkway made of permeable pavers was designed and installed to connect the two entrances in the White Garden (right).

YOUR IMPACT ON NATURAL LANDS

- Fish populations finally started to rise (left) with improved marsh conditions due to low numbers of carp, increased Spencer Creek flow, and the City of Hamilton’s rebuild of the Westdale Sewer Overflow Facility. A species of rare freshwater mussel, the Maple Leaf, first identified at RBG in 2012, was found expanding its range further into the marshes, reflecting recovery of mussel populations and the positive impacts of our restoration work.
- 210,000 Eurasian invasive plants were removed from across our natural areas to support wildlife and plant connectivity as part of the Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System’s “Ecological Corridor Pilot Program”. As part of this program, RBG also collaborated with the City of Hamilton, Hamilton Conservation Authority and the City of Burlington to install 2450m (8,000 ft) of wildlife barrier fencing to protect small mammals, turtles, snakes and frogs along roadsides.
- The 3-year meadow reestablishment project at Rock Chapel was completed and this resulted in the return of meadow species (centre) including Rye Grass, Hairy Beardtongue and the return of insects and birds they attract.
- Churchill Park Phase Two was completed, including the replanting of remaining sections of forest reestablishment and substantial invasive plant removal.
- Controlled burns were completed at Princess Point and North Shore Landing to eliminate invasive plants and promote regeneration of grasslands habitat. Large swaths of invasive wetland grass species were also eliminated in the marshes.
- 72 turtle nests were protected from hazardous situations, including 5 Blanding’s turtle nests. As well, 29 Blanding’s turtles from our ongoing head-starting program at Scales Nature Park were returned and released (right) back into the marsh, while 42 Blanding’s hatchlings raised by RBG were sent off for two years of head-starting.
- Fourteen grafts of globally endangered American Chestnut trees resulting from a research collaboration with the Canadian Chestnut Council were planted on RBG property, and another 53 cuttings from RBG trees were transferred from RBG to the Council for propagation.
- Nature trails at Princess Point and Rock Chapel were resurfaced and the floating boardwalk at Cootes Paradise North Shore Landing was replaced.
- The Chedoke spill dredging was completed in the lower creek, and multiple Environmental Assessments are underway for upstream capital projects.





YOUR IMPACT ON EDUCATION

- 2023 began with record attendance numbers for the Frogs! Winter Exhibit (centre). More than 55,800 guests enjoyed a full slate of daily programming and activities from January 20th to April 16th. An exhibit intern (left) was funded by the Canadian Museums Association to help develop and deliver many of these popular experiences.
- On-site interpretive engagements broke all records, reaching 181,000. This number comprises visitors who participated in tours, demonstrations, discovery activities and other informal content-based interactions led by our interpretive staff and volunteer team. Staff also developed and led activities for the Dr. Jane Goodall EcoFest.
- Thanks to early donors who helped create this program in 2006, our Virtual Field Trip programming has expanded to every continent except Antarctica. Through our partners at Connected North, these free programs have also reached nearly 100 remote Indigenous communities across Canada's north.
- The 2022/23 cohort of Young Environmental Science Alliance (YES Alliance) students wrapped up this program for high school-age youth from across the region. Since 2016, YES students (right) have explored RBG's properties and mandate and connected with various community groups and organizations to bolster their knowledge of the environmental sector, planting the seeds for environmental careers.
- Our on-site educational programs at RBG Centre and the Nature Interpretive Centre (NIC) were attended by 430 schools and 12,677 students. A further 5,739 students were able to participate in 365 virtual school programs, while our March Break, Summer and Winter Day Camps attracted 2,479 participants.

YOUR IMPACT ON SCIENCE

- Dr. Jim Pringle (left), RBG's Plant Taxonomist, received The Canadian Botanical Association's highest award, the George Lawson Medal, for life-long contributions to botany in Canada, including establishing the identities of 88 new plant species and higher taxa.
- Records on over 30,000 specimens in our Herbarium are now publicly available through the Consortium of Northeastern Herbaria's online portal.
- Led by RBG, Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System partners undertook a major "Ecological Corridor Pilot Project", one of only 8 awarded in Canada, to improve habitat quality and help wildlife move through the landscape via ecological corridors. In a related project, our Herbarium team, including our botany intern (centre), conducted a biodiversity inventory project at key sites, surveying 38.5 ha (95 acres) and finding 527 unique plant species, including 18 at-risk species.
- The 2023 Patrick Colgan Lecture (right), RBG's 9th, attracted over 250 people in person and online to learn about Canadian doctors who are prescribing nature and outdoor experiences as a medicine to promote wellness and mental health.
- Staff helped the Canadian Garden Council launch Canada's Garden Hall of Fame, researching historical figures and coordinating selection of the inductees.
- Staff supplied background research and archival information to support important RBG projects around cultural heritage and archaeology in order to assist with planning for RBG's future.
- External researchers from government and universities undertook seven different projects at RBG in 2023, ranging from archaeology to assessing benefits of garden experiences for patients living with dementia.
- Over 750 people used the volunteer-led RBG seed library in its third year, requesting about 3,500 seed packets. Science staff helped volunteers with logistics.
- Staff presented 36 plant identification workshops, tours, and other in-person learning experiences, and talks on botany, conservation and RBG's history for a wide variety of audiences, also appearing on-camera in videos on invasive species and ghost pipe plants. At least 1,128 people were in our live audiences in 2023.





YOUR IMPACT ON EXPERIENCES

The Dan Lawrie International Sculpture Collection

In 2013 Dan Lawrie (top left with wife Diana), Hamilton businessman and Burlington resident, made a 10-year commitment to donate sculptures to RBG to create The International Sculpture Collection in Hendrie Park. This collection adds beauty and inspiration to this setting, with each piece telling a story of its own.

Through Dan's generosity, this permanent collection grew year over year, with the addition of new works from all around the world. The final four artworks were installed in 2023, bringing the total number of sculptures to 21.

To celebrate the completion of the collection, and honour Dan's strong support of art in the gardens, an al fresco gourmet dinner was hosted in August.



THE FINAL FOUR SCULPTURES: (clockwise top right)

Family Tree by Chaka Chikodzi

Garden Fronds by Teresa Seaton

Snowball by Joon Hee Kim

Whispering Stones by Kees Ouwens

Photo Credit: Olive Studio



JEAN CROWE

A Renaissance Woman at RBG

A renaissance woman is one that takes on many roles, and that certainly defines Jean Crowe (top). She will tell you that variety attracts her, and over the more than twenty years that Jean has been supporting RBG, you could ask: "what hasn't she done"?

Growing up on an Australian sheep farm gave Jean a chance to learn first-hand about growing things, and an opportunity to be out in the fresh air which she loved. Helping others was a core value in their family, so it was natural for her to volunteer wherever she went. Jean came to Canada in 1965 as a physiotherapist with the idea of staying for 6 months, but she never went back. She met and married her late husband Cameron and moved to Burlington where they both taught at McMaster.

In 1990, Jean and Cameron joined RBG as members and enjoyed visiting the gardens together. Her favourite was Laking Garden because it's a lesser-known gem with spectacular blooms! Over 20 years ago, Jean decided to get more involved and volunteered for the RBG plant sale, where she enjoyed the collegiality of working with other enthusiastic volunteers. That inspired her to continue to volunteer at RBG events, and become a passionate volunteer gardener, memorial watcher, RBG Express Train Driver and more.

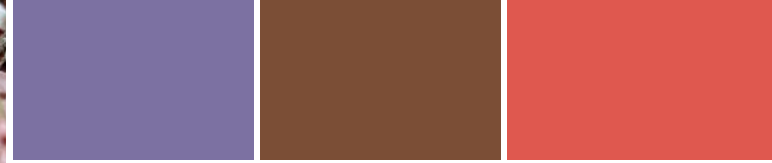
Her extensive experience at RBG made her a perfect candidate to serve as President of the RBG Auxiliary and as an RBG Board Member in 2015. Later Jean was part of the

team that helped transition volunteers from the Auxiliary to our current volunteer program model. Currently she represents Horticultural Volunteers on the Volunteer Council and works alongside Horticulture staff and volunteers.

At some point during her tenure, she came to see RBG as her family and began to support the gardens not only through time and talent, but through donations as well. In addition to regular donations, she helped fund bigger projects that really inspired her like the Rock Garden and Rose Garden. Jean also supported RBG's Volunteer Manager position, both financially and by sharing her wisdom and experience as a trusted leader. More recently, she has been helping fund indoor horticulture displays. You may see the orange plaque that recognizes her support placed in different displays around RBG Centre, created by Indoor Horticulturist Kathleen Hutchinson (bottom).

Looking toward the future, who knows what Jean will take on next at RBG. But you can be sure that whatever that is, it will be accomplished with knowledge, enthusiasm and style.





THANK YOU

To all our donors for their continued support!

The following lists represent donors who gave \$250 or more in 2023. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of these lists and we apologize for any errors or omissions.

**FOR ANY QUESTIONS
CALL 905-527-1158 x229**

**"Just living is not enough.
One must have sunshine,
freedom, and a little flower."**
Hans Christian Andersen



\$300,000 +

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Adia Buckle
Gwen Pearce's 9th birthday
Charlotte Prodger
Noah, Emma & Charlotte Prodger
Barbara Wallace
Dorothy Jean Wilson

IN MEMORY OF

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Lilly Helen Blinkhorn
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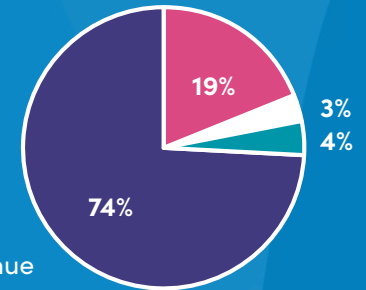
Estate of Margaret Jean Biggar
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Donations Raised

\$5,583,727

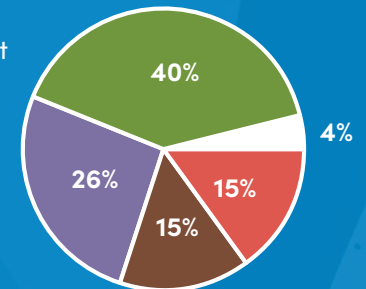
REVENUE SUMMARY

- Province of Ontario \$4,036,000
- City of Hamilton \$660,351
- Region of Halton \$859,959
- Self-Generated Revenue \$15,442,634



EXPENDITURES

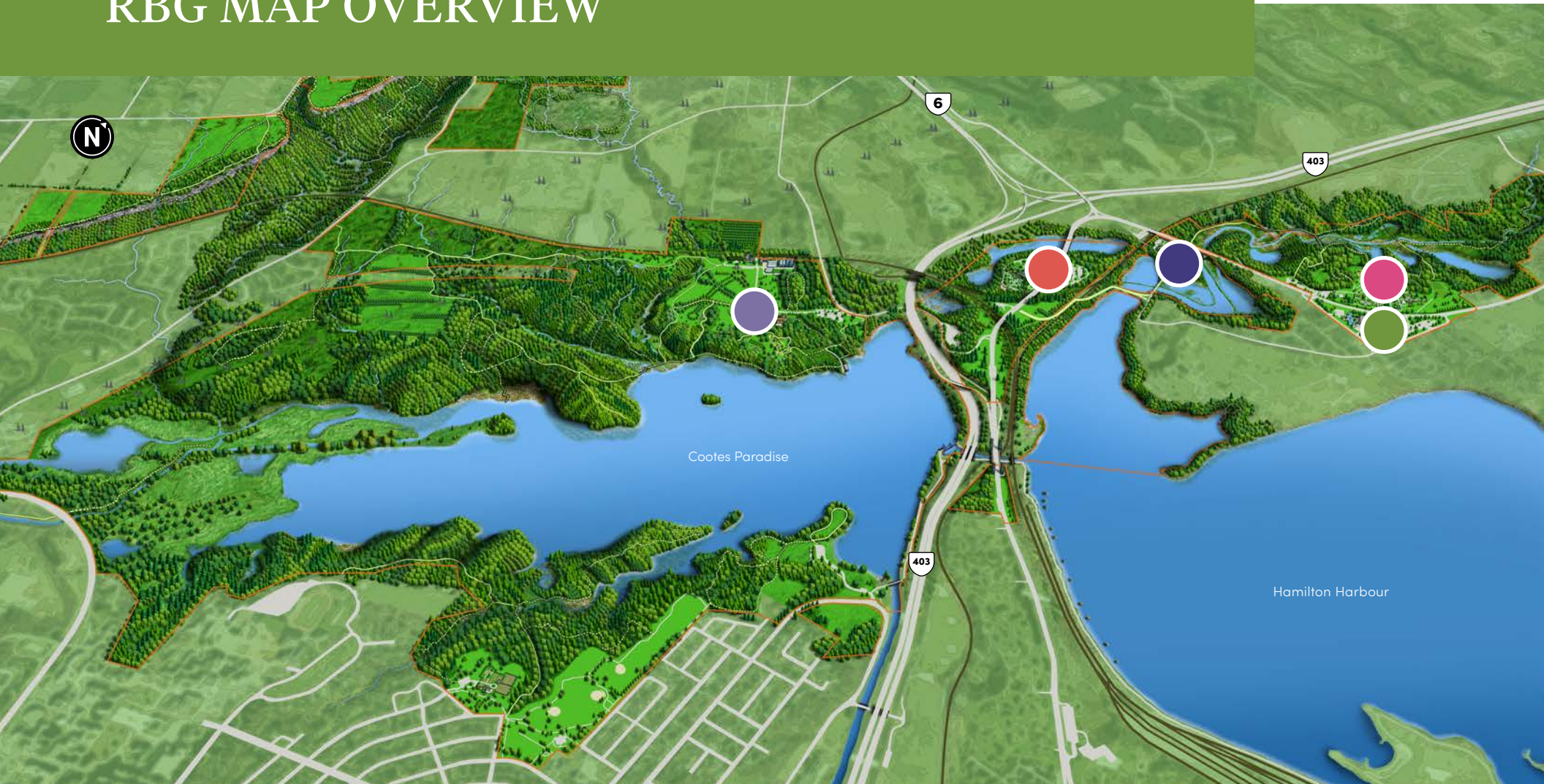
- Admission, Sales & Incremental \$8,882,566
- Fundraising and Grant \$838,062
- Site Maintenance \$3,343,276
- Administration \$3,394,153
- Conservation, Gardens, Collection Management & Science Communication \$5,811,439



Please be advised that the revenue received during the year is different from the revenue recognized in the financial statements. This is primarily due to the fact that revenue is recognized only as funds are spent. Unspent amounts are reported as deferred revenue on the balance sheet.



RBG MAP OVERVIEW



As Canada's biodiversity hotspot and a vibrant part of the community, Royal Botanical Gardens provides a one-of-a-kind experience, harmonizing cultivated gardens and sweeping natural landscapes with engaging programs in history, culture, science, recreation and natural beauty.

● RBG Centre

This administration, research and public learning facility houses the auditorium, classrooms, archives, herbarium, Camilla and Peter Dalglish Atrium, Aldershot Escarpment Garden, Natural Playground, Greenhouse Café and the gift shop. It is home to many special programs and events as well as indoor and outdoor displays.

BREEZEWAY

From January to April, the Breezeway brightens winter with various spring-flowering shrubs and trees and a wide range of common and exotic bulbs that evoke a fragrant spring day. Our talented gardeners change the space with a variety of themes each year, culminating in a holiday season show of poinsettia, cyclamen, and winter greens.

MEDITERRANEAN GARDEN

This greenhouse brings together plants that have adapted to the world's five Mediterranean climate zones: the Mediterranean Basin, South Africa's Western Cape, Southwestern Australia, central Chile, and Southern California and Baja. The Cactus and Succulent Collection showcases plants adapted to extremely arid environments including euphorbias from the Old World and cacti from the New World.

● Hendrie Park

Home of the Dan Lawrie International Sculpture Collection, Morrison Woodland Garden, Scented and Healing Gardens, Helen M. Kippax Garden, Prehistoric Grove, Veggie Village and the Turner Pavilion Tea House. The sustainable Rose Garden features a spectacular display of cold-hardy roses and companion plants that extend seasonal interest and keep pests at bay.

● Laking Garden

Set on a fertile terraced plain that was once a market garden, Laking Garden is home to herbaceous perennial collections. The belvedere offers a panoramic view of the entire garden. Thousands of iris and peony, plus clematis and hosta collections, and extensive perennial gardens are found here along with the Barbara Laking Heritage Garden.

● Rock Garden

Opened to visitors in 1932, the David Braley & Nancy Gordon Rock Garden is considered the birthplace of Royal Botanical Gardens. Following a significant rejuvenation, the garden reopened in 2016 to embrace sustainable trends in garden design and management while respecting the integrity of its heritage setting. Bold swaths of brilliant perennials provide sweeps of inspiring colour and texture throughout all seasons.

● Arboretum

Features over 500 species and cultivars of lilacs, as well as extensive magnolia, crabapple, dogwood, redbud, and cherry collections, and other unusual trees and shrubs. Follow nature trails that showcase native plants used by Indigenous peoples and provide breathtaking views of the shoreline and forests of Cootes Paradise.

NATURE INTERPRETIVE CENTRE

Located at the Arboretum, the NIC is our gateway to Cootes Paradise and is the hub of our formal education program and children's camps.

Royal Botanical Gardens acknowledges the long history of First Nations and Métis People in the Province of Ontario, and pays respect to the Six Nations of the Grand River Territory and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, the holder of the Treaty with the Crown for these lands. The land we steward is within the traditional territories of the Haudenosaunee, Anishinaabe, and Huron-Wendat Nations.



Royal
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Gardens
CANADA

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