FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Step into the Amazing World of Rainforests at RBG!

Royal Botanical Gardens' newest exhibit connects visitors to the beauty, diversity and importance of life in the rainforest

Burlington, ON, January 28, 2022 — Families looking for an exciting and inspiring experience this season can find adventure at *Under the Canopy: Animals of the Rainforest*, Royal Botanical Gardens' (RBG) newest winter exhibit. From February 4th to May 1st, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., take a peek *Under the Canopy*, meet some of the coolest creatures who live there and discover why all life depends on the rainforest.

Travel to the most diverse ecosystems on the planet without leaving Burlington! *Under the Canopy* is an immersive, interactive exhibit that introduces visitors to the fascinating world of rainforests — learn about unique plants and ecology, conservation, and encounter live animals, including a sloth, a boa constrictor and many more found in these amazing habitats.

Although rainforests only cover 6.5% of the Earth's surface, they are home to half of our animal species and produce 25% of the world's oxygen — but they are under the immediate threats of deforestation and climate change. We all rely on the biodiversity of rainforests as a source of food, medicine and other resources. These tropical habitats also serve as a winter home-away-from-home for thousands of migratory birds that nest and raise their young at RBG each summer.

Through Discovery Stations, lively displays and engaging programming led by RBG Interpreters, visitors to *Under the Canopy* uncover the threats facing our rainforests and what actions they can take — from choosing the right coffee to growing the right garden plants — to become advocates for conservation and support healthier rainforest ecosystems.

RBG is proud to be a place where everyone can connect and nurture their relationships with nature in new and exciting ways. Each day of the exhibit, including holidays and March Break, is filled with fun activities and some fantastic four-legged guests.

And don't miss the return of <u>RBG After Dark!</u> Grab a drink, enjoy the music, and experience *Under the Canopy* after dark. RBG After Dark (19+) is a special ticketed event only offered on February 24, March 24 and April 21.

Under the Canopy is a bilingual exhibit produced by <u>Little Ray's Reptile Zoo and Nature Centre</u>.
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The *Under the Canopy* experience, including the exhibit and regular programming, is included with General Admission and free for RBG Members. The exhibit it timed-ticketed and preregistration is required. Tickets are available now at rbg.ca/winter-exhibit

Access our Media Kit for exhibit and animal photos

For media inquiries or to book a tour, please contact: Emily Sharma,

Communications Coordinator, Royal Botanical Gardens esharma@rbg.ca

Activity Schedule: Discovery @ RBG

Weekdays

10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m., and 4:15 p.m. **Animal Encounters**

Get to know some of the wonderful creatures of the rainforests. *All ages*

11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Storytime

Listen to wild tales about amazing rainforest animals. *Younger audiences*

3:30 p.m.

Rainforest Expedition

Take a seat and travel to the rainforest. During this interactive experience, help us discover which animals live there and how we can help them.

Daily

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Discovery Station: RBG Birds are Tropical BirdsDiscover how protecting forests across the Americas is essential to helping migratory birds found at RBG.

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Discovery Station: Rainforest Roots

From coffee to chocolate, rainforests produce food that we eat every day. Explore how the foods we choose can have positive impacts on rainforests.

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Activity Book

Pick up an activity book to complete the puzzles and activities around RBG Centre.

<u>Please note:</u> Animal wellbeing is RBG's top priority. Little Ray's educators and/or zookeepers are certified and experienced in proper exotic animal care and will be on-site throughout the exhibit to ensure each of our special guests' needs are met.

RBG staff will remain attentive to the animals needs and adjust programming accordingly. Because of this, there may be times where certain animals may not be on display or available for Animal Encounters.

Weekends

10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., and 4:15 p.m.

Animal Encounters

Get to know some of the wonderful creatures of the rainforest. *All ages*

Roving Puppetry

Keep an eye out for our plushy friends and hear what makes them special.

*Weekend schedule applies on P.A. days, holidays and March Break (February 21, March 4, 14–18, April 15, 18, 25)