



RBG brings Enhanced Experience to Winter at Princess Point

Evening lights, grab-and-go menu makes for fun late-night skating

Hamilton, ON, January 24, 2022 — Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG) has turned Hamilton's favourite skating rink into the season's community hub. Skating at Cootes Paradise has always been popular, and this year RBG is further supporting the local tradition with an on-site snack bar, music, lights for nighttime skaters and parking support, available daily until 9 p.m. at the Princess Point access.

For years, RBG has monitored and maintained the designated skating area at Princess Point, allowing the public to get outside connect to the natural beauty of Cootes Paradise unlike any other time of the year. Cootes Paradise is an [environmental protection area](#) — by having more on-site support we can provide an enhanced visitor experience that highlights the importance of these spaces.

Visitors to Princess Point can enjoy chocolate covered pretzels, assorted Danishes, hot chocolate and other grab-and-go fare available for purchase at the [Collective Arts Container](#). Or dig in with our weekends specials, including kimchi hot dogs, cheddar hot dogs and braised beef sandwiches, available Friday to Sunday. More seating options means it's easier to find a spot to rest, or take a break next to the cozy firepit and sway to the music. Since winter days just feel too short, RBG has extended operations after dark — this helps to alleviated peak-time crowds and is a great, one-of-a-kind night out. Floodlights have also been installed to illuminate the ice for late-night skating. Lights turn off at 9 p.m.

Safe skating conditions for groups and recreation requires a thickness of about 4 inches (10 cm). RBG staff measure ice thickness each Friday and post ice status on signage at Princess Point. Ice status updates are also available at rbg.ca/skating, [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). Weather changes quickly, so upon arrival the ice may not be in the same condition as listed. Please use caution, take time to read on-site signage, and follow the listed guidelines.

Parking

Parking for Princess Point is available at [335 Longwood Road, Hamilton](#). A \$10 parking flat rate applies from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, operated by RBG staff. Outside of these hours, coin or credit is accepted at the meters for pay-and-display. Additional parking is available at Coronation Arena, located at [81 Macklin St N](#).

There will be limited parking availability at peak times. We ask that all drivers respect the area's residents and the environment — do not park in bike lanes or other unsanctioned areas in accordance with Hamilton by-laws.

Collective Arts Container

Monday to Wednesday	4 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Thursday	2 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Friday	12 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday	10 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Royal Botanical Gardens will provide an added presence and enhanced experience so long as weather allows for consistent skating. Join us at Cootes Paradise and embrace the best of winter while it's here!

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Additional Info: Ice Safety

People using the area do so at their own risk. Always check the safety notices on-site before lacing up — unless it's marked safe to do so, stay off the ice.

Ice conditions are local to Princess Point and skating beyond the posted area is strongly discouraged. Currents can result in open water and thin ice in further parts of the marsh. Unsafe areas are highlighted on the [skating map](#). This includes creek mouths and anywhere within 200 metres of the [Fishway](#).

Cootes Paradise is an [environmental protection area](#) with sensitive species – please respect the space of the wildlife and remain within 0.5 km of the ice access point.

For more information, visit rbg.ca/skating

For media inquiries, please contact:

Emily Sharma,
Communications Coordinator,
Royal Botanical Gardens
esharma@rbg.ca