

Royal Botanical Gardens CEO Mark Runciman to Retire

BURLINGTON, ON: 18 June 2020 – After fifteen years as the Chief Executive Officer of Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG) and thirty-six years with the organization, CEO Mark Runciman will be retiring. His last day will be December 31st, 2020.

Mark has led RBG through a period of renewal and growth which has seen the addition of the Camilla and Peter Dalglish Atrium, which transformed the RBG to a year 'round attraction; the Aldershot Escarpment Garden; the development of the Helen M. Kippax native plant garden; the rejuvenation of the iconic Rock Garden with a new visitors centre; the revitalization of the Rose Garden; and on-going support for our natural lands; trails; and programs. His latest accomplishment and perhaps his greatest lasting legacy was the development of RBG's 25 year Master Plan which received Board approval in May of this year.

"RBG is not complicated, but it is complex with its diverse roles and responsibilities" says Mark. "We have priceless assets that need to be protected for future generations to enjoy and benefit from. I feel that our master plan has looked at every scenario to ensure that our positive momentum continues, attracts supporters and elevates RBG to even greater heights. I would certainly want my successor to effectively implement the master plan to achieve our vision."

Reflecting on his achievements and proudest accomplishments, Mark says that "in 2009, we were able to rebuild our team and we have grown together. Our visitation and revenue numbers have grown significantly. I am extremely pleased with the work of our very passionate and committed staff and volunteers that make RBG such a special place. There have been many proud moments for me including hosting the American Public Gardens Associations annual conference in 2017, where we were able to show off this wonderful place to my many colleagues and international audiences. This was a significant event for me."

"Mark worked his way through the ranks of the organization from a Superintendent of Buildings and Equipment to the Director of Capital Works, to the CEO, gaining the respect and support of staff and volunteers on the way." says Cliff Carson, Chair of RBG's Board of Directors. "During his tenure as CEO, he has brought a focus on providing legendary guest experiences and ensuring the long term financial sustainability of RBG. He has also gained the respect and support of key stakeholders, partners and donors and has been a very active participant and past Board member of the American Public Garden Association."

To assist RBG 's Board in the task of finding a new CEO, the Board has retained the Bedford Consulting Group.

“Bedford is very excited to partner with RBG in this critical search to find the next CEO,” says Frank Galati, Bedford’s Managing Partner.

“We will employ a holistic and rigorous process in identifying and attracting the right leader who has the competencies and experience to succeed and a strong fit with RBG’s culture. We will also provide active support to the new leader with integrating into their new role.”

ABOUT ROYAL BOTANICAL GARDENS: Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG) is the largest botanical garden in Canada, a National Historic Site, and registered charitable organization with a mandate to bring together people, plants and nature. To learn more, please visit <https://www.rbg.ca/>.

ABOUT BEDFORD CONSULTING GROUP: Bedford Consulting Group is the Canadian partner of Transearch International and an international leader in executive search and talent management solutions across all industries. To learn more about Bedford, please visit www.bedfordgroup.com; or contact info@bedfordgroup.com.