



RBG's Iconic Rose Garden in Bloom for Summer

Radiant and resilient roses the purpose behind this 21st century garden

Burlington, ON, June 29, 2022 — Visitors to Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG) will enjoy spectacular summer sights as the radiant Rose Garden is now in bloom! Located in Hendrie Park, the collection includes more than *just* roses, with companion plants and a forward-thinking approach making the collection an example of a resilient garden of the future. The Rose Garden offers flushes of blooms throughout now into September. Join RBG Interpreters now until July 14 for daily, drop-in tours of the collection.

The Rose Garden features over 3,300 roses across 300 different cultivated varieties. A feast for the eyes (and nose), the collection introduces visitors to the historic progression of rose cultivation while embracing new designs and techniques that reflect a more modern, environmentally conscious approach to growing roses that visitors can use at home.

“RBG’s earth-kind rose garden is a living laboratory where sustainable horticultural practices encourage diverse ecological benefits and resilient gardening results,” explained Alex Henderson, Curator of Living Collections at RBG. “This garden’s novel approach is a model for empowering Ontario’s gardeners and green professionals to take direct action, improving best practices in environmental garden management across the province”.

Each rose cultivar in the garden has been selected for superior genetics in relation to cold and drought tolerance, but particularly against the most serious global disease of roses: black spot (*Diplocarpon rosae*). Black spot is a fungal disease that became too difficult to control in the original Centennial Rose Garden, leading to the new Rose Garden which opened in 2018. Each year, RBG conducts rose evaluations in collaboration with Peter Kukielski, expert rosarian and advisor for the garden’s rejuvenation project. The evaluations are not only to assess black spot resistance but also bloom abundance and scent — each cultivar is given a score that dictates if the rose is retained in the collection or replaced.

Hardy roses also benefit from companion plants. Additions like ornamental onions, or Lindheimer’s Beeblossom help by breaking up the ability for diseases to spread, attracting pollinators, or staving off pests. Beneath these beneficial plant pairings is a low volume drip irrigation system. Deep roots combined with a consistently maintained layer of mulch means less watering and improved drought and cold tolerance.

Whether you are a garden enthusiast or simply looking for a breathtaking photo op, RBG’s Rose Garden promises a lovely day out. Grab a refreshment at the Turner Pavilion Teahouse, experience augmented reality with *Seeing the Invisible*, and explore the 12 different gardens areas all within the beautiful Hendrie Park.

What’s on in Hendrie Park

Discovery Station: Discover Roses

June 17 to July 14, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (at your leisure)

Visit our Garden Interpreter to delve into the spectrum of rose colours and why they smell so sweet. Included with admission or membership.

Tour: A Rose Garden for the 21st Century

11:30 a.m. & 2:30 p.m. (until July 7), 2:30 p.m. (July 8 - 14)

Join a Garden Interpreter to discover the innovative and sustainable Rose Garden with its hardy roses and beneficial companion plants.

Included with admission or membership.

Seeing the Invisible: An AR Art Experience

Daily, June 2 to August 31

Encounter incredible augmented reality (AR) works by more than a dozen international artists including Ai Weiwei, Refik Anadol, El Anatsui, and Sarah Meyohas. Engage with Seeing the Invisible via an app downloadable to smartphones and tablets. This highly immersive experience will amaze visitors as they walk into and around the 13 interactive pieces.

Included with admission or membership.

Movie Night

July 27: Star Wars - The Force Awakens

August 26: Encanto

Join us for a night out as we bring the magic of the big screen outdoors in a setting unlike any other! Your ticket also includes complimentary popcorn and exclusive access to RBG's Seeing the Invisible exhibit.

Garden to Table Winemaker's Dinner

July 20, 6 p.m. (19+)

Take a seat under Rose Garden tent for an intimate evening complete with a three-course plated dinner, wine pairings from Peller Estates, and tours led by AGH docents featuring some of the most iconic pieces from the Seeing the Invisible exhibit and the Dan Lawrie International Sculpture Collection.

Watercolour Paint-Along

July 6 & August 3, 6 p.m. (19+)

Learn how to work with watercolours with local artist Shelly Prior. Painting for all skill levels. Your ticket includes all the materials needed to create your very own work of art, and exclusive access to RBG's Seeing the Invisible exhibit.

See [RBG's event page](#) for more details & event tickets.

For more info & photos:

[Rose Garden Media Kit](#)

[About the Rose Garden](#)

[Blog: The Importance of Rose Evaluations](#)

For media inquiries, please contact:

Emily Sharma

Communications Coordinator

Royal Botanical Gardens

(905) 527-1158 ext. 223

esharma@rbg.ca