

## **Media Advisory**

### **Royal Botanical Gardens opens Arboretum to General Admission starting Wednesday, May 27**

**HAMILTON ON, May 25, 2020** – As part of a phased reopening, Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG) will be opening its Arboretum to the public beginning Wednesday, May 27. The Arboretum will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (last admission at 4 p.m.), seven days a week.

RBG is welcoming its community to experience the beauty of the Gardens in a safe and respectful manner as it continues a phased reopening by providing access to one of its signature attractions. To mark the occasion, RBG will be offering discounted admission to the Arboretum through June 4.

Admission to the Arboretum will be available on a first come, first served basis with limited parking capacity. As the Arboretum is a popular attraction during this time of year, RBG may not be able to accommodate all arrivals during peak hours due to limited capacity and lineups. Admission includes access to select looped Cootes Paradise trails. To reduce crowding, access to North Shore Cootes Paradise trails will be restricted through Arboretum admission.

Entry begins at 10 a.m., with last admission at 4 p.m., The Arboretum will close at 5 p.m. Visitors are encouraged to limit their visit to a one-hour maximum in order to give others the opportunity to experience the beauty of Royal Botanical Gardens.

Admission at entry is limited to debit and credit transactions. General admission tickets are available online at [www.rbg.ca](http://www.rbg.ca) but no priority access will be given to a pre-purchased ticket.

#### **Admission Rates**

- Adult: \$15
- Senior / Student: \$13
- Child (age 4-12): \$8
- Family rate (2 adults and 2 children under the age of 18): \$40
- RBG Members FREE

The health and safety of staff, volunteers and visitors remains RBG's top priority. RBG staff and volunteers will be following safety protocols and wearing personal protective equipment and RBG recommends that visitors do the same. Portable washrooms and hand sanitizing stations will be available for visitor use.

All visitors to Royal Botanical Gardens must follow Provincial measures and guidelines to allow them to remain open safely.

**Such measures include:**

- Practice physical distancing by staying at least 2 metres (6 feet) apart from other trail users.
- Step aside to allow others to pass.
- Do not gather or arrange to meet friends or other groups.
- Pets must be leashed at all times.
- Please **refrain** from feeding wildlife.
- Pack out what you pack in.
- Bring your own water, sanitizer and PPE (personal protective equipment)

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.

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**For more information, please contact:**

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