



ROYAL
BOTANICAL
GARDENS
www.rbg.ca

2013 Year In Review



Royal Botanical Gardens puts nature's beauty on display, but it isn't a park system. It teaches but it isn't a school. It protects and preserves forest and marsh, but it isn't a conservation authority. It collects and propagates botanical knowledge and plant life, but it is not a library, museum, or laboratory. It is all those things and more than their sum.

–Dr. Leslie Laking

2013

Thank you

On behalf of the board of directors and staff at Royal Botanical Gardens I want to thank all of our supporters, donors, members and volunteers for doing all that they do to make this wonderful place what it is, an incredible asset to the City of Hamilton, Regional Municipality of Halton, the province of Ontario and all of the rest of Canada.

Royal Botanical Gardens had a wonderful year in 2013. On the operations side we have had tremendous success with a milestone increase in membership, programming and a strengthened financial position.

Our programming started with Battle of the Titans—dinosaurs in our Atrium— and ended with Holiday Traditions—our 2nd annual train exhibition. In between we had a variety of festivals, exhibitions, musical performances, special events, and of course the wonder of nature as it unfolded across our 2,700 acres. Through the efforts of our marsh restoration program, the improved health of Cootes Paradise resulted in the first successful pair of Bald Eagles hatched on the Canadian shoreline of Lake Ontario in over 50 years.

I'm extremely pleased with the commitment of our staff and volunteers and their dedication to programs like the **Back to Nature Network, Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System, Growing Up Green Annual Campaign**, and the successful launch of the **Green Angels Fund**. These programs have put us front and centre on a path to not only ensuring the sustainability of our environment but also ensuring future generations know and understand what the Gardens have to offer. Highlights include funding over 230 students from eight local schools attending RBG on fully-subsidized field trips, 20 children attending summer camp from CityKidz Hamilton, and many families and individuals receiving



subsidized tickets to education programs like *The Great Pumpkin Trail*, all through our new **Green Angels Fund**.

In 2014 we begin the long awaited rejuvenation of the Rock Garden and look forward to expanding on many of our exhibitions and programs, including Holiday Traditions and the addition of more public art in the Gardens.

We look forward to seeing you in 2014.

Mark Runciman, CEO,
Royal Botanical Gardens

HORTICULTURE 2013



Photo courtesy of Dr. David Galbraith

Laking Garden Renovation

The Horticulture Department addressed significant issues that were threatening the Iris collection. The collection was redesigned and replanted while the Peony collection—in need of its own rejuvenation—was lifted and moved to ring the Iris beds. At their peak the combined collections will provide an unprecedented display. The Horticulture Department also reached out to Canadian breeders and specialist nurseries and Canadian Peony Society to develop partnerships to assist with collection development for the years to come.

Plans to reinstitute a Clematis collection were also hatched in 2013 and, thanks to a grant and donated funds, will be in place for the 2014 season as a spectacular, sculptural feature. Finally, a new and colourful perennial display was developed to enhance and highlight the gazebo on the lower terrace.



The *Syringa* Collection in the Lilac Dell

Royal Botanical Gardens' storied *Syringa* Collection—over 600 cultivars of lilacs—received a great deal of attention in 2013. Thanks to a pair of lilac-specific donations the entire collection was pruned, the Lilac Walk was redone, over 90 new plants were added, and new equipment specifically for use in the collection was acquired. In addition, a dedicated volunteer corps composed of RBG Auxiliary members was out every week helping to care for their favourite plants.

Staff Highlights

2013 saw the merger of the gardening staff with the Horticulture Department to maximize efficiencies in the creation and delivery of RBG's prime product—its gardens.

The staff spent much of the year hosting society events, teaching, and speaking at public engagements while continuing to add their touch to the many exhibitions on display.

RBG's largest ever bulb planting was completed in one day with the help of 85 corporate volunteers from Deloitte LLP—200,000 crocus bulbs were planted outside of RBG Centre with the hope that they will provide an amazing horticultural sight for years to come.



A new floating

Boardwalk

was completed in the vicinity of the Nature Interpretive Centre, named after long time RBG conservationist and educator John Lamoureux.

A grant from the U.S. based National Fish and Wildlife Foundation helped us to begin the inventory of Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*), invading the wetlands and initiate a management strategy. By the end of 2013,

85
Patches
had been catalogued.



Forest understorey restoration continued with thousands of invasive non-native shrubs cleared from

15
hectares
of Cootes Paradise forest.



Cootes Paradise Marsh significantly recovered missing wetland vegetation with water lilies and submergent plants expanding to cover about 1/3 of the marsh. In addition, restoration plants from the Spencer Creek river delta added

8,000
new reeds to the marsh.



Bald Eagles

successfully nested and fledged two young on the shores of Cootes Paradise. This is the first successful nesting pair on the Canadian shores of Lake Ontario since the decline of Bald Eagles began over 50 years ago.



A record number of migratory birds were observed in Cootes Paradise marsh, including

**1,500
Tundra Swans**

in March.

Stewarding our Natural Lands

Within Biodiversity Programs, the Natural Lands Department is responsible for stewardship and monitoring of 900 acres forming the natural areas of the head of Lake Ontario. The department includes seven core staff, complemented by an internship program, summer students, and volunteers, as well as dozens of partnership projects with local organizations.

The primary project of the department is the restoration of the wetlands that form over 1/3 of Royal Botanical Gardens' property holdings and are the heart of our local ecosystem. Historically the wetlands were destroyed by inflowing water pollution and were physically uprooted by high densities of carp (*Cyprinus carpio*). Efforts to reverse these effects have been ongoing since the 1950s, and have been boosted in recent years with the installation of large scale infrastructure such as the Cootes Paradise Fishway and local Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) tanks, resulting in year over year improvements in health.



Barbara McKean
Head of Education
Sabrina Hall
Manager of Customer Programs

Education and Customer Programs

Education touches all parts of Royal Botanical Gardens. We work hard to bring people of all ages in contact with nature and have that connection last for the rest of their lives. We have developed interpretive programs to enhance the visitor experience this year. This includes the creation of our first application that helps guests navigate our trails, the design of interpretive signage and the offering of audio tours of the Gardens.

2013 saw the completion of the first phase of programming for the Back to Nature Network, an initiative with 80 member organizations across Ontario that began in 2008. Back to Nature released the first edition of *Into Nature* to school boards across Ontario, a guide for teachers that gives them the tools they need to teach outdoors.

In the fall of 2013, Back to Nature, in partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources and others, launched the Ontario Children's Outdoor Charter. The charter provides a list of outdoor activities that every Ontario child should be able to experience while growing up. Families, schools and municipalities are encouraged to look at how they can get more children involved in outdoor learning and play.

Our goal is to connect with the public in ways that help them understand how plants are a part of their lives and how dependant we are on nature, and in 2013 over 58,000 children and adults took part in programs offered by Educational Customer Programs Staff.

Mission, Vision and Funders

OUR MISSION

Royal Botanical Gardens' mission is to promote the public's understanding of the relationship between the plant world, society and the environment.

VISION

Royal Botanical Gardens' vision is to be a recognized and supported global leader in how we use plants in bringing people, place and sustainable behaviours together.

FUNDERS

Royal Botanical Gardens is funded by the people through Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport, Regional Municipality of Halton, City of Hamilton, Royal Botanical Gardens' members, The Auxiliary of Royal Botanical Gardens, and many corporations, foundations and individuals.

RBG Board of Directors 2013

OFFICERS OF THE BOARD

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Leslie Bullock – *Secretary*

Ruth Lee – *Treasurer*

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Dr. Geoffrey P. Arron

Leslie Bullock

Cliff Carson

Wayne Joudrie (retired, June 27, 2013)

Ruth Lee

Daniel Roberts

Kevin Brady

Sean Donnelly

Dr. Patrick Deane *President and Vice-Chancellor –
McMaster University - Ex Officio*

David Reed *President, RBG Auxiliary*

Roxine Bisson, *Vice President, RBG Auxiliary*



On the trails, reinvigoration of entrances and destinations continue to move ahead. In 2013, boardwalks at Princess Point and near the Nature Interpretive Centre were reconstructed and additional seating was added. Floating canoe docks were also added at Princess Point and by the waterside teaching area near the Nature Interpretive Centre. Complementing this was resurfacing of a section of Bull's Point trails on Cootes Paradise north shore. This trail work also resulted in the creation of two trailside ponds.

A man with a receding hairline, wearing a red and black jacket and grey pants, is crouching on a rocky bank next to a river. He is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The background shows a calm river reflecting the sky and trees on the opposite bank. The overall tone is natural and serene.

“ I watched at a young age as wildlife disappeared along the St. Lawrence River. I knew I wanted to do something about it then and I’m glad to have the opportunity to keep doing something about it now. Hamilton has an incredibly diverse ecosystem and is on the right path to preserving and maintaining that ecology. I’m very optimistic about the progress we’ve made in rebuilding the wetlands in Hamilton Harbour and Cootes Paradise. And you can only imagine how excited I am, how validating it is to know that we have Bald Eagles in the area. Imagine what else we can do. ”

Ty’s Theysmejer
Head of Natural Lands, Royal Botanical Gardens
Dr. Victor Cecilioni Award,
2013 Hamilton Environmentalist of the Year

our champion

Cliff Carson
Board member and volunteer

Favourite Spaces: Mediterranean Garden and Lilac Dell



my escape

Gardens for Every Generation

“RBG is an oasis in an increasingly urbanized area. To be able to come to a location like this, view the gardens, walk through the natural lands and see the impact all this has on children through programs like Green Angels and Growing Up Green is what keeps me coming back.”



I've been volunteering with Royal Botanical Gardens for the last five years. I wanted to do some charitable work when I retired and as I got to know RBG better, particularly the work we do with children's programs, I became more and more engaged.

I'm a social person and RBG provides a variety of volunteer opportunities, from helping visitors at the information desk to working as a gardener. It's therapeutic both mentally and physically and I get a lot of satisfaction when I see the excitement on people's faces as they get to experience the gardens and enjoy the outdoors.



I was fortunate to be able to approach CN, my former employer, and share with them the work Royal Botanical Gardens does to expose kids to nature and to improve their quality of life through that experience. They were so impressed with the impact the Gardens have on children they took the incredible step of becoming donors themselves.

Like any charitable organization, Royal Botanical Gardens is always looking for support. Having a corporate partner like CN allows RBG to keep supporting programs like the **Green Angels Fund** so that children across the community, regardless of their financial situation, have an opportunity to experience nature in their own backyards.

RESEARCH



Royal Botanical Gardens continues to gather information on the population status of various provincially and federally listed rare species. Our studies focused on a variety of turtle species including Blanding's Turtle and Snapping Turtle. In 2013, an overall strategy to recover turtle populations in and around Royal Botanical Gardens was completed along with proposed recommendations that will affect all adjacent landowners as turtles often leave our property to reach their nesting sites.

A cross-section of monitoring programs was also undertaken to gauge overall ecosystem health and update historical data. The results showed that the conservation properties continue to face challenges due to long standing water and air pollution issues, and the dominance of several naturalized European and Asian species. On the positive side, water quality was measurably improved, wetland plants undertook a dramatic expansion and fish populations grew by 60% from the low of the previous year.

While numerous species were encountered within the various monitoring programs, the highlight of the year was the successful hatching of two Bald Eagles, the first recorded in decades.



Dr. David Galbraith
Head of Science, Royal Botanical Gardens
Favourite Space: Princess Point

“Members, donors and volunteers are crucial to what we do in the science department. Our scientific work is supported largely by volunteers, in fact we have more volunteers working with us than we have staff. Our members and volunteers are not just helping us guide and steward the gardens but also the many natural resources in Hamilton and Burlington. Half of our members are members because they want to support nature sanctuaries like Cootes Paradise. It really is a wonderful contribution to the life of RBG that these folks are making whether they are working in the library, archives, the Herbarium or in the field. That support is irreplaceable.”

Planning the Way Forward

“We do everything we can to make sure people know this sanctuary exists for the betterment of all of us, our environment and our community. We encourage you to take advantage of everything RBG has to offer, but more importantly, we want you to talk about it with your friends and support it in a meaningful way so that it will always be here for everyone to enjoy. To help accomplish this we left a gift to RBG in our will.”



“We have been associated with Royal Botanical Gardens as donors, volunteers and members of The Auxiliary since retirement in 2002. RBG is a world-class institution with a lot of moving parts. The staff here work incredibly hard to maintain the diverse areas that make up the Gardens’ 2,700 acres.”

“As members of the community we felt it was our responsibility to give back after many years of enjoyment, to help the staff along, ensuring that RBG will always look its best,” says David Reed. “I’ve always enjoyed gardening, even as a young child, and my father-in-law was a volunteer here for many years before me. My wife and I wanted to carry on that family tradition.”



The Auxiliary is a group of over 300 volunteers who assist with the Gardens and special events year-round. Last year volunteers contributed just over 40,000 hours, which equates to about 22 full-time staff. That’s an incredible community contribution that ensures RBG is running at peak efficiency.

There are plenty of opportunities to get involved. Come and join us at the Gardens.

David Reed
2013 President, Auxiliary of RBG

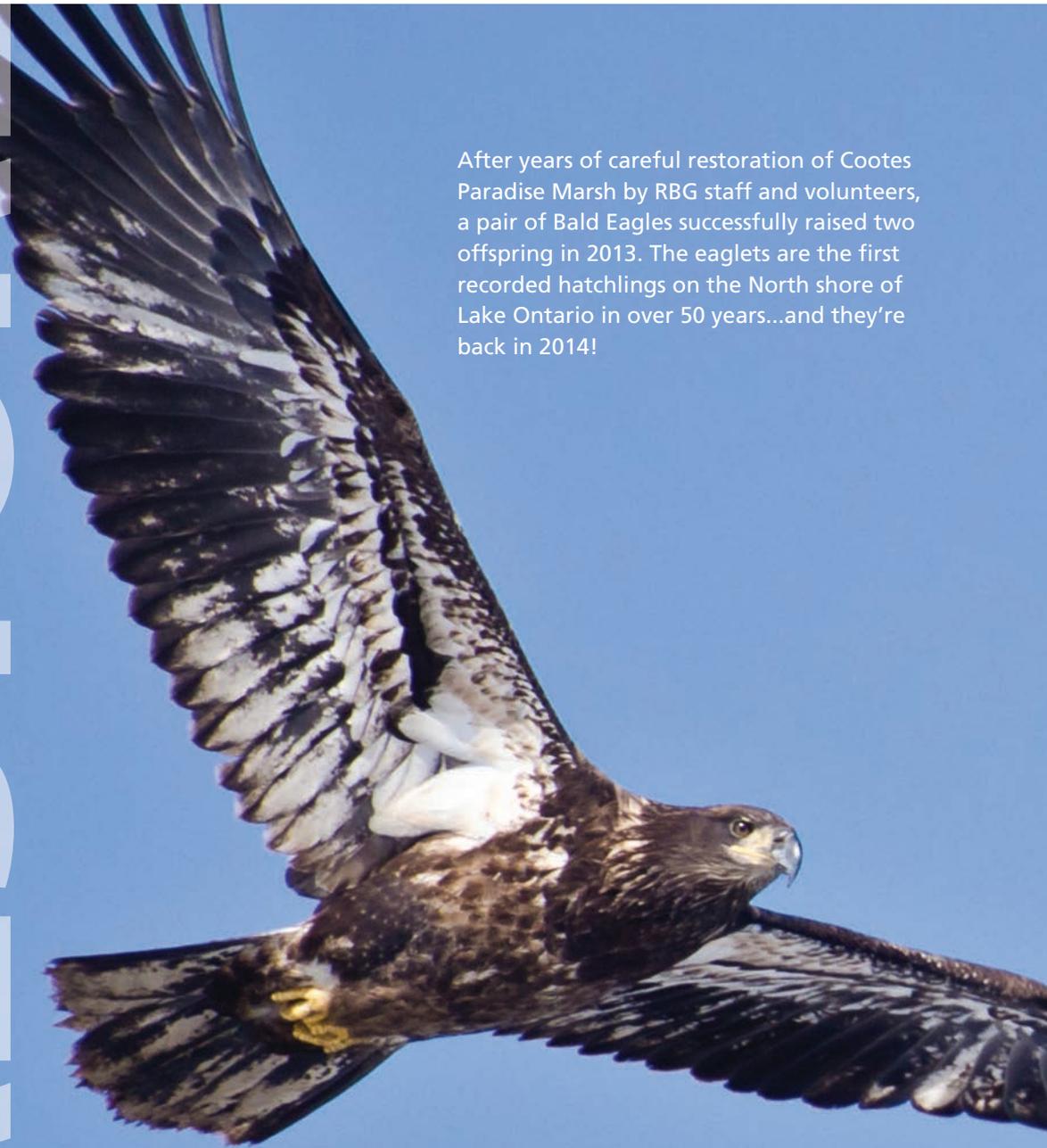
Judith Reed,
Longtime volunteer

Favourite Area:
Mediterranean Garden

my sanctuary

RESTORE

After years of careful restoration of Cootes Paradise Marsh by RBG staff and volunteers, a pair of Bald Eagles successfully raised two offspring in 2013. The eaglets are the first recorded hatchlings on the North shore of Lake Ontario in over 50 years...and they're back in 2014!





Forest, fields and wetlands are the focus of our environmental restoration programs. In the forests, for the fourth consecutive year, efforts were undertaken to remove the non-native shrubs invading native habitats on the north shore of Cootes Paradise. This included a number of volunteer events throughout the fall, and two staff employed full-time for six weeks, who removed over 10,000 shrubs. After a successful controlled burn at Princess Point in April, native prairie plant species are now thriving. Wetland plant recovery was aided by the previous year's mass removal of remaining carp. Staff and volunteers added 8,000 new reeds, while natural regeneration added well over 1,000,000 new plants.

Royal Botanical Gardens is a leading partner in the **Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System**, a unique alliance among natural land owning agencies established in 2013. The area is centred around Cootes Paradise and the important ecological corridor between the Niagara Escarpment and our wetlands. This new level of work on the alliance comes after seven years of program development and research by the participating agencies. RBG has key lands within the EcoPark System and has assumed the greatest responsibility in terms of program implementation. Partner agencies in the system acquired significant new parklands in 2013.

Building the Future on Our Memories

“When Kevin died our family made the decision to honour his memory by making a donation to Royal Botanical Gardens to help build the Marshwalk Observation Platform. Kevin traveled the world but he always said that RBG – the hiking trails around here – were as beautiful and as delicious to look at as any places he’d ever been.”

The natural lands of Royal Botanical Gardens are so magnificent, yet different in every season. This place is an absolute paradise and we came to look at all the changes that take place every few months as a reflection of the seasons and the changes of life.

For us the Marshwalk was a particularly joyful spot. We felt such a sense of belonging and love here. As a family we felt that the observation platform, with its all encompassing view and its long walk to the water’s edge, would be the most beautiful way to remember Kevin and honour his memory.

This donation was personal and reflected who we are as a family, but it was also important to us as members of this community. We wanted the world to know and appreciate what a magnificent gift we have in Royal Botanical Gardens. The sharing and stewardship of these magnificent resources enriches us all.

I am proud of this gift as it will pass on the love we have for the natural environment to our children and grandchildren. When they come and see their names on this plaque, they will see they are a part of something much bigger, and can learn how to balance progress and preservation.



I would encourage every family who has the opportunity to share their resources with the community to consider Royal Botanical Gardens in their gift planning. Our gifts help to preserve this amazing environment that surrounds us while leaving a legacy for our families, a place to get away from their gadgets, their toys and electronics – a place where they can find the balance that only nature can provide.



Susan Goodman
Member since 1989

Favourite Space:
The Marshwalk



The Marshwalk
Observation Platform
is dedicated in
loving memory
of Kevin Marron.

To Kevie with love always,
Chelsea, Hannah, Ruby,
Jonah and Leah

 Growing Green
Health • Education • Nature

 ROYAL
BOTANICAL
GARDENS
www.rbg.ca

my memory

THANK YOU

None of this would be possible
without all of you.

Growing Up Green Annual Campaign



\$100,000 AND MORE: Anonymous **\$25,000 - \$49,999:** Anonymous
\$5,000 - \$9,999: Catalpa Enterprises Ltd. * Mr. Floyd Elder

\$1,000 - \$4,999: James N. Allan Family Foundation * Bay Gardens Funeral Home * Mrs. Janet Bryers
* Ms. Leslie Bullock * Mr. W. Frank Carpenter * Mrs. Jean Crowe & Mr. Cameron Crowe * Dr. Martin Daly
& Ms. Gretchen Perry * Estate of Doris Elisabeth Langille * Mr. John Evans, QC & Mrs. Patricia Peacock-Evans
* Mr. Douglas A. Flett * Gilmour Fund * K.N. Crowder Mfg. Inc. * Mr. J.D. Ketcheson & Mrs. M.L. Ketcheson
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Mrs. Margaret Morison * Scotch Tasting Event, 2013 * W. Robert & Marion S. Shivas Conservation Trust Fund *
Glen & Deb Swire Fund * Mr. John Thode * Mr. Thomas Van Zuiden & Mrs. Jane Van Zuiden * Mrs. Brenda Yates &

Mr. Terry Yates * Anonymous (1) **\$100 - \$999:** Mr. Arthur Adams & Mrs. Sonua Adams * Adventure Attic * Mr. Oktay Aksan
& Mrs. Virginia Aksan * Ms. Susan Alcock * Mr. Stewart Aldgate * Ms. Chris Allan * Mrs. Rita Altman & Mr. Michael Altman
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Bowlby & Mrs. Helen Bowlby * Mr.
Mr. William Brehm * Ms. Janette
Mark Brett & Ms. Kathleen Denomy
M. Broker * Dr. I. David Brown *
Buckley & Mrs. Irene Buckley * Mr.
& Mrs. Margaret Butler * Ms. Joyce

30,000
children took part
in RBG programs

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Bob Carr & Mrs. Maggie Carr * Mrs. Fran Cheyne * Miss Nancy Chiarot * CN Employees' and Pensioners' Community Fund *
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Health Sciences Transfusion Medical Staff * Mr. Alan Harding * Mrs. Alix Hargreave * Mr. G. M. Harper & Mrs. Pamela Harper

Growing Up Green Annual Campaign *(continued)*

\$100 - \$999:

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18
species
conserved

“ We’ve been involved with Royal Botanical Gardens since we opened our doors in Aldershot. In 2013 Bay Gardens co-hosted an event that raised funds for the Growing Up Green Program. It’s necessary to educate children on the importance of conservation and sustainability of green spaces. We believe in RBG’s belief, “less screen time, more green time,” because we know that from a holistic perspective in the world of healing nature is important for all of us. The program encompasses award winning educational programs across the 2,700 acres of the Gardens.

Nature offers us ways of being that we don’t get from any other element in our lives. It reinvigorates all of our senses and reminds us what it means to be alive. ”

*Laura Markey
Bay Gardens Funeral Cremation
and Memorial Centre*

Ian Brisbin
Board chair and donor

Favourite Space: Nature Trails

“
We benefit from the foresight of those who came before us, those who set aside these lands and protected them from development. They gave us not only beautiful cultivated gardens but also natural lands that are home to so many animals and plants. They have allowed us to study, conduct scientific research and tell the story of how the nature that surrounds us touches us every single day.

We are profoundly grateful to all of our volunteers, our donors, our over 15,000 members and our hard working staff for all that they do to maintain this legacy and preserve it for the next generation.”



GREEN ANGELS FOUNDING MEMBERS: Mr. Cliff Carson & Mrs. Toni Carson
* CN Employees' and Pensioners' Community Fund * Mr. Gordon Albini & Mrs. Heather Albini * Darlene Bennett-Howes * Dr. Robert Buie & Mrs. Edith Buie * Mr. Mark Cullen * Mrs. Joan Holenstein * Dr. Earl Isbister & Mrs. Patricia Isbister * Mrs. Susan Robinson * Mr. George Simpson & Mrs. Mary Ann Simpson * Anonymous

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2
eaglets
hatched

Tribute Giving

IN COMMEMORATION OF: Charles Kirk & Liz Voogjarv 25th Wedding Anniversary * Noah James William Prodger * Sharon & Larry Travers 40th Anniversary * **IN HONOUR OF:** Audrey Carman * Doug Marrs 100th Birthday * Elizabeth Coons * Helen Sluis * Ian Fox * John Vice * Lois Crew * Peter Martindale * Roberta Vaughan * Bourbonniere Family * Wayne Cruickshanks * **IN MEMORY OF:** Allan Brash * Anna Scammell * Archie Leduc * Arthur Schalck * Austra Sakss * Beth Laing * Betty Howard * Chris Graham * Doreen Davis * Doreen Francis * Dr. Elizabeth Jarvis * Edel Fraser * Elizabeth "Betty" Howard * Elizabeth Howard * Elizabeth Jarvis * Elizabeth Mannis * George Drennan * George Truman * George Varga * Gord Sloan * Grace Gregory * Grace Lillian Gregory * Helen Mirrlees * Helen Story Dillon * Irene Helen Lyons * Irene Lyons * Jack & Marion Fair * James Buckley * John Allan * John Cairns * John O'Connor * Karen Lynn Krueger * Kevin Marron * Lareen (Olive) Rutty * Lena Nolan * Leslie Davis * Linda Smith * Margaret Sclater * Marie Missler * Martha Shepherd * Mary Locke * Mavis Harrison * Merle Caldwell * Molly Eastman * Neville Platt * Norman Sluis * Pat Knos * Ray & Irene Carpenter & Carolyn Reddon * Rena Smith * Ron Hepworth * Sandy Poole * Stella Evans * Suzanne Reynolds * Teresa Leahy * Veronika Reiser * Wendell Lewis William (Bill) Renwick * Yoshie Kobayashi * Zvonko Folvarko * **TRIBUTE BENCHES:** Ronald Danks * Marion Fair * Anna Kalbfleisch * Vida & Joseph Payk * **TRIBUTE TREES:** Patrick Lawrence Carroll * Sarah Jean Casey * Mr. & Mrs. Conwell * Linda Lazier * Joshua John Organ * Hadi & Niloufer Saeed * Bob & Mary Senior

Bequests

Philip Savile Dodd * Estate of Beryl J. Haviland * Estate of Jean McEwen Hurst * Estate of Winifred Smith * Estate of Elinor Marguerite Smith * Estate of Winifred Smith * Estate of Violet Williams

Corporate, Foundation And Organization Support

\$100,000 AND MORE: Canadian Heritage * Environment Canada * Hamilton Spectator * National Fish and Wildlife Foundation * Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund * TD Friends of the Environment Foundation * **\$75,000 - \$99,999:** CHCH TV * Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport * **\$50,000 - \$74,999:** Ministry of Natural Resources * Pattison Outdoor * Pioneer Energy * **\$20,000 - \$49,999:** ArcelorMittal Dofasco * City of Hamilton Environmental Laboratory * Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan Office * Ministry of the Environment * Natural Resources Canada * Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada * Service Canada * YMCA of Hamilton/Burlington/Brantford * **\$10,000 - \$19,999:** Bay Area Restoration Council * Canadian Museums Association * Employment Hamilton * Esso Gas Station * The John and Pat Charitable Foundation * The Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation * The incite Foundation for the Arts * Town Media * **\$5,000 - \$9,999:** Image Honda * J.P. Bickell Foundation * Queenston Chevrolet on Centennial * Union Gas Limited * **\$1,000 - \$4,999:** Aviva Insurance Company Canada * Garant * The Malloch Foundation * Maritime Travel Inc. * Samuel W. Stedman Foundation * Stantec Consulting Ltd. * StoneRidge Insurance Brokers

Member Organizations

Ajax Garden Club * Ancaster Horticultural Society * Brampton Horticultural Society * Christian Horizons - Hamilton House 1 * Community Living Burlington - Daryl House * Community Living Haldimand * Community Living Hamilton * Community Living Mississauga * Credit Valley Horticultural Society * Garden Club Of London * Grey County Garden Club * Grimsby Garden Club * Guelph Horticultural Society * Haldimand Horticultural Society * Hamilton & District Chrysanthemum & Dahlia Society * Hamilton Burlington Rose Society * Ikenobo Ikebana Society of Hamilton * Inasmuch House Shelter * Ira McDonald Construction Ltd. * John Bak * Kincardine & District Horticultural Society * Kitchener Horticultural Society * London Horticultural Society * Lynden Horticultural Society * Mohawk College - Horticulture * Oasis Burlington * Ontario Regional Lily Society * Paris Horticultural Society * Pathfinders Hiking Group of Oakville * Queen's Garden * Retired Teachers Pole Walkers * School Sisters of Notre Dame * Sisters of St. Joseph of Hamilton * St. George Garden Club * Stoney Creek Garden Club & Horticultural Society * Sunrise Senior Living * The Garden Club of Hamilton * Therapeutic Recreation * Thorndale & Area Horticultural Society * Tillsonburg Horticultural Society * Turkstra Lumber Company Ltd. * WEC International * Welland Horticultural Society



Rock Garden Rejuvenation Project

The largest project RBG has ever undertaken is now underway with the rejuvenation of the iconic Rock Garden.

The passion and vision of RBG's founders saw its first expression in the Rock Garden. But time is not kind to gardens and the world today is not the same world experienced by visitors to the Rock Garden in its 80 year history. New visitors need to be attracted and past visitors need new reasons to return. We have heard and we are responding.

The \$20 million project will transform the Rock Garden into a year-round tourist destination and corporate facility, resulting in economic growth to the Golden Horseshoe region. Highlights of the project include a new year-round visitor centre and entrance, increasing presence on York Boulevard, significant additions to horticultural displays and major upgrades in infrastructure and accessibility.

80 years of memories is just the beginning. Help us rejuvenate the Rock Garden as one of the most cherished and attended venues in the Golden Horseshoe region. Your support helps Royal Botanical Gardens create memories and enrich the lives of future generations.

Royal Botanical Gardens is grateful for the commitment made to this project by friends David Braley and Nancy Gordon, who will match all community donations up to \$2 million. With your support, RBG will raise the final \$6 million needed to complete this rejuvenation!

RBG's signature garden is scheduled to re-open in the spring of 2015 and we hope you will join us to celebrate!

To make a donation please contact our development office at jbattista@rbg.ca or 905-527-1158 ext. 229.



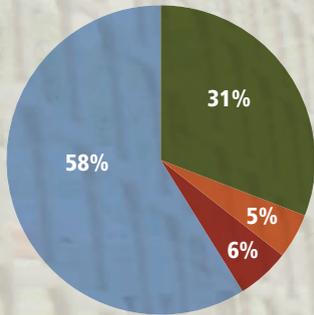
“
Mark Cullen
Donor

Favourite Spaces: Rose Garden,
Laking Garden, Rock Garden

Royal Botanical Gardens is a national treasure. All Canadians, especially those of us fortunate enough to live nearby, have an enormous opportunity to be inspired by it.

It was a privilege to be asked to address the attendees of the 2012 AGM and giving back my fee to make a founding donation to the Green Angels Fund was a no brainer. The fund provides access to a wonderful place which can provide inspiration and wonder for a young visitor. At the very least it is an opportunity for a new generation to experience the out of doors in a context that is unequalled anywhere, especially on a computer or in a video game.

Financials 2013



REVENUE

- Province of Ontario: \$4,040,040
- City of Hamilton: \$599,206
- Regional Municipality of Halton: \$714,198
- Self generated: \$7,629,016

EXPENSES

- Mandated activities: \$4,411,604
- Operations Activities: \$8,525,131



A Foundation of Fun

2013 saw the official opening of the Natural Playground at RBG Centre thanks to a generous donation from the Auxiliary of RBG. The Playground was created as an outdoor play area that supports gross and fine-motor skill development, imaginative cooperative play, multi-sensory experiential learning and good old-fashioned fun.



*2014 Holiday Traditions.
Join us November to January
for more trains and a new
Santa's Workshop!*



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