

DEVELOPMENT

People continue to make the difference.

Personal contributions to our annual appeal, generous donations added to membership renewals, and gifts made through our tribute and memorial program provide much needed on-going support. Sponsorship, foundation support, grants and awards enabled us to carry out specific environmental work and expand our capacity as a tourist destination.

We introduced the Laking Sustaining Society, a planned giving program designed to sustain the Gardens for future generations.

"We are proud of the crucial steps we've taken in 2008 to ensure that RBG continues to be a vibrant part of the community, a beacon of scientific study and an agent of environmental change."

Terry Yates, Board Chair
Mark Runciman, CEO

For a complete annual report, visit More About RBG at www.rbg.ca.



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Charitable Registration: 13350 0850 RR0001

Royal Botanical Gardens is a proud member of: Imagine Canada Ethical Code

AUXILIARY

The Auxiliary has supported RBG with volunteer activities and donations for nearly half a century. Among this year's highlights:

- 400 active volunteers
- 47,000 volunteer hours served in 43 areas that support RBG's mandated activities
- 86 volunteers sorted and documented 14,780 plants and planted Helen M. Kippax Garden
- \$75,000 donated to fund an elevator in the Camilla and Peter Dalglish Atrium

EDUCATION

Research has shown that significant exposure to the natural world is needed for healthy childhood development. Connecting kids with nature is what our education department is all about, and in 2008 we celebrated 40 years of outdoor education at our Nature Interpretive Centre. Our autumn Back to Nature workshop brought together close to 40 organizations interested in working with us to combat "nature-deficit disorder" in children.

216,729 paid visitors
plus 250,000 people used
the trails and natural lands in 2008
11,752 members

FINANCES

REVENUE	2008	2007
Operating Grants		
Province of Ontario - Ministry of Culture	\$1,912,460	\$1,911,997
City of Hamilton	580,930	575,525
Regional Municipality of Halton	648,952	630,053
Transition Funding	2,845,000	1,655,000
	5,987,342	4,772,575

Amortization of deferred capital contributions	1,037,642	926,125
Amortization of self-funded capital assets	168,637	116,647
Investment income	45,838	59,998
Admissions, marketing and visitor experience	1,768,177	1,756,224
Donation from Auxiliary of Royal Botanical Gardens*	-	50,000
Development – donations**	262,995	457,636
Membership fees	430,004	363,469
Mandated activities	1,544,885	1,350,936
Other fees	59,235	53,750
	5,317,413	5,134,785
	11,304,755	9,907,360

EXPENSES	2008	2007
Operations and maintenance		
Buildings and equipment	1,329,115	1,403,212
Amortization of capital assets	1,206,279	1,042,772
	2,535,394	2,445,984

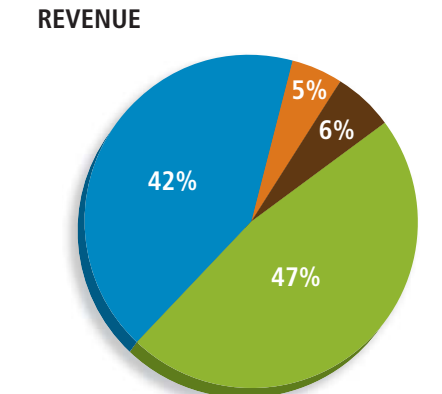
Mandated activities		
Horticulture – gardens, parklands and collections	1,825,563	1,639,281
Conservation and environmental programs	835,883	433,748
Scientific and research programs	223,692	172,348
Education programs	1,036,463	929,522
	3,921,601	3,174,899

Administration	1,431,099	1,283,853
Development fundraising	338,204	371,339
Membership services	68,578	69,005
Admissions, marketing and visitor experience	2,931,502	2,492,326
	4,769,383	4,216,523

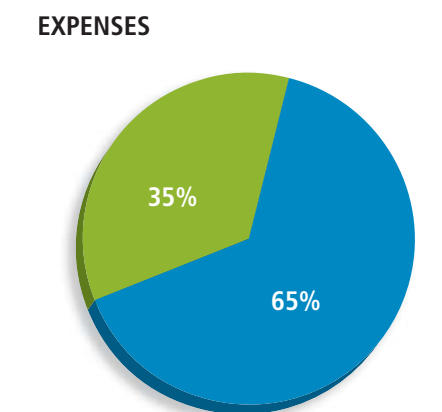
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR	\$78,377	\$69,954
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* Auxiliary of RBG – A donation of \$75,000 towards capital construction costs was received in 2008, and recorded as a Deferred Operating Contribution on the Statement of Financial Position, to be used in 2009.

** This does not include endowment, capital funds nor grants applied to administration or mandated activities.



Province of Ontario	\$ 4,757,460
City of Hamilton	\$ 580,930
Regional Municipality of Halton	\$ 648,952
Self-generated	\$ 5,317,413



Mandated Activities	\$ 3,921,601
Operations Activities	\$ 7,304,777

ANNUAL REPORT 2008



Year of Rejuvenation

In 2008, we opened the Helen M. Kippax Garden, completed the Camilla and Peter Dalglish Atrium and made significant improvements to Hendrie Park.



MISSION:
To be a living museum which serves local, regional and global communities while developing and promoting public understanding between the plant world, humanity and the rest of nature.

VISION: Royal Botanical Gardens to be recognized and supported as Canada's most effective change agent in promoting environmentally appropriate lifestyle choices that enable Canadians to sustain, conserve and enjoy the highest quality of life on Earth.



Mary Stedman opens Helen M. Kippax Garden.

HORTICULTURE

- New Helen M. Kippax Garden heralds change in garden philosophy from a garden of collections to a collection of sustainable gardens.
- Belinda Gallagher, former board member and local business leader, named new head of horticulture.



CONSERVATION

- Through improvements under Project Paradise (in its 17th year of restoring Cootes Paradise Marsh), we have seen the reemergence of species thought long-lost to the area. In fact, we are home to more than 50 listed rare species.
- The Fishway spawning runs surged to more than 28,000 native fish, with several species noticeably increased, including the bigmouth buffalo (*Ictiobus cyanellus*), various bass species and bowfin (*Amia calva*).
- Yellow perch (*Perca flavescens*), a keystone species, had excellent reproductive success with more than 1 million perch produced.
- The gray tree frog (*Hyla versicolor*) reestablished a long-lost population in the Hendrie Valley Sanctuary.
- For the first time in memory, bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) spent the entire summer in Cootes Paradise and have constructed a nest there in early 2009.



RBG is home to the largest Canadian population of red mulberry (*Morus rubra* – Endangered) with about 150 trees present. The principle threat to the mulberry is hybridization with the introduced Asian white mulberry.

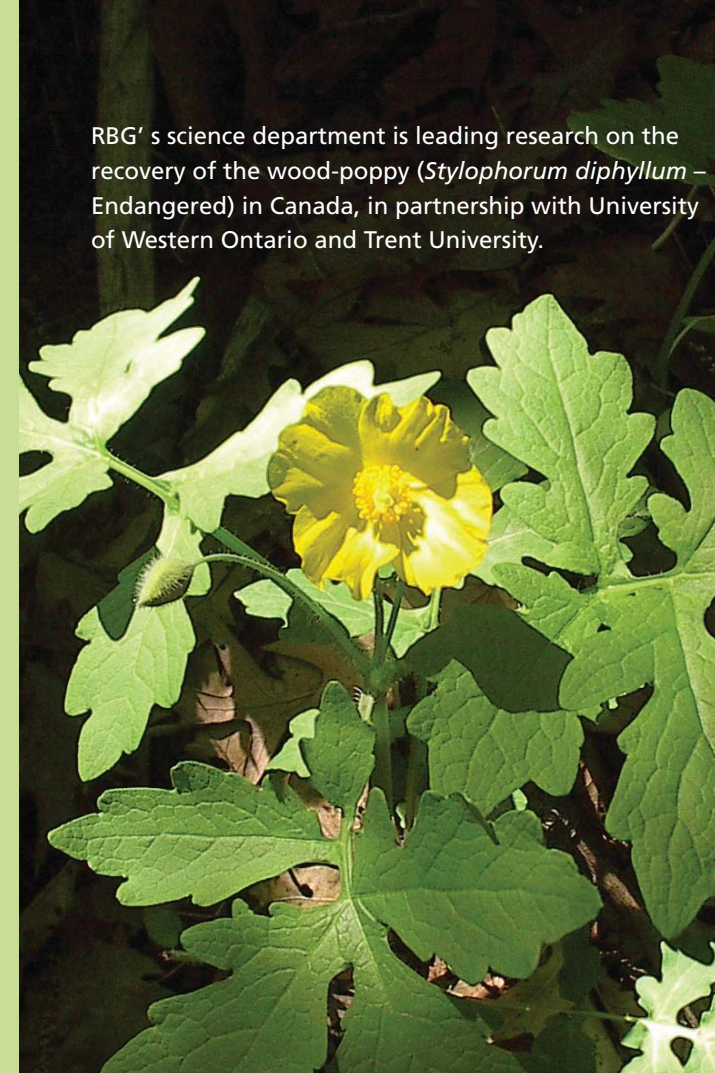


Turtles listed as species-at-risk continue to show signs of population decline although establishing accurate population estimates is difficult given the low numbers. Painted turtles on the other hand have turned the corner and are increasing.



Visitors at RBG's first annual Earth Art exhibition: The Gardens is fast becoming an international art destination.

RBG's science department is leading research on the recovery of the wood-poppy (*Stylophorum diphyllum* – Endangered) in Canada, in partnership with University of Western Ontario and Trent University.



SCIENCE

Around the world, people are linking well-being, livelihoods and biodiversity. Royal Botanical Gardens' scientific program, started over 60 years ago, was refocused in 2008 on sustainability and the **Canadian Institute for Sustainable Biodiversity (CISB)** was launched.

Our scientific work is increasingly being directed at providing Canadians with leading-edge, practical, science-based solutions to enhance human well-being, combat the effects of climate change and protect the biodiversity that sustains us.

As Canada's largest botanical garden and biodiversity hot spot we have both extraordinary assets and responsibilities. We must continue to expand our philanthropic support to sustain and expand our work as a leading environmental, charitable organization and major provincial tourist attraction.

I want to help Protect Paradise

Enclosed is my one-time gift* of:

- \$20 \$50 \$250
 \$1,000 \$5,000 Other \$

*A tax receipt is issued for all gifts

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ PROV. _____ POSTAL CODE _____

PHONE _____

I'd like to receive eRBG, the Gardens' online newsletter

EMAIL _____

Gift total: \$ _____

I've enclosed a cheque payable to Royal Botanical Gardens

Please charge my credit card:

VISA American Express MasterCard

CARD # _____

EXPIRY DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____

Mail completed form with payment to:
 Development Department, Royal Botanical Gardens
 P.O. Box 399, Hamilton ON L8N 3H8

Online donation available at www.rbg.ca

Charitable Registration: 13350 0850 RR0001

