



DEVELOPMENT

People continue to make the difference.

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

Major projects in 2009 included the grand opening of the Camilla and Peter Dalglish Atrium, the installation of Stedman Exploration Hall in RBG Centre and a major (and ongoing) fundraising drive in support of the new Aldershot Escarpment Garden.

Reflecting pools in Hendrie Park

"Despite the global economic downturn, Royal Botanical Gardens managed to attract nearly 1,000 new members and was able to maintain attendance equal to the year before. We not only weathered the storm, we managed to grow in difficult times."

Kathy Graham, Board Chair
Mark Runciman, CEO

For a complete annual report, visit rbg.ca



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



Big crowds at Backyard Monsters

EDUCATION

EXPAND: Backyard Monsters, our first large-scale travelling exhibition, brought in nearly 30,000 visitors to RBG from February to April, a 223 per cent spike in attendance over the same period the year before.

ADVOCATE: Led the charge to introduce children to nature in a significant way through innovative strategies laid out in the *Back to Nature* report — a visionary document produced with the support and input of more than 30 stakeholders.

CONNECT: In 2009, almost 50,000 people took part in close to 1,600 courses, programs, presentations and learning activities offered by our education staff.



Back to nature in Cootes Paradise (Photo Sue Perrin)

AUXILIARY

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

- 328 active volunteers
- 44,871 volunteer hours served in support of RBG's mandated activities
- Made a gift of \$28,000 to the horticulture department to purchase a computerized botanical labeling machine



RBG, a family friendly experience
(Photo Barbara Philips)

216,023 paid visitors
plus 250,000 people used the trails and natural lands in 2009
12,565 members

FINANCES

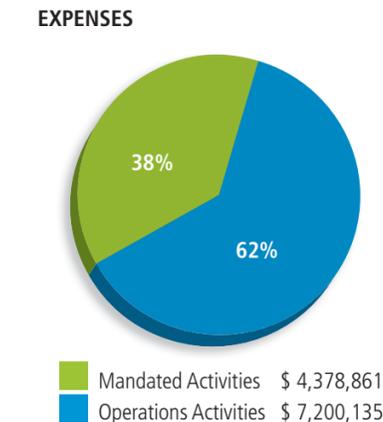
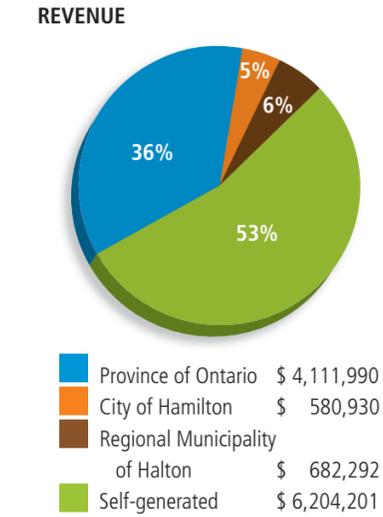
REVENUE	2009	2008
Operating Grants		
Province of Ontario – Ministry of Culture	\$ 4,111,990	\$ 1,912,460
City of Hamilton	580,930	580,930
Regional Municipality of Halton	682,292	648,952
Transition Funding	-	2,845,000
Transformation Funding	102,700	-
	<u>5,477,912</u>	<u>5,987,342</u>
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	1,044,263	1,037,642
Amortization of self-funded capital assets	227,550	168,637
Investment income	56,425	45,838
Admissions, marketing and visitor experience	1,687,201	1,768,177
Donation from Auxiliary of Royal Botanical Gardens*	-	-
Development – donations**	645,696	262,995
Membership fees	540,446	430,004
Mandated activities	1,878,455	1,544,885
Other fees	21,465	59,235
	<u>6,101,501</u>	<u>5,317,413</u>
	11,579,413	11,304,755

EXPENSES	2009	2008
Operations and maintenance		
Buildings and equipment	1,447,316	1,329,115
Amortization of capital assets	1,271,813	1,206,279
	<u>2,719,129</u>	<u>2,535,394</u>
Mandated activities		
Horticulture – gardens, parklands and sanctuaries	2,139,138	1,825,563
Conservation and environmental programs	719,679	835,883
Scientific and research programs	241,025	223,692
Education programs	1,279,019	1,036,463
	<u>4,378,861</u>	<u>3,921,601</u>
Administration	1,586,497	1,431,099
Development fundraising	338,183	338,204
Membership services	129,269	68,578
Admissions, marketing and visitor experience	2,427,057	2,931,502
	<u>4,481,006</u>	<u>4,769,383</u>

EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR **\$ 417** **\$ 78,377**

* Auxiliary of RBG: A donation of \$75,000 towards capital construction was received and used in 2009 along with a \$75,000 donation received in 2008. As well, in 2009 the Auxiliary donated an engraving machine worth \$26,761.

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



ANNUAL REPORT 2009

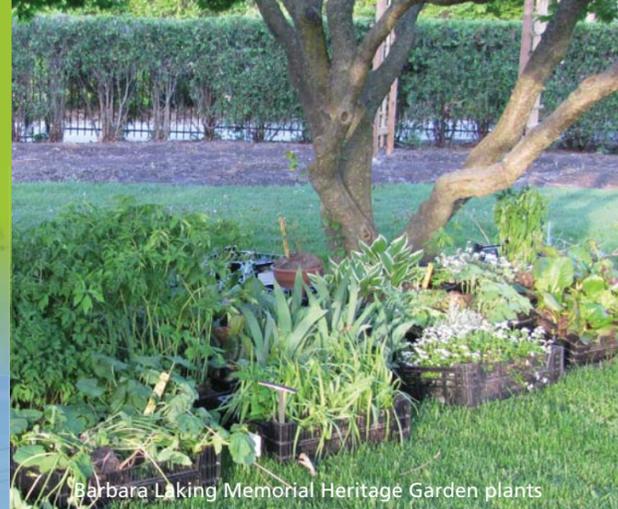
Year of Sustainability

In 2009 Royal Botanical Gardens embraced sustainability as a key theme in the major projects undertaken and in the long-term financial health of the organization.



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.



Barbara Laking Memorial Heritage Garden plants

HORTICULTURE

CREATE: New sustainability driven display garden — No MOW! No BLOW! No H₂O!

ENGAGE: New and renewed relationships with specialist societies including International Lilac Society, Ontario Regional Lily Society, Orchid Society of RBG, Master Gardeners of Ontario and the Ontario Horticultural Association.

REVITALIZE: Began three-year project on lilac and synoptic collections; completed renovation of Barbara Laking Memorial Heritage Garden.

OUTREACH: Biodiversity display at ROM; garden display at Successful Gardening Show; hosted Garden Writers; made more than 40 presentations to external groups on horticulture topics.



CONSERVATION

REBUILD: Reconstructed two major boardwalks (Marsh and Sycamore) and upgraded several bridges.

RESEARCH: Radio tracking of two rare turtle species — Blanding's and map — showed seasonal movements at nesting and hibernation, but otherwise restricted their summer activities to half a kilometre.

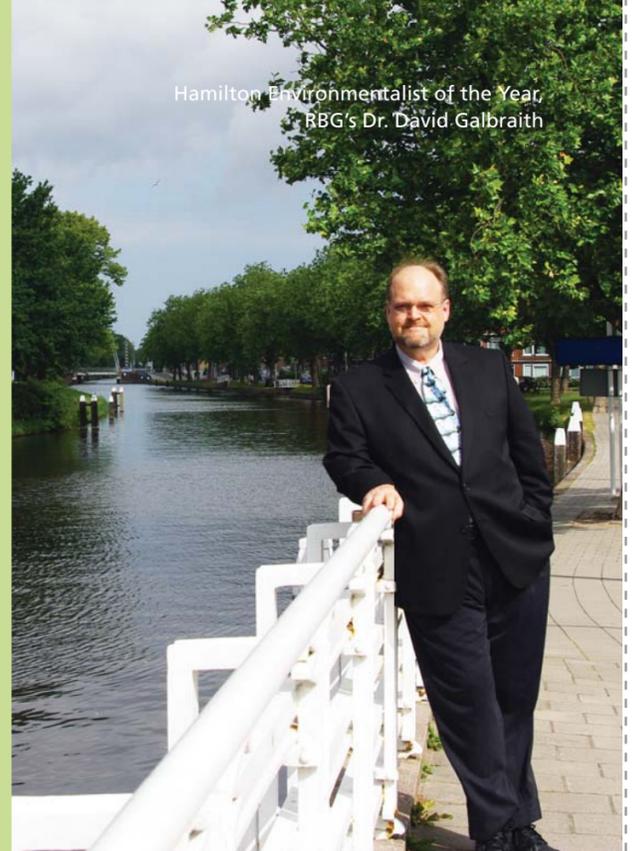
RESTORE: Project Paradise — the restoration of the wetland habitats — was challenged by high water and flooding. Despite difficult conditions, thousands of new plants were added to Cootes Paradise Marsh.

Endangered Blanding's turtle

Cootes to Escarpment Park System: A Conservation Vision

OCTOBER 2009

Cootes to Escarpment: 3,700 acres of potential parkland



SCIENCE

PRESERVE: RBG took a pivotal lead in the Cootes to Escarpment project, identifying 3,700 acres of natural lands in the area that could be linked together into a major park system.

INVESTIGATE: Undertook rare plant germination research; Dr. Jim Pringle, plant taxonomist at RBG, named six new plant species; the department organized a major national symposium Living Plants; Liveable Communities delivered in early 2010.

CELEBRATE: Dr. David Galbraith, head of science at RBG, named Hamilton environmentalist of the year for 2009.

As Canada's largest botanical garden and biodiversity hotspot 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

