

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

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 born on the 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 the 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.

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We look forward to seeing you in 2014.

Mark Runciman, CEO, Royal Botanical Gardens



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 the Canadian Iris and Peony Societies 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 more attention than ever in 2013. Thanks to a pair of lilac-specific donations the entire collection was pruned, the lilac walk was redone, over 90 holes were filled with new plants, 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 environmental educator John Lamoreux. A grant from the U.S. National Fish and Wildlife Program helped us to begin the inventory of common reed (*Phragmities australis*), invading the wetlands and initiate a management strategy. By the end of 2013,

85 Patches had been catalogued.





Forest understory 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 Lake Ontario since the decline of Bald Eagles occurred 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 Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) tanks, resulting in year over year improvements in health.



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 customer programs to enhance 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 partners 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 encourage children to play outdoors. In the fall of 2013 we launched the Ontario Children's Outdoor Charter in partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources and over 80 other organizations across the province. It focuses on influencing municipalities to create nature areas for children within walking distance of their homes through naturalized school yards and pocket parks. The initiative also encourages healthcare professionals to incorporate naturalized spaces for healing both mental and physical illness.

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.

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 graciously 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

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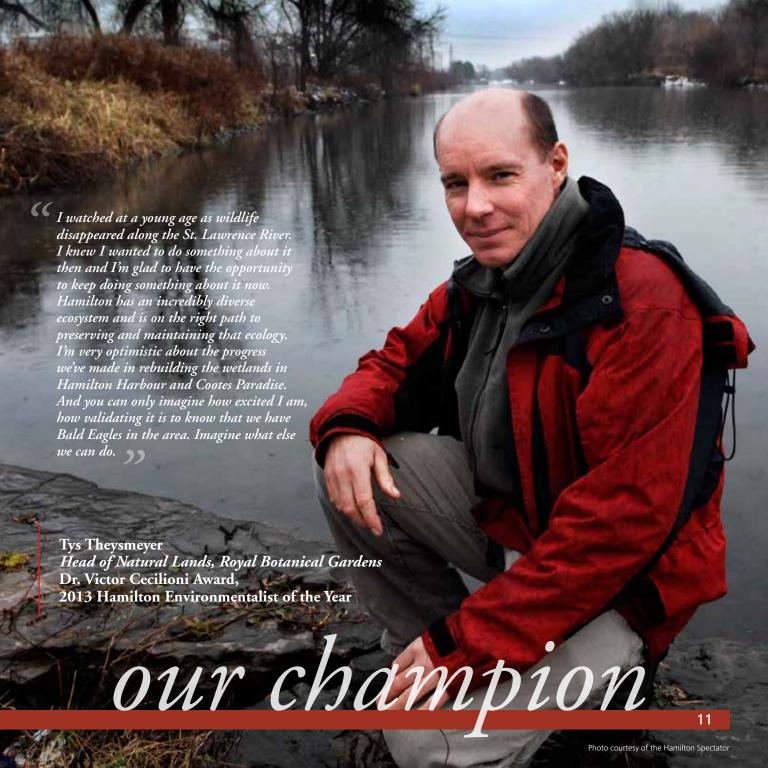
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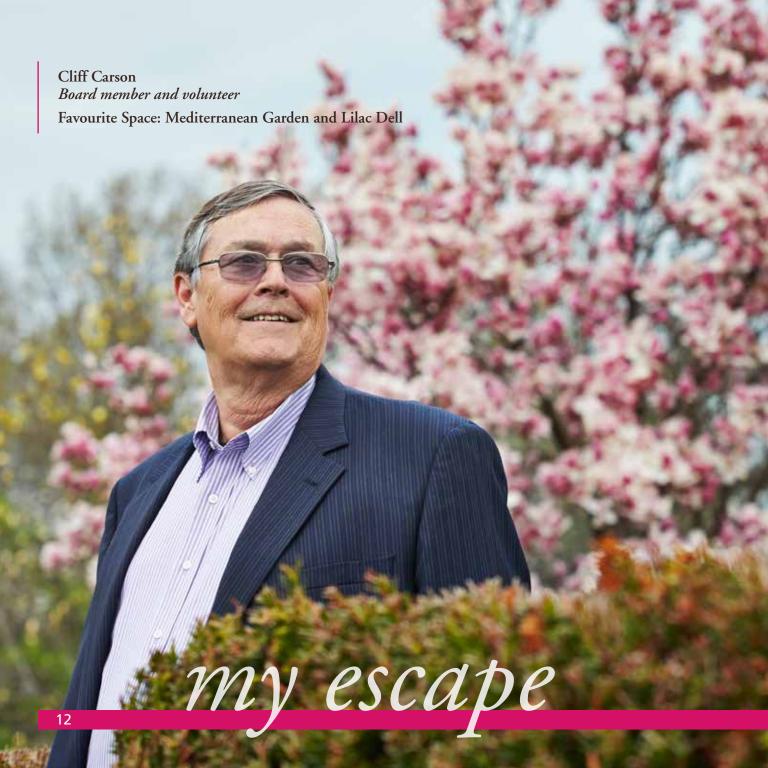
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Gardens for Every Generation

"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.



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 and Snapping. 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 the 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 Eurasian 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 Eaglets, the first recorded in decades.



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 volunteer 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.







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 the 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 Observatory. 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.



THANK YOU

None of this would be possible without all of you.

Growing Up Green Annual Campaign



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30,000

children took part in RBG programs

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Growing Up Green Annual Campaign (continued)

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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 In 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 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 Mena 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 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 Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund
\$75,000 - \$99,999: CHCHTV Ministry of Tourism, Culture & Sport \$50,000 - \$74,999: Pattison Outdoor Pioneer Energy TD Bank Group
\$20,000 - \$49,999: ArcelorMittal Dofasco Environment Canada - HSP Ministry of the Environment National Fish and Wildlife
Foundation Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Natural Resources Canada Service Canada YMCA of Hamilton/Burlington/Brantford
\$10,000 - \$19,999: Canadian Museums Association Hamilton Sesso Gas Station The John and Pat McCutcheon Charitable Foundation
The Catherine & Maxwell Meighen Foundation Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada TD Friends of the Environment 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 Hamilton Community Foundation The Malloch Foundation
Maritime Travel Inc. Samuel W. Stedman Foundation Stantec Consulting Ltd.

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 Gorden Club Garden Club Chrysanthemum Analita Society Hamilton Burlington Rose Society Kleenobo Ikebana Society Hamilton Garden Club Chrysanthemum Analita Society Chrysanthemum Analita Society Manilton Garden Club Chrysanthemum Analita Society Chrysanthemum Analita Society Manilton Chrysanthemum Analita Society Kleenobo Ikebana Society Hamilton Chrysanthemum Analita Society Ikenobo Ikebana Society Hamilton Chrysanthemum Analita Society Ikenobo Ikebana Society Hamilton Manilton Chrysanthemum Analita Society Manilton Chrysanthemum Analita Society Manilton Chrysanthemum Analita Society Manilton Manilton Chrysanthemum Analita Society Manilton Manilton Chrysanthemum Analita Society Manilton Chrysanthemum Analita Society Manilton Chrysanthemum Analita Society Chrysanthemum Analita Soci



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 dislays 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.

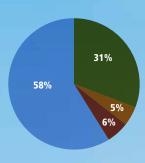
ROYAL BOTANICAL GARDENS

(A Corporation without Share Capital)

Statement Of Operations For The Year Ended December 31, 2013

	2013	2012
REVENUE		
Operating grants		
Province of Ontario - Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport	\$ 4,040,040	\$ 4,081,160
City of Hamilton	599,206	599,207
Regional Municipality of Halton	714,198	711,371
	5,353,444	5,391,738
Amortization of deferred capital contributions (note 8 & 9)	1,561,855	1,731,342
Amortization of self-funded capital assets (note 9)	24,398	70,618
Investment income (note 13)	176,620	139,156
Admissions, marketing and visitor experience (note 13)	2,319,906	1,917,796
Development - donations	803,423	695,360
Donations in-kind revenue	350,115	367,314
Membership fees	626,023	555,659
Mandated activities (note 13)	1,658,345	1,735,412
Other income	108,331	86,324
	12,982,460	12,690,719
EXPENSES		
Operations and maintenance		
Buildings and equipment	1,565,585	1,596,240
Amortization of capital assets (note 6 & 9)	1,586,253	1,801,960
Amortization of capital assets (note of & 9)	3,151,838	3,398,200
Mandated activities		
Horticulture - gardens, parklands and collections	2,002,603	2,033,695
Conservation and environmental programs	974,790	889,851
Scientific and research programs	415,912	354,726
Education programs	1,018,299	1,065,385
. 3	4,411,604	4,343,657
Administration	2,154,353	1,843,641
Development fundraising	528,463	592,153
Admissions, marketing and visitor experience	2,340,362	2,130,258
Donations in-kind expenses	350,115	367,314
	5,373,293	4,933,366
	12,936,735	12,675,223
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES FOR OPERATIONS	45,725	15,496
Change in unrealized gain on investments	437,747	150,197
EXCESS	\$ 483,472	\$ 165,693

⁽The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements)



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



RBG Facts

Royal Botanical Gardens is the largest botanical garden in Canada. RBG features within its dozens of documented collections approximately 42 living collections displayed in five major garden exhibition areas.

HISTORY

1930 – Received Royal Charter from King George V 1932 – Opened to the public 1941 – Established by an Act of the Provincial Legislature

CHARITABLE REGISTRATION

13350 0850 RR0001

VISITATION

221,468 paid visitors, school groups, conference attendees (does not include trail users)

CORE PROGRAM AREAS

Horticulture Education Natural Lands Science and Research

EMPLOYEES

Spring and summer: 86 full-time, 115 part-time Off season: 86 full-time, 16 part-time

MEMBERSHIP

7,746 memberships, representing an estimated 15,899 members

AUXILIARY VOLUNTEERS

320 volunteers provided approximately 40,000 volunteer hours

RBG SIZE

Total: 1,100 hectares
(2,700 acres or 11 square kilometres)
Cultivated Gardens:
121 hectares (250 acres)
Nature Sanctuaries:
971 hectares (2,450 acres)
Trails: 27 kilometres

HORTICULTURAL COLLECTIONS AND HIGHLIGHTS

8,000 taxa (different species and cultivars) in the permanent living collection; maintains the International Lilac Registry

Rock Garden

60,000 spring flowering bulbs; closed summer of 2013 for rejuvenation, opening 2015

Arboretum

Features over 500 species and cultivars of lilacs, as well as extensive magnolia, crabapple and cherry collections, and unusal trees and shrubs

Laking Garden

Thousands of iris and peony blooms; ornamental grasses; as well as an extensive Perennial Garden and a Heritage Garden

Hendrie Park

Noted for its collection of antique and hybrid roses in the Centennial Rose Garden, as well as Morrison Woodland, Scented and Medicinal gardens, Helen M. Kippax Garden and Veggie Village: 100 Mile Produce Gardens

Mediterranean Garden

Two-storey indoor garden featuring ethnobotanical plants from the world's five Mediterranean climates

HERBARIUM

Approximately 60, 000 plant specimens for scientific research

WILDLIFE SPECIES RECORDED AT ROYAL BOTANICAL GARDENS

Birds: 277 species Mammals: 37 species Fish: 68 species Amphibians: 9 species

Living Accessions

11,363

FACILITIES

RBG Centre

680 Plains Road West, Burlington
This administration, research and public learning
facility houses the auditorium, classrooms,
archives and herbarium, Camilla and Peter
Dalglish Atrium, Aldershot Escarpment Garden,
Stedman Exploration Hall, Mediterranean
Garden, Natural Playground,
The Gardens' Café and gift shop

Nature Interpretive Centre

Arboretum, Hamilton

children's camps

The Nature Interpretive Centre, our gateway to Cootes Paradise, features exhibits on our wetland restoration activities and is the hub of our formal education program and

Rock Garden Teahouse Turner Pavilion Teahouse

Rock Garden (closed) / Hendrie Park
Open seasonally, these areas provide visitors
with a quick lunch or snack





680 Plains Road West, Burlington, ON L7T 4H4 P.O. Box 399, Hamilton, ON L8N 3H8 905-527-1158 | 1-800-694-4769 | Fax: 905-577-0375

Charitable Registration: 13350 0850 RR0001