

2017

Donor Accountability Report



ROYAL
BOTANICAL
GARDENS



Ontario and Canada's 150th celebrations made for an exceptional year at Royal Botanical Gardens as we provided a year full of experiences, exhibitions, programming and events for all of our visitors.

None of it would have been possible without the tremendous support of our members, donors, volunteers and partners, and for that we'd like to say thank you.

Because of you ...

Children learned about the ice age and how our local landscape has evolved over time.



490 turtle hatchlings were successfully released!



Because of you ...

A full line up of events celebrated the diversity of our province and RBG's landscape and beauty.



Hundreds of disadvantaged children and families enjoyed all RBG has to offer.



You were with us all along the journey: from sculptures, performances and culinary journeys, to a signature performance by The Tenors; from work on the rejuvenation of the Centennial Rose Garden, to a new trail experience called Enji naagdowing Anishinaabe waadiziwin (The Journey to Anishinaabe Knowledge).

Even during difficult times, like the extreme flooding that impacted our Fishway, shorelines, trails and roads, you were with us and supported us in our recovery efforts.

Thank you!

A gift for the future

At 95 years old, Elizabeth Darling puts many younger people to shame: she gets around on her own, enjoys walking and does all her own cooking. She does miss her garden though, which was full of flowers, fruit trees and a beautiful Japanese maple.

Elizabeth's love of gardens comes from her mother and she remembers, in particular, the beautiful flowers and scent of the lilac bush that sat outside her mother's bedroom window when she and her three younger brothers were growing up.

Life was difficult back in the 1930s and 1940s: it was a time of war and economic depression. Gardening brought Elizabeth's mother a break from that turmoil, and she'd spend hours tending her vegetables and flowers. She particularly loved roses, and planted them all along the driveway leading up the house.

"Mom was quiet, and she had a difficult life. She eventually succumbed to cancer at 71 after a nine-year battle.

I wanted to do something nice for her so, not long ago, I revised my will to include a gift in her memory to Royal Botanical Gardens. With her love of flowers, I know she would have enjoyed the beauty that can be found there.

In fact, maybe she's getting some comfort and joy out of my gift right now wherever her spirit might be."

RBG is grateful for Elizabeth's gift in memory of her mom. She, and other donors, leave incredibly meaningful marks on RBG through their generosity.



Celebrating Canada's 150th

Visitors connected to Canada's heritage and our environment through exhibitions, educational programming and special events; discovered our beauty and history through our landscapes and unique horticultural displays; and celebrated with great concerts, art, culinary experiences and cultural programs.

Ontario 150 funding leaves a legacy of experiences for our visitors and members to enjoy for years to come and helped inspire support from an additional 15 funders, totaling \$214,000. Our dedicated staff, volunteers and the tremendous support of our core funders ensured that Royal Botanical Gardens provided memorable experiences in what perhaps has been our busiest year.

We are thankful to the Ontario 150 fund for their generous support of these projects and many others, and for helping us to make Canada's Sesquicentennial memorable.



- Over 645,000 inspired visitors
- 250 sq ft of Mastadon skeleton dominating part of the *Big Freeze* winter exhibit
- 1 unforgettable night of music provided by Canadian vocal group The Tenors
- 378,436 LEGO® bricks used to create *Nature Connects* summer exhibit.
- 30 new Canadians from 17 different nations took an oath of citizenship
- 350 lb (158.7 kg) of bronze casting used to create *Flora Hominis*, a sculpture in tribute to RBG founder, Thomas Baker McQuesten
- 800 ft of track at the new Escarpment Train Exhibit
- 3.5 kilometres of nature trail to create Enji naagdowing Anishinaabe waadiziwin, exploring plants used by the Anishinaabe peoples
- A record 10,296 attendees at Garden Music Nights concert series!
- 50,000 visitors to Holiday Traditions featuring Santa's Signature experience and the new Winter Lights at the Rock exhibition

A Signature Performance by The Tenors

It was an unforgettable night of music in a perfect setting. Canadian vocal group, The Tenors, performed in scenic Hendrie Park to celebrate Canada's 150. From the hauntingly beautiful "Hallelujah," to a rousing rendition of "Bohemian Rhapsody," The Tenors captivated their audience with a ninety minute, sunset performance.

Prior to the show, RBG hosted a VIP experience, which included dinner and an intimate performance at the new David Braley & Nancy Gordon Rock Garden. Though the threat of a storm loomed over RBG grounds during dinner, the clouds soon parted, the guests arrived, and fans at Hendrie Park were treated to a show not soon to be forgotten.

The support of our dedicated staff, volunteers, sponsors and core funders is what took this magical night to the next level, furthering RBG's legacy as the nation's quintessential landscape where arts and culture harmonize with natural beauty.



A day on the Bridge



Cootes Paradise Marsh is a special part of Royal Botanical Gardens, and there's no better view of it than from the McQuesten High Level Bridge. From that vantage point, you can look out over the Marsh toward Hamilton Harbour and all the way to the Niagara Escarpment.

The landscape that you can see from the bridge is amongst the richest biological areas in Canada. It provides habitat for a diversity of wildlife, including many rare species and species at risk of disappearing. It is also the only remaining contiguous area of habitat from Lake Ontario to the Escarpment not broken by a 400 series highway.

That's what led to the development of the Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System (C2E). Sections of land are owned by RBG, private landowners, and a handful of government and non-profit groups. The idea is to work together to ensure that the system remains in its natural state as a complete ecosystem.

Patrick Bermingham, a fourth-generation Hamiltonian, used to spend hours as a child in RBG's Rock Garden. He would climb the rocks and run around the trails and would spend many pleasant hours there with his mother, who was a volunteer. Patrick credits these experiences to his development and appreciation of nature.

After learning about C2E, Patrick came to us with an idea: would we be interested in joining he and the other partners in inviting the public to spend a day on the McQuesten High Level Bridge? The event would allow everyone to enjoy the incredible views while also raising funds to work toward conservation of the area.

We didn't hesitate to say yes and, on June 11, 2017, the Bridge was shut down from noon to 11 p.m. Over 3,000 people visited the Bridge that day, participating in daytime events and activities. The evening concluded with a gala fundraising dinner for 270 individuals. Patrick's idea was a tremendous success, raising more than \$300,000 towards land acquisition and the continued protection of the Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System.



PETER KELLY



Green Angels

The Green Angels Fund at Royal Botanical Gardens makes it possible for every child, regardless of their financial situation, to fall in love with nature. Thanks to donors like you, thousands of children have benefited from subsidized admission, family memberships, educational programming, school programming and school transportation costs.

In 2017 alone:

484 children and youth visited RBG through day passes and memberships

59 school groups, representing 2,480 children participated in our educational programming

48 children went to camp



Partners in Promoting Environmental Sustainability

Hamilton Industrial Environmental Association (HIEA) is a non-profit which represents 12 local corporations* committed to improving our local environment, including reducing their own environmental footprint. One of their strategies is to partner with the community to enhance future understanding of environmental issues.

Since 1997, HIEA has invested more than \$1,000,000 in community-based environmental education programs, which educate and empower youth to make environmental change. Not only is HIEA one of the Founding Members of RBG's Green Angels Fund, they have continued to support Green Angels programming for disadvantaged Hamilton youth over the last 5 years.

HIEA Chair John Lundrigan (General Manager, Environment ArcelorMittal Dofasco) says:

"The Green Angels outdoor education programs fit really well with our goals to connect with our community, and enhance youth understanding of environmental issues. The key point to (RBG's) program that we really appreciate is that it provides help to children who otherwise might not be able to participate and benefit from these experiences."

Community engagement is very important to HIEA. In addition to their support for Hamilton area youth environmental education, HIEA has developed a Community Advisory Panel composed of groups and individuals who meet monthly to exchange information and discuss environmental issues with HIEA members. HIEA also produces an annual report to the community and hosts an annual general meeting open to the public

Why is community engagement so important to HIEA members?

"It comes back to sustainability. We need a healthy environment. We need good social programs. And we need to achieve balance with our financial performance. We are better served to work together with our community to promote environmental sustainability, and we recognize it's also a critical component to corporate sustainability in the long run."

RBG is grateful for HIEA's support of the Green Angels Program, and so many other worthy community-based environmental education programs. We are proud to be partners in promoting environmental sustainability.

***HIEA MEMBERS**

Air Liquide, ArcelorMittal Dofasco, ArcelorMittal Hamilton East Inc., Bunge Canada, Canadian Asphalt Industries Inc., Birla Carbon, Lafarge, Sanimax, Triple M Metal LP, Stelco, Ruetgers Canada Inc., Contanda Canada Inc.





up Growing Green

Health • Education • Nature

Ruth Lee points to a particular moment in 2017 as her “aha” moment. She and a group of fellow volunteers were touring RBG with a visitor from Brooklyn Botanical Gardens. The visitor turned to her at one point and said, “Do you have any idea how lucky you are? Look at all this land right here in the middle of a city.” It was then that Ruth really understood how incredibly unique and special RBG is.

“After almost twenty years of volunteering at RBG, including sitting on the board of directors, I hadn’t really thought of RBG as a shining and unique example of an urban green space — something to be protected for my grandchildren and all future generations.”

It’s not surprising that Ruth turns that thought into action by being a donor to the Growing Up Green annual giving campaign. She knows that it means giving the children of today and tomorrow the gift of nature.

Growing up Green focuses on supporting our award-winning education programs as well as our conservation and horticulture efforts. Together, these activities improve the health of children by connecting them to the plants, nature and green spaces they need to thrive.

People like Ruth make the difference at RBG and allow us to play a vital role as environmental stewards, providing green spaces and nurturing a love for the plant world.



Royal Botanical Gardens
Les Jardins botaniques royaux
Ruth Lee
Board Chair





Volunteer

Volunteers are at the heart of everything we do at the Gardens. RBG volunteers come from all walks of life and include occasional, corporate, youth and dedicated volunteers.

**RBG was supported
by 1,117 volunteers
in 2017**

**Volunteers
contributed
47,034 hours of
their time**

**21 different
languages are
spoken by
RBG volunteers**

Tara Nolan is just one of those volunteers with mighty impact. As a well-known garden writer, she was naturally drawn to RBG when she moved to Dundas a few years ago.

Tara started by helping out in our greenhouses. She really loved those mornings once a week when she could put away her phone, close her laptop and just focus on the smells of the plants and fresh soil for a few hours.

With a busy writing career, Tara has appreciated the flexibility she has in the volunteer jobs she chooses to do. She's done everything from helping out at the kiosk when the new Rock Garden opened, to planning and running the social media for RBG's first Plant Faire in 2017.

"RBG is a real treasure and one of the things that astounds me is the amount of land that it has. And it's not just gardens, it's also all the natural land that's been acquired over the years. When we first moved, my husband and I would be hiking and think that we were on the Bruce Trail, or some other conservation lands, but more often than not we were actually on RBG land.

There's just so much to experience at RBG!"

What you made possible

Thanks to the support of our donors, RBG accomplished great things across all program areas in 2017.



OUR ENVIRONMENT

- Six new electric vehicle charging stations
- 14% less water used across RBG
- Waste diversion improved by 35%
- Decrease of more than 11 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

- 2,197 children attended RBG camps
- 2,781 individuals took part in RBG's public programs
- 16,605 students experienced our school programs
- 450 kindergarten students and 36 educators were involved in a Back to Nature Network research project
- Over 101,000 people participated in RBG interpretive programs and activities

HORTICULTURE

- Work began on the creation of a new sustainable Rose Garden
- Benchmarking of RBG's Peony and Lilac collections was completed
- A wide range of vibrantly coloured annuals were featured in celebration of Canada and Ontario's Sesquicentennial



NATURAL LANDS

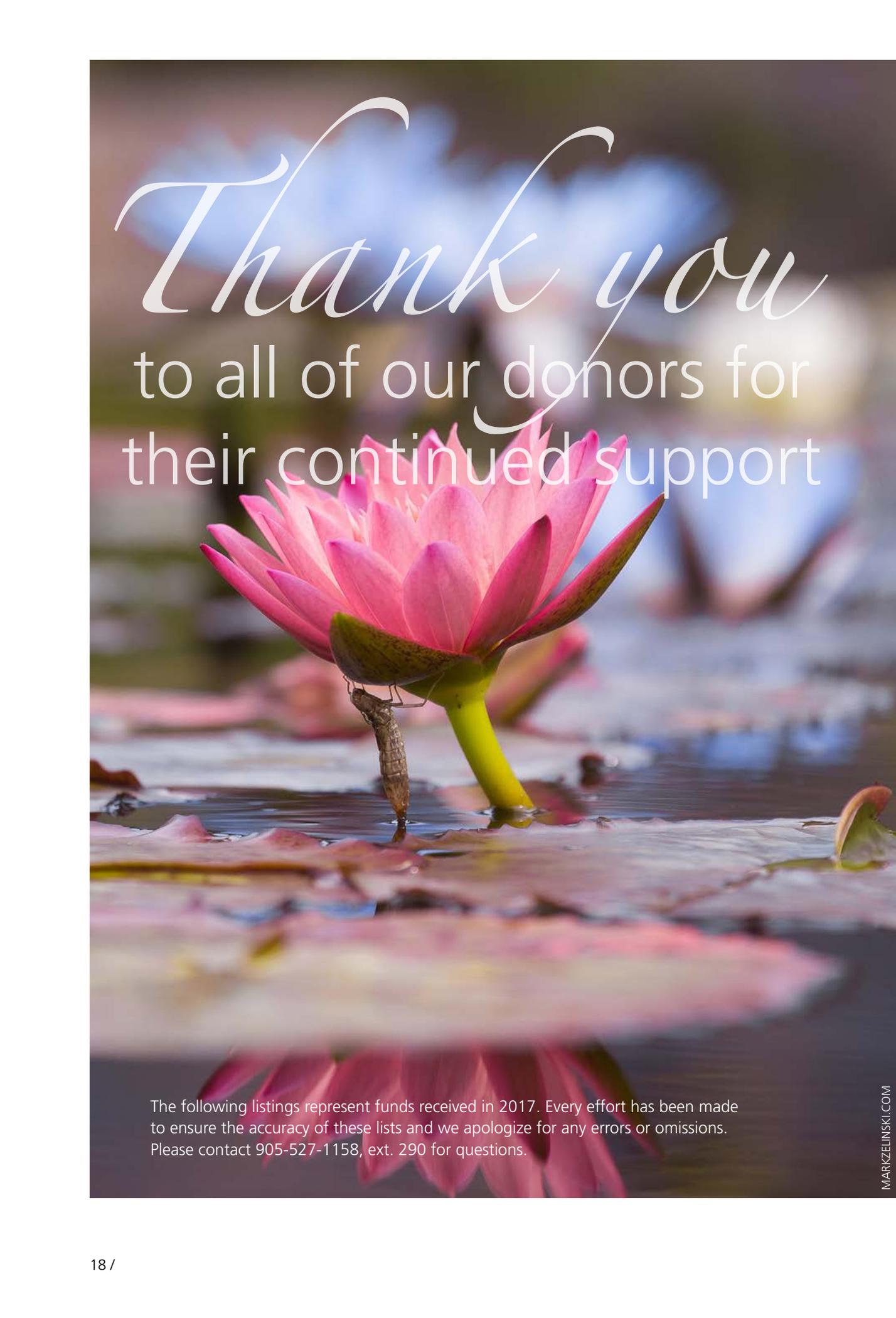
- Flood recovery received priority attention
- 20,000 wetland plants were replanted
- 490 turtle hatchlings were successfully released
- Over 146 hectares of wetland was restored



SCIENCE

- 1,277 plant specimens were added to the herbarium collection
- 794 plant specimens were digitized
- 11 new plant species were recorded at RBG
- A number of new research projects were initiated



A close-up photograph of a vibrant pink lotus flower in full bloom, emerging from a pond. The flower's petals are layered and have a soft, velvety texture. A dragonfly is perched on the green stem of the flower, just above the water line. The water is dark and reflects the flower and the dragonfly. In the background, there are other lotus leaves and flowers, some in bloom and some as buds, creating a sense of a lush pond environment. The overall lighting is soft and natural, highlighting the colors of the flower and the dragonfly.

Thank you
to all of our donors for
their continued support

The following listings represent funds received in 2017. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of these lists and we apologize for any errors or omissions. Please contact 905-527-1158, ext. 290 for questions.

Campaigns

The following listing represents the sum of donations made to RBG's Growing up Green Annual Campaign, Green Angels Fund, and Rose Garden Capital Campaign.

\$100,000 PLUS

Burlington Foundation
Environment and Climate Change Canada
Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport
Ontario Trillium Foundation
Patrick J. McNally Charitable Foundation

\$75,000–\$99,999

The Dalglish Family Foundation

\$50,000–\$74,999

Bank of Montreal
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
TD Friends of the Environment Foundation

\$25,000–\$49,999

Canadian Museums Association
Cliff & Toni Carson
Mrs. Lynn Hryniuk & Dr. William Hryniuk
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Ministry of the Environment
and Climate Change
Ms. Mary Monaco
Royal Botanical Gardens Auxiliary
Anonymous (1)

\$10,000–\$24,999

Bay Area Restoration Council
City of Hamilton
Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation
Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action
Plan Office
J.P. Bickell Foundation
Mr. Suvrut Pandya
Mr. William Sears & Mrs. Judith Sears
The StressCrete Group
World Wildlife Fund Canada
Anonymous (1)

\$5,000–\$9,999

Mr. John Brouwers
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Canada 150 Community Day
Canadian Council of Archives
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Mr. Floyd Elder
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Dr. Janet Graham
Hamilton Industrial Environmental
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\$1,000–\$4,999

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Mr. Colin Lindsay
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Mount Hamilton Horticultural Society
Ms. Sarah Parna
Mr. Paul Phoenix
Anne M. Pigott
Queenston Chevrolet on Centennial
RBC Royal Bank

The following listings represent **funds received in 2017**. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of these lists and we apologize for any errors or omissions. Please contact 905-527-1158, ext. 290 for questions.

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Mr. Norman Rees & Mrs. Judith Rees
Ms. Marguerite Roberts
Mr. James Smith & Mrs. Patricia I. Smith
Mrs. Harriet Sprague
Mr. John Taylor
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& Mrs. Jane Van Zuiden
Mrs. Roberta Vaughan & Dr. Bill Vaughan
Mr. Philip Webster
Mr. Michael Winward
& Ms. Belinda Zylstra
Ms. Kathryn Yates & Mr. Robert Krull
Anonymous (1)

\$250-\$499

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Dr. Jacqueline Wakefield
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Mrs. Gwen Wilby & Mr. Ross Wilby
Mrs. Judith K. Wintermute
Mr. Terry Yates & Mrs. Brenda Yates
Anonymous (2)

Bequests

Estate of Algis Rimkus
Estate of Herbert Neil Matthew
Estate of Lois Glenn Greenall
Estate of Margaret Baldwin

Tribute Giving

IN COMMEMORATION OF:

Lisa Thornton
Margaret & Allan Goddard's
50th Wedding Anniversary
Nancy Allinotte
Pam Jacobs & Jim Brett's Marriage

IN HONOUR OF:

Adam Gautrey
Andrew Balahura and Family

Bill and Priscilla Monteith
Dan Tregunno
Diane Stephenson
Harriet De Boer
Isla MacPhail
John Treen
Maria-Teresa & Raul Vincencio's
Wedding Anniversary
Maureen McTeer
Micah Rozen
Nicholas Kennedy
Noah, Emma & Charlotte Prodger
Paul Langstaff
Ron and Jenny Doyle
Sigi Schranz
Wayne Kucheran

IN MEMORY OF:

Ada Cairns
Alan Bowler
Allan Grieve
Angelo Tagarelli
Ann & Donald Dunlop
Anne Casciani
Barbara H. Graham
& J.E. Blake Graham
Betty Malcolm
Bill Malcolm
Bindu Pandya
Bob McVean
Brian Ingram
Brian Roy Timmis
Carolyn Cooper
Claus Fast
Ditty van den Anandel
Donald Russell
Donald Wingfield
Doug Marrs
Douglas Jacques
Dr. Earl G. Isbister
Dr. Geoffrey Arron
Dr. Patrick Colgan
Dr. Robert Wray Ridge
Edward Jansen
Elaine Ada Longo
Elaine Stoneham
Eldon McFayden
Eleanor Campbell
Eleanore Beckett
Elma Weinberger
Elsie Waywell Sides Robertson
Esther McFadyen
Francis Tarjan
Gerald Sherlock

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 Gordon Michenor
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 Henry James Michael Watson
 Hugh Onderwater
 Ivor and Betty Mills
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 Jean Brown
 Jean Webster-Sheppard
 Joe Maguire
 Johanna Bidrau
 John Anthony Moors
 John L. Chesney
 Joseph Gordon Sides
 Joseph Madell
 Judith Fuke
 June Brechin
 June Hewer
 Kai Bach
 Kathleen Stott
 Kathy Sherwood
 Lois Greenall
 Mabel and Bert Twamley
 Magdalena (Marlen) Juergens
 Margo Wilson
 Maria Grande
 Marilyn Wilson
 Marjorie Hendrie
 Marjorie Joan Jackson
 Marshall Jaffray
 Mary Ellen Burville
 Mary Flint
 Mary Vachal
 Michael Moes
 Leslie Davis
 Margaret Briggs Sheomaker
 Muriel Watson
 Nelson Clifford Gale
 Nicolas Machado
 Patricia Connolly
 Patricia Thomas
 Pauline Taylor
 Robert Allan Brown
 Robert J. Plenderleith
 Ruthanne Souter Cooke
 Sandy Calder
 Sheila Scott
 Shirley Glover
 Shirley Klement
 Susan Boulay
 Verna Whitfield
 William McGowan
 William Somerville

Benefit Concert Sponsors, The Tenors

\$10,000 PLUS

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 Image Honda
 The incite Foundation for the Arts

\$5,000–\$9,999

Brownlow Partners
 IPC Securities Corporation
 The StressCrete Group
 TD Bank Group

\$1,000–\$4,999

LiUNA Local 837

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 Burlington Wellness Tai-Chi
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 Choices Association
 Christian Horizons – Hamilton House 1
 Community Living Burlington
 – Daryl House
 – Dynes House
 – Lifeskills
 Community Living Grimsby,
 Lincoln, West Lincoln
 Community Living Hamilton
 Community Living Mississauga
 Conway Opportunity Homes
 Credit Valley Horticultural Society
 Fanshawe College
 Georgian Bay Garden Club
 Guelph Horticultural Society
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 Thrive Group
 Tillsonburg Horticultural Society
 WEC International
 Wesley Urban Ministries
 Winona Horticultural Society
 YWCA Hamilton – East Group Home
 – Mountain Place

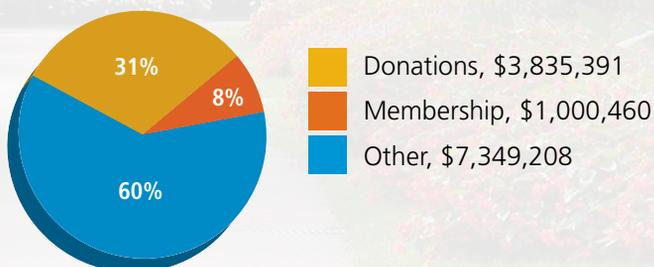
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RBG *financials*

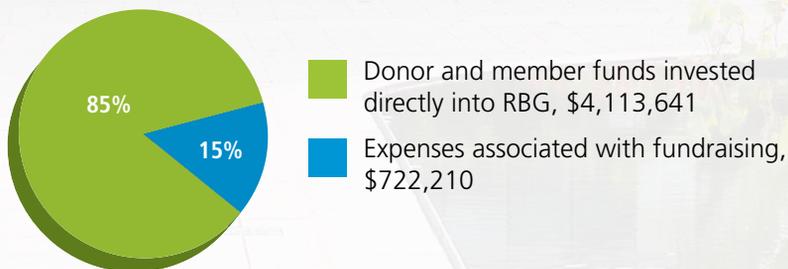
REVENUE SUMMARY — \$17,597,083



SELF-GENERATED REVENUES — \$12,185,059



FUNDRAISING RATIO OF REVENUES TO EXPENSES



85% of membership and donations are invested directly back into RBG. Self-generated revenues include areas such as weddings, corporate rentals, children's camps, adult education programs, investment income, etc. RBG's audited financial statements are available at rbg.ca.



MARKZELINSKI.COM

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