

## **Royal Botanical Gardens celebrates opening of new, sustainable rose garden**

**Burlington ON, June 21, 2018** — Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG) announced today, the opening of its new Rose Garden in Hendrie Park, following a \$3 million rejuvenation project. The garden will officially open to the public on Saturday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> to a weekend that includes tours, live entertainment, interpretive programming and the Hamilton and Burlington Rose Society Annual Show.

“RBG is thrilled to welcome in a new era of sustainable horticulture to Hendrie Park,” said RBG Head of Horticulture, Jim Mack. “Much like our rejuvenated Rock Garden, the new Rose Garden embraces new designs and techniques that reflect a more modern, environmentally conscious approach to growing roses. One that people can implement in their home garden.”

The new Rose Garden focuses on Ontario-hardy, disease resistant roses together with companion plants. Beneath these beneficial plant pairings is a trickle irrigation system. Deep roots, combined with a consistently maintained layer of mulch, means less artificial watering which promotes an eco-friendly approach.

The companion plantings and advanced irrigation system creates a garden that is resilient and sustainable; a garden growing in healthy soil working together to attract beneficial insects that stave off pests.

Opened in 1967, the original Centennial Rose Garden showcased a large monoculture of hybrid tea and floribunda roses for nearly 50 years. Despite the best efforts of RBG's horticulture team, the collection had suffered in recent years. Using environmentally-friendly treatments could not outweigh the reality that the garden was made up of disease-prone roses, further compromised by falling under the shadow of large shade trees. In 2017, construction began on the rejuvenated garden, sacrificing a year of roses in order to take the garden in a bold new direction.

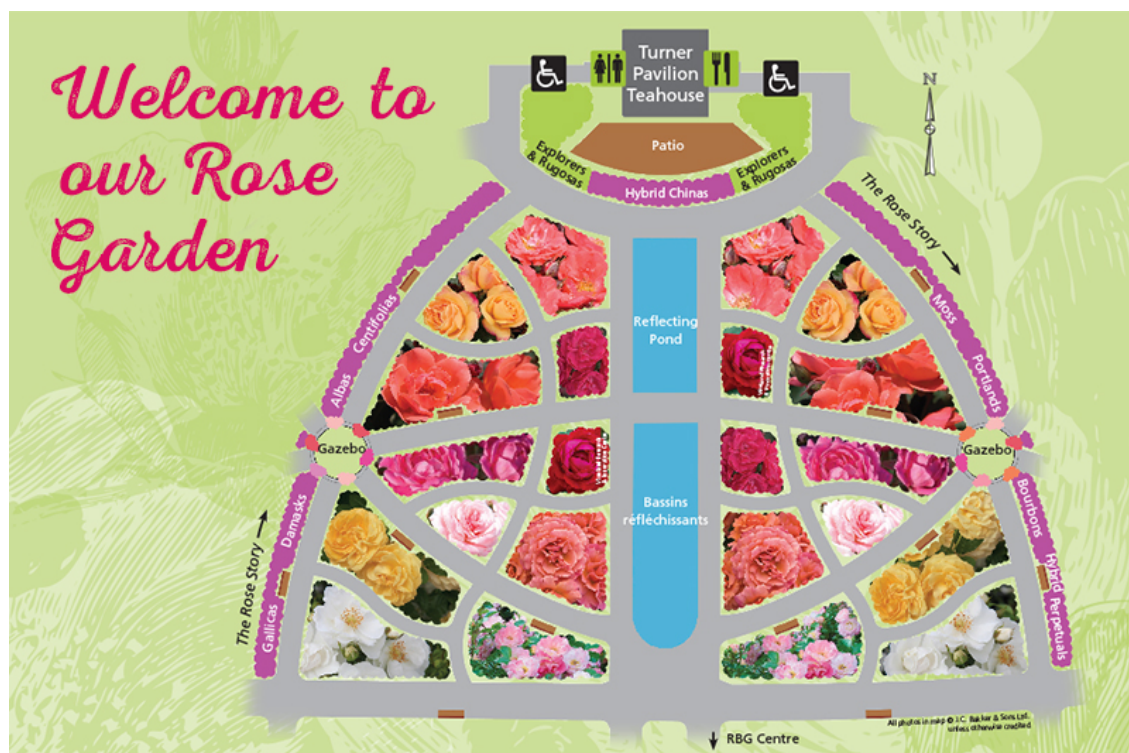
Highlights of the new garden include approximately 3,300 roses displaying 300 different cultivated varieties, 4,500 companion plants and many new enhancements to the garden landscape. This includes upgraded pathways, fences, gazebos, stairs and lighting as well as renovations to the Turner Pavilion Teahouse that overlooks the new garden. Education elements include an array of new interpretive signs, including the “story of roses” display, teaching visitors about the history of roses.

In 2017, Royal Botanical Gardens launched a \$3 million fundraising campaign in support of the new garden and are currently raising the remaining \$700-thousand. More information can be found at [www.rbg.ca/rosegarden](http://www.rbg.ca/rosegarden).

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## Grand Opening Schedule

We are excited to present the new rose garden to the public, and are celebrating roses all weekend with tours, entertainment, the Annual Rose Show, and more, all included in visitors' general admission or membership.

- **Guided Tours**  
June 21 to 30, 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.  
Join a garden interpreter and explore the newly renovated Centennial Rose Garden.
- **Hamilton and Burlington Rose Society Annual Rose Show**  
Saturday, June 23; 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.; Sunday, June 24; 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Experience the vibrant colours and amazing perfume of roses at the largest juried Rose Show in the area.
- **Entertainment in the Garden**  
Saturday and Sunday, June 23 and 24; 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Enjoy relaxing musical entertainment during the Rose Garden's opening weekend.

## A garden for the future

- Over 3,500 new rose bushes, including new, hardy
- Canadian plants
- Over 4,500 carefully selected perennial companion plants
- The "story of roses display" telling the history of roses
- breeding and highlighting the new, more sustainable
- way of thinking about rose culture
- New signage and educational information
- Upgraded pathways, fences, stairs and lighting
- New obelisks, helicoid rose climbers and sound system
- New-gazebos and benches
- Extensive underground drip irrigation system