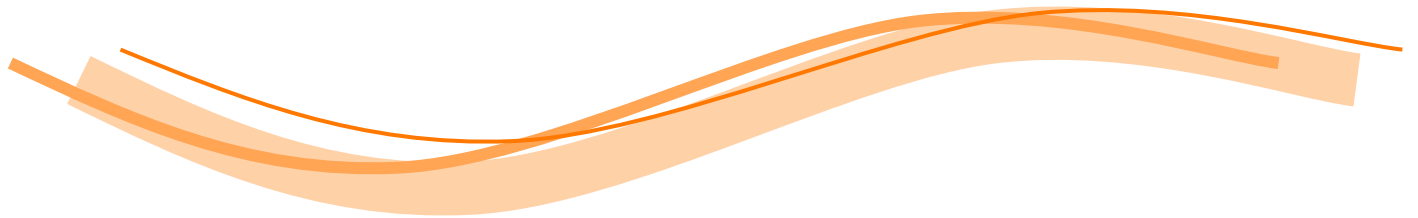




ROYAL BOTANICAL GARDENS





ROYAL BOTANICAL GARDENS	Surround yourself in the breathtaking spectacle of Royal Botanical Gardens, an exhilarating, year-round trip through some of nature's most beautiful work. The Gardens' 1,100 hectares (2700 acres) of cultivated gardens, indoor plantscapes and natural lands provide a 12-month wave of colour, from the lushness of the indoor Mediterranean Garden in January to brilliant poinsettia displays in December.
The RBG Mission	To be a living museum which serves local, regional and global communities while developing and promoting public understanding of the relationship between the plant world, humanity and the rest of nature.
Opening Hours	Royal Botanical Gardens Centre, 9 a.m. to dusk Outdoor Garden Areas, 9:30 a.m. to dusk Mediterranean Garden, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. RBG Centre closed December 25 and January 1.
Directions	Royal Botanical Gardens Centre is located at 680 Plains Road West, on the border of Burlington and Hamilton in Ontario – about 70km drive from downtown Toronto. From Toronto and East: Queen Elizabeth Way to Highway 403 West (Hamilton). Exit at Highway 6 North. Turn right onto Plains Road West. Turn left at the lights to continue on Plains Road West for about 1 km. Turn right onto Spring Gardens Road and right again into the main parking lot.
What's in Bloom?	Start your visit at the RBG Center, at the hub of the Gardens! Visit the restaurant and gift shop, and catch the free shuttle bus to some of the other garden areas. This week's blooms @ The Gardens Rock Garden: annuals; Arboretum: flowering shrubs and tree; Laking Garden: perennials and ornamental grasses; Hendrie Park Gardens: shrub and antique roses, annuals and perennials; RBG Centre: orchid showcase and greenhouse displays of Mediterranean plants.
RBG History	Royal Botanical Gardens is Canada's largest botanical garden and one of the country's premier cultural, education and scientific institutions. It has extensive educational programs and serves as an outdoor laboratory for scientific research. It was established as an independent entity in 1941 by an act of the provincial government, but the project traces its origins to the late 1920s when the City of Hamilton began acquiring land for the beautification of the city's northwest entrance. In the 1920s, under the chairmanship of Thomas Baker McQuesten, the Hamilton Board of Parks Management recognized the need for a counterpart in southwestern Ontario to Canada's two botanical gardens - the Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa, and the University of British Columbia Gardens in Vancouver. McQuesten was a student of plant cultivation and garden design and he convinced the Board of Parks Management to include a botanical garden in the redevelopment plan for the city's northwest entrance. In the early 1900s, the main road from Toronto to Hamilton was lined with a haphazard assortment of billboards, gas stations and undistinguished dwellings. The open waterway between Hamilton Harbour and the marshy inlet known as Cootes Paradise provided an unpleasant view of papered shacks, boathouses and sundry sheds along the shoreline. This industrial blight was to be improved upon by the introduction of a parkway, which would run through landscaped gardens over reclaimed Cootes Paradise. A bridge, which opened in 1932, spanned the waterway between Burlington Bay and Cootes Paradise and provided the impetus to launch the Board's beautification plan. Work began in 1929 to create a picturesque rock garden in an abandoned gravel pit, located at the side of the road leading to the bridge. That same year work began on the construction of the Hamilton campus of McMaster

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University, at the west end of Cootes Paradise, and a formal sunken garden was built to serve as the entrance to both the university and the western end of the gardens. The Board of Parks Management established a Botanical Garden Section within the beautification project and in 1930 McQuesten obtained Royal assent to name the 162-hectare (400-acre) site "Royal Botanical Gardens".

The Board of Parks Management subsequently received the Hendrie Valley Farm, 49 hectares (122 acres) of sloping woodland and broad valley running north from Burlington Bay, as a gift from George M. Hendrie. By 1932 the original RBG lands were combined with the northwest entrance, including the Rock Gardens and the Hendrie Valley Farm, and together became known as Royal Botanical Gardens.

This radically altered the original concept of the Gardens, changing it from the traditional closed and cultivated preserve, where the world is represented in microcosm, to one that encompassed the larger natural world. Most modern botanical gardens have evolved to combine scientific, educational, aesthetic and recreational objectives.

Royal Botanical Gardens is an accurate reflection of this evolution. McQuesten later became Minister of Highways and Public Works in the Ontario government. By 1941, when he initiated establishment of the Gardens as an entity separate from the Board of Parks Management, RBG had grown to 486 hectares (1,200 acres). In the late 1940s, the land base of the Gardens had grown to almost 809 hectares (2,000 acres) at the western end of Lake Ontario. With the subsequent addition of another 162 hectares (400 acres) on the north shore of Cootes Paradise and the inclusion of land across from the Hendrie Valley Farm, the configuration of Royal Botanical Gardens as it exists today had emerged.

Following the end of the Second World War and completion of the major land acquisition, the Gardens were formally laid out under the direction of Carl Borgstrom. He was influenced by American landscape architect Frederick Law Olmstead, who was concerned with environmental conservation. Borgstrom's recommendations called for great swatches of colours and textures for all seasons. Much of Royal Botanical Gardens' present-day physical attraction is attributable to Borgstrom's ideas.

In 1958, the building opposite the Hendrie property was opened as a public centre and focal point. It has provided space for a library, auditorium, workshop and herbarium over the subsequent years.

Of the Gardens' 1,100 hectares (2,700 acres), about 120 hectares (297 acres) are cultivated, while the rest remains a managed natural area. The glory of the Arboretum is the Katie Osborne Lilac Garden, which boasts the world's largest living collection of lilacs.

The Mediterranean Garden, opened in 1986, complements RBG's outdoor collection because its plants require hot, arid summers and cool damp winters. They are at their best during February and March, when the outdoor gardens are dormant.

The nature sanctuaries consist of marshland, woodland, meadow, Niagara Escarpment and agricultural land with emphasis on ecosystem management. The 30-kilometre (18-mile) trail system makes the varied habitats accessible to the public. The Cootes Paradise Sanctuary is the Gardens' natural treasure. Ecosystems within the 250-hectare (620-acre) marsh, at the westernmost tip of Lake Ontario, have been devastated by invasive fish and plant species, as well as human intervention. The largest fresh-water marsh restoration project of its kind in North America is helping to bring Cootes Paradise back to its former glory. The operation of a innovative fish barrier has reduced dramatically the population of harmful carp, and has promoted the return of beneficial species to the marsh.

The Nature Interpretive Centre, at the Arboretum, introduces the general public to the geology, history, wildlife and restoration of the natural area and Cootes Paradise. RBG runs public and school interpretive programs from the Centre to illustrate the diversity

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	of life in the Hendrie Valley and that section of the Niagara Escarpment known as the Rock Chapel Sanctuary.
The Gardens and Collections	<p>Royal Botanical Gardens has five geographically separated garden areas.</p> <p>RBG Centre Season of interest: all year RBG Centre is our headquarters and information centre. Along with a variety of visitor services, RBG Centre includes greenhouses, special collections and floral displays, both indoors and out.</p> <p>Hendrie Park (Rose Garden) Season of interest: May through October Major horticultural features include roses, medicinal plants, scented plants, lilies, climbers and espaliers, woodland plants and many of our smaller feature gardens.</p> <p>Laking Garden Season of interest: May through October Major horticultural features include irises, perennials, peonies, daylilies, ornamental grasses and the Heritage Garden.</p> <p>Rock Garden Season of interest: May through October Major horticultural features include spring bulb display, summer annuals display, flowering cherries, azalea display and many unusual trees and shrubs.</p> <p>Arboretum Season of interest: all year Major horticultural features include lilacs, rhododendrons, magnolias, flowering shrubs, trees, Ontario native trees and shrubs, conifers, native plants, hedges, dogwoods and redbuds, hawthorns, flowering crabapples and the Maze.</p>
Horticulture	Royal Botanical Gardens is a "living museum" that collects, researches, exhibits, conserves and interprets a living horticultural collection. The Horticultural Services department is responsible for both the plant collections and the display gardens. They build and maintain living plant collections of both ornamental and scientific interest. Detailed plant records are maintained, and the plants are labeled and interpreted for the benefit of visitors. They build and maintain gardens and displays to exhibit the plant collections and to demonstrate the many aesthetic and functional uses of plants. They also carry out trials and evaluations on our plants to determine the ones best suited to our geographic area.
Wildlife and Trails	Explore the Gardens' 30-kilometre trail system any time of the year and enter a natural world that is found in few other parts of North America. The four nature sanctuaries are home to many plants, birds and mammals from the Carolinian life zone of the south-eastern United States. Rare plants thrive in natural lands that encompass the western tip of Lake Ontario and the Niagara Escarpment, a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve. Here, in the most densely populated region of Canada, white-tailed deer, coyotes and beavers roam the lush forests, rolling meadows and vibrant wetlands. Birdwatchers know Royal Botanical Gardens' sanctuaries, especially the vast freshwater marsh known as Cootes Paradise, as fascinating destinations, where they can get close-up views of migrating waterbirds, warblers, scarlet tanagers, great egrets and birds of prey.
Dining	<p>- GARDENS' CAFE Located in RBG Centre. Open daily, 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.</p> <p>- FOUNTAIN COURT CAFE</p>

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	<p>Fountain Court Cafe is located in the colonnade at RBG Centre. Open daily from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. It offers visitors with a selection of snack and light lunch items like sandwiches, salads, bagels, homemade soup and bread, and a variety of beverages.</p> <p>- TURNER PAVILION TEAHOUSE Located across from RBG Centre in Hendrie Park Gardens. Open seasonally from June through Thanksgiving. The teahouse offers light lunches and pastries. Open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays, Sundays and statutory holidays.</p> <p>- ROCK GARDEN TEAHOUSE Located in the Rock Garden. Open seasonally from June through Labour Day daily from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Labour Day to Thanksgiving daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for light lunches.</p>
Shopping	<p>Take home a piece of the Gardens with a visit to the Gardens' Shop at RBG Centre. In addition to plants propagated from their gardens, you can take home a large selection of ornaments, indoor decorations, books, CDs and children's items.</p>
RBG Membership	<p>Members enjoy free admission, plus many benefits and discounts. For more information call 905-527-1158, ext. 229. For information: Phone: 905-527-1158; Fax: 905-577-0375 Toll-free in the Greater Toronto Area: 905-825-5040 Web site: www.rbg.ca; E-mail: events@rbg.ca</p>
Shuttle Bus and Tour from Toronto	<p>Summer Shuttle Bus: enhance your visit to Royal Botanical Gardens by parking your car and catching the free (with admission) authentic double-decker bus. The shuttle service runs a connecting loop to the garden areas and RBG Centre. Shuttle bus runs Wednesday to Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Last run departs RBG Centre, 680 Plains Road West, at 5:15 p.m. Visiting the Gardens from Toronto? Call Gray Line Sightseeing at 416-594-3310 or 1-800-353-3484.</p>

ADDITIONAL INFO	
July - Sept	<p>As summer heats up, so does Royal Botanical Gardens. Colour Comes Alive, in all its grandeur, is an exploration of the relationship between colour and emotion. The annual and perennial display become living works of art, used like paint to express feelings, create mood, or trick the eye. Display beds and containers demonstrate how plant colour is used to dazzle in any size garden—from a small balcony to a large yard. A breathtaking array of colours showcases hybrid and centuries old roses, which captivate you in Hendrie Park from June to October. Also in full bloom are RBG's renowned perennial borders, Medicinal Plant Garden, Scented Garden and World of Botany.</p> <p>SPECIAL EVENTS July/August: Red-Hot Jazz and Cool Blues Concerts, Colour Comes Alive August: Herb Faire September: Colour Comes Alive</p>
Sept - October	<p>Many gardeners and nature lovers consider Autumn their favourite time of the year. Royal Botanical Gardens will show you why, as temperatures cool down and Nature begins to prepare herself for winter, the outdoor gardens put on one last show with hundreds of chrysanthemums, asters, perennials, flowering cabbage and kale, ornamental grasses and decorative vegetables.</p> <p>The beautiful nature sanctuaries surrounding the gardens explode into fall colours as the trees go out in a blaze of glory. The reds and yellows of our deciduous trees provide a stunning contrast to the dark greens of our many evergreens. Autumn is an excellent</p>

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	<p>time to discover the splendour of the Gardens one more time.</p> <p>SPECIAL EVENTS</p> <p>September: Autumn Colours Run</p> <p>November: RBG Auxiliary Holiday Show and Sale, Holiday Evergreen Workshops</p>
Upcoming Events	<p>Red-hot Jazz & Cool Blues Wednesdays; July, August and September; 6 to 8:30 p.m.; Hendrie Park Gardens. You've made it to Wednesday and that's reason enough for a celebration. Enjoy a cold drink, appetizers and award-winning jazz and blues musicians in a lovely garden setting. Dinner is available (limited menu), or bring a picnic.</p> <p>Herb Fair Sunday, August 12; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Hendrie Park Gardens. Celebrate everything herbs — from growing and cooking demonstrations, to plant sales, products and crafts — this one-day event is all about herbs and wellness.</p> <p>Tranquil Thursdays Thursdays, June and July; 6 to 8:30 p.m.; Laking Garden Reflect and rejuvenate — enjoy live classical music, stroll the gardens and see the paintings of local artists (art is for sale). Wine and beer available for purchase with cheese and crackers.</p> <p>Picnics in Paradise Saturdays and Sundays; now until Labour Day; Arboretum Pack a picnic and the family enjoy the day exploring the Arboretum — visit the Nature Interpretive Centre, hand feed the chickadees and chipmunks (feed available by donation), enjoy the wide-open grass areas for games and family fun and take a hike along the North Shore trails of Cootes Paradise Marsh.</p> <p>Ontario Hummingbird Festival Sunday, August 26; 10 a.m.; RBG Centre www.ontariohummingbirds.ca for more information</p> <p>RBG Auxiliary Plant Sale Tuesdays and Thursdays; 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.; Arboretum Also at Lilac Celebration and the Fall Plant Sale (all at the Arboretum). The season continues until Thanksgiving giving everyone an opportunity to give the gardens one last makeover.</p> <p>Chess @ The Gardens Wednesdays and Fridays; 7 to 11 p.m.; RBG Centre. Burlington and Hamilton Chess Clubs — new members always welcome.</p>
Educational Activities	<p>The RBG experts offer close to 250 courses, workshops and activities each year. From alternative gardening to birdwatching, and healthy herbs to fantastic floral designs, their courses offer something for everyone at every level of experience.</p>
Programs for Adults	<p>The Gardens offers a variety of fascinating courses for adults in the areas of gardening, nature, botanical arts and cooking. Professionals within the horticultural, botanical and environmental fields instruct all of our programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For the Gardener Find out how to grow plants from seed, plant with native species, learn alternative gardening methods and more. - For the Naturalist Enjoy an evening walk through one of the Gardens' nature sanctuaries, learn how to identify marsh birds and native wildflowers, or prowl for owls with the experts.

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	<p>- Botanical Arts and Crafts Try a new painting technique in an outdoor setting, create the perfect flower arrangement or use scented plants.</p> <p>- People and Plants Discover how to cook with herbs that you've grown, explore herbal medicines and create herbal gifts</p>
<p>Programs for Families and Kids</p>	<p>RBG offers a variety of interactive garden- or nature-related activities that the whole family will enjoy.</p> <p>DAY CAMPS Hands-on, multi-sensory outdoor adventures, The Gardens' day camps offer children an experience not available anywhere else. They offer March Break, Summer and Winter Discovery Camps at their Nature Interpretive Centre and RBG Centre. Winter and March Break programs are booked by the day, while Summer programs are week-long. Their camps are designed for children ages 4 to 12 years, and they also offer Environmental Leadership programs for 13 to 16 year-olds during the summer.</p> <p>BIRTHDAY PARTIES Come to Royal Botanical Gardens for a Gardens' Party! These three-hour packages feature great crafts and a nature walk and games session, plus use of the classroom. Other options include canoeing or geo-caching for older children, a clown, a cookout and more.</p> <p>SCHOOL PROGRAMS RBG offers close to 40 programs that meet the expectations of the Ontario curriculum for JK to grade 12 students. Developed and delivered under the supervision of certified teachers, these half- and full-day programs are all about getting children connected to the natural world that sustains us all.</p>
<p>The Fishway</p>	<p>Located along the Waterfront Trail at the mouth of the Desjardins Canal - the only channel that connects Cootes Paradise and Hamilton Harbour - the Fishway is the Great Lakes' first two-way fishway and carp barrier. It is designed to keep destructive, non-native carp out of Cootes Paradise marsh while maintaining the natural flow of water and native aquatic species. Since the Fishway began operating in 1997, 95% of the Hamilton Harbour carp population has been excluded from the marsh.</p> <p>The Fishway provides excellent opportunities for the public to view native fish up close, and learn about the conservation projects that are helping to restore this ecologically sensitive wetland. Public tours are available during regular operating hours, and school tours can be booked through their educational programs.</p>
<p>Cootes Paradise</p>	<p>Cootes Paradise is an 840-hectare wildlife sanctuary containing a 250-hectare coastal wetland located at the west end of Hamilton Harbour, a natural bay at the west end of Lake Ontario. The sanctuary supports a wide variety of plants and animals including rare and threatened species.</p> <p>Its 30,000-hectare drainage basin acts as the catchment for three main waterways: Spencer Creek, Borer's Creek and Chedoke Creek. Several smaller streams including Westdale Creek, Long Valley Brook, Hickory Brook and Highland Creek flow into the marsh as well.</p> <p>Located at the crest of the Golden Horseshoe between two major yet largely fragmented biomes - the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Life Zone and the Carolinian Life Zone - Cootes Paradise is surrounded by agricultural, residential, industrial, commercial and recreational lands. Its urban location makes this sanctuary a vital link to other conservation areas in the region including Spencer Gorge, Iroquois Heights and Borer's Fall's/Rock Chapel - part of the Bruce Trail and the Niagara Escarpment UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve.</p>

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	<p>Cootes Paradise Marsh is considered one of the most important waterfowl staging habitats on the lower Great Lakes and the largest nursery habitat for fish in the region. The Government of Ontario has designated Cootes Paradise as a Provincially Significant Class 1 Wetland and an Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI). It also is listed as an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) in the Hamilton Region.</p>
<p>Hendrie Valley & Grindstone Creek</p>	<p>Grindstone Creek originates above the Niagara Escarpment in Flamborough. It drains an area of 90 square kilometres making it one of the main tributaries discharging into the northwest-end of Hamilton Harbour.</p> <p>A 50-hectare marsh lies in Hendrie Valley where the lower portion of Grindstone Creek flows. This highly productive, shallow wetland, northeast of Cootes Paradise, provides crucial spawning, nursery and adult habitat for many native fish as well as food and shelter for a variety of birds, mammals, amphibians and insects.</p> <p>The slopes of Hendrie Valley are comprised of mixed deciduous forest. Its sheltered, southerly exposure provides a reasonably warm, dry microclimate, creating a unique habitat that is home to several rare and uncommon plants and animals including many Carolinian species.</p> <p>The Province of Ontario has classified Grindstone Creek as an Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) and the Municipality of Halton has listed the creek as an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA).</p>
<p>Rock Chapel & Berry Track</p>	<p>Rock Chapel, a 72-hectare nature sanctuary located on the Flamborough Dundas municipal boundary along the Niagara Escarpment, is part of the Niagara Escarpment UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve. This south-facing forested habitat features Borer's Falls and the escarpment valley. The escarpment and its wooded areas are home to a diverse range of rare and uncommon plants and birds. The escarpment edge supports a rare eastern white cedar old growth forest community.</p> <p>The Province of Ontario has listed Borer's Falls-Rock Chapel as an Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI). It is also listed as an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) within the Hamilton Region.</p> <p>Berry Tract lies to the east of Rock Chapel and is also part of the Niagara Escarpment UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve. This area has more than 30 hectares of gently rolling topography and vegetation in various stages of secondary succession dominated by shrubs, small trees and grasses. Berry Tract is part of an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) within the Hamilton Region.</p> <p>The Bruce Trail runs through Rock Chapel and Berry Tract.</p>
<p>Health and Safety</p>	<p>To help protect yourself in these outdoor settings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear a wide-brimmed hat and sun-glasses with ultraviolet (UV) rays protection. • Wear bright-coloured long-sleeved shirts and pants, whenever possible. • Enjoy the surroundings with occasional rests indoors or in shady areas. • Drink plenty of water on warm days. • Use sunscreen and lip balm with a minimum Sun Protection Factor (SPF) of 15, even on a cloudy day. • Use an effective insect repellent. <p>Remember, in spring and summer the sun's UV levels are highest between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., and mosquitoes are most active between dusk and dawn. Please protect yourself.</p>

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