You care about the big picture and small moments
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
213,388 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: 87 full-time, 150 part-time
Off season: 87 full-time, 25 part-time

MEMBERSHIP
7,667 memberships, representing an estimated 15,173 members

AUXILIARY VOLUNTEERS
335 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
Closed summer of 2014 for rejuvenation, opening 2016

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

Laking Garden
Thousands of iris and peony, plus clematis and ornamental grass collections, extensive perennial gardens 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
11,419 and approximately 202,362 living plants representing 169 families, 883 genera, 2,697 species and 5,345 cultivated plants

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
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 children’s camps

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

RBG Facts
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
I am so pleased to be sharing our inaugural Donor Accountability Report with you. Our members, donors and volunteers are integral to the work accomplished at Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG). Through your support, we are about to carry out so many wonderful mission-based initiatives. With that being said, this 2014 report celebrates YOU and all the brilliant projects that YOU have supported and inspired!

Thanks to you, RBG realized a positive year-end in 2014. Coupled with the approval of a new five-year strategic plan, this made for a successful year at Royal Botanical Gardens and provided the framework to enter the next decade as a global leader. The five-year strategic plan involves staff from all levels, Board of Directors, members and Auxiliary volunteers, and we are excited to make the Gardens an even better place to visit, learn and work.

In 2014, RBG hosted memorable family-oriented programming like Savage Gardens, Nature’s Ninjas and an expanded Holiday Traditions, Enchanted Garden Weekend. Garden Music Nights, Earth Art and the first installments of The International Sculpture Collection filled Hendrie Park with arts and culture, while wedding and corporate facilities continued to provide a venue to create lasting memories.

In the gardens, the grand re-opening of Laking Garden featured a newly designed lower terrace which included a new clematis collection and our expanded iris collection received 123 new cultivars. In April, the largest capital project in our history was announced and construction began on the $20 million Rock Garden Rejuvenation Project.

An estimated 250,000 people enjoyed over 900 hectares of RBG’s nature sanctuaries, stewarded to ensure enjoyment for generations to come. Through our research, education and outreach programs thousands of people of all ages and walks of life were able to visit this piece of paradise and learn how they can make a difference.

All of this work is made possible through the hard work and support of staff, over 300 volunteers, as well as funding from the Government of Ontario, City of Hamilton and Regional Municipality of Halton, and dozens of community partners and generous donors like you!

There are exciting times ahead for Royal Botanical Gardens. We are thankful for the support of those that have been with us on our journey thus far and are thrilled to have you with us as we continue to strive for excellence.
Global Strategy for Plant Conservation

The world’s plants are indispensable to human well-being, and yet up to a quarter of the roughly 400,000 species of vascular plants are at risk of extinction this century. In 2002 the world responded with the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation as a part of the UN’s Convention on Biological Diversity. Royal Botanical Gardens was there as part of the committee that drafted the strategy, and in 2006 was named the National Focal Point for Canada for this effort. With generous support from Environment Canada, in 2014 we launched a prototype website for the national focal point, to share information on the 16 strategic targets that have been approved by the world community, with a due date of 2020. The website also features forms for submitting comments and ideas about GSPC and how it can be used within Canada to promote conservation, awareness, education, and research.

You are part of a global strategy for plant conservation

RBG as Global Leaders
Ecological Restoration Alliance of Botanic Gardens

Royal Botanical Gardens has long been a conservation leader. In the 1980s RBG was one of a handful of agencies that organized the Canadian Plant Conservation Program, and in the 1990s and 2000s RBG led the Canadian Botanical Conservation Network. Following decades of research and preparation, the 1990s saw the launch of Project Paradise and the continuing restoration efforts for Cootes Paradise Marsh and our other nature sanctuaries that continue to this day. Royal Botanical Gardens is one of 19 institutions world-wide that make up the Ecological Restoration Alliance of Botanic Gardens (ERA-BG). The Ecological Restoration Alliance includes leading botanical gardens world-wide working to use their expertise and capacities to restore 100 of the world’s most threatened ecosystems. The Ecological Restoration Alliance has a long-term, global strategic plan for promoting nature, the important role of plants in ecosystems, and teaching future generations to care for the planet.

www.erabg.org
Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System

The natural areas of Royal Botanical Gardens are among the richest lands in Canada for biological diversity. Nearly a decade ago we teamed up with other agencies in the immediate area that also own green space to better protect ecological corridors, preserve and restore nature, and plan for sustainable recreation. Now called the Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System, the lands owned by nine like-minded agencies (cities of Hamilton and Burlington, Halton Region, Hamilton and Halton Conservation Authorities, The Hamilton Naturalists Club, Bruce Trail Conservancy, McMaster University, and RBG) are an amazing resource for our region. In 2014 we saw significant additions to the EcoPark System, through donations, purchases, and conservation easements. With generous support from Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation we finished three years of research and consultations to produce an overall natural and cultural heritage plan for the Burlington Heights, in partnership with City of Hamilton and City of Burlington.

Back to Nature Network

Early in 2014, work concluded on the first phase of the development of Ontario’s Back to Nature Network. RBG initiated the Network in 2008 and continues to lead the program with key partners Parks and Recreation Ontario and Council of Outdoor Educators of Ontario. Since beginning operations in 2011, the Network has achieved notable success, including its expansion to over 80 member organizations that actively support the international children and nature movement.

Ontario Trillium Foundation generously funded RBG to establish the Back to Nature Network at its inception, and in 2014 announced new funding through RBG to enable the Network's continued growth and support of opportunities to connect children and families with nature. Major inroads are being made including key partnerships with school boards that support educator training, early years education providers, formal health delivery organizations, and academic research institutions.
You make decisions today that benefit future generations.
You make things thrive — from tiny plants to big projects, and everything in between.
Cultivating Our Market

Generously funded through the Department of Canadian Heritage’s Canada Cultural Investment Fund, Royal Botanical Gardens led 17 other botanical gardens into the final year of the Cultivating our Market project, aimed at growing awareness of and visitorship at botanical gardens throughout Canada. In 2014, we examined existing marketing and business models and explored new ways to attract additional visitors and supporter.

Two years of research and analysis culminated in the development of messaging and marketing tools that were shared among participating institutions to serve as the basis for local, regional and national campaigns. Gardens Canada, a national brand, was established to represent botanical gardens nationwide.

2014 saw the completion of a national website, www.gardenscanada.ca, the only online resource to explore this country’s national network of botanical gardens and arboreta. All 18 botanical gardens also received social media training to further promote their programming.

www.gardenscanada.ca
On April 24, RBG unveiled its plans for the Rock Garden Rejuvenation Project. The $20 million dollar project will transform Rock Garden into a year-round tourist destination and corporate facility, resulting in economic growth to the Hamilton/Burlington area. The unveiling of the design also marked the launch of Your Rock Garden Memories capital campaign to raise the remaining $6 million for project completion.

David Braley and his wife Nancy Gordon graciously stepped forward to ensure RBG reaches its goal and pledged to match all community donations up to $2 million. By the end of 2014, RBG’s members and the community had donated $1 million of the $6 million needed to complete this important project. Despite the long road ahead to achieve the campaign goal, RBG supporters are looking forward to a grand opening in spring 2016 where the community will come together and celebrate the new Rock Garden and their collaborative accomplishment to restore an iconic jewel. Rock Garden has provided 80 years of special moments and memories and this remarkable transformation will ensure it continues to do so in a whole new way.

IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDE:

- New water features, three garden areas, perennial and spring gardens, and a flowering shrub collection
- New state-of-art visitor centre and café, lighting and sound for year-round and evening experiences
- New pathways and stairs to improve accessibility and provide optimal viewing experiences
Nature — the Spa for the Soul

Research backs it up. Being connected to nature can make people happier, healthier, and smarter — it’s essential to our well-being. In 2014, your support cared for 2,450 acres of wetlands, trails, forests and prairies in RBG’s nature sanctuaries, which in turn helps takes care of our community.

Thanks to the generous support of donors like Environment Canada, The John and Pat McCutcheon Charitable Foundation, ArcelorMittal Dofasco, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, and Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and you!

IN 2014

• 47,748 fish were documented and passed through the Fishway
• 10,000 wetland plants were added to Cootes Paradise Marsh
• Over 19 acres of forest was restored
• 3,000 prairie plants were added to Princess Point meadow
• Several trail bridges were replaced or upgraded
• 18 wildlife and plant species-at-risk were protected, through recovery efforts such as inventories and long-term health monitoring, restoring habitat, threat mitigation, and public engagement activities

You got your hands dirty
Royal Botanical Gardens has been working tirelessly to revitalize Cootes Paradise Marsh as far back as the 1940s with the first projects involving environmental studies and wetland plantings. Measures in carp control began as early as the 1950s and in 1997, with the assistance of our supporters, the Cootes Paradise Fishway was installed. The Fishway prevents Common Carp, an invasive species introduced from Eurasia, from entering the marsh while allowing native fish to move between the marsh and Hamilton Harbour. The resulting drop in carp numbers has set the stage for the return of native vegetation, and with it, thousands of native fish and birds.

With resulting improvements in water quality, thousands of migratory waterfowl return to Cootes Paradise each year and a family of Bald Eagles has now made the marsh their home — the first pair of Bald Eagles to successfully nest on the Canadian shores of Lake Ontario in decades.

In early 2014, RBG appealed to its members to support the continued safeguarding of Cootes Paradise Marsh. Our members generously responded by making over $10,000 in online donations to RBG’s Growing up Green Annual Campaign, directly supporting this cause. Those who contributed $250 or more received plaque recognition at the new Eagle Scope Decks installed along the Marshwalk Boardwalk to assist in eagle viewing. The plaques are complemented by interpretive signs that teach visitors about the Bald Eagles’ return to Cootes Paradise Marsh, provide information on migratory bird species found within the wetland and their need for a healthy ecosystem, and explain how people can help to preserve this important sanctuary.
The Green Angels program was created so all children, regardless of their family’s financial situation, have the opportunity to fall in love with nature.

In 2014, through the financial support of individual and corporate donations from the community, RBG’s Green Angels fund received $67,960 — thank you.

The 2014 Green Angels School Education Program was funded through a generous sponsorship by Gord Albini, Queenston Chevrolet and Image Honda. Dealerships hosted “Drive for a Cause” at RBG, inviting visitors, members and staff to participate while matching a Green Angels program donation from Chevrolet Canada.

RBG staff also held their own Green Angels campaign, embracing the program through payroll deduction and participating in various fundraisers throughout the year.

The Green Angels Program has also resonated with many local schools, especially Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board. They organized school fundraisers for the program. Students from these schools have been proactive in ensuring their schoolmates receive the same benefits and opportunities they have had in connecting with nature.
The International Sculpture Collection

On August 21 The International Sculpture Collection was launched at RBG, made possible through a generous donation of $1 million in artwork from Hamilton businessman and Burlington resident Dan Lawrie. The project will see numerous sculptures become part of the RBG landscape over the next ten years. 2014 saw the addition of four permanent sculptures installed in RBG’s Hendrie Park. Highlights included *Rejoicing Family* by Taurai Mutigwa, a sculpture from RBG’s popular Zimsculpt exhibit in 2013, and *Pollinizers* by Dave Hind, a massive sculpture depicting two hands pollinating a fruit blossom.

The sculptures come from across the world, including Spain, United States and Zimbabwe. There are also sculptures by local artists, including Edwin Dam and Dave Hind, who were both born in Hamilton, Ontario. The pieces were thoughtfully chosen to complement RBG’s landscape and enhance visitor experience. The collection will continue to grow with the addition of up to 20 works over a ten-year term, making it one of the most diverse collections in the Hamilton-Halton region.
Laking Garden

On June 12, RBG officially launched the reopening of its celebrated Laking Garden. VIP invitees included approximately 350 10 and 25+ year members who were recognized for their longstanding connection to Royal Botanical Gardens. 25+ year members received a commemorative pin marking this great milestone. Guests received a brief history on the garden’s initial opening in 1948 opening before enjoying the iris collection in full bloom.

The redesign of the garden’s lower terrace presented its prized iris collection in a whole new way, allowing guests greater access for identification and photography. The collection received 123 new cultivars, telling the story of iris breeding trends from the 1920s to present. This included a substantial number of Canadian introduced iris. A new clematis collection was also installed that is available for families to remember loved ones with a memorial or tribute dedication.
Volunteers make a difference

The Auxiliary of Royal Botanical Gardens’ 355 volunteer members dedicated over 40,000 hours of service to the Gardens in 2014. A dynamic group of volunteers worked closely with RBG staff preparing for and during special events including Enchanted Weekend, Teddy Bear Picnic, The Great Pumpkin Trail, Holiday Traditions and the winter exhibit. New areas of involvement during the year included additional greeters in Mediterranean Garden and at educational programs, increased support in the herbarium and an Auxiliary-led Memorial Watch program.

Many volunteers contributed countless hours in the Auxiliary Workshop and horticultural sales to prepare for the Auxiliary’s annual fundraising events. As a result, the Auxiliary was able to donate $50,000 to Royal Botanical Gardens to continue payment for the cost of the children’s Natural Playground.

Working with CEO Mark Runciman and staff, Auxiliary members contributed to the implementation of RBG’s new 5-year Strategic Plan with a focus on “maximizing the involvement of the Auxiliary in new strategic directions.” The Auxiliary continues to follow its mission in aligning itself with RBG to “promote the objects and interests of Royal Botanical Gardens.”
Growing up Green Annual Campaign

$100,000 and more
- Canadian Heritage
- Environment Canada
- Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation
- Dan Lawrie
- Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Ontario Trillium Foundation
- TD Friends of the Environment Foundation

$50,000–$99,999
- Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
- Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change
- Sport
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Ontario Trillium Foundation
- Greenbelt Foundation
- Dan Lawrie
- Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport

$25,000–$49,999
- ArcelorMittal Dofasco
- Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation
- Natural Resources Canada
- Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada
- Service Canada
- Anonymous (1)

$10,000–$24,999
- Bay Area Restoration Council
- City of Hamilton
- Employment Hamilton
- J.B. Friedlander
- Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan Office
- John and Pat McCutcheon Charitable Foundation
- Ontario Tourism Marketing Partnership Corporation
- Stanley Smith Horticultural Fund
- YMCA of Hamilton/Burlington/Brantford
- Anonymous (1)

$5,000–$9,999
- Canadian Museums Association
- Catalpa Enterprises Ltd.
- Mrs. Gina Cheng
- Mr. Floyd Elder
- Mrs. Beatrice Fee
- McLean Foundation
- Mrs. Peggy North
- Union Gas
- Mrs. Alli Buckley
- Mr. Travis Buckley
- in memory of James T. Buckley
- Mrs. Leslie Bullock
- Mr. W.Frank Carpenter
- Janet Chisholm
- CN Employees’ and Pensioners’ Community Fund
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- Ms. Kathleen Denomy
- Mr. Charles Donaldson
- Mr. Michael Dunn
- Mr. John Evans, QC
- Mrs. Patricia Peacock-Evans
- Mrs. Pamela Forsyth
- Mr. Galin Forsyth
- Mr. Neil Fraser
- Mr. Maureen Fraser
- Mr. Allen Holley
- Mrs. Marilyn Holley
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- & Mark Munzar
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- & Mrs. Nicole Smith
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- Mr. Peter Stuart
- Mr. Sean Stuart
- Mrs. Pauline Sulzpi
- Mr. Thomas Van Zuiden
- & Mrs. Jane Van Zuiden
- Ms. Gisela Virgulti
- Ms. Charlotte Wheelband
- Mrs. Fiona Wheelband
- Mrs. Simon Wood
- Mr. Ian Wheelband
- Anonymous (1)

$100–$999
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- & Mr. Tarquin Adams
- Mrs. Clare Aiken Bryja
- Mr. Edward Bryja
- Ms. Diana Aikin
- Ms. Susan Alcock
- Aldershot Landscape Contractors Ltd.
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- Mrs. Alli Buckley
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- Ms. Eileen Booty
- & Mr. David Lord
- Mr. Edward Bosence
- & Mrs. Karin Schneider
- Dr. Paula Bourner
- Mark Boyak
- Brabant Foundation
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- & Mr. William Brehm
- Ms. Janette Brenner
- & Mr. Doug Wilson
- Mr. Mark Brett
- & Ms. Kathleen Denomy
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Bequests
Estate of John Hannon • Estate of Margaret Dawn Ludbrook • Estate of Jean McEwen Hurst

Tribute Giving
In Commemoration of: Lesley Bruce & David Barrager • Bob & Aileen Baxter’s 50th Wedding Anniversary • Sam Cino • Sheila Drury • Monica Griffin & Matthew Fisher’s Wedding • Betty Hatch • Noah James William Procter • Don & Gloria Topping’s 70th Wedding Anniversary • Bobbie Vaughan • Freek & Ina Vrugman’s 50th Wedding Anniversary
In Honour of: Joan Gibson • Patricia Borrelli • Audrey Carman • Mike Rooks & Pam Checkers • Sylvie Francis • Michael & Mathew Harper • Barbara Howard • Ayla & Bryne Outtrim • Joan Page • Aino McPeak • Reid Patrick Peeling • The marriage of Eva Bruni and David Serafini • Paige Sills • Paul Simpson • Caroline Smith • Diane Stephenson • Jorja L. Sztabinski • Albert Vanderburgh
In Memory of: Les Armstrong • Shirley Elsie Ball • Lincoln Bipond • Willi Boehling • Susan Boyadjian • Daryl Burdon • Mary Bunting • Dorothy Campbell • Mary Carson • Bill Chivers • Nancy Clark • Beattie Cohen • Mr. Patrick Colgan • Ted & Margaret Colman • Midge Cooper • June Cormick • Hamish Crawford • James Dale • Filippo D’Angelo • Leslie Davis • Shubha Dighe • Catherine Donkin • Margaret Ely • Mrs. Evelyln Epworth • Gregory W. Fabok • Joseph Faguy • Mary Fenwick • Sylvia Ferguson • Mr. William A.H. Filer • Michael Firth • Aaltje Folkes • Anne and Irv Foran • Katrine Foss-Hendry • Robert Hill • M Peter Holman • Homa Homapour-Farah • Shirley Ann Ingleton • Irene Johnston • Edith Kamermans • Laura Klatt • Nora Konietzko • Mary Labatte • Tyler Lambert • Jeanette Lawrie • Tony Layfield • Colin James Lyne Lock • Martha Helen Ludberg • Gloria Lypko • Elizabeth MacFarlane • Margaret MacMorrow • Bruno Marcolini • Kevin Marron • Martha Misner • Donald Munroe • Alecia Myers • Fellisa Navas • Mary Anne O’Leary • Mike O’Neill • Josphine Parsons • Eunice Powell • Elsie Raven • Marjorie Ricketts • John Robinson • Gertrude Oliva Robitaille • Betty Rogers • Mary Sager • Perky Schmuck • Tina Seale • Heather Short • Jane Smith • John St. Louis • Mary Stedman • Linda & Henry Tark • Muriel & Walter Tillinghaste • Catherine Todd • David Waddell • Marie Josephine Wagstaff • Dr. Jack Walker • Norma Waller • Barabara Claire Watson • Glennys Weatherston • Bruce Whaley • Brenda White • John Willard • James Jim Jock Wilson • James Wilson • Margo Wilson
Tribute Bench Dedications Stephen K M Cheng • Gerald Fee • Karl Gmell • Heather Stuart • Alison Wheelband • Mary Robertson Yorke
Tribute Tree Dedications Jim Bennett • James T. Buckley • Ada & William Droniuk • Geraldine (Gerri) Dunn • Jim and Edel Fraser • Mary Lou Grant • Mr. Kroezeboom • John Lott • Robert & Kath Sherwood • Betty Ann Smith • Henni and Gerhard Uhr

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Thank you
Thank you
Thank you again!

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Hi Irene,

Sorry this took so long!

Revenue

Province $4,029,760 29.0%
City of Hamilton $599,206 4.3%
Regional Municipality of Halton $725,266 5.2%
Self-generated $8,536,196 61.5%
Total $13,890,428

Expenses

Mandated Activities $4,537,417 32.8%
Operations Activities $9,292,082 67.2%
Total $13,829,499

Mandated Activities $4,537,417
Operations Activities $9,292,082

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