



ROYAL
BOTANICAL
GARDENS



Donor Accountability Report 2018

*“The journey
of a thousand
miles begins
with one step.”*

Lao Tzu

Environmental Sustainability

As conservation leaders, botanical gardens around the world work to identify and address critical threats to ecosystems. We also act as trusted science educators able to share best practices in sustainability with audiences of all ages and skill levels.

At Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG), our goal to be a leader in environmental stewardship and education means that we must strive to operate in an environmentally sustainable manner. Over the last few years we have been on a journey to reduce our own environmental footprint.

This is a very tall order for any organization! RBG has a stellar team of biologists, ecologists, horticulturists and educators, but we needed a different kind of expertise to guide us in incorporating environmental sustainability into our operations. In 2015 RBG secured grant funding to hire a sustainability intern, Chris McAnally, who has since continued as our sustainability coordinator. Chris works with our Green Team, a group of 16 staff and volunteers who represent all areas of our operations. Together they are tackling the goal of reducing RBG's environmental footprint while growing our resilience to the impacts of climate change.

Key operational elements being evaluated to monitor our progress

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Our goal is to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions over 10 years to 20% below our 2017 baseline. We're able to use a carbon accounting tool provided as part of our membership in the Sustainable Business Initiative, through Sustainable Hamilton Burlington

Waste Disposal

A by-product of our business activities is waste material, whether generated from our operations or from visitors disposing of items they brought or purchased on site. RBG has set a 65% waste diversion target over the next 4 years.

Water Consumption

RBG is acquiring a tool that allows us to analyze our water consumption in real time, by specific location or garden area. Once we've established baseline figures, our next step will be to set a reduction target for 2020.





2018 projects undertaken to reduce our environmental footprint

- A lighting retrofit was carried out at the Arboretum's 155-year-old Raspberry House in preparation for its new function as office space for four full-time staff
- Two electric golf carts were purchased for our natural lands and horticulture staff. The golf carts allow us to evaluate the feasibility of replacing more of our gasoline and diesel equipment with electric alternatives
- Rose Garden in Hendrie Park underwent a major redesign to minimize the garden's environmental impact, including the installation of a new drip irrigation system to significantly reduce water consumption
- New waste diversion program bins and collection/disposal services were installed at Laking Garden, Nature Interpretive Centre, Raspberry House and Hendrie Park to allow for mixed recycling and compost collection at each location
- A new wireless presentation system was installed to reduce paper printing for meetings. Duplex printing is now our default condition when printing is required
- A pilot project was initiated to harvest wood from diseased trees being removed from our collections, and use it to create artisan products such as wooden bowls
- The Green Team developed an organization-wide Climate Change Resiliency Plan with three-year objectives which include strategies for operating in an environmentally sustainable manner

There is no question that we have a long way to go on this journey. But to truly fulfill our mission to nurture and preserve healthy growing life on our planet, we have to take these first steps. We hope you will join us.

 Watch a short video summary
rbg.ca/DAR18

Carl Turkstra

Carl Turkstra's favourite thing about Royal Botanical Gardens? The smell. Walking around the gardens — over the bridge with his family's name on it or through Rock Garden he helped make possible — he loves the smell of nature.

"I remember going to the Rock Garden for weddings when I was a child," says Carl, "and that was a long time ago." Since then he's watched the garden grow and prosper, and done his part to help make that growth possible.

In the 1990s, when Carl followed in his father's footsteps and became president of Turkstra Lumber, he committed, as his father had, to donating a third of company profits to charitable organizations. When he looked around, he knew what he needed to support — art and nature, the things that make our community beautiful.

Carl's incite Foundation for the Arts supports activities that brings the Gardens to life. Whether it's sculpture, Shakespeare, or musical performances supporting RBG, it has become part of his legacy of giving because, for people in Hamilton, the Gardens are "part of our culture, they're part of who we are."

Carl's commitment reflects his view that as we move toward an uncertain environmental future RBG's role in the world is more important than ever — educating our children, providing beauty to our community, and providing the public with the chance to experience the sights (and smells) of nature.

"It's a joy for people. It's a real joy."



Watch a short video with Carl
rbg.ca/CarlTurkstra



"I think RBG is a really critical component of life in this area. It's important that it thrive and prosper and grow."



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Return of the Roses



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Hardy 'Canadian Shield' developed at Vineland Research and Innovation Centre in Niagara.



(L-R) Alex Henderson, Curator of Collections, Peter Kukielski and Jim Mack, Head of Horticulture

After a long year with an empty garden, 2018 marked the return of roses to Hendrie Park with the planting of over 2,000 bushes and companion plants in the new, rejuvenated Rose Garden, an innovative, sustainable and inspiring experience. The quintessential rose garden for Canada's largest botanical garden.

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 in 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.

Through the support of over a \$1M from RBG donors, the Rose Garden Rejuvenation project was inspired by three main concepts: innovation, beauty and sustainability.

Roses were carefully selected by Royal Botanical Gardens' horticulture team along with Peter E. Kukielski, rosarian and former curator of The Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden at New York Botanical Garden. The focus was good genetics — a sturdy foundation of disease-resistant, disease-tolerant, and cold-hardy roses were paired with companion plants, some of which provide direct allelopathic health benefits to roses when planted in close proximity.

Under these beneficial plant pairings, the installation of a trickle irrigation system allows the roses and their companions to build a deeper root system. Deep roots, combined with leveled mulching, rely on rain instead of regular watering, further building in an eco-friendly approach.

The plant pairings and advanced irrigation system is combined with well-planned soil chemistry, creating a garden that is resilient and sustainable — a garden focused on healthy soil working together to attract beneficial insects that ward off the threat of invasive pests.

Other improvements included upgraded pathways, fences, stairs and lighting as well as renovations to the Turner Pavilion Teahouse, overlooking a bold new rose garden. Education elements include an array of new signs, including the Story of Roses display, teaching visitors about the history of roses.

“We were thrilled to welcome in a new era of sustainable horticulture to Hendrie Park,” says 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 gardening, one that people can implement in their home garden. It's our hope that while wandering through this two-acre garden our guests will stop and smell the roses, explore their rich past, and discover how like of all of us, they are changing for a sustainable future.”



Michael Schwenger

And the Schwenger Family Foundation

Royal Botanical Gardens is rooted into the Schwenger family's DNA. "You might say RBG is part of our family," says Michael Schwenger, a third-generation RBG board chair/president.

It was Mike's grandfather who started it all. William Schwenger was known as "Mr. Parks" in Hamilton, a respected judge and environmentalist who became the president of RBG from 1949 until his death. Mike's father followed the same path, becoming RBG president in the late '80s.

When Mike was growing up in Aldershot Village, his parents would take him out for Sunday morning hikes on RBG trails. He remembers the Children's Teaching Garden in Westdale, the Christmas shows, and the feeling of peace he always had when he was at RBG.

A long-time Hamiltonian and local business owner, Mike is an avid canoer, kayaker, hiker and gardener. He's an environmentalist, and he knows that "by supporting RBG, you're supporting the environment."



*“I was born into it.
It’s in my roots.
And once you have
deep roots, you can’t
transplant them.”*

After ten years on RBG’s board of directors, Mike fulfilled his family’s legacy and became chair in 2000. Now, he’s passing these values onto his own children. His family’s foundation continues to support RBG financially, and although he’s involved in numerous community organizations, Royal Botanical Gardens was his first one, and it’s his great love.

Fundraising to keep RBG alive has always been a challenge, but it’s a challenge Mike has risen to. “It’s the lungs of the community,” he says, and he knows that looking to the future, the role of RBG is to provide leadership in showing the importance of conservation.

After nearly 80 years of Schwenger family ties to RBG, Mike thinks his grandfather, Mr. Parks, would be proud to see that the family is still carrying on his legacy of environmentalism. “It’s about horticulture, conservation, science and education,” says Mike. “It’s about creating a place where you can get away from the busy world we live in and be at peace.”

 Watch a short video with Michael
rbg.ca/MichaelSchwenger



“This is part of my support system and I think it’s great to cultivate that for others”

Lynn Hryniuk

When Lynn Hryniuk decided to dedicate a monument to her late father, she looked for somewhere that would last. A native Hamiltonian who's visited the Gardens more times than she can count, Lynn remembers RBG being an escape for her family after they moved to the city.

She's watched the Gardens change many times over. "It's expanded, it's renewed, it's revitalized," and when Lynn was able, she took the opportunity to become part of that change herself, donating to the Rock Garden rejuvenation project before finding "her place," the Arboretum.

A sprawling natural area that's home to a wide variety of trees and woody plants, the Arboretum offered a perfect opportunity for Lynn to commemorate her parents and their shared passion for RBG. Two tulip trees, growing tall and wide in the centre of the Arboretum, have been dedicated in their honour. Two others further down the path are dedicated to Lynn and her husband.

"I think I'm a closet tree-hugger," she says, "and I want to keep the Arboretum vital and active for generations to come." She thinks of how the garden spaces have helped her keep active and given her a place where no matter what's happening in her life, "problems don't seem so big."

Lynn and her parents' trees will be standing long after Lynn's time, and that's the true magic of RBG. It's bigger and older than any of us. Now when Lynn visits the Arboretum, she starts by relaxing on a bench under her father's tree. She lets that connection guide her through her long walks, exploring trails, walking beside the water and clearing her head.

She loves to watch children explore the Arboretum too — it brings her back to her own childhood in these gardens. "These are the times you're going to remember as you get older, the times spent with your family, running around the park and enjoying nature."



Watch a short video with Lynn
rbg.ca/LynnHryniuk

*"This job, this place,
I think it's shaped me.
It's made me appreciate
the outdoors to an
immeasurable degree."*



John DeZoete

Every morning, rain or shine, snow or sleet, you'll find a team of dedicated staff on the trails, bridges, waterways and forests of Royal Botanical Gardens' 2,300 acres of natural lands. Helping facilitate it all is John De Zoete.

John has worked for RBG's natural lands department since 1973, maintaining trails, building and maintaining structures, running the Fishway, and protecting RBG's native plant and animal species.

What started as a work placement upgrading trails in Cootes Paradise has become John's lifelong career and passion. He left briefly to go to college, but after just one year, realized that his true passion was waiting for him at the Gardens. He left again in 2011 to take early retirement, but RBG's natural wonders called him back again and he returned full-time to the work he loves.

He says its nature and the outdoors that keep him coming back — it's the challenges and problem-solving.

John's an RBG donor as well. He believes in giving back and can't think of a better organization than the one that's made him who he is. Some of his best memories involve sharing the magic of RBG with younger generations, and he knows education is the key to ensuring that the RBG can carry on long after he's gone.

At RBG, whether he's up close and personal with wildlife or helping kids understand the complexities of caring for our natural environment, John feels at home and at peace. On his almost 50-year career at RBG, John says "This wasn't my plan, but I'm glad how it turned out. I have no regrets."

 Watch a short video with John
rbg.ca/JohnDeZoete

Orchid Society

Tucked away in a greenhouse at the back of RBG’s Spicer Court, you’ll find one of Canada’s most diverse collections of orchids. If you visit on a Thursday or Sunday morning, you’ll find a familiar sight at RBG — volunteers getting their hands dirty in the name of conservation and a love of orchids.

The Orchid Society of Royal Botanical Gardens is a group of over 100 members that devote their time to the orchid collection and preservation of this unique winter-flowering plant. The Orchid Society hosts their own orchid show at the Gardens and travels to display their collection at shows across Canada.

Long-time members Lynda and Pat have been part of the society since 1990. They’ve seen their greenhouse space transformed over the last 30 years and watched as the Society’s orchid show grew from a one-room, one-day affair in the early 1980s to the multi-day festival of art and plant life that it is today. Through it all, what keeps them coming back is the friendships they’ve formed along the way.

Among the orchids, a community has blossomed under the greenhouse roof. Olga, who’s been volunteering since 1985, brings cookies and coffee to the greenhouse in the mornings, and the group sits together, discussing their shared passion for orchids and for conservation.

Lynda and Pat are most proud to see the relationship that’s bloomed between the Orchid Society and RBG, and the benefits and positive outcomes that both groups receive as a result of the strong partnership.

“In an increasingly urban environment and society,” says Pat, “it becomes critically important that there’s green space and that people have an opportunity to see how plants grow.” He hopes the work the Orchid Society does can help bring more people out to RBG in the winter months, get them excited about plant life, and in turn inspire them to buy a membership, donate or even volunteer their time at the Gardens.



 Watch a short video with Lynda and Pat
rbg.ca/OrchidSociety

 Volunteer



*"It's about the people
and it's about the plants.
And we're plant people."*



to all of our donors for their continued support

These listings represent **funds received in 2018**. 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

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 Stanley Lawrence Haworth
 Tim Ward
 Tom Marston
 Vera & Victor Eastham
 Walterina Mountain
 Wilhelmina VanAken
 Zoltan Fried

Benefit Concert Sponsors, Matt Dusk

\$10,000 PLUS

Incite Foundation for the Arts
 Leggat Auto Group

\$5,000–\$9,999

Aldershot Landscape Contractors Ltd.
 Brownlow Partners
 TD Bank Group

\$1,000–\$4,999

Badder Bus
 IF Design Inc

Member Organizations

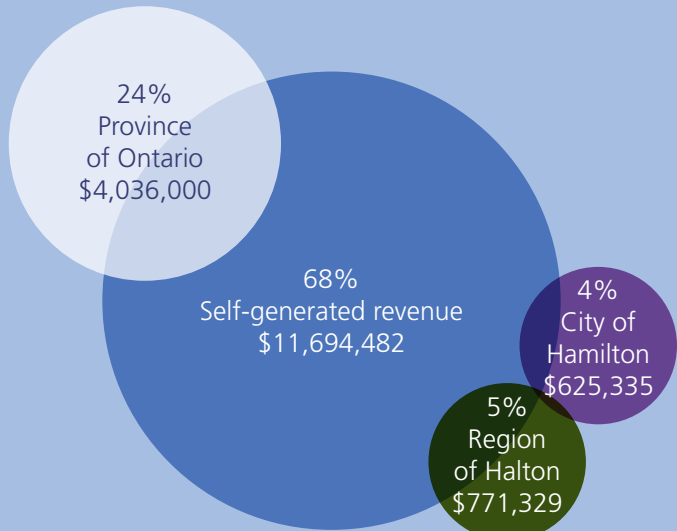
Best Care Agency Ltd.
 Brampton Horticultural Society
 Burlington Wellness Tai-Chi
 CGM Photo Imaging
 Chartwell Brant Centre
 Long Term Care Residence
 Choices, Orkney Residence
 Choices Association
 Christian Horizons, Hamilton House 1
 Community Living Burlington, Daryl House
 Community Living Burlington, Dynes House
 Community Living Burlington, Lifeskills
 Community Living Grimsby,
 Lincoln, West Lincoln
 Community Living Haldimand
 Community Living Hamilton
 Community Living Mississauga
 Community Living North Halton
 Community Living Oakville
 Compass, Lynwood Charlton Centre
 Conway Opportunity Homes
 Credit Valley Horticultural Society
 Fanshawe College
 Flamborough Senior Center, Hiking Group
 Flamborough Seniors Centre
 Georgian Bay Garden Club
 Guelph Horticultural Society
 Haldimand Horticultural Society
 Hamilton & District Chrysanthemum
 & Dahlia Society

Hamilton Burlington Rose Society
 Hamilton Naturalists' Club
 Harbour Home
 Ikenobo Ikebana Society of Hamilton
 Ira McDonald Construction Ltd.
 Lambeth Horticultural Society
 LaSalle Park Retirement Community
 Lively Dragon Club
 London Horticultural Society
 Lynden Horticultural Society
 McMaster Outdoor Club
 Mohawk College, Continuing Education
 Mount Hamilton Horticultural Society
 Mountainhill Landscaping Inc.
 OMC Landscape Architecture
 Ontario Daylily Society
 Ontario Regional Lily Society
 Options For Independent
 Living Development
 Paris Horticultural Society
 Pathfinders Hiking Group of Oakville
 Port Dover & Woodhouse
 Horticultural Society
 Queens Garden
 Ridge Road Birders
 School Sisters of Notre Dame
 St. George Garden Club
 Start It Right
 Stoney Creek Garden Club
 & Horticultural Society
 Stratford & District Horticultural Society
 Summit Housing & Outreach Programs
 Sunrise Senior Living
 The Garden Club of Hamilton
 The Garden Club of London
 The Horticultural Societies
 of Parkdale & Toronto
 Thorndale & Area Horticultural Society
 Thrive Group, Ableiving Services
 Tillsonburg Horticultural Society
 V. Kraus Nurseries Ltd.
 WEC International
 Wentworth Height Schlegel Village
 Wesley Senior Outreach Program
 Wesley Supportive Housing
 Winona Horticultural Society
 YWCA Hamilton, East Group Home
 YWCA Hamilton, Mountain Place

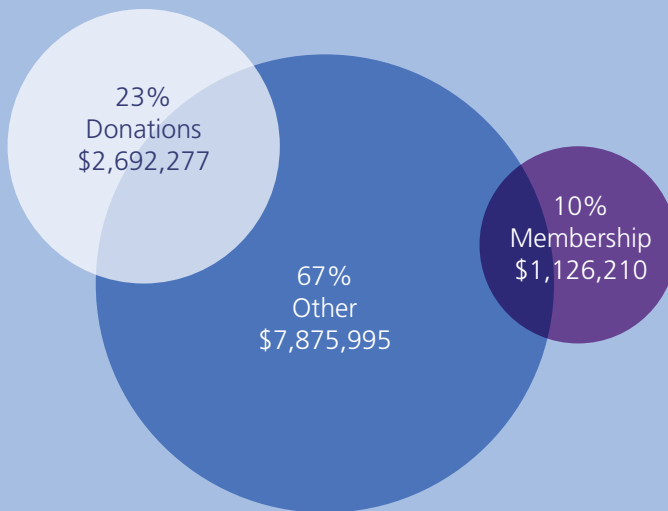
These listings represent **funds received in 2018**. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of these lists and we apologize for any errors or omissions. Please contact 905-527-1158, ext. 290 for questions.

RBG Financials

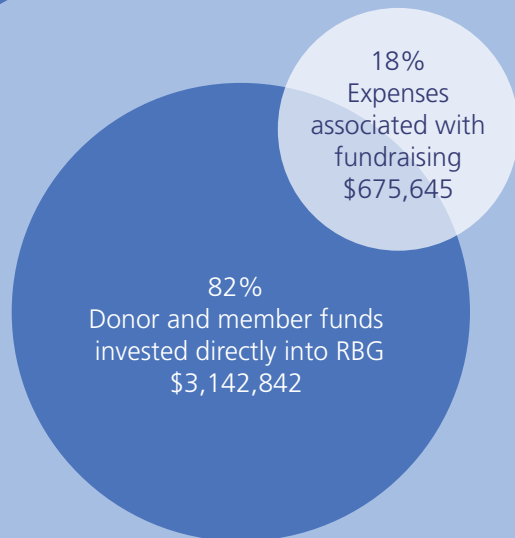
\$17,127,146
REVENUE SUMMARY



\$11,694,482
SELF-GENERATED REVENUES



\$3,818,487
FUNDRAISING RATIO
OF REVENUES TO EXPENSES



82% 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.

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P.O. Box 399, Hamilton, ON L8N 3H8
905-527-1158 | 1-800-694-4769
Fax: 905-577-0375
Charitable Registration: 13350 0850 RR0001

