

# Canada Blooms

THE FLOWER AND GARDEN FESTIVAL

For immediate release

## Another year Blooms...

Canada Blooms plants and flowers donated to the City; proceeds go to Toronto Botanical Gardens children's programs

**March 24, 2009, Toronto, ON** – Spring came early in Toronto last week, both outdoors and inside at Canada Blooms, Canada's largest flower and garden festival. The five-day festival delighted garden-lovers with a springtime paradise – particularly on Friday as the Festival welcomed the first day of spring. Now in its thirteenth year, more than 80,000 visitors enjoyed six acres of feature gardens in full bloom, more than 100,000 square feet of green-thumb shopping, over 200 hours of seminars, workshops and demonstrations, a special children's garden and more.

"Each year visitors from Canada and beyond, enjoy the gardens, marketplace and educational features of Canada Blooms," said Gerry Ginsberg, General Manager, Canada Blooms. "Again this year, all of the plant and building materials used to create the spectacular gardens of Canada Blooms will be reused and recycled following the Festival. The plants and flowers left-over will once again be donated to the City of Toronto."

The City of Toronto will receive approximately 600 flowers and plants that will go to a number of the City of Toronto's 10 long-term care homes so that seniors living in these locations could also receive a fresh, colourful bloom to brighten their day and living environment. Staff and volunteers will also deliver flowers to a number of clients of Cummer Lodge's meals-on-wheels program and adult day program and clients served by the City's homemakers and nurses services program to "add a bit of spring" to their homes.

Ginsberg adds, "We are particularly pleased to share the flowering bulbs and annuals with seniors who may not have been able to attend the festival."

Flowering bulbs, trees and shrubs recovered from Canada Blooms will also be added to the outdoor garden at Cummer Lodge and Lakeshore Lodge, providing a safe, accessible, colourful outdoor space for residents, clients, their families and guests to enjoy. In addition, approximately 75 perennial shrubs and trees from Canada Blooms will be maintained at Downsview Park until the weather warms up and then planted in locations city-wide.

Canada Blooms is a not-for-profit volunteer-driven event which promotes awareness of horticulture and showcases outstanding floral and landscape products and services. To date, more than \$500,000 in Canada Blooms' show proceeds has been reinvested into community horticultural projects. This year's proceeds from Canada Blooms will benefit the Toronto Botanical Gardens children's programs.

Toronto Botanical Garden Children's Programs fill an essential role in educating and inspiring urban children about the value and beauty of our natural world. Using exciting, hands-on experiences, these programs reveal the magic and science of planting, caring for and harvesting "youth-size" garden plots while exploring connections between people, plants and wildlife.

### Award Winning Designs

Each year visitors and industry contributors to Canada Blooms are invited to participate in the Festival by voting for their favourite displays and gardens. This year, the People's Choice award winners include:

- **The Miracle-Gro Garden Box Challenge** attracted many visitors to vote for their favourite celebrity-designed window boxes and front porch planters in a People's Choice format. Out of six contestants, Rex Harrington of The National Ballet of Canada came out with the top design, receiving \$1,000 from Scotts Miracle-Gro for his favourite charitable cause, Casey House Hospice.
- **The People's Garden – Consumer Choice** winner was '**Pulse: The Heart & Stroke Foundation of Ontario**' designed and built by Humber College Landscape Technician Program Garden. Honourable mentions went to the Bienenstock Natural Playground, 'Seasons' by D. A. Gracey; 'Green for Life' by Landscape Ontario and Garden Creations of Ottawa.
- **The Judges Choice Garden** winner was '**Connected: The Canadian Cancer Society Garden**' designed and built by Ronald Holbrook & Associates Landscape Architects Inc. and Royalty Landscaping. An honourable mention was also awarded to **Seasons** designed by D.A. Gracey & Associates Ltd.

(more)

Other Canada Blooms award winners include:

Category	Winning Garden	Contributor(s)
The Sheridan Nurseries Award for Outstanding Garden, <i>Small Size</i>	Green Outdoor Room	McCartney Landscaping Inc., Sander Design
The S.G. Ulbright Award for Outstanding Garden, <i>Medium Size</i>	Connected: The Canadian Cancer Society Garden	Ronald Holbrook & Associates Landscape Architects Inc., Royalty Landscaping
The Gordon A. MacEachern Award for Outstanding Garden, <i>Large Size</i>	Pulse: Heart & Stroke Garden	Humber College Landscape Technician Program
Outstanding Interpretation of the Show Theme “A Celebration of Canadian Talent”	City of Toronto: Now and Then	City of Toronto
Outstanding Use of Artistic Elements in a Garden	Urban Kaleidoscope	Landscapes by Lucin
Outstanding Representation of Sponsor Requirements	The Home Depot Outdoor Living Central	Allweather Landscape Co. Ltd.
Most Imaginative Garden Design	Bienenstock Natural Playground	Gardens for Living Inc.
The Environmental Award	Outside the Box	b sq. landscape design studio
Outstanding Use of Trees	Seasons	D.A. Gracey & Associates Ltd.
Outstanding Use of Annuals and/or Perennials	Pulse: Heart & Stroke Garden	Humber College Landscape Technician Program
The Laguna Water Garden Award for Outstanding Use of Water	G21	Simple Solutions Landscaping
Outstanding Use of Natural Stone	G25	Near North
Outstanding Use of Pre-Cast Pavers	One	Jodi M. Liptrot Landscape Design, Stone-Link
Outstanding Use of Structure	G17	Elite Environments Inc.
Outstanding Use of Walkways	G7	Beth Edney, CLD; Creative Impressions Landscaping Ltd.
Outstanding Outdoor Living Space	G33	Be-Leaf! Landscape Design; MCP Landscape Contractors
Outstanding Outdoor Entertainment Area	Green for Life	Garden Creations of Ottawa Ltd.
Universal Access Award	Bienenstock Natural Playground	Gardens for Living Inc.
The Garden Club of Toronto Award for Best Overall Use of Colour	City of Toronto: Now and Then	City of Toronto
The W.E. Bridgeman Award for Best Overall Use of Hard Landscape Elements	Connected: The Canadian Cancer Society Garden	Ronald Holbrook & Associates Landscape Architects Inc., Royalty Landscaping
The Humber Nurseries Award for Best Overall Use of Plant Material	Green for Life	Garden Creations of Ottawa Ltd.
The Leslie L. Solty Memorial Award for Best Overall Creativity in Garden Design	Bienenstock Natural Playground	Gardens for Living Inc.
The Landscape Ontario Award for Best Overall Quality of Workmanship	G41	Dr. Landscape Inc.
Best Booth 100 square feet and over Presented by Andrew Richard Designs	905 (800 Level)	Ponds in the City
Best Booth 100 square feet and under Presented by Andrew Richard Designs	800 Level	Palmyra Designs
Best Booth Presented by Andrew Richard Designs	600 Level	The Butterfly Garden

“This year we built new partnerships and added highlights such as the Canadian Cancer Society’s *Connected* garden and the Grey Power Celebrity Stage,” adds Ginsberg. “Thanks to the tremendous support of our sponsors, dedicated staff and volunteers, we continue to be Canada’s largest garden and flower Festival and look forward to an even bigger event next year.”

#### About Canada Blooms

Dedicated to providing horticulture expertise, education and resources on an ongoing basis, Canada Blooms is a not-for-profit organization that gives back to the community throughout the year by funding community garden projects around Ontario. Now in its thirteenth year, Canada Blooms is supported by a committed group of partners, sponsors and volunteers. In 2009, sponsors include The Home Depot, Brampton Brick/Oaks, Brookdale Treeland Nurseries Ltd., Canadian Cancer Society, City of Toronto, Dairy Farmers of Canada, Grey Power Insurance, Heart & Stroke Foundation, Indigo Books & Music Inc., JVK, Miracle-Gro, Myers Lawn and Garden Group, Ontario Tourism Marketing Partnership Corporation, Pick Ontario, Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation, RBC, Sobeys Ontario, Tourism Ireland, VIA Rail, Vincor, The Vineland Research and Innovation Centre, Universal Studios Home Entertainment Canada, Show Smart, CN Tower, Nestle Canada, Sinclair-Cockburn, CanWest Media, The National Post, EZ Rock, HGTV, CFRB and The New Classical 96.3 FM.

**For more information, please contact:**

Linda Yahya, Palette PR  
416.703.9859, ext. 19, [lyahya@palettepr.com](mailto:lyahya@palettepr.com)

Gerry Ginsberg, Canada Blooms  
416.447.8655 x 24, [gerry.ginsberg@canadablooms.com](mailto:gerry.ginsberg@canadablooms.com)