

Canada Blooms

THE FLOWER AND GARDEN FESTIVAL

Kick up your heels this St. Patrick Day at the gala opening of Canada Blooms

Canada's largest flower and garden festival hosts St. Patrick's Day parade bursting with Celtic dancers, live Irish music in lush, green garden paradise

March 2009 – Toronto, ON – Celebrate St. Patrick's Day in the lush, green gardens of Canada Blooms, Canada's largest flower and garden festival. Guests will be the first to preview the gardens while enjoying a St. Patrick's Day parade bursting with Celtic dancers, oysters shucked by Former World Champion of the Galway Oyster Festival Patrick McMurray of Starfish Restaurant, and live music from Deborah Quigley and her Lilleann Pipes and Canadian Celtic band Finnegan. Special guests include The Honourable, David C. Onley, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario and the Irish Ambassador to Canada, Declan Kelly.

Sponsored by Tourism Ireland, Sobeys and the Royal Bank of Canada, Canada Bloom's Green on Green opening celebrations get started at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, March 17th at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, South Building.

WHAT:

- **6:30 pm – Gala Entrance** – Party goers enter through a giant floral rainbow and are entertained by the Irish sounds of the Deborah Quigley trio, complete with Lilleann pipes.
- **7:15 pm – St. Paddy's Day Parade** – Fifty dancers from The Gilchrist School of Irish Dancing will bring the magic of St. Patrick's Day to life when they lead a parade through the striking gardens of Canada Blooms. The parade will end at the Celebrity Stage where The Honourable, David C. Onley, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario and His Excellency Declan Kelly, the Irish Ambassador to Canada will official open the Festival.
- **10 pm** – Toronto Celtic band Finnigan take the stage

WHO: Special guests include The Honourable, David C. Onley, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, the Irish Ambassador to Canada, Declan Kelly, celebrity chef David Rocco as well as MC for the evening Susan Hay of Global TV

WHEN: March 17, 2008
Gala Opening 6:30 p.m.

WHERE: Metro Toronto Convention Centre
South Building, 800 Level
222 Bremner Blvd., Toronto, ON

Canada Blooms takes place at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, South Building from March 18 to 22. For more information or to purchase tickets visit www.canadablooms.com or any Sobeys Ontario Store.

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 was founded by Landscape Ontario and The Garden Club of Toronto. Each year it 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.

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