

Experience a Taste of Ireland at A Spring Gathering

Celebrating St Patrick's Day at Canada Blooms

TORONTO, Ont. – If you can't make it to Ireland for Saint Patrick's Day, Ireland will come to you. Tourism Ireland presents St Patrick's Day at Canada Blooms on March 17 with a range of entertainment, treats and surprises for visitors on this very special day – where everyone is Irish!

“*A Spring Gathering Garden*” is a 2,600 square foot garden inspired by Ireland's landscape, history, people and culture - designed to bring Ireland to life at Canada Blooms.

The inspiration for *A Spring Gathering Garden* came following a visit by Anna van Maris, president of Parklane Nurseries and lead designer, to the Emerald Isle in late 2012. “The theme of the Canada Blooms Show 2013, *The Magic of Spring* fits perfectly with the design for the show this year,” says van Maris. “There is something very mysterious, mystical and magical about Ireland.”

The garden has incorporated archaeological, cultural and geological features of the Irish landscape such as the **Newgrange Passage Tombs, The Giants Causeway, Peatlands** in Offaly, Gardens at **Blarney Castle, Standing Stones, Dolmens** and Dublin's famous **Cobble Streets**.

The Parklane Nurseries team will construct an **ancient burial chamber; geological landforms** created by volcanic eruptions, and **emulate the rolling hills of Ireland** in its garden features.

The Gathering Garden by Numbers:

- 200 shamrock plants will be in A Spring Gathering Garden with approx. 100 – 200 leaves in each pot. That's about 20,000 Shamrocks.
- 30 Newgrange triscale swirls carved into rocks.
- Standing stones weighing up to 3700lbs each.
- Limestone cliff wall is 40 tons total. All the granite added up will be about 20 tons.
- All in all there will be approx. 100 tons of material brought into the garden.

Special St Patrick's Day Entertainment

On the Unilock Celebrity Stage presented by HGTV, Tourism Ireland will present a programme of lively entertainment on St Patrick's Day with special guests including Irish celebrity gardener Trevor Edwards and performers. There will be a spectacular dance and music show from modern dance troupe 'Brogue' plus presentations on Ireland, Irish history and *A Spring Gathering Garden*. Ahead of their main stage performance Brogue will perform in the intimate 'gathering' space and put our guests through their paces with one-on-one Irish dancing lessons!

Win a trip to Ireland Contest

Parklane Nurseries and Royal Irish Tours are offering Canadians the chance to win the trip of a lifetime at Canada Blooms, an exciting driving holiday for two to Ireland. Discover the gardens of Ireland, plus Ireland's landscape, beauty, culture and history on this unforgettable vacation which includes return flights; two nights' accommodation in Dublin city followed a self-drive exploration of the stunning Irish countryside staying at 3* & 4* hotels and B&B's; and all finished off in style with a night at Ireland's luxurious five star Ashford Castle estate!

Details on how to enter can be found in *A Spring Gathering Garden* at Canada Blooms and online at www.ireland.com/gatheringgarden

All About Stout, from Mill Street Brewery

The official drink for Saint Patrick's Day, stout, takes centre stage at the Mill Street Brewery demonstration on the IDEA stage at the 2013 National Home Show presented by RE/MAX on Sunday, March 17 at 12:00 p.m. Learn to cook with this versatile and mouth-watering brew, and make everything from starters, to hearty mains and desserts. For those who want to enjoy ways of celebrating this brew solo, Mill Street Brewer Geoff Wiseman will be on hand to enlighten showgoers on the best way to enjoy stout, as well as recommended food pairings to enhance its already great taste.

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About *The Gathering* Ireland 2013

2013 is the year of *The Gathering* in Ireland – a twelve-month celebration of all things Irish – its people, landscape, its unique culture, heritage and history! It is about the people of Ireland throwing open their arms and inviting anyone who feels a connection to Ireland to come and visit in 2013!

Over 3,000 events in every shape and size are being organised by local and national groups throughout 2013 including large festivals such as the St. Patrick's Festival, Galway Arts Festival, Cork Jazz Festival and a brand new show from the makers of Riverdance! There will also be clan reunions, food festivals, arts and music festivals, a Redhead Convention and a Left-Hand Gathering ... there is something for everyone!

Oscar winning actor **Daniel Day Lewis** says of *The Gathering* Ireland, “**what better moment than this, for all those with Irish roots and connections throughout the world, to visit and revisit Ireland,**” and *A Spring Gathering* Garden at Canada Blooms offers a taste of what's in store for Canadians who want to join greatest Irish get together of all time!

Connect with Tourism Ireland in Canada

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About Canada Blooms

Canada Blooms is a not-for-profit organization that gives back to the community throughout the year by funding community garden projects around Ontario. Canada Blooms is also dedicated to providing the community with horticulture expertise, education and resources on an ongoing basis.

Now in its seventeenth 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 dedicated volunteers. Canada Blooms has been named One of Ontario's Top 100 Events by Festivals and Events Ontario and One of North America's Top 100 Events by the American Bus Association and the Garden Event of the Year by the Canadian Garden Coalition.

For more information on flowers and gardening, visit Canada Blooms – Canada's largest flower and garden celebration – **March 15th-24th, 2013** at the Direct Energy Centre, Toronto, Ontario.

For more information and to purchase festival tickets please visit: www.canadablooms.com.

The 2013 Festival Highlights

Canada Blooms is Canada's largest flower and garden festival and is made up of five main areas of special presentation:

- (i) Flowers which come from the magnificent floral presentations of the newly named Toronto Flower Show which includes entries from regional, national and international competitors and innovative displays from well known professional florists and growers in partnership with pickOntario.
- (ii) Education, featuring the best known garden and landscape experts from across Canada on three stages.
- (iii) Marketplace showcasing the latest and greatest garden and landscape products and services
- (iv) The Feature Gardens created by Ontario's premier landscape architects and designers
- (v) Special Sponsor Features

Additional Highlights:

- Over 20 spectacular gardens created by Ontario's premier landscape corporations.
- The Grey Power Educational Series
- The Master Gardeners Speakers Series
- The Scott's Miracle-Gro Learning Stage
- The Unilock Celebrity Stage presented by HGTV
- Wine Sensory Garden presented by Reif Estate Winery & Mori Gardens
- Experience the Parklane and Tourism Ireland "A Spring Gathering" etc.
- Win a Trip to the Gardens of Spain with Air Canada, Tourist Office of Spain, Connaissance Travel and Toronto Star
- RE/MAX "Get Curbalicious"
- Twinings Tea Garden
- pickOntario Floral Area and Stage Programs.
- Neville MacKay presented by Oasis and FloraLife
- The Toronto Flower Show
- Children's Gardening Experiences with Fafard and Floral Dimensions
- Canada's Garden Route presented by VIA Rail Canada
- The Chinese Culture Garden presented by NTD-TV
- And much more!

Cultural Performances and Special Days

UNILOCK "CELEBRITY" STAGE PRESENTED BY HGTV. FUNDING SUPPORT PROVIDED BY PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

SPECIAL DAYS – **FRIDAY, MARCH 15** – NTD-TV – CHINESE CULTURE DAY WITH EVENING PERFORMANCE, **SATURDAY, MARCH 16** – UNILOCK DAY, **SUNDAY, MARCH 17** – ST. PATRICK'S DAY WITH TOURISM IRELAND, **MONDAY, MARCH 18TH** – CANADIAN WILDLIFE DAY, **TUESDAY, MARCH 19** – CTS-TV DAY, **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20TH** – PICK ONTARIO DAY, **THURSDAY, MARCH 21** – METROLAND MEDIA DAY – FIRST DAY OF SPRING, **FRIDAY, MARCH 22** - CP 24 DAY, **SATURDAY, MARCH 23** – SCOTTS CANADA DAY, **SUNDAY, MARCH 24** – GREY POWER INSURANCE DAY.

Sponsors

SUPPORTING: UNILOCK, GREY POWER INSURANCE, CITY OF TORONTO, ONTARIO TOURISM, GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO. **FOUNDERS:** GARDEN CLUB OF TORONTO, LANDSCAPE ONTARIO. **MEDIA SPONSORS** – TORONTO STAR, CTV, CTV2, CP24, CTS-TV, EPOCH TIMES, GARDENMAKING MAGAZINE, CANADIAN GARDENING, GARDENER LIVING MAGAZINE, GARDENS CENTRAL, HOMES PUBLISHING, METROLAND MEDIA, NTD-TV, THE NEW CLASSICAL 96.3FM, THE NEW AM740.

CONTRIBUTING: AIR CANADA, *AQUASCAPE*, *AVIVA INSURANCE*, BTN, BEAVER VALLEY STONE, CANADIAN CANCER SOCIETY, *CANADIAN WILDLIFE FEDERATION*, CANADA'S GARDEN ROUTE PRESENTED BY VIA RAIL, CONNAISSANCE TRAVEL, FAFARD, FLORAL DIMENSIONS, TOURIST OFFICE OF SPAIN, TOURISM IRELAND, DAIRY FARMERS OF CANADA, REIF ESTATE WINERY, DISCOUNTER POOL AND SPA, DUFFERIN AGGREGATE, EARTHCO, EVERGREEN BRICKWORKS, FAFARD, GARDEN CLUB OF TORONTO, GARDENER LIVING MAGAZINE, GARDEN MAKING MAGAZINE, GARDENS CENTRAL MAGAZINE, GREY POWER INSURANCE, GRO-BARK, HILTON GARDEN INN, HUB INSURANCE, HYATT REGENCY, INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL TORONTO, LEXUS, LOWE'S CANADA, NEWPORT PRIVATE WEALTH, PERMACON, pickONTARIO, REIF, RE/MAX, SCOTTS CANADA, TRADEWINDS,

TORONTO BOTANICAL GARDEN, TWININGS TEA, UNILOCK, MADRID, STEPHENSON'S RENTAL,
PIONEER FLOWER FARMS, SMITHERS-OASIS, VANOFF AND BLOKKEK, ZOOMER MAGAZINE.

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