

MEDIA RELEASE

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Feature Gardens in the Spotlight

TORONTO, Ont. — Throughout its 18-year existence, the quality of the feature gardens and floral displays at [Canada Blooms](#) is what makes the country's largest floral and garden show the breathtaking experience that it is, and this year is no exception.

“Heading into the final weekend of the show, it is worth the visit just to be inspired by the creativity and imagination that goes into building these feature gardens,” says Bruce Sudds, Director of Marketing and Sponsorships for Canada Blooms. “Each year the Feature Gardens and the amazing professionals who design and build them engage and grow our audience.”

A very popular feature with families at Canada Blooms has been the Earthscape Dinosaur Preserve, a multi-generational space that is part playground, part garden. The one-of-a-kind design allows children to toil and play in this unique space while grandma admires the flowering gardens and mom rests on an oak bench.

“Visitors, especially the adults, enjoy playing the soft xylophones and appreciate the colourful plantings; the young ones love to dig in and experiment at the tiered sand and water table,” says Laura Hilliard from Earthscape. “We are thrilled with the positive feedback from visitors and love the grins and excited voices from kids who’ve mastered the climb to the top of our Plesiosaurus — he is a friendly dinosaur, of course!”

Parklane Nurseries has designed and built that invites people to discover “ReWilding” and the extraordinary benefits of partnership between people and nature. ReWilding is the creation of revitalized spaces where nature and people successfully coexist.

The Parklane design team has created a garden that compares two distinct spaces. In one space, nature dominates. In the other, people are a part of nature. The garden provides a space to enjoy a chat sitting among pine trees, relax and be entertained with in a “glamping” yurt and meander through a daylight stream, learning about the journey of water through a garden and how it can be captured and enjoyed.

“We have been rewilding with a series of shoreline revitalization projects at Lake Simcoe linked to research that promotes the idea of people and nature developing a relationship to revitalize outdoor spaces in a way that benefits the health and well-being of both,” says Anna van Maris from Parklane Nurseries.

At The Otium Outdoor Exercise Garden you will find a fitness challenge to see how many push-ups, sit-ups or lunges people can do in the garden.

“Gardening in and of itself is great exercise, but we have shown you can design a garden that encourages more physical activity,” says Shawn Gallagher from the Otium garden at booth A33A. “It has been amazing to see how many people are stopping by to test their physical fitness. We have seen so many people in their 60s and 70s who are very active people!”

The Wild Urban Café designed and built by Hollander Landscaping and Creative Garden Designs is a showcase of living walls, outdoor art and water features.

“Our design can teach how to better utilize your outdoor living spaces, both in a traditional and artistic way,” says Josh Hollander from the Wild Urban Café. “The living herb wall is ideal for a home or condo with limited space, and can be harvested all year long. Bringing some of the outdoors inside can help us cope with this long, cold winter.”

Designed by Mike Barker from SHIFT Landscape Architecture and built by Forestell, the North of 60 feature garden was inspired by Canada’s rugged North – very much in keeping with the 2014 Canada Blooms theme of WILD!

A simple palette of materials – wood, stone, water and colour – are combined in a creative and bold manner to create an abstraction of the Arctic landscape, including an iceberg structure, Northern Lights sculpture and a pressure ridge water feature.

“We have created a bold space that confronts our visitors with the question, ‘What is a garden?’” says Barker. “The unique forms and textures in use are intended to introduce new design opportunities for gardens and landscaping.”

Canada Blooms, being held in conjunction with The National Home Show at The Direct Energy Centre at Exhibition Place in Toronto, continues until Sunday. Tickets for Canada Blooms, part of the largest home and garden event in North America, are available at www.canadablooms.com. Follow Canada Blooms on Twitter [@CanadaBlooms](https://twitter.com/CanadaBlooms) and Like it on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/CanadaBlooms).

About Canada Blooms

Canada Blooms is an annual world-class festival that connects people to the joys and benefits of nature through experiences with gardens and flowers by promoting, educating, inspiring and celebrating all aspects of horticulture. 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 18th 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. 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.

The 2014 Canada Blooms Festival Sponsors include: AM740, Canadian Gardening, Canadian Wildlife Federation, Fafard, Floral Dimensions, GardenMaking Magazine, CTV, Gardens Central Magazine, Growers of Ontario, HarrowsmithAlmanac, Homes Publishing, InterContinental HotelToronto, Metroland, The New Classical 96.3FM, Ontario Gardener Magazine, Ontario Tourism, Pick Ontario, Santa Margherita Wines, Scotts Canada, Toronto Botanical Garden, The Toronto Star, Tourism Ireland and UNILOCK.

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