

# Canada Blooms

## THE FLOWER AND GARDEN FESTIVAL

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

March 13, 2014

## **Make Your Garden a Habitat**

*Canada Blooms speaker has tips to support WILDlife in your garden*

**TORONTO, Ont.** — Add a new dimension to your backyard garden by making it a natural habitat that supports a diverse array of wildlife.

Planning your garden to support wildlife — birds, butterflies, bees and small creatures — brings benefits not only for the environment, but also for yourself. They are relatively easy to maintain, and add a beautiful new element to your yard.

“Creating a wildlife-friendly garden is easy and fun, and is beneficial for both wildlife and you,” says Pat de Valence, a Simcoe South Master Gardener who is presenting a seminar at Canada Blooms on planting and maintaining a habitat garden. “Creating and enjoying your habitat garden is a great way to get some exercise and decompress. It’s soothing and even educational to see your garden supporting such a diversity of life.”

Habitat gardens are easier to maintain than a lawn, and will provide you, your family and your guests a lot of entertainment all through the year, with the beauty of local fauna, and their antics.

Habitat gardens play an important role in environmental stewardship by actively supporting a complex system of animal and plant life. With the right selection of plants and a natural design, you can sit back and enjoy watching butterflies flit back and forth, hummingbirds hover and feed or maybe the odd hedgehog or rabbit taking shelter.

“The concept of habitat gardening is a beautiful fit with Canada Blooms 2014 and its WILD! theme,” says Bruce Sudds, director of sponsorships and marketing from Canada Blooms. “Good gardening habits and the preservation and protection of our environment is a fundamental pillar of Canada Blooms.”

Pat de Valence will be hosting her habitat gardens seminar on March 14 at 4 p.m. in the Garden Solutions Theatre, Salon 102, in Hall A of the Direct Energy Centre. Canada Blooms is open from March 14 – 23, Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets for Canada Blooms, part of the largest home and garden event in North America, are available at [www.canadablooms.com](http://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 18<sup>th</sup> 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, Harrowsmith Almanac, Homes Publishing, InterContinental Hotel Toronto, 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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