



**MEDIA RELEASE**

March 18, 2016

## **Canada Blooms Flower and Garden Festival Announces 2016 Feature Garden Award Winners**

**TORONTO, Ont.** — Canada Blooms is in the midst of its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, and the feature gardens at this year's show – the country's largest flower and garden festival – have fully embraced the party theme.

Inspired by the key milestones in life that we celebrate, the Feature Garden designers and builders crafted some memorable displays that made the judges' choices difficult. At the conclusion of final award selections, each judge voted on their favourite feature garden by secret ballot, to be included in the tally for 'Judges Choice Award', renamed for 2016 the Tony DiGiovanni Garden of the Year Award. The winner, H<sub>2</sub>O Yeah! by Genoscape, was announced at the awards ceremony Thursday, March 17, during 'Industry Night' at the Unilock Celebrity Stage. (See Backgrounder below for a full list of the winners.)

"I am inspired and encouraged by the level of detail and craftsmanship with the imaginative garden designs", said Tony DiGiovanni, Executive Director of Landscape Ontario Horticultural Trades Association in Milton, Ontario. "The builders expressed their creativity and interpretive, artistic vision of the theme of 'It's a Party' this year in celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> year of the festival. Our talented teams of feature garden builders impress me more each year."

Judges considered the following criteria: overall visual impact, quality of materials used, outstanding creativity, innovation, imagination, aesthetic appeal, technical hardscape/constructed aspects, harmony of design elements and detailing, unique use of plant material, organization and completeness, environment (ie. cleanliness, safety, etc.), as well as specific criteria for each individual award as either noted in the award name or included with it below.

Judging took place on Thursday, March 10.

"As a past Canada Blooms feature garden builder and member of both Landscape Ontario and the Ontario Association of Landscape Architects, it was fun to be on the other side, and judge the gardens designed and built by my peers; it gives me a unique perspective," said Christine Gracey OALA, CSLA of DA Gracey & Associates in Vaughan, Ontario.

This year's Feature Garden Judges were:

- **Alistair Johnston** ISA, Strybos Barron King Ltd;
- **Jeff McMann** NPD, ISA, CHT, TRAQ, Mount Pleasant Group of Cemeteries;
- **Martin Wade** BLA, OALA, CSLA, Martin Wade Landscape Architects;



- **Beth Edney** CLD, Designs By The Yard;
- **Carson Arthur**, HGTV;
- **Christine Gracey** OALA, CSLA, DA Gracey & Associates;
- **Michael Prokopow** PhD, OCAD University;
- **Peter Guinane**, Oriole Landscaping. Convenors;
- **Kristen McIntyre** CHT, CEM, Landscape Ontario Horticultural Trades Association;
- **Ron Koudys** BLA, MED, OALA, CSLA, ASLA, RLA (MI), CLD, Ron Koudys Landscape Architects Inc.

Co-located with the National Home Show, Canada Blooms takes place March 11<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016, at the Enercare Centre at Exhibition Place in Toronto. For more information or for tickets, please visit [canadablooms.com](http://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 20<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.



## Backgrounder

### 2016 Canada Blooms Feature Garden Award Winners

Award Name	Winner	Builder
<b>The Unilock Award for Outstanding Garden, Small Size</b>	Garden #49 – NEST	B SQ Design Studio Inc
<b>The S.G. Ulbright Award for Outstanding Garden, Medium Size</b>	Garden #29 – A NIGHT UNDER THE STARS	Landscapes by Lucin
<b>The Gordon A. MacEachern Award for Outstanding Garden, Large Size</b>	Garden #41 – H2O YEAH	Genoscape Inc
<b>Outstanding Interpretation of Show Theme “It’s a Party!”</b> <i>Presented by Isuzu Commercial Truck of Canada</i>	Garden #34 – C’EST LA VIE	Garden Retreats Inc
<b>Outstanding Outdoor Entertainment Area</b>	Garden #45 – PARADISE MADE FOR CELEBRATING	Bancheri Bros
<b>Most Imaginative Garden Design</b> <i>Presented by Niagara Escarpment Views</i>	Garden #27 – GARDEN CELEBRATION	Jacobs Gardenscape
<b>Outstanding Use of Artistic Elements in a Garden,</b> <i>Presented by Hortus TV</i>	Garden #17 – A SECRET GARDEN PARTY	Near North Hardscape Ltd.
<b>Outstanding Educational Garden (for students)</b>	Garden #44 – THE SAFETY 1 <sup>st</sup> GARDEN	ORCGA and Fern Ridge Landscaping
<b>Outstanding Use of Trees</b> <i>Presented by Gro-Bark Ontario</i>	Garden #10 – LET’S PARTY	Royal Stone Landscaping & Design Ltd and AquaSpa Pools Landscape & Design
<b>Outstanding Use of Lighting</b>	Garden #31 – PARTY OF A LIFETIME	University Pro Landscapers Paving, Pools & Spas

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<b>Outstanding Use of Interior Plants</b>  <i>Presented by Jill Jensen Botanicals</i>	Garden #32 – MUSIC IN THE PARK	City of Toronto
<b>Outstanding Use of Annuals and/or Perennials</b>  <i>Presented by PICK Ontario</i>	Garden #37 – MOTOWN	Egreen Design inc
<b>Perry Molema Award for Outstanding Use of Water</b>  <i>Presented by Aquascape Inc.</i>	Garden #41 – H2O YEAH	Genoscape Inc.
<b>Outstanding Use of Natural Stone</b>  <i>Presented by Beaver Valley Stone</i>	Garden #30 – CHOOSE YOUR PATH	Brydges Landscape Architecture and Landscape  Ontario Horticultural Trades Association Team
<b>Outstanding Use of Pre-Cast Pavers</b>  <i>Presented by Permacon</i>	Garden #29 – A NIGHT UNDER THE STARS	Landscapes By Lucin
<b>Outstanding Use of Walkways</b>	Garden #39 – ENTERTAINING UNDER THE MOONLIGHT	Doug Silk, Louis Tolfo, Jen Dodson
<b>Outstanding Outdoor Living Space</b>	Garden #17 – A SECRET GARDEN PARTY	Near North Hardscapes Ltd
<b>Outstanding Use of Innovative Elements in a Garden</b>	Garden #43 – THE STINGRAY GARDEN	Julie Moore Modern Landscape Design
<b>The Do-Up-The-Doorstep Award</b>  <i>Presented by Oaks by Brampton Brick</i>	Garden #24F – R WAY TO GARDEN – REVITALIZE, RECLAIM, RELAX	Who Does Your Garden in partnership with Vital Gardens
<b>The Garden Club of Toronto Award for Best Overall Use of Colour</b>  <i>(Additional judging criteria: Visual impact of colour, innovative, creative and effective use.)</i>	Garden #32 – MUSIC IN THE PARK	City of Toronto
<b>The W.E. Bridgeman Award for Best Overall Use of Hard</b>	Garden #10 – LET'S PARTY	Royal Stone Landscaping & Design Ltd and AquaSpa Pools



<p><b>Landscape Elements</b></p> <p><i>(Additional judging criteria: Aesthetic selection and placement appropriate to design style, proportion &amp; scale, well-balanced integration.)</i></p>		<p>Landscape &amp; Design</p>
<p><b>The PremierTech Award for Best Overall Use of Plant Material</b></p> <p><i>(Additional judging criteria: Aesthetic impression, impact of texture and form, use and placement, selection diversity suitable to design style and relationship to hardscape.)</i></p>	<p>Garden #33 – CARNIVAL OF COLOUR</p>	<p>Vandermeer Nursery and Earth Art Landscapes Inc</p>
<p><b>The Leslie L. Solty Memorial Award for Best Overall Creativity in Garden Design</b></p> <p><i>(Additional judging criteria: Ingenuity in execution of design style; attention to form, scale, balance, innovative use of elements, aesthetic integration of hard/softscape.)</i></p>	<p>Garden #41 – H2O YEAH</p>	<p>Genoscape Inc.</p>
<p><b>The Landscape Ontario Award for Best Overall Quality of Workmanship</b></p> <p><i>(Additional judging criteria: High quality in construction, installation &amp; placement of hardscape, consistency, stability, precision and job finish, horticultural correctness of softscape practices, attention to detail and thoroughness in planting, condition of plant material, mulching, concealing of pots, liners.)</i></p>	<p>Garden #21 – NATURAL FLOW</p>	<p>J Garfield Thompson Landscape Ltd</p>
<p><b>The Tony DiGiovanni Garden of the Year Award (Judges' Choice Award)</b></p> <p><i>This award is voted on independently</i></p>	<p>Garden #41 – H2O YEAH</p>	<p>Genoscape Inc</p>

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*by each Feature Garden Judge and this  
garden is the overall favourite.*