

#### **MEDIA RELEASE**

March 9, 2020

# The Biggest Garden Ever Seen at Canada Blooms

Bienenstock Natural Playgrounds to install the world's largest natural indoor playground

**TORONTO, Ont.** – Over the 24 years that Canada Blooms has been getting us into the mood for gardening season, there have been some impressive gardens built on the show floor.

But none have ever come close to the sheer size and magnitude of the fully accessible and interactive exhibit being built by <u>Bienenstock Natural Playgrounds</u>, a member of Landscape Ontario. At 8,000 square feet, it dwarfs the typical feature garden size. Titled Access to Nature for All, the garden is as ambitious in scope as it is in size — it is a representation of the company's progressive accessibility campaign to create playgrounds that are universally accessible, challenging the boundaries of what has typically been considered acceptable in catering to people of all physical, cognitive and developmental disabilities.

"Every year our urban satyrs become more sterilized as we pave paradise to make way for new families and businesses moving to the city," says Adam Bienenstock, founder of Bienenstock Natural Playgrounds. "Natural playgrounds like this acts as an ecological stop over for migrating birds and insects and as a place where kids will develop their love of nature. See how many bird nests you can find as you play in the stream, sand and forest here."

Parents are encouraged to bring their children to Canada Blooms to experience the massive playscape — the world's largest natural indoor playground — that will look like it was crafted right out of the Carolinian forest.

The playspace includes a pond and stream, natural amphitheatre, a slide carved into a 250-year-old oak tree, sand and water play, a tree fort and a ropes-and-log mash. It is designed to engage and entertain everybody, no matter their abilities.

"Bienenstock is a global leader in creating barrier-free and interactive natural playgrounds, and what they have put together for Canada Blooms is truly exciting," says Terry Caddo, General Manager of Canada Blooms. "It is the biggest feature garden Canada Blooms has ever seen, and can be enjoyed by absolutely everybody."

Bienenstock will have programming running throughout Canada Blooms, promoting gross motor play on the large natural components of the playground, as well as fine motor and creative play in the musical, sand and water, clay and whittling stations, among others.

Co-located with Home Show: The Big One (formerly the National Home Show), Canada Blooms takes place March 13<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Enercare Centre at Exhibition Place in Toronto. For more information or to purchase tickets, please visit <u>canadadblooms.com</u>.



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## **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 entering its 24<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.

### **About Mark's Choice**

Mark's Choice Ltd. is a horticultural communications and marketing company, with the brand being attached to dozens of products available at Home Hardware stores across Canada — including gardening tools, soil, seeds, gloves and other equipment useful in the garden. Before a product is approved as Mark's Choice, it must past rigorous testing, ensuring it is made from high-quality materials, meets the needs of Canadian home gardeners, is tough enough to stand up to commercial use and will help Canadians create great looking lawns and gardens. Possibly Canada's best-known gardener, Mark's Choice President Mark Cullen is a third-generation career gardener, and a "garden communicator" unlike any other. He is a best-selling author, with more than 20 books on gardening to his credit. Mr. Cullen actively maintains his website <a href="markcullen.com">markcullen.com</a>, where he has answered more than 10,000 questions from gardeners across the country.

# **About Bienenstock Natural Playgrounds**

Bienenstock Natural Playgrounds is a world leader in the development of natural playgrounds. Committed and passionate about sharing its expertise and insight of design and landscaping, Bienenstock believes in improving the experiences of kids in their playgrounds. Its team includes awardwinning designers, architects, planners and educators who are united by their belief in the need to craft outdoor spaces that support children's development through immersive experiences with nature.