



**MEDIA RELEASE**

March 20, 2017

## **Canada Blooms Brings Home the Hardware**

*Two prestigious awards bestowed upon Canada's largest garden and floral festival*

**TORONTO, Ont.** — It was an award-winning year for Canada Bloom 2017.

In a year Canada's largest garden and floral festival was helping celebrate Canada's sesquicentennial anniversary, it took home two prestigious awards — it was named the Canada 150 Garden Experience Winner by Canadian Garden Council and the Canadian Nursery Landscape Association and won the Garden Festival of the Year Garden Tourism Award at the North American Garden Tourism Conference.

"These awards are a testament to the talent and efforts of the incredible landscape designers and floral artists who make Canada Blooms the incredible gardening festival that it is," says Terry Caddo, General Manager of Canada Blooms. "Each year we strive to bring the latest and most innovative gardens, flowers and plants. It is an honour to have that recognized."

The Canada 150 Garden Experience designation is part of the celebration of Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday. Across the country, 150 gardens were jury selected to receive a designation as one of 150 ways to celebrate Canada's birthday year. To view the full list of Canada 150 Garden Experience designation winners, visit Canada's Garden Route's website at [canadagardenroute.ca](http://canadagardenroute.ca).

But Canada Blooms didn't just receive the awards – it gave them out as well.

The Tranquility Garden designed and built by J. Garfield Thompson Landscape from Etobicoke was named the Tony DiGiovanni Garden of the Year, and The Secret Path, designed and built by Genoscape Inc., was the People's Choice Garden. The People's Choice Award for Floral Design was won by Julie Drago, Sheryl Koss and Bridgett C. Brown.

Canada Blooms kicked off on March 10<sup>th</sup> with special awards for its feature gardens. Each was evaluated based on their overall visual impact, quality of the materials used, creativity, innovation, imagination, aesthetic appeal, technical hardscape/constructed aspects, harmony of design elements and detailing, unique use of plant material, organization and completeness, environment (cleanliness, safety, etc.), as well as specific criteria for each individual award. Please see Backgrounder below for a full list of the feature garden winners.

"I am inspired and encouraged by the level of detail and craftsmanship with the imaginative garden designs," says 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 'Oh Canada', in celebration of Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Our talented teams of feature garden builders impress me more each year."



Co-located with the National Home Show, Canada Blooms took place March 10<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017, at the Enercare Centre at Exhibition Place in Toronto. For more information, 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 21<sup>st</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.

-30-

#### **For more information, please contact:**

Kalvin Reid  
Media Relations Officer  
Email: [kreid@enterpriseCanada.com](mailto:kreid@enterpriseCanada.com)  
Mobile: 289.241.7936  
Office: 905.346.1233



**BACKGROUNDER**

**Canada Blooms 2017  
Feature Garden Award Winners**

<b>Award</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Builder</b>
The Unilock Award for Outstanding Garden, <i>Small Size</i>	Garden #20C – My Tiny Backyard Getaway	Green Art Landscape Design
The S.G. Ulbright Award for Outstanding Garden, <i>Medium Size</i>	Garden #24 - Tranquility	J Garfield Thompson Landscape
The Gordon A. MacEachern Award for Outstanding Garden, <i>Large Size</i>	Garden #11 – The Secret Path Garden	Genoscape & Vineland Research and Innovation Centre & The Gord Downie-Chanie Wenjack Foundation
Outstanding Interpretation of Show Theme “Oh, Canada!” <i>Presented by Isuzu Commercial Truck of Canada</i>	Garden #1 – Canada Is Prod as a Peacock	City of Toronto
Outstanding Outdoor Entertainment Area	Garden #23 – Garden of Celebration	Royal Stone Landscaping & Design and AquaSpa Pools Landscape & Design
Most Imaginative Garden Design <i>Presented by Niagara Escarpment Views</i>	Garden #14 – Celebrating Ontario’s North	Landscape By Evergreen & Elite Environments
Outstanding Use of Artistic Elements in a Garden <i>Presented by Hortus TV</i>	Garden #10 – All That Jazz-Canadian Talent	Creative Gardens Designs & Lakeridge Landscaping
Outstanding Use of Trees <i>Presented by Gro-Bark Ontario</i>	Garden #4 – Ontario Growers Grove	Landscape Ontario Horticultural Trades Association Growers
Outstanding Use of Lighting	Garden #41 – Northern Lights	Vaughan Landscaping
Outstanding Use of Interior Plants <i>Presented by Jill Jensen Botanicals</i>	Garden #1 – Canada Is Proud as a Peacock	City of Toronto
Outstanding Use of Annuals and/or Perennials <i>Presented by PICK Ontario</i>	Garden #39 – Year Round Fun	Land-Con

# CANADA BLOOMS

Perry Molema Award for Outstanding Use of Water <i>Presented by Aquascape Inc</i>	Garden #34 – True North, Strong and Free	Bancheri Bros
Outstanding Use of Natural Stone <i>Presented by Beaver Valley Stone</i>	Garden #14 – Celebrating Ontario’s North	Landscape By Evergreen & Elite Environments
Outstanding Use of Pre-Cast Pavers <i>Presented by Permacon</i>	Garden #25 – Big Yellow Taxi	Landscapes By Lucin
Outstanding Use of Walkways	Garden #11 – The Secret Path Garden	Genoscape & Vineland Research and Innovation Centre & The Gord Downie-Chanie Wenjack Foundation
Outstanding Use of Innovative Elements in a Garden	Garden #35 – Canada Day Our Way	Near North Hardscapes
The Do-Up-The-Doorstep Award <i>Presented by Oaks by Brampton Brick</i>	Garden #27C – Scandinavian Canadian	Melanie Rekola Landscape Design
The Do-Up-The-Backstep Award <i>Presented by Oaks by Brampton Brick</i>	Garden #20C – My Tiny Backyard Getaway	Green Art Landscape Design
Best Use of Roses <i>Presented by Vineland Research and Innovation Centre</i>	Garden #34 – True North, Strong and Free	Bancheri Bros
Best Use of Pollinators <i>Presented by Medallion Plants</i>	Garden #38 – A Trip To The Future	University Pro Landscapers, Paving, Pool & Spa
Best Use of Containers <i>Presented by Lechuza</i>	Garden #10 – All That Jazz-Canadian Talent	Creative Gardens Designs & Lakeridge Landscaping
Best Use of Bulbs <i>Presented by Pioneer Flower</i>	Garden #20A – Muskoka At Home	Jackson Pond Management
Outstanding Outdoor Living Space	Garden #33 – Hollywood North	Flattery Design
The Garden Club of Toronto Award for Best Overall Use of Colour <i>Additional judging criteria:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visual impact of colour;</li> <li>• Innovative, creative and effective</li> </ul>	Garden #1 – Canada Is Proud as a Peacock	City of Toronto

# CANADA BLOOMS

<p><i>use.</i></p>		
<p><b>The W.E. Bridgeman Award for Best Overall Use of Hard Landscape Elements</b>  <i>Additional judging criteria:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Aesthetic selection and placement appropriate to design style;</i></li> <li>• <i>Proportion and scale;</i></li> <li>• <i>Well-balanced integration.</i></li> </ul>	<p>Garden #41 – Northern Lights</p>	<p>Vaughan Landscaping</p>
<p><b>The PremierTech Award for Best Overall Use of Plant Material</b>  <i>Additional judging criteria:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Aesthetic impression;</i></li> <li>• <i>Impact of texture and form, use and placement;</i></li> <li>• <i>Selection diversity suitable to design style and relationship to hardscape.</i></li> </ul>	<p>Garden #4 – Ontario Growers Grove</p>	<p>Landscape Ontario Horticultural Trades Association Growers</p>
<p><b>The Leslie L. Solty Memorial Award for Best Overall Creativity in Garden Design</b>  <i>Additional judging criteria:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Ingenuity in execution of design style;</i></li> <li>• <i>Attention to form, scale, balance;</i></li> <li>• <i>Innovative use of elements;</i></li> <li>• <i>Aesthetic integration of hardscape and softscape.</i></li> </ul>	<p>Garden #24 - Tranquility</p>	<p>J Garfield Thompson Landscape</p>
<p><b>The Landscape Ontario Award for Best Overall Quality of Workmanship</b>  <i>Additional judging criteria:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>High quality in construction, installation &amp; placement of hardscape;</i></li> <li>• <i>Consistency, stability, precision and job finish;</i></li> <li>• <i>Horticultural correctness of softscape practices;</i></li> <li>• <i>Attention to detail and thoroughness in planting, condition of plant material, mulching, concealing of pots, liners etc.</i></li> </ul>	<p>Garden #23 – Garden of Celebration</p>	<p>Royal Stone Landscaping &amp; Design and AquaSpa Pools Landscape &amp; Design</p>