



## MEDIA RELEASE

March 2019

### **Bringing Families Together in the Garden**

*Feature gardens designed to encourage stronger family connections*

**TORONTO, Ont.** — Gardens and yards have become an extension of our home’s living space, a place where families connect and forge new memories.

Inspired by the theme A Family Affair, the feature gardens to be found at Canada Blooms, presented by Mark’s Choice, are designed and showcased to strengthen family bonds by creating spaces that encourage more family time and activities in the yard and garden.

“The Feature Gardens are truly jewels in landscaping and horticulture,” says Terry Caddo, General Manager of Canada Blooms. “The innovative and creative designs they are presenting this year will certainly inspire your next yard and garden project to be a place where people can gather, talk and relax, bringing us all closer together.”

Among the feature gardens to be found at Canada Blooms 2019 are:

- **Green Streets Play Zone** — Designed by Landscape Ontario with Wentworth Landscapes and Come Alive Outside, this green street will highlight the physical and mental benefits of the diverse landscapes in our communities.
- **Tranquility for the Family** — A peaceful stroll through this garden by Landscape by Evergreen and Elite Environments brings you to a family gathering area. Your senses will become heightened as the sound of water drowns out surrounding noises and the large structure creates an inviting and cozy atmosphere for your family to relax.
- **The Royal Stone Group Family** — There is a deliberate symmetry to this garden by Aquaspa Pools Landscape & Design and Royal Stone Landscaping & Design. Family portraits hanging in a pergola welcome guests to a space that includes spaces for dining, socializing and even reading.
- **Fusion Garden** — Landscape Ontario returns a sample of this emerging trend in gardening that makes better use of the rainwater that falls on your property.
- **Hortus Familia Canadensis** — Mountainhill Landscape Professionals is building “The Canadian Family Garden” that is a fusion of elements, textures, structures, spaces and colour to make a luxurious and livable outdoor space for the whole family.
- **Gathering by the Pond** — Built by Jackson Pond, there is an emphasis on water features in this garden. Our bodies are composed of mostly water, and we are naturally drawn to it. That’s why the sight and sounds of water draws families together.



- **Dig Safe Garden** — Building awareness about what may be running beneath our properties, this Sean James installation is an educational garden that highlights the importance of knowing where live wires are when you are excavating.
- **Mayfair House** — A space designed to create a private “club-like” atmosphere, this Flattery Designs Inc. creation has a grand entrance, lush surroundings, dining area and water feature.
- **Enjoy Every Minute of Life** — BB Pools and Landscapes are putting together a space that encourages us to gather with our family and make new memories.
- **Cliff City** — By Ecocity, this garden highlights the environmental benefits of gardens — improved air quality, relief from heat and rainwater retention.

Other feature gardens to be seen at Canada Blooms are being designed and built by Sid’s Ponds and Gardenscapes, Royalstone Design Inc., J. Garfield Thompson Landscape Ltd. the City of Toronto

Also returning to Canada Blooms are examples of small-space gardening for small yards and balconies, presented by Oaks Outdoor Products:

- **Do Up the Backsteps: Garden Remix** — By Green Art Landscape Design, this space is inspired by children’s fairy tales.
- **Do Up the Backsteps: Borealus** — When families gather beside the cosy warmth and hypnotic crackle of a wood burning fire, good times happen. Designed by Greer Design Group, it provides a space to unwind in the evenings — relaxing, telling stories, laughing and making the best memories.
- **Do Up the Doorsteps: Modern Family** — By Ink to Earth Landscape Design.
- **Balcony Garden: Story Time with the Three Bears** — Like many other Canadian families, the Bears are “right-sizing” to condo living. Their balcony reflects a love of nature and provides a cozy space for family time, especial at night when they are most active.

Mark’s Choice is Mark and Ben Cullen’s personal seal of approval on more than 200 gardening products available exclusively at Home Hardware stores across Canada.

Co-located with the National Home Show, Canada Blooms takes place March 8<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 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 entering its 23<sup>rd</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 pass 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 [markcullen.com](http://markcullen.com), where he has answered more than 10,000 questions from gardeners across the country.

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