

Press Release
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The 22 members of the Quebec Gardens' Association unveil their 2006 program of summertime events

Experiences and activities both varied and exciting!

Montreal, April 2006

Twenty-two members of the Quebec Gardens' Association unveil their summer program to visit the most beautiful gardens in the province. The coming summer offers a myriad of activities and experiences for everyone. Before organizing your family vacation, as a couple or with friends, consider the extensive offerings for 2006. In addition to discovering the most beautiful regions of Quebec, gardens offer opportunities to enjoy, explore and live our passions. Let yourself be tempted by Nature, History, Horticulture, Scientific Discovery and Innovation!

Look, Find and Discover!!

The Quebec Gardens' Association invites you to discover our horticultural heritage. The best way to explore these heritage gardens and landscapes is to experience them for yourself. From one region to another, in all four corners of Québec, from Montréal to Métis, discover the landscapes that offer memorable experiences that are at once natural, romantic and educational.

The brochure "This summer I have gardens on my mind!" presents Québec's garden destinations – and helps you choose the gardens to visit. It provides information to assist your summer travels and provides a glimpse of the colours, fragrances and beauties that await you. On this floral route, you will discover the horticultural and architectural heritage of Quebec as well as the stories of the remarkable men and women who shaped the gardens along the St. Lawrence and the rivers and lakes of the province into their versions of paradise.

This summer, the 22 most beautiful gardens of Québec invite you to live some unique experiences.

The gardens once again offer a range of activities for families and range of programs. Each program provides an experience. To explore what is on offer in the gardens of Quebec, consult www.jardinsduquebec.com/pages-fr/media.html. You can download the press release and obtain contact names for interviews or additional material on each garden.

In brief

Montreal Botanical Garden / **Jardin botanique de Montréal**

1001 passions ! This jewel of Montreal is recognized around the world for its beauty and this year celebrates its 75th anniversary. Beginning in May, anniversary events celebrate the untold stories of the gardens and present a moving exhibition, "Souvenirs de famille au Jardin botanique", bearing witness to the important role of the gardens in the life of families since its creation.

In the month of June, the garden presents the floral exhibition "Bonne fête Jardin!" and for children, the "Jardins-jeunes", where young gardeners can cultivate their own vegetable garden or participate in a day camp where they can explore amusing scientific discoveries. In both cases, learning and amusement are on the menu!

Le Domaine Joly-De Lotbinière

One of the most beautiful gardens in North America, this oasis is a must-see attraction and offers educational and cultural activities for the entire family. New attractions include *Les Sorties papi-mamie*, *Les Dimanches-Famille*, and a new educational program for primary schools for their nature-culture activities. To discover : the *Symposium de peinture et de sculpture* under the patronage of renowned watercolourist Ghislain Lefebvre, *L'art de la dentelle et de la broderie*, the weekend for *Chauves-souris et compagnie*, as well as concerts held in the rooms of Madame de Lotbinière every Sunday morning at 11 a.m.

Jardin Roger-Van den Hende

Trouvailles champêtres et Fleurs d'été, are two activities for garden enthusiasts and those in search of new plants. Other activities include guided tours, specialized educational circuits, a garden photo contest organized by the Société des Amis du Jardin Van den Hende and lectures by well-known horticulturists Hélène Raymond (Radio-Canada animator), Albert Mondor, Larry Hodgson and Hélène Corriveau (agronomist responsible for the Jardin Roger-Van den Hende).

Les Jardins de Métis / Reford Gardens present the 7th edition of the International Garden Festival as well as cultural and culinary events. Also on the menu are literary teas, concerts, performances and lectures. The gardens open on June and host more than 100 events before the season ends on October 1. On April 21, the gardens will launch the new book by Alexander Reford (with photographs by Louise Tanguay), *Treasures of the Reford Gardens*.

Musée du Château Ramezay, Jardin du Gouverneur/ Governor's Garden

In addition to its magnificent Governor's Garden, the Château Ramezay Museum offers its exhibition *Jardins de Paris au temps des rois* from May 17 to September 15 2006. Meet the Ramezay family with the assistance of multilingual panels, new this year. Between flowers and leaves, the secrets of gardening of the Montreal bourgeoisie of the 17th century will be unveiled.

La Maison Saint-Gabriel

It is alive and exciting this year at the Maison Saint-Gabriel. The museum and garden recreate the spirit of New France. The professional actors of the Theatre Catherine-Crolo present the Filles du Roy, who once lived here in the 17th century. Every Sunday at 11 am, musicians of the Ensemble Claude-Gervaise entertain visitors. The Maison Saint-Gabriel – quite a history – and lots of experiences for you to enjoy.

Parc Marie-Victorin

National award winner of a Grands Prix du tourisme québécois in 2005, the Parc Marie-Victorin offers a unique site where 8 giant three-dimensional mosaicultures can be visited alongside five magnificent theme gardens. It is also possible to visit the factories of Cascades and to purchase tickets for the dinner theatre with the Théâtre des Grands Chênes, featuring the play *Faussees Rumeurs* with actors Marina Orsini, Serge Postigo, Marcel Leboeuf, Normand Chouinard and André Robitaille.

Plaines d'Abraham", le parc des Champs-de-Bataille

Better known as the Plains of Abraham, the National Battlefields Park is a historic urban park of 108 hectares with important collections of plants and trees. With its award-winning displays, recognized by Communities in Bloom, the National Battlefields Commission has cultivated flowers for more than a century. Its greenhouses, among the oldest in Quebec, produce more than 50,000 annuals, biennials and perennials. The *Grande fête de la nature* takes place on May 14, 2006. Take part in Mother's Day, bring your family to the greenhouses and obtain information from experts about nature. Activities for the entire family are held from 11 am to 4 pm in the park's greenhouses, at the corner of rue Briand and de Bernières.

Your 22 garden destinations

1. Domaine Mackenzie-King / Mackenzie King Estate
2. Centre de la nature
3. Jardin botanique de Montréal / Montreal Botanical Garden
4. Jardin du Gouverneur / Governor's Garden, Château Ramezay Museum
5. Parc Jean-Drapeau
6. Maison Saint-Gabriel
7. Jardin Daniel A. Séguin
8. Parc Marie-Victorin
9. Domaine Joly-De Lotbinière
10. Parc Aquarium du Québec
11. Jardin Roger-Van den Hende
12. Villa Bagatelle
13. La Maison Henry-Stuart
14. Parc du Bois-de-Coulonge
15. Parc des Champs-de-Bataille
16. Domaine de Maizerets
17. **Jardin zoologique du Québec**
18. Les Grands Jardins de Normandin
19. Jardin Scullion
20. Seigneurie des Aulnaies
21. Roseraie du Témiscouata
22. Jardins de Métis / Reford Gardens

This summer, join us in discovering 22 of the most beautiful gardens in Quebec!

Help us increase the visibility of Quebec gardens and encourage those who lend their dedication and passion to allow visitors to discover these remarkable gardens where history, nature and culture can be enjoyed.

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