

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Terry Yates and Mark Runciman of RBG recognized as Tourism Builder Award Recipients

BURLINGTON, May 11, 2009 - Terry Yates and Mark Runciman of Royal Botanical Gardens were recognized at the Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards Gala by Tourism Burlington as the **2008 Tourism Builder Award Recipients**.

The Tourism Burlington Builder Award, sponsored by Burlington Hotel Association, recognizes an individual or business that has shown exceptional vision in the development of tourism that will leave a strong legacy in Burlington and who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and been a tireless advocate in encouraging tourism product and service development in our city.

Mark Runciman has been a long standing employee at the RBG starting as Superintendent of Buildings and Equipment in 1984. He was appointed to the position of Executive Director in 2006 and became CEO in 2008. Terry Yates is the current past chair of the board and a board member since 2005. Terry and Mark helped lead the RBG through a mandate review and three year transition plan. During that time the RBG has opened the Camilla & Peter Dalglish Atrium, providing a barrier free access to the Hendrie Gardens and also unveiled a major new garden, the Helen M. Kippax Native Plant Garden. To better welcome visitors, the parking lot at RBG Centre was expanded and a new entrance from Plains Road completed.

In 2008, 250,000 people visited the Gardens! Membership has increased by 45% since 2005. Under the leadership of Terry Yates and Mark Runciman new funding arrangements have stabilized the organization, enabling the RBG to continue to play its vitally important role as a living museum and major visitor attraction. Tourism Burlington congratulates and applauds the efforts of Terry Yates and Mark Runciman for their extensive contributions to tourism in Burlington.

Tourism Burlington is the destination management organization for Burlington and operates a Visitor Centre that is open 7 days a week at 414 Locust Street just minutes from our beautiful waterfront. Contact www.tourismburlington.com for more information or call 905-634-5594.

For more information, contact:

Simone Babineau, Marketing & Sales Coordinator

Tourism Burlington

414 Locust Street, Burlington

905.634.5594

1.877.499.9989

info@tourismburlington.com