

Garden Lovers Invitation 2025 LIVE YOUR BEST LIFE “Installations, Events & Surprises” - Whistling Gardens I Botanical Gardens & Garden Centre



Dear Garden Friends,

Welcome back Spring!

Fully Stocked Garden Centre & [ONLINE STORE](#)

“Create your own paradise, become inspired”

Ornamental trees, shrubs, Japanese maples, dwarf conifers, peonies, specialty flowering plants & rare varieties are looking for new homes!.

Our Botanical Garden spring fragrant blooms remerge with a passion waiting to greet you! Your stories can be found throughout our gardens, revealed by way of thoughtful plantings, benches and installations with new reveals! As the home to North America's largest public peony collection with over 1,300 varieties, traditionally we witness their “peak bloom” starting in late May throughout mid June. Watch our social media platforms for BLOOM UPDATES and learn about our seasonal floral collections and meet our two generous [Peony Donors](#)

When will the peonies bloom? VISIT [2025 PEONY BLOOM FORECAST](#)

Musical Fountains, Gardens & Birds, Self Guided Tours, Season Memberships, Gift Certificates!

Over 22 acres of streams, ponds, cascades, as well as cottage garden strolls, magnificent formal gardens and European influenced architecture all await you at our multi National Award winning botanical gardens, planted for every season. Our conifer collection reveals some 1,500 different plants and of course, you'll make new friends and enjoy a serenade at our Bird Aviary too! Relax and take in the beauty with our [Celebrate Spring Video](#) imagine the blooms and the warm sunny days awaiting your arrival! Check our **Musical Fountain Show** performance times to ensure you can enjoy the show which is included in our admission [What Time Is The Musical Fountain Show?](#)



Welcome back to our incredible Event Partners who always bring their world-class Canadian talent to our joyful gardens through their original artistry. An exceptional line up of Concerts, Children's Theatrical Character Adventures, Garden Parties, Garden and Nature inspired workshops along with “self care” Wellness experiences await you this season. Our award winning Festival of Fountains – The Night Garden returns, featuring live music as we witnessed sold out shows every season! Our fellow nature lovers are reaching out to purchase garden plants, renew and purchase their season memberships, we're booking group garden tours, beautiful garden wedding ceremonies, special celebrations, anniversaries, showers and birthdays– thank you for your trust!

GUIDED TOURS – RESERVATIONS ONLY Booked In Advance! Available to groups of 20+ guests or more.

SELF GUIDED TOURS – NO RESERVATIONS REQUIRED Visitors receive a personal greeting and orientation upon arrival to learn of directions to garden amenities, accessible paths, receive a garden site map and notified of the musical fountain show schedule.

Admission is not paid in advance.

SEASON MEMBERSHIPS & GIFT CERTIFICATES Garden centre and botanical gardens gift certificates make a unique gift. Season Memberships offer a savings for visitors wishing to visit more than once throughout the season while saving 10% on their garden centre plant purchases and more. Visit. [Season Memberships](#)

NEW INSTALLATIONS & Honouring Your Garden Stories

Garden Installations & Commemorative Dedications!

KATHY'S TREE OF LIGHT

Find the people and places that always light up your life as you set down your roots, grow your strengths, and change comfortably with time. Whistling Gardens gratefully acknowledges the donation from Kathy Coomber that enabled the creation of this unique Tree of Light. As an enthusiastic supporter and founding member of our 2012 opening, Kathy always unearthed inspiration from our gardens. She continually transformed her own garden in Simcoe, which includes several of our trees – particularly two Japanese Weeping Cherries that we (Darren) helped plant in 2010. Through the changing seasons, including a diagnosis of Alzheimer's dementia in 2016. Kathy always found her light in the comfort and pleasure of visits to her "favourite place".

READ THE RELEASE <https://whistlinggardens.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Kathys-Tree-of-Light.pdf>



BIG PIANO Take Your First Step To Start Your Musical Journey...



Joyce Carey's life legacy gift shares her love of music which fueled her happiness as a life-long student of all keyboard instruments. A special collaboration between Whistling Gardens, Ron Beckett, Founder/Composer of the Arcady Ensemble with the Joyce and Ken Carey Foundation introduces the BIG PIANO dedication for all music lovers to enjoy during their botanical garden visit. Joyce's passion for music truly aligns her values as an admirer of Arcady Ensemble to encourage each guest to start their

own musical journey on the BIG PIANO. Arcady performs throughout South Western Ontario presenting concerts that range from vocal and instrumental recitals to full-scale stage productions with orchestra. The company combines established professionals, recent university performance graduates, Emerging Artists, and youth, thus providing

performance opportunities for young performers who are at the early stages of their professional careers. The organization is dedicated to the mentorship of youth and Emerging Artists and the performance of new Canadian music, specializing in the works of Ronald Beckett, Canadian composer, conductor, choir director, and the founder/ artistic director of the Arcady Ensemble. **Let the beauty of Whistling Gardens in collaboration with Arcady inspire both young and old to start with just one note. Enjoy!**

READ THE RELEASE <https://whistlinggardens.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Carey-Foundation-Press-Release-2025.pdf>



DR. CRUISE LEGACY DEDICATION – Installation Underway



Through the generosity of Darren and Wanda Heimbecker and a number of donors, a dedication site will be installed in Whistling Gardens for Dr Jim Cruise, a gifted horticulturist of Norfolk County. Dr Cruise, who liked to be referred to as simply 'Jim', had numerous achievements in many different fields of study and equally diverse awards and honours including the Silver Fir Award, the highest honour of the Ontario Horticultural Association and an Honorary Master Gardeners Award.

Through this dedication installation, Jim will be remembered for his remarkable contribution to the study of Biology and Ecology and for being a fine mentor.

*Notes from the Canadian Field Naturalist

LEARN MORE VISIT <https://whistlinggardens.ca/plan-your-visit/garden-experiences/>

Whistling Gardens wishes to sincerely thank all donors who continue to contribute their Legacy Gifts in memory and to honour your loved ones. Benches, plants and garden dedications tell "your stories" as our peaceful garden sanctuary unite us.

TICKETS NOW ON SALE! VISIT OUR EVENTS CALENDAR

2025 GARDEN ADVENTURES

LIVE YOUR BEST LIFE Events – INCLUDES BOTANICAL GARDEN ADMISSION

MAY



Garden Design "Crash Course"

Saturday May 31st 10am – 2pm

DETAILS & TICKETS: https://www.mylandscapeartist.ca/service-page/garden-design-crash-course?referral=service_list_widget

Questions? Contact hmierrard@gmail.com / 519-671-4188

Frozen Family Picnic

Sunday, June 1st @ 1PM

For the first time in forever, we're bringing magic, music and icy fun to Whistling Gardens!

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1742325152987548>

RETAILS & TICKETS: <https://www.ticketscene.ca/events/51460/>



JUNE

Jedi Training Academy

Sunday, June 22nd @ 11:30AM

It's time to defend the galaxy, and we need your help!

Join our Jedi Master and Galactic Scavenger for an afternoon of fun! Each participant will be granted a special spot at this exclusive event, complete with their own training lightsaber to take home at the end of the event.

Tickets for this event are extremely limited, in order to provide the best experience possible. This event is recommended for children 4+ who can take direction from our Jedi Master.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/636342636046382>

Tickets: <https://www.ticketscene.ca/events/51595/>



Walking Meditation – Included With Your Admission!

June 26 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Walking Meditation – Included with your admission to Whistling Gardens!

"Let me show how you can use the benefits of nature to engage in a mindful walking meditation practice in the therapeutic setting of Whistling Gardens." Included with your admission to Whistling Gardens on this day!

Register by email at clferris.rn@gmail.com Limited enrollment.

BIO: Carey L. Ferris RN is a Registered Nurse Psychotherapist in the Province of Ontario, with a career in mental health spanning 30 years. Carey is also a certified Menopause Mental Health Provider and Holistic Nurse Reiki Practitioner. Profile, visit PSYCHOLOGY TODAY: <https://www.psychologytoday.com/profile/1274303>

JULY

GOOD VIBES – Included With Your Admission!

Our Random Acts of Kindness Will Make Your Day Better – Wind & Wire Concert, FREE Hugs & CARE DAY!

Sunday, July 13 @ 12:30pm – 2:30pm

WIND & WIRE CONCERT: Paul & Mark... Saxophone & Guitar ...Relive the memories of your past with instrumental versions of popular songs from the 60's, 70's, 80's, 90's and beyond, while you explore the gardens before the show! Need To Get Into Your Relax Groove? Watch our Video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mlq_QKJwnFc



AUGUST



A Garden Walk – Arcady Summer Concert & Silent Auction

August 9, 2025 @ 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm \$17 – \$42

MUSIC – Classical, Canadian, Contemporary

Join Arcady's fabulous soloists and players in a combined garden tour/concert featuring the 2025 Arcady Emerging Artists!

*Concert includes same day botanical day pass, tented if inclement weather or rain date August 10

Tickets are now live for sale on our website or by emailing info@arcady.ca or calling 519-428-3185. We can't wait to see you there! BUY NOW <https://arcady.ca/performances/upcoming/a-garden-walk-2025/>

* Groups rates for 20+patrons, Learn more about Arcady's Award Winning Company: <http://arcady.ca/>

Just Us Sing-A-Long – Included With Your Admission!

August 17 @ 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Oldies but Goodies Classics

"We love to sing songs that people can relate to and sing along, even dance!"

5th Annual Storybook Stroll

Sunday, August 24th @ 1PM

Mark your calendars for the biggest, most magical, end of summer event anywhere in southwestern Ontario!

We return to Whistling Gardens for our final appearance of the year, bringing back a beloved family favourite. Join us our annual Storybook Stroll, a journey through the gardens as you discover more than a dozen of your favourite fairytale friends.

With a combination of announced and surprise characters, find all of the designated spots and collect the character signatures. Pose for photos, and ask them questions before you head off on the next part of the adventure.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/3935222840077225>

Tickets: <https://www.ticketscene.ca/events/51999/>



Try A NEW [Garden Experience!](#)



Treat yourselves to a truly unique experience! Whistling Gardens, one of Ontario's premier horticultural gardens has partnered with Homegrown Hideaway for the Glamp and Garden Getaway.

Included in your reservation is one night at Homegrown Hideaway where you can relax in comfort in nature in one of their Glamping tents, and 2 passes to Whistling Gardens! Make sure to select GLAMP & GARDEN when you reserve your tent here.

www.homegrownhideaway.com/packages

Spring, Summer & Fall Family & Engagement Photo Sessions

Photo Days at the Gardens are back! Join us for 30 minutes mini sessions with Y&K Photography at beautiful Whistling Gardens. Admission rates apply.

Your Photo Session includes: *30 minute session, *10 photos (choose your favourites from your online gallery) *All photos delivered as high resolution jpgs

*Print release included \$99 +HST

Reserve your session Contact: Y&K Photography www.YKphotography.com

Fables & Flora Photo Sessions – Let Your Fantasy Come True!

Package A.- The Full Fable

up to 2 hours of photography

Wide variety of settings

Up to 50 images

\$600.00 + admission fee

Solo, couples, groups up to 5

Additional characters welcome with extra fee

Package B.- Short story sessions

Up to 30 minutes of photography

Two settings

Up to 15 images

\$250.00 + admission fee

Solo or couples

Botanical Gardens Admission Rates Apply <https://whistlinggardens.ca/plan-your-visit/admission/>

Contact: Stefanie Ponting Email: midjuly@hotmail.com Phone: 519-878-1983

Instagram: @midjulyphotography

Website: midjulyphotography30.mypixieset.com

https://www.instagram.com/midjulyphotography?igsh=MXQzNGppbTRzZDBjeg%3D%3D&utm_source=qr



Group Tea Parties

Our tea service is top notch, from delectable treats, to exquisite teas, reconnect over light refreshments, and soak up the fine surroundings of our most preferred outdoor venue Whistling Gardens. Contact us now for package pricing for groups of 10+ people Visit <https://teasandtoasts.ca/>

Intimate Delux Picnics

Memories in the Making, Classy Events and Picnics, a local, unique, luxury picnic company has collaborated with Whistling Gardens to provide you with a one of a kind picnic experience! Visit www.classyeventsby memoriesinthemaking.com/ Contact: Jennifer Lynn VanHeighen Phone 226-567-1099

CONTESTS & SPECIAL “Thank you” PROMOTIONS!

WIN DAY PASSES Peony Photo Contest – Best Landscape Photo Estimated bloom times: Late May thru Mid-June.

Send us your "Best Peony Landscape Photo" taken at Whistling Gardens with Photo Credit for a chance to win a two garden day passes! Multiple images are encouraged and please name photo content if possible. All photo submissions must be received as an attachment by July 31st 2025 with the winner to be contacted by email. Please email photos to info@whistlinggardens.ca in a jpg format, no size restrictions apply

NORFOLK COMMUNITY DAY 2025

June 15 Mention "Community Day Special" – Save 15% off [admission rates](#) into the Botanical Gardens. Witness North America's largest public peony collection in bloom, representing over 1,300 varieties! **Offer does not apply to ticketed special events and cannot be combined with other promotions.*



Festival of Fountains – The Night Garden *Tickets On Sale May 31st* **August – September 2025 Friday & Saturday Evenings** **August 23, 29, 30 - September 5, 6, 12, 13** **Featuring Live Entertainment Wind & Wire**

Performance Details: Two hour experience includes 22 acre Botanical Garden Explore which can be used during the same day as your show, Live Entertainment offering Hospitality & Snacks available for purchase (cash purchases).. Musical Fountain Show at Nightfall featuring 9 music compositions.
Make a day of it, use your ticket to explore the gardens during the day, enjoy dinner off site at a local eatery (we can recommend many) and return for our evening event!

<https://whistlinggardens.ca/festivaloffountains/>

GROUP RATES for 20+ Guests! Custom PRIVATE SHOWS for 50+ Guests!

**Whistling Gardens 2025 Season Members receive a onetime special offer. Contact info@whistlinggardens.ca to authorize & reserve..*



GARDEN BLISS Wedding Ceremonies & Private Celebration Events...

NOW RESERVING!

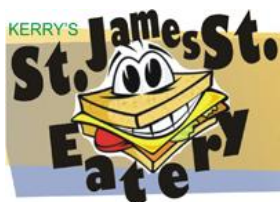
Weekends book to capacity each season, couples, families and groups are encouraged to plan ahead to reserve their garden wedding ceremony for groups up to 200 guests, or celebration with our awarding winning events management team. Packages include a musical fountain show, complimentary Temple Garden wedding display flowers, tables, chairs and more. Custom pricing available for elopements under 30 guests with local supplier referrals.

Photography Sessions Now Booking! Did you know we offer a special wedding photography package just for couples wishing to bring their wedding photographer

and party? Groups must be prescheduled. We welcome family and engagement photo sessions too! Contact us with your date and time at info@whistlinggardens.ca

SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS or the PERFECT PROPOSAL!

Anniversary, birthday, bridal and baby showers, prom parties, engagement, secret proposal or community organization events, our award-winning management team is ready to help you organize your custom celebration! We help you customize your private event i.e. licensed hospitality, local caterers, manage your guest registrations, complimentary accessibility valet service and more! Many dates are now booked to capacity, so plan early! Contact us at info@whistlinggardens.ca



THANK YOU! Our "TELL US YOUR GARDEN STORY" CONTEST Winners will be announced over the next few weeks! Watch our social media posts as we showcase all submissions, sharing their beautiful garden stories! A special thank you to our prize partner St. James Eatery!

Group Tea Parties

Our tea service is top notch, from delectable treats, to exquisite teas, reconnect over light refreshments, and soak up the fine surroundings of our most preferred outdoor venue Whistling Gardens. Contact us now for package pricing for groups of 10+ people Visit <https://teasandtoasts.ca/>

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Are you a Nature Lover looking for more beautiful escapes? Visit <https://gardeningcalendar.ca/>
Our national partnership is helping new garden guests discover us as we encourage our garden friends to explore Canada's finest nature destinations!

Did you hear our Gardens News?

CBC recently included our soulful botanical gardens on their list of **"The most stunning gardens to visit across Canada this summer"** WOW Moments for our team! Read the article, visit <https://www.cbc.ca/life/travel/gardens-across-canada-to-visit-this-summer-1.7534127>



"A Place That Heals": Whistling Gardens and PaRx Partner to Support Community Health Through Nature

PaRx (www.parkprescriptions.ca), launched by BC Parks Foundation in 2020, empowers over 17,000 licensed health professionals to prescribe time in nature as part of a patient's overall health plan. Supported by evidence showing nature's powerful impact on stress, cardiovascular health, mood, and more, the program is being embraced across the country.

Read The Full Release! <https://whistlinggardens.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/A-Place-that-Heals-Whistling-Gardens-and-PaRx-Partner-to-Support-Community-Health-Through-Nature-FF.pdf>

We are proud to collaborate in fostering disability inclusion and accessibility in Ontario. Together, our business partnership with the Ontario Corporate Training Centre (OCTC), funded by the Government of Canada, aims to reshape disability inclusion and promote diverse, equitable workplaces. We're dedicated to creating an environment where everyone can succeed!

Planning Your Visit – It's simple!

Visit our Mobile Website www.whistlinggardens.ca

Check Seasonal Hours Before You Visit **SPRING, SUMMER & FALL [HOURS](#)**



Directions [CLICK HERE FOR DIRECTIONS](#)

Our Tourism Hub offers shop, play and stay resources to help you plan your adventure! [WHAT'S NEARBY](#)

What's Happening In The Gardens? BLOOM UPDATES & SNEAK PEEKS – Connect With Us On Our Social Media Platforms

Visit our EVENTS Calendar [2025 SEASON EVENTS](#)

Live Your Best Life! Live The Garden Life!

Thank you! We are so excited to honour "your garden stories" this season and to offer value added complimentary experiences included with your admission, an extension of our kindness culture. We plant for you; we plant in [perpetuity](#) to fulfill our [botanical vision](#) while contributing to our vibrant healthy natural society.

A heartfelt, sincere thank you to our valued garden centre customers, botanical gardens season members and visitors from around the globe who are planning their return visits. Our gardens truly attract the best people who continue to share their unconditional kindness while recognizing the value of our work and sacrifices. Thank you to our hard working seasonal team, private donors, partner businesses and garden supporters as great care is taken to acknowledge your gift of kindness as our profits are reinvested each year to expand amenities. As land stewards, our story of transforming our "corn field into a botanical garden" truly reflects your stories through our life's work. We are grateful to our supportive garden community, knowing many of you have watched us dream, plan, dig and plant to create a beautiful safe botanical escape. We cannot wait to see you again on this magnificent garden journey!

Darren and Wanda Heimbecker

Gardening is good for the soul.... Happy Gardening!

Whistling Gardens...Imagine