

# QUEBEC GARDEN TOUR

Monday June 22<sup>nd</sup> to Saturday June 27th , 2026

Six days/Five nights

## Featuring:

- *Reford Gardens –celebrating 100 years !*
- *Domaine Joly de Lotbiniere.*
- *Parc Marie Victorin.*
- *La Jardin de la Pocatiere*
- *Jardins Vivaces de Fernand*
- *Montreal Botanical Garden*
- *Garden of Antoine Lacombe*
- *Plus private gardens*



## Tour Itinerary:

**Day 1** – After departing the GTA, we start our journey travelling east with a midday picnic lunch stop at my favourite Ontario **private garden of Mary Ann Van Berlo** then our afternoon is spent experiencing a new garden adventure, just discovered last year - the private garden of **Celine Arsenault** and be amazed at the Bonsai collection of her husband, **David Easterbrook**. He is the former curator of the famous Montreal Botanical Garden's bonsai collection. His trees have been widely exhibited in both Canada and the U.S., and they have appeared on the covers of International Bonsai Magazine.



We will be arriving in Laval at the Le St. Martin Hotel & Suites ([www.lestmartin.com](http://www.lestmartin.com)) and then going to my favourite Laval Restaurant for our “Welcome Dinner”. (L, D)

**DAY 2** – After our buffet breakfast (included), we will travel to the world-renowned **Montreal Botanical Gardens**. Our visit will include a tour of the MBG plus time for lunch (on your own).



**Montreal Botanical Gardens** - With its collection of 22,000 plant species and cultivars, 10 exhibition greenhouses, some thirty thematic gardens, and teams of researchers and activities staff, the Montréal Botanical Garden ranks as one of the world's largest and most spectacular botanical gardens. You are sure to be captivated by the colors and fragrances from around the world as you wander from the delightful

Chinese Garden to the heart of the Sonoran Desert, from the peaceful oasis of the Japanese Garden to the classically designed French garden or the woodlands of the Laurentians.



In the afternoon, we will travel along the north shore of the St. Lawrence to experience a new garden, the gardens of **Maison Antoine-Lacombe**, which showcase the evolution of French and English garden styles over time.



These exceptional public gardens represent one of the jewels of the Saint-Charles-Borromée city park network. Sculptures are featured, showcasing the interplay between visual and landscape arts plus over 1,500 species and varieties of plants.

Our accommodation is at the Hotel Clarendon in Old Quebec City – steps from the Chateau Frontenac – ideally located - steps from many restaurants. (B)

**DAY 3** – Our day starts with a tour of our perennial favourite – **Domaine Joly de Lotbiniere** (on the banks of the St. Lawrence).

#### **Domaine Joly-De Lotbinière:**

[www.domainejoly.com](http://www.domainejoly.com) set in a breathtaking location; we are guided through acres of gardens alongside the St. Lawrence River. This immense, romantic, 19th century park is recognized as one of the most beautiful gardens in North America. Fans of history, nature, the outdoors, and horticulture will find a thousand and one things to discover on this charming site: an interpretation centre; an art gallery; gardens with more than 2200 varieties of plants – most are identified! At Domaine Joly-De Lotbinière, time stands still as guests relive the end of the 19th century and life at the Maple House manor of Sir Henri-Gustave Joly de Lotbinière.

**You will be amazed at the grandeur of this setting and outstanding gardens!**

After our buffet lunch (included) we start the journey to Rimouski. But first we stop at **La Jardin de la Pocatiere**. Also a public garden, this has grown over the years and is truly a fabulous community garden. Some of us will get energetic and hike the “mountain” for an absolutely fabulous panoramic view of the St. Lawrence.

**La Jardin de la Pocatiere** is a public botanical garden whose southern exposure creates an ideal microclimate for over 500 labelled plants. This enchanting place is home to special plant collections, themed gardens, ponds, waterfalls and picnic areas. Several scenic lookouts and a park pavilion offer panoramic views of the two-hectare (five-acre) hillside garden.

We continue east to Rimouski and our hotel, the Hotel Rimouski, which is located on the shores of the St. Lawrence. After our included dinner, a stroll along Rimouski’s boardwalk is always inviting. (L, D)

**DAY 4**—After our included breakfast, we depart early in the morning and arrive at **Reford Gardens** - **Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday** !!! With Alexander Reford as our guide, we will be amazed at the garden created by his Great-Grandmother. Also included is time to stroll through the International Garden Festival exhibits, where you have an opportunity to vote for your favourite garden exhibit. Our included lunch – a highlight of the eating portion of our tour - will be served at the historic Estevan Lodge.

**Reford Gardens:** *and the Blue Himalayan Poppies* [www.jardinsmetis.com](http://www.jardinsmetis.com) (LesJardins de Métis) is recognized as one of Canada's outstanding gardens. A national historic site, they were created by a passionate gardener and plant lover, Elsie Reford, between 1926 and 1958. Visitors to this verdant domain of more than 200 acres can admire the splendors of some 3,000 species and varieties of native and exotic plants displayed in fifteen gardens. Sculptures by contemporary artists punctuate the visit and integrate harmoniously with historic gardens. One of the highlights of any visit is Estevan Lodge, the 1887 37-room house built by Lord Mount Stephen as a fishing retreat. Celebrating its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary last year, it welcomes visitors to its dining rooms, temporary exhibitions and museum. The museum explores the story of the summers spent by Elsie Reford and her family enjoying salmon fishing and gardening. The Garden Shop offers a selection of garden books, seeds, gardening items and gifts; the Gift Shop offers a wide range of products made by local artisans.

***We will meet her Great-Grandson, Alexander Reford, under whose current direction these gardens continue to be a must-see for any plant lover.***

We then continue to our overnight accommodation, once more to the ideally located, Hotel Clarendon, Old Quebec City. (B,L)

**DAY 5** – We depart Quebec City after breakfast (not included) and travel towards the Eastern Townships of Quebec. Our day starts with the chance to explore the **Parc Marie Victorin**.

At **Parc Marie Victorin**, nature comes alive through amazing giant 3-D mosaicultures, 6 fantastic gardens and a tropical greenhouse teeming of exotic birds. Explore their fantastic new garden where a gigantic representation of Brother Marie Victorin (founder of the Montreal Botanical Gardens) is on guard, 16 feet in height.

After lunch (included) we will then continue to the southern part of the Eastern Townships and be treated to a fabulous **private gardens in the area: Jardins Vivaces de Fernand**

**The Garden of a Life (Lise and Fernand)** is over 4 acres of fully landscaped gardens of perennials, with more than 2300 varieties of perennials and beyond 100,000 plants, including a beautiful collection of lilies, daylilies, coneflowers, hostas, heucheras, etc.

All the plants in the garden are furnished in different flower beds, including an aquatic garden and a Japanese garden. Purchased in 1970, Lise and Fernand built their house and started gardening on their 4 acres. In the 1980s they created rockeries around the house and each year expanded. In 1994, Fernand became unemployed and began to expand and develop the property and within a few years, opened the garden to the public.

Our last night will be at the beautiful Chateau Domain Bromont with dinner included. (L, D)

**DAY 6** - After breakfast (included) and checking out of our hotel, we stop in Knowlton to visit a private garden from the past – **Andrea plus her fabulous “she-shed”**. Before leaving the province of Quebec we must stroll the display garden of **Michel Corbeil** – a large nursery in St. Eustache. What better way to finish a tour, then with a souvenir to grow in your garden. With your purchases safely stashed on our motor coach, we then proceed back to Ontario. (B)

*Please note that the itinerary is subject to change.*

**Your package includes:**

- Return motor coach transportation.
- Five nights' accommodation:
  - 1 night at Le St.-Martin Hotel & Suites, Laval
  - 2 nights at the Hotel Clarendon, Old Quebec City, QC
  - 1 night at Hotel Rimouski, Rimouski
  - 1 night at the 5 star - Chateau Domain Bromont, Eastern Twp, QC
- Tours/admission to attractions listed in Itinerary.
- TEN Meals: 3 breakfasts; 4 lunches; 3 dinners
- Services of Margaret Dailey-Plouffe, HNA Travels Tour Director

**Cost: \$ 1,899. per person/double occupancy + HST = \$ 2,145.87**

(Single occupancy \$ 2,499+ HST =\$ 2,767.37)

Non-refundable deposit of \$ 500. due upon booking; Balance due by May 1st

**PICK-UP INFORMATION:** This tour originates in the Burlington/GTA area and then travels east with pick-ups along Hwy 401 east. Please call the office for departure information.

***Residing in Ottawa?** – Parking is included if you drive to Kingston and meet the coach there. OR if we have 10 plus from the Ottawa area, a shuttle could be arranged.*

**READY TO BOOK?** Simply call us and you are on your way.

- Call Margaret at: 613-843-9900; TOLL-FREE 1-877-672-3030  
□ OR e-mail: [hnatravels@gmail.com](mailto:hnatravels@gmail.com)
- Pay by Cheque/Visa/Master Card.

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**TOUR AND EVENT PLANNERS**

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