



RBC  
Blue Water  
Project™

# NEWS

## **RBC NEW WILD GARDEN TO RELOCATE TO WWT SLIMBRIDGE AFTER CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW**

**London, 16 May 2011** - [Royal Bank of Canada](#) today announced that a permanent home has been secured for the “RBC New Wild Garden” following its appearance at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2011 in London, UK. After starring at Chelsea, The RBC New Wild Garden will be moved to the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT) Slimbridge Wetland Centre in Gloucestershire, where it will be rebuilt as a permanent attraction for WWT Slimbridge’s 250,000 annual visitors.

Designed by Nigel Dunnett with the Landscape Agency, the RBC New Wild Garden will be RHS Chelsea’s first full-scale “rain garden”, designed to capture and use every single drop of rain that falls on it. Featuring an office space built from a former shipping container as its centre-piece, the entire garden is designed as a wildlife habitat, including a green roof and habitat walls. The garden is supported by the [RBC Blue Water Project](#), a wide-ranging, 10-year global commitment to help protect the world’s fresh water resources.

Once moved and rebuilt at Slimbridge, the garden will provide inspiration to visitors in methods of harvesting and conserving water and ways of encouraging wildlife and biodiversity in their own gardens. WWT experts will also be on hand to provide tips and advice on planting and water systems, suggesting practical conservation techniques and ideas that can be taken home and carried out in visitors’ own back yards.

Due to open to the public in late August, this is the second rain garden that RBC has donated to the WWT following the opening of the RBC Rain Garden at the London Wetland Centre in 2010. Both gardens were conceived by the same design team under Nigel Dunnett with the Landscape Agency and were supported with grants from the RBC Blue Water Project.

Lynn Patterson, Director of Corporate Responsibility at RBC, said: "Given the sustainability message that is at the heart of this project, we felt it was very important to secure a suitable and lasting legacy for the RBC New Wild Garden beyond the Chelsea Flower Show. The WWT is the perfect partner to help raise awareness of water management and we are delighted that we will now have two permanent rain gardens in the UK that the public can enjoy."

Martin Spray, Chief Executive of WWT, said: "Rain gardens give us a way to encourage wildlife whilst providing achievable solutions to some of the big environmental problems that affect us all. We hope that the RBC garden at Slimbridge will inspire our visitors to create their own habitats when they return home. The RBC Rain Garden in our London Wetland Centre is already an immensely popular attraction, and I look forward to replicating that success in Slimbridge."

### **Media Enquiries**

Paul French

+44 (0) 207 002 2013

[paul.french@rbc.com](mailto:paul.french@rbc.com)

### **Notes to editors**

A photo call featuring Martin Spray, Lynn Patterson, and Nigel Dunnett, celebrating the handover of the RBC New Wild Garden, will take place on the garden at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show on Press Day on Monday 23 May 2011 at 11.30am

### **About WWT**

WWT saves wetlands worldwide – a critical habitat which is disappearing at an alarming rate. We act to identify and save severely threatened wildlife, such as the Madagascar pochard, which has been given a more secure future thanks to our decades of experience in conservation breeding. Our researchers have been monitoring wildlife in the UK for more than 60 years, observing changes and finding solutions. We put people at the heart of all our work, because conservation needs support to succeed. And we share what we learn with experts around the world and with our 200,000+ members, the 60,000 school children who come on an educational visit to our nine wetland visitor centres in the UK, and the million people who visit us each year to enjoy a wetland experience. We manage over 2,600 hectares of wetlands across the UK which between them support over 200,000 waterbirds and other wildlife. WWT members enjoy free access to all nine visitor centres and are kept up to date with developments through an award-winning quarterly magazine, *Waterlife*.

**About Nigel Dunnett and the Landscape Agency**

Dr Nigel Dunnett is a Reader in Urban Horticulture, and Director of the Green Roof Centre, University of Sheffield. He is one of the UK's foremost planting designers and originated the concept of 'Pictorial Meadows'. His first Chelsea Flower Show garden in 2009 won an RHS Silver-Gilt Medal. The Landscape Agency is one of the leading consultancies in the restoration, conservation and future development of landscapes in Britain.

**About the RBC Blue Water Project**

The RBC Blue Water Project is an innovative, wide-ranging, 10-year global commitment to help protect the world's most precious natural resource: fresh water. It includes a \$50 million philanthropic commitment to organizations that protect watersheds and ensure access to clean drinking water. The RBC Blue Water Project also promotes responsible water use through awareness programs and supports programs that encourage businesses to develop and commercialize innovative solutions to the water issues facing the world. Since 2007, RBC has pledged over \$28 million to more than 400 not-for-profit organizations worldwide that protect watersheds or ensure access to clean drinking water. For further information, please visit <http://bluewater.rbc.com/>.

**ABOUT RBC**

Royal Bank of Canada (RY on TSX and NYSE) and its subsidiaries operate under the master brand name RBC. We are Canada's largest bank as measured by assets and market capitalization, and among the largest banks in the world, based on market capitalization. We are one of North America's leading diversified financial services companies, and provide personal and commercial banking, wealth management services, insurance, corporate and investment banking and transaction processing services on a global basis. We employ approximately 79,000 full- and part-time employees who serve close to 18 million personal, business, public sector and institutional clients through offices in Canada, the U.S. and 50 other countries. For more information, please visit [rbc.com](http://rbc.com).