



GOVERNMENT HOUSE

# Featuring The Edwardian Gardens

## DISCOVERY MAP

Step back in time and picture yourself in the early 1900s when Scottish born landscape gardener George Watt first created this prairie oasis at Government House. The Edwardian Gardens were designed to please the eye and delight the senses. Stroll through the lush gardens and experience the "outdoor rooms" – each with its own unique perspective, framed by sweeping lawns that follow the Edwardian Garden design. All accessible, with pathways taking you to a simpler time.

Today the Edwardian Gardens offer thousands of vibrant annuals and perennials including 5,706 tulips, a Collection Garden featuring magnificent lilies as well as a Rose Garden with hundreds of fragrant blossoms.

Enjoy the timeless beauty of true Edwardian-style gardens, restored to uphold the rich and majestic history of Government House which features a museum that gives you a glimpse of life at Government House at the turn of the 20th Century. Explore Government House's engaging programs, enriching exhibits and a tranquil botanical conservatory open year round. Awaken your senses by taking time to smell the flowers and enjoy the canopy of shade from the tree plantation planted by Mr. Watt well over a hundred years ago.

-  Benches
-  Visitor Parking
-  Butler's Pantry
-  Washrooms
-  Welcome Desk
-  Wheelchair Access
-  First Aid/AED



# The Edwardian Gardens

## George Watt's vision for an oasis on the prairies

In the early 1900s, the Edwardian Gardens of Government House stood out as an oasis against Regina's treeless landscape. Producing these British-style gardens in Saskatchewan's harsh climate was no small feat and would not have been achieved without the vision and painstaking care of a Scottish-born landscape gardener by the name of George Watt.

Watt's legacy can be seen not only in the grounds surrounding Government House, but throughout the landscape of Saskatchewan's capital city.

The elm trees and caragana bushes that he planted were the first of their kind to be introduced in Regina and have since come to characterize the city's topography.

By donating both his time and trees, Watt also contributed to municipal projects, including the beautification of Victoria Park and Wascana Park. After leaving Government House in 1908, Watt went on to work for the Government of Saskatchewan and was involved in the development of the Legislative Building grounds.



George Watt in the conservatory c.1905

## Points of Interest

### 1. Ceremonial Circle

As you begin to explore the majestic grounds surrounding Government House, you are welcomed by the Ceremonial Circle, which was part of the original grounds design dating back to 1891. Taking a panoramic view of this historic building you will see the additions and transformation of Government House over the last hundred years. Facing west is the original structure built in 1891. To the south, is the ballroom added in 1928 and to the east of the ballroom, the Queen Elizabeth II Wing, which was opened by Her Majesty in 2005.

### 2. Portico

For many years, this grand portico, or porte-cochère, protected the occupants from bad weather and served as the main entrance for visitors from all over the world. Today this entrance is reserved for visiting dignitaries and special guests of the Lieutenant Governor.

### 3. Lynda Haverstock Ceremonial Drive

As you walk along Ceremonial Drive, you will notice the Lieutenant Governor's emblem is embedded in the driveway. This majestic entrance and driveway has always been exclusively reserved for the Lieutenant Governor and the Premier of Saskatchewan.

### 4. Lieutenant Governor's Meeting Place

As you reach the north end of Government House, you will find one of the Lieutenant Governor's favourite places to host guests. This unique circular "outdoor room" surrounds you with an impressive view of the Edwardian Gardens.

### 5. Herb Garden

For more than 100 years, this herb garden has served Government House's kitchen. Many of the tasty treats served at the Government House Historical Society Victorian Teas feature delectable herbs from this garden. In 2012, the Herb garden was visited by the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall as part of their visit to Government House during the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

### 6. Conservatory

Continuing to the southwest side of the building, you will find the conservatory that was added on to Government House in 1901 and moved to this location in 1928. The conservatory has survived the test of time and weather, offering a botanical year-round retreat for visitors coming to Government House.

### 7. Hedge Maze

In the early 1900s, George Watt planted the first caragana bushes in Regina at Government House. They became very popular with farmers as shelterbelts and can now be found throughout the Prairie landscapes. To honour Watt's legacy, this hedge maze was planted with caragana bushes in 2010.

### 8. Consular Grove

Outlining the southwest corner of the gardens is the Consular Grove, where each of Saskatchewan's Honourary Consuls planted a tree in 2011 to represent their country. Each tree was given an identification tag indicating the Honourary Consul, country, as well as the species of tree.

### 9. Netherlands Liberation Garden

As you walk to the northeast, you come to the beautiful Netherlands Liberation Garden. In 1984, the Dutch Government sent a gift of 5,706 tulips as a tribute to each Canadian soldier buried in the Netherlands during WWII.

### 10. Servants' Foundation

West of the Netherlands Liberation Garden is a walkway that leads to the remains of a building foundation. It is likely that this foundation was a servants' house for the numerous staff members dedicated to the growth and operations of Government House.

### 11. Collection Garden

To the north is one of Government House's most vibrant, picturesque gardens; the Collection Garden features many stunning traditional and hybrid lilies showcasing an array of colour.

### 12. Service Road

On your way to the Rose Garden, you will cross the service road. This road has been used for service access since the house was completed in 1891. From carriage drivers to caterers, this driveway has facilitated the behind-the-scenes maintenance of Government House since its earliest days.

### 13. Rose Garden

Stop and smell the roses! Dwarf Dahlias border this fragrant flower bed featuring over 55 gorgeous rose bushes of varying types.



### 14. North Lawn

To the south of the Rose Garden is an area that was used for a variety of activities prior to 1945, including a children's playground in the summer and a skating rink in the winter. Today this open green space is used for summer picnics and entertainment during the Lieutenant Governor's Garden Party on July 1, which attracts over 2,000 visitors annually.

### 15. Governor General's Tree

The Governor General's Tree that was planted by Her Excellency Michaëlle Jean on her farewell tour of Canada in 2011 is found at the south end of the north lawn. It is a Burr Oak tree.

### 16. Tree Plantation

In 1907, Lieutenant Governor Forget, along with George Watt, travelled to Banff and brought back 4,600 spruce saplings to be planted at Government House. With the passage of time, a few original trees still remain today. In addition to the tree plantation, commemorative trees were planted by Canada's premiers in 2009 when they met at Government House for the annual Council of the Federation. Customized tree tags were created to identify each premier's province and its date of confederation.



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