

A Visitor's Guide



to

Kingsbrae Garden

The Kingsbrae Garden Story

A Little Bit About Us

Kingsbrae Horticultural Garden Inc. is a not-for-profit organization. The property which forms the Garden was graciously donated by John and Lucinda Flemer. The grounds had a long history of fine gardens, and Kingsbrae Garden was created to expand on this heritage, to create jobs, to provide horticultural education, and to be an inspiration for people of all ages.

This 27-acre public garden was created over two years, and opened to visitors in 1998. The Garden features a sculpture garden, a fully-functional one-third scale Dutch windmill, two ponds, streams, a wide array of birds, butterflies and insects as well as a family of alpacas, pygmy goats, countless ducks, noisy peacocks and fluffy rabbits, a children's fantasy garden, a large perennial garden and more.

Kingsbrae Garden makes an distinct ecological statement. This Audubon-approved garden features a breeding garden for Monarch butterflies, bee hotels and a water conservation example gravel garden inspired by Beth Chatto.

The Gardens of Kingsbrae

Kingsbrae Garden includes some of the great traditions in gardening, including the White, Rose, Knot, Perennial and Cottage gardens.

Kingsbrae Garden is a place where traditional and modern gardening styles and plant materials are employed to enrich, preserve and promote gardening. These include the Rhododendron, Heath & Heather, Ornamental Shrub, Dwarf Conifer, Bird & Butterfly, Herb, Hydrangea, Scents & Sensitivity, Knot, Rose, Perennial and Gravel gardens.



The Container Garden is an example of the extensive varieties of vegetables, herbs and flowers which can be grown in containers of all kinds on patios, terraces, rooftops and decks.

Our Orchard contains several heirloom varieties of apple trees. The adjacent Edible Garden showcases edible plants, fruits, and berries, both native and exotic. The Therapy and Scents & Sensitivity gardens are specially designed for those with special needs.

The Children's Garden and Fantasy Garden provide outdoor environments for fun and learning. Even a stroll in the woods can be a learning adventure in our Acadian forest. Interpretive panels can be found along the paths, and a brochure is available in the Visitor Centre. Frequent rest and lookout sites are provided there and throughout the Garden.

To find your way around, use the map handed to you when you are being admitted.



In recent history, Kingsbrae has been honoured with several prestigious awards including "Canada's Garden of the Year", "A Top 10 Gardens in North America to Visit" and more. Kingsbrae has hosted events for the Premiers of Canada, the Prime Minister, and over a hundred New Brunswick charities.

Entry Garden



The wow factor presents itself as soon as you enter the parking lot and see the over-scale mobile of Canada geese. The planting features trees, grasses and hundreds of day lilies. You would never know you were in a parking lot. As you approach the Entry Garden, you are greeted by a pair of flamboyant begonia umbrella trees underplanted with a panoply of more begonias, giving consistent colour all season. Adjoining is the Premier's Arboretum, featuring the trees of each of Canada's ten provinces and three territories.



White Garden



Past the entrance sign lies our highly acclaimed White Garden. This stunning site has impressed many people who have compared it with the famous Sissinghurst Castle's white garden in Kent, England. The mirrored obelisk provides an interesting visual effect to the garden. Also note, on the other side of the pathway, the "cedar bench" and the porthole view to the Knot Garden.



Cottage Garden



This fine example of an English cottage garden is enclosed by a white brick wall, remaining from the original house. You'll see a vibrant assortment of colourful annuals and perennials as you enter the Visitors Centre.

Rill



This beautiful water feature can be seen just as you leave the Visitors Centre to start your tour of the Garden. By definition, a rill is a man-made garden canal that creates garden ambiance through the pleasant sound of moving water. The earliest style of rill was found in ancient Persian gardens, but perhaps the most famous are in the Moorish Alhambra gardens in Granada, Spain. The rill was a popular water feature of Edwardian garden design and often used by Gertrude Jekyll, one of England's most famous garden designers.

Knot Garden



The Knot Garden is the most formal area of Kingsbrae Garden—each of the four beds is laid out symmetrically with a different Celtic knot. Two strongly contrasting colours of foliage enclosed by boxwood create the effect. Everything is carefully trimmed to consistent height. Knot gardens (parterres) were popular in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries in Italy and France and fashionable in Britain from Tudor times.



Rose Garden



This garden sits on the site of the original rose garden from the original estate. Its beauty has been recreated with a geometric central planting of *Rosa grandiflora* and Carpet roses, surrounded on the banks by newer varieties of “bush roses”, such as Floral Carpet and Explorer and wild rugosas, underplanted with creeping thyme. As you can imagine, this garden is a favourite for weddings.



Perennial Garden



Two acres, enclosed by cedar hedges which create a warmer microclimate, are divided into 26 beds, each planted with different combinations of perennials. As you stroll along each path, you are presented with a different view at every turn. Benches offer welcoming spots to sit and enjoy the heady beauty of this garden, as varying bloom times of perennials present an ever-changing show throughout the season. The sweep of the day lily bed in full bloom is unforgettable. Hummingbirds abound, especially when the bee balm (*monarda*) is in bloom in July and August. You might see one of our Garden cats basking in the sun.



Perennial Garden



Throughout the seasons, from May through October, the Perennial Garden is full of colour; gems of spring like fritillaria, hyacinths and daffodils, followed by exquisite fernleaf peonies, many types of lilies and hundreds of perennials throughout the summer, giving way to coneflowers (*echinacea*), false sunflowers (*heliopsis helianthoides*), sea holly (*eryngium maritimum*) and much more in the fall. The many varieties of Japanese maples are magnificent, blazing against the dark green hedges throughout the garden.



Children's Fantasy Garden



Here you will find five brightly-coloured playhouses, including an exciting castle to climb, curious weeping shrubs and trees, a living fence and willow arbour. The bright red rabbit condominium, home to three brothers, can be found in the shade of the garden entrance.

The Mad Hatter's Teapot Trees add an eccentric splash of colour, the pots planted with annuals. The trunks were saved from one of our century-old cedar hedges that needed to be replaced.

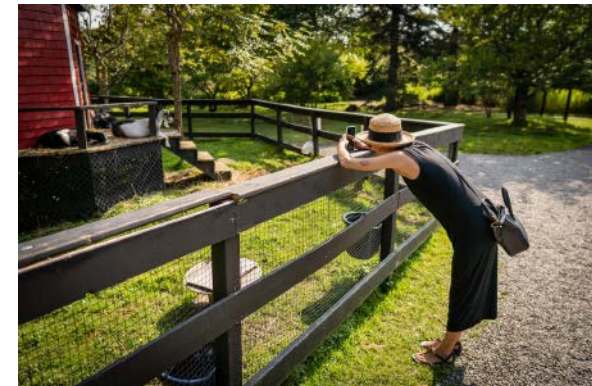
One of the playhouses has a living roof—an ecological experiment which works superbly. More people could use this technique to insulate their roofs.



Animals at Kingsbrae Garden



At Kingsbrae Garden you can see many species of birds that either make their home here or stop on their migratory paths. The 27-acre Garden also shelters wildlife such as squirrels and frogs; foxes. Many domestic animals live here as well—pygmy goats, peacocks & peahens, many ducks in our ponds and several cats. The stars of the show are the alpacas, which travel up to the Café each noon for lunch, as we hope you will. We all co-exist as nature intended, with very little trouble or hullabaloo.



Sustainability in the Garden



Kingsbrae Garden believes very strongly in “sustainability” and has a few examples to demonstrate how everyone in their own way can help our suffering planet. The Monarch butterfly bed has a breeding station where the public can observe their evolution from larvae through pupae to a new butterfly. This bed is planted with milkweed and preferred plants preferred by butterflies.

The education about sustainability extends also to the children. Every day children can take part in a release of ladybugs, which help reduce the aphid population, thus preserving roses and other plants.



Sustainability in the Garden



You will find Dyno in the Bird and Butterfly garden, an area which has welcoming bird feeders and shallow pools where butterflies swoop to drink. Dyno, a dragon-like creature, has been crafted from recycled Cooke Aquaculture seafood containers by Aurora Robson. He is framed by a ribbon of recycled sea glass.

Nearby is an area with bee hotels where weary bees rest. Bee hotels of varying shapes can be seen here. Bee hotels consist of a number of hollow tubes. They mimic the conditions suitable for bees that nest above ground in stems and holes.



Gravel Garden



Gravel or xeriscape gardens are defined as “quality landscaping that conserves water and protects the environment”. They are drought-resistant, beautiful in all seasons, and very low maintenance as there is no visible soil to support weeds.

Many different types of gravel can be used, and large boulders are a natural addition to the serene beauty of the gravel garden. The stones actually keep the soil cool and moist, which is kind to the roots of the plants, enhancing growth and viability. Less evaporation means less watering, which is great for the ecosystem.



The Windmill and Pond



The windmill, “Darlingke”, was a gift to Kingsbrae Garden from John & Lucinda Flemer, to honour Mr Flemer’s Dutch heritage. It’s a one-third scale, functioning windmill, built in Holland and then dismantled and erected at the Garden by the Dutch firm of Vaags in 1998. We use it to help circulate the water from the lower to the upper pond, in order to keep the ponds from stagnating.

The vanes of the windmill are turned to face the direction of the wind. When the large vanes are turning, you can watch the water coming up through a screw onto a wooden sluice, through a rocky creek bed and into the upper pond. Both ponds were lined with marine clay. Our in-ground irrigation system draws from the ponds, thereby lessening our draw on the Town’s water system.



Scents and Sensitivity Garden



Built in co-operation with the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, this waist-high raised-bed garden, designed for the enjoyment of the visually impaired, features plants alternating between scent and texture. All plant labels are engraved in Braille, as well as in English and Latin.

There are wind chimes in the tall trees nearby, which also offer cooling shade from the sun, often a problem for those whose eyes are very sensitive to bright light. Flowering dogwood and wild rugosa roses on the perimeter add their perfume to the Scents & Sensitivity Garden. There are benches nearby to rest amidst this calming oasis.



Secret Garden and Peace Garden



In an intriguing hollow, after following a sinuous path, you will find a secret Zen garden. This minimalist space with its cherry tree standing in white pebbles offers a blue bench on which to rest and meditate.

The Peace Garden has been created to welcome veterans of the military and first responders. A tranquil pond and shady umbrellas create a stress-free environment. This area is used following the annual Afghanistan Memorial Ceremony and is appreciated by all.



Sculpture Garden



When an exhibition of metal sculptures by Don Pell was placed throughout the existing Garden and proved a major success, we used what was originally a “blank canvas” (an otherwise unused field) to create a dedicated sculpture garden. The pieces now located in this garden are winners of a Canada-wide sculpture competition which has run for a number of years. This Garden shows off superbly how crafted art and crafted nature can be joined for a beautiful and harmonious spectacle.



Sculpture Garden



Sculpture Garden



Sculpture Garden



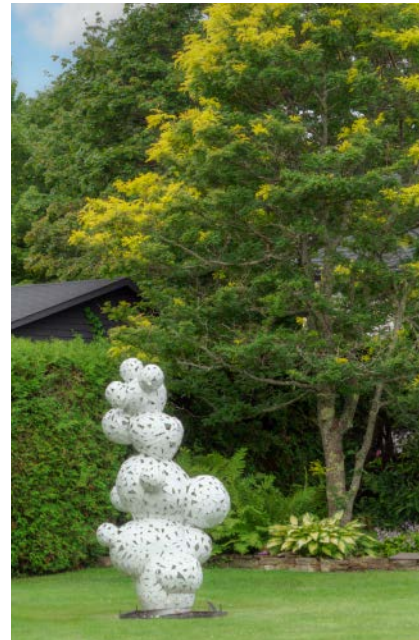
Garden Sculpture Collection



Garden Sculpture Collection



In addition to the Sculpture Garden, various works are on display throughout the 27 acre Garden.



Kingsbrae International Residence for the Arts and Amphitheatre



Kingsbrae International Residence for the Arts and Amphitheatre



Kingsbrae International Residence for the Arts (KIRA) is the perfect location for corporate retreats or a team building escape. With 6 bedrooms available for rent, a large open concept sitting room, dining room, and 6 private studios for break-out sessions, KIRA has hosted many organizations and conferences.

In the arts community, KIRA is known for hosting a leading Artist in Residence Program welcoming talents from across the world. Successful artists are selected annually through an application process, and typically stay and work at KIRA for a month. With the proximity and access to Kingsbrae Garden, as well as the beauty of Saint Andrews by-the-Sea, KIRA is the perfect location to be inspired.

Open Studio days are popular for both visitors and locals alike with no admission charge.

The KIRA Amphitheatre welcomes thousands of attendees every summer as Atlantic Canada's most beautiful outdoor performing arts venue. The stage welcomes top musicians, orchestras, Broadway performers, modern circus, and other performing arts.

Visit kingsbraegarden.com to see the many activities and ticketed shows scheduled at KIRA.



**Kingsbrae International Residence
for the Arts and Amphitheatre**



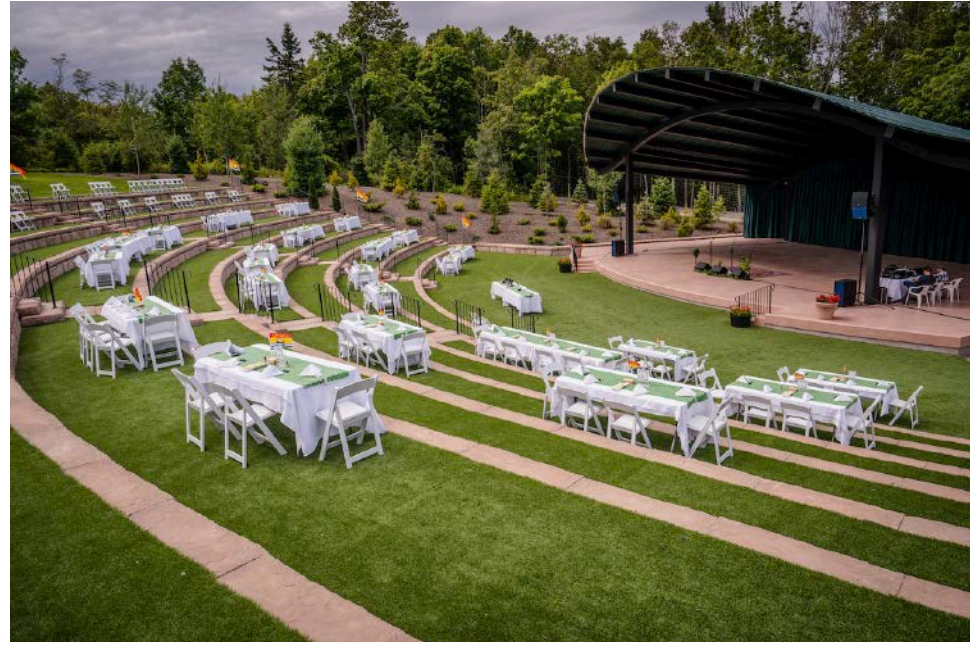
**Kingsbrae International Residence
for the Arts and Amphitheatre**

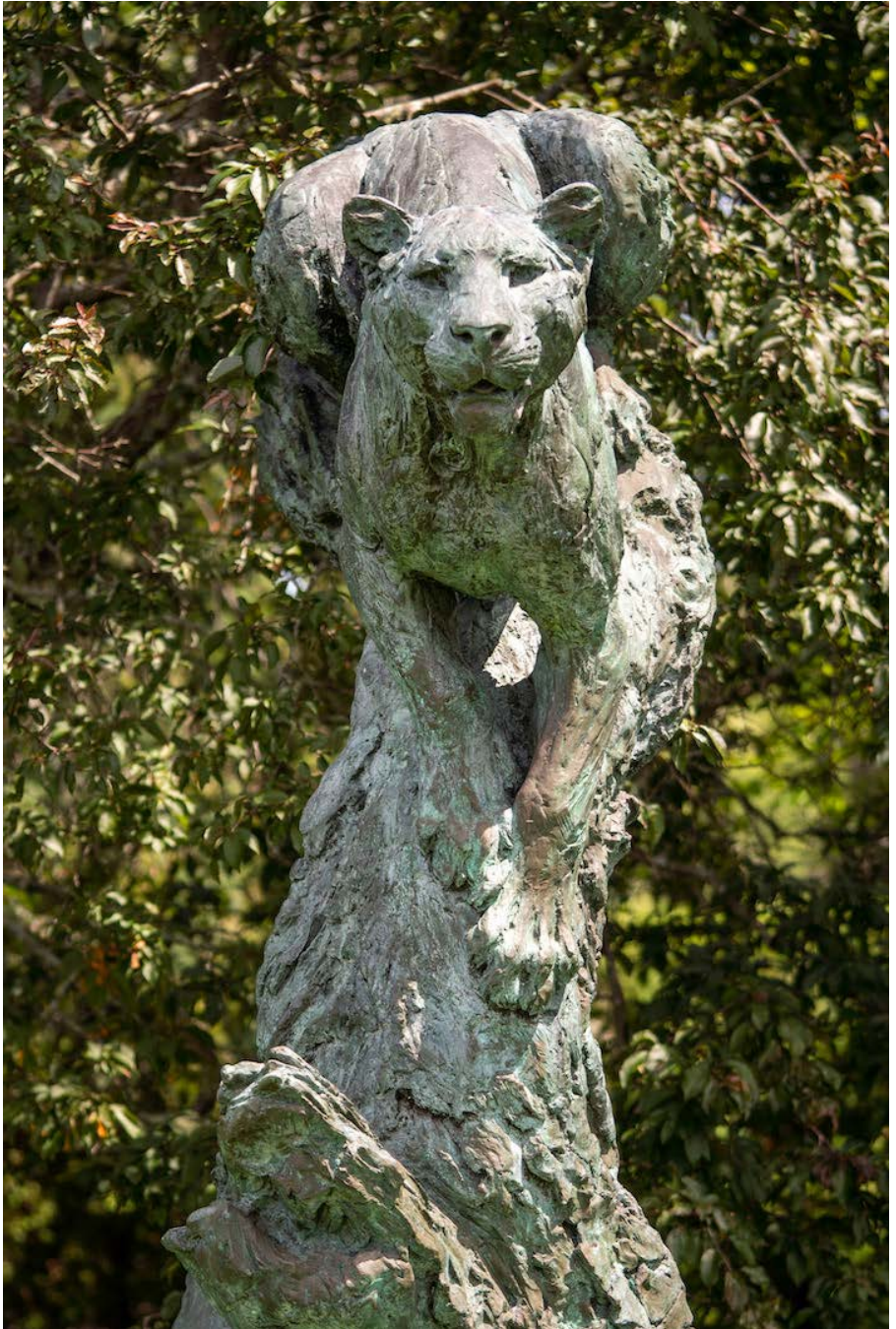


Kingsbrae International Residence for the Arts and Amphitheatre



Kingsbrae International Residence for the Arts and Amphitheatre





Edition May 2022

Photography by Chris G Flemming, Jeff Lively & Marshall Coles