



**ROYAL  
BOTANICAL  
GARDENS**

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**Joint Media Release  
May 30, 2008**

**RBG Nature Sanctuaries named Fourth Important  
Amphibian and Reptile Area in Canada**

Burlington, ON –

**Media Release**

Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG) and the Canadian Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Network (CARCNET) are pleased to announce that RBG's Cootes Paradise, Carrolls Bay and Grindstone Valley nature sanctuaries have been designated as an Important Amphibian and Reptile Area (IMPARA) by CARCNET.

The RBG nature sanctuaries are the fourth area in Canada to be recognized as an IMPARA. South Okanagan-Lower Similkameen Valley and Creston Valley Wildlife Area, both in BC, and Pelee Island, Ontario are the other IMPARAs designated to date.

The IMPARA designation recognizes the value of these natural areas as habitats for some of Canada's most vulnerable wildlife species, including at least 30 species of frogs, salamanders, turtles and snakes. The designation is for educational purposes and carries no regulatory authority on its own, although nearly all species of reptiles and amphibians are protected by Ontario law. Several are also protected federally as endangered species.

"The IMPARA program is relatively new. It was developed to ensure that amphibians and reptiles are not overlooked as important members of Canada's biodiversity," said Dr. David Galbraith, Head of Science at RBG and former Chair of the Board of CARCNET "Amphibians in particular are disappearing at an alarming rate. The habitat restoration programs of Royal Botanical Gardens, including Project Paradise, are improving the chances there will be frogs, salamanders, snakes and turtles in nature for generations to come."

CARCNET is a registered not-for profit organization with 150 members across Canada. CARCNET volunteers are specialists in wildlife conservation dedicated to conserving Canada's native species of amphibians and reptiles in their native habitats, and their ecological and evolutionary functions in perpetuity.

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Royal Botanical Gardens is a living museum which serves local, regional and global communities while developing and promoting public understanding of the relationship between the plant world, humanity and the rest of nature.

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