

Allan Gardens is a notable Toronto Landmark that started off as The Horticultural Gardens in 1860. George William Allan generously offered 5 acres of oval land in the heart of the City to the Toronto Horticultural Society. The Grand opening took place September 11, 1860 with a tree planting by His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales.

In 1864, the Horticultural Society purchased another 5 acres surrounding the oval land from George William Allan. He stipulated that all the land be publicly accessible and free of charge. In 1879 a new horticultural pavilion opened with a conservatory - thought to be the finest facility of its kind in Canada.

Unfortunately in 1888, due to debt, the society transferred the land to the City of Toronto. In 1894 a new conservatory was opened to replace the old one. The Horticultural Gardens became Allan Gardens in September 1901 following the death of George Allan.

A fire destroyed the pavilion and part of the conservatory in 1902. In 1910, the domed Palm House structure opened. This remains at the gardens to this day along with two greenhouses at the north and south end of the pavilion with further greenhouses added in later years.

Toronto Heritage added the Palm House to its inventory in 1973. In 1986, the provincial government assigned this property to the Ontario Heritage Act for architectural and historical reasons. The Palm House is a notable Canadian landmark and is highly regarded amid horticulturists and architects alike.

Today Allan Gardens boasts 6 greenhouses stretching over 16,000 square feet and house some of the most spectacular seasonal and exotic plants and flowers. Allan Gardens is a popular location for television commercials and music videos. Other productions filmed here include the yet to be released feature film "Silence", the TV Movie "Terry" and many TV Series; This is Daniel Cook, Forensic Factor, Doc, Queer as Folk, Missing and Beautiful People.