



IN THE REFORD GARDENS Getting to know Elsie Reford

Alexander Reford
Photographs by Louise Tanguay

A coffee-table book to complement the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Elsie Reford, creator of the Reford Gardens

320 pages

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Éditions de l'Homme

The year 2022 marked the 150th anniversary of the birth of Elsie Reford, a philanthropist and woman of action, known to the general public mainly as the founder of the Reford Gardens, in the Bas-Saint-Laurent region, gardens she completely designed and developed almost 100 years ago. For the occasion, Alexander Reford, Elsie's great-grandson and the director of the gardens since 1995, has revisited his ancestor's work and offers this revised edition of two books published by Les Éditions de l'Homme: *The Reford Gardens* (2004) and *Treasures of the Reford Gardens* (2006). Supplemented by updated information on the current gardens and by new colour photos, the book is produced in a larger format than the two original books and in hard cover.

Strong points

- Archival photos of Elsie Reford's life and of the Villa Estevan, bequeathed by her uncle, Sir George Stephen.
- Colour photos of the various gardens on the estate, plants, and iconic flowers.
- A personal text by the author, a great-grandson of the creator of the Reford Gardens.

Subjects: horticulture, gardening, history, heritage, Bas-Saint-Laurent

Alexander Reford has managed the Reford Gardens since 1995, overseeing their preservation and development. A historian educated at the University of Oxford and the University of Toronto, he has written many articles on Canadian history. He is the cofounder of the International Garden Festival, which takes place every year at the Reford Gardens.