Terre Bleu Lavender Farm owner Ian Baird walks the rows of Dutch lavender with his children, William and Madeline, in this 2016 *Champion* file photo. ***Graham Paine / Metroland***

Local lavender farm among most outstanding garden experiences

By Julie Slack
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Milton's Terre Bleu lavender farm was selected as one of 150 outstanding gardens or garden experiences to celebrate and visit this year in Canada.

Ontario's largest lavender farm, Terre Bleu has been awarded the Canada 150 Garden Experience designation by the Canadian Nursery Landscape Association, the Canadian Garden Council and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Terre Bleu was selected from Canadian garden and landscape industry champions that entered the contest. The finalists were chosen by a jury of industry experts.

The designations were awarded at the Canada's 150 Garden Experience Luncheon at the North American Garden Tourism Conference in Toronto last month.

Surrounded by spectacular fields of purple and the perfumed air that swirls around, the designation is a natural fit for Terre Bleu's unique agri-tourism experience.

"Canada has a long-standing garden culture," said Alexander Reford, president of the Canadian Garden Council at the awards ceremony. "From First Nations gardens that were here long before settlers arrived, to the enormous variety of gardens that every culture has brought to this country since Confederation, gardens — from modest kitchen and community gardens to celebrated botanical and public gardens — have played a role in defining and developing our Canadian aesthetic and quality of life."

Honoured with the recognition, Terre Bleu's CEO Ian Baird said, "Canada's 150th anniversary is a wonderful opportunity to come together and celebrate our pride in this country's beautiful and inspiring landscape. We are thrilled to have been recognized in this way and humbled that our family farm is included in such a prestigious group of national gardens and experiences, including notables such as Rideau Hall in Ottawa, The Butchart Gardens in Victoria, Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens in Nova Scotia, and the International Peace Garden in Manitoba. Our success is made possible by the support of our community, who allows us to demonstrate our commitment to education, sustainable farming and personal well-being while growing our farm business."