



Over the past decades Michel Gauthier has distinguished himself in the festival, event, tourism, recreation and garden industry, accumulating the expertise that contributes to the success of projects implemented under his leadership.

As a member of the Board of Directors of the Foundation, he is the principal liaison between Canadian authorities and the Peace Garden Foundation, which ensures Canada's continued involvement and support. Mr. Gauthier assisted with organizing the first Peace Garden donated from Canada to the United States in 1992, which launched the chain of peace gardens now making its way around the world. He also organized the official ceremonies in 1998 when Canada's Peace Garden was dedicated at the Rideau Falls overlooking the Ottawa river.

Mr. Gauthier was instrumental in coordinating the participation of HRH Princess Margriet of the Netherlands [born in Ottawa] in the 50th Anniversary Celebrations of the Canadian Tulip Festival when she unveiled a historic International Peace Garden panel, along with IPGF President, Paula, Savage, in May 2002.

As noted in "Our Story" the festival's origins came from the annual gift of tulips from the Dutch Royal Family when they returned to the Netherlands following WWII, a tradition that continues to this day.

He commenced his career in 1974 with the City of Ottawa Recreation & Culture Department. After seven years, he moved to the National Capital Commission where he served as Program Director for Winterlude before assuming the position as Executive Director of this 10-day winter festival from 1984-1988.

From 1988 to 1992, Michel managed and marketed various events in Montreal, Toronto and Ottawa. As of 1992, Mr. Gauthier managed 16 Canadian Tulip Festival, Ottawa's oldest and most prestigious festival.

The Rideau Canal Festival from 2007 to 2011 and the Canadian Garden Council from 2011 to 2023. Now president CEO of the Forget For A Moment Foundation.

He has been an active member of the Canadian Association of Festivals and Events, the International Festivals and Events Association, Ottawa Festival Network, Festivals and Events Ontario, and the World Tulip Society. Mr. Gauthier holds a Festival and Event Director Certificate from Perdue University and a Recreation Diploma from Algonquin College. He is fluent in French and English.