



2012 EXECUTIVE

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UPCOMING PROGRAM EVENTS

Thursday, September 13/12 10:30pm - 4:00pm

Flower Arranging Competitions

Evergreen Farm, Kemptville

Thursday, October 18/12 12:30pm - Rockcliffe Park CC

Modern Daylilies - Kelly Noel

Thursday, November 15/12 12:30pm - Rockcliffe Park CC

Plant Hunters - Pauline Dodds

Thursday, November 29/12

Christmas Coffee Party

European Union residence

Thursday, January 17/13 -10:30am Royal Ottawa GC

Why Plants are Animals - Michael Runtz

See pages 3, 4 and 5 for details

"A single rose can be my garden... a single friend, my world."

Leo Buscaglia

WELCOME TO THE OTTAWA GARDEN CLUB

We were delighted to welcome these newest members at our May AGM. We look forward to including them in our programmes and hope they will quickly find their special niche in our Club.

Pamela Armstrong

Marion Chappell

Helen Clark

Jana Clarke

MaryAnn de Chastelain

Janet McLaine

A FAREWELL

Note from Victoria Hutton: I recently received a lovely note of farewell from our member Marjatta Piipponen, spouse of the Ambassador to Finland; her sentiments were so warm that I felt you would all enjoy reading them:

Dear Victoria



Marjatta Piipponen

I wonder if you could pass a few words from me to Ottawa Garden Club members at your next meeting:

It's time to thank you ladies. When we arrived four years ago you all were so friendly and welcomed me so warmly to Ottawa and the OGC. I've been enjoying your company and friendship enormously, not to mention the interesting lectures and other programs you provided.

I especially will remember the lovely days at Anstace's gorgeous farm in Kemptville - picking up flowers and trying to arrange something beautiful - it was so much fun and a lot of laughs!

Four years passed so quickly, we were so lucky to be able to live in this beautiful village of Rockcliffe. I will keep in my heart the memory of a recent early morning swim in May in the Pond (which we, by the way, were sharing with Cynthia Butler so many times; this year I started to swim on the 22 of March). That morning in May I was alone - until the gorgeous heron landed three meters away from me. She stared at me carefully, then started to do her morning wash for at least 10 minutes, then took off and made a circle above me and flew away - like she was waving goodbye! And all this happened in the Nation's capital - not four kilometers away from Parliament Hill!!!

I wish you all the best of health and happiness. Take care of yourselves and most of all take care of your gardens.

With love,

Marjatta Piipponen

THE BLOOMING NEWS

Newsletter of

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Editor: Kelly Noel khnoel@rogers.com

Advisors: Heather Brown
Cindy Boucher

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I always have the feeling that September, and Autumn in general, should really be the beginning of the new year. We've all been able to enjoy a huge step back from our busy routines, if only to take in the pleasure of our own gardens, and made time to do the things we dream about all year. This is when I like to make my real resolutions, and bring the energy gained in the slow summer days to the anticipation of renewed friendships and the new experiences that lie ahead.



Victoria Hutton

The few months before the summer saw a whirlwind of OGC activities - from the successful Plant Sale at Elisabeth Bruyère Hospital which will bring a colourful legacy to that South Garden for years; to the delightful discovery of our artistic members' blossoming talents at an Art Show, organized in record time, to benefit future flora for the Perley Rideau Courtyard Garden. Both are grand examples of the energy and commitment that our members bring to our community.

It may be gardening and love of all things therein that bring us together - but I have noticed as I move into my second year as President of our Club, that many of our members hold in common an ability to share their talents in many fields

Our Vice-President, Cindy Boucher is one case in hand - as she organized the supremely successful public tribute to friend and mentor Jean Pigott at City Hall earlier in the year.

Our Diplomatic Liaison, Marianne Feaver, lent a fine professionalism as well as her artistic flair to the organization of the recent art show.

Our Diplomatic Representative, Hildegard van der Pluijm (Belgium) not only inspired our outing to view the Ikebana demonstration in Montreal, but continues to enrich our membership and outlook with her many colleagues participating in our Club.

Our Autumn program is brimming with interesting activities, not least among them the upcoming Luncheon celebrating our diplomatic and new members which will be hosted by our Vice President, Cindy Boucher.

I look forward to sharing a new OGC season with you all!

Victoria Hutton, President

PROGRAM AUTUMN 2012

6th Annual Photo Competition

Yet again, we are holding our almost famous photo competition. So please get your cameras out now and start clicking away. Photos may be taken in private or public spaces. The display and judging by club members will take place at the March, 2013 meeting. We are giving you plenty of notice to capture that Kodak moment.

Categories:

- ✿ The Botanical Diet - Plants which are tall and slender. Image may be of a single plant or a grouping of plants.
- ✿ Water Water Everywhere and Not a Drop to Drink - water features, large or small, from bird bath to Niagara Falls.

There will be one winner in each category. The prize will be a complimentary one year membership to the Ottawa Garden Club - a prize value of \$50.00.

Rules:

- ✿ Each competitor may enter a total of three images per category.
- ✿ All entries are to be printed in a 4 x 6 format on photographic-quality paper.
- ✿ Write your name on the back of each photo and indicate the category in which it belongs.

Entries are to be submitted to Freda Godby no later than February 21st, 2013 by:

- ✿ Placing photos in an envelope and handing them to Freda at one of the club meetings
- ✿ Mailing them to Freda Godby, 31 Wellfleet Cres., Nepean ON K2J 2Y2

For more information, contact Freda Godby at 613-825-3713 or fgodby@rogers.com



Thursday, September 13/12

10:30am Evergreen Farm

Flower arranging competitions



Sunflower at Evergreen Farm in September, 2011.
Photo by Heather Brown.

Our Honorary President, Anstace Esmonde-White has graciously invited us back to Evergreen Farm, her lovely country estate in Kemptville, where we will be holding our annual flower arranging competition. Wander through the lovely gardens or sit and relax under the canopy of a mature tree. Come for 10:30 and bring a lawn chair and your lunch. Our hospitality committee will provide drinks and other

treats.

Please note that there is no rain date.

Directions from Ottawa: Take the Queensway to Hwy 416. Travel south and take exit 34 to Kemptville. Go west on Cty Rd. 43, past the traffic circles, the Kemptville Mall and Kemptville Building Supply. Turn left on Somerville Road. Go to the next stop sign and turn right onto Cty Rd 18. Travel 2.2 km to Dennison Road. Turn left on Dennison Road. Cross over the river and railroad tracks to the stop sign at the next concession road, Bedell St. Turn left - it is the second driveway on the right. It is well marked. Go up the driveway and park on the left.

Car Pooling: Note to our diplomatic members: If you would like transportation to this event, please contact Marianne Feaver, 613-748-7528. She will be happy to arrange a drive for you with one of the members.

Flower Arranging Competition: When you arrive, tour the gardens and pick the plant material for your contest entries. You may enter an arrangement in one category or in all three of them. Bring containers with you and any other items you will need such as oasis, scissors, ribbon etc. but all plant material must be cut from the Evergreen Farm gardens.

Categories this year:

Tea Cup Arrangement - a miniature arrangement of flowers and foliage centered around a tea cup and saucer.

Potager Bouquet (back by popular demand): any container, any size - a selection of herbs and vegetables, including their foliage if desired.

Hot and Sexy: any arrangement of warm-coloured flowers with or without foliage.

Judges: The judging panel will be selected from amongst our diplomatic members who will take on the difficult task of selecting the first, second and third place winners in each category.

Prize Ribbons: Marianne Feaver has kindly agreed to provide the much coveted prize ribbons, each one an original work of art.

Thursday, October 18/12

12:30pm - 3:00pm Rockcliffe Park CC

Modern Daylilies – Kelly Noel



Egyptian Queen

Club member Kelly Noel will introduce us to the great variety of forms and colours of daylilies available today. She will take us on an exploration of their many interesting patterns - eyes, edges, halos, watermarks, appliqué; and textures - ruffles, teeth, fat, pie crust and sculpting. Learn how to become a backyard hybridizer: picking parents, making crosses, collecting and germinating seed, evaluating seedlings. Kelly will advise where to purchase and obtain more information on daylilies.

Kelly taught high school math for 34 years and enjoyed it immensely. When she retired 14 years ago she took correspondence courses from the University of Guelph, earning a Horticulturist Certificate and then joined the Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton. She spends many happy hours puttering around in her garden which is home to about 400 daylily cultivars as well as many other perennials, all ornamentals ... nothing practical. Kelly has more than 300 daylily seedlings of her own.



Kelly Noel

Share the Harvest

The Harvest table remains an annual tradition of the October meeting. We have tasted many delectable treats and added to our recipe collections. Bring your favourite fall delicacy to share.

Jams, jellies, pickles or other preserves should be served in a small dish so that members can sample and enjoy. The hospitality committee will supply crackers. Perhaps you would like to bring your favourite loaf, nut-bread or other treat. Please label your offering and be prepared to share your recipes!

For more information, call Patsy Fyfe 613-749-6951.

Sign Up to attend the Christmas Coffee Party at the European Union Delegation residence. There are only 50 spaces and preference will be given to those who are present at this meeting.



Thursday, November 15/12

12:30 pm - 3:00 pm Rockcliffe Park CC

Plant Hunters – Pauline Dodds

Come and hear about the lives and legacies of some of the explorers who risked danger and disease to seek unusual and beautiful plants from around the globe as told by Pauline (Polly) Dodds.



Polly has been an enthusiastic gardener since childhood when her father gave her her own small patch to tend. When she and her late husband, also a keen gardener, moved from Devon to Ottawa in 1969, they faced not only a daunting climate but also only two local nurseries at the time to draw on. Over the years, they filled each of their gardens with favourite trees and flowers. "It seems", she says, "that I have spent some 60 summers with dirty fingernails". Polly has long enjoyed visiting gardens wherever her travels have taken her and also learning about garden history.

Sign up and pay for the annual January luncheon at the Royal Ottawa Golf Club.

Annual Foster Plants - Drop your name in the hat at the beginning of this meeting. You may be one of the six lucky members who gets to adopt this year's houseplant, chosen by Kelly Noel. You just have to chronicle its care and progress and bring it back at the AGM in May and provide a brief summary of the experience. We have heard many an amusing tale about these plants - whether they have thrived or barely survived. As always, each foster parent will be rewarded with a fabulous gift for her participation.



Thursday, November 29/12

time to be announced

A European Christmas Coffee Party

European Union Residence

Mrs. Madeleine Brinkmann, spouse of the Ambassador of the European Union Delegation to Canada, has graciously invited Ottawa Garden Club Members to celebrate European Christmas festivities at her residence. Members wishing to attend must sign up in advance at the October meeting.



Madeleine Brinkmann



Bebådelsen av Frä Filippa Lippi.

Sankta Lucia - part of typical pre-Christmas celebrations in Sweden

Thursday, January 17/13

10:30am Royal Ottawa Golf Club, Aylmer Rd

Cost for lunch - \$35.00

Why Plants are Animals - Michael Runtz

Michael Runtz returns once again to treat us to a highly visual presentation exploring why plants are every bit as complex, fascinating and animated as animals.

Born in Arnprior, Ontario and a birder since the age of five, Michael Runtz worked for many years as an interpretive naturalist in Algonquin Provincial and Point Pelee National parks. He is a frequent keynote speaker at major events and a regular guest on radio and television. Michael currently teaches at Carleton University in Ottawa, where his



Michael Runtz

Natural History and Ornithology courses have attracted more than 40,000 students to date.

Bring and Buy

Once again, Pauline Yelle will host this annual fundraising event with all proceeds supporting our Community Outreach Program. For only \$5.00, you can participate by donating a new or gently used item that might be just right for someone else. Upon arrival, drop off your "bring", and "buy" a coloured chip from Pauline. During lunch, when your colour is called, you can exchange the chip for one of the many treasures on the table.

*"If you have a garden and a library,
you have everything you need."*

MarcusTullius Cicero
Roman military leader and author

BRUYERE PLANT SALE

On May 12, a very successful plant sale was held on the site of the Bruyère South Garden - the signature project for the OGC 50th Anniversary. The sale raised over \$2,000 which will be used for the Bruyère gardens. Mary Pratte invited Ed Lawrence who spoke to approximately 150 visitors, including staff, patients and their families.

While this event was organized by the staff and volunteers at Bruyère, it never would have happened without the contribution of plants and time of many of our members as well as, of course, our garden angel John Szczepaniak. Not only did OGC members contribute their time and plants, but we also bought!

As always, a good time was had by all. Bruyère staff were most appreciative of our contribution.

Liz Kane



Liz Kane, Gloria Williams, Pauline Yelle and Heather Brown considering their purchases.



Charlotte Ward and John Szczepaniak



Heather Brown, Liz Kane and Sally Hutchison



IKEBANA EXHIBITION

April showers could not dampen the spirits on the day of the Exhibition for the many talented Ikebana designers from the Montreal International Ikebana Club. Braving the weather and the drive to the Montreal Botanical Gardens, our OGC diplomatic representative, Hildegard van der Pluijm (Belgium) and Victoria Hutton enjoyed the spectacular arrangements on display in the Japanese Pavilion whilst our gracious host and President of IICM, Lorraine Desjardins, described the intricacies of the Japanese floral art.

It should be noted that Lorraine was one of the Judges at the September 2012 meeting at Evergreen Farm, home of her mother-in-law and our Honourary President, Anstace Esmonde-White.



Arrangement by Lorraine Desjardins

Victoria Hutton



Hildegard van der Pluijm, Diplomatic Representative, Victoria Hutton, OGC President, Lorraine Desjardins, President, Ikebana International, Montreal Chapter

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



The beautiful plaque now on display in the garden.

After five years of work in the Perley Rideau Veterans' Health Centre, planting and maintaining the south courtyard in the Rideau wing, the gardening team celebrated on May 14 by unveiling a brass plaque acknowledging the Garden club's dedication to the garden.

Garden club executive members, patients and family members, staff and the committee members enjoyed tea and goodies baked with products from the garden. A glorious display of giant tulips, courtesy Peter Knippel, provided brilliant colour.

This event highlighted the mutual collaboration and support of the Perley patients and staff, and the volunteer gardeners.

Over the summer we have a team of eleven club members who appear in rotation, garden gloves and spades in hand, to plant, weed, mulch, dead head, nourish and water the garden. This year the team includes Dianne Breton, Heather Brown, Nancy Colton, Diane Henning, Joan Hoffman, Sally Hutchison, Patricia Padmos, Joan Sirrs, Cathy Stapleton and Mary Udd.

We have a new addition to the courtyard – a large portion of the former garden space has become a covered patio which allows patients safe and comfortable access to the garden. Barbara Brown, the garden therapist and our Perley staff contact person, is now able to expand her creative garden activities for the patients outdoors. For example, an excursion to the market gave patients the opportunity to choose annuals for the large pots placed around the patio. They help with planting and watering their pots, and often extend their hoses to spray the beds we maintain.

A longer term project will be to commence work on the two side gardens which are currently filled with various ground-covers and odds and ends from the central beds. The challenge here is to control the shoots from a row of trees along both



Pat Padmos, Mary Hardwick, Sally Hutchison, Joan Sirrs - members of the "garden crew".

sides. The trees are to be removed at some point by the Perley maintenance crew so we will have a new canvas on which to create interesting compositions.

You will read about the Garden Club Art show in an article by Beth Stikeman. A generous portion of the proceeds from art sales has been earmarked for the Perley courtyard garden. We thank all those artists who contributed their work to the show and their donations to the Outreach project. With these funds we can begin the planning process for the side gardens, knowing that we have resources to cover new plant material.

Come fall, Cynthia Hoisak will be gathering a group of us to create a seasonal decoration for the Postal Cart in the Main foyer of the Perley centre - another way we create beautiful surroundings for all who pass by.

Mary Hardwick



Vice President Cindy Boucher and President Victoria Hutton presenting flowers to Community Outreach Chair Mary Hardwick. Each of the garden crew members received a shovel like the one Mary is holding - a gift from the club to acknowledge their volunteer commitment.

OUR 2011-2012 AGM

On a sunny day in May, a large and enthusiastic crowd gathered at the Rockcliffe Community Centre for the Ottawa Garden Club's Annual General Meeting. President Victoria Hutton opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and offered a special welcome to Diplomatic Members, as well as to invited guests.

After thanking Mary Mahoney for bringing gift boutique items and Joan Sirrs and her team for the lovely treats on the hospitality table, Victoria opened the business part of the meeting.

First item on the agenda was the membership report. As of May 14, 2012, the number of active members in the Club stands at 139: 17 Diplomatic Members, 5 Consultants, 105 Members and 12 Associate Members. Victoria was sorry to report that two Associate Members have died in the past month: Mrs. Christina McDougall and Mrs. Helen Venables, who was a Past President. She also noted that Mi-Sook Um, wife of the Ambassador to Korea, has returned to her homeland.

Next was the presentation of the floral centrepiece to Nancy Frank who recently lost both her mother-in-law Joan Frank and her mother Joan Keyes. Vice-President Cindy Boucher had created a stunning and artful arrangement which included many items gathered from the forest floor: pine cones, lily of the valley, birch bark, and even a bird's nest. Cindy explained that the woodland theme was especially created for Nancy who lives at Meech Lake, in the Gatineau Park.



Nancy Frank with the arrangement created by Cindy Boucher



Virginia Theoret - with her blooming Strep - foster parent of the year!

Highlight of every AGM is the return of the foster plants. Last fall, six lucky members were selected as foster parents: Kelly Noel, Marion Chappell, Cindy Boucher, Mi-Sook Um, Virginia Theoret and Wendy Dion. Each was given a very small cutting of *Streptocarpus* 'Jeanette' to nurture throughout the winter. Kelly Noel, who had purchased the cuttings, assured the nervous parents that *Streptocarpus* is indeed a very lovely plant and would be worth all their effort. Those attending the AGM eagerly anticipated the results of these efforts, but instead heard stories of droughts and drownings, mishaps and neglect. However, standing proud among several rather pathetic pots of fostered greenery was one glorious specimen in full bloom. Virginia

Theoret was the clear winner and voted the most successful foster parent this year. (Another plant in full bloom also appeared on the table, which stunned the crowd, until it was explained that Anneke Schwarz was not a foster parent but had been growing this plant for years.)

A number of committee chairs made reports to the meeting. Treasurer Kelly Noel presented her summary of the Club's financial activity for the year noting that, as planned, OGC spent more money than we took in this year and last in order to properly celebrate our 50th Anniversary. The total spent on anniversary activities over two years was \$4521.13. Nevertheless, the bank balance at the end of this fiscal year (April 30, 2012) is a healthy \$6,497.

The Program Committee reported on a very successful year with interesting and varied monthly meeting topics and several special outings and activities. Victoria Hutton offered a special thank you to Charlotte Ward, who is stepping down after three years as Program Committee Co-Chair, for her sustained and significant contribution to the Club. Pauline Yelle presented Charlotte with a lovely patio planter and thanked her for her efforts and dedication on behalf of all members who have enjoyed a rich and varied program. Victoria then announced two new executive positions: Christine Edwards as the new Co-Chair of the Program committee and new member Pamela Armstrong as the Membership Secretary, and welcomed their considerable talents and energy to the executive team.

(Several other reports at the meeting, including Outreach Chair Mary Hardwick's report of the work at the Perley Rideau Veterans' Health Centre, Victoria's report on the slate of executive members and new members, and information on the Art Show are all featured as separate items in this newsletter.)

Last, but certainly not least, was a presentation by OGC consultant Marilyn Light on How to Rebloom Your Orchid. Marilyn has raised thousands of orchids and has registered more than 20 orchid hybrids, two of which have received awards from the American Society and one of which appeared on a Canadian stamp. Marilyn says that passing on the knowledge she has gained through her caring for orchids is a lifetime passion and she mesmerized the audience with her careful instructions on how to select, care for, and create a period of dormancy for orchids to rebloom. She dispelled many myths as well, such as the popular idea of watering orchids with ice cubes. She said this is not a good idea! At the end of her very interesting and educational presentation, two of the orchids she brought to the meeting were auctioned off, amid much laughter and applause.

It was a fitting end to a very successful meeting and a wonderful year.



Marilyn Light with an orchid

Heather Brown



Seen at meetings



Marianne Feaver and Eve Hampson



Ruth Baribeau, Chris Edwards, Pam Gibb-Carsley, Leslie Lahey



Pauline Yelle and Jane Panet



Dianne Breton, Cynthia Hoisak and Pat Padmos

BLOSSOMING

An Art Show featuring Ottawa Garden Club Artists

Some time in early May Binda De Amorim, Director Marketing and Community Relations at the Rockcliffe Retirement Residence (RRR), contacted Victoria Hutton about a possible art show. When the event was finally confirmed, Marianne Feaver moved on the idea and within a couple of weeks she had developed a full-blown exhibit by eight members of the Ottawa Garden Club.



Five of the Blossoming artists: Mary Hardwick, Pam Gibb-Carsley, Beth Stikeman, Victoria Hutton and Marianne Feaver. The works in the background are by Pam.



Mary Pratte

The Residence generously provided expansive wall space in both the wide hallways and adjoining rooms so the works were well displayed and lit. The venue proved to be ideal. There was a mad rush to hang the show on the evening of May 31, and on June 1, 2012 the show entitled "Blossoming" was launched. The participating artists were Marianne Feaver, Patsy Fyfe, Pam Gibb-Carsley, Gloria Hanff, Mary Hardwick, Victoria Hutton, Mary Pratte and Beth Stikeman. The subject of their artwork was related to nature or gardening and included a full range of landscapes and intimate garden close-ups. There was a wide variety of artistic media represented including oil, acrylic, encaustic, watercolour, soft pastels, oil pastels, charcoal and photography. It was a thrill for those participating to learn that so many members are practising artists.

The Friday evening vernissage was well attended by residents of the RRR, garden club members and the friends and families of the artists. Wine and cheese were served by the RRR and guests lingered chatting in the hallway until 9pm. The show continued on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. The show proved to be very popular with the residents who strolled through the show at their leisure all through the weekend.

More than a dozen paintings were sold and 20% of all sales were donated to the courtyard garden at the Perley Rideau Veterans' Health Centre. A grand total of \$715 was raised from the sale of paintings and another \$100 from the Les Fougères gift basket. This donation will be very helpful in developing the courtyard garden.



Patsy Fyfe



Gloria Hanff

Beth Stikeman

AN ONTARIO GARDEN DAY

With a high of 37° degrees predicted for the day, the anxious organizers of the Garden Club's summer outing could be forgiven for wondering how many participants might sensibly decide that this was an activity best left to mad dogs and Englishmen! However, our garden enthusiasts were not so easily deterred, arriving bright and early appropriately attired in cool cottons and linens and sporting an array of jaunty sunhats. The conversation was lively as we set off in our blessedly air-conditioned coach.

After a brief stop in Kemptville to pick up some more members of the group, we headed south to Oakleaf Gardens near Athens. It is the remarkable creation of two retired McMaster history professors, Dr. Paul Fritz (modern British history) and his partner Dr. David Russo (American history). They have in common an intense love of gardening, and this was immediately evident as we approached the beautifully restored 1829 stone house and caught our first glimpses of the gardens - the results of 25 years of creativity and hard work. Paul talked to us about the heritage roses for which the garden is famous and showed us



The organizers: Felicity Garrard and Joan Hoffman



The Mediterranean garden at Oakleaf Gardens

some of his particular favourites such as 'Rosa Mundi', the old red Lancaster Rose, and the white Jacobite rose 'Alba Plena'. The Gallica 'Cardinal Richelieu', a gorgeous dark mauve, is also a favourite, as is 'Madame Hardy', a white damask rose with a green eye, and 'Harrison's Yellow' - the Yellow Rose of Texas.

Starting our guided tour in the shade garden, we were introduced to a small statue of St. Fiacre, an Irish divine who is the patron saint of gardening and taxi drivers. Next was the Mediterranean garden, planted with a vivid display of blue ornamental sage surrounded by silver Artemisia, after which we moved into the intriguing and beautiful Rose Garden, each labelled specimen given plenty of room to flourish. Passing through one of the low drystone walls that surround and protect the different garden areas, we found a lush vegetable garden, and on the other side of the house a 36m long, 6m wide perennial border planted with 31 varieties of peony, as well as daylilies and Cannas. Further down the property, near a peaceful pond, is a Celtic stone garden featuring a natural stone "floor" planted with vivid yellow Sedums,

and a carefully placed arrangement of large sculptural rocks. There were so many wonders to explore in this garden that we could have stayed all day, but of course the time inevitably came for us to move on.

On our way to an excellent lunch at the Stagecoach Inn in Newboro, and a shopping opportunity at the legendary department store Kilborns, we made another short stop at a delightful small gift shop called The Green Gecko in Philippsville. Never mind geckos - we were more like locusts descending on this tiny place - but the poor unsuspecting owner rallied bravely and was probably able to shut up shop for the rest of the day!

After lunch we wound our way along pretty country roads to our next destination, Larry and Peggy Fry's house and garden in Elgin. Their immaculately restored home, built in the

1860's by early Irish settlers is recognized as an Historic Place by the Township of Bastard and South Burgess. It is set on a slight rise back from the road and features an elegantly symmetrical façade with a spacious trellised verandah. Larry and Peggy have created a garden that more than complements this beautiful house, with a broad sweep of lawn in front surrounded by perennial beds under large trees, and a more complex arrangement of borders and beds in another section of the garden. Rather than the traditional mix of perennials, these beds have been designed to showcase groupings of different varieties of one type of plant; the Echinacea bed features varieties such as 'Green Envy', 'Pink Poodle', 'Tomato Soup', 'Sunrise' and 'Sunset'. Other groupings include many different kinds of Rudbeckia, Gallardia, Phlox, peonies and lilies - this last with not a lily beetle in sight - apparently Larry picks them all off by hand every day! Well into his 80's, Larry now has the help of a professional landscaper, but still spends many hours each day tending his garden with dedicated care, come rain or 40 degree humidex. Unlike hardy Larry however, some of us were beginning to wilt at this point, and after expressing our heartfelt thanks and appreciation, were glad to retreat to the cool of our bus for the journey home.



Catching some shade at the Fry house

Felicity Garrard

ODDMENTS AND ENDMENTS

Gardens of France

At our February meeting, Linda Thorne presented "The Gardens of France". Many of you requested to know the names of the gardens Linda spoke about. You will find them listed below.

Linda also mentioned that she highly recommends Angela Akehurst who is a City of London Blue Badge Guide as well as a tour operator. She also has her own vehicle for private touring. Her website address is <http://www.tourlondonandbeyond.com>

Linda may be reached at thorneandco@netscape.ca or by calling 613-232-9028

Most of the gardens have their own website.

PARIS:

Parc André Citroën (former industrial site) located on the left bank of the Seine (15th Arrondissement)

Musée du Quai Branly's Vertical Wall Garden (murs végétaux): The museum is located on the left bank of the Seine between the Pont d'Alma and the Eiffel Tower.

Promenade Plantée (elevated garden) runs from the Bastille to the Bois de Vincennes (Entry near the Gare de Lyon)

Giverny: Monet's Home and Gardens

The Museum of American Art - gardens

Versailles:- The Palace gardens (the city itself is quite lovely)

LOIRE VALLEY:

Château de la Bourdaisière (privately-owned chateau where you can stay) Walled gardens -- over 600 varieties of tomatoes (hence, 'the Prince of Tomatoes')

Château de Chaumont-sur-Loire (home of the International Garden Festival)

Château de Villandry (home and gardens)

Château de Chenonceau (home and gardens)

SOUTH OF FRANCE:(based in Nice)

Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild (St-Jean-Cap-Ferrat)

Les Cèdres (privately owned, also in St-Jean-Cap-Ferrat)

Serre de la Madone (Menton, Côte d'Azur)

Le Clos du Peyronnet (a privately-owned garden in Menton-Garavan)

Fondation Maeght (sculpture garden near St-Paul-de-Vence)

Renoir's House & Garden (domaine des Collettes which is in Cagne-sur-Mer)

Lucinda (Cindy) E. Boucher



Presidential Rules of Engagement

We will continue with our usual format: meetings at the Rockcliffe Park Community Centre will start at 12:30 pm. Bring a bag lunch if you wish; the club will provide coffee and juice and some treats. The first half hour will be your chance to circulate about and catch up with old friends. At 1:00 pm sharp, we will start the business part of the meeting.

Guests are welcome at the meetings at the Rockcliffe Park Community Centre. The guest fee of \$5.00 can be paid to the membership chair (Pamela Armstrong) at the entrance desk when you arrive. The President should be notified in advance of guests attending so they can be introduced.



Many members receive meeting reminders by email instead of by phone. **IF** you would like to be included in this group, please send an email to Kelly Noel at khnoel@rogers.com indicating that you wish to be put on the email reminder list.