



AUTUMN 2013

THE BLOOMING NEWS

2013 EXECUTIVE

Honourary President

Anstace Esmonde-White 613-258-5587

President

Lucinda (Cindy) Boucher 819-827-2050

Past President

Victoria Hutton 613-258-2822

Vice President

Kelly Noel 613-733-3368

Secretary

Heather Brown 819-827-6672

Treasurer

Kelly Noel 613-733-3368

Diplomatic Representative

Hildegard van der Pluijm
613-749-3948

Diplomatic Liaison

Marianne Feaver 613-748-7528

Program Committee

Chair: Chris Edwards 613-749-7013

Patsy Fyfe 613-749-6951

Freda Godby 613-825-3713

Joan Hoffman 613-722-5774

Leslie Lahey 613-744-4408

Mary Pratte 613-746-6070

Pat Sylvester 613-745-9619

Charlotte Ward 613-744-4283

Pauline Yelle 613-747-2896

Community Outreach

Sally Hutchison 613-728-2981

Dianne Breton 613-567-6558

Membership Secretary

Pamela Armstrong 613-225-1060

Telephone Convenor

Joan Drummond 819-827-1226

Boutique Manager

Mary Mahoney 613-744-4086

Hospitality

Joan Sirrs 613-733-6552

Blooming News

Kelly Noel 613-733-3368

Heather Brown 819-827-6672

Felicity Garrard 613-728-7710

Photo Archivist

Gloria Williams 613-745-6203

Photographer

Cynthia Hoisak 613-837-7798

UPCOMING PROGRAM EVENTS

☞ **Thursday, September 19, 2013 11:00am**

Burritt Farm, the home of Renée Smith
4390 Donnelly Road, Burritt's Rapids

Flower Arranging Competitions

☞ **Thursday, October 17, 2013 12:45pm - 3:00pm**

Rideau Hall

Horticulture at Rideau Hall

NCC Garden Team

☞ **Thursday, November 21, 2013 12:30pm**

Rockcliffe Park CC

Conifers and Flowering Dogwoods

Richard Aubert

☞ **December - Christmas Party**

date and location to be announced

☞ **Thursday, January 16, 2014 10:30am**

Royal Ottawa Golf Club, Aylmer Rd

Thinking Outside the Box -

The New Dutch Way of Gardening

Paul Fritz

see pages 3, 4 and 5 for details

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 programs and hope they will quickly find their special niche in our Club.

**Rina Eyre
Deirdre Graham
Peggy Morgan
Dinah Showman**

PASSAGES

A friend may well be reckoned the masterpiece of nature. **Emerson**

We are always reminded of the passage of



Victoria Hutton

time and the seasons when our diplomatic friends eventually leave and we must bid them farewell. It was with very happy memories that we said goodbye at our May meeting to Thea Geerts who returns to the

Netherlands. For five years she enthusiastically supported many of our Club's activities including enriching our new South Garden at the Elisabeth Bruyère Hospital with a gift of hundreds of tulip bulbs.

Madeleine Brinkmann (European Union), our hostess at last year's Christmas party, was saddened not to be able to attend her last meeting with our members, but sent a lovely note and was generous in her words, remembering the arrangement which we sent to her in March, and hoping that we would continue the tradition at our meetings.

Masako Ishikawa (Japan) has recently returned to Tokyo but has left a lasting impression of her gracious support and presence at many of our meetings. We will never forget her spontaneous spring invitation to come and share the beauty of the blossoms on the venerable cherry trees in her residence gardens.

Mi-Sook Um (Korea) left Ottawa earlier this year and now Julie Jacobson (U.S.A) has also departed.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish our diplomatic friends a fond farewell and much success in their new endeavors!

Victoria Hutton

THE BLOOMING NEWS Newsletter of

The Ottawa Garden Club
is published semi-annually in January and in August.

Volume 14, #3, August 2013

Editor: Kelly Noel
Advisors: Heather Brown
Felicity Garrard
Photographer: Cynthia Hoisak

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Thank you for your warm welcome at our May meeting. I am so honoured to be the new President of the Ottawa Garden Club. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our past presidents for their vision and leadership. I extend a special thank you to our immediate past president Victoria Hutton for guiding me towards this new responsibility and my gratitude to Marti Todd and Joan Drummond for nominating me as vice president two years ago and to Kelly Noel for embracing her new role as vice president. We have such a vibrant group of volunteers. Your Executive along with many members works very hard to bring you wonderful programming, yummy hospitality and donates tireless hours of digging and weeding at the Perley Hospital enriching the lives of many veterans. Our club continues to be enriched by the participation of the Diplomatic Community who continue to widely participate and graciously host us in their homes. I am so pleased that Hildegarde van der Pluijm will continue as our Diplomatic Representative.



Lucinda Boucher

My first official role as your new President was to thank our gracious hostesses along the way during our Toronto tour as guests of the Toronto Garden Club. As you will see in Helen Clark's pictorial essay of our tour, we were able to experience many styles of gardening – from private country estates with topiary and long vistas over ponds, to a rooftop garden in Yorkville overlooking downtown Toronto, to Casa Loma and Spadina House and then several private retreats in Lawrence Park, each with their own distinct personality. Those of you who were able to partake in this trip would surely agree that this was an extraordinary experience in large part due to the efforts of June Norgaard and Sally Hutchison.

As you read this, Summer 2013 will be drawing to a close and what a summer it has been. I think we have experienced every weather pattern imaginable, except for ice and snow, thank goodness! I know my garden is thriving with all this rain in stark contrast to last year's drought where I lost some precious plants and shrubs. Living off a well certainly has its disadvantages during drought conditions.

I hope you have all experienced a wonderful summer spending time in your gardens with friends and family. As you will note elsewhere in The Blooming News, we have a very special line-up planned for the fall. I look forward to seeing you then.

With every good wish,

Lucinda (Cindy) E. Boucher, President

PROGRAM AUTUMN 2013

7th Annual Photo Competition

Here it is again!! Our almost famous photo competition. After last year's successful display, we know that there are lots of talented photographers amongst you! So please get your cameras out now and start clicking away or open those computers and find that perfect photo! Hopefully some of you have already taken those spectacular shots this summer!! Photos may be taken in private or public spaces. The display and judging by club members will take place at the March, 2014 meeting. We are giving you plenty of notice to capture that Kodak moment!!

Categories:

- 1) Hanging Out - Wonderful Window Boxes. Window boxes are fun and bountiful, with lovely trailing plants and interesting colour and texture combinations.
- 2) 'Hosta' La Vista, Baby. Lose yourself in the puckered, wavy leaves of hostas and the streaks of creams, blues, greens, whites and yellows of their leaves. And don't forget those delicate flowers!



There will be one winner in each category, and Honourable mention for second place.

The prize will be a complimentary one-year membership to the Ottawa Garden Club (or comparable gift) - a prize value of \$50.00.

Rules:

- Each competitor may enter a total of two images per category and may enter both categories.
- 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, along with a title - a few words to describe the photo. Photographs will not be returned, unless arrangements are made to do so at the March meeting.
- Entries are to be submitted to Freda Godby or Mary Pratte no later than February 21st, 2014, by placing photos in an envelope and handing them to Freda or Mary at one of the club meetings or mailing them by February 21st, 2014 to Mary Pratte, 132 Lisgar Road, Ottawa, ON, K1M 0E6
- For more information, contact Mary Pratte at 613-746-6070 or gmpratte@sympatico.ca



Thursday, September 19th, 2013

11:00am

Burritt Farm, the home of Renée Smith
4390 Donnelly Road, Burritt's Rapids

Flower Arranging Competitions

One of our knowledgeable consultants, Renée Smith, has graciously invited us to her lovely country estate in Burritt's Rapids. This year we are doing things with a slightly different twist. We are suggesting that members look along the roadside or peruse the countryside for wild flowers and grasses on their trip out to Renée's. With these newfound floral items we encourage you to make an arrangement. Please bring containers, garden shears, oasis etc. - anything you need to create your masterpiece!

You may just wish to wander through the lovely gardens or sit, relax and enjoy your lunch under the canopy of a mature tree. Come for 11:00am and bring a lawn chair, your lunch, your wildflowers/grasses, the other equipment you need, and your creativity! Our hospitality committee will provide drinks and other treats.



Hydrangea at Burritt Farm

Categories this year:

1. Wild Visions - Use your imagination with your freshly picked wild flowers
2. Glorious Grasses - Demonstrate your creativity with interesting grassland or meadow ferns and grasses.

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

Prize Ribbons: Marianne Feaver will once again paint these beautiful bookmarks.

Plant ID:

Also this year there will be a fun activity of identifying various perennials (both rare and common) found in Renée's garden. A small prize will be given to the person who is the most knowledgeable.

Please note that there is no rain date.

Directions from Ottawa: Take the Queensway and merge onto Hwy 416-S. Take RR-13/Dilworth Rd exit 42. Turn right onto Dilworth Rd. After a very short distance, go left on old Hwy 16, past Ontario Provincial Park to a Y intersection (about 6 km). Take the right branch toward Burritt's Rapids and Merrickville - this is Donnelly Drive - it is the smaller road and is STRAIGHT ahead. (The left branch will take you across the river and you will know you have gone the wrong way).

After about 11km on Donnelly Drive there will be a sign saying Burritt's Rapids. Renée's driveway is just beyond that sign on the left. Look for the grey stone fence posts and large brown barn with Burritt Farm on the side. IF you reach the Anglican church on the right, you have gone just a bit too far. Renée's cell number is 613 290 3765.

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.



Thursday, October 17, 2013

12:45pm - 3:00pm

Rideau Hall

Horticulture at Rideau Hall
NCC Garden Team

Rideau Hall is home to the Governor General of Canada, and is situated on a stunning property which now boasts a lovely garden, orchards, greenhouses and a large collection of commemorative trees. Many of the Governors General or their spouses have had a real interest in horticulture. There is, for example, the Lady Byng Rock Garden and a Canadian-bred peony named after her (which is now lost); Mrs Hnatyshyn built a rose garden filled with Canadian roses, many quite rare; Adrienne Clarkson brought native plants and a beautiful rock sculpture to the gardens.

This October 17th, we are lucky enough to hold our meeting at Rideau Hall where we will be visiting many of the areas only open to visitors once in a while. Our hosts will be members of the garden team from the NCC. They have promised to show us some of the most interesting areas of the grounds - maybe even a few little surprises - including the beautiful formal gardens at the back of the house which will be resplendent with grasses and the

last, late flowers of autumn. If we are lucky, and the fall colours are good, the gardens will be glorious! The greenhouses will also be a treat to see at that time of the year.



Photo by: WO Kevin Daly, Rideau Hall

©Her Majesty The Queen in Right of Canada represented by the Office of the Secretary to the Governor General (2013)

Sign up:

Rideau Hall needs a list of attendees for security reasons. If you are not on the list, you will not be allowed entry. There will be a sign-up sheet available at our September meeting. If you would like to sign up after that, please send a note to Mary Pratte at gmpratte@sympatico.ca (or call 613-746-6070). She will take names only until October 15th. There is a limit of 100 people for the visit, which should accommodate all who wish to attend. The gardeners are very excited to show off their work to the public, so this will definitely be something you will want to attend!

Parking:

There is no general parking on the grounds, and only limited handicapped parking (about 10), so please carpool if at all possible. There is parking on Lisgar Road and if you are early, several cars can park in the driveway at 132 Lisgar Road (Mary Pratte's home).

Where to Meet:

We will gather at 12:45pm at the Princess Gate entrance, on Princess Avenue just west of the intersection with Lisgar Road.

We will enter at 1:00pm sharp. Please be prompt as there is no way of allowing people in if they are late. We will be at Rideau Hall for 1½ - 2 hours, and we will all have to stay for the duration as there is no means for escorting individuals out of the grounds.

Wear appropriate clothing as this visit will take place rain or shine.

It is a golden maxim to cultivate the garden for the nose, and the eyes will take care of themselves.

Robert Louis Stevenson

Thursday, November 21/13

12:30 pm – 3:00 pm

Rockcliffe Park CC

Conifers and Flowering Dogwoods

Richard Aubert

Conifers produce seed cones and are mostly but not exclusively evergreens. They bring a special magic to the garden by creating structure and balance for year-round visual interest and colour. Conifers come in a huge variety of shapes and sizes, ranging from tall spire-like trees to sprawling ground covers, from round forms to conical shapes to weeping types. The foliage of conifers can be short and spiky or long and needle-like. Colour variations range from greens to blues, golds and yellows.

The flowering dogwood is regarded as unrivalled in beauty. This small ornamental tree provides interest for all seasons. Richard Aubert grows desirable varieties in his own garden. He will share with us his successes with new and wonderful conifers and flowering dogwoods.

Richard Aubert has been involved in horticulture since completing his studies 35 years ago. For the last 20



Richard Aubert

years he has been a wholesale distributor for several west coast nurseries and growers. He supplies perennials, trees, and shrubs to nurseries and growers from Ontario to Newfoundland. He is involved with growers to introduce new and hardier varieties of trees and plants to the market. The Cheshire cat grin is a direct result of happy hour, which we've all learned starts at noon Vancouver time.

Share the Harvest

The Harvest table has been moved to the November meeting this year. Over the years 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:

- for the Christmas Party: (location to be announced). As always, first priority will be given to members who are present at this meeting.

- and pay (\$35.00) for our annual January luncheon at the Royal Ottawa Golf Club.

9th 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, January 16, 2014

10:30am Royal Ottawa Golf Club, Aylmer Rd

Cost for lunch - \$35.00

Thinking Outside the Box - The New Dutch Way of Gardening

Paul Fritz

Paul Fritz will entertain us with a slide show presentation explaining the new Dutch way of gardening. Over the years, there has been a shift in garden design and planting towards an emphasis on more naturalistic, low-maintenance landscapes. The Dutch have been leaders in this area and three gardeners have been very influential in this movement. They are Rob Leopold, Henk Gerritsen (wrote *Essay on Gardening*) and Piet Oudolf (examples include the Millennium Garden in Chicago and the High Line project in New York City). The new designs are based on sweeps of structure, texture and colour that change with the seasons and gardens' maturity. The thinking is to work with what you have and bring nature in rather than shutting it out.

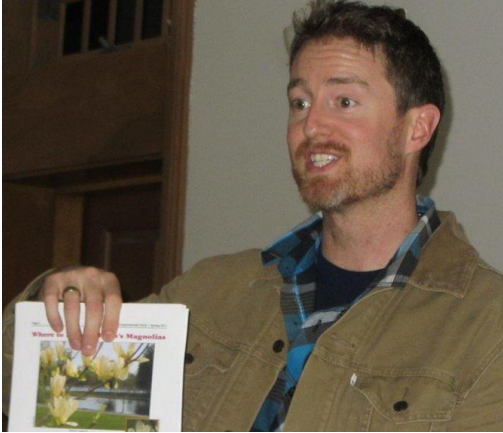


Fritz/Russo rose garden

Paul Fritz is a retired professor of history from McMaster University and the creator, along with David Russo, of the stunning Oak Leaf Gardens in Athens, Ontario. Our Club had the good fortune to tour these beautiful gardens in June 2012.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM MEETINGS

MARCH MEETING



Crispin Wood told us much about ornamental trees for the backyard

I grow plants for many reasons: to please my eye or to please my soul, to challenge the elements or to challenge my patience, for novelty or for nostalgia, but mostly for the joy in seeing them grow.

David Hobson

APRIL MEETING:



Members were delighted to receive Fusun Oren of the Institute for Mediterranean Studies (CIMS) at our meeting in April and view the fascinating film on the history of the tulip's travels throughout the world, a subject "very dear to her heart". In her lively introduction to the presentation, Fusun shared many insights into the origins of our own Tulip Festival in Ottawa. We were honoured to welcome special guest Mrs. Emine Babali, spouse of the Turkish Ambassador, and Mrs. Suzan Batu spouse of the Turkish Councillor who created this special commemorative photo for us. (Left to Right): Mrs. Emine Babali, Ms Fusun Oren, Victoria Hutton and Charlotte Ward

JUNE GARDEN TRIP



Cathy Stapleton, Marion Chappell, Cindy Boucher, Heather Brown and Victoria Hutton on Mary Jean Potter's terrace high above Toronto

FEBRUARY MEETING



Victoria Hutton with Mireille Albert and Michel Tardif of Les Jardins d'Emmarcalles

OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

For one last time, Victoria Hutton welcomed everyone to the OGC's Annual General Meeting on May 16, 2013. As her two-year term as President was coming to a close that day, she took the opportunity to thank members of the Club for their support and friendship and especially her dynamic Executive for all they have done to make her presidency so enjoyable.

Victoria noted that the Club would be losing two very involved diplomatic members, Thea Geerts from the Netherlands and Madeleine Brinkmann from the European Union. (See Passages, page 2.) Both have been very active members, have been wonderful ambassadors for the Club, and each has graciously hosted one of our annual Christmas parties at her residence. Thea, who was in attendance at the AGM, was presented with a lovely butterfly scarf as a farewell and thank-you gift. Thea thanked members for their friendship and commented how much her family had enjoyed life in Ottawa. She says that she tells diplomats if they want to join any club here it should be the Ottawa Garden Club!



Francine Gould expressed pleasure at being presented with this arrangement

The beautiful floral centerpiece at the meeting was then presented to Francine Gould who had recently lost her mother. Victoria had created the lovely arrangement that morning from spring blossoms in her garden: bleeding heart, lily of the valley, dwarf iris and allium, among others.

Next on the agenda was the eagerly anticipated "return of the foster plant". The African Violets that had been given to six lucky members in the fall arrived back at the meeting in varying sizes and shapes, but all still alive! To the amusement of all, each foster parent recounted her attempt to nurture the plant and try to force some blooms, mostly



Heather Brown shows how it is done!!

without success [*Editor's note: except for Heather Brown's which was blooming spectacularly - much to the envy of the other participants!*]

Pauline Yelle, who was a "surrogate" foster parent for Freda Godby's plant, stole the show with her photographic presentation of life with their plant "Violetta", who was shown enjoying Christmas and Valentine's Day, each time resplendent in blooms borrowed from other plants - a practice Pauline felt might encourage Violetta to produce some of her own! Kelly Noel thanked each of the parents and presented them with a "fabulous" gift for their efforts.



Pauline weaves a tale about Violetta

Victoria then moved on to the business part of the meeting, which included reports from the various Committee Chairs. She reported on behalf of Membership Chair Pamela Armstrong that, as of the end of April there were 131 members of the Ottawa Garden Club, including 12 Associates, 5 Consultants, 15

Diplomats and 99 Regular Members.

Treasurer Kelly Noel reviewed the account activity for the 2012-2013 fiscal year, noting that there was \$619.98 in net income for the year. The club is now the proud owner of our own digital projector. She reported that the Club ended the year with an accumulated balance of \$7,142.21, including \$3,749.54 in a GIC.

Program Committee Chair Chris Edwards reported on another very busy and successful year of events and thanked her committee for their dedication and hard work. All committee members have a hand in searching for guest speakers, introducing and thanking them, and communicating the program to OGC members.



Cindy's first duty as incoming president was to thank Victoria for a job most gracefully done

chair of the meeting. She thanked Victoria for her leadership, grace and warmth and presented her with a copy of Willie McElligott's book *Ottawa*.

Cindy then introduced and welcomed four new members to the Club: Rina Eyre, Deirdre Graham, Peggy Morgan and Dinah Showman.

Following the business part of the meeting was a panel discussion chaired by Pat Sylvester. Pat introduced the panelists Mary Pratte, Kelly Noel and Marilyn Light, all garden experts and members of the Club. Pat skillfully moderated the discussion that followed and took questions from the floor. Topics ranged from what is new in gardening, to bees, beetles and wilt. Everyone agreed that it was a most enjoyable and informative session and something we should do again next year.

Cindy closed the meeting and wished all a happy summer.

Mary Hardwick gave her last report as Chair of the Outreach Committee and recounted some of the highlights of the past six years volunteering at the Perley Rideau Veteran's Health Centre, working in the garden and decorating the postal cart for the various seasons. She thanked all members of her team for being enthusiastic gardeners and decorators, making our Club's contributions to the patients, staff and families so appreciated.

Victoria thanked Mary for her inspiration and creativity, and thanked other members of the Executive -- June Norgaard and Anneke Schwarz -- who were also stepping down from their positions. She then announced the new slate and welcomed Lucinda (Cindy) Boucher as the next President. She said she was also delighted to announce that Kelly Noel had agreed to serve as Vice-President. As a result, the Club will be looking for a new Treasurer and Newsletter editor and Victoria invited anyone with an interest in either of these positions to contact her. Other changes to the Executive include Sally Hutchison who is taking over from Mary Hardwick as Outreach Chair. Sally will be working with Dianne Breton who will be responsible for the postal cart. (Please refer to the front page of this newsletter for the full slate.)

Our new President Cindy Boucher then took over as



Panel members Mary Pratte, Kelly Noel and Marilyn Light

Heather Brown

photos by Heather Brown

ANOTHER BLOOMIN' SHOW

A BIG SUCCESS!

OGC artists got together to mount the club's second art show, "Another Bloomin' Show", in the spacious ground floor rooms of the Rockcliffe Retirement Residence to benefit the Bruyère Foundation. As many as 200 people attended the vernissage reception held on May 31. The show continued until June 9th and featured works by artists Dianne Breton, Pam Gibb-Carsley, Marianne Feaver, Patsy Fyfe, Gloria Hanff, Bev Hyde, Mary Hardwick, Joan Kellett, Mary Pratte and Beth Stikeman.

It was such a success that it raised more than \$1600 for the



Chris Edwards, Mary Hardwick and Cindy Boucher with one of Mary's works

Bruyère Foundation. Special thanks go to Beth Stikeman, Marianne Feaver and Patsy Fyfe for organizing and hanging the wonderful variety of



Marianne Feaver

media represented in the show which included photography, acrylics, oils, pastels, encaustics, printmaking and painting on wood. Thanks also go out to the Rockcliffe Retirement Residence for providing such a wonderful venue as well as for offering the vernissage reception

Joan Kellett and Marianne Feaver



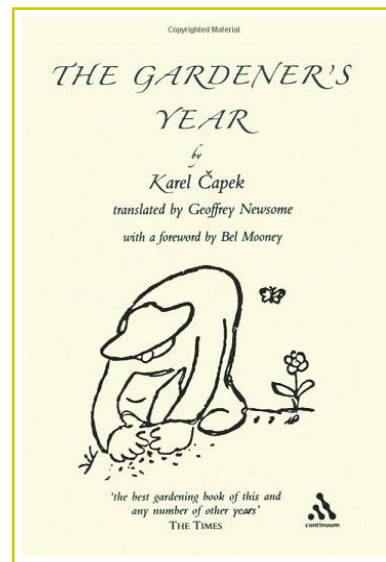
BOOKWORM



It is a truth universally acknowledged that all gardeners love to read about gardening! Many have a compulsion to write too, so there's no shortage of fascinating books to be discovered out there, ranging from the practical to the humorous to the philosophical. "Bookworm", a new Blooming News column, will feature short reviews and recommendations of gardening books chosen by the editors as well as, we hope, Garden Club members. We welcome your input, so if you have a favourite book you'd like to share, please send a brief description to either heather_brown@rogers.com and/or felicity.garrard@gmail.com.

Our first pick is *The Gardener's Year* by Czech writer Karel Capek, widely considered the greatest Czech author of the first half of the 20th century. First published in Prague in 1929, and re-issued as part of the Modern Library Gardening Series edited by Michael Pollan, this is a charming, quirky, and often poetic little book from a writer better known for his dissident voice during the period of fascist buildup in Europe between the World Wars. It combines a hilarious portrait of life in the garden, narrated month by month, with a series of delightful illustrations by the author's older brother and collaborator, Josef. Capek's gardeners – all too human despite their lofty aspirations – often look ridiculous, whether they're sopping wet, victims of the cobra-like water hose, or bent double "presenting their rumps to the splendid azure sky". We can all relate to this thought too: "If gardeners had been developing from the beginning of the world by natural selection they would have evolved most probably into some kind of invertebrate. After all, for what purpose has a gardener a back? Apparently only so that he can straighten it at times and say 'My back does ache!' As for legs, they may be folded in different ways; one may sit on the heels, kneel on the knees, bring the legs somehow underneath, or finally put them round one's neck!"

Felicity Garrard



COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Tulip time in the south Courtyard

This spring marked the sixth season that the Outreach Committee of the Ottawa Garden Club has concentrated its energies on a courtyard garden at the Perley Rideau Veteran's Health Centre. When Mary Hardwick took over as Outreach Coordinator six years ago, she contacted Barbara Brown, Horticultural Therapist with the Recreation and Creative Arts Service and established the wonderful relationship we continue to have with Barb and the Perley. There have been many changes in the space we tend, the latest being a covered terrace which provides protection in all weather for the patients who enjoy the garden. When Mary first took on the project with a small team of OGC members, the garden was very neglected, but with her vision and ability to design a low maintenance garden, it has flourished and the team has grown. Over the years eighteen members have worked in the garden and on the postal cart. Of

them, five have been active members since the beginning.

Mary has decided that it is now time for her to give up her administrative duties, but fortunately she will be staying on as a member of the team. Dianne Breton will take over the coordination of the seasonal displays on the postal cart in the lobby and I will coordinate the goings on in the Rideau South Courtyard. We have big shoes to fill and would like to thank Mary for her dedication and enthusiasm over the years.



Peggy Morgan and Cathy Stapleton admiring new plantings

As Mary steps down from chairing the committee, she remembers "the lively conversations the group had while deadheading perennials, cutting out Iris borer, planting hundreds of tulips in the fall rains, spreading mulch to keep the beds weed free, transplanting gifts from our own gardens, and enjoying the pleasures of caring for a garden which will never get any bigger!" Thank you, Mary! We look forward to continuing your good work and spending time in that wonderful space, both with members of the team and with the residents.

We have spent several happy sessions together in the garden this spring, both in the sun and in the rain, and one time

we were serenaded by a group of three or four residents singing old time favourites!

As we all know, a garden is a constantly changing tapestry. Some plants are no longer happy in a particular place, or a change in colour is needed. And so a few things from our courtyard have been moved to another one that Barb is starting to transform and we have planted a Peegee hydrangea tree in a small circular bed to give some height and we are gradually adding more perennials, most of them from our own gardens, for late summer colour.

We would love to share this peaceful oasis with any of you who would like to visit – just give me a call and we can arrange a time.

Sally Hutchison



Heather Brown gardening in the rain

TORONTO GARDEN TOUR JUNE 25-27, 2013

Forty lucky participants enjoyed the luxury of touring eleven gardens in three days on the Toronto Garden Tour in June. This was a unique chance to see three public Toronto gardens, and eight private gardens belonging to members of the Garden Club of Toronto.

At 6:45 on a hot, steamy morning, our bus left Elmwood School, carrying an enthusiastic group of gardening ladies and two brave husbands. Our wonderful organizers, June Norgaard and Sally Hutchison, provided goody bags and homemade snacks that we enjoyed along the way. We picked up several more travellers in Kemptville and then were on our way to Toronto.

Sassuola Garden, Port Hope

At Sassuola Garden, in the pretty Northumberland Hills, we were met by the owner, Peggy Dalla Rosa, and Janet Harvey, both members of the Garden Club of Toronto. Rounding the corner of the house, set in sweeping lawns and dotted with stands of old pines, a beautiful vista unfolded before us. Great massings and drifts of flowers and shrubs cascaded down a rocky, terraced hill to lawns, flowerbeds and ponds in the valley below. The five-acre property was originally a farm and there are old mill ponds at the foot of the garden, and a ford across the river beyond. Peggy created the garden to move seamlessly from the formality of the house and tumble naturally down the terraced hill into the landscape. Grey rocks contrasted with drifts of pink cranesbill, peonies (including an intersectional yellow Itoh hybrid),

Cosmos and *Spirea*. Spiderwort (*Tradescantia*) bordered the lower beds and a spectacular stand of fleece flower (*Persicaria polymorpha*) rose like a white cloud beyond one of the ponds. After drinks and box lunches on the terrace and screened verandah, we left reluctantly, knowing we would always remember this peaceful place, with bird songs echoing through the woods and the gentle rush of water in the valley.



Toronto Botanical Garden



Scouring rush

Penstemon, pink *Astrantia*, grasses, and other perennials. The Terraced Garden, which forms a buffer zone between the parking lot and the gardens, is planted with succulents, with its underlying structure made of waste from the original construction site. Many of us commented longingly on the need for Ottawa to have a similar Botanical Garden!

The Potter Rooftop Garden

Wednesday dawned even hotter than the day before, but our dauntless group headed out to Bloor Street, beside the Royal Ontario Museum, where Frank Potter and Bev Hargraft met us and escorted us to the Potters' modern condominium. Several elevator

The Blooming News, August 2013 page 11

We arrived at the Toronto Botanical Garden at 3 pm, and were greeted by Janet Kennish, President of the Garden Club of Toronto. This garden is a volunteer-driven charity dedicated to communicating horticultural and gardening information. Its new building was one of the first to obtain a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) designation. Climbing roses and wisteria shade the front of the building; etched glass windows block the heat while letting in light; and paths slope to channel rainwater into holding tanks. There are 17 mini gardens, each demonstrating different conditions and each one fascinating. The privacy of the Floral Hall Courtyard is preserved by walls of natural stone and etched glass, espaliered fruit trees and a mesh water curtain. Notable were the bushes of *Gillenia trifoliata* with their clouds of dainty white flowers, and upright rows of *Equisetum hyemale*, scouring rush, used by the pioneers for cleaning. The Entry Garden Walk was the first Canadian installation by Piet Oudolf and represents "New Wave Planting". The long path is lined with swaying waves of delicate burgundy *Knautia macedonica*, white



One of MJ Potter's collections of plants in containers

loads later, we emerged on the 25th floor to a panoramic view of downtown Toronto and windows hung with a "Welcome Ottawa" sign. Mary Jean Potter generously urged us to tour her beautiful home and to help ourselves to the vast spread

of refreshments that covered the dining room table. But most of us were hypnotically drawn to the large and breezy terrace, high above Toronto.

It was hard to know whether to admire the gorgeous view, or the splendid array of vessels of all shapes and sizes, containing plants, trees and shrubs that would normally grow in a ground-level garden, such as dogwoods, honeysuckle, hydrangeas and junipers. Mary Jean is a master gardener and horticulturist and it showed in the skill and love with which she combined plantings. Lavender surrounded the fountain in the centre of the terrace and pots contained boulder blue fescue and *Allium millenium*, *Sempervivum* and tiny evergreens - all labelled as to dates and origin. As we left, we were touched to look back up at the penthouse and see Mary Jean vigorously waving goodbye from her beautiful terrace.



Cindy Boucher thanks Mary Jean Potter

Casa Loma Garden

The day was growing ever hotter, which only enhanced the glorious scent of the hundreds of rose bushes blazing with colour against the grey walls of Casa Loma. Sir Henry Mill Pellatt began the castle in 1911 on a hill overlooking Toronto. A great romantic, he had the five acres of gardens designed to resemble the estate gardens of Europe. The gardens were renovated extensively in 1987 by the Garden Club of Toronto and eight themed garden "rooms" were developed. For example, the Secret Garden is a romantic tangle of climbing roses, wisteria, clematis, flowering trees and shrubs, overlooked by Lady Mary Pellatt's private apartments. Our enthusiastic guide pointed out a magnificent and very rare Dawn Redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*), rediscovered in China in 1945. On the formal Lower



The rose bower in the Secret Garden

Terrace, perennials were planted around the four quadrants to hide the vegetables in the middle - a Victorian trick. The vista towards the fountain was framed by low boxwood hedges enclosing masses of breathtaking shrub roses. Many huge and healthy perennials were in full flower. Strolling down the shaded Woodland Walk to the Water Garden, our guide noted that its peaty soil harboured azaleas, rhododendrons, mountain laurel (*Kalmia*), wild ginger, and many native groundcovers and trees.

Spadina Museum Garden

Next door to Casa Loma, the Spadina Museum Garden was restored by the Garden Club of Toronto. Thanks to the meticulous records of the Austin family from 1866 to 1913, the six-acre garden of this Italianate manor is as authentic as possible. A front wall was covered with the original Dorothy Perkins pale pink climbing rose. The garden resembled a 19th century working estate, with stables and chauffeur's house drowning in climbing roses and clematis, an orchard containing old varieties of fruit trees, and a grape arbour.

Again, the huge vegetable beds beside the house were masked by perennials, including the

spectacular feathery orange spears of foxtail lilies (*Eremurus*).

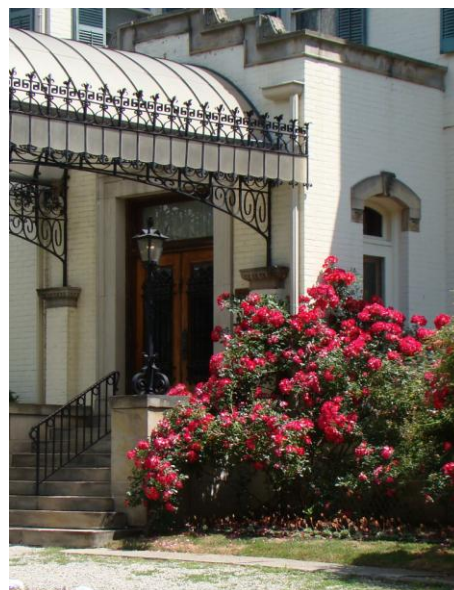
The spacious lawns were studded with mature trees including Japanese maples and horse chestnuts. We enjoyed a box lunch in the shady orchard, which (along with a delightful gift shop) helped to revive us after our hot morning.

Nancy Laurie Garden

After lunch, we drove to the beautiful Lawrence Park area to see three smaller private gardens. The first, belonging to Nancy Laurie, was a compact garden with the tranquil feeling of an



Nancy Laurie's urn



Roses everywhere!

outdoor room. From the covered terrace, framed by white birches, the vista led the eye to a stunning urn set against a 6m-high cedar hedge. The urn, planted with succulents, was surrounded by the graceful, classical leaves of the umbrella plant (*Darmera peltata*). Nancy explained that the garden was designed in multiples of squares, each surrounded by low boxwood hedges and planted with layers of shade plants like lady's mantle (*Alchemilla vulgaris*) and hostas, and ornamental trees such as dwarf Japanese maples and dogwoods.

Karen Trotter Garden

On arrival at Karen Trotter's garden, we were overwhelmed by a huge *Catalpa* tree in full bloom, with its fragrant, orchid-like blossoms. Karen explained that she and her husband had wanted their side garden to resemble "a little bit of Haliburton". They replaced the grass with a mini-landscape of rocks, ponds, streams, trees and native plants like wild ginger and wintergreen (*Gaultheria*). And indeed, walking the slightly hilly paths, we could have believed we were in cottage country. Delicate layers of dogwood were in full bloom, and a beautiful tri-colour beech (*Fagus sylvatica* 'Roseo-Marginata') was much admired. Water lilies and pickerel weed grew in the ponds, and three bronze dragonflies hovered expectantly over the sun-flecked water. It was hard to believe we were in downtown Toronto.



A cool frog in the Trotter garden

Helen Skinner Garden

Our last garden of the day was that of Helen Skinner, known to several of our members as the former editor of *Campanula*, the magazine of The Garden Clubs of Ontario. Helen welcomed us warmly with iced tea, which was gratefully consumed! On a larger lot, this garden had a traditional English feel. A sign expressed the philosophy of many of us: "*A little studied negligence is becoming to a garden*". The terrace near the house was planted with herbs that were wonderfully aromatic as we brushed past them, and wild daisies grew up between the stones. The large curving perennial beds were full of interesting flowers, from *Astilbe* and *Astrantia* to *Aquilegia* and the pink thimbles of a type of red clover. Again, masses of lady's mantle under the glorious roses formed a beautiful underplanting.

After a full day of lovely contrasts, visions of gardens dancing in our heads, we were more than ready to relax at the hotel before going our various ways for dinner and the evening.

The third day dawned a little cooler, and after another early start we were on our way to Caledon, north of Toronto, to visit three country estates. After driving through more beautiful, rolling countryside, we disembarked near a country lane, where our hostess, Jennifer Rogers, had kindly left a large basket of umbrellas, just in case!



Beautiful clematis in the Skinner garden

Jennifer Rogers – Little Brook Garden

Jennifer welcomed us and led us up the lane, over the brook, and past a small ornamental lake towards an old stone house surrounded by sweeping lawns and mature trees. A large stag made of moss was our first sign of things to come – Jennifer's garden is alive with animal



The pool area is enclosed within the stone walls that remain from a long ago barn

sculptures of all shapes and sizes. From the bronze sculpture of a horse, marking the grave of a former Olympic champion jumper owned by Jennifer, to a small stone bird tucked into an old wall, we were constantly surprised and charmed by the garden's many familiars. Jennifer introduced us to her designer, Sheila Crandall, whose vision, along with Jennifer's enthusiasm, created this spectacular garden. The house dates from 1862, and although much of the garden existed previously, its current form, as well as the sympathetic house addition, was completed in the last four years. Stunning stone courtyards and terraces, their walls cascading with roses, clematis, wisteria and climbing hydrangea, revealed

themselves as we walked around the exterior. Lavender beds were punctuated by beautiful urns and enclosed by low box hedges. Perennial beds were filled with blue and pink salvia, white peonies, pale pink cranesbill, hostas, lady's mantle and ferns. Near the wilder native garden, Sheila pointed out the swamp willow fencing, and a tempting willow arch led out into the meadows beyond. The stone foundations of an old barn contained a large outdoor pool, surrounded by low stone walls planted with honeysuckle, lavender, salvia, thyme and yarrow; pots filled with annuals; weathered barn board features; and whimsical animals and birds. In the Mediterranean charm of this garden there were unexpected vignettes of beauty around every corner.

Willa Gauthier – Someday Garden

Our next garden/estate was another surprise. Immaculate grey and red stables met our eyes in the laneway, and we were amused by several beautiful and spirited horses in the nearby field, who cantered up to the fence to greet us. Acres of fenced fields surrounded this house, with lawns sweeping down to a private lake. Unfortunately, our hostess, Willa Gauthier, had been unexpectedly called away, so Janet Rowley, our Toronto liaison and one of Willa's neighbours, kindly gave us a tour. Enormous beds of peonies, delphinium, yarrow and cranesbill bordered the driveway and contrasted with the green lawns and meadows beyond. The house was on two levels at the back, with colourful rockeries bordering the stone stairs. On the other side was a swimming pool enclosed by cedar fences, and surrounded by flowering shrubs and beds containing some spectacular triple pink clematis (obtained at Canada Blooms). Once again, the airy pink, blue and white *Tradescantia* acted as a natural, free-floating border.



Curious horses

Janet Rowley Estate



Janet Rowley's 'Crinkle-Crankle' hedge

Jerusalem artichokes (inspired by our own Anstace's garden). Drinks were served on the stone terrace, near the varied perennial beds. The Garden Club of Toronto treated us to a splendid buffet lunch. Members of the Club's Travel Committee, who had organized our tour, were thanked, as were our various hostesses, most of whom were present. In lieu of separate gifts for each hostess, our club made a

Our last garden of the tour! Thinking that we couldn't possibly encounter anything more beautiful than the last two estates, we pulled in to Janet Rowley's drive to see yet another lovely nineteenth century stone house, surrounded by 50 pastoral acres of distant woods, lawns, marshland and a placid, willow-fringed lake. With vistas and follies galore, it was truly a Capability Brown scene. Janet conducted our group down the Thyme Walk (between the topiary and the pleached pear avenue), across the marsh on a boardwalk, and around the ornamental lake. We continued past the wavy avenue of the "Crinkle-Crankle" cedar hedge to the old barn with its eight raised vegetable beds containing



some members of the Garden Club of Toronto



June Norgaard and Sally Hutchison presenting Janet Rowley with a thank you gift

donation of \$500 to the Toronto Botanical Garden in their names; however, each hostess received a token rose and thank-you card from our new President, Cindy Boucher. A special gift was also given to Janet Rowley in recognition of all her kindness and help in organizing the trip.

Extra-special thanks were also expressed to Sally Hutchison and June Norgaard. Their efforts in lining up so many spectacular gardens and in making the complicated arrangements required were truly superb, and the trip was a never-to-be forgotten highlight for all who participated.

Helen Clark

WELL WORTH THE VISIT COSTA RICA

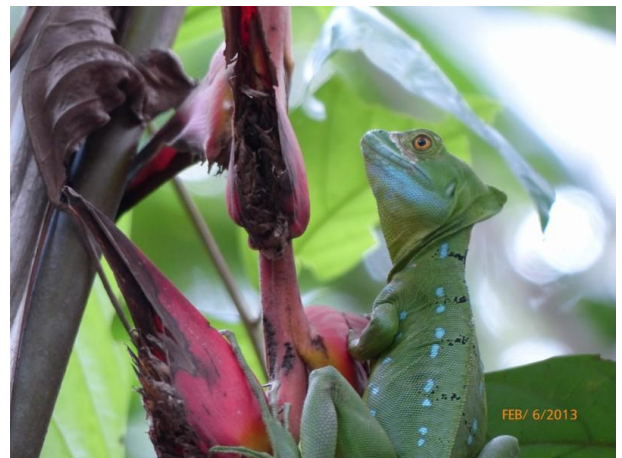


Blue crowned Motmot

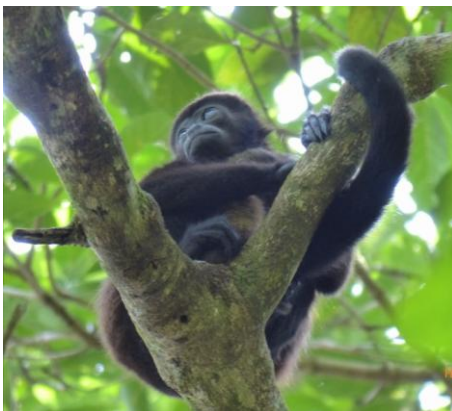
Christopher Columbus is said to have named this glorious Central American country "rich coast" because of the vast quantities of gold jewellery he found among the native people in 1502. Today however, Costa Rica's wealth lies in the astonishing variety of flora and fauna that exists in what has become world famous as an ecological paradise. It's extraordinarily uplifting to visit a country (as my husband and I did last February) that is working so hard to preserve its precious jungles and wildlife in the face of persistent threats from logging, mining, hunting and monoculture. Over 25% of Costa Rica's land is now protected by more than 190 biological reserves, national parks and wildlife refuges, most of which can be visited under the carefully controlled eco-tourism industry – the country's main source of income. Costa Ricans are justifiably proud of what they have achieved, and are delighted to show it off, as we discovered via our wonderfully enthusiastic and well-trained birding and nature guides.

We visited three contrasting areas – the Caribbean coast with its teeming network of inland waterways, the central mountainous region featuring cloud forests, volcanoes and bubbling hot springs, and the gorgeous beaches and jungles of the Pacific coast. To save time (the roads are good but slow – unlike the drivers!) we travelled by tiny

planes on Nature Air, CR's local airline – quick and efficient but not for the claustrophobic. From the moment we arrived in the capital San Jose we were surrounded by tropical lushness and brilliant colour; the courtyard garden of our hotel, the old-world Gran de Oro, was a sanctuary of glorious greens and the place where we first heard the thrush-like song of Costa Rica's surprisingly drab national bird – the Slaty Robin. It seems that among tropical species the more exotic and colourful the plumage, the less important the song (must be a lesson here!) as many of the other birds we saw had wonderful names and fabulous plumage but made most un-birdlike noises. The Blue-crowned Motmot, for example, a bird of exquisite jewelled beauty, sounds for all the world like a strangled cow, the brilliant Macaws that zoom overhead screech and chatter, and the extraordinary gobbling squawk of the multi-coloured Montezuma Oropendola is a startlingly odd sound. The names of some of CR's birds are a treat – who wouldn't want to catch a glimpse of a Resplendent Quetzal, a Three-wattled Bellbird or a Lovely Cotinga? Adding to this cacophony is surely one of the most characteristic sounds of Costa Rica – the guttural roar of the howler monkeys, which, until you



Green Basilisk Lizard



Howler Monkey

discover otherwise, you'd think must be made by one of the large wild cats, including jaguar, that used to roam the jungles in great abundance, but are now sadly very rare due to hunting.

Space does not allow me to describe the myriad of other creatures we saw; the two- and three-toed sloths, who move so slowly that whole mini eco-systems live in their matted fur; the butterflies, in particular the bluest blue you'll ever see in the Blue Morpho; the reptiles that range from crocodiles to smaller caimans to prehistoric-looking iguanas to tiny jazzy little frogs, and of course insects – such as the earnestly marching columns of compost-making leaf-cutter ants, each ant carrying a piece of leaf aloft like a little green sail. And I've hardly yet touched on the huge variety of plants, trees and flowers that abound in a country so fertile that even the fence posts burst into growth! Passion flowers, bougainvillea, hibiscus, plumeria, cannas, bromeliads and hundreds of different types of heliconia are everywhere. In fact there are more than 15,000 known plant species (including 13,000 species of orchid) flourishing in this veritable Garden of Eden. It is indeed a

paradise for plant- and wildlife-lovers, and an inspiration to see what is being done, in one small, beautiful corner of the globe, to stem the tide of environmental destruction that threatens to overwhelm our planet.

Felicity Garrard

photos by Felicity Garrard

MEET OUR NEW PRESIDENT

One thing most people don't know about our new President, Lucinda (Cindy) Boucher, is that she is not new to the Club. In fact, she has been a member for close to 30 years, but a busy career kept her from fully participating in OGC activities until recently.

Cindy laughs when she tells the story of how she joined back in the mid-1980s. "At the time, the Club was anxious to recruit a few younger women and decided to ask members to sponsor their daughters who were under 40 and might be interested. The names of new recruits were put in a hat. My mother, Mary-Elizabeth Lynch, added my name to the collection unbeknownst to me. When the time came, two names were drawn from the hat -- Cindy Boucher and Nancy Frank. At that time we still held meetings at Frankie Rochester's home on Richmond Road with its beautiful walled garden."



Cindy enjoying a moment during the garden tour!!

Cindy brings to her new position exceptional leadership skills acquired through a career which began as a working journalist and ended as the Director of Parliamentary Affairs with the Library of Parliament. She has served as senior political advisor and press secretary to a number of cabinet ministers, was director of communications for both the NAC, the NCC, and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, was a senior advisor in the Prime Minister's Office, a director general at Revenue Canada, assistant commissioner with the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency and was vice-president (advancement) at Carleton University.

She says she is delighted to serve as OGC President. It is especially meaningful to her as she carries on the legacy of her late mother who had been an active member of the Club.

Heather Brown

LAST WORDS

Presidential Rules of Engagement

We will continue with our usual format: meetings at the Rockcliffe Park Community Centre will start at 12:30pm. 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. Please notify president Cindy Boucher (lucindaboucher@gmail.com or 819-827-2050) in advance of guests attending so they can be introduced at the meeting.

Club Gift to Rockcliffe Park Community Centre

Before our March meeting, while centre staff struggled to put their small projection screen in a suitable place for our speaker, I mentioned to Victoria that it was a shame that city policy had made the centre unable to accept the gift of a large wall mounted projection screen that we had offered a couple of years earlier. The manager of the centre overheard my comment and asked me about this proposal - she seemed to think it could happen. After a quick conference among a few executive members, we assured her that the offer was still good and I agreed to be the facilitator on our end if they got a go-ahead from the city. Apparently bureaucracy can be relaxed! A very good quality projection screen and wall brackets for three installation locations have now been delivered to the Community Centre - a gift from the Ottawa Garden Club - available to all groups who use that facility.

Kelly Noel

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.