

WINTER-SPRING 2014

# THE BLOOMING NEWS

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## UPCOMING PROGRAM EVENTS

🌀 **Thursday, February 20, 2014 12:30pm**

Rockcliffe Park CC

**Small Roses for Small Gardens**  
**Edythe Falconer**

🌀 **Thursday, March 20, 2014 12:30pm**

Rockcliffe Park CC

**The Scoop on Dirt**  
**Mary Shearman Reid**

🌀 **Thursday, April 17, 2014 12:30pm**

Rockcliffe Park CC

**Garden Route Trip with VIA Rail**  
**Lorraine Flanigan**

🌀 **Thursday, May 15, 2014 12:30pm**

Rockcliffe Park CC

**Hidden Harvest**  
**Katrina Siks**

🌀 **Thursday, June 19, 2014**

**An outing to selected member  
gardens**

see pages 3, 4 and 5 for details

## WELCOME TO THE OTTAWA GARDEN CLUB

We are delighted to welcome these members to Canada, to  
Ottawa and to our club.

Gill Drake United Kingdom

Maria Rosa Eguéz Ecuador

## PEONY TRAILS

When our club visited the gardens at Rideau Hall in October, we chose to gift the garden with a peony and the one selected was 'Prosperity Maud'. It is interesting to follow the trail of this peony to Rideau Hall.

Some years ago the Canadian Peony Society made a donation of several Canadian-bred peonies to Rideau Hall, following two peony shows



'Prosperity Maud'

held there. The attempt was made to have peonies in that collection from as many provinces as possible, and one of those breeders represented was Maurice Ménard of Quebec.

Some of our members may remember Lindsay D'Aoust, who runs a fabulous nursery in Hudson (which the OCG visited several years ago); when Monsieur Ménard decided to retire, Lindsay bought many of his peonies, promising that she would choose the best ones and name them. Lindsay did name several on her own, and several others were purchased and named by various people with the money going to charity. In 2003 - 2004, one of those peonies was named after The Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson in an event organized by the Canadian Peony Society and Rideau Hall.

'Prosperity Maud' now becomes the fourth peony bred by Maurice Ménard to be featured at Rideau Hall. The others are 'Lovely Andrea', 'Adrienne Clarkson' and 'George Vorauer'. The original collection is still there - it has been moved several times over the years, and is now planted by the Visitor's Centre by the main entrance near Sussex Drive. Our resident peony expert Mary Pratte tells us that all the peonies are doing beautifully and are well worth a visit in June!

*Victoria Hutton*

### THE BLOOMING NEWS Newsletter of

The Ottawa Garden Club  
is published semi-annually  
in January and in August.  
Volume 15, #1, January 2014

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

## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hello Winter! As I sit down to write this message, I am snuggled by the fire watching the end of a 25cm snowfall ensuring a very white Christmas.

Your Program Committee continues to delight us with a wonderful array of topics, as you will read about under Upcoming Program Events.

Our fall program was also very entertaining. Special thanks to Renée Smith for opening up her historic "Burritt Farm" for our September meeting. In October, Mary Pratte worked hard with the NCC Garden Team to bring us a special tour of the grounds, greenhouses and root cellar of Rideau Hall. Richard Aubert informed us all about conifers and flowering dogwoods in November.

In December, Maria Yeganian from Armenia simply wowed us with her gracious coffee party at her official residence. It was made even more special by the presence of her husband, the Ambassador, and the Bishop as you will read in Felicity's article later in this issue.

Your Executive continues to plan ahead to ensure that Members are offered a rich program of topics and events to entertain us. For the most part, our schedule is fixed to a fairly predictable number of events and outings. With the guidance of the Program Committee, led by Chris Edwards, we usually have a meeting in the country garden of a member in September, two meetings with speakers at the Rockcliffe Community Centre in October and November, and a Christmas gathering thanks to the grace and kindness of one of our Diplomatic Members in December. In January, we meet at the Royal Ottawa Golf Club followed by four meetings with Speakers at the Rockcliffe Community Centre. And then there is June.

Our June program has been varied over the years. We have had a regular meeting with a speaker. We have enjoyed day trips, by car pool and by bus. We have also enjoyed several multi-day trips by coach. We have now come to a point where we think it would most appropriate to ask our membership what they would like programmed for June. To that end, we will be conducting a survey of members in the coming weeks. It will be short and will not take much of your time. The questions will relate only to what you would like to have us program for you in the month of June.

So watch your inbox for a prompt to participate. The results will help us develop a program tailored to the wishes of a majority of members. We will report the results of the survey at a future meeting.

Happy New Year to all.

With every good wish,

*Lucinda (Cindy) E. Boucher, President*



Lucinda Boucher

# PROGRAM WINTER-SPRING 2014

**Thursday, February 20, 2014**

**12:30 – 3:00pm**

Rockcliffe Park CC

## **Little Roses for Northern Climates**

**Edythe Falconer**

Come and enjoy a talk on low growing roses. Obtain advice on their care and how you can integrate them into an urban landscape. Edythe will be showing us many slides of this beautiful flower. There will be handouts provided which will include a list of low growing roses.

Edythe Falconer has been a volunteer with Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton since 1999 and with Friends of the Farm since 2004. She regularly writes for local newspapers and gardening newsletters and does presentations for various gardening groups.



Edythe Falconer

### **7<sup>th</sup> Annual Photo Competition**

This is your last chance to enter our famous photo competition which will take place in March. Deadline for entry is at the February 20, 2014 meeting. Please bring your entries that day, or send them in advance to Mary Pratte at 132 Lisgar Rd., Ottawa K1M 0E6.

#### **Rules:**

- You may enter a total of two images per category. All entries are to be printed on 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 and a few words to describe the photo.
- Entries are to be submitted to Mary Pratte. Please place them in an envelope. Photos will not be returned, unless arrangements are made

to do so. For more information contact Mary Pratte at 613 746 6070 or [gmpratte@sympatico.ca](mailto:gmpratte@sympatico.ca)

#### **Categories:**

- 1) Hanging Out - Wonderful Window Boxes. Window boxes are fun and bountiful, with lovely trailing plants and interesting colour and texture combinations. **(Please no flower pots or hanging baskets - window boxes only - we had to narrow the category).**
- 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. Don't forget those delicate flowers.



There will be one winner in each category, and honourable mention for second place. First prize will be a complimentary one-year membership to the Ottawa Garden Club (or comparable gift) – a prize value of \$50.

*I thank you God for this most  
amazing day, for the leaping greenly  
spirits of trees, and for the blue dream  
of sky and for everything which is  
natural, which is infinite, which is yes.*

**e. e. cummings.**



**Thursday, March 20, 2014**

**12:30 - 3:00 pm**

Rockcliffe CC

## **The Scoop on Dirt**

**Mary Shearman Reid**

A healthy garden begins with the soil. Healthy soil is a complex substance full of beneficial bacteria, fungi and animals. Mary will discuss soil management including types of soil and how to amend them using fertilizers, composting and mulching.



Mary Reid

Mary Shearman Reid, owner of Green Thumb Garden Centre (SE of Merivale and Hunt Club off Bongard), made a transition from banking to horticulture in 1996. Mary grew up in a family of gardeners, worked as a gardener during her summers at university, and continues to garden at home. She uses those practical skills and knowledge as well as her business and retail skills at Green Thumb. Mary is a member of Landscape Ontario, a CLP (Certified Landscape Professional) and volunteers as a Master Gardener. When the garden centre is open, Mary is usually there and over the winter months, Mary does her Green Thumb work at home, as well as teaching for the local school boards, and speaking to garden clubs and societies. [www.greenthumbgarden.ca](http://www.greenthumbgarden.ca)

### **Photo Competition - Voting**

When you arrive at the meeting, look at the display of photos submitted by our members. Instructions on voting procedure will be provided. Please take the time to vote for your favourites. Votes will be tallied during the meeting and winners announced at the end.

*Adopt the pace of nature: her secret is patience.*

**Ralph Waldo Emerson**

**Thursday, April 17, 2014**

**12:30 -3:00 pm**

Rockcliffe C C

## **The Via Rail Garden Route**

**Lorraine Flanigan**

April showers bring May flowers, but they will also bring a wonderful speaker from Toronto, Lorraine Flanigan, who will tell us of her journey across the country to visit many of our top public gardens on the Via Rail Garden Route. Lorraine began her visits on Vancouver Island, and finished off in St. John's a month and a half later. Along the way she saw, amongst others, the Van Dusen Botanical Garden and the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden in B.C., the Assiniboine Park in Winnipeg, the Niagara Parks Department Gardens, the Toronto Botanical Gardens, the Central Experimental Farm here in Ottawa, the Mosaiculture exhibit at the Montréal Botanical Garden, Kingsbrae Garden in New Brunswick, and The Memorial University of Newfoundland Botanical Garden. And that's not all! (but you will have to come to hear what the others were!)

Lorraine is very qualified to speak of these



Lorraine Flanigan at the end of her Garden Tour trip, in Newfoundland

wonderful botanical showcases in Canada. She has had her travel stories published in *My Ontario* (Ontario Tourism magazine), *The Globe and Mail*, *Garden Making* magazine and *Independent Traveler*. She is a Master

Gardener who not only volunteers with the Toronto Botanical Garden, but also edits their members' magazine, *Trellis*. She is a member of The Garden Writers Association and freelances for *Canadian Gardening* and *Canadian Living*. In her spare time, she posts a blog-a-zine at [citygardenonline.com](http://citygardenonline.com)

Come and enjoy seeing the best Canada has to offer, and start planning your next garden adventure!

For more detailed information, visit <http://www.canadagardenroute.ca/cg/index.php/main>

**Thursday, May 15, 2014**

**12:30 - 3:00 pm**

Rockcliffe CC

## **Annual General Meeting**

Membership fees are due!

## **Hidden Harvest**

**Katrina Siks**

Along with our many activities in May, we will have a special presentation from Katrina Siks of Hidden Harvest Ottawa, a new volunteer organization that organizes the harvest of fruit and nuts that would otherwise go to waste on public and private property.



Hidden Harvest connects tree owners with those eager to harvest local food. The bounty from harvest events is shared among the nearest food agency, the homeowner, the harvesters and Hidden Harvest Ottawa (HHO). With volunteer support,

these harvest events provide the opportunity, education, infrastructure and legal means for people to access edible fruit and nut trees around them.

Hidden Harvest is eager for new volunteers and especially welcomes those who could help in planting trees in early May. Please see their website <http://ottawa.hiddenharvest.ca> for contact information.

Come and hear how you can participate!

## **9th Annual Foster Plant Reports**

At the November, 2013 meeting, six lucky members were selected by a lottery to take over the care and nurturing of a lovely rose plant: Chris Edwards, Joan Andrews, Mary Mahoney, Marianne Feaver, Carol Henderson (with Rina Eyre) and Jean Palmer.

As required each participant will bring her plant to this meeting and recount her experiences. We continue to be entertained by the humorous reports given each year by our "fosterers". As is customary, each caregiver will be given a wonderful gift for her participation.



**Thursday, June 19, 2014**

## **A Tour of Some of Our Members' Gardens in the Ottawa area**

Come, view and appreciate their labours of love. Consultants or expert gardeners will be on hand to answer any questions. Carpool with your friends. Timing, locations to be announced.



## **WANTED! OGC Boutique Manager**



All items are marked with the OGC logo

The position of OGC BOUTIQUE MANAGER will become available in May, 2014. We are looking for an enthusiastic person to display our Ottawa Garden Club merchandise two or three times a year at our meetings. The merchandise includes smart OGC golf shirts, denim shirts, tote bags, lapel pins and note cards. This is a great way to meet our members and to contribute to the club.



Mary Mahoney "on duty" in September

For more information, please call Mary Mahoney, 613-744-4086

*Mary Mahoney*



# SEPTEMBER AT BURRITT FARM



Burritt Farm

It was like a trip back through time for members of the OGC who gathered at Burritt Farm, the heritage home of Renée Smith, for the first meeting of the season on September 12. Rolling lawns, a stately barn, beautiful



Our hostess, Renée Smith

perennial borders, and a classic century home greeted us as we made our way through dense hedges for our first glimpse of the property. Vice-President Kelly Noel welcomed everyone and outlined the events of the day. While the creative among us went into the gardens to gather plants for the flower arranging competition, others went to the borders with pen and pencil in an attempt to identify many of the rare and unusual plants in Renée's collection.

During our picnic lunch under the warm autumn sun, Renée gave a brief presentation on the history of her home. Burritt House is a neoclassical stone house built around 1832 by Daniel Burritt, a United Empire Loyalist and one of the founders of the Village of Burritt's Rapids. The house is distinguished by its identical front and rear entrances – one facing the road, the other the river - its uncluttered outlines, and careful proportions. Renée explained that she and her husband bought the property in 1963 as a summer home, but moved in



First place: a team effort – Pamela Armstong and Marv Udd

fulltime a few years later. They lovingly restored the house over many years, careful to carry out any alterations in a manner compatible with the original. It is a truly beautiful home.

After her presentation, it was time to announce the winners of the various competitions. June Norgaard and Sally Hutchison received kudos for correctly identifying the most plants in the garden. Bouquets of the winning arrangements were then placed on display and ranged from a stunning all white arrangement to a profusion of autumn purples and oranges. The judges, all winners from previous competitions, had a difficult time making their selections as there were no set categories this year. Winners were: team Mary Udd and Pamela Armstrong, Gloria Williams, and Patsy Fyfe. Honourable mention went to Marion Robertson. It was a lovely time and a wonderful start to the season.



Our fearless judges: Cynthia Hoisak, Jane Little and Pauline Yelle

*Heather Brown*

photos by Cynthia Hoisak



# OGC VISITS THE GARDENS OF RIDEAU HALL



Gathering at the fountain

On a glorious autumn day last October, members gathered at the Princess Gate entrance to Rideau Hall, home to the Governor General of Canada. There we were warmly welcomed by Rideau Hall staff and we were introduced to our guides, Mark Burleton, NCC Manager of Grounds and Greenhouses for Official Residences, and Supervisor Norm Hotte. The visit had been superbly organized by our OGC member and consultant, Mary Pratte, former President of the Canadian Peony Society, ably assisted by Rideau Hall Chief of Visitor Services, Dominique Bergeron, and Coordinator of Visitor Services, Christine Pelletier.

We were fascinated to hear the history of these gardens - one of only two which have been designated historical in Canada (the other being the gardens surrounding the Parliament Buildings). Mark described the challenges and opportunities that this creates in managing and caring for the

magnificent commemorative trees and gardens within its 80 acres, comprised of private and public gardens, maple forest, orchards and greenhouses.

Mark also described the gardens commissioned by various Governors General: the Michener Rock Garden, the Clarkson Woodland Garden and the Lady Byng Rock Garden, which is also home to the first ceremonial tree planted by the Duke of Connaught in 1907.



Inside the greenhouse

As we divided into groups, we were guided into a lower level entrance, where we glimpsed a variety of historic paintings, many of spouses of Governors General, on our way up to the main foyer of Rideau Hall. There we were privileged to view the official portraits of former Governors General, and then led into a hall commemorating recipients of the Order of Canada. We went on to the historic Tent

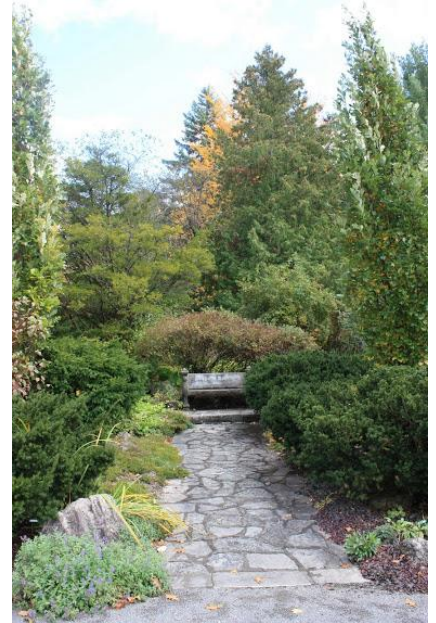
Room, and through to the back terrace where we entered the stunning formal gardens. Beautiful grasses and mature shrubs and trees provided the structure and backdrop for the garden. The autumn garden housekeeping had been mainly attended to, and as the dramatic grey clouds danced in and out of the sun, we were treated to a show of fiery foliage at the season's resplendent best.

Wandering through the paths to the greenhouses, we were delighted to discover little ponds, paths and benches tucked into the landscaping.

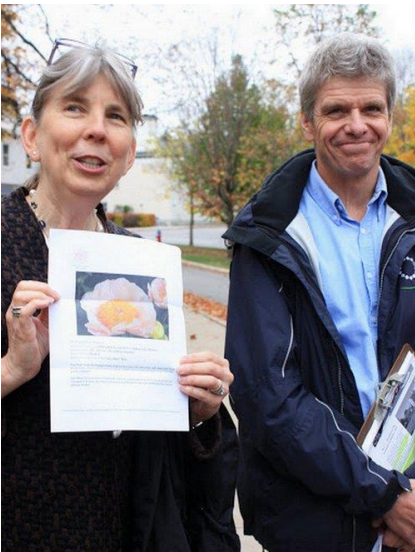
The historic Greenhouses are filled with impeccably cared-for specimens of tropical and exotic trees, colourful shrubs and flowers, many of which are in containers easily moved into the Residence for staging events there.

From the greenhouses we walked into the enclosed vegetable gardens, laid out with paths and borders, and fully protected from winds and garden predators by mature cedar hedges. Of course, all but the hardiest herbs had been tucked away for their winter sleep or into the greenhouses, but we were pleased to view the bones of these productive gardens, and learn some of the secrets and strategies for managing them. Much of the produce is used and inspired by chefs who cater the many official dinners and events at Rideau Hall.

Our delightful visit was concluded near the gates again, as Mary Pratte thanked our host Mark Burleton with a gift from our Club of a stunning 'Prosperity Maud' peony. Mark immediately earmarked its place, and next spring we will look forward to finding it gracing the gardens of the Visitor Centre at Rideau Hall. A lovely finish to the day!



Lady Byng Bench



Mary Pratte with Mark Burleton

*Victoria Hutton*

photos by Victoria Hutton

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# AN ARMENIAN CHRISTMAS



Hand-painted ornaments

How appropriate and delightful it was for the Garden Club to celebrate Christmas as the guest of a country that was the first in the world to adopt Christianity as its religion. Our morning spent as the privileged guests of Mrs. Maria Yeganian, spouse of the Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia, was an eye-opening experience for those of us who had only the vaguest knowledge of this ancient and multi-faceted culture.

Maria welcomed us into her richly wood panelled Residence with great warmth and enthusiasm, handing out snowflake tokens to each of us for the prize draw to come. Once we were all seated, she expressed pleasure at hosting our group,

and introduced her husband, the Ambassador, who told us a little about the long and often troubled history of Armenia, a nation that was divided and fought over for

more than six centuries. Special guest Bishop Bagrat Galstanyan, former Head of the Armenian Apostolic church in Canada, also spoke to

us, adding a more spiritual dimension, and described Armenia's three Christmas celebrations – the Western tradition of 24/25th December, the Eastern Orthodox observance of January 5/6th, and a further ceremony in Jerusalem on January 18/19th. He told us about the traditional meal that is eaten after the Eastern Orthodox service, consisting of a dish called "Royal Fish", sweetened rice with apricots and raisins, and a special bread. Sweet wine is served to all, including children, a custom that echoes Holy Communion. We were to taste some of these delicious dishes a little later in the morning, as well as Armenia's renowned brandy!

Following a short video showing scenes of Armenia's glorious landscape, including sacred Mount Ararat, the vineyards and apricot and pomegranate orchards, and the country's colourful traditions as well as its



Susan Moore and Joan Kellett showing off their winnings in the gift lottery

modernity, the Bishop once again took the floor and after some encouragement sang the eerily beautiful and very moving

Armenian version of "Oh Come all ye Faithful". Pianist Michael Turabian then led us in singing several carols together, after which our President Cindy Boucher thanked Maria for her warm hospitality and interesting program,



Phyllis McEwen and Ann Kelly

and presented her with William McElligott's book *Ottawa Canada*.

We were then invited to move into the dining room to enjoy a sumptuous array of treats, including baclavas, fruited rice, chocolate-dipped strawberries and a spectacular cake iced with the image of an Armenian church.



Our delightful hostess Maria Yeganian and our charming president Cindy Boucher



Charlotte Ward and Renée Smith



On our way through we passed the beautiful Christmas tree which Maria explained had been specially designed by her friend and artist Houry Avedissian, and which featured dozens of silver balls, each one handpainted with a different letter of the ancient and unique Armenian alphabet. As we bid our farewells, I think we all agreed that our interest in Armenia had been thoroughly awakened, and that we would definitely put it on our list of places to visit.



Armenian treats



Joan Hoffman, Jane Little and Joan Sirrs sampling the goodies

Sincere thanks to all those Ottawa Garden Club committee members who worked hard to make this special Christmas event possible.

*Felicity Garrard*

photos by Cynthia Hoisak



## BOOKWORM



*"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](mailto:heather_brown@rogers.com) and/or [felicity.garrard@gmail.com](mailto:felicity.garrard@gmail.com).*

If you haven't already come across Midge Ellis Keeble's wonderful book called "Tottering in my Garden – A Gardener's Memoir with Notes for the Novice", then you have a treat in store. Born in Vancouver in 1913, Midge Ellis Keeble was an actor, singer and broadcaster, first with the BBC in England, then subsequently with the CBC. She caused a stir when she became the first woman to read the flagship noon broadcast, but nevertheless was obliged to leave the CBC when she started her family. She became a gifted teacher, and had a lifelong desire to write, but was in her seventies when she finally produced and published "Tottering in my Garden". Written with great wit and charm, it is more of a romp than a totter as she takes the reader through 40 years of gardening experience, describing how she dealt with the challenges of clay, sand, shade and tired soil in her six outstanding gardens, dispensing sound and down-to-earth advice along the way. Highly amusing and eminently practical, it's a great read for a winter's day by the fire as you plan and dream about next year's garden.

*Felicity Garrard*





# DIPL'OMATIC / NEW MEMBER LUNCHEON

Torrential rains and dense fog could not dampen the enthusiasm of the women who attended the luncheon for diplomats and new members at the home of President Cindy Boucher in mid October. "The Cottage", Cindy's home on the shores of Kingsmere Lake, was festooned with pumpkins and fall flowers and a cheerful fire in the woodstove kept away



New member Rina Eyre

the autumn chill. Everyone who entered shook off the rain and soon the sound of happy chatter filled the air.

This annual event is intended to honour both diplomatic and new members in the club. As Cindy welcomed everyone to her home, she thanked them for braving the rain and mud. She extended a special welcome to the

nine diplomatic representatives who were present including members

Hildegard van de Pluijm (Belgium); Claudette Hamad (Palestine); Eleonore Wnendt (Germany); Maria Yeganian (Armenia); as well as special guests Odile Zeller (France); Maria Rosa Egue (Ecuador); Florence Liautaud (Haiti); Gill Drake (United Kingdom) and Martha Gubisic (Croatia).

Cindy also welcomed new members Rina Eyre and Peggy Morgan. Cindy noted that Peggy had created the beautiful floral centerpiece, which the club would be giving to our Honourary President Anstace Edmonde-White, who had just recently lost her beloved husband Larry.

Following the formalities, everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch prepared by the



Hildegard van der Pluijm (Belgium), our diplomatic representative, with new diplomatic member Gill Drake (United Kingdom)



New member Peggy Morgan shows the arrangement she made to club president and our hostess Cindy Boucher. This arrangement was later delivered to Anstace Esmonde-White.

hosts, with contributions from the executive.

A big thank you to Cindy and Dan Boucher for hosting a wonderful event!

Heather Brown

photos by Cynthia Hoisak



Sally Hutchison and diplomatic member Claudette Hamad (Palestine)

*Gardening is learning,  
learning, learning. That's the  
fun of gardens. You're always  
learning.*

**Helen Mirren**



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH



The garden in summer (photo by Joan Sirrs)

As you all know, this past summer was wonderful for gardens and our courtyard at the Perley Rideau Veteran's Health Centre certainly thrived. Peonies, iris, daisies, evening primrose, lady's mantle, Rozanne cranesbill and daylilies provided early summer interest and we added more Rudbeckia and Echinacea from our gardens to supplement the late summer and fall colour provided by the chelone, obedient plant, asters, our new PeeGee hydrangea tree and the continuously blooming roses.

It is very gratifying to have a garden that we are able to keep in check with bi-weekly visits. We now have a group of 10 very enthusiastic and faithful gardeners from our Club, who each visit the garden 3 or 4 times over the summer and fall so that we work in groups of 3 or 4 at a time. Once the spring clean-up is done, the summer maintenance mainly entails deadheading and tackling the

weeds that make their way through the mulch. In the fall we did a major cleanup and planted 200 Allium, tulip and daffodil bulbs, which we look forward to seeing in the spring! The roses were mulched just the day before the first snowstorm!

We all really enjoy these visits, as the Perley is such a warm and welcoming place and it is heartwarming to see how much the courtyard is appreciated by the residents and staff. We often hear them saying proudly that Rideau South is the nicest of the six courtyards!

## Postal Cart

Dianne Breton and Cynthia Hoisak have put their artistic talents to good use, as always, and come up with very creative Harvest and Christmas arrays for the postal cart. Quite a few of our team enjoyed getting into the festive mood when they joined Dianne and Cynthia before Christmas to mount a winter forest scene, which will be modified after the holidays to reflect an Olympic theme. Visitors, staff and residents all really enjoy these displays, which welcome them as they enter the lobby.



A beautiful display for fall

Many thanks to all our gardeners and decorators – Mary Hardwick, Joan Sirrs, Heather Brown, Dianne Breton, Diane Henning, Cathy Stapleton, Pat Padmos, Joan Hoffman, Peggy Morgan and Cynthia Hoisak.



Christmas display

*Sally Hutchison*

Photos by Cynthia Hoisak



Heather Brown, Dianne Breton, Mary Hardwick, Sally Hutchison



# PASSING THE TORCH

It has been my pleasure to be the member who has, twice a year for the last eight years, put the Blooming News together. It was June Norgaard, club president at the time, who asked me to step into the breach when our first editor, Julie Beatty, had a computer snafu at just the wrong time. Julie was the designer of the Blooming News. The only major changes from the format she originated have been the addition of pictures and circulation by email.

I have produced the Blooming News but I have never done it alone – I am just the one who coaxes it out of the computer each time. One member of the Program committee, first Freda Godby and now Christine Edwards, provides me with program information. Once we started using pictures Lily Chu was our first photographer and now Cynthia Hoisak makes sure to bring a camera to record each event. During our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, Liz Kane came up with cool ideas for the centre spread of five issues to recognize and celebrate our history. Felicity Garrard could always be counted on to write articles, Mary Hardwick reported on our Community Outreach, Jane Panet provided Member Profiles for several issues and Victoria Hutton shared some recipes in Cook's Corner articles. There have been many contributors and I wish to thank them all. I must add a special thank you to the sharp-eyed proof readers who took me at my word when I said that no mistake was too small to leave unfixed.

For the last year, Heather Brown has been the "managing editor" of the Blooming News. At first on her own, and then with input from Felicity Garrard, she decided what would be included, found members willing to write and assigned topics and deadlines, and nudged any who were late with their copy. I SO appreciated having a Blooming News "team"!! For the last three issues, I really only had to sit back and wait for the plan and then the pieces to appear in my inbox!!

But this is my FINAL issue – I am passing the torch into very capable hands. Felicity Garrard will produce the August issue, and Helen Clark will join Heather on the Blooming News team. Over the years that I have done the newsletter, I have been thanked, praised, patted on the back, and given various other expressions of appreciation – and not just once, but often. I certainly have never felt underappreciated or that my efforts have gone unrecognized!! The gracious ladies of the garden club have thanked me often as they do the other club members who volunteer to manage some aspect of our club function. As I said at the outset, it has been a pleasure to make this contribution.

*Kelly Noel*



Heather Brown and Felicity Garrard

## HOW TO SPONSOR A NEW MEMBER

**If you have a friend you think might be interested in joining our garden club, this is what to do:**

1. Any member can invite a guest to a meeting (except the December tea) but you must be a member for two full years before you may sponsor a potential new member and you may only nominate one per year.
2. Invite your friend to attend a meeting. Make sure to tell president Cindy Boucher ([lucindaboucher@gmail.com](mailto:lucindaboucher@gmail.com) or 819-827-2050) in advance so she can introduce your guest – this is important so that there is a record of her attendance as a guest. Prospective members must have attended at least two meetings as a guest before they can be nominated for membership. Remember that there is a \$5 guest fee.
3. Obtain a nomination form from membership chair Pamela Armstrong ([pml@magma.ca](mailto:pml@magma.ca)). This should be completed and submitted to Pamela (15 Waterford Way, Ottawa K2E 7V7) AFTER the candidate has attended two meetings and BEFORE the end of March each year. Note that this form requires the signature of the sponsor, a co-sponsor and the candidate.
4. New members are admitted by the executive at its April meeting each year. The membership chair will inform those who have been accepted. The new members will be introduced at the AGM in May. They will also be honoured at a special Luncheon later in the year, usually October.
5. Nominations received after the end of March will be held over until the following year.
6. The number of new members admitted each year depends on the total number of members in the club.