

AUTUMN 2016

# THE BLOOMING NEWS

## 2016 EXECUTIVE

### Honourary President

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Mary Murphy 819-671-9721

Mary Pratte 613-746-6070

Claire Schofield 613-747-2874

Grace Strachan 613-721-1421

Pat Sylvester 613-745-9619

Pauline Yelle 613-747-2896

### Community Outreach

Sally Hutchison 613-728-2981

Dianne Breton 613-567-6558

### Membership Secretary

Gloria Williams 613-745-6203

### Telephone Convenor

Joan Drummond 819-827-1226

### Boutique Manager

Dinah Showman 613-230-3053

### Hospitality

Joan Sirrs 613-733-6552

### Blooming News

Heather Brown 819-827-6672

Felicity Garrard 613-728-7710

Helen Clark 613-729-5571

### Photographers

Cynthia Hoisak 613-837-7798

Barbara Brown 613-728-7520

### Website

Heather Brown 613-827-6672

### 150<sup>th</sup> Committee

Victoria Hutton 613-258-2822

## UPCOMING PROGRAM EVENTS

🌀 **Thursday, September 15, 2016 10:30 am**  
Burritt Farm, home of Renée and Brad Smith,  
4390 Donnelly Drive, Burritt's Rapids  
**Flower Arranging Competitions**

🌀 **Thursday, October 20, 2016, 12:30 pm**  
Rockcliffe Park CC  
**Morikami Museum & Japanese Gardens**  
**Freda Godby and Louise Tanguay**

🌀 **Thursday, November 17, 2016 12:30 pm**  
Rockcliffe Park CC  
**Exciting Ground Covers!**  
**Mary Shearman Reid**

🌀 **December, 2016 – Christmas Party at**  
**Earncliffe, Residence of the British**  
**High Commissioner to Canada**  
**Date to be announced**

🌀 **Thursday, January 19, 2017 10:30 am**  
Royal Ottawa Golf Club, Aylmer Road  
**From Gravel Pit to National Historic**  
**Site in Hamilton, Ontario**  
**Dr. David Galbraith**

## WELCOME TO THE OTTAWA GARDEN CLUB

We are delighted to welcome these members to our club:

**Hanneke Boadway, Barbara Brown, Donna Chan,  
Anne Clark-Stewart, Lee Crowe, Bente McAlister,  
Susan McNee, Kyle McRobie, Jill Moll, Joanne  
Nelson, Donna Shields-Poë, and Sally Tindale**

# THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I have been waiting for a rainy day to sit down at my computer and write this message for the August issue of *The Blooming News*. Unfortunately, Mother Nature has not cooperated with me – rainy days have been few and far between so far this summer. So I am taking refuge from the noonday sun rather than from rain. If I stand up, I can see part of my garden through the window – the tulips, irises and peonies are finished, and the daylilies, my favourites, are ready to take centre stage.

Thinking of favourites - of all the clubs and groups I belong to or have belonged to, the OGC is far and away my favourite. There are so many reasons why. I think my favourite OGC tradition is the gifting of an arrangement of flowers to a member to let her know that we are thinking of her – whether it is a time of celebration or sadness or just a way of saying thank-you for the work she does for this club. In May we sent an arrangement to Jean Palmer, who had celebrated her 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday in April. In her thank-you note, she expressed her delight at this surprise and remarked: "Like the Queen, I am not averse to extending my April birthday into another month!".



Kelly Noel

We welcomed a bumper crop of new members to this club at our AGM in May. As is our custom, all of them attended at least two meetings as a guest. It is very gratifying to know that so many guests enjoy the meetings enough to want to join. Our hospitality team, led by Joan Sirrs, has always made the meeting atmosphere pleasant and welcoming – so perhaps it is no wonder that our guests want to join!

As has been the case for all the years I have belonged to this club, I was again impressed with the fresh and entertaining presentations arranged for us by our imaginative Program Committee. Chris Edwards and her team actively search for speakers who have an interesting topic and then make arrangements for them to present to us. They take turns hosting that part of the meeting – greeting the speaker on arrival, setting up any necessary equipment, arranging for someone to introduce and thank, and just generally making sure things run smoothly. We owe them a big thank-you! You can see from the details published in this newsletter that they have done it again - we have another interesting season ahead of us.

## THE BLOOMING NEWS

Newsletter of  
The Ottawa Garden Club  
is published semi-annually  
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**Editor:** Felicity Garrard

**Advisors:** Heather Brown  
Helen Clark

**Distribution:** Peggy Morgan

**Photographers:** Cynthia Hoisak  
Barbara Brown

**Other photo contributors this issue:**  
Felicity Garrard, Adrienne Heron and Sally  
Hutchison

**Website:** [www.ogc.website](http://www.ogc.website)

But without doubt, what I favour most about belonging to the OGC is having met all of you – the lovely ladies of the garden club. It has been, and continues to be, a pleasure to know you. In January I wished you "good health, love and much laughter in 2016" – to that I am going to add: "and more rain!!"

*Kelly Noel*

**Note:** Please turn to the back page (page 16) for details of changes to club rules coming into effect in the coming year.

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# PROGRAM AUTUMN 2016

**Thursday, September 15, 2016**

**10:30 am**

## **A visit to Burritt Farm**

Home of Renée and Brad Smith

4390 Donnelly Drive, Burritt's Rapids

Once again we are fortunate to be invited to OGC Consultant Renée Smith's lovely country estate in Burritt's Rapids. The Smiths have lived in their



1830s stone home for 50 years, and have transformed treeless fields of burdock and pigweed into lush gardens surrounded by majestic trees. In addition to flowerbeds, Renée has created her own cutting garden from which her wonderful arrangements originate. You are invited to explore the gardens or sit and relax by the Rideau River. Please bring a lawn chair and your lunch. Our hospitality committee will provide drinks and other treats.

## **Flower Arranging Competition**

For the competition this year we have decided to focus on mostly green arrangements, so that we don't deplete Renée's garden. With this in mind, we have decided on the following three categories:

- **50 Shades of Green**  
An arrangement using only greens.
- **Solitude Glory**  
An arrangement using one flower only, and some greens.
- **Her Majesty (in honour of the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday)**  
An arrangement using a mixture of glorious colours from the garden.

Members are asked to bring their own containers, garden shears, oasis, or anything else they feel would help to create their masterpieces, but all plant material must come from Renée's garden.

## **Judges**

Three judges will select first and second place in each category. Marianne Feaver's beautifully painted prize ribbons will be awarded to each winner.

Members not choosing to participate in the flower arranging competition are invited to wander the beautiful grounds, or just sit, relax and enjoy the surroundings.

**Car Pooling: note to our diplomatic members – if you would like transportation to this event, please contact Gill Drake at [613-277-0872](tel:613-277-0872). She will be happy to arrange a drive for you with one of our members.**

**Please note there is no rain date.**

## **Directions:**

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 11 km 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's Farm on the side. **IF** you reach the Anglican church on the right, you have gone just a bit too far.

Parking will be across the road with signs posted. If your passenger requires assistance, drop off will be up the main driveway at the house.

**Renée's cell number is [613 290 3765](tel:613-290-3765)**

*How fair is a garden amid the trials and passions of existence.*

*Benjamin Disraeli*



**Thursday, October 20, 2016**

**12:30 pm**

Rockcliffe Park CC

## **Morikami Museum & Japanese Gardens**

**Freda Godby and Louise Tanguay**

The Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens, which opened in 1977, is a hidden gem set on 16 acres in Delray Beach, part of Palm Beach County in Florida. Designer Hoichi Kurisu created six distinct Japanese gardens known as Roji-en, the



Garden of the Drops of Dew, surrounding a series of man-made lakes. Each garden is inspired by a different period of Japanese history. This presentation will take you on a stroll through the gardens, featuring bridges, water elements and a bamboo grove, and then beyond to the bonsai collection and koi pond. The establishment of Morikami was made possible through the donation of this land by George Sukeji Morikami in 1973. You will learn about his connection to a small settlement of recruited Japanese agricultural pioneers from Miyazu, Japan, known as the Yamato Colony, who settled in Palm Beach County in the early 1900s.

Our presenters are Louise Tanguay and Freda Godby. Louise is an accomplished photographer. She has an original and personal approach to nature and her photography has won numerous awards. Louise has authored several books and guides and has been published in magazines throughout the world.

Freda Godby is a retired Occupational Therapist who worked at the Royal Ottawa Hospital and then in community-based rehabilitation. She is a self-taught gardener. President of the Barrhaven Garden Club for over 10 years, she is also a member of the Program Committee of the Ottawa Garden Club. Since 2015 she has spent most of the winter in Delray, Florida.

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**Sign-up** sheet for the **Christmas Party**, which Gill Drake has kindly offered to host at **Earncliffe** this year; date to be announced. Priority will be given to members attending this meeting.

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**Thursday, November 17, 2016**

**12:30 pm**

Rockcliffe Park CC

## **Exciting Ground Covers!**

**Mary Shearman Reid**

If you're still struggling with problem areas in your garden – those shady spots where nothing wants to grow – then this talk is for you! Join previous OGC presenter, Mary Shearman Reid ("Tired Gardens for Tired Gardeners"), as she illustrates the amazing range of ground covers available in the Ottawa region. She will take us through the innumerable ways in which they can be used to complement your garden – from under trees with shallow roots, or in dry or wet spots, to providing colour, texture and interest to large areas of your garden border. She will also show us how ground covers can even act as a lawn substitute.

**Mary Shearman Reid** is a certified landscape professional and is the

owner/operator of the highly successful Green Thumb Garden Centre – a retail garden centre located in the Nepean area of Ottawa. She prides herself

on personal service and only sells plants that are hardy and suited to the Ottawa area.



Mary Shearman Reid

## **Also at this meeting:**

### **12th Annual Foster Plants Draw**

Drop your name in the hat at the beginning of this meeting. You may be one of the six lucky members who get to adopt this year's houseplant. Chronicle its care and progress, bring it back to the AGM in May and provide a brief report on the experience. We have heard many an amusing tale about these plants - whether they have thrived or barely survived. As always, each participant will be rewarded with a fabulous gift!

**And....sign up and pay for our annual January Luncheon to be held at the Royal Ottawa Golf Club.**

**Thursday, January 19, 2017**

**10:30 am**

Royal Ottawa Golf Club, Aylmer Road

## From Gravel Pit to National Historic Site – Dr. David Galbraith

Join Dr. David Galbraith of the Royal Botanical Garden (RBG) in Hamilton as he traces the fascinating history of the Rock Garden (originally an abandoned gravel pit) from its founding in 1932 to the recent re-christening of this gem as the "David Braley and

Nancy Gordon Rock Garden". He will describe how, after years of planning and a multi-million dollar investment, it has been re-envisioned and completely transformed into a major horticultural landmark. Described as a garden for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, it is one that embraces sustainable trends in garden design and management while respecting the integrity of its heritage setting.



Dr. David Galbraith

Dr. David Galbraith is Head of Science at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton, Ontario. Joining RBG in 1995 to promote plant conservation and biodiversity initiatives, David's work includes conservation at botanical gardens across Canada and around the world. At the RBG he is responsible for science projects and staff, RBG's herbarium, partnerships with universities, and library and archival collections. In 2010 he was named the Hamilton Environmentalist of the Year, in part because of his work with the EcoPark System partnership. He also serves as an adjunct professor in the Department of Biology at McMaster University and as the national Focal Point for Canada for the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.

## EPISODIC HOSPITALITY VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS NEEDED!

The sharing of a cup of tea or coffee with an old friend or new is one of the things that makes attending the OGC meetings so enjoyable. Each month, volunteers provide treats, set tables, and help with the clean-up – all for the benefit of everyone attending.

**Joan Sirrs**, Chair of the Hospitality Committee, is most grateful to the volunteers who have been signing up to help each month, but continues to need people she can add to her list of available assistants. If you are able to join the hospitality team on an occasional basis, please contact Joan Sirrs at: 613-733-6552, or email her at [jsirrs@sympatico.ca](mailto:jsirrs@sympatico.ca)

Thank you!

## OGC WEBSITE REMINDER

Don't forget to check out our elegant website at [www.ogc.website](http://www.ogc.website). Regularly updated and maintained by Heather Brown, it includes a gallery of excellent photos by Garden Club members (contributions always welcome!), previous editions of *The Blooming News* and other useful items relating to the Club. The password is **since1961**, a reference to the year the club was founded. Because the site is private, it does not appear on a Google search. You need to type in the entire URL to find the site. Anyone with comments or suggestions may email [heather\\_brown@rogers.com](mailto:heather_brown@rogers.com)



# HIGHLIGHTS OF WINTER MEETINGS

Once again, the Program Committee lined up a marvellous series of talks to entertain and inform us during the long winter months. The first of these took place at our annual **Royal Ottawa Golf Club luncheon on January 21<sup>st</sup>, and featured Alexander Reford, Director of Les Jardins de Métis (Reford Gardens)** speaking about the world-renowned International Garden Festival he co-founded in 2000. Many of us had had the opportunity of visiting the Reford Gardens in 2011, so had first-hand experience of this extraordinary garden created on the banks of the St. Lawrence in the 1920s by Alexander's gifted great-grandmother Elsie Reford. With vision, determination and back-breaking work, she transformed the barren fields surrounding her uncle George Steven's fishing camp into the paradise it is today. When Mary Pratte introduced Alexander, she told us how smitten she was when she first visited the garden, marvelling at the no fewer than 842 peonies Elsie planted there! Invited to sort and classify them, Mary's association with the gardens became a long and productive labour of love.

The main focus of Alexander's talk was the upcoming 17<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Garden Design Festival, titled "Experimenting Landscapes". The idea of the Festival was taken from a similar festival in France at the Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire, and has grown into one of the most important events of its kind in North America and one of the leading annual garden festivals in the world. It gives landscape designers and architects an opportunity to express their creativity in ways that are not always possible when working on public gardens, where issues such as public safety, insurance and fire regulations must be taken into account. In their Festival proposals designers can indulge their imaginations to the full, the only restrictions being the feasibility and cost of building their ideas. Sometimes these ideas are based on an idealized and unrealistic vision of Canada, and don't correspond to the reality of conditions on



*Pink Pump*

the St. Lawrence in northern Quebec! But the creativity unleashed is extraordinary, with garden designs becoming more and more conceptual, often encouraging the viewer to participate rather than simply stand and contemplate. Examples from past Festivals included **40,000 Books in an Outdoor Space**, a German design illustrating the process of papermaking in reverse, the books biodegrading and returning to the earth to grow more trees; **Around-About**, a Zen-like garden by a Tel Aviv team where



*Cyclops*

visitors are invited to rake the gravel themselves; and **Pink Pump**, featuring trees wrapped in pink plastic medical tubing, transforming them and causing them to stand out dramatically against the surrounding green. Among this year's 240 proposals we saw **Tilt**, a Winnipeg design which looked like a group of angular yellow tents and **Cyclops**, from Phoenix, Arizona, an inverted cone-like structure made of fine wooden laths allowing visitors to stand in the centre and experience the sky differently. These are all very far from Elsie's peony bed, but as Alexander pointed out, gardens have always been about experimentation, and staging the Festival draws people in to experience these new ideas as well as to appreciate a historic garden environment that has its own remarkable story to tell.



Elsie Reford c. 1930



*40,000 books in an Outdoor Space*

*Felicity Garrard*



The second talk of the winter took place on **February 18<sup>th</sup>**, and was given by **Susan d'Aquino**, one of our newer members. Susan talked about the garden she and her husband Tom have created to complement their modernist house, designed by Hart Massey, on the shores of MacKay Lake in Rockcliffe. Built in 1959, the house is a series of simple glass and steel cubes floating high above the lake. Low-slung and modest from the road, its full glories are seen on the lake side where the steeply sloped garden hides a series of surprises. Susan explained that when she and Tom bought the house in 1977, there was no garden to speak of – only a drystone wall and many trees. Since then, they have been on a “journey of discovery, failures and joy.” The enormous bed of river stones under the house, painstakingly moved by Tom, led to the main design idea of interlaced, softly curving beds sloping down the hill to the lake, incorporating more river stones and acting as a contrast to the geometry of the house. Among the many challenges were the steep cliffs on one side, the steepness and shadiness of the site and the heavy clay soil. Among the many glories were the setting, the wildlife, the views and the four seasons. Because of the seclusion and the presence of the lake, the wildlife is profuse and varied, with herons, Canada geese, osprey, grebe, cormorants, otters, turtles, frogs, foxes and muskrat. The stone on the site is also varied, and ranges from 6,000 year-old limestone ridges, gradually exposed over the years, to the huge grey stones by the pond.

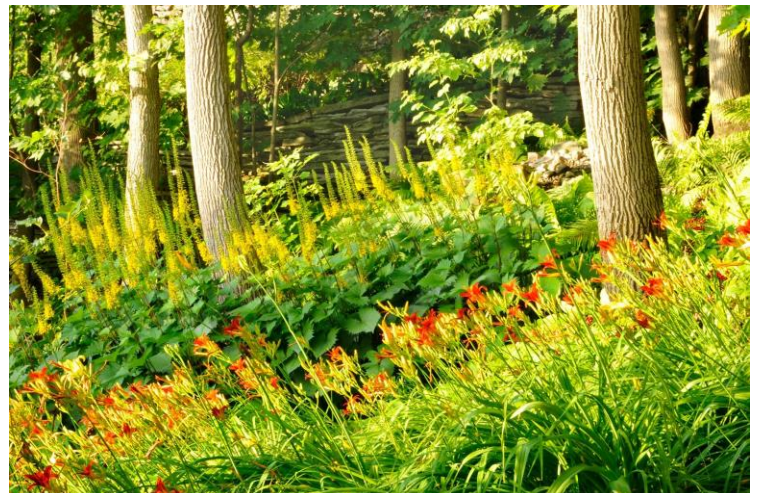


The garden is lovely in all seasons, with its stunning views from the house and terraces, the peacefulness of the setting, and the range of plantings. Susan’s beautiful slides (many taken by her friend Adrienne Heron) demonstrated her approach to planting, which is one of contrasting flowing curves and straight lines, “happy abundance” and repetition, widely spaced triangles and points of punctuation. She plants mostly shade-tolerant perennials, many spring bulbs, and flowering shrubs and ornamentals between the perennials and the trees. Streams lined with river stones wind downhill between the beds into ponds, looking entirely natural. Every season has its highlights, with massed plantings of scilla, trilliums and tulips in the spring, and a large stand of candelabra primula by the lake. Summer brings iris, peonies, goatsbeard, penstemon, clematis and astrantia. Early autumn flowers include white obedience plant, contrasted with the stronger colours of terracotta and scarlet



daylilies and yellow ligularia. Echinacea, Japanese anemones and purple asters round out the season, contrasting with the reds and golds of autumn foliage, and all reflecting in the lake. Given the shadiness of the garden, Susan has of course planted many different kinds of hosta and ferns, whose green shades provide a beautiful background for the perennials. On a white February day, we were inspired by this idyllic garden, a labour of love that creates a perfect foil for the iconic house sitting “quietly and lightly” in its natural setting.

*Helen Clark*





At the **March meeting, Mary Shearman Reid** of Green Thumb Garden Centre gave us many tips for rejuvenating a tired, overgrown garden, including:

- Take inventory – what do you like, what makes you happy, what don't you like?
- Make an action plan – tackle the garden in small steps, dealing with the most important part first. Then divide, prune, tidy. Don't be sentimental about invasive plants!
- Love it or trash it.
- Remember quick fixes – weeding, mulching, deadheading, staking, edging.
- Have fun!

In **April**, the OGC welcomed Joan Harvey, Mary Ash and Johanna Cutts, all members of **Monarch Teacher Network of Canada (MTNC)**. This network is composed of retired teachers and nature enthusiasts committed to educating the public about the plight of the Monarch butterfly. In turn, they described the fascinating life cycle of the butterfly, its incredible 4,000 kilometre migration each year from Canada to Mexico and back, and its precipitous decline in recent years. The butterflies that over-winter in Michoacan, Mexico, begin their migration in February and March and travel as far as Texas, where they mate and die. Six weeks later the next generation continues the journey, arriving in Ontario at the end of June. Another generation is born in the north, and they then take up the journey back south.



Monarch Teacher  
Network of Canada

Le Réseau Canadien des  
Enseignants Monarques



The importance of the milkweed plant to the survival of the larvae is underlined by the fact that the adult butterfly lays only one egg per plant, as it is the only plant to sustain the caterpillar until its pupal stage. As each butterfly lays as many as 200 eggs, it will seek an area of abundant milkweed. Equally important are the nectar plants that nourish the adult butterfly during its mating season and along the route of its migration. Each butterfly can travel as far as 128 kilometres per day! One of the presenters described her visit to the butterfly habitat in Mexico as a spiritual experience, the trees clad in fluttering orange and gold. Sadly, the habitat has witnessed a 95% decline in butterflies in recent years, caused by a number of factors including deforestation, industrial farming, loss of native

species, roadside mowing, pesticides, and the weather. But the good news is that there has been a reversal of this trend, thanks to efforts by individuals and governments to create butterfly corridors along the migration route, as well as butterfly way stations that include both host and nectar plants. The other good news is that we, as individuals, can help in this effort to save the butterfly by planting appropriate plants in our own gardens.

### **Creating a Monarch Butterfly Way Station - what is needed:**

- At least 10 milkweed plants, preferably more. There are a number of varieties of milkweed more attractive than the common variety that can be purchased locally, including swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) and butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*).
- Nectar plants, the more the merrier, that include many that are already in our gardens, such as echinacea, monarda, rudbeckia, coreopsis, nepeta, phlox, yarrow, and annuals such as zinnias and cosmos.

For more information on the Monarch Teachers Network, go to [www.monarchteacher.ca](http://www.monarchteacher.ca) For information on how a Monarch Way Station is created, go to [www.monarchwatch.org](http://www.monarchwatch.org)

*Heather Brown*



# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Kelly Noel welcomed everyone to the meeting on May 19th, remarking that she had already served for one year, which had passed very quickly.

## Esmonde-White Award

This year, we had a special guest presenter, Camilla Esmonde-White, granddaughter of Anstace Esmonde-White. In the past, the Club had given an annual award to an Algonquin College student, but it had lapsed. It was revived in 2003 and named the Esmonde-White Award. Kemptville College was asked to propose candidates this year, and the list was narrowed down to five. The unanimous choice of the jury was Kira Berger. Kira, who is a dedicated and accomplished horticulturist,



Camilla Esmonde-White

came appropriately dressed in her gardening clothes to receive the award. Camilla made the presentation, conveyed greetings from Anstace, and spoke warmly about her grandmother and happy memories of time spent in the garden with her. A particularly fond memory was being encouraged by Grandma to sprinkle fairy dust on the plants, while dressed in a fairy costume. Her mother was not so happy when she found out that the fairy dust was in fact Miracle Gro!



Kira Berger

## Dazzling Designers

Pat Sylvester explained the challenge to the designers: Mary Udd, Cynthia Hoisak and Bev Hyde. Each was given an identical bunch of flowers, three different glass vases from which to choose, and a secret ingredient, which turned out to be limes! The theme was "Spring Fling." The designers then left to work their magic, while Kelly introduced the twelve new club members and the diplomatic members who were present.

## Business Meeting

The first item was the President's report. Kelly noted that the club had had a very good year with excellent attendance. She had particularly fond memories of the June Garden tour of Prince Edward County, despite breaking a tooth on the first day! She congratulated the Program Committee on an excellent year of speakers, the *Blooming News* team, and the group that maintains the gardens at the Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre. She remembered the lovely Autumn Lunch for new members and diplomats hosted by Gill Drake at Earncliffe, and the fabulous Christmas Party, hosted by Penny Tucker at the New Zealand residence. Kelly also reminded the members about our new website set up by Heather Brown, and that its password is "since1961." Finally, she announced that the beautiful "modern mass" flower arrangement, created by returning member Anne Clark-Stewart, would be sent to Jean Palmer for her 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday. Anne also made a similar smaller arrangement which was sent home with Camilla for Anstace.



Anne Clark-Stewart with her arrangement

The Treasurer, Ann Goldsmith, reported that all the new members had paid their fees and that she was ready to receive payment from any member who still had not paid. The only change in expenditures was for the new website. The January Bring and Buy earned \$350 for the club, and money from our GIC will go towards planting for the 2017 anniversary program.

This was followed by a discussion on the policy with regard to admitting new members. It seems the Club is becoming more popular than ever, given the record number of new members that have applied for membership! However we have now reached the point where the capacity of our meeting room is being stretched to the limit, and therefore the Executive has had to take action. Please see Page 16 for Kelly's full explanation, and the new rules that have been put in place to remedy the issue.

### Return of the Foster Plants

The miniature rose foster plants had all received loving care and most of them had survived and thrived. Alas, poor Léopoldine Goutondji feared that she had given hers too much love. She had allowed it to try every room in the house, but after 15 days its leaves had started to drop. She even tried dividing it to give it a new life, but in vain. Nevertheless, all participants were warmly thanked and given a bag of goodies for their efforts.



Léopoldine and her ungrateful rose!

### Announcements

Charlotte Ward gave an update on the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary project on behalf of Victoria Hutton, chair of the committee, and passed around a sign-up sheet for those who would like to help. Richard Rogers will help design the club's landscape plan for the Beaumont-Hamel site at the Canadian War Museum, which commemorates Newfoundlanders who died in this tragic WWI battle. It will feature drifts of native Newfoundland flowers such as pitcher plants, alpine poppies, forget-me-nots and lupins.



Marti Todd had better luck!

### Return of the Dazzling Designers



Cynthia Hoisak, Bev Hyde and Mary Udd dazzle us!

Finally Kelly thanked all the hospitality volunteers, and Pauline Yelle presented Joan Sirrs with a vase of exotic tulips picked from her own garden in recognition of Joan's outstanding work in organising such wonderful goodies at each meeting.

*Grace Strachan*

Members were delighted and amazed by how creatively the three designers had completed their task. Cynthia had used her "martini" glass container to inspire her elegant design, Bev's theme was "hot pink", small and tall, and Mary had imaginatively used euonymus leaves instead of oasis. All had lined their containers with slices of lime.



Joan Sirrs and Pauline Yelle



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH REPORT

Happy to be back - weeding, digging, deadheading, spreading mulch, sweeping and socializing in the Rideau North and South Courtyard gardens at the Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre!

*Sally Hutchison*



Springtime in the Rideau South Courtyard



Team work - Heather and Peggy



Heather keeping those weeds down!



Our most recent recruit – Jane Breen

## The Perley Rideau Gardening Team:

|                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| Jane Breen     | Sally Hutchison  |
| Dianne Breton  | Karen Junke      |
| Heather Brown  | Peggy Morgan     |
| Jana Clarke    | Pat Padmos       |
| Mary Hardwick  | Marion Robertson |
| Diane Henning  | Joan Sirrs       |
| Joan Hoffman   | Cathy Stapleton  |
| Cynthia Hoisak |                  |



Spring "blossoms" on the Postal Cart





# 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY PROJECT

*The creation of a Commemorative Garden of Remembrance, in collaboration with the Canadian War Museum, offers us a special opportunity to collectively celebrate the 150th Anniversary of Canada to benefit our community. We are delighted to have the*

*collaborative assistance and expertise of Richard Rogers, respected professional landscaper, supporting the Ottawa Garden Club, along with our committee, consisting of Heather Brown, Cindy Boucher, Dianne Breton, Christine Edwards, Jane Panet and Charlotte Ward.*

## OGC 150th Project

Canada's Sesquicentennial celebration provides us with a significant opportunity to reflect on the enormous legacy given to us by so many Canadians during periods of great wars and strife. As flowers have long been symbols of important moments in our history, the Ottawa Garden Club proposed to the Canadian War Museum a simple wildflower landscaping concept to commemorate the valour and sacrifices of those who fought for our freedom.

We are honoured that the Canadian War Museum has designated the Beaumont-Hamel commemorative memorial site on the northwest side of the building for this project, which may be viewed from both inside and outside the museum. It is situated near the pedestrian pathways and overlooks the Ottawa River.



## Beaumont-Hamel

As it exists now, the proposed site is a poignant re-creation of the craters and terrain of that devastating, defining battle of July 1, 1916, which has been covered with the healing regeneration of grassy turf.

Our proposal was to create a series of progressive and seasonal wildflower plantings, which will be integrated into the turf, preserving the existing contours of the area, while symbolically enhancing the process of regeneration. Our intent is the creation of a naturalized environment as the wildflower blooms develop and self-seed over time. Ultimately, our goal is to create a place of reflection where visitors

may pause to sense this renewal of hope and restoration.

## Floral Significance

We are proposing to plant a variety of native wildflowers common to Newfoundland and Labrador, including forget-me-nots, pitcher plants and lupins, as well as poppies to commemorate the valour and sacrifices of the Newfoundland Regiment on the morning of July 1, 1916.

## Project Time Frame

**Planting:** We will begin planting this August 2016 and resume in early spring 2017 for bloom in Spring/Summer 2017 and beyond.

**Ottawa Garden Club members interested in assisting with this planting project are invited to get in touch with Dianne Breton or Christine Edwards.**

*Victoria Hutton*



# VISIT TO LORNADO

The Garden Club's annual June outing this year to the official residence of the US Ambassador to Canada was a particular treat, and we are most grateful to Mrs. Vicki Heyman for inviting us to tour her beautiful garden in the midst of a busy summer schedule.



The weather could not have been more perfect, and it was with great anticipation that we made our way up the long curving driveway, catching fleeting glimpses of the white-pillared stone mansion through the trees. We were immediately struck by the stately rows of huge-headed purple alliums (*Allium giganteum*), that provided dramatic accents everywhere we looked - at the entrance gate, in the circular bed surrounding the flag in front of the house, in foundation plantings mixed with white cleome and boxwood, and in groups punctuating the extensive formal border.

As we gathered on the side patio for refreshments and admired panoramic views across the river, Vicki Heyman welcomed us and gave a short history of the property. The house was built in 1908 by Warren Y. Soper, an American-born, Ottawa-based industrialist



Vicki Heyman

who co-founded the Ottawa Electric Railway Company – Ottawa's first transit system. It was originally built as a family cottage, and named in honour of one of Soper's favourite novels, *Lorna Doone*. (Intriguing side note: this novel was a top choice among *male* students at Yale in 1908!) The United States government purchased the property from the Soper family in 1935, and it subsequently became the first diplomatic residence in Rockcliffe Park. Vicki told us that gardening has always been a passion, and that she was thrilled to have the opportunity to exercise her creativity in the ten acres of land that Lornado provides. The property is designated by the US National Wildlife



Donna Norris of Zenbee, with one of her new hives.



March of the alliums

Foundation as a wildlife habitat, and her aim is to build on this and emphasize the garden's ability to attract pollinators, beneficial insects and other wildlife. The installation of Lornado's new apiary is a key part of this ecological project. Vicki introduced us to the two accomplished gardeners whose expertise is crucial to the garden's success – Miranda Kelly and Linda Robertson - and explained that for our tour we would be divided into three groups led by herself, Miranda and Linda to visit three areas of the garden – the apiary, the vegetable garden and the formal border.



The creators of the apiary, Donna and Ted Norris, took up beekeeping as a retirement hobby, became experts, and at the time of our visit were in the process of setting up the new Lornado hives in their neat white picket-fenced enclosure. No bees were in residence as yet, but Donna demonstrated the structure and workings of a beehive, and told us that the expected output of honey would be an astonishing 150 lbs per season. All powered by Lornado's flowers and trees!



Freda Godby and Gill Drake

Our tour of the vegetable garden with Miranda Kelly made our mouths water! Who wouldn't want an enclosure of such perfection: all the raised beds perfectly aligned, the immaculate gravel paths between weed-free, each group of healthy plants in their rich dark fertile soil smartly identified with carved signs – it was a most satisfying sight. Dozens of different herbs and vegetables are grown here for the Residence's dining table, and we learned that the chef particularly likes to cook with colourful vegetables such as purple potatoes and rainbow carrots, and that lovage – a herb with an intense celery flavour – was a particular favourite.

Last but not least was a stroll along the great sweep of perennial border with Linda Robertson. She explained that it was once planned as a heritage peony collection but the plants were never named. Anchored by an attractive dark green gazebo, it is now planted with a wide variety of plant species to help keep the pollinators in the garden from spring through to the fall. It

is not intended to be a cutting garden, because Vicki Heyman likes to decorate with orchids in the Residence, as we were happily about to discover. Ushered into the cool and elegant house, we were offered a wonderful array of sweets, including miniature chocolate-covered ice cream cones that particularly took people's fancy! An additional treat was the chance to view the dramatic and intriguing works of art in different media. All by living American artists, they formed part of the US Department of State's "Art in Embassies" project.



Victoria Hutton, Dianne Breton and Cathy Stapleton

All too soon it was time to say goodbye. Kelly Noel thanked Vicki for her gracious hospitality, and also thanked the OGC's Diplomatic Representative, Gill Drake, for her role in enabling us to make this fascinating visit. Chris Edwards presented Vicki with a basket of goodies,



No, this is not one of the more exotically dressed members of the club! It's a mixed media sculpture entitled "Soundsuit" by Nick Cave, 2008.

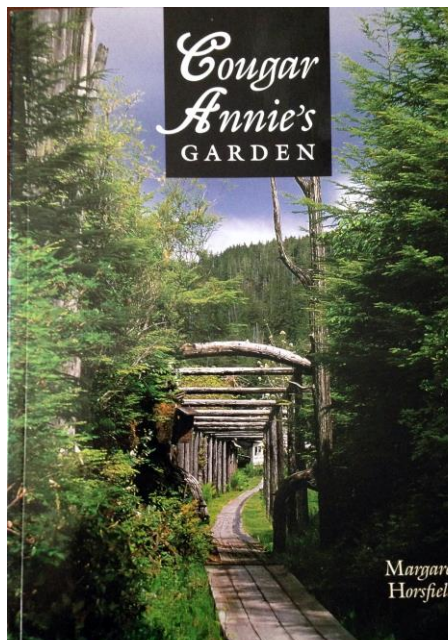
including products from Earnscliffe's gardens, and a selection of Canadian specialities. We left with our heads buzzing with all we had seen and heard, and perhaps to apply some of Lornado's ecological principles in our own gardens in the future.

*Felicity Garrard*



# BOOKWORM

"Bookworm" features 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) or [felicity.garrard@gmail.com](mailto:felicity.garrard@gmail.com). Our thanks to Susan d'Aquino for recommending the book below.



***Cougar Annie's Garden*, by Margaret Horsfield**, (Salal Books, 1999), tells the haunting tale of a five-acre garden in the wilderness of Vancouver Island's West Coast and its extraordinary creator. Surrounded by mountains and rainforest, inaccessible and remote, this garden has endured for over eighty years. It is rich with legend and history, and these elements are eloquently brought together by the author in her critically-acclaimed book.

In 1915, Ada Annie Rae-Arthur came to Hesquiat Harbour in Clayoquot Sound as a pioneer settler. She set to work clearing the land, but what emerged was no ordinary stump farm out in the bush - it was a vision, a dream and a passion. Slowly, over the years, a garden of strange, mesmerising beauty took shape in its clearing in the deep forest, featuring hundreds of varieties of imported shrubs and trees and perennials.

Wily and stubborn, Ada Annie operated a mail-order nursery garden; she also ran a general store and a post office from her home.

She bore eight of her eleven children here, and outlived and outworked four husbands. A crack shot and a skilled trapper, she became a cougar bounty hunter, killing over seventy of the big cats. She became known as Cougar Annie, and remained in her beloved garden until she was in her mid-nineties.

Many types of West Coast lore, many strands of history combine in this fascinating book to weave together Cougar Annie's story. Many tales are told of the grim courage, blind hope and bitter losses that have shaped history in this challenging environment. *Cougar Annie's Garden* tells of a dream that has survived, and lives on. Against all odds, her remarkable garden has outlived its equally remarkable owner. Although it was radically overgrown at the time of her death in 1985, it has now been completely restored. In 1998, the Boat Basin Foundation ([www.boatbasin.org](http://www.boatbasin.org)) was formed as a charitable organization to own and maintain the property, and has now established the Temperate Rainforest Field Study Centre to encourage appreciation of and education in temperate rainforest ecology.



Ada Annie Rae-Arthur

As I was reading this wonderful book, I was intrigued by the repeated references to a plant I'd never heard of before, called salal (*Gaultheria shallon*). I'm sure if you're from BC you would know it well, but those who don't might find the following of interest. A long-time favourite of indigenous people, salal is one of the most common understory shrubs in the forests of the Pacific northwest, and was included in the list of plants "discovered" by Meriwether Lewis in the celebrated Expedition led by Lewis and William Clark in 1803. Its dark, juicy berries were eaten fresh or dried into cakes, and for feast occasions the Kwakwaka'wakw ate them dipped in oolichan grease (oil from a small smelt-like fish). They were mixed with berries of other northwest native plants such as currants and elderberries for trading. The Haida used salal berries to thicken salmon eggs. Leaves were chewed as a hunger suppressant and used to flavour fish soup, and leafy branches were used to support meats in cooking. Today the berries are still prepared as jam or preserves and eaten fresh. A species of *Gaultheria* is grown in Eastern Canada, where it is known as wintergreen.

*Felicity Garrard*

# CHANGES TO OGC PROCEDURES FOR THE COMING YEAR

## As announced at our AGM in May:

Our policies allow for a maximum of 125 regular and associate members. We had 12 applications for membership in April and only seven spaces, and it did not seem likely that we would have room for the other five next year. After some discussion, the executive decided to admit all 12 members this year and then close the membership for the coming year and possibly beyond, until such time as attrition gives us space to add more. So no new members will be admitted next April. Note that the number of diplomatic members is not restricted – they are always welcome to attend when they are able.

## NO GUESTS

The executive feels that our membership has reached the point where the capacity of our meeting room is limiting; it is crowded with about 75 members in attendance. For this reason, we have decided that no guests will be allowed at any meetings held at the Rockcliffe Park Community Centre. Guests will also not be allowed for the January luncheon held at the Royal Ottawa Golf Club. This decision will be reviewed by the executive next April. We are planning an overnight garden tour by bus for June 2017 and guests will be allowed for that event.

## TIMING of MEETINGS

For the past couple of years, we have had the luxury of gaining access to the meeting room at 11:30 am, giving the hospitality team plenty of time to get the urns going and be ready for members to arrive at 12:30 for a light lunch and social half hour, a valued part of our meeting. We have been told that there is now another group using the room ahead of us so we cannot get access until 12 noon. We are exploring ways to accomplish the preparation in a shorter time period, and therefore still expect that the light lunch and coffee and tea will be ready by 12:30. The business part of the meeting will begin at 1pm sharp and will last 15 to 20 minutes. The presentation lasts about an hour, including time for questions, so you can expect to be on your way by 2:30 pm – unless you have volunteered to be part of the clean-up crew!

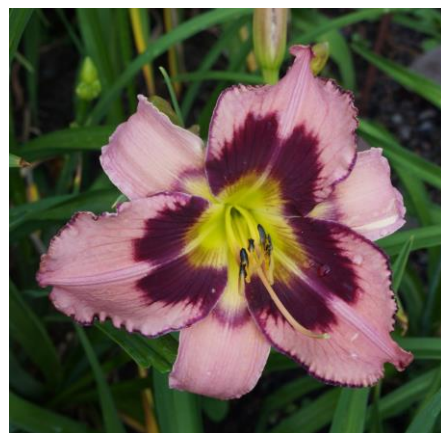
*Kelly Noel*



'Doug's Red Mercedes'



'Curious Cutie'



'Intelligent Design'

Three of the beautiful daylilies from Kelly's huge collection to remind us of summer's glory.