



AUTUMN 2017

THE BLOOMING NEWS

Happy 150th Birthday, Canada!

2017 EXECUTIVE

President

Peggy Morgan 613-722-1619

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Dianne Breton 613-567-6558

Treasurer

Ann Goldsmith 613-234-4045

Diplomatic Representative

Maria de Souza Pinto 613-698-0172

Diplomatic Liaison

Marianne Feaver 613-748-7528

Program Committee

Chair: Chris Edwards 613-749-7013

Lee Crowe 613-830-2961

Freda Godby 613-825-3713

Karen Junke 613-232-7514

Mary Murphy 819-671-9721

Mary Pratte 613-746-6070

Grace Strachan 613-721-1421

Pat Sylvester 613-745-9619

Pauline Yelle 613-747-2896

Community Outreach

Sally Hutchison 613-728-2981

Pat Padmos 613-741-1703

Membership Secretary

Gloria Williams 613-745-6203

Telephone Convenor

Elizabeth Dale-Harris 613-745-5950

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 819-827-6672

150th Committee

Victoria Hutton 613-258-2822

UPCOMING PROGRAM EVENTS

🌀 **Thursday, September 14, 2017 1:00 pm**

Jacques Cartier Park, Gatineau

MosaïCanada 150

🌀 **Thursday, October 19, 2017 12:30 pm**

Rockcliffe Park CC

150 Years of Canadian Landscape and Garden Design

Mark Burleton

🌀 **Thursday, November 16, 2017 12:30 pm**

Rockcliffe Park CC

Pashley Manor Gardens, Sussex, UK

Hattie Klotz

🌀 **December, 2017 – Christmas Party**

Details to be announced

🌀 **Thursday, January 18, 2018 10:30 am**

Royal Ottawa Golf Club, Aylmer Road

Beyond the Pail: Humour and Wisdom in the Garden

David Hobson

WELCOME TO THE OTTAWA GARDEN CLUB

We are delighted to welcome these members to our club:

Elbia Meghar – Algeria

Maria de Souza Pinto – Brazil

Gabriela Carazo – Costa Rica

Anne Martin – Ireland

Inara Eihenbauma – Latvia

Diane Chatoor – Trinidad & Tobago

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

My first introduction to the Ottawa Garden Club was as a guest on an OGC trip to Reford Gardens, when my long-time friend, Sally Hutchison, asked me if I would like to join the tour. My initial response was "What a lovely group!" One of the distinguishing characteristics of the OGC is the warmth with which members, old and new, diplomats and guests, are welcomed. The level of gardening expertise doesn't matter; everyone, from neophyte to master, is accepted for the gifts they bring.

As you will see in the following pages, it has been a busy year. However, our most recent event, the June Garden Trip to the Eastern Townships, was a welcome opportunity to relax, see beautiful gardens and get to know fellow Garden Club members in a series of lovely settings.

The Unveiling Ceremony at the Canadian War Museum of the Beaumont-Hamel Commemorative Garden of Remembrance was extremely moving. Victoria Hutton and her team worked tirelessly over two years to bring the Garden Club's contribution to Canada's 150th Celebration to fruition. The planning - dealing with government bureaucracies, talking to plant specialists across the country, potting, watering, planting and more watering - was quite remarkable and we owe them all a huge vote of thanks. Officials at the War Museum recognized the efforts of the Garden Club and were most appreciative.

From April 27 to May 7, the Ottawa Garden Club celebrated Canada's 150th with a fabulous art show at the Rockcliffe Retirement Residence, organized by Beth Stikeman and her team of incredibly talented artists. A percentage of the proceeds of the sale of their work was donated to the Beaumont-Hamel Commemorative Garden, for which we are very grateful.

The programs that Chris Edwards and her Program Committee put together are what keep us coming back. Joan Sirrs and her group of volunteers provide the tasty treats that we all so appreciate. Ann Goldsmith keeps us on track with her eagle eye on our budget. There are so many unsung heroes who make our Club so vibrant - photographers, writers and editors of the Blooming News, Perley gardeners and postal cart decorators, as well as people running the boutique, tracking membership or calling members who do not have email.

We have said a fond farewell to Gill Drake, our Diplomatic Representative, as she has returned to the U.K. We are delighted to welcome Maria de Souza Pinto, who has recently arrived to represent Brazil, as our new Diplomatic Representative. Our diplomatic members add to the depth of our Club and we appreciate their participation.

The Garden Club will be continuing to restrict membership and guests for another year. A victim of our own success, we just don't have room! We will revisit this policy at the end of the year.

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Advisors: Heather Brown
Helen Clark
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Photographers: Cynthia Hoisak
Barbara Brown

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As I begin my term as President, I am somewhat intimidated by the smart and capable group of women who have preceded me. However, I am confident that I can count on them, and all members of the Garden Club, to keep me on the straight and narrow! We have a committed and active Executive Team. I am very grateful that Heather Brown has agreed to serve as Vice-President. Dianne Breton has joined the Executive to replace Heather as Secretary and her experience will make her a valuable member of the team. And Kelly Noel, with her institutional memory and master gardening skills, is still our "go to" person.

As I write this, it is pouring rain, yet again. Good for the gardens, but we could sure use some sunshine! I will look forward to hearing stories in September of how our gardens have grown.

Peggy Morgan

PROGRAM AUTUMN 2017

Thursday, September 14, 2017

1:00 pm

Jacques Cartier Park, Gatineau

MosaïCanada 150



Please join us to view this extraordinary horticultural event in Jacques Cartier Park, Gatineau. Covering more than a kilometre of the park, MosaïCanada 150 consists of dozens of magnificent, massive figures made from sculpted trees, shrubs, and flowers, each of the 13 provinces and territories being represented by specific plant sculptures.



We will meet at the entrance security check at 1:00 pm, for a tour in small groups lasting between 1.5 to 2 hours. Our guides will explain what happens behind the scenes in preparing for this amazing exhibit, and how it is constructed and maintained. Please wear comfortable walking shoes and bring an umbrella (if needs be). There are several parking lots around the site but parking is expensive so carpooling or biking are suggested. If you park at the site, allow

plenty of time, as there are sometimes line-ups at the machines. The guided tour costs \$7.00 pp, payable to Chris Edwards or Ann Goldsmith at the entrance.

NB: Please confirm with Chris Edwards by September 8th if you are planning to attend, (chrisee68@gmail.com) as the organizers need to know in advance how many guides are required. Get ready for an amazing experience!

Thursday, October 19, 2017

12:30 pm

Rockcliffe Park CC

150 Years of Canadian Landscape and Garden Design

Mark Burleton

Mark Burleton is currently the Manager of Grounds and Greenhouses with the NCC. He will be offering us a historical retrospective on the evolution of Canadian landscape design as we celebrate Canada's Sesquicentennial Anniversary. He will reflect on the changing landscape and garden designs of such gardens as Rideau Hall, the Butchart Gardens, the Jardins de Métis and beyond...

Mark started working in horticulture at the age of 17, and was educated and trained at Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh, Scotland. Mark has worked as the Superintendent of Estates for the Royal Horticultural Society at Wisley, Surrey and at the Imperial College of Science and Medicine, Silwood Park, Berkshire. Mark has managed private and public outdoor events, including head of state and royal visits, and garden and greenhouse displays.



Mark Burleton.

Thursday, November 16, 2017

12:30 pm

Rockcliffe Park CC

Pashley Manor Gardens, Sussex

Hattie Klotz

Hattie Klotz, gardener and author, will give a presentation on Pashley Manor, her parents' home in East Sussex, England. This



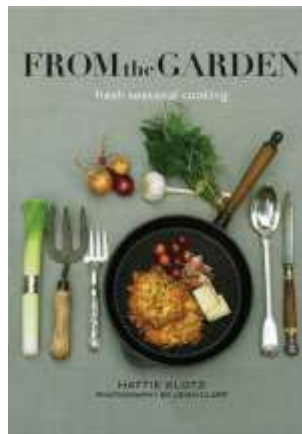
Hattie Klotz.

Tudor/Georgian manor house was built in 1550 and enlarged in 1720. It showcases magnificent gardens, pathways, ponds, fountains and sculptures set in the rural countryside.

Hattie will explain how her parents transformed a tumbledown

estate into the masterpiece it is today. She will bring along her two books, *Vertical Gardens* and *From the Garden*.

Vertical Gardens demonstrates a fun, creative way to grow plants in urban spaces and *From the Garden* is a collection of over 100 recipes inspired by the produce grown in an award-winning kitchen garden.



Thursday, January 18, 2018

10:30 am

Royal Ottawa Golf Club, Aylmer Road

Beyond the Pail: Humour and Wisdom in the Garden

David Hobson

David Hobson is a popular speaker at horticulture societies and garden clubs, where he shares the humour and passion of a

lifelong gardener, on a light-hearted and informative journey to the heart of gardens. A humorist, storyteller and photographer, he is the weekly gardening columnist for the *Waterloo Regional Record*, and writes online for the *Guelph Mercury* and the *Hamilton Spectator*. A regular contributor to *Grand*



David Hobson.

magazine, he has also written for *Lee Valley Tools*, *Garden Making* magazine, and *Canadian Gardening*. He is also creator of the *Garden*

Humour website and the author of two books of hilarious garden fiction: *Soiled Reputations* and *Diary of a Mad Gardener*.

EPISODIC HOSPITALITY VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS NEEDED!

Sharing 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 Thank you!



Joan Sirrs.

HIGHLIGHTS OF WINTER MEETINGS

Our annual Royal Ottawa Golf Club luncheon in **January** is always an enjoyable opportunity for club members to reconvene after the Christmas season, and this year's event was no exception. After busily catching up over coffee, we settled down to hear an inspiring story of perseverance and imagination entertainingly related by Dr. David Galbraith, Head of Science at the Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG) in Hamilton, Ontario (www.rbg.com) .

Dr. Galbraith began by outlining the history of this remarkable oasis on the industrial shores of Lake Ontario. Now designated a World Heritage Site, the RBG is actually composed of five distinct gardens, surrounded by a larger protected area of forest and marshland, making it three times larger than Ottawa's Experimental Farm. It was originally developed as a concept in the 1920s under the City of Hamilton Board of Park Management, led by Thomas McQuesten, and coincided with an ambitious program of beautification on the nearby Burlington Heights – as Dr. Galbraith put it, "Hamilton's front porch"! Under the visionary guidance of former executive director Dr. Leslie Laking, RBG has now become a major botanical site with 400 acres of display gardens as well as over 2,300 acres of environmentally sensitive lands and diverse ecosystems.



Layout of the Royal Botanical Gardens.

The main focus of Dr. Galbraith's talk however, was the newly restored Rock Garden, which, as he explained, is not actually a rock garden, but a garden created among rocks. Designed in 1932 by Carl Borgstrom, whose company won the overall competition for the RBG, it was created by lining a 5.5 acre abandoned gravel pit with limestone from the Niagara Escarpment. Conceived as a "driving park", it became a Hamilton icon, known in particular for its spectacular tulip displays, and drawing thousands of eager visitors – and their cars! Time took its inevitable toll however, so a major renovation project was begun in 2012, resulting in the newly christened "David Braley and Nancy Gordon Rock Garden", which opened in 2016. Cars were banished, steps, paths and bridges repaired and made fully accessible, water features redesigned, and all the existing plants and trees recorded and catalogued. Using modern sustainable techniques, this unique garden now displays a wide variety of pollinator-friendly plants, species native to Ontario, and many drought-tolerant perennials, providing colour



The Rock Garden.

throughout the season. Dr. Galbraith's vivid talk had us all resolving not to rush past Hamilton next time we're on the 401, but to go and discover this fascinating and historic horticultural landmark for ourselves. Chris Edwards expressed our grateful thanks, and presented Dr. Galbraith with William P. McElligot's beautiful book on Ottawa architecture.

Felicity Garrard

In our second talk of the winter, in **February**, speaker Christine Libon emphasized that although Christopher Columbus named Costa Rica "rich coast" because he thought it was rich in minerals, we now know that Costa Rica is even richer in plant and animal life. In fact, the country has recognized its potential as an ecotourism site by creating many national parks and reserves. It is a world leader in conservation policies, with protected areas that encompass over 25 per cent of its

total landmass - the highest in the world. Christine's wilderness adventures in Costa Rica in 2015 included a visit to a yoga retreat in the mountains, a stay in a remote thatched hut in Playa Sombrero on the Osa Peninsula, and a terrifying boat trip to a resort on Drake Bay from the undeveloped Corcovado National Park, the jewel in Costa Rica's crown.

In the course of these adventures, Christine photographed hundreds of interesting and spectacular plants and trees, many of



Beehive ginger.

which have medicinal qualities. To cite a few examples: the rainbow eucalyptus tree provides essential oils; beehive ginger plants are used for eye inflammations, burns and headaches; and tea made from the double pink hibiscus lowers blood pressure. We were fascinated to learn that the unattractive knobbly fruit of the Indian mulberry tree cures sore throats and is used for shampoo, while the understated but highly scented flowers of the ylang-ylang tree yield essential

oils that are used in Chanel #5 perfume!

Pharmaceuticals are very important to Costa Rica, and with so many medicinal plants available, there is much research to be done.

In thanking Christine for her inspiring talk, Mary Pratte noted how many of Costa Rica's plants are similar to those of Hawaii, and reminded us how resourceful plants are, as they evolve and adapt in countries around the world.

Helen Clark

In **March**, Mary Anne Jackson-Hughes shared with us a wealth of information about turf. She began with a brief history of the North American obsession



Everyone's ideal lawn!

with turf (having land that was not needed for crops and food was a sign of wealth and status) and the fact it is now the largest monoculture on the continent. Her topics ranged from soil structure and texture to diseases and pests.

But what interested and surprised many were her tips for lawn maintenance. For example, do not aerate your lawn in the spring. "Spring in Ontario is harsh and abrupt, and aerating the lawn actually destroys the roots that are just struggling to get established." She also advised against dethatching the lawn. "Thatch is one of the favourite foods for worms who will come to the surface and aerate the lawn for you." All we need to do is a light raking in the spring. "No heavy equipment!" A strong advocate for the banning of pesticides, Mary Anne recommended spreading corn gluten meal before weed seeds germinate in the spring. "It is not only toxic to seeds, it will release protein into the soil." She also suggested using Iron Plus spray to kill weeds, and full-strength white vinegar on brickwork. When asked about peat moss,



Rainbow eucalyptus.



New member Gabriela Carazo of Costa Rica (2nd from left) with Irene Knöpfel (Switzerland), Kyle McRobie and Gill Drake (UK).

she said that instead of using this non-renewable resource, spreading alfalfa will add organic matter to the soil. One of the most difficult suggestions to follow is her advice to let the grass grow to three inches. "The roots go as deep as the grass is high," she says. Also, the best time to regenerate a lawn is in the fall. Mary Anne advised top dressing with organic matter, seeding, tamping down, then watering like mad. She said that placing burlap over the new seeds will keep birds away.

The tips went on and on, and the questions from members just kept coming. Who knew that used coffee grounds, spread thinly, are an excellent fertilizer for the lawn? Or that the best time to apply parasitic nematodes to kill grubs is in the fall?

For further information, as well as a copy of her presentation, please visit the OGC website, www.ogc.website. Password: since1961. A copy of Mary Anne's presentation, as well as her articles on lawn maintenance and gluten meal, have been posted on the Documents page of our site.

Heather Brown



Both photos are of bonsai from Fr. André Boyer's collection.

At our **April** talk, we learned that bonsai trees were first recorded in Egyptian tomb paintings in 4000 BC, and have continued to fascinate people through the ages. Father André Boyer, OMI, brought in two beautiful specimens from his own collection, and gave us a most interesting talk on the history and care of these miniature treasures. The word itself derives from the Japanese: *bon*, meaning pot, and *sai*, meaning tree. One thousand years ago, in India, travelling physicians carried pots of bonsai healing herbs, like a portable medical kit. The Chinese established set styles for these dwarf trees in about 200 AD, but from about 1300 AD on, the Japanese have been the main practitioners of this tricky art. Many bonsai are hundreds of years old, passed down through the generations – Fr. Boyer himself owns one that is 300 years old and extremely valuable. The styles are now set by Japan, and range in character from "the windswept" to the "semi-cascade".

The art of bonsai is to give character to these tiny, old trees by making them look as if they are in motion. Painstaking care and training is required, although any young tree or woody plant (from the wild or otherwise) can be made into a bonsai. The techniques used are exacting and take years. All dirt must be washed off the roots, and the tree must be planted off-centre in a wide, shallow pot in the correct medium – a type of lava stone imported from Japan. Roots must be trimmed and then wired down to give the tree stability. Fr. Boyer also advised wiring the branches downwards. In this way, the trees can be aged overnight, but the wires must be left on for over a year. Only one major procedure per year can be performed. Like any outdoor tree, bonsai need lots of sun, water and air, and to have a period of cold dormancy in winter. Fr. Boyer showed us many beautiful slides of different types and styles of bonsai – tiny windswept pines, broom-shaped maples, white birches and azaleas – even a miniature larch forest. This was an inspiring presentation from a true lover of the bonsai art for anyone who has always longed to live in a perfect, miniature world.



Helen Clark

AN ARTSY EVENING

It was an evening to remember as artists, club members, friends, family and residents gathered on April 27 at the Chartwell Rockcliffe Retirement Residence for the vernissage of our OGC art show, "Celebrating Canada's 150th." Soon, chatter and laughter filled the air as the large crowd enjoyed the wonderful reception of wine, delicious canapés, and live music, all thoughtfully organized by our host Binda Amorin, Sales Consultant at the Residence.



Artists Marion Robertson, Hanneke Boadway, Dianne Breton, Heather Brown, Victoria Hutton and Beth Stikeman.

Show organizer Beth Stikeman did a masterful job of coaxing some 14 club artists to participate in the show and to contribute at least one piece celebrating Canada's 150th birthday. On opening night, the walls of the reception rooms were covered by more than 100 pieces of art, ranging from watercolours, oils and pastels to encaustics, acrylics, jewellery, note cards and painted furniture pieces.

It was by all accounts a very successful show. By the end of the evening, there were red dots everywhere! And by the end of the week-long exhibit, there was a total of \$10,340 in sales, with a portion of the proceeds generously

donated to the OGC's project: *The Beaumont Hamel Commemorative Garden of Remembrance* at the Canadian War Museum.



Binda Amorin.



A wall of 150th Birthday images for Canada.

A big thank you goes to Beth Stikeman and her team of artists: Hanneke Boadway, Dianne Breton, Heather Brown, Ann Clayton, Marianne Feaver, Patsy Fyfe, Pam Gibb-Carsley, Bev Hyde, Victoria Hutton, Joan Kellett, Mary Pratte, Bea Robertson and Marion Robertson.

Heather Brown

"I found I could say things with colour and shapes that I couldn't say any other way - things I had no words for."

Georgia O'Keeffe



Our youngest contributor - Heather's granddaughter Abby with her birthday present for Canada.

PERLEY MEMORIAL BENCH DEDICATION

On a cool, cloudy May afternoon, members of the Executive and some of the Perley volunteers met in the Rideau South Courtyard with the family of Larry and Anstace Esmonde-White to officially dedicate the two benches donated in their memory by Garden Club members. Also present were John and Peggy MacDonald, long-time friends and neighbours of Anstace, who often helped her in her garden. Delphine Haslé of the Perley Foundation thanked the Garden Club for their generosity and said that the benches would be well used and enjoyed by residents and their families. Both Miranda, Larry and Anstace's daughter, and Oliver, one of their three sons, expressed their appreciation, saying how much the Garden Club had meant to their mother and how touched she would have been by this gesture.



Back row: Sally Hutchison, Miranda Esmonde-White, Peggy MacDonald, Oliver Esmonde-White and wife Lorraine Desjardins, and John MacDonald. Front row: Peggy Morgan and Cynthia Hoisak.



Victoria Hutton, Sally Hutchison and Mary Hardwick.

Once the official ceremony was over, everyone retreated to the warmth of the adjacent Activity Room for tea, coffee, sandwiches and sweet treats. Anstace would have thoroughly enjoyed it!

Sally Hutchison



Miranda Esmonde-White, Kelly Noel and Oliver Esmonde-White.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Kelly Noel opened the 2017 AGM, her last meeting as President, by saying it had been an absolute pleasure to serve such a positive and upbeat group of women. "I love this club!" she said, over the round of applause from members. Some of the highlights during her tenure include the wonderful garden tour to Prince Edward County, the introduction of an OGC website, and the fundraising efforts to install two memorial benches at the Perley and Rideau Veterans Health Centre for Anstace and Larry Esmonde-White.

She extended a warm thank you to Gill Drake, our Diplomatic Representative, who has been so helpful in encouraging diplomats to participate in club activities. Gill returned to England with her husband Howard, the British High Commissioner, in July. Kelly said she was thrilled to introduce Maria de Souza Pinto (see article on next page) who very recently arrived in Canada from Brazil and who has agreed to take over from Gill.

Kelly thanked each of her executive in turn, but gave a special thanks to Chris Edwards and the Program Committee for organizing such a wonderful series of interesting and informative presentations over the years. "This is the *raison d'être* for our club" she said. Treasurer Ann

Goldsmith gave her report, noting that close to 100% of our members have paid their annual fees, amounting to a healthy \$7,000 in income and a balanced budget. The only new expenditure has been the 150th project of a Commemorative Garden of Remembrance at the Canadian War Museum, led by Victoria Hutton. Kelly then introduced the new executive slate, beginning with Peggy Morgan, our new club President. (See profile page 20). Other changes include Heather Brown as Vice-President, Dianne Breton as Secretary, and Maria de Souza Pinto as Diplomatic Representative. The full slate is on page one of the *Blooming News*.

A special honour was bestowed on Joan Drummond, who was named Honorary President. She said she was deeply moved by the gesture, and thanked the Club for this honour. Sadly, Joan passed away on August 18th (see *In Memoriam* on the next page). A member of the club for more than 40 years, and president in 1991-92, Joan will be very much missed.

Peggy then took over the meeting, thanked Kelly for her leadership over the past two years, and presented her with a solar bird bath on behalf of the club. Peggy ended the business portion of the meeting with several important announcements: club dues would remain at \$60; we would continue our policy of no guests at meetings; and the club is closed to new members for another year at least. "We are at capacity at the moment but will revisit this next year," she said.

Return of the Foster Plants

The return of the foster plants is always the highlight of our end-of-year meeting, and this year was no exception. Foster parents Chris Edwards (on behalf of Claire Schofield), Ann Goldsmith, Karen Junke, Donna Shields-Poë, Marilyn Light and Gloria Williams, brought their carefully and not-so-carefully



Peggy presents Kelly with her thankyou gift of a solar birdbath.



Karen Junke reporting on her happily healthy Streptocarpus.

nurtured *Streptocarpus* to the meeting to share stories of their lives since their adoption last November. Like other years, there were clear successes and failures, but this year there were some



Chris Edwards and Marilyn Light display the results of Marilyn's magnificently successful plant nurturing efforts!

very unusual tales of the plants' demise. Gloria and Claire's stories sounded much like the 'dog ate my homework' excuses, but in their case, it apparently was their dogs Tiggy and Angus who ate the plants. We were not sure what to believe. On the other hand, Karen, Donna and Ann were all proud parents, relieved that their plants were still alive and blooming. But the winner was Marilyn's huge and healthy "Big Momma", which actually had produced four little plantlets, growing happily in their own pots. All foster mothers were given 'fabulous' gifts for their efforts.

Tribute to Anstace

Finally, the meeting ended with a heartfelt tribute to Anstace Esmonde-White, our former Honorary President who died last August. It began with a slide show chronicling her long life from early days as a toddler with twinkling blue eyes, through her time raising four children, the days of "From a Country Garden" on PBS, to Christmas parties at the OGC where members sang happy birthday to her well into her nineties. There were also photos of the recent bench dedication at the Perley with two of her children present. Then Sally Hutchison, Victoria Hutton and Jane Panet each shared special memories of their time with Anstace, as a family friend, a neighbour, and an internationally renowned gardener. There was a common thread in their stories describing a woman of great spirit, determination and kindness. Sally ended her tribute with a fitting quote from Marcel Proust:

"Let us be grateful to the people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make souls blossom."

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Ottawa Garden Club is delighted to welcome Maria de Souza Pinto as a new member and as our new Diplomatic Representative, replacing Gill Drake who returned to Britain in July. Maria and her husband Denis, Ambassador of the Embassy of Brazil, arrived in Ottawa in February of this year from their posting in Italy where Denis served as Ambassador to the Vatican. Maria says she is very happy to be in Canada and is looking forward to learning more about our vast country. "Everyone has been so warm and welcoming since we arrived and I feel very much at home," she says. Anyone who has met Maria will understand why – her bright smile and engaging personality light up any room she enters. She has already attended several OGC meetings and events and is enthusiastic about assuming her new position with the club. As we welcome Maria, we say a fond farewell and a big thank you to Gill who has been an invaluable member of the executive and a dear friend for the past four years. We will miss you Gill!



Maria de Souza Pinto and Gill Drake.

Heather Brown

IN MEMORIAM

JOAN DRUMMOND

Joan Marion Barclay Drummond was born in Montreal on February 10, 1925 to G. Jean Fleck, granddaughter of the famed J.R. Booth, and Scottish father Gregor Barclay. Joan was not an avid gardener but she was a very proud Quebecer – devoted mother, awesome wife, adventurer, tennis player, skier, canoeist (thanks to her learned Indigenous teachers in Algonquin Park), golfer, nature lover, hostess, trusted friend, humorist and dog lover – all her dogs were named after alcoholic beverages.



The Lodge at Rock Lake in Algonquin Park - known as Man Wah Tey (a place of sunshine) - was built by J.R. Booth for Joan's Granny Fleck. This was a place as close to heaven as Joan had ever been. Her wonderful stories of her time spent there included private rail cars and adventures in the wild as a young girl, and were endless and enormously entertaining.

She earned her pilot's licence at the age of sixteen, thanks to Algonquin Park's Superintendent Frank MacDougall, who taught Joan to fly. When she joined the RCAF Women's Division as a licensed pilot at age 16, she couldn't believe that she would not be able to fly as part of the regular crew of the Air Force, so she decided to become a professional driver - driving fuelling trucks, buses and crash ambulances. She finished top of her class in Mechanics.

Joan's fiancé was killed in action in April '45, one month before the war ended. However, on January 6, 1946, she met the "love of her life", John W.R. Drummond. They were married in May 1946 in Montreal. On her honeymoon to New York City and California, she met Bob Hope, Robert Taylor, Paulette Goddard – and Gary Cooper. Joan was also thrilled to have met her idol Amelia Earhart at the World's Fair and King George V and the Queen Mother at the opening of the War Museum in Ottawa. She claimed to have seen them fourteen more times!

Joan was a tireless volunteer her whole life. It was her life calling, as the following list of her causes will testify: The Montreal General, Shriners Hospital, Girl Guides, Women's Volunteer Services, reunions of all kinds, RCAF Benevolent Fund, The Red Feather organization, the Red Cross, Summerhill House, the IODE – local, provincial and national, the Elizabeth Residence, the International Y Fair, the Andrew Fleck Day Nursery, the Ottawa Symphony, the Ottawa Garden Club, the Royal Ottawa Golf Club, the Kingsmere Community Association, Quail House, Christ Church Cathedral Dean's Warden, the Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind, St. John Ambulance. These organizations all benefitted from her time, goodwill, extraordinary sense of humour and legendary stubbornness.

Joan received numerous honours, including the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal in 2013. However, I think one of her proudest moments was at our AGM in May 2017, when she was appointed Honourary President of the Ottawa Garden Club. It was a wonderful tribute to an extraordinary woman. Truly one of a kind. We will miss her. Joan was pre-deceased by her husband John and daughter Robin. Her son Tim lives in Ottawa.

Lucinda Boucher



150TH ANNIVERSARY PROJECT

The creation of a Commemorative Garden of Remembrance, in collaboration with the Canadian War Museum, offered us a special opportunity to collectively celebrate the 150th Anniversary of Canada to benefit our community.
The following is the full text of Victoria Hutton's speech at the Unveiling Ceremony on 8th June, 2017.

Good morning, everyone!

On behalf of Peggy Morgan, our President, and all our membership, I would like to thank Director-General Stephen Quick, Guy Larocque, Yasmine Minguay and Jacinthe Caron for receiving the Ottawa Garden Club so warmly today. I would also like to thank you and so many others at the Canadian War Museum for your support, assistance and confidence in us.

My name is Victoria Hutton, and two years ago I was asked to lead a committee to find and develop a significant project that our club could grow and nurture, in celebration of this wonderful 150th year of our beloved Canada. We had many conversations at the War Museum before arriving at the project that you see before you.



War Museum Director-General Stephen Quick and Victoria Hutton unveil the new Commemorative Plaque.



Lupine (*Lupinus perrenis*).

I will never forget the day that Yasmine and Guy walked me to these windows to view the Beaumont Hamel site, covered in snow at the time, and asked if we would like to focus our project on this poignant landscape. I remember being profoundly moved by the significance of the site, and the opportunity that we were being entrusted with. We did not work alone. We needed a guiding spirit and we found it in Richard Rogers, who willingly agreed to lend his trusted professional expertise in the field of landscape design to help us realize our project. Working together with my six 150th committee members, Heather Brown, Cindy Boucher, Dianne Breton, Christine Edwards, Jane Panet and Charlotte Ward, now a Band of Sisters, Richard helped us develop the concept of a quiet place of contemplation planted with the wildflowers of Newfoundland.

We planted seeds in the fall of last year, scratching them into the existing turf so as not to mark the landscape. We then placed growing plants into the same areas this spring - more lupines, Flanders poppies, daisies and forget-me-nots. We skirmished with the groundhogs and.... replanted!



Pitcher plant (*Sarracenia purpurea*).

At the centre of the site, at the top, is a small cluster of pitcher plants, the provincial and protected flower of Newfoundland. This required some coast-to-coast assistance, received from Memorial University's Botanical Gardens, who directed us to a grower of that species in British Columbia.

The pitcher plants were nurtured there over the winter and arrived in Ottawa early in the spring, where they were potted and held at Green Thumb Nurseries by our friend Mary Sherman Reid, until planting out in their simulated bog environment just last week, in the pouring rain.

Which leads me to a special thank you to our "bog husbands" - whom I believe are all present today - and who assisted Richard last fall in the strenuous work of digging out the area where the pitchers now prosper. Nor can I forget the legion of Ottawa Garden Club members who have and will continue to water these plants faithfully throughout the spring and summer.

Last, but not least, I must share with you a very special legacy. In May, the talented and generous artists from the Ottawa Garden Club held a successful Art Show to celebrate the Sesquicentennial. They have since donated a portion of their proceeds to this Commemorative Garden of Remembrance, which will be going to purchase additional wildflowers to be planted on the



"Red Poppy" by Heather Brown.

Beaumont Hamel site this fall! Thank you so much. Perhaps some more beautiful paintings will be the result in the coming years.

I will close by sharing my recollection of Guy Larocque explaining to me, very early on, that it would take a decade for turf to grow on a scarred battlefield, and that another decade would need to pass before the wildflowers would bloom. It is our hope that this Commemorative Garden of Remembrance will, in a small way enhance and exemplify this Regenerative Landscape, that is so much part of the essence of this building and the profound significance of the Beaumont Hamel site.

Thank you.

Victoria Hutton



A day to remember for all of us.

EASTERN TOWNSHIPS GARDEN TOUR

JUNE 27 – 29, 2017

In his book, *The Greater Perfection*, Frank Cabot, creator of the legendary Quatre Vents garden on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River, said "...the cultural landscape should be ... a bridge between Man and Nature." The six gardens of the Eastern Townships of Quebec, which 42 of our members visited at the end of June, were all, in their own way, illustrations of these words. And all reflected the very personal visions of their creators and their desire to enhance the beautiful countryside around them with art of their own, whether sculpture or perennials. All evoked in us the element of surprise – unexpected discoveries that triggered various emotions.

The bus ride from Ottawa to the Townships was enlivened by much chatting and the organizational skills of our excellent tour director, Margaret Dailey-Plouffe of Heatherington and Associates, known to many of us from previous trips. Margaret is an expert at providing information and snacks and tactfully herding errant groups onto the bus at just the right time!

Our first garden ("Tuckernuck"), near Knowlton on the shore of Lake Brome, was among the original big gardens of the region. The owner, Claire Kerrigan, belongs to one of the founding families of Knowlton, and is still going strong at 91. We approached along a wooded driveway, lined with ferns and following a stream, and our first surprise was the open vista to the lake that suddenly revealed itself. In the 70s and 80s, Claire and her husband transformed the original swamp at the top of the driveway by building berms and uncovering huge rocks. The resulting rocky outcropping on our left now concealed a charming Japanese landscape of ponds flowing into other ponds between mossy rocks planted with miniature pines, thyme, and beds of massed *Pachysandra* (Japanese spurge). From there, manicured lawns led towards the house and the pool. It was no surprise to learn that Claire has a passion for bonsai, and many of her specimens were on display in the gardens around the house, proudly shown off by volunteers from the Brome Lake Garden Club. An



Claire Kerrigan and Sally Hutchison.



Claire's bonsai collection.

unexpected delight was to find that the stream beside the driveway had been channelled through a berm and down around the landscaped swimming pool into the lake. Its banks were yellow with massed lady's mantle, while the higher beds held astilbe, peonies, dahlias and roses in abundance. The sound of water and birdsong surrounded us and enhanced the tranquillity of this beautiful, well-ordered space.



"Allegro (2011), created by Sally Kininmonth, realized in wrought iron by Steve Guilbault.

After lunch in the historic village of Knowlton, we set off along narrow, hilly country roads, to our next garden – Claire Leger's Domaine des fougères, also on Brome Lake. The Legers are keen collectors of local art, and this huge woodland garden was full of surprises that triggered our emotions and fused nature with art. Claire led us along a ferny trail through the woods to a clearing – the Sentier Haida – where three totem poles stood guard. Passing other sculptures, we came to the Refuge des petits – two huge rocks with just enough room for children (or small adults!) to slip between them into a magical fern-filled chamber. Further on, a silent black pool surrounded by mossy log stepping stones reflected the tall maple trees above and conjured up a feeling of silent awe. A wonderful

surprise was a lifesize metal sculpture of the outline of a horse on the edge of the woods, through which we could see the ploughed fields beyond. And what would maple woods be without a sugar shack? It was the most luxurious cabane à sucre we had ever seen! Beyond lay the house and great vistas overlooking the lake, enhanced by huge clumps of *Persicaria*. Dry-stone terraced steps, overgrown with thyme and rock plants, led down to the water and yet more ponds and sculptures in surprising places. Margaret set up the first of her legendary "tailgate parties" on the lawn, and we sipped mimosas and nibbled on fruit skewers as we gazed out at the lake. The rain had kindly held off all day, but a few showers sent us scuttling up to the shelter of the Legers' large, porticoed porch.



One of several wonderfully whimsical birdhouses in the woods at Domaine des fougères.

By the time we got back to our hotel (the very comfortable Estrimont Spa and Suites in Magog/Orford), we were ready for what Margaret kept mysteriously referring to as our "stone dinner". Our last surprise of the day was the dinner that we cooked ourselves on hot stones brought to our places! Delicious!



Peggy thanks our hosts Claude Allaire and Claire Leger.

Despite the weather forecast, Wednesday dawned sunny and beautiful, and we set off at 9 for our first garden – Glen Villa, in North Hatley on Lake Massawippi. How to describe Glen Villa! A 750-acre property owned by Pat and Norman Webster, its natural beauty is enhanced by man-made contemporary art and Asian artifacts. Another garden of woodland meadows and paths, rather than a traditional country garden, and also approached along a river complete with waterfall, it integrates nature and art, past and present, into a tapestry of personal experiences. Like the two previous gardens, this one is a stunning realization of the whimsical personal vision of its owner. Pat Webster, a creative steward of the land, led us enthusiastically around her vast property, which she has been working on since 1999. Another historic family property, it has also harboured Abenaki Indians, a sawmill, two nineteenth century hotels, summer camps and a cottage. Woven into the network of bark paths that lead through fields of wildflowers, ferny woodlands and landscaped gardens, are a series of woodland "rooms" designed to surprise and move the viewer and reflect the rich history of the site, the people who lived there, and Pat's own family. Throughout the property, works of art, many by Pat herself, create opportunities to pause for thought, to be aware of the surroundings, to consider the relationship between artifice and nature, the cultivated and the



Pat Webster speaks about her work titled "Tree Rings", 2016.

wild. From the distant Upper Field, with its art installation of Abenaki Walking, to the China Terrace, where a table is set with broken china from the former hotel, to the fabulous Aqueduct, channelling a natural cascade along elevated steel gutters into the lake, the garden is full of surprises, in turn reflective and humorous. Mass plantings of nepeta and astilbe soften and enhance the modern structures. Our group was particularly interested in the glossy green foliage of the *Darmera peltata* in the rock garden. Memories of the Websters' life and family, past and present, fill the Asian Meadow and



The Aqueduct.

indeed, every other part of the property. As in the first two gardens, water is an integral element and the natural streams and rocks of this hilly Quebec landscape have been tamed and beautified to please the eye. Glen Villa is sometimes open to selected visitors, and it is definitely worth checking out Pat's informative blog and website at www.SiteAndInsight.com.

Lunch at Hovey Manor nearby turned out to be yet another delightful surprise. The pillared, white manor house on the shore of Lake Massawippi was built in 1900 by Virginian Henry Atkinson, in the style of Mount Vernon, George Washington's house. Surrounded by English gardens, it is now a five-star inn and member of the Relais et Châteaux association. Our lunch, needless to say, was elegant and delicious, and we had time to wander around the roses and peonies afterwards.



Pauline Yelle, Cynthia Butler, Cynthia Hoisak and Pat Sylvester take advantage of a handy stone wall at Glen Villa.

Our second garden of the day, also near Lake Massawippi, was created by Judith Webster (Pat's cousin-in-law), and provided a complete contrast to the natural woodland gardens of Glen Villa and Domaine des fougères. Set in pastoral farmland, the traditional English perennial garden provided several unexpected pleasures. Passing the curving, yellow-green beds of Siberian iris, lady's mantle and hosta at the front of the house, we rounded the corner to come upon a glorious view across lawns, orchard and fields to the distant blue cone of Jay Peak in Vermont. As we walked through the dappled orchard, we glimpsed vistas of cows grazing beyond cedar rail fences, with the mountains beyond. Curious chickens rushed to check us out from their log coop beside the immaculate vegetable garden. Laid out in tidy rectangular beds, each with a wooden obelisk for



Serene plantings of box and white astrantia in Judith Webster's garden.



Garden tour uniform? Heather Brown and Cindy Boucher coincide!

climbers, and with a little parterre alongside, the healthy young vegetables shimmered in the June sunshine. As we climbed some stone steps beside the rose hedge, we were surprised by a magnificent herbaceous border along the side of the house, full of an interesting variety of plants – delphiniums, allium, and coreopsis, among others. Concealed behind another hedge was a swimming pool, and around another corner we found a perfect suntrap of a terrace, surrounded by three walls of the house. Altogether, a gardener's garden, and one in which symmetry, order and repetition helped create the peaceful atmosphere.

The road to our next stop, Bleu Lavande in Fitch Bay on Lake Memphramagog, took us across miles of rolling prosperous

farmland, with lovely views of lakes and mountains in the distance. Bleu Lavande (<https://bleulavande.com>) is a commercial lavender-growing operation, which also makes a line of health, beauty and home products. All are 100% chemical and additive-free. Only *Lavandula angustifolia* (English or "true" lavender), is grown and used. The lavender fields were beginning to show a haze of blue, but were not yet in full flower. After a video and a tour of the lavender oil distillery, we had a most satisfactory visit to the



Pretty landscaping at Bleu Lavande.

boutique, and came out laden with scented goodies to the happy discovery that Margaret had set up her tailgate party beside the bus!

Dinner back at the Estrimont, with its views of Mount Orford, and some swimming and hot-tubbing in its attractive spa area finished off another wonderful day full of unexpected delights. Our third and final day began with another lavish buffet breakfast and an unexpected run on waffle bathrobes (only \$22 at the reception desk!). The idea of a waffled group photo was considered but discarded! Our two last gardens of the tour were smaller, town gardens in Knowlton, beginning with the Andrea Dugald Reid Garden. The curving driveway, punctuated with whimsical stone animals wearing Canada Day bandanas, led us to a finely restored, blue and white Arts and Crafts house. Nestled into a hillside on the banks of yet another stream, lined with the huge green leaves of *Petasites japonicus*, also known as butterbur, the garden gradually revealed its surprises to us. We began with a charming garden shed on the lower level and then climbed some stone steps to discover another "little room" on the next level – a waterlily pond, bordered by stone sculptures of water birds and a huge assortment of perennials.



A heron keeping very still..

Weigela florida 'My Monet', with its green, white and pink leaves, and the feathery, pale pink flowers of *Polemonium reptans* 'Touch of Class', or creeping Jacob's Ladder. This part of the Townships is actually in Zone 5, which explains some of the more tender plants that thrive here.



Christine Sinclair and Ann Goldsmith – classmates reunited!

shaded with grape vines. The containers overflowed with interesting plantings – spider plants mingled happily with pale yellow verbena and white impatiens, for example. Truly an inspiration to those of us with smaller gardens.

After lunch and some retail therapy in the interesting village of Sutton, we reluctantly boarded the bus and felt that we were leaving a magical part of the country. Sure enough, as we left 'Narnia' and got closer to



Andrea appreciating her thank you gift of a pair of secateurs.

Further up the steps, we came upon hidden bird baths, shade gardens and more sculptures.

Andrea, who tends the garden on her own with her husband, described it as a "July garden" because of the preponderance of massed phlox, daylilies and astilbe, all about to burst into bloom. Working with the terrain, she has developed clever massings and placements, including the use of natural rocks planted with mosses and ferns. Unusual varieties of plants included the low, mounded

Our last garden was that of Christine Sinclair, who kindly welcomed us and explained her imaginative plantings. While it was the smallest of all the six gardens we visited, it was nonetheless charming, with its entrance through a little iron gate into a perfectly green and white space. The green and white house's deck was awash with containers of green and white plants, and looked out on a pretty swimming pool, backed by a mass of variegated willow, and a generous arbour



Christine's lovely green and white deck.

Montreal, we ran into torrential rain. We all cheered up as Margaret and our intrepid bus driver, Eric, negotiated rush hour traffic and an industrial wasteland to arrive at our last surprise – the huge and wonderful Centre du Jardin Brossard. Our unexpected arrival was warmly welcomed by the manager and staff of the centre, who showed us around, gave us carts and a 10% discount, and enthusiastically loaded our jungle of purchases onto the bus when we had finished! In the meantime, Margaret had of course set up our last tailgate party! After some worrying moments, we managed to jam all of our purchases into the bus and off we set home, with glasses of sangria being flourished, fronds of sorbaria, astilbe and persicaria waving out the window, and hundreds of happy memories to discuss on the road.

This was a good moment to thank everyone. Heather Brown presented Sally Hutchison and Peggy Morgan (our new President) with a card and earrings from Sutton, and gave a heartfelt speech thanking them for all their efforts in organizing such a splendid and memorable tour. Peggy then thanked Margaret for her superb organizing, and Eric for his calm and efficient driving.

This lovely trip was due in large part to the generosity of the six inspired gardeners and creators who opened their gardens and shared their enthusiasm and knowledge with us, and who enabled us to spend some very happy hours on the “bridge between Man and Nature.” As we left each garden, Peggy made a speech thanking the owners for allowing us to enjoy their creations and presenting them each with a token pair of secateurs and donations on their behalf to the following organizations: The Brome Lake Garden Club, the Massawippi Conservation Trust, and the Nick and Enid Carter Scholarship Fund, Stanstead College.

Helen Clark



WELL WORTH THE VISIT

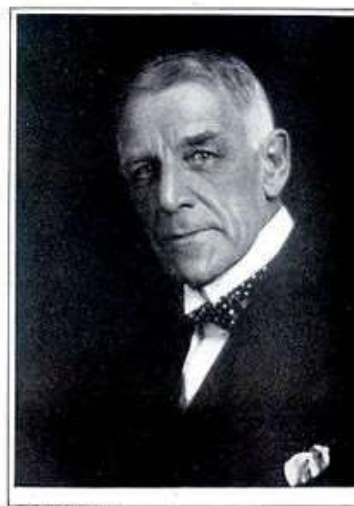
An Immigrant's Inspiration – Bok Tower Gardens, Florida

Regular travellers to Florida among you may already have discovered this little corner of Paradise about an hour south of Orlando, but for Helen Clark, husband Greg, and me it was a unexpected treat. During a trip last January, a little jaded by Orlando's endless maze of highways and shopping malls, and the omnipresence of all things Disney, we felt we needed to see the “real” Florida and find some peace and quiet. As we approached the Gardens, winding our way through miles of orange groves, and stepped out of the car to be greeted by the floating music of the Singing Tower carillon, we knew we had found what we were looking for.

The founder of Bok Tower Gardens, Edward W. Bok, immigrated to America from the Netherlands in 1869 at the age of six, and through determination and hard work, became a highly successful publisher, Pulitzer Prize-winning author

and philanthropist. During visits to his winter retreat near Lake Wales, Florida, Mr. Bok became enchanted with the beauty and stunning views from nearby Iron Mountain, which, at 298 feet above sea level, is one of Florida's highest points. Awed by the tranquillity of the area, he decided to buy land and establish a bird sanctuary, a place that would “touch the soul with its beauty and quiet”. With the help of famed landscape designer Frederick Law Olmstead, he transformed the sandy pine-studded hilltop into a sweeping landscape of lush gardens and wetlands, and as a token of his appreciation for the opportunities he had been given, he presented this extraordinary gift to the American people on Feb. 1, 1929.

And what a gift! Designed as an informal and contemplative space, there are acres of palms, pines, live oaks swathed in trailing epiphytic plants, tree ferns, hollies and more, all providing a lush green backdrop for the seasonal colour of azaleas, camellias and magnolias. We were there early in the season, but many shrubs were already blooming and scenting the air. Meandering



Edward W. Bok



The Tower and Carillon.

pathways lead the visitor through the various different garden areas: the Pollinator Garden features native and non-native perennials and provides a haven for birds, butterflies, bees and other nectar- and pollen-loving insects, an endangered plant area teaches about rare and threatened Florida species, and the Wild Garden demonstrates four diverse Florida ecologies in eight acres of native plants including a pine savannah, oak hammock, wetland, prairie and bog. Over 175 different native plant species were used to re-create these habitats mirroring the biodiversity and beauty of Florida's Pine Ridge. The Wild Garden also features a spectacular boardwalk that overlooks the Wildlife Pond and provides several peaceful places to sit and watch the inhabitants.

The architectural crowning glory of the gardens, however, is the spectacular 205-foot Singing Tower. Built on the highest point of the site, and housing a 60-bell carillon, one comes upon it suddenly through the trees, its extraordinary impact maximized by the reflecting pool and surrounding moat. Built of pink and grey marble and coquina stone in Gothic Revival and Art Deco style, it simply glows, especially in the setting sun. Edward Bok is buried here, and I don't think it's too fanciful to feel that somehow his generous and imaginative spirit is all around, reminding us gently in the words engraved on the Garden's entrance: "Give to the world the best you have, and the best will come back to you".

Felicity Garrard

INTRODUCING OUR NEW PRESIDENT

When Peggy Morgan joined the Ottawa Garden Club in 2012, it did not take her long to become completely engaged in club activities. Her first move was to join the team at the Perley and Rideau Health Centre, weeding the garden and decorating our postal cart, activities she continues to this day. In 2013, Peggy was asked to serve on the executive as Membership Chair and then two years later, when she was approached to serve as Vice-President, she willingly agreed. In the meantime, Peggy was also a key organizer, along with Sally Hutchison, of the wonderful garden tour of Prince Edward County in 2015, and our most recent fabulous tour to the Eastern Townships.

Peggy's sense of service and giving back to the community comes as no surprise, as she has been President of the Canadian Club in Ottawa and an active member of Christ Church Cathedral. She served as convenor of flowers at the church for many years and in June was one of the organizers of the Cathedral Flower Festival as part of Open Doors Ottawa.

Peggy was a long-time resident of Montreal, but came to Ottawa with her husband David when their first-born son, Bryn, was just a year old. They have three children, and Peggy stayed at home with them until they were all in school. She then embarked on a banking career, first with the Canadian Bankers' Association and then in government relations with the Royal Bank, where she remained until her retirement four years ago. They now have three grandchildren, two living in Ottawa.



Peggy became President of the Ottawa Garden Club at our AGM in May, and as I think everyone will agree, we are in very capable hands!

Heather Brown

OGC WEBSITE REMINDER

Don't forget to check out our elegant website at 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. You need to type in the entire URL to find the site, and there is no longer a password required to access it. Anyone with comments or suggestions may email heatherbrown@gmail.com