



AUTUMN 2014

THE BLOOMING NEWS

2014 EXECUTIVE

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UPCOMING PROGRAM EVENTS

🌀 **Friday, September 12, 2014 10:30 am**

WillowStone Farm, home of Victoria and David Hutton, 1490 Scott Road West, Acton's Corners

Flower Arranging Competitions

🌀 **Thursday, October 16, 2014 12:30pm**

Rockcliffe Park CC

**Landscaping with Alpines and
Rockery Plants**

Judy Wall

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

Rockcliffe Park CC

Garden Design Workshop

Dave Dunn, Rideau Woodland Ramble

🌀 **December - Christmas Party**

Date and location to be announced

🌀 **Thursday, January 15, 2014 10:30 am**

Royal Ottawa Golf Club, Aylmer Rd

**Art In The Garden: What, Where
and Why**

Pat Webster

see pages 3, 4 and 5 for details

WELCOME TO THE OTTAWA GARDEN CLUB

We are delighted to welcome these members to our club:

**Ann Goldstein, Heather McAdam,
Claire Schofield and Grace Strachan**

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Ottawa Garden Club has bid a fond farewell to our Diplomatic Representative Hildegarde van der Pluijm of Belgium, who has moved on to a new posting in Tunisia. From the moment she arrived in Ottawa four years ago, Hildegarde has been very active in the club, encouraging other diplomats to participate in meetings and events and bringing her own style of elegance and enthusiasm to the executive. As we say goodbye to Hildegarde, we are delighted to welcome Gill Drake, wife of the British High Commissioner, as our new Diplomatic Representative. We are indeed very fortunate with this "Changing of the Guard".



Hildegarde van der Pluijm and Gill Drake

Treaty of Ghent Rose Garden

Before leaving Ottawa, Hildegarde and her husband, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium, Bruno van der Pluijm, presented a very special gift to the City of Ottawa. On July 14, 144 rose bushes were donated to the city to commemorate the Treaty of Ghent. The treaty formally ended the War of 1812 when it was signed by British and American representatives after negotiations in Ghent, Belgium. Belgium was chosen as the location for negotiations because of its neutrality in the war. When the treaty was signed in the late summer of 1814, roses were given to the peace delegates. The one deemed the most beautiful, a garden rose, was named the Peace Flower of Ghent. This year, the roses are being planted in Washington and Ottawa. In Ottawa, the bushes are planted in front of the Heritage Building at city hall on Elgin Street, in an area that has been renamed Nelson Mandela Square.

THE BLOOMING NEWS Newsletter of

The Ottawa Garden Club
is published semi-annually
in January and in August.
Volume 15, #2, August 2014

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As you receive this edition of *The Blooming News*, we will be looking forward to our first celebration of fall by gathering at WillowStone Farm in Kemptville, home to Victoria and David Hutton. Many thanks to Victoria for welcoming us to her spectacular farm property. This meeting always signals to me that summer really is coming to a close. As I write this, we are experiencing a most glorious summer. For me, that means warm days, cool evenings and not too many days with high humidity. Perfect!



Lucinda Boucher

I missed the garden tour in June, which I heard was fabulous. Thanks to our members who opened their gardens for our membership to enjoy. I had a good reason though; the arrival of our first grandchild two days before the event. Penelope Leigh (also known endearingly as Poppy) has taken up most of my time this summer. As a result, my garden has a particularly "wild" look with the skies taking care of watering and the deer and groundhogs and other friends doing my pruning for me. In return, I have been weeding my daughter's city property at the expense of my own!

A warm welcome to our new members Grace Strachan, Claire Schofield, Heather McAdam and Ann Goldstein, and to Gill Drake, our new Diplomatic Representative. Two of our new members have already taken on roles within the Club and Gill has been busy communicating with her diplomatic colleagues to come and participate in some of our activities.

As you will note in the following pages, once again we had another very successful Bloomin' Art Show thanks to our talented artists who are members. This year, the Butterfly Garden at CHEO has benefited from the sale. Our AGM was very entertaining, including a lively presentation about Ottawa's Hidden Gardens by Katrina Siks. The foster plant presentations always bring much joy and laughter every May. Thanks to Kelly Noel for continuing to make this a fun endeavour!

Special thanks to your Executive Members who continue to give many hours of their time to help ensure the club has a vibrant program, warm hospitality and continues to enrich our community through our active outreach program.

We still have room for more volunteers!! We need someone to step up to our Treasurer position in the coming days, as Kelly will soon focus on her duties as your new President. We are still in need of a Boutique Manager and Joan Sirrs welcomes any help, either on occasion or ongoing to help provide our wonderful hospitality at our meetings.

I look forward to seeing you at Victoria's and many other activities your Program Committee has in store for us in the coming months.

With every good wish,

Lucinda (Cindy) E. Boucher, President

PROGRAM AUTUMN 2014

8th Annual Photo Competition

Here it is again!! Our almost famous photo competition! After last year's successful display, we know that there are lots of talented photographers amongst you! So please get your cameras out now and start clicking away or open those computers and find that perfect photo. Hopefully some of you have already taken spectacular shots this summer. Photos may be taken in private or public spaces. The display and judging by club members will take place at the March, 2015 meeting, so we are giving you plenty of notice to capture that Kodak moment!!



Categories:

Incredible Edibles

Edible plants – seed pods, leaves, fruit or flowers of any edible plant in your garden or wherever!

Hedging Your Bets

Hedges of all types- evergreen, deciduous, tall, short, linear, wavy - there are hedges everywhere. You might see them more when you are actually looking for them, and the variety is incredible, especially if you are visiting public gardens this summer!

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

The prize will be a complimentary one-year membership to the Ottawa Garden Club (or comparable gift) - a prize value of \$60.00.

Rules:

- Each competitor may enter a total of two images per category and may enter both categories.
- All entries are to be printed in a 4 x 6 format on photographic-quality paper.
- Write your name on the back of each photo and indicate the category in which it belongs, along with a title – a few words to describe the photo. Photographs will not be returned, unless arrangements are made to do so at the March meeting.

Entries are to be submitted by February 20, 2015 by placing photos in an envelope and handing them to Freda Godby or Mary Pratte at one of the club meetings or mailing them to Mary Pratte, 132 Lisgar Road, Ottawa, ON, K1M 0E6

- For more information, contact Mary Pratte at 613-746-6070 or gmpratte@sympatico.ca

Friday, September 12th, 2014

10:30 a.m

A Visit to WillowStone Farm

Home of Victoria and David Hutton

1490 Scott Road West, Acton's Corners

Flower Arranging Competitions

This year our annual September OGC meeting will be hosted by past president Victoria Hutton. She and her husband David are happy to welcome our members to their century-old 100 acre farm. Long untended whilst they were abroad with the Canadian Foreign Service, 45 acres of the farm lands have now been revitalized and the gardens, pond and new berm have been rejuvenated as a "labour of love". You are invited to stroll around the property, enjoy the paths that take you streamside or overlooking the beaver pond, or just to take a breather in the gazebo, after gathering your floral material from the garden and surrounds.



Categories:

Victoria has initiated three categories for our annual flower arranging competition. The titles are from songs from the seventies

- **Sunny Days**, and
- **Take a Walk on the Wild Side**

Victoria also suggested a special 3rd "country category", named to celebrate the inevitable and perennial "unwanted flowers" that populate...

- **I will survive!**

The categories will be judged by the following criteria:

- a. The arrangement reflects the title of the category;
- b. The designer can explain why these certain floras were used;
- c. Only flora from WillowStone Farm was used;
- d. Creativity and presentation.

Please bring containers, garden shears and oasis if needed.

Judges

The judges will pick first and second place in each category. Marianne Feaver's beautifully painted prize ribbons will be awarded to our winners.

Some of you might like to just wander the beautiful grounds of WillowStone Farm or sit, relax and enjoy the surroundings. Please bring your lunch and a lawn chair. Our hospitality committee will provide refreshments and delicious treats.

Directions:

From Ottawa, find your way to the 416 South, either by getting on from the Queensway, 417 West or by following Highway 16 to the Bankfield South Entrance to the 416 (near Manotick) and following the Hwy 416 South until the Kemptville West Exit 34 (approx. 30 min).

From Exit 34 Kemptville West exit onto Hwy 43 W towards Merrickville. Continue straight on Hwy 43 through two roundabouts to Kemptville. Proceed straight on Hwy 43 W through another roundabout, continuing approximately 11 km on Hwy 43. You will see our "WillowStone" Chapel (Historic Stone Church, St. Augustine's) on your left at Acton's Corners Road. Turn right onto Acton's Corners Road. Proceed approx 2 km. You will cross a small bridge, and immediately turn left onto Scott Road West (dead end sign). We're about half way down, and we'll put out a sign for: WillowStone Farm, 1490 Scott Road West Acton's Corners, Ontario K0G 1J0

Please park in the mowed grass field next to the barn, just inside the driveway gates.

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

Please note that there is no rain date.



Thursday, October 16th 12:30 p.m.

Rockcliffe Park CC

Landscaping with Alpines and Rockery Plants

Judy Wall

Come and enjoy a talk and slide presentation from Judy Wall, the owner and operator of Rock Wall Gardens located just east of Perth. Judy will be discussing how to landscape with alpines and



Judy Wall

rockery plants. In addition, she will show us "small treasures" which we can grow in our gardens despite the fact that these plants normally are not found here.

Judy Wall was trained in horticulture through the University of Guelph. She became a Master Gardener with the Lanark County Group and is the Past President of the Ottawa Rock Garden

Society. In addition, she is a member of several alpine societies located throughout the world. Judy has an absolute passion for alpines and rockery plants, and so fifteen years ago she opened Rock Wall Gardens. She loves the challenge of learning how to germinate and grow unique plants in our area - plants which normally cannot be found here. These plants are grown and germinated on site at Rock Wall Gardens. Currently, they have over 700 varieties of plants in the garden, some still in their testing stages. It is truly a wonderful, inspirational garden for all types of gardening enthusiasts.

For more information on this incredible garden visit: <http://www.rockwallgardens.com/index.html>

Also at this meeting:

Share the Harvest

Patsy Fyfe will coordinate special decorative and gourmet indulgences to celebrate the Harvest Season. Look forward to a special treat!

Thursday, November 20th 12:30 p.m.

Rockcliffe Park CC

Garden Design Workshop: Lessons from the Ramble

Dave Dunn, Rideau Woodland Ramble

This presentation will incorporate all aspects of design and design tools, with images and examples from the seven acres of gardens at Rideau Woodland Ramble (RWR). The workshop will highlight design considerations that begin with site conditions and opportunities, and move to a



Rideau Woodland Ramble

variety of design choices around colour, contrast, form, texture, composition, surprise and humour.

RWR (www.rideauwoodlandramble.com) is a garden centre and display garden located near Merrickville. The Ramble is organized around two major themes: dramatic and mature display gardens and trails open to the public, and the garden centre which sells rare and unusual hostas, grasses, conifers, magnolias and a wide range of shrubs, trees and perennials.

Dave Dunn is a graduate of the School of Architecture, Carleton University (1976) and is a member (retired) of the Ontario Association of Architects.

Also at this meeting:

10th 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 gets to adopt this year's houseplant. You just have to chronicle its care and progress, bring it back at the AGM in May and provide a brief summary of the experience. We have heard many an amusing tale about these plants - whether they

have thrived or barely survived. As always, each foster parent will be rewarded with a fabulous gift for her participation.

Sign-up sheet for the Christmas Party – first come, first served!

And....Sign up and pay for our annual January Luncheon- to be held again this year at the Royal Ottawa Golf Club.



Thursday, January 15th 10:30 p.m.

Royal Ottawa Golf Club, Aylmer Road

Art In The Garden: What, Where and Why – Pat Webster

Pat Webster knows of what she speaks – she is an artist who lives in the Eastern Townships, southeast of Montréal, on a 750 acre property which has been featured in print and on television. She will talk about

how we use art in our gardens, whether it is permanent or ephemeral, whether it is the use of texture, colour, shape in plants or hard surfaces or through good placement of statuary. Pat has visited gardens in North America and



Pat Webster

Europe and has recently returned from a tour she led in Tuscany (last year it was English gardens).

Pat has mounted exhibitions which explore the ways people interact with the natural world – how they shape it, and how they are shaped by it. This will be a most interesting lecture which will put into words and pictures what many of us have thought about when in our own gardens or visiting others' and will open our eyes to the art which is all around us.

N.B: Don't forget to check your closets for that special item for our annual "Bring and Buy!"

Gardens are a form of autobiography.

Sydney Eddison

TOUR OF MEMBERS' GARDENS, JUNE 19th

On a sunny day in mid-June, many of us enjoyed a tour of seven members' gardens in Rockcliffe, Manor Park and New Edinburgh. To make the tour even more interesting, each garden contained a mystery plant to be identified by the viewers. (For the answers, see box on next page).

In most of the gardens, beckoning gates (symbolic passageways into new worlds) led us into charmed green spaces. In Manor Park, Betty Smallridge's garden welcomed us with a 50 year-old "mother-in-law's tongue" (*Sansevieria trifasciata*) before a gate took us across a dappled deck, festooned with red clematis, and into a charming cottage garden. Shade plantings of pulmonaria, hosta and brunnera, and a resident butterfly hovering over sunny beds of peonies and other perennials combined to enchant us.



One of Beth Stikeman's colourful containers

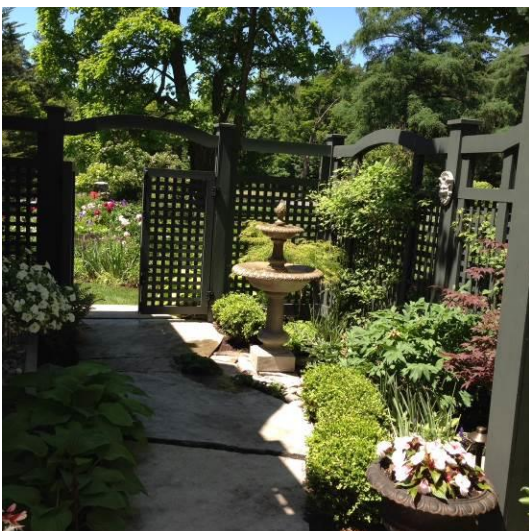
Across the street, Beth Stikeman's garden path encouraged us to meander past curving shade beds overflowing with hostas, ligularia and pachysandra, and bright peony beds, to the magic gate. White-arched, it led to an "outdoor room" roofed in grapevines, where imaginative containers combined sambucus (elderberry), salvia and tradescantia, and small receptacles held miniature ponds.

In Rockcliffe, Mary Pratte's front beds were ablaze with (what else!) peonies – more than 75 of them, wild and cultivated, in all colours. Another gate led us past Mary's charming garden shed to the swimming pool, terrace and gazebo. These were surrounded by containers of

dark blue and purple petunias and salvia. Vases of multi-hued peonies stood on the tables, and in the cool screened porch giant clamshells held the floating heads of yet more peonies.

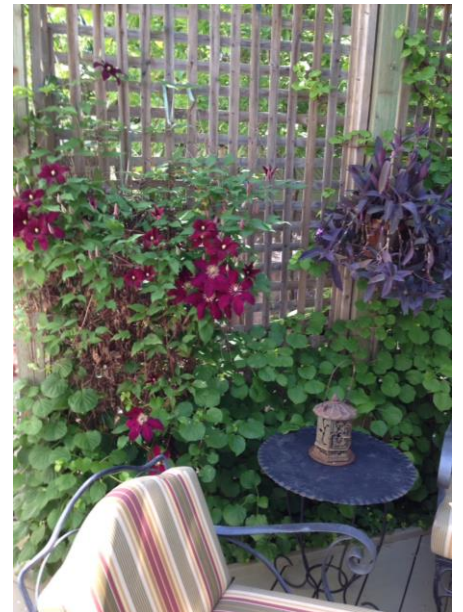
Carol Henderson's garden opened into a series of

"garden rooms," which Carol has likened to a symphony – the music changing as the seasonal flowers come and go. One featured a border of



A "magic gateway" in Mary Pratte's garden

luxuriant peonies and other perennials glowing against an old cedar hedge, while in a cool shady area behind the house, a flourishing climbing hydrangea covered the balcony. Neva Bruce's woodland garden contained graceful variegated ferns, hostas and wood anemones. The cascading spiky blossoms



Betty Smallridge's pretty deck



Helen Clark, Peggy Morgan, Sally Hutchison, Mary Pratte, Deidre Graham and Mary Udd enjoy the sunshine.

of a large goat's beard (*Aruncus dioicus*) shielded a sunny area behind the house where a traditional English rose bed and curving perennial borders featured astilbe, ornamental grasses, lavender, heuchera, and even wild bloodroot with huge sculpted leaves.



Neva Bruce's spectacular Goat's Beard

In New Edinburgh, Liz Kane's historic house was surrounded by literally hundreds of thriving hostas and other shade plants such as ligularia, astilbe and cimicifuga. Pots of bright yellow begonias added sunny highlights, while the brighter area bordering the sidewalk was planted with purple catmint and spikes of dark pink perennial sage. In a sheltered sunny corner against the



Sunny begonias amid hostas in Liz Kane's garden

house, honeysuckle, a John Cabot rose and peonies were thriving. Across the road, Jean Bellefleur has created a

magical layered garden of secret rooms. Once past

the colourful perennial beds

beside the old brick house, a gate led the eye along a meandering stone path, curving under trees and past a small rocky pond to a sunny terrace with convivial groups of tomatoes staked in pots. Willow furniture and archways, sculpture, and an interesting "sheep fence" completed the effect.



Jean Bellefleur's meandering path and gate

It was with great reluctance that the tour's participants emerged from these lovely secret worlds into the reality of a hot June day! Sincere thanks are due to the seven generous garden owners and the volunteers who helped organize this excellent tour.

Helen Clark

What WERE those mystery plants? Answers below:

Betty & Colin Smallridge - *Rogersia*

Beth & Tony Stikeman - *Rudbeckia* 'Herbstsonne'

Carol & John Henderson - *Dictamnus alba* (Gas plant)

Mary & Guy Pratte - *Ampelopsis brevipedunculata* 'Elegans' (Porcelain Berry Vine)

Neva Bruce-Cuthbertson & David Cuthbertson - *Filipendula* (Meadowsweet)

Liz Kane & Gordon Jackson - *Acanthus spinosus* (Bear's Breeches)

Jean Bellefleur & Philip MacAdam - *Sanguinaria canadensis* (Bloodroot)



Cedar hedge backdrop for Carol Henderson's luxuriant perennials.

To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow.

Audrey Hepburn

HIGHLIGHTS OF MEETINGS

Members of the Ottawa Garden Club were treated to a rich and varied program this year, with presentations on everything from the chemistry of building rich garden soil to the philosophy behind creating naturalistic gardens. There were too many highlights to mention them all, but two presentations by speakers from outside the Ottawa area were especially noteworthy.



Dr. Paul Fritz and partner Dr. David Russo

bring the natural world into the garden rather than trying to control it. The most famous of the Dutch gardeners is Piet Oudolph whose public projects include the Millennium Garden in Chicago, the 9/11 Garden of Remembrance in Manhattan, and the High Line in New York. According to Oudolph, "Traditional gardening is too dogmatic. Why do you have to deadhead if the plant looks good? Why do you have to stake a plant that is falling over gracefully? Above all, I like a simple



Joan Drummond, Ruth Weir and Lee Smith

For example:

- The 'best' display of rhododendrons - Hatley Gardens of Royal Roads University;
- The 'best' display of blue poppies - Memorial University Botanical Gardens, Van Dusen Gardens in Vancouver and the UBC Botanical Garden;
- The most impressive native plantscape - prairie crocuses at the Devonian Botanical Garden;
- The most breathtaking natural landscape - lupins growing wild throughout the Atlantic provinces.
- The 'best' display of peonies - Central Experimental Farm
- The most spiritual site - Mackenzie King Estate

For anyone interested in further information on her tour, please go to www.canadagardenroute.ca. Lorraine's special draw prize (a round trip to Toronto on VIA rail) was won by member Pat Padmos.

Heather Brown

In January, retired professor of history Paul Fritz talked about the importance of the "experience" of gardening, which he says should be enjoyable and stress free. He said that traditional gardening can be overwhelming with its emphasis on weeding, deadheading, and watering. He told us about the new Dutch way of gardening which focuses on simple garden design,

textures and colours. He said we should



Pamela Armstrong and Anstace Esmonde-White

layout so the planting can do the rest." (Following the January meeting, Paul asked to join the OGC and is now a Consultant for our club).

In April, Master Gardener and Garden Writer Lorraine Flanigan treated us to a slide presentation of her trip across Canada to visit many of the top gardens on the Via Rail Garden Route. It was an exciting, whirlwind trip and she regaled us with stories of visiting public gardens, botanical gardens, garden exhibits and farmers' markets. She tempted us to visit some of these gardens by telling of her "Best" experiences.



Blue poppies (*Meconopsis betonicifolia*) at Van Dusen

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - FEES AND FUN!

For the first time in a number of years, the annual fee for membership in the Ottawa Garden Club has been increased. The motion to increase fees from \$50 to \$60 received unanimous support at the AGM held May 15. In tabling the motion, OGC President Lucinda Boucher said the executive was seeking more funds to support the work of the program committee. "The committee works tirelessly to invite interesting and knowledgeable speakers to our monthly meetings. Sometimes additional funds are required to attract an outstanding speaker from outside the Ottawa area," she said. "I think everyone would agree that it is worth a few extra dollars to enhance our programming." And everyone did.

In other business, the Chairs of the various committees gave their reports. Membership Chair Pamela Armstrong reported that there are currently 131 members including 99 regular members, 14 associates, and six consultants, and 12 diplomats. Cindy then welcomed four new members to the club: Ann Goldstein, Heather McAdam, Claire Schofield and Grace Strachan. The new members were introduced by their sponsors, giving everyone a glimpse into their activities and interests. "New members are important to the club as they bring new energy and enthusiasm," Cindy said.



Chris Edwards chronicles her plant's miserable life

Treasurer Kelly Noel presented the budget for the 2013-14 fiscal year ending April 30. She noted that most of our annual income comes from membership fees which cover all Administrative expenses (facilities rental, gifts, hospitality); Community Outreach (Esmonde-White Award, Perley Garden); Program (monthly meetings and speakers) and Special Events. This year, we had the additional expense of purchasing a new screen and supports for the meeting room at the Rockcliffe Community Centre. As a result, there was a slight deficit on the year but an overall accumulated balance of \$6,678.00

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The final item of business was the motion to approve the new executive slate for 2014-2015. There were a few changes from last year, most notably that our Diplomatic Representative, Hildegard van de Pluijm, was leaving the club and the country. Hildegard made a very special contribution to the club and will be missed (see page 2). Cindy was delighted to announce that Gill Drake, wife of the British High Commissioner, had agreed to assume the role of Diplomatic Representative. Other changes were the departure of Mary Mahoney from the boutique, which she has ably managed for the past four years, and Pamela Armstrong from the role of Membership Secretary. Peggy Morgan, who joined the club a year ago, will assume the Membership position. Cindy says there are still two positions open for anyone who would like to join the executive: Boutique Manager and Treasurer. Anyone interested in either of these two positions should contact Cindy at lucindaboucher@gmail.com.

I tried...but it died...

Next on the agenda was the much-anticipated return of the foster plants. Last November, six lucky members were selected as foster parents to lovely little miniature roses. The foster parents – Chris Edwards, Joan Andrews, Mary Mahoney, Marianne Feaver, Carol Henderson (with Rina Eyre) and Jean Palmer -- were given detailed instructions on how to care for these healthy little specimens and asked to return to the AGM to



Marianne Feaver in mourning...

report on their fostering experience.

Not one of them survived! Five stick-like plants and one plastic imitation returned and were a pitiful

sight indeed. Rather than being remorseful, parents were quite defensive as they told tales of character defects (the plants), sulking (again, the plants), reincarnation, failure to thrive and eventually acute care. At one point we were asked for a moment of silence. It was hilarious. Despite the lack of skill and success, the foster parents were rewarded with wonderful gifts.

Heather Brown

This busy meeting also included the wonderful **Hidden Harvest** presentation:

Do you know how much edible fruit is growing in *your* garden? Garden Club members were treated to a fascinating and enthusiastic presentation by **Katrina Siks**, co-founder of Hidden Harvest Ottawa. This "social purpose business" organizes harvests of existing urban fruit and nut trees, helps community groups to plant fruit trees, and sells edible trees, with the goal of fostering the largest urban orchard in Eastern Canada. It's estimated that there are 17,000 fruit and nut trees in Ottawa alone, ranging from apple and crabapple to chokecherry and hazelnut. The produce that would otherwise go to waste is shared with homeowners, volunteer pickers, the local food bank, and partners like the Culinary School at Algonquin College, which makes jam and donates it to charity. Last year, Hidden Harvest held 45 events and picked 5,000 lbs of fruit and nuts from 80 trees.



Heartnut (Asian Walnut)

Katrina asked our members to identify various types of nuts that she had brought with her, including butternuts, black walnuts and the fascinating heartnut (Asian Walnut), which opens like a locket. She challenged us to try growing heartnuts for next year's meeting! If you would like to have fruit or nuts gleaned from your trees, or if you would like to volunteer as a picker or buy a tree, visit the Hidden Harvest website at <http://ottawa.hiddenharvest.ca/>. For more specific instructions on donating a tree to a community group, or to see Katrina's photos, go to the News page, scroll down to the Protected Ottawa Garden Club Presentation entry, and enter the password "OttawaGardenClub" when prompted.

Helen Clark

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## ANOTHER BLOOMIN' SHOW

Once again the talented artists of the Garden Club treated us to a magnificent and varied display of their recent work, this year giving generously of their sale proceeds - a total of \$1070 - to the Butterfly Garden at CHEO. The Butterfly Garden was created in partnership with the Ottawa Chapter of Compassionate Friends in memory of children of all ages who have passed away. Designed in the shape of a butterfly with a paved body and wings of flowers, it is a peaceful place for families to visit and find consolation.

As last year, the Ottawa Garden Club Art Show was exhibited at the Rockcliffe Retirement Residence, and the Vernissage on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May attracted a lively crowd. The show continued until June 8<sup>th</sup> from noon to four each day, and featured beautiful works in many different media by artists Dianne Breton, Pam Gibb-Carsley, Marianne Feaver, Patsy Fyfe, Gloria Hanff, Bev Hyde, Mary Hardwick, Joan Kellett, Mary Pratte and Beth Stikeman.



Mary Hardwick and her artworks



Joan Kellett with grandson Lachlan

Taking part in the exhibition held special significance for Joan Kellett, whose now two year-old grandson Lachlan was born six weeks early with serious heart problems. He was treated at CHEO, and after being closely monitored for two years has now been declared fit and healthy. Four of Joan's friends bought her work and all of the proceeds will go to CHEO. Mary Hardwick's artworks were also a special tribute to family. Mary's mother, Dr. Dorothy Saxton, took up Oriental brush painting at the age of 75 after retiring from a career as a Public Health physician. Mary, as a homage to her mother, took the lovely ink paintings on rice paper that resulted and incorporated them into her own encaustic works, creating, as she says, "a collaboration between mother and daughter". Special thanks to Beth and Marianne for organizing and hanging this terrific show.

*Felicity Garrard*



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH REPORT

This year's late spring and a major influenza outbreak at the Perley Rideau Veterans' Health Centre, meant that we were late getting to work in our Rideau South courtyard garden. However things were left in good shape last fall and we soon caught up with the weeding and deadheading. We unfortunately completely missed seeing the tulips in bloom, as that was the time that all volunteers were asked to stay away, in an attempt to control the infection.

Barb Brown, the horticultural therapist at the Perley and our liaison there, asked earlier this year if we would consider taking on the maintenance of the Rideau North courtyard as well, as she has very little time to work on it and the company that looks after the grounds is not responsible for the courtyards. After consulting with our loyal team of 10 Garden Club members, it has been agreed that we will look after the weeding and deadheading there. It is a well-established garden and a smaller space, so I think we should be able to handle the extra load and look forward to working in another tranquil oasis.

We all have a good time gardening together and really enjoy the atmosphere at the Perley. We would welcome new members to our team, so please give me a call if you would like to join us – even if you are away in the summer, you might be interested in helping with spring or fall cleanups.

## Postal Cart

There is no end to Cynthia Hoisak and Dianne Breton's imaginations and I am in awe of how they continue to have new ideas for decorating the postal cart in the entranceway. This July and August, residents, their

families and visitors were welcomed to a bright summery beach scene as they entered the facility. It certainly lifted the hearts of all!



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

*Sally Hutchison*

## IN MEMORIAM

We lost our good friend **Rachel Burton** last January 22, 2014. She was eighty-six. She hadn't been active in the garden club for quite a few years so many of our newer members probably hadn't met her. She was really special.

When I was President of the club, Rachel was Membership Director, a job she carried out with the high-tech skills of a computer programmer and the sensitivity of a career diplomat. She made everyone feel welcome. She greeted them at the door with a warm, cheery smile, asked them how they were, and gave them the correct name tag. Rachel also brightened up our world in other ways. She used to bring bundles of bright yellow forsythia which she had managed to force to January meetings, and in February tiny bouquets of snowdrops which she had picked from under the snow by the foundation of her house.

I think those of us who knew her will remember her most, however, for her gentle way of settling contentious garden club issues. "Ah yes," Rachel would say, "but we wouldn't want to do that. We are after all 'dear ladies of the garden club'". Sometime when Kelly Noel refers to Ottawa Garden Club members as "dear ladies of the garden club" you will all know from whom she borrowed the expression.

*Jane Panet*

As many of you know, **Hilary Nicolson** passed away in July, aged 60. Hilary was a joyful, gentle soul to her family here in Canada and extended family in the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, and a dear friend to many including members of the Ottawa Garden Club. While Hilary has left us all too soon, her legacy will be the manner in which she lived her life – fully, graciously, generously, with a great love for her family, her friends, Canada, and with a curiosity and respect for all that is beautiful. Our heartfelt condolences to Hilary's mother, Joan Warren, and her family.

*Lucinda (Cindy) Boucher*

# BOOKWORM

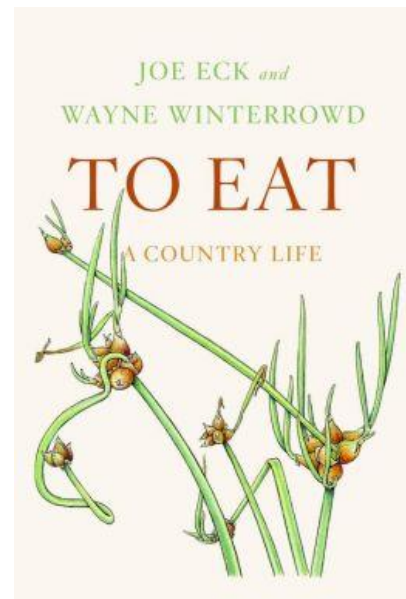


"Bookworm" features short reviews and recommendations of gardening books chosen by the editors as well as, we hope, Garden Club members. We welcome your input, so if you have a favourite book you'd like to share, please send a brief description to either [heather.brown@rogers.com](mailto:heather.brown@rogers.com) and/or [felicity.garrard@gmail.com](mailto:felicity.garrard@gmail.com).

## **To Eat - A Country Life** by Joe Eck and Wayne Winterrowd

Last summer I came across a memorable book about the path our food travels from garden to table. In *To Eat*, Eck and Winterrowd write about gardening the way culinary author M.F.K. Fisher wrote about food, which is to say with love and an enormous appetite for life. It is rare to find a book about a garden that one cannot put down before fully devouring, and this is one of those. Not only is it full of well considered growing and harvesting ideas, but it also becomes a friend in the kitchen for preparing the foods that one has carefully sown and cultivated. By the time this book was written, the authors' unique vegetable garden at North Hill, Vermont had become a legend in the international gardening world, a result of their numerous books and articles in the *New York Times* and other periodicals.

*To Eat* evokes the joys, tribulations and gustatory triumphs associated with seeking the varieties that give the greatest culinary pleasure, while reminding us of the comfortable rhythms of the gardening year. The information gained through their own experiments with harvesting and storage is celebrated with recipes by renowned chef and restaurateur Beatrice Tosti di Valminuta. This book is not only a celebration of life together, and a tribute to the development of a very personal country way of life, it is filled with rich personal stories, funny and moving. *To Eat* is beautifully illustrated with line drawings by their longtime collaborator Bobbi Angell. I would venture this lovely book would be of equal relevance to the armchair aficionado as to the most hands-on gardener. Writing this review for the *Blooming News* has made me realize that it is probably time to reread *To Eat* in preparation for harvest time - and just for the sheer joy of it.



Published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux New York 2013

Victoria Hutton



## HOW TO SPONSOR A NEW MEMBER

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

1. Any member can invite a guest to a meeting (except the December tea) but you must be a member for two full years before you may sponsor a potential new member and you may only nominate one per year.
2. Invite your friend to attend a meeting. Make sure to tell president Cindy Boucher ([lucindaboucher@gmail.com](mailto:lucindaboucher@gmail.com) or 819-827-2050) in advance so she can introduce your guest – this is important so that there is a record of her attendance as a guest. Prospective members must have attended at least two meetings as a guest before they can be nominated for membership. Remember that there is a \$5 guest fee.
3. Obtain a nomination form from membership chair Peggy Morgan ([peggymorgan440@gmail.com](mailto:peggymorgan440@gmail.com)). This should be completed and submitted to Peggy (440 Athlone Avenue, Ottawa K1Z 5M7) AFTER the candidate has attended two meetings and BEFORE the end of March each year. Note that this form requires the signature of the sponsor, a co-sponsor and the candidate.
4. New members are admitted by the executive at its April meeting each year. The membership chair will inform those who have been accepted. The new members will be introduced at the AGM in May. They will also be honoured at a special Luncheon later in the year, usually October.
5. Nominations received after the end of March will be held over until the following year.
6. The number of new members admitted each year depends on the total number of members in the club.