

AUTUMN 2018

THE BLOOMING NEWS

2018 EXECUTIVE

President

Peggy Morgan 613-722-1619

Past President

Kelly Noel 613-722-8037

Vice President

Heather Brown 613-697-1315

Secretary

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 613-728-5502

Pat Sylvester 613-745-9619

Pauline Yelle 613-747-2896

Community Outreach

Sally Hutchison 613-728-2981

Pat Padmos 613-741-1703

Membership Secretary

Karen Junke 613-232-7514

Telephone Convenor

Elizabeth Dale-Harris 613-745-5950

Boutique Manager

Victoria Hutton 613-258-2822

Hospitality

Joan Sirrs 613-733-6552

Blooming News

Heather Brown 613-697-1315

Felicity Garrard 613-728-7710

Helen Clark 613-729-5571

Photographers

Cynthia Hoisak 613-837-7798

Barbara Brown 613-728-7520

Website

Heather Brown 613-697-1315

UPCOMING PROGRAM EVENTS

🌀 Thursday, September 13, 2018

**Members' Garden Tours and Guided
Tour of Beechwood Cemetery**

🌀 Thursday, October 18, 2018 12:30 pm

Rockcliffe Park CC

Delphiniums: 'Queen of the Border'

**Hazel and Joe Cook,
Blossom Hill Nursery**

🌀 Thursday, November 15, 2018 12:30 pm

Rockcliffe Park CC

Floral Arrangements for the Holidays

Virginia Vince of Bloomfields Flowers

🌀 December, 2018 – **Christmas Party**

Details to be announced

🌀 Thursday, January 17, 2019 10:30 am

Royal Ottawa Golf Club, Aylmer Road

Learning to Look:

The Art of Garden Observation

Pat Webster

WELCOME TO THE OTTAWA GARDEN CLUB

We are delighted to welcome these diplomatic
members to our club:

Liwen Wang – China

Maria José González de Cossio - Mexico

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As we embark on a new season of the Ottawa Garden Club and look forward to the interesting presentations organized by our wonderful Program Committee, I have been reflecting on our meetings over the past few months. In February, we heard about the evolution of the landscapes of Nepean Point and Major's Hill Park, an interesting historical perspective of the past in that area and the projected future. March brought us Gwynneth Evans and Tom Delsey, two lifelong friends who made it their 150th project to catalogue all the wild flowers and shrubs on the hiking trails of Gatineau Park. In April, just in time for our own plantings, Christine Libon gave us all sorts of ideas for designing containers (and mentioned that the Ottawa Garden Club was her favourite place to speak!). And in May, Kelly Noel, Marilyn Light and Renée Smith answered our questions – amid great hilarity! Pat Sylvester passed around the "Can o' Worms" and encouraged members to drop their gardening questions into the can. We are hoping to continue the practice of having a question from the "Can o' Worms" answered by one of our resident experts (of whom there are many) at each meeting. So, if you have a perplexing garden question, think of adding it to the can.



The Executive has decided that we must continue with the "no guest" policy for the next year. There is a legal limit on the numbers allowed in the room at the Rockcliffe Park Community Centre, so we are constrained by that limit. If we wish to increase our membership, we would have to consider moving to a different location.

Two members of the Executive Committee resigned their positions this spring. We thank Gloria Williams, who served in various capacities on the Executive for 16 years, and Dinah Showman, who ran the Boutique with cheerful efficiency.

Sadly, we have lost several long-time members of the Garden Club over the past few months. Brief tributes to their memories can be found in the In Memoriam section on page 12.

As always, I am indebted to the excellent Executive of the Garden Club. Their cheerful effectiveness makes everything run smoothly and appear so effortless. And to you, the "Lovely Ladies of the Garden Club" (copying from Kelly Noel here) – thanks for making the Club the warm and welcoming place that it is.

Peggy Morgan

THE BLOOMING NEWS

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Advisors: Heather Brown
Helen Clark
Distribution: Kelly Noel
Photographers: Cynthia Hoisak
Barbara Brown

Website: www.ogc.website

*Anyone who wants to rule the world
should try to rule a garden first.*

Anon

PROGRAM AUTUMN 2018

Thursday, September 13, 2018

Members' Garden Tours and Guided Tour of Beechwood Cemetery

Several of our Ottawa Garden Club members have graciously opened their gardens from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm, and look forward to your visit. You may view the gardens in any order. Each one is unique and you will appreciate the owner's creativity, her choice of plant material and/or hardscape design. Once you have finished the morning tour, there will be a lunch break at your choice of restaurant. (Details and addresses of members' gardens will be provided at a later date.)

At 1:45 pm we will gather at Beechwood Cemetery, 280 Beechwood Avenue, for a 2:00 pm guided tour. We will learn about its long history and view the beautiful gardens. We hope to see you all there.



The Pavilion at Beechwood.

Thursday, October 18, 2018

12:30 pm

Rockcliffe Park CC

Delphiniums: 'Queen of the Border'

**Hazel and Joe Cook,
Blossom Hill Nursery**

There are over 350 delphinium species, primarily native to mountainous regions. These strong, hardy plants, with their impressive floral display, truly deserve the title 'Queen of the Border'. They are one of the few garden plants that flower true blue, as well as mauve, purple, pink, cream, white or bicolour.

The British strain, *Delphinium elatum*, is very hardy, disease-resistant and relatively trouble-free. Although hardy, like all plants, it thrives

in ideal conditions. Hazel and Joe will address how to create such conditions, along with a few basic growing techniques that will ensure quality spikes. The Cooks specialize in the hybridization and propagation of *Delphinium elatum*, but have now introduced their own Canadian strain.

Hazel and Joe, with their daughter Amy, have operated this family-owned business since 1994. Located just north of Peterborough in Selwyn Township, Blossom Hill Nursery features perennial display gardens as well as trial beds in the fields containing over 1000 delphinium plants, and more than 5000 peonies. The Cooks' second passion has resulted in an extensive peony collection of over 600 varieties, including species, tree, herbaceous and intersectional peonies. They have won many awards both in Canada and the United States. More recently, their interest in horticulture has led to a third passion – bee-keeping. The Cooks are busy bees indeed!



Hazel and Joe Cook.

*The greatest gift of the garden is
the restoration of the five senses.*

Hanna Rion

Thursday, November 15, 2018

12:30 pm

Rockcliffe Park CC

Floral Arrangements for the Holidays

**Virginia Vince of Bloomfields
Flowers**

Please join us as Virginia Vince from Bloomfields Flowers animates our imaginations with ideas for floral arrangements for the holiday season. Virginia will assemble a centrepiece, one or two wreaths and a container that will allow you to capitalize on whatever might still be available in your garden. The finished items will be awarded as door prizes at the end of the meeting.



Many of you will be familiar with Bloomfields Flowers, situated in both in the Glebe and Wellington West neighbourhoods. To enter one of these shops is to step into a beautiful atmosphere, and discover irresistible floral designs, fine attention to detail and warm attentive service. Bloomfields always has gorgeous local and seasonal flowers – including farm flowers from their Sandy Hill Farm in Prince Edward County – as well as exquisite decor and gifts for family or friends.

Bloomfields Flowers has also been very responsive to the community, assisting with events for Hospice Care Ottawa, Glebe Neighbourhood Children's programs at the Glebe Community Centre and Cornerstone Housing for Women, to name just a few. Be sure to join us!

Also at this meeting...sign up and pay for our annual January Luncheon to be held at the Royal Ottawa Golf Club.

December, 2018

Christmas Party – details to be announced

Thursday, January 17, 2019

10:30 am

Royal Ottawa Golf Club, Aylmer Road

Learning to Look: The Art of Garden Observation

Pat Webster

Henry David Thoreau said it best: "It is not what you look at that matters but what you see." Using her photos from gardens in Europe and North



Pat Webster

America, Pat Webster will help us to "see" our gardens – what works and what doesn't. She examines the details that can make a difference and the importance of considering the garden in its context. Discussing helpful tools, she shows how photographs can help or hinder our analysis of what we are looking at. Finally, she highlights how we can apply these ideas to make our gardens even better!



**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!

HIGHLIGHTS OF WINTER MEETINGS

Garden Wit and Wisdom: David Hobson's highly entertaining talk, "Beyond the Pail", at our January 18th Royal Ottawa Golf Club luncheon was a perfect antidote to the mid-winter doldrums. Introduced by fellow Yorkshire-person Grace Strachan, he had us laughing from the very start, when, wanting to reassure us of his credentials as a gardener, he showed us a photo of "his" garden – actually a photo of Powerscourt, a magnificent stately home in Ireland! In fact, the images of his actual garden in Waterloo, Ontario, left us in no doubt that we were in the presence of someone who was not only a gifted writer and humourist but also thoroughly green-fingered. His extraordinary creation, though modest in size - 85 by 35 feet - was a dense mass of colour, texture and interest, much of it created by the clever use of strategically placed and lushly planted containers.

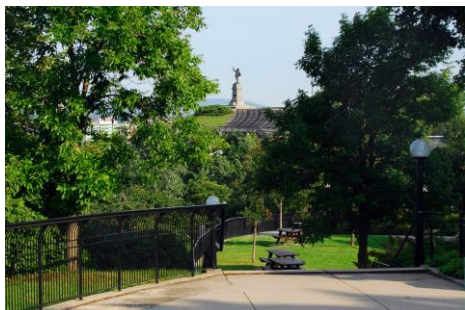


David Hobson's garden

David then took us on a rollicking tour of the Chelsea Flower Show, which he has attended nine times, highlighting exhibits from the cleverly creative to the wildly eccentric. The jokes kept coming: "Isn't it annoying when people walk into your carefully staged photos?", he said, showing us a photo of the Queen smiling graciously. Then there were his spring-flowering (light-) bulbs, photos of his "pot" garden (dotted with upside-down pots), with a sign "Keep off the Grass", and patent tips for keeping cats out of the garden (bury an inflated balloon in the offending spot...!) On a more serious note, he recommended that when searching for gardening advice online, we should always go to websites that end with .edu as they have the most reliable information. For more of David Hobson's inimitable wit and wisdom, check out his website at www.davidhobson.ca

Felicity Garrard

From Glaciers to Gardens: On February 15, Anne-Carole Beauregard and Ian Badgley from the NCC discussed the evolving landscapes around Nepean Point and Major's Hill Park. Between them they had a wealth of professional knowledge and experience to share – Anne-Carole in architecture and landscape planning, and Ian in the development and management of archaeological resources and cultural heritage projects. The pending redevelopment project at the above locations allowed their many talents to coalesce. Ian provided a geological background for the two sites – reaching back 13,000 years when the huge Champlain Sea was created in the St. Lawrence Lowlands and Ottawa Valley by retreating glaciers. Archaeological evidence indicates that marine and plant life from the American south moved into this area as the glacier withdrew, and the land became increasingly habitable for people and crops, such as the 'Three Sisters' – corn, squash and beans. Archaeological research sites behind Library and Archives Canada and at the Canadian Museum



Nepean Point

of History unearthed much evidence of settlement, including a 6,000-year-old cemetery and ossuary. Research during the building of the Rideau Canal in the 1830s revealed ruins from the early 1800s and before, and later 'digs' found artifacts of everyday life, notably in the 1972 excavation of Colonel John By's home in Major's Hill Park.

Against this backdrop, Anne-Carole outlined the evolution of planned landscape, gardens and parks. We know there was an early interest in indigenous plants because Samuel de Champlain took plants back to France with him in 1613. Botanical societies emerged in the 1820s and local plants like



Major's Hill Park

lady's slipper, ragweed and wood garlic were recorded and sent to England, France and the United States. Major's Hill Park and Nepean Point were always strategic locations, and plans from the early 1800s reveal estates like Colonel By's overlooking the water with English-style landscaping, including both kitchen and ornamental gardens. Unlike today, Major's Hill Park was naturally marshy at that time with a small underground river.

The first designation of Major's Hill and Nepean Point as public parks occurred in the 1870s, at the time of the construction of the Parliament Buildings and of Confederation. Plans, drawings and photographs of the period reveal a formal park with a fountain, a small lake and a major greenhouse. In 1938, landscape changes were made to increase public access and enjoyment. Large imposing beds were created, with earlier varieties of today's plants. With increased urbanization, more changes were made in the 1970s. The railway and greenhouses were removed, and the lake was filled in. Change is afoot again. During 'Canada 150' the NCC launched an international competition to reimagine Nepean Point, a project Anne-Carole is managing for the NCC. In November 2017, the winning concept for the redevelopment was announced. Take a look at what is to come, at <http://ncc-ccn.gc.ca>, under "Our Projects – Nepean Point Redevelopment".



Karen Junke



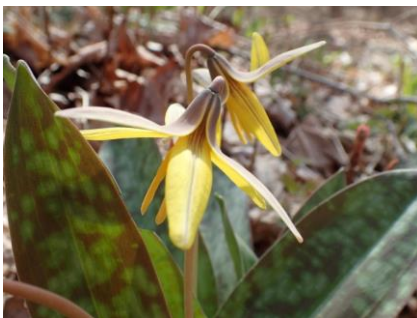
Tom Delsey and Gwynneth Evans

A Walk on the Wild Side: In March, a virtual walk through a springtime forest was the perfect antidote to a seemingly endless winter. Gwynneth Evans and Tom Delsey, long-time friends and former colleagues at the National Library, treated us to more than 30 slides of spring blooms that they have identified along three trails in Gatineau Park. Both now retired, they enjoy weekly hikes together and over time began recording various wild flowers as they came to know the seasons and many habitats in the Park. Tom bought a camera, and their quest began in earnest. Last year, they challenged themselves to find 150 different species for Canada's 150th birthday. They soon overshot their mark and have now photographed and identified more than 200.

Our slide show began in early spring along the O'Brien trail (#36) on the east side of Meech lake where trilliums dominated the scene. They then took us to the west side of the lake to climb the ridge on the MacDonald and McCloskey trails (#40, #2) in mid May where the canopy was full and spring ephemerals had given way to the hardier species such as Canada mayflowers, trout lilies and marsh marigolds. A third virtual tour took place over the months of June and July up on top of the escarpment at Étienne Brûlé where they found a more open ecosystem with fewer trees and more marshes. Here, they recorded many more non-native species, which had likely escaped from the gardens of early settlers.



Red Trillium (*Trillium erectum*)



Trout lily (*Erythronium americanum*)

Gwynneth, whose love of wildflowers began as a child summering in Métis Quebec, says that she has always been fascinated by the continuum of flowers through the season. She says she has been amazed at the immense diversity of wildflowers in Gatineau Park and the kinship and interconnections between them. Tom's beautiful photos, often taken lying on his back, show the delicacy and uniqueness of each plant. As they studied the various specimens, they came to appreciate how each fights for survival, by protecting its delicate blooms and attracting pollinators. This 'flower power' couple are currently working with the NCC and Friends of Gatineau Park to create a database of wildflowers that can be accessed by the public.

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Heather Brown

Thrillers, Fillers and Spillers: Another timely treat was in store for us in April, when local landscaper



A dramatic example!

Christine Libon instructed us in the whys and wherefores of creative container gardening. The 'whys' include versatility and mobility; you can garden on patios and balconies and can move the pots anywhere.

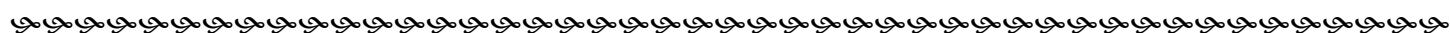
"Container gardening is a great way to add a splash of colour in a small space and create a sense of privacy", she said. She also pointed out that it is not only a wonderful outlet for creativity, but also an environmentally friendly way to garden, as we can recycle and reuse the pots. She then discussed the



Sally Hutchison, Mary Hardwick, Heather Brown, Chris Edwards and Victoria Hutton.

'wherefores' and provided us with some practical instruction on appropriate planting mediums (soiless); drainage (a must!); best containers (size and shape matter); and fertilizers (please read the instructions). She emphasized that just about any plant can be included in a container, including houseplants, perennials and annuals. "Just be sure to select the right plant for the conditions," she says. The key to beautiful containers is to include "thrillers, fillers and spillers." The thrillers are often spikes to give the container some height and a focal point. The fillers are the workhorses in the pot, staying fresh all season. And don't forget the spillers or vines to create balance. Her slideshow of the beautiful containers she has created for clients across the city gave us all the inspiration we needed to get out and get gardening!

Heather Brown



TAILGATE PICNIC

On Tuesday, May 15, 2018, the OGC 150th Committee held a Tailgate Picnic at the Beaumont Hamel site at the Canadian War Museum for all our dedicated volunteers, to celebrate and acknowledge all their help in planting and nurturing the Wildflower Garden of Remembrance. It was a slightly overcast day, like many of the planting days that had preceded it, but spirits were high and the delicacies that were offered from the tailgates were greatly appreciated by all. A commemorative card and OGC pin was presented to all the volunteers.

Victoria Hutton



Misty weather didn't keep our volunteers, consultants and officials from the Canadian War Museum and their contractors away from our Tailgate Picnic. L to R: Dan and Cindy Boucher, Dick Brown, Mary Shearman Reid, Richard Rogers, Rheal and Patrick Duplain (Lafleur Landscaping)



Picnickers Inara Eihenbauma (Latvia), Sylvie Marsan, Victoria Hutton and Heather Brown

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Peggy Morgan

Peggy Morgan welcomed everyone, especially Diplomatic Representatives Leticia Herberg Carrera from Spain, Kaoru Ishikane from Japan, and Liwen Wang from China. She then thanked each member of the Executive by name for their many and varied contributions to the OGC. Changes to the executive slate include Victoria Hutton who will be taking over as Boutique Manager and Karen Junke who is now Membership Chair.

Treasurer's Report

Ann Goldsmith, saying that brevity was her strength, gave a short Treasurer's Report and reminded us that she was still gratefully receiving annual membership dues (still \$60)! We have a balanced budget and a healthy income, thanks in part to the generosity of the artists who participated in the OGC Art Show last April. Our largest expense was for the 150th project to create a Commemorative Garden of Remembrance at the Canadian War Museum.

150th Committee Report

Victoria Hutton expressed her gratitude to the members for allowing the Beaumont Hamel project to blossom. The tailgate party at the War Museum to thank volunteers was very well received by both volunteers and Museum staff. She then asked for more volunteers to help with the new shipment of plants which was arriving shortly; however, the Museum has been asked to deal with the groundhog problem before any new plantings occur.

Hospitality

Joan Sirrs thanked all who brought food to the meetings over the past year, and especially Sally Tindale, Grace Strachan and Jana Clarke for their help in the kitchen. She emphasized how chatting over tea and coffee before the program starts strengthens the bonds of friendship. Pauline Yelle thanked Joan for all her hard work and presented her with a glorious bouquet of tulips from her garden.

Program Committee

Chris Edwards thanked her committee for their many contributions. It is difficult to find speakers, and although planning for next year is well under way, she asked members to contact her or any other members of the committee if they had suggestions for future presentations. She noted that the June garden tour would be at the Global Centre for Pluralism (the former War Museum) on Sussex Drive and would include a tour of the Centre and its courtyard garden.



Joan Sirrs happily receiving Pauline Yelle's beautiful tulips.

Other Business

Peggy thanked our new Chinese representative, Liwen Wang, for her gift to the Club of a beautiful vase. She mentioned that the lovely floral arrangement of delphiniums and hydrangeas, by Hanneke Boadway, was being sent to Mary Mahoney after her recent surgery. The OGC no-guest policy continues, due to lack of space, and will be discussed further; to that end, a new membership attendance sheet was circulated to help keep track of the numbers at each meeting.

Garden Panel

The fun part of the meeting then began! Pat Sylvester moderated a panel of our own experts to answer gardening questions. Written questions were deposited in a "Can o' Worms," and drawn at random. Marilyn Light, Renée Smith and Kelly Noel were our experts and the questions came thick and fast! Lively differences of opinion ensued. In answer to "What Can't You Grow?" (based on the premise that you're not really a gardener until you kill something), while Kelly said



Renée Smith, Marilyn Light, Kelly Noel and Pat Sylvester dispense their gardening wisdom!

roses, and Renée spruce hedges, Marilyn refused to admit failure for any plant! She considers failure a chance to learn, but reluctantly admitted that she had had trouble transplanting hepatica from the wild. Other questions included how to get rid of ants' nests (plunge a shovel into them), how to grow Japanese maples (don't – they are too delicate for our zone), and finally, to great hilarity, how to grow cannabis! Kelly was *most* knowledgeable on this timely topic, explaining "dioecious" (separate male and female) plants and the gender confusion that can result. Pat had to end the session because of lack of time, but there were many more questions and a general consensus that we should do this again soon.

Helen Clark

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

10 years at the Perley!

It was in the summer of 2008 that the first group of Ottawa Garden Club volunteers, under the capable and creative leadership of Mary Hardwick, cleared up the very overgrown northern half of the Rideau South Courtyard at the Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre, and implemented Mary's low maintenance planting scheme. When Mary took over as head of what then was called the Garden Club's "Good Works" Committee, she felt we needed to concentrate our efforts on one single project where we could make a real difference. Subsequently, through her contact with Barbara Brown, who was then the Perley's Horticultural Therapist, she started the Ottawa Garden Club Community Outreach project, whose 10th anniversary we are celebrating this year.

Our involvement has grown over the years - first taking responsibility for the other half of the Rideau South Courtyard and then the Rideau North Courtyard. Some of the original team still work in the gardens, and keen and loyal members have joined the team, many of whom have continued to volunteer year after year. (See photos below for two of our newest enthusiastic volunteer gardeners!) Everyone seems to enjoy this activity, so I asked the team what it was that they liked about working in the gardens.

Here are a few of their very positive responses:



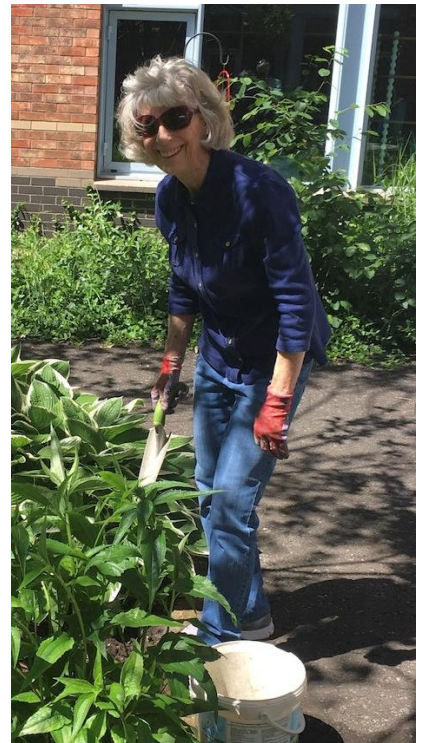
Lee Crowe

"The Garden Club's Outreach work at the Perley is fun and rewarding because our efforts have a positive effect and are appreciated by so many people ...residents, staff and visitors."

"I really like talking to the people who come out for a breath of fresh air. Most of the interested garden strollers have had gardens of their own and I like to think that our efforts give them some joy. It gives me joy."

"It is always a pleasure to work in the Perley garden, chatting with others while snipping and weeding. A welcome change from solitary gardening at home!"

"One of the many pleasures of working in the garden is getting to know other club members as we snip and weed."



Sally Tindale

The "walled gardens" , that we have worked in over the years, reward me personally with a sense of "positive energy". Call it good Feng Shui or whatever!"

"Our work in the Gardens helps maintain a really pleasant 'outdoor room' for those who live at the Perley Rideau."

"What I like best is working with two of my favourite things - flowers and friends!"

Sally Hutchison

TOUR OF THE GLOBAL CENTRE FOR PLURALISM

As I sit down to report on our June 14th tour of the Global Centre for Pluralism and its gardens, that iconic image of a young man spiking guns with flowers during a 1967 Vietnam war protest keeps coming to mind. Because, symbolically, this is what has happened at the building that used to house the old War Museum. Where once there was a large tank dominating the forecourt, there are now overflowing perennial beds and flowering trees; where there were displays of weapons and images of war, there are now sleek modern offices full of people dedicated to bringing peace through the understanding of diversity.



Itoh hybrid peony 'Bartzella'

This inspiring visit came about after the Program Committee decided that Ottawa's late and wet Spring this year had made the advertised tour of members' gardens unrealistic. Sighs of relief among those members! As an alternative, John McNee, Secretary General of the Global Centre for Pluralism and husband of Garden Club member Sue McNee, offered to give us a tour of his recently created institution. This was of particular interest to the Garden Club (apart from the Centre itself) because of the brand-new forecourt gardens designed by landscape architect John Szczepaniak, already known to us through his work at Bruyère. So it was that we found ourselves gathering in the meticulously laid out gardens, already impressed by the massed planting of 'Bartzella' peonies along the entrance wall, their immaculate yellow blooms sporting dramatic red centres. As we were ushered inside the building we were

immediately struck by the cool white domed spaces, the high windows, and most dramatically, the use of geometric window screens and ceiling coverings that imparted a distinctively Islamic feel.



Victoria Hutton, John McNee and Peggy Morgan



Sally Hutchison, Barbara Brown & Heather Brown

After we admired Sue's lovely flower arrangements and enjoyed the refreshments, Chris Edwards introduced Secretary General John McNee. He welcomed us, and showed a short video explaining the Centre's vision of a world where human differences are valued and diverse societies thrive. Founded in Ottawa by His Highness the Aga Khan, the 49th hereditary Imam of Ismaili Muslims, in partnership with the Government of Canada, the Centre is an independent charitable organization which works to educate, to reach out, to encourage discussion and to promote tolerance and understanding amongst peoples. Much more information about the Centre, as well as the history of one of Ottawa's oldest buildings, is available on its excellent website at www.pluralism.ca

Our tour of the building followed. The architectural restoration was undertaken by KPMB Architects, and we learned that the theme of "three", the trefoil representing partnership and cooperation that is repeated throughout the building, is derived from the pattern of the carved balustrade that tops the exterior frontage. The complex screens mentioned above are composed of an interlinked pattern of trefoils, and the theme is also expressed in the way the building has been opened up to the river via a three-storey "bay" window facing the junction of the three rivers, a traditional and sacred meeting place for the Indigenous peoples of Canada.

Last but not least, John Szczepaniak described his garden plan, which consists of two large parallel parterres, densely planted but in a loose style, and more formally planted boxes. These open out into a large seating area flanked by raised beds planted with flowering trees and shrubs. In spring, the parterres are a mass of flowering bulbs, followed by a large variety of peonies, particularly the beautiful fern-leaf type, much admired by all of us. Also featured are dozens of daylilies, gushing nepeta, and a hardy variety of daphne with delicate, ivory-edged leaves. This is a public garden like no other, lovingly created, open and inclusive, designed to bring people together, and, John hopes, in some way an expression of the vision and goals of the institution it complements. Thanks to all who made this visit possible.

Felicity Garrard



Chris Edwards, Sue McNee and Joanne Nelson

WELL WORTH THE VISIT

Keukenhof

With seven million exotic spring bulbs in full flower, Holland's Keukenhof in mid-April is a paradise of colour, scent and sound. On the day we were there, the air was full of birdsong, and the morning sun slanted down through the tender green of the budding beech trees, illuminating the seemingly endless curving beds of daffodils, tulips, scented narcissi, hyacinths and more. The swathes of colour set amongst velvety green lawns took our breath away.



Situated in Lisse, southwest of Amsterdam, the park originated as a 15th century castle kitchen garden (or "keukenhof"), and was redesigned in the 19th century in the English style to form the nucleus of today's garden of 79 acres. The Netherlands is the world's largest exporter of flowers and in 1949, a group of leading Dutch bulb growers and exporters established the current park as a trade showcase for mostly spring-flowering bulbs. The garden, only open for three months each spring, attracted 236,000 visitors in its first year and a record 1.4 million in 2017. Today, 100 companies exhibit growing plants outside and 500 growers present an enormous variety of cut and potted plants in the various pavilions.

We were struck by the density of the plantings and the fact that everything was in full bloom at the same time. This takes careful planning. Each year, Keukenhof's landscape architect creates special

designs for the 100 suppliers, who must ensure that the perfect bulbs are delivered in the autumn at the right time for planting. We wandered spellbound along paths lined with imaginative plantings, including one with a colourful mixture of *Camassia*,

Chionodoxa, *Crocus*, *Fritillaria*, *Hyacinthus*, *Narcissus* and *Tulipa*. There was a dizzying display of 800 varieties of tulips. Tulips like roses. Tulips like irises. Tulips like peonies. No wonder the Dutch were infected with tulip mania in the 17th century! We discovered reflecting ponds, canals lined with flowering cherry trees, a lake with a fountain, and several pavilions containing excellent cafés and spectacular flower displays – everything from astilbes to an entire pavilion filled with orchids. The paths lead you to hidden areas like the enclosed garden with historic bulbs, two windmills and the Inspirational Gardens. Our favourite was the Delft Blue Garden, filled with white narcissi and blue hyacinths in containers made of broken pieces of blue and white Delft china. We were also amused by the Hipster Garden, an "outdoor man cave for real men and tough women!" Daffodils flourished in a tractor tire and Heineken crates held a colourful array of tulips!



As if the Keukenhof wasn't attraction enough, the countryside surrounding it is awash with fields of flowering tulips and hyacinths as far as the eye can see. And in April, the annual *Bloemencorso* (Flower Parade), with spectacular floats made entirely of flowers, starts near Lisse and works its way north to Haarlem. Well worth the visit indeed!

Helen Clark - text and photos





IN MEMORIAM



Mary Margaret Davies, by Victoria Hutton



Mary Margaret was a lovely lady. She had many friends in our Club, and shared her interests in the arts, travel, bridge and books with them. She was a keen birder, and even had a telescope in her living room to track owls. When Anstace introduced me to the Club back in 1997, Mary Margaret was President. After I left on posting the next year, we stayed in touch. We used to exchange Christmas cards, and I would always send her my Club Associate dues, sometimes two or three years at a time, as I was afraid I would forget. One day I received the sweetest note with a Club Newsletter and the gentlest redirection, as Mary Margaret had stopped being President years before. I was away eight years, and I must have sent her my dues for most of that time. She was also one of the first to give me a call of encouragement when I became President. Lastly,

Mary Margaret possessed a wry sense of humour which was summed up succinctly in her published obituary... *"She requested 6 Ottawa Senators' Management as pall bearers so she can be let down one last time lol."* Hers was an elegant, kind and gentle presence. She will be greatly missed.

Wendy Dion, by Sally Hutchison

Wendy Dion died in May this year at the age of 98, after leading quite a remarkable life. In 1944 she was the first woman to receive a PhD from the University of London, where she studied plant pathology. After the war she came to Canada with her Canadian husband, George. They first lived in George's home town, Saskatoon, then Rome, Montreal and finally Ottawa. During this time, Wendy developed an outstanding career as a mycologist, while bringing up three children. Not surprisingly, Wendy was a very knowledgeable and keen gardener and wherever they lived, she always found time to grow beautiful gardens. My parents met the Dions while they were living in Montreal and it was my mother who introduced Wendy to Anstace Esmonde-White. Anstace and Wendy became good friends, sharing their knowledge and love of gardening, and once Wendy retired, Anstace sponsored her as a member of the Garden Club. Wendy became a regular attendee and an enthusiastic Club member and when I first joined the Club, I remember her readily answering questions and giving information, in her quiet and humble manner. We are lucky, as Club members, to benefit from contact with strong and knowledgeable women such as Wendy.



Liz Kane, by Beth Stikeman



Liz was a passionate gardener who delighted in reducing her lawn each year until finally there was nothing but a glorious shade garden from sidewalk to house. With gusto she relentlessly redesigned, moved plants and added touches of magic to her corner of paradise. Her garden was both her refuge and her gift to the neighbourhood, and in 2003 she received the coveted Trillium Award from the Ottawa Horticultural Society. Liz was a ray of sunshine, bringing joy and enthusiasm to Club members and activities for nearly 20 years. As a member of the program committee she was responsible for finding a diplomatic hostess for the annual Christmas party, and a few years ago her garden was on a Club garden tour. Liz was the inspired chair of the Club's 50th Anniversary projects, her favourite being the creation of the much-appreciated South Garden at the Bruyère Hospital. She spearheaded every aspect of the garden from fundraising for benches and services, to overseeing the design, construction and planting. Her colourful glasses, her 100-watt smile and her zest for life will be greatly missed.

June Skene, by Liz Rhodes

June passed away in January at the age of 95. She was my first cousin, but, to me, she was more like a big sister. She loved sports and her clubs. She played the piano, painted, gardened and wrote the occasional limerick, poem and letters to the editor. When she returned to Ottawa in 1960, after being away for some time, she joined the Ottawa Garden Club where she made many dear friends. She convinced me to join several years later. She served as President and often conducted the meetings in verse, which everyone loved! One of her first acts was to appoint me head of the Telephone Committee in the days when there were no answering machines, let alone computers. June gave me my first dog, made flower arrangements for me when I was in hospital and always gave me a plant for my birthday. In spring I planted a rose bush in my garden in her memory.

