

AUTUMN 2021

THE BLOOMING NEWS

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UPCOMING PROGRAM EVENTS



Thursday September 9, 2021

Coffee in the Garden and Rockcliffe Walking Tour

10:30 am - at the home of Lisa Cogan



Thursday October 21, 2021

1 pm on Zoom

There is Treasure Everywhere

C.L. Fornari



Thursday November 18, 2021

1 pm on Zoom

**Earthworms in Urban and Managed Forests,
and the Challenge of Invasive Species**

Dr. Annise Dobson



December 2021

Celebration of the Holiday Season

Details TBA



Thursday January 20, 2022, 10:30 am

Luncheon at the Royal Ottawa Golf Club

**Zoom Presentation by Bridget Elworthy of the
Land Gardeners**

WELCOME TO THE OTTAWA GARDEN CLUB

Maria Grazia Mattarella – Italy

Nora Robles - Philippines

Yulia Stepanova – Russia

Yong Suk Suh – Republic of Korea

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am honoured to take on the role of your new President and look forward to working with each and every one of you.

I used to hear wonderful tales of the Ottawa Garden Club from Helen Venables, one of the original members of this club. She told me it was composed of a group of very capable, knowledgeable lovers of gardens, and I have discovered that the makeup of the club has not changed at all! We are so very fortunate to be able to meet and listen to wonderful speakers, to visit remarkable gardens inside and outside the city, and obtain useful advice on many aspects of our passion.

Although I was brought up by parents who spent many hours either working in the garden or discussing it in detail, I would often tune out. How I wish I had not done this! So, my goal in joining the OGC was to learn as much as I could from the very well-informed people surrounding me. After eleven wonderful years, I know a little more but still have a long way to go. Imagine confusing allium with agapanthus! I now have both of these in my garden, and hope they winter well.



The fact that in the last year we have had all our meetings on Zoom is practically unimaginable. Yet most of us have conquered our fear of the technology and learned many new skills along the way. It has allowed us to obtain some very special presenters from different cities and even other countries. Unfortunately, we must continue this practice until probably January, when we can meet inside at the Royal Ottawa Golf Club for our always popular luncheon and lecture.

We have spent the last year celebrating the talent of so many of our members, through blogs, flower arranging, presentations, walks through members' gardens, videos of winter and emerging gardens and fun snippets from past issues of the *Blooming News*. For this upcoming fall season Karen Junke and her hard-working committee have arranged an excellent program which I know we will all truly enjoy. A "ray of sunshine" in September will be meeting outdoors at Lisa Cogan's spectacular home and garden. At last, we will gather with our friends and enjoy the camaraderie which is so central to this club. Please note there will be restrictions on attending this event due to Covid - see next page for details.

THE BLOOMING NEWS

Newsletter of
The Ottawa Garden Club
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Volume 22, #2, August 2021

Editor: Felicity Garrard
Advisors: Heather Brown
Helen Clark

Distribution: Kelly Noel

I want to reiterate our thanks to Heather for her tireless work in carrying us through this Covid crisis. She has been amazing! Although her interaction with club members was necessarily restricted during Covid, she rose to the occasion, keeping us all fully engaged and entertained, and in the process earning the title of the club's first-ever Pandemic President!

I look forward to working with all of you over the next two years.

Chris Edwards

PROGRAM AUTUMN 2021

Thursday, September 9, 2021

(Rain date Tuesday, September 14)

10:30 am

**Coffee in the Garden and Rockcliffe
Walking Tour
At the home of Lisa Cogan
564 Hillside Road,
Rockcliffe**

Finally, there is light at the end of this long Covid tunnel, and so we are planning an informal "meet and greet" coffee party in Lisa Cogan's beautiful garden. As this will be our first opportunity to see each other after many, many months, we will follow strict health guidelines to ensure everyone feels safe: only those who are fully vaccinated should plan to attend; masks are optional outside and seating areas will be appropriately spaced around the property. Lisa's main-floor washroom will be available, but please note that there are some stairs to both the front and back doors to her home. We request that 'those who can' should bring their own lawn chairs.

Here's the plan. Once we have gathered on Lisa's front lawn, President Chris Edwards will welcome us, outline our fall program and announce the winners of the virtual flower arranging competition. Everyone will then be invited to tour the garden, enjoy some refreshments, and visit with friends. Lisa has graciously offered to be available to answer any questions you might have about her garden. Coffee and cold drinks will be available, along with cookies and muffins. You may linger in the garden or decide to take a stroll. Pat Sylvester has kindly developed a short self-guided walk through the village of Rockcliffe for those who wish to see more gardens and historic homes. The walk is about a half-hour stroll (1.6 km), returning via the Rockeries to Lisa's home. The walk is easily accommodated by all levels of fitness.



Lisa in her garden

This promises to be a lovely morning. Hope to see you there!

Directions:

Take Sussex Drive to the Sir George-Etienne Cartier Parkway (Rockcliffe Parkway). Remain on the Parkway, passing the Lookout on your left and the tennis courts on the right until you reach Hillside Road. Turn right onto Hillside, right again, then follow the road to #564. There is parking along the road but members are encouraged to carpool if possible.



Look out for Lisa's goat "Maude"!

**Thursday, October 21, 2021
1 pm on Zoom**

**There is Treasure Everywhere
C.L. Fornari**

C.L. Fornari, aka "The Garden Lady", will prove that there is indeed treasure everywhere, by taking us on a virtual garden tour, drawing ideas and inspiration from beautiful public and private gardens in the US, Canada and Europe. This promises to be a visual feast. Be ready to be introduced to new plants and plant combinations, and to learn how others have solved problems.



C.L. Fornari

C.L. Fornari is from Sandwich, Massachusetts, and wears many hats. She is a plant expert who transitioned from artist to garden communicator and consultant in the 1990s. She hosts a radio show and a podcast, and has written eight books on gardening. Her latest is *"Sand and Soil – Creating Beautiful Gardens on Cape Cod and the Islands"*. She has received many awards for her writing. In 2015 she launched the Cape Cod Hydrangea Festival to raise money for local charities, and it has since become an annual event.

**Thursday, November 18, 2021
1 pm on Zoom**

**Earthworms in Urban and Managed
Forests and the Challenge of Invasive
Species**

Dr. Annise Dobson

Dr. Dobson, from Yale University, will take us right down to ground level and into the earth itself as we learn about the vital activities of the not-so-humble earthworm, and the challenge it is facing from invasive species, in particular the Asian jumping worm.

Dr. Annise Dobson attended McGill University to study science, specializing in the interaction between plants and insects. She pursued her graduate work at Cornell University in upstate New York, focusing on the impact of white-tailed deer and invasive earthworms on native plants. She is currently employed as a post-doctoral researcher at Yale University where she studies the ecology of urban forests. Annise is no stranger to the Ottawa Valley; she grew up in Cobden, where her family runs the Connaught Nursery.



Dr. Annise Dobson

December 2021

Celebration of the Holiday Season

Details to be announced

Thursday January 20, 2022

10:30 am

Royal Ottawa Golf Club, Aylmer Road

The Land Gardeners Bridget Elworthy

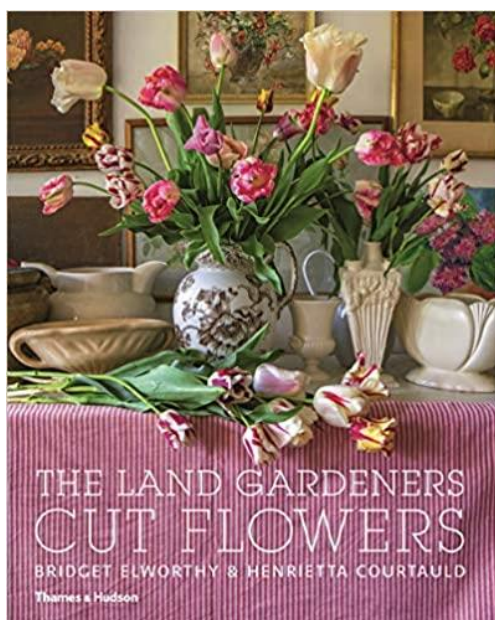
Bridget Elworthy, together with Henrietta Courtauld, launched *The Land Gardeners* in 2012 at Wardington Manor, Bridget's home in Oxfordshire, England. Together they worked to bring the gardens alive and re-awaken the Manor's history of growing blooms for London florists and homes. Their belief in soil health, growing plants organically and working with nature is central to all their work. They have experimented with many gardens – a cutting garden and walled garden, a dahlia and tulip border, a perennial border, gardens along the walks, around the pond and by the church. So much to inspire!



Bridget and Henrietta gathering glorious blooms

When Bridget joins us on Zoom, she will share all aspects of growing a productive cut-flower garden, what to gather by season and which are her and Henrietta's favourite flowers.

At the luncheon there will be a draw for their book *The Land Gardeners – Cut Flowers* (Thames and Hudson, 2019). Their website is www.thelandgardeners.com



Making choices in their cutting garden

HIGHLIGHTS OF WINTER MEETINGS

Gardening from a Hammock – Dan Cooper

On Thursday, 21st January, more than 50 Garden Club members fired up computers and iPads to hear author and master gardener Dan Cooper transport us from Ottawa's cold and snowy landscape into a world of colour and warmth. After many happy greetings, and waving to one another from our little Zoom boxes, we obediently muted ourselves and settled in to enjoy Dan's entertaining and informative talk.



Japanese forest grass (*Hakonechloa macra* 'Aureola')

be tolerant of heat and humidity; manage without fertilizer; be disease- and mildew-resistant; not need dead-heading or frequent dividing and not be invasive. He illustrated a selection of easy-care "stars", including Japanese forest grass (*Hakonechloa macra* 'Aureola'), little bluestem grass (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), bugbane (*Actaea simplex* 'Hillside Black Beauty'), alpine betony (*Stachys monieri* 'Hummelo'), double bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis* 'Flore Pleno'), and the fragrant shrub *Fothergilla gardenii*. For a shrub that has pretty acer-like leaves but is hardier than many Japanese maples, he recommended Black Beauty® elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* 'Gerda'). To avoid time-consuming dead-heading he suggested using plants such as black-eyed



Sedum 'Purple Emperor'

Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*), Russian sage (*Perovskia atriplicifolia* 'Filigran'), coneflowers (*Echinacea* spp.). Hellebores featured high on his list too, being deer-proof, drought-tolerant and long-lived. He showed us a particularly beautiful variety called *Helleborus hybridus* 'Ashwood Goldfinch' which has upward-facing blooms. Plants that have decorative leaves or continue to be colourful even when they have finished blooming are particularly useful

in a low-maintenance garden, such as sedums like *Sedum* 'Purple Emperor', and *Brunnera* spp, which are also deer resistant. These are just a few of the many easy-care plant suggestions Dan made during his talk, but even though these plants are relatively undemanding, he reminded us that they still appreciate the good cultivation techniques that we probably all know about but don't always follow! First and foremost – start with good soil. Then choose high-quality, disease-resistant plants and don't buy on impulse! Water deeply early in the day, never at night. Use mulch to conserve moisture – preferably three inches of plain (not dyed) cedar chips or shredded leaves. Lastly, don't be a perfectionist! In fact, when it comes to weeding Dan suggested we use his "15-step rule" – take 15 paces back and if you can't see any weeds, then it's time to sit back and relax in the knowledge that your beautiful garden is happily taking care of itself.

He made it clear from the outset that of course you can't actually garden from a hammock! But, as he proceeded to demonstrate, there are many ways to save yourself unnecessary labour when gardening and allow more time for relaxation. He stressed, however, that there is no such thing as a no-maintenance garden (unless of course you hire a team of gardeners or are a fan of "florus plasticus"!), but it is possible to create a low-maintenance garden by choosing easy-care plants that tolerate benign neglect, and by following some basic cultivation rules. He went on to list some of his "Top Ten" attributes of easy-care plants. They should:



Double bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis* 'Flore Pleno')



Helleborus hybridus 'Ashwood Goldfinch'

Felicity Garrard

Gardening Through the Seasons: Planning for Continuity and Texture - Marilyn Light

Amongst the membership of the Ottawa Garden Club there exists a great deal of talent and expertise. This was made strikingly clear last February 18, when Marilyn Light gave her illustrated talk via Zoom on Gardening Through the Seasons. First a word about Marilyn. She is the recipient of the Silver Medal Award of the Ontario Horticultural Association, the Edgar T. Wherry Award of the North American Rock Garden Society, the author of two gardening books, the editor of the Orchid Conservation News, and represents the North American Region of the Orchid Specialist Group/Species Survival Commission of the World Conservation Union. A very talented woman.



Burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*)

was: realizing your vision for your garden should make you smile. All of Marilyn's advice and information was aimed at helping us to do just that - achieve horticultural happiness. The vision, she explained, must take into account location, borrowed landscape, size, zone, light levels, season, and the vagaries of the natural world like the tornado that swept through Marilyn's Gatineau garden in 2018.



Species crocus

In keeping with her training as a Microbiology graduate of Macdonald College, McGill University, Marilyn applies the scientific method to gardening. Start with a vision, make a plan, execute the plan, enjoy. She illustrated each step of her talk with personal stories, and with lists of plants, shrubs and trees including their hardiness, season of maturity, and local nursery availability. Her handout has a lot of useful information and has been posted on the Ottawa Garden Club web site for easy reference.

The underlying theme of Marilyn's talk



Rusty foxglove (*Digitalis ferruginea*)

Judging by the slides Marilyn showed of her own garden, she must be smiling broadly: swamp milkweed, oriental poppies, allium, rusty foxgloves, ice blue clematis, tradescantia, erigeron, roses, lilacs, heather, daylilies, winterberry, snowberry, asters, rudbeckia and striped maple, a favourite of Marilyn's. No matter the season, the garden is a riot of colour and texture. And it is very productive. Despite the competition from birds and animals, Marilyn harvested 10 pounds of cherries from her four small Carmine Jewel cherry trees.

Winter, Marilyn said, is a time for seeing and dreaming, and her February 18 talk did just that for the members of the Ottawa Garden Club.

Jane Panet

"What I've always found interesting in gardens is looking at what people choose to plant there. What they put in. What they leave out. One small choice and then another, and soon there is a mood, an atmosphere, a series of limitations, a world".

Helen Humphreys - The Lost Garden

Your Cottage Garden: Best Results with the Least Effort - Lana Doss

To paraphrase Tennyson, "In the spring, a gardener's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of cottages." And indeed, on March 18th, many Garden Club cottagers Zoomed in eagerly to watch Lana Doss's presentation about cottage gardens. Lana teaches horticulture at Algonquin College, has worked in numerous garden centres and has delivered many gardening workshops and talks. She also runs her own company - The Fine Gardener - which offers garden consultation and design. For the least effort, Lana recommends a low-maintenance, natural and less manicured approach for cottage gardens, which tend to be more informal than our city gardens. Assess your site for sun, shade, moist

or dry soil before heading to the garden centre. Once there, a plan is essential. Impulse buying is seldom successful. "Plan twice, plant once!" is her key advice, along with choosing plants that do double-duty (e.g., drought-tolerant AND two flowerings). Cottagers often try to use animal-resistant plants, which reputable garden centres will mark accordingly. Deer and rabbits

tend to avoid fuzzy-leaved, toxic, prickly or strong-smelling plants, but as many of us have discovered, they will eat just about anything if they're hungry! Chicken wire can be used to protect special specimens. And don't even try to raise goats!!

Lana highly recommends drought-tolerant plants for their hardiness at cottages, especially in our gradually warming climate. She likes natives, such as the eastern prickly pear cactus, as well as sedum, Japanese anemone, perennial sage or salvia, perennial geranium, and coreopsis, especially the threadleaf tickseeds. Several of these plants also have second flowerings and strong scents that deter animals. Mulching is important too, to retain moisture, deter weeds, and protect plants from soil erosion and harsh winters. Her favourite mulch is a natural, dark, composted



Salvia

pine bark, but you can also use pine needles or leaves raked onto the beds in fall.

It's important to "attract a friendly army" of bugs, like ladybugs, bees and butterflies. Even the unfriendly ones, familiar to all cottagers, serve a purpose. They pollinate flowers and fruit, eat the bad bugs, and provide food for the birds. Friendly bugs will overwinter in the wood and leaf piles that many of us have on our properties. Others tuck themselves into the hollow stems of cut-back perennials. Insecticides kill or discourage such essential pollinators. Of course, birds are wonderful pollinators too, and, like the insects, are attracted to so many of our native species, including false indigo, bee balm, Joe Pye weed, asters, milkweed and the spectacular cardinal flower. Lana provided a wealth of information for cottage (and town) gardeners, and there were many questions after her talk. She can be contacted at лана@thefinegardener.com



Echinacea



Goatsbeard

Helen Clark

Glorious, Magical Charleston!

On April 15th, Christine Edwards lifted us out of our lockdown doldrums by taking us on a glorious photographic stroll around the picturesque cobbled streets and secret gardens of the historic city of Charleston. We were dazzled by flowers at every turn, tumbling out of window boxes, gushing over walls and wrought iron fences, lining the paths into half-hidden gardens, and always perfectly complementing the elegant period architecture. Here are a few of the images from her beautiful slide show.



For those of you who would like to see more gardens in the Charleston area, Chris suggests looking for Charleston garden tours on YouTube at www.youtube.com. She specifically mentions a few good ones including Mrs. Whaley's "*Making It Grow*" and "*Setting The Table*" - Farley Clark's private garden, as well as Bill and Hildie Lyddan's garden. Just Google "Touring Charleston Gardens," and a number of links will pop up.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On May 21st, 53 Garden Club members gathered for our first (and hopefully last!) Annual General Meeting on Zoom. Moderator Ann Goldsmith allowed us 15 minutes to socialize as best we could, before muting us all and handing the meeting over to Heather Brown. This was Heather's last meeting as President, and while acknowledging the challenges the club had faced during an extraordinary year of cancellations and disappointments due to the pandemic, she highlighted an overwhelmingly positive aspect: the many creative ways in which members had stepped up to keep the club more vibrant and active than ever. She paid tribute to a long list of contributors, and thanked everyone for their enthusiastic participation.

We then got down to the business of the day. First up was Treasurer Ann Goldsmith, who reported that because no fees were charged this fiscal year, expenditures exceeded income, but noted we are still in good financial shape. She also announced that annual fees of \$60 would now be re-instated.

Dianne Breton, chair of the Governance Committee, gave a review of the new Bylaws, and explained that it was necessary to have clearer definition of the club's policy guidelines, as well as the roles and responsibilities of all executive positions. These policy documents (www.ogc.website/documents) are flexible and can be changed as needed.

Karen Junke, Membership Chair, reported that the club currently has 101 regular members, 23 diplomatic members, one Associate and four Emerita. She reviewed the rules for accepting new members – see page 15 for full details. The procedures are also set out on the website.

Peggy Morgan, chair of the Nominating Committee, then announced the new Executive slate. Christine Edwards is taking over as President, with Ann Goldsmith as Vice-President. Mary Murphy is Treasurer; Karen Junke, Program Committee Chair; and Donna Chan, Membership Chair. Peggy thanked retiring

Program Chair Pat Sylvester for her work, and welcomed two new members of the Executive: Margo Ledoux, who will be in charge of hospitality, and Sarah Harvey, wife of the New

Zealand High Commissioner, as our new Diplomatic Representative. She replaces Kathleen Billen, who had been in the position since 2019 and has now left for a posting to Mexico. Finally, Peggy announced the new position of Zoom Host, which, with her newly-acquired skills, she will take on herself.

Next, Heather welcomed incoming president Christine Edwards, whom she said will bring great warmth and enthusiasm to the task. Chris thanked Heather for her kind words, and congratulated her on all the hard work she has done to keep the club alive and relevant during an especially difficult time. Heather - now affectionately known as our "Pandemic President"! - was then presented with a delightful book of tributes, collated by Ann Goldsmith on behalf of the club, containing messages of appreciation, poems and artwork from more than 50 members.



Sarah Harvey



Heather with her gift ...and yoga frog companion!

After concluding the AGM business agenda with a review of upcoming Fall events, Chris turned the meeting over to Pat Sylvester to introduce the next part of the meeting – the “Panel of Experts”. Standing ready to answer our garden questions were OGC Consultants Renée Smith, who has gardened for 50 years on her farm in Burritts Rapids, and has hosted the club in those beautiful surroundings many times, and Kelly Noel, Master Gardener, daylily specialist and indispensable technology whiz.

Moderated by Peggy Morgan, the questions and answers came thick and fast, too many to record here in detail. Some examples include advice for non-blooming peonies (don’t plant too deep, sun but not too much); discussions about fertilizer – how much and what kind (Renée uses her own farm manure and compost, Kelly depends on mulch but no fertilizer); how to split heucheras (do it in early Fall, get them wet first, tease apart); and several questions relating to other plants not blooming as expected this year – bergenias, rhododendrons, and trilliums – the consensus from both experts being that the extreme heat in April was responsible. However, the session ended on a cheerful note in response to a question about lily beetles. Kelly told us that there is now a parasitic wasp in the region that preys on them, and that the recent infestation has now subsided, so it’s now fairly safe to plant lilies once again. We could have continued tapping into Renée and Kelly’s encyclopedic knowledge for much longer, but it was time for Pat Sylvester to thank them and for our new President Chris Edwards to say goodbye and wish us all a safe and happy summer.

Felicity Garrard



INTRODUCING OUR NEW PRESIDENT



Chris Edwards is known for bringing energy and enthusiasm to everything she does. And being President of the Ottawa Garden Club will be no exception.

Chris joined the club in 2010 and immediately jumped in to make a contribution. Over the past 11 years she has served in a variety of executive positions including Membership Secretary, Program Chair, Vice-President and now President.

Originally from Vancouver and a graduate of the University of British Columbia, she taught for a number of years at Ashbury College. She and her husband Michael have lived in the Rockcliffe area for 50 years and she has been deeply involved with many volunteer organizations, including Ashbury Antique Fair, May Court, Homes for the Holidays, and the Rockcliffe Book Fair, to name a few.

She loves to cook, garden and read, and is passionate about Bridge. She is also passionate about the Ottawa Garden Club.

Let’s give a warm welcome to our new President!

Heather Brown

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The New Normal at the Perley and Rideau Veterans' Centre

We were very happy to be able to return to the Rideau North and South Courtyard gardens at the Perley at the end of May, after an absence of a year and a half. Before going back, some of our team were able to get an accelerated second dose of the Pfizer vaccine at the Volunteer Clinic. That was quite a bonus!



Sonia Rajani, Peggy Morgan and Sally Hutchison

As you have probably read, the Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre has handled the pandemic very efficiently and has not suffered the great losses that occurred in some long-term care facilities. While things are now under control, they have strict screening and testing procedures for anyone entering the building.

At the entry we needed to replace our masks with one of theirs, and then answer the inevitable screening questions on the iPads that are set up, before having a rapid Antigen test at the swab clinic. Under the new restrictions, only three of us can be in a courtyard at one time and we cannot go from one unit to another on the same day. When we are on a unit or in a courtyard where there are residents or staff, we are required to wear either a face shield or goggles. We have all decided the goggles are much more comfortable!

We feel quite exhilarated being back and have been pleasantly surprised by the condition of the gardens. Sarah Shapiro (Horticultural Therapist and past Esmonde-White Award recipient) and some of the residents had certainly done some gardening while we were away. There have been more residents outside than we remembered pre-pandemic. As you will read on the attached link, which aired on the CBC June 7th, <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/horticulture-therapy-veterans-ottawa-physical-social-emotional-wellbeing-1.6053452> they, like us, are very happy to get outside, mix with others and reminisce about gardens in their past. Some join in to help us with weeding and tell us about gardens they have planted outside their windows. It is truly a busy and happy place!

We would welcome more Garden Club volunteers as things open up and more of us can work together. You would need to register as a Volunteer at the Perley and I would be very happy to provide you with the contact. Hope to see some of you in the gardens!

Sally Hutchison



Horticulture therapist Sarah Shapiro (centre) helps Alex Kowbel (left) and Frank Smith (right) pot some annuals as part of the horticultural therapy program at the Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre. (Hallie Cotnam/CBC)

UPDATE ON THE GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE CANADIAN WAR MUSEUM

Once again in spring 2021, our planned approach of augmentation of the wildflowers at the Beaumont Hamel site was limited because of the pandemic restrictions. Our annual intentions were to refresh the three sites established there with fresh wildflower seed, including poppies, until the regeneration cycles are established.



While we have been keeping our eye on the site, we note that the shasta daisies seem to have established themselves for now, at least keeping the place for our next refresher planting. New seed has been reordered, and it is our hope that we may be able to reseed again later this autumn, restrictions permitting.

We were delighted to see that after the maintenance patterns were re-established this spring, the meandering paths were once again being mowed. So while our planned progress has been slowed, overall we are pleased to report that we seem to be holding our ground at the Beaumont Hamel Garden of Remembrance site.

Victoria Hutton



ROYAL ROSES

Congratulations to two of our Garden Club members who played an important supporting role in the national commemorative service held in honour of Prince Philip at Christ Church Cathedral on Saturday 17th April, 2021.

Sally Hutchison and Peggy Morgan, part of the 'Flower Team' at the church, arranged the roses on either side of the chancel. The swath of gold and red roses represented the colours of the Prince's Royal Standard and was arranged like a sash.



“POST” LOCKDOWN LINKS

During the pandemic, and throughout the slow but gradual return to normal life, Heather Brown and her executive team worked hard to make sure that OGC members would still have access to interesting, informative (and fun!) virtual content to compensate for the lack of face-to-face meetings. The *Blooming Updates* continued to be published at regular intervals, and included Mary Pratte’s marvellous blog; a new series of *Emerging Gardens*; links to garden tours and resources, as well as club information important to our members. Thanks once again to every one who has contributed ideas to keep us all connected during this uncertain time, and a big thank you to our technical wizard Kelly Noel for creating the slide show and distributing the *Blooming Updates*. In case you missed any of the emails, or would like to browse through some of these links again, a list is provided below.

Mary Pratte’s Blog – “How Does Your Garden Grow?” www.ogc.website/blog

Mary continued to write informatively and entertainingly about what is happening in her garden, and included photos of certain plants (including peonies of course!) with details on maintenance and design ideas.

Emerging Gardens Slide Shows

1. <https://youtu.be/kWIfvak9GWQ>
2. <https://youtu.be/V1nxZYURfjw>
3. <https://youtu.be/CzFgNAUohpc>
4. <https://youtu.be/Hk453Ob94aE>
5. <https://youtu.be/lcZ7Z-9RIcQ>
6. <https://youtu.be/zKGXLC4I7A8>
7. https://youtu.be/nwqYyL-Y_ak

Historic Gardens Across Canada: If you are thinking about travelling close to home, the National Trust for Canada has put together a description of eight inspiring historical gardens across Canada. The showcased gardens include everything from Cougar Annie’s garden in British Columbia, to the Toronto Botanical Garden in Ontario and Les Jardins de Métis in Quebec. Take a look at these interesting gardens and learn about Canada’s long horticultural history. Here’s the link: <https://historicplacesday.ca/visitlists/eight-inspiring-historical-gardens-across-canada/>

The Gardeners at Keukenhof: The beautiful Keukenhof Gardens in Holland did not open again this year, but here is a link to an interesting YouTube video telling the story of the gardeners who design the gardens and plant more than 7 million bulbs by hand each year. These gardeners work year round and the flowers bloom for only 8 weeks. It is worth a look: <https://youtu.be/SXCcdoOZJ0Q>

Gardening Calendar: The Gardening Calendar is a very useful resource in the Ottawa area with information on local garden events and resources as well as horticultural advice. You can sign up for the monthly newsletter, which will arrive in your inbox on the first of every month.
Go to: www.gardeningcalendar.ca

Hostas for HOMSA: This video of Cynthia Hoisak working her magic using hostas to create elegant and unusual table arrangements was produced by the OGC for our diplomatic friends at HOMSA (Heads of Mission Spouses Association). Here’s the link: <https://youtu.be/Wel0k-9saY0>

HOW TO SPONSOR A NEW MEMBER

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

1. Any member may sponsor one new candidate each year after being a full member for two full years.
2. Invite your friend to attend a meeting. Make sure you tell the President Christine Edwards (chrisee68@gmail.com or 613-749-7013) in advance so she can introduce your guest to the Garden Club members - this is important so that there is a record of her attendance. Prospective members must attend a minimum of two meetings as a guest before they can be nominated for membership. Remember there is a \$10.00 guest fee.
3. Be sure your nominee is aware that as a member of the club, she is agreeing to be actively involved—to participate in club meetings, activities and committees and to respond to requests from the Executive for assistance.
4. Obtain a **Nomination Form** from Membership Chair Donna Chan (chanrddj@gmail.com or 613-590-1767). This should be completed and submitted to Donna (1746 Windflower Way, Orléans, ON. K1C5Y5) **AFTER** a candidate has attended two meetings and **BEFORE** the end of March. Note, each Nomination Form requires the signature of the sponsor, co-sponsor and the candidate.
5. New members are admitted by the Executive at its April meeting each year as long as membership space is available. The Membership Chair will advise the nominee of acceptance. The new members will be introduced at the AGM in May. They will be honoured at a special luncheon later in the year, usually October.
6. Nominations received after the end of March are held until the following year.
7. The number of new members admitted each year depends on the total number of members in the club.

Donna Chan

"In the garden, Autumn is indeed the crowning glory of the year, bringing us the fruition of months of thought and care and toil. And at no season, save perhaps in daffodil time, do we get such superb color effects as from August to November."

Rose G. Kingsley, The Autumn Garden, 1905