

WINTER-SPRING 2017

# THE BLOOMING NEWS

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## UPCOMING PROGRAM EVENTS

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

Rockcliffe Park CC

**Plants of Costa Rica**

**Christine Libon**

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

Rockcliffe Park CC

**For the Love of Turf (and of the Environment)**

**Mary Anne Jackson-Hughes**

🌀 **Thursday, April 27, 2017 12:30 pm**

Rockcliffe Park CC

**The Art and Horticulture of Bonsai**

**André Boyer**

🌀 **Thursday, May 18, 2017 12:30 pm**

Rockcliffe Park CC

**Annual General Meeting**

**Celebration of the Life of Anstace Esmonde-White**

🌀 **June 27 – 29, 2017**

**Tour of Gardens in Québec's Eastern Townships**

## WELCOME TO THE OTTAWA GARDEN CLUB

We are delighted to welcome these members to our club:

Maria Anastasiades – Cyprus

Adriana Arza de Arriola – Paraguay

Margarida Bretas – Brazil

Andis Faisasyah – Indonesia

Veronika Holkova – Czech Republic

Hanna Homonai – Ukraine

Lerzan Kayihan – Turkey

Pirjetta Manninen – Finland

Thiané Paye – Senegal

## Save the Dates!

### Tour of Gardens in Quebec's Eastern Townships June 27 – June 29, 2017

Take advantage of this wonderful opportunity for members and friends to spend a few days together as we explore some delightful gardens in the Eastern Townships. Margaret Dailey-Plouffe will again be our tour guide, and as those of you who were on our trip to Prince Edward County will remember, she packs in the fun!

We are very fortunate to have been invited to visit a variety of private gardens in the Brome Lake and North Hatley area. In addition, we will enjoy fine dining at some of the local restaurants as well as comfortable accommodation at the Estrimont Spa and Suites Hotel in Orford.

We do hope you will join us. More details will be provided at the January 19<sup>th</sup> meeting at the Golf Club.

If you have questions, please call:

Sally Hutchison: 613-728-2981  
or email [sally.hutchison1@gmail.com](mailto:sally.hutchison1@gmail.com)  
or contact our Travel Agent:  
Margaret Dailey-Plouffe of  
Heatherington and Associates –  
613-843-9900  
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#### THE BLOOMING NEWS Newsletter of

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## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

In August we lost our dear honorary President, Anstace Esmonde-White, who died peacefully and gently after a long and full life. We especially missed her at our lovely Christmas party at Earnscliffe, which occurred this year on what would have been Anstace's 97<sup>th</sup> birthday. Most years we honoured her with a break in our carol singing for a rousing rendition of Happy Birthday. This year we raised a glass to her memory. In the spring, we will assist at the Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre when they install a garden bench with a plaque dedicating it to the memory of Anstace and her husband Larry. This bench was entirely funded by donations from our members – I am so proud of that! I hope that the Perley residents will enjoy relaxing on this bench – and perhaps some of our members who maintain that garden will take a brief respite from weeding there too. I think Anstace would be pleased!



As happens every season, we have been treated to a series of interesting presentations at our meetings. And when you look at the program details for the coming months you will see that the program committee has once again managed to arrange a series of talks that will both entertain and enlighten. Thank you to chair Chris Edwards! When the preparation time for our meetings was shortened this season, Joan Sirrs came up with a plan to speed up the process and still provide the welcoming atmosphere we so much enjoy. Thank you, Joan, for managing the hospitality with warmth and efficiency!

I thank Victoria Hutton for help in several areas, but especially for managing the OGC project to honour Canada's sesquicentennial. She has combined imagination, determination, perseverance and diplomacy in making this happen. She and her committee will see this project completed in the coming months and we are looking forward to the result.

Sally Hutchison and Peggy Morgan are arranging a garden tour to the Eastern Townships in June. I am looking forward to that – I always enjoy "tripping" with the ladies of the garden club – I just hope to get through that trip with no dental mishaps!

It has been a pleasure working with Chris, Joan, Victoria, Sally and Peggy and all of the other ladies on the executive committee. I thank all of them for being so willing to help – this makes the job of president easy. And it is also very gratifying that so many of you, the members, make a point of thanking me and the executive for the work we do. This kind of appreciation keeps us energized and happy to serve! This is my fourth and final message as president – the time has gone by quickly! I will soon be passing the gavel, at least virtually, to Peggy Morgan. You will be in good hands!

*Kelly Noel*

# PROGRAM SPRING 2017

**Thursday, February 16, 2017 12:30 pm**  
Rockcliffe Park CC

## **Plants of Costa Rica** **Christine Libon**

In March of 2015, Christine visited the fascinating country of Costa Rica. She spent the first half of her trip in the Chirripo Mountains and the other half in the Osa Peninsula, which National Geographic Magazine describes as "the most biologically intense on earth". Her presentation will include photographs that capture some of the diversity and beauty of the vegetation and wildlife, and she will describe the interesting domestic and medicinal uses of many of the plants.

Christine was born and raised in Ottawa and has a diverse background as a criminologist and more recently as a horticulturist. She founded her own business in 2001 and provides garden consultations, designs, installations, maintenance and renovations.



Christine Libon admiring giant bamboo in Costa Rica

*Anyone who thinks gardening begins in the Spring and ends in the Fall is missing the best part of the whole year, for gardening begins in January with the dream.*

*Josephine Nuese*

**Thursday, March 16, 2017 12:30 pm**  
Rockcliffe Park CC

## **For the Love of Turf (and of the Environment)**

**Mary Anne Jackson-Hughes**

Mary Anne Jackson-Hughes has 30 years of experience in our area as a self-employed designer and landscaper for sustainable commercial and private gardens. She practices nature-centred gardening, which is pesticide free, and involves creating and maintaining healthy soil by respecting soil microbe biodiversity and encouraging optimum soil watering techniques. Turf is an ongoing interest of hers. In her talk, she will explore our obsession with turf in North America and give us the benefit of her extensive knowledge of everything we need to know about it: soil, soil minerals needed for plant growth, turf maintenance, renovation, and insect pest management. She will end by exploring some alternatives to turf.

Many of us already know and appreciate the work of **Mary Anne Jackson-Hughes**.

She has a degree in Botany and Physical Geography from Carleton University, and a diploma as a Horticulture

Landscape Designer from Algonquin College. She has taught for more than two decades at Algonquin College and Kemptville College. In her consulting work, she was the team leader for the City of Ottawa's "Pesticide Reduction Campaign," increasing public awareness and educating citizens on best practices. She also recently worked on a project focusing on sustainable mine reclamation.



Mary Anne Jackson-Hughes



**Thursday, April 27, 2017 12:30 pm**  
Rockcliffe Park CC

## **The Horticulture and Art of Bonsai** **André Boyer**



André Boyer, OMI, will describe the long history of this ancient Japanese art, and explain its significance. He will show us many different styles, and also give us hints on how to create a bonsai tree from nursery stock, collected material and cuttings.

André is a member of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. He recently retired as pastor of a large parish in Ottawa. André became interested in the art of bonsai while studying in Berkeley, California in the mid-1980s. Since then he has been involved with bonsai groups in the USA and Canada. Currently, he is a member of la Société de Bonsai et de Penjing du Québec. André has a choice collection of bonsai, which includes trees from the Montreal Botanical Garden and Bonsai Master Walter Pall's Collection. In 2015 André attended a workshop by Walter Pall in Pennsylvania. He can be reached at [andrelboyer@rogers.com](mailto:andrelboyer@rogers.com)

**Thursday, May 18, 2017 12:30 pm**  
Rockcliffe Park CC

## **Annual General Meeting**

**Come and help us celebrate the life of our late Honourary President, Anstace Esmonde-White.**

We will view a slide show made by her granddaughter, and hear wonderful vignettes about Anstace and Larry from a group of her friends.

## **12<sup>th</sup> Annual Foster Plant Reports**

At the November, 2016 meeting, six lucky members were selected by lottery to take over the care and nurturing of a Streptocarpus. The participants will bring their plants to the meeting and recount their experiences, whether tragic or triumphant! We are always entertained by the humorous reports given each year by our fosterers.

**Tuesday, June 27 – Thursday, June 29, 2017**

**Tour of Gardens in Quebec's Eastern Townships – see notice on page 2**



## **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](mailto:jsirrs@sympatico.ca)

# A CONTINENTAL TREASURE

Imagine. It's late summer, early fall. The sun is shining. It is warm. You are sitting with about 40 other people in the dappled shade of a giant Gleditsia tree. Voices can be heard talking about the merits of various flower arrangements and first, second and third place ribbons are being handed out.



Anstace Esmonde-White is invited to speak. She welcomes you to her garden and with delight says how pleased she is that there are still enough flowers in bloom for the 80-odd bouquets that have just been created. The garden, in fact, doesn't look picked over at all. Rudbeckia, sedum, cosmos, roses, asters, mums, geraniums, yellow alpine clematis, morning glory, aconitum, and much more still shine brightly in the weakening sunlight on this glorious autumn day.

Anstace Esmonde-White was born on December 9, 1919, near Dublin Ireland, and died on August 13, 2016, in her own home at Evergreen Farm near Kemptville. She was the Honourary President of the Ottawa Garden Club almost from its inception and

the heart and soul of the club. She left a lasting legacy. She is an inspiration to everyone. And boy, did she pack a lot into her 96 years.

Anstace grew up near Dublin in a home with a two-acre walled garden. When her father died, she had to leave her veterinary studies to help her mother out. The two of them started growing vegetables and fruits in their walled garden for high-end Dublin restaurants. They taught themselves everything they needed to know and succeeded famously.

At the age of 25, Anstace moved to Mosul, Iraq, to marry her childhood sweetheart Larry Esmonde-White. Shortly afterwards they moved to India where Larry was an officer with The Poona Horse Regiment. When India got its independence in 1947, Larry and Anstace moved back to England. Larry went to military college and Anstace gave birth to her first two children, Robin and Patrick. When Larry's regiment was disbanded in 1948, he was offered a tidy settlement and a free trip to anywhere in the world. With dreams of homesteading in the Peace River County, they chose Alberta and packed up their young family and set off on a new adventure.



From 1949 to 1954, Anstace and Larry lived in Alberta. Larry attended Olds School of Agriculture and worked in various jobs gaining experience in the business of farming. They moved from house to house, Anstace planting a new garden wherever they lived and giving birth to two more children, Miranda and Oliver. Life wasn't easy but they kept their optimism and sense of humour. Larry spent



one winter sorting potatoes in a root cellar with another hired man from Czechoslovakia who as Larry says "was a recent graduate of the Fort Saskatchewan Jail." Larry called him the "Blank Cheque." The period 1954-1971 saw them back in the east in Montreal, Val David and Ottawa, new gardens established wherever they went.



Evergreen Farm

Evergreen Farm, for many years the favourite fall meeting place of the Ottawa Garden Club, got its start in 1971. A derelict stone house without electricity or indoor plumbing surrounded by five acres of scruff and abandoned scrap metal, Anstace and Larry saw its promise. Anstace knew the soil was good because of the size of the weeds. They bought and began turning it into a magical place where it is impossible to pick all the flowers. It is like an Alice in Wonderland garden. You will never come to the end. Larry designed the garden; Anstace planted it. There were perennial borders, a rose garden, water garden, herb garden, xeriscape, a giant vegetable garden surrounded by a cedar

hedge reminiscent of the walled garden of Anstace's youth, a tea house, a green house, an orchard, and Larry's pride and joy, the maze modelled after one in Williamsburg, Virginia. Anstace and Larry did most of the work themselves. It was a true partnership.

Their love of gardening was infectious and led to other endeavours. From 1974 to 1977 they served as weekly garden columnists on the CJOH TV Morning Show; in 1981 they published Vegetable Gardening, still the go-to book on growing vegetables; and from 1984 to 2000 they hosted the weekly PBS television program "From a Country Garden", which aired across Canada and the United States. You can still catch reruns of this show from time to time. They gave lectures, interviews, talks, workshops and practical gardening courses in their garden. In 1986, they received the Award of Merit from The Garden Writers Association of America. In 2004, in honour of Anstace and Larry's work in the gardening world, the Ottawa Garden Club established an annual bursary named "The Esmonde-White Award" for a promising horticulture student at Algonquin College.



Anstace enjoying a Christmas party in 2014

People touched by Anstace's work are effusive in their praise. Leonard Lee said of her, "She has always been a woman not only of tremendous vitality but of boundless optimism. She has always been confident that common sense and application could achieve just about anything and in her case they have." Frank Cabot said, "As a consequence, the Cabots feel that Anstace is truly one of North America's Continental Treasures, and that her considerable achievements have had a great impact for the better on those fortunate to have been exposed to them."

We at the Ottawa Garden Club will miss her. But aren't we lucky to have known such an impressive person, a role model not just for her gardening expertise but also for how she conducted her life.

*Jane Panet*



# SEPTEMBER MEETING AT BURRITT FARM

A description in pictures of our wonderful sunny day at Burritt Farm. Flower arranging talent was on glorious display, making the judges' job harder than ever! Many thanks to Renée Smith for once again opening up her bountiful garden and offering us a wealth of choice for our arrangements, and to Joan Sirrs and her hospitality team for providing delicious refreshments.



Winning line-up: Marianne Feaver, Gloria Williams, Susan McNee, Penny Burke, Wannipa Isarabhakdi (Thailand), Susan Moore, Cynthia Hoisak, Mary Udd and Pauline Yelle



Renée Smith



Triumphant three-time winner and Birthday Girl Pauline Yelle!



Judges Sylvie Marsan and Léopoldine Goutondji with Green Arrangement winner Cynthia Hoisak



Carol Henderson enjoying the fall sunshine



Andis Faisasyah of Indonesia



Efficient mistress of ceremonies  
Chris Edwards



Heather Brown and Felicity Garrard relaxing in the shade - or are they plotting the next issue of *The Blooming News*?



# LUNCHEON FOR DIPLOMATS AND NEW MEMBERS

On October 19, the executive of the Ottawa Garden Club held its annual welcome luncheon for new members and diplomats at the home of Susan d'Aquino. It was a near-perfect autumn day as we descended the steps to the iconic residence perched high above Mackay Lake. There was an audible gasp of delight at the first glimpse of the lake; then another as we entered her modernist home. Once inside, Susan welcomed everyone, and explained that the building was designed to present a "series of surprises", as its low profile from the road gives way to a multi-layered house with stunning views of the lake. It was built by architect Hart Massey for his family in 1959, on land given to him as a wedding gift. The narrow and steeply sloping site presented a significant design challenge. His solution was a modular steel and glass structure cantilevered over the slope, successfully harmonizing modernism with the landscape. Indeed, the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada selected this house as one of the 500 most significant buildings in Canada, the only residence in Ottawa to be so honoured. President Kelly Noel thanked Susan for her generous and



Kelly Noel, Maria Yeghanyan (Armenia) and Andis Faisasyah (Indonesia)

gracious hospitality and then introduced our 12 new members. "I am delighted to welcome all of you and believe that the record number of new members this year attests to the continuing vibrancy and health of our club," she said. Kelly also welcomed the more than dozen diplomats in attendance and thanked our Diplomatic Representative Gill Drake, who works tirelessly to encourage diplomats to participate in OGC activities. After the formalities, diplomats and new members



Gill Drake (UK), Wannipa Isarabhakdi (Thailand) and Adriana Arza de Arriola (Paraguay)



Executive member Dinah Showman keeps the wine flowing!

mixed and mingled, enjoying the delicious lunch prepared by the executive and the glorious views from every window. Afterwards, many stayed on to wander about the gardens, lovingly designed and planted by Susan and her husband Thomas over the 40 years they have owned the property. Walking through the naturalized landscape, we admired the tranquillity of the setting, the masses of shade-tolerant perennials giving their final show of the season and the fall colours reflecting in the lake. It was a lovely end to a very enjoyable afternoon.



New members Sally Tindale and Donna Shields-Poë with hostess Susan d'Aquino

*Heather Brown*



# HIGHLIGHTS OF FALL MEETINGS

On October 20th, Freda Godby, a member of our Program Committee, gave us an interesting talk about the **Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens**, in Delray Beach, Florida. Louise Tanguay, the accomplished nature photographer, provided the beautiful photographs for the accompanying slideshow. The land for the park and the garden was donated to Palm Beach County in 1974 by George Morikami, a Japanese immigrant settler, who prospered and became an American citizen. The museum of Japanese art and artefacts is complemented by the living exhibit of a traditional Japanese garden. Freda and Louise gave us a step-by-step tour of the garden, whose purpose is to relax the mind and stimulate the soul. Such gardens must include stones or rocks; ponds, streams and waterfalls; islands (as small as one stone); bridges; carefully arranged vegetation; hills; lanterns to act as focal points or guides; paths leading to controlled views; some buildings, like teahouses; and "borrowed scenery" to make the garden seem larger. From 1999 to 2001, the garden designer Hoichi Kurisu created the six gardens, known



George Morikami



Hoichi Kurisu

as the Roji-en, the Garden of the Drops of Dew, incorporating these elements. Each garden is inspired by a different period of Japanese history, from the 1000-year old design of the Shinden Garden, with its two islands and a bridge, to the 19<sup>th</sup> century Modern Romantic Garden with its mass plantings reminiscent of western design. Interesting plants include the Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow Plant (*Brunfelsia*



*latifolia*), with flowers that turn from dark purple to white in three days, the bonsai collection and the Slash Pine (*Pinus elliottii*). The concentric raked stones, smooth green lines, dynamic arrangement of rocks, and use and sound of water make this garden truly calming and spiritual. Morikami, with its interesting history and "timeless truths and rhythms," will obviously be on the wish list of those of us lucky enough to be Florida-bound! Check out the website at: <http://morikami.org/>.

Mary Shearman Reid, of Green Thumb Garden Centre, is a favourite with the Garden Club, and she did not disappoint on November 17<sup>th</sup>, when she gave us lots of fresh new ideas for that perennial (annual?) problem of **ground covers**. She did caution that, while many of these plants can be used singly in beds, they are all



Sweet woodruff

much more exciting as mass plantings. And indeed, her photos proved this, as we saw contrasting swathes of pink and purple creeping phlox growing in full sun, and more delicate carpets of white sweet woodruff (*Galium odoratum*) happily growing in the shade. She noted that it usually takes about three years to achieve perfect coverage, that 'ground covers' could also grow in rock



Creeping phlox covering the ground with colour

walls or between paving stones, and even that river stones could be used as ground covers. Some of Mary's many plant suggestions included carpet roses, which bloom until the frost; Japanese spurge, a pretty evergreen which gives good erosion control; "thugs," like lily of the valley or scilla - very vigorous and invasive; dead-nettles (*Lamium*), whose showy silver leaves have the great advantage of liking dry shade; creeping thyme varieties; the charming dwarf fleece flower (*Persicaria affinis* 'Dimity'); and Dutch white clover for a lawn alternative. We went home with many new ideas to consider over the winter.

*Helen Clark*



# CHRISTMAS AT EARNSCLIFFE

The soft grey stone, steeply-pitched gables and white “gingerbreading” of the British High Commission’s historic official residence, Earnscliffe, provided a picture-perfect setting for the Garden Club’s annual Christmas party on December 9<sup>th</sup>. We were eagerly looking forward to this special occasion, a traditional English afternoon tea, and are most grateful to Gill Drake for opening her elegant home in such fine style for our celebrations.

Glad to leave the brisk below-zero weather outside, we mingled with friends while sipping warm apple cider and admiring the beautifully decorated Christmas tree and other festive touches. Gill then welcomed us, and outlined the history of Earnscliffe, which is designated a National Historic Site of Canada due to its association with Canada’s first Prime Minister, Sir John A. Macdonald. It was his home from 1870 to 1891, the year he died in his (possibly haunted!) bedroom upstairs. Acquired by the British Government in 1930, the house has seen 23 High Commissioners make it their temporary home, and many distinguished guests and official visitors have been hosted here.

Because of Gill’s exceptional outreach efforts in her role as Diplomatic Representative for the Garden Club, we were fortunate to have a record number of diplomatic spouses celebrating with us this year. Several accepted Gill’s invitation to tell us about the customs surrounding Christmas in their countries, which resulted in a fascinating series of talks. Gill kicked off by talking about British traditions, most of which are very familiar to Canadians, including letters to Father Christmas at the North Pole, stockings by the chimney, and listening to the Queen’s message. Seven of our diplomat friends then stepped up to the mic: Wannipa Isarabhakdi (Thailand), Eunyoung Park (Korea), Pirjetta Manninen (Finland), Neo Gariba (Ghana), Hanna Homonai (Ukraine), Etsuko Monji (Japan) and Adriana Arza de Arriola (Paraguay). Their presentations were full of interesting detail, more than can be captured in this short article, but all of them illustrated the fact that, whatever

the religion of the country, Christmas is almost universally celebrated around the world as a time for gathering family together, usually around a special meal, for respecting one’s elders, reaching out to friends and spreading goodwill to the less fortunate.



Etsuko Monji

the religion of the country, Christmas is almost universally celebrated around the world as a time for gathering family together, usually around a special meal, for respecting one’s elders, reaching out to friends and spreading goodwill to the less fortunate. After Kelly thanked all the speakers, she presented Gill with William P. McElligott’s beautiful new book on Ottawa architecture, and announced that the Garden Club will be making a donation to Gill’s chosen charity, the Inflammatory Bowel Disease Foundation ([www.ibdfoundation.org](http://www.ibdfoundation.org)). Then it was time to launch our carol-singing, once again ably accompanied by pianist Bev Hyde, before moving into the dining room for a teatime spread fit for royalty: cucumber, smoked salmon or egg sandwiches, mince tarts, mini scones and cream, lemon macaroons, fruit skewers and a cheese board. A delicious end to a wonderfully warm, festive and truly international afternoon – sincere thanks to all who helped to make it happen.

*Felicity Garrard*



Gill with her tree decorated with family mementoes



Carol singers get into the spirit!





# 150TH COMMEMORATIVE WILDFLOWER GARDEN

Dear Friends,

As you read this, snow will have covered the seeds set by our industrious 150th Committee members earlier this autumn at the Beaumont Hamel site at the Canadian War Museum in anticipation of spring. Our group, together with Richard Rogers, the well-respected landscape designer who has been ably assisting us, has worked hard to create a quiet and contemplative memorial wildflower planting to honour the fallen Newfoundland soldiers who gave their lives in this devastating battle 101 years ago this July 1, 2017.

In addition to sowing seeds, we will be planting hardy poppies, lupines, daisies and forget-me-nots, so beloved in that province, this spring. The centrepiece of our plantings will be groupings of the pitcher plant, provincial flower of Newfoundland, which will be planted in containers recently installed by Richard and two garden club 'associate' members (i.e. husbands!). The containers simulate the bog conditions in which these fascinating, beautiful and (in Newfoundland), protected plants thrive.



Overview of the site, with the Committee and Richard Rogers



Helpful husbands digging the bogs for the pitcher plants



Acknowledging the challenge of these plantings, our group has put many hours into researching and developing a network of professionals and specialists who have guided us in our plans, literally stretching from coast to coast. From the head of the Botanical Gardens at Memorial University, to a specialist grower in British Columbia who is nurturing the hardy variety of the pitcher plant for us over this winter, as well as several of our own Ottawa Garden Club members, we have had an outpouring of generous advice and support for which we are very grateful. We are also very appreciative of the ongoing and positive encouragement received from our friends at the Canadian War Museum who have entrusted us with this very special opportunity and privilege.



Chris, Victoria and Charlotte

We anticipate that planting and watering 'bees' will be taking place in the spring, and I am told we have a very enthusiastic group already signed up for this. In June, we hope to organize an afternoon outing for our membership to the Canadian War Museum to view and celebrate our Ottawa Garden Club 150th Anniversary project. In the meantime, all volunteers remain gratefully accepted! We will have a flurry of activity in late April and early May, but in these quiet days of winter I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of our Club to thank each member of our 150th Committee - Heather Brown, Cindy Boucher, Dianne Breton, Chris Edwards, Jane Panet and Charlotte Ward - for bringing their own special talents, hard work and very good spirits to this project!

Sincerely,

*Victoria Hutton*

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

## Update on Sarah Shapiro - Winner of the Esmonde-White award in 2015

Many of you will remember Sarah, who was awarded the Larry and Anstace Esmonde-White award at the February 2015 meeting. She had been a student in the Horticultural Industries Program at Algonquin College and spent a couple of months doing a co-op placement at the Perley and Rideau Veterans Health Centre, with horticulturist therapist, Barbara Brown, who is now a member of our Club.

While Sarah was at the Perley she worked with Garden Club members in the Rideau Courtyard gardens and she has continued to work with us, as a volunteer, up until this past August. She has just recently moved out to British Columbia, and has enrolled in a Horticultural Therapy Certificate Program in Vancouver. Those of us who got to know Sarah feel she is very well suited to this type of work. We thank her for her contributions to our Club's Outreach Program and wish her all the best with her studies and future career.

*Sally Hutchison*



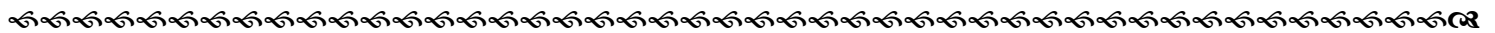
Sarah Shapiro



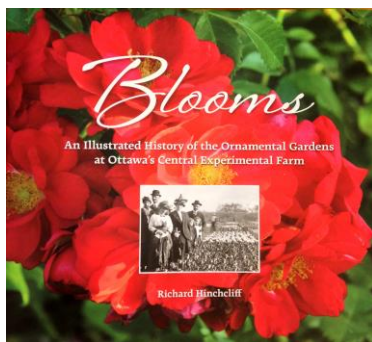
Cynthia Hoisak and her team create Fall in the Perley foyer



Adorable Christmas critters on the Winter Postal Cart



## BOOKWORM



### ***Blooms: An Illustrated History of the Ornamental Gardens at Ottawa's Central Experimental Farm, by Richard Hinchcliff (Sanderling Press, 2016)***

On May 21, 1898, the gardens of the Central Experimental Farm were opened to the public. William Saunders had been planning these gardens for 12 years, and with the experience of horticulturist William T. Macoun, his dream had finally come true. Since that time, however, there has been a gradual movement away from the founding raison d'être of research, education and beauty, so that the gardens visitors see today are very

different from those that were originally planned and planted. Over the past few years, however, volunteers and staff have been able to restore some of the beds, create new ones and maintain the Ornamental Gardens. This book, with its beautiful photography and illustrations of the individual flowers and plants, is a testimony to the hours of care that went into planning, creating and nourishing the original gardens, and also provides a fascinating glimpse into Ottawa's history. Arthur Kellett's paintings of the flowers are remarkable for their accuracy and beauty, and Richard Hinchcliff, who is also the co-author of *For the Love of Trees: A Guide to the Trees of Ottawa's Central Experimental Farm Arboretum*, has included several of his own stunningly beautiful photographs as well.

*Jill Moll*

The book is available for \$35 online at [friendsofthefarm.ca](http://friendsofthefarm.ca), or from Perfect Books, Books on Beechwood, Octopus Books, Singing Pebble Books, Chapters (Rideau Street), and Lee Valley.

The Blooming News, January, 2017 .... page 12