

WINTER-SPRING 2018

THE BLOOMING NEWS

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UPCOMING PROGRAM EVENTS

🌀 **Thursday, February 15, 2018** 12:30 pm

Rockcliffe Park CC

Ottawa's Evolving Landscapes

Anne Carole Beauregard

Ian Badgley

🌀 **Thursday, March 15, 2018** 12:30 pm

Rockcliffe Park CC

**Evergreen Farm – History and Future
of the Esmonde-White Gardens**

Sahra Esmonde-White

🌀 **Thursday, April 26, 2018** 12:30 pm

Rockcliffe Park CC

Creative Container Gardening

Christine Libon

🌀 **Thursday, May 17, 2018** 12:30 pm

Rockcliffe Park CC

Annual General Meeting

**Sharing our Knowledge: Gardeners'
Town Hall Meeting**

🌀 **June, 2018 – date to be announced**

Tour of Members' Gardens

WELCOME TO THE OTTAWA GARDEN CLUB

We are delighted to welcome these members to our club:

Leticia Herberg Carrera – Spain

Lilijana Cencen – Slovenia

Shah Ghani – Malaysia

Kaoru Ishikane – Japan

Maria Dolores Stacey – Ecuador

Anh Thu Tran – Vietnam

Anna Ustuba – European Union

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As I write this, I have just returned from Garden Club's Annual Christmas Party. This year, we were graciously hosted by Leticia Herberg Carrera at her home, the official residence of the Spanish Ambassador to Canada. Leticia's suggestion that all the guests wear something red made for a particularly festive party that complemented the wonderful Christmas décor. Guests were welcomed with Spanish champagne and indulged with wonderful treats on a beautiful tea table. Thank you, Leticia!



We have had a busy start to our Garden Club year – a tour of the fabulous event that honoured Canada's 150th Birthday, MosaïCanada 150 in September, a fascinating talk in October by Mark Burleton on the evolution of landscape design in Canada, and in November a talk by Hattie Klotz about her parents' garden - Pashley Manor Gardens in Sussex - a garden that many of us have visited already and is now on the "must-see list" for those of us who haven't.

The Ottawa Garden Club would not be the success that it is without all the unsung heroes of the Club. We are so grateful to those who find our speakers, write our news, take our pictures, call us up, bake, make coffee and tea, clean up, take our money, send us mail (both electronic and postal), keep the boutique humming, track our membership, organize community outreach and special events and make our diplomatic members feel at home. The vibrancy of the Garden Club is due in large part to the behind-the-scenes work of all these dedicated members. We couldn't be what we are without you!

At this time of year, I feel particularly blessed to be a member of this warm and welcoming Club. I wish you and your families a happy, healthy New Year filled with love, laughter and fun.

THE BLOOMING NEWS

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Peggy Morgan

*I've always felt that having a
garden is like having a good
and loyal friend.*

C.Z. Guest

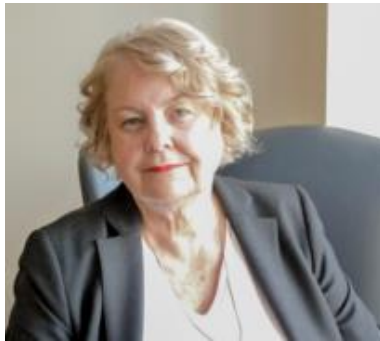
PROGRAM SPRING 2018

Thursday, February 15, 2018 12:30 pm
Rockcliffe Park CC

Ottawa's Evolving Landscapes **Anne Carole Beauregard** **Ian Badgley**

Anne Carole Beauregard, a landscape architect and Project Manager at the National Capital Commission, and archaeologist colleague Ian Badgley, will speak about the Colonel By Estate and discuss the evolution of the landscapes of Nepean Point and Major's Hill Park, focusing on the gardens of each period.

Anne Carole Beauregard's career has spanned more than 30 years as President and Director of her own consulting firm in Landscape Planning and Architecture. Her company has become known for construction projects, theme parks, gardens and tourism projects. Since 2010, she has been a Project Manager for the NCC, and more recently she managed a nationwide design competition at Major's Hill Park.



Anne Carole Beauregard



Ian Badgley

Ian Badgley has over 40 years of experience in the planning, development and management of cultural heritage projects, with specialization in archaeological resource management. He has been responsible for developing and

conducting numerous projects throughout Quebec, Ontario, the eastern Arctic and Subarctic, and, more recently, the National Capital Region.

Thursday, March 15, 2018 12:30 pm
Rockcliffe Park CC

Evergreen Farm – The History and Future of the Esmonde-White Gardens **Sahra Esmonde-White**

Sahra Esmonde-White, granddaughter of the late Anstace Esmonde-White, recently took over her grandparents' beautiful property, Evergreen Farm, near Kemptville. Her talk will share her experiences and knowledge as she revives and builds upon the magical gardens made famous by her grandparents' 17-year PBS gardening show, *"From a Country Garden"*. One of her ongoing projects in the garden is the creation of an apothecary workshop, along with a medicinal herb garden.



Sahra Esmonde-White

Sahra is co-owner and CEO of Essentrics, a fitness program developed by her mother, Miranda. Sahra hosts the Essentrics DVD Series, which has won "Top Workout" awards in both Canada and the U.K. She has been named one of the foremost health experts in Canada by both Fashion Magazine and Flare, two of Canada's leading women's publications. With a Bachelor's degree in Economics and graduate studies in Public Health, Sahra has made it her life's mission to help people lead healthy lives through intelligent fitness and a thoughtful lifestyle.

Thursday, April 26, 2018 12:30 pm
Rockcliffe Park CC

Creative Container Gardening **Christine Libon**

Many of us are in the process of downsizing our accommodation, but find ourselves still wishing for a small and manageable garden. Christine Libon will tell us how we can achieve this through the use of creative and versatile containers. Her presentation will include tips on choosing a container, recommended planting medium and suitable plant material. She will illustrate her talk with photographs of her beautiful seasonal designs, which are sure to inspire us as we start thinking about our own spring creations.



Christine Libon

Born and raised in Ottawa, Christine's diverse background includes a Master's degree in Applied Criminology, an interior design certificate and a horticulturist

certificate from Algonquin College. She has run her own landscaping business since 2001, designing and renovating small urban spaces embracing all the seasons, including winter, by gardening with containers.

Thursday, May 17, 2018 12:30 pm
Rockcliffe Park CC

Annual General Meeting

Sharing our Knowledge!

Please come and join us for a **Gardeners' Town Hall Meeting**. This will take place after the AGM, with the able assistance of Pat Sylvester as MC. To start the program we will have a question and answer period with a panel of our master gardeners, followed by an open question period during which either the panel or members of the audience can answer further questions. It should be lots of fun and very informative!

June, 2018 (Date to be announced)

Members' Marvellous Gardens

Many of you will remember the delightful discoveries we made four years ago as we toured a number of our members' notable gardens. This year we will once again have the opportunity to visit and admire, and to pick up ideas and inspiration. The locations are not confirmed as yet, but we know you will not be disappointed!

There is no gardening without humility. Nature is constantly sending even its oldest scholars to the bottom of the class for some egregious blunder.

Arthur Austin

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

MOSAICANADA 150

Instead of gathering in a country garden as has been our tradition in the past, this year's September meeting took the form of a guided tour of Mosaicanada 150, a spectacular exhibition of huge and stunning sculptures constructed entirely of multicoloured plants. Situated in Jacques Cartier Park, the exhibit was designed to reflect 150 years of history, values, culture and arts in Canada through displays representing each province and territory. The result was 40 astonishing creations arranged along a winding one-kilometre-long pathway,



set against the backdrop of the Ottawa River and Parliament Hill. The day of our visit was unseasonably hot, and although we may have wilted a little, the multiple plants that cleverly "painted" each

sculpture certainly did not, thanks, as we were told, to an ingenious irrigation system, and constant loving care by the dedicated team of gardeners on site.

From the spectacular train station that greeted us, complete with engine and carriages, and a 12' high Mountie on his splendidly

prancing horse, we progressed past a lobster fisherman, Champlain's ships arriving on Quebec's shores, a giant



Inukshuk, a prospector, a voyageur, hockey players, Glenn Gould's piano complete with Bach playing, and much more, eventually arriving at the highlight of the exhibition, a marvellous and moving depiction of Mother Earth, her serene image arising from the turtle's back, a waterfall gushing from her right hand, surrounded by majestic animals and wild horses with waving grassy manes. Truly a sight that we would all remember for a long time. Many thanks to Chris Edwards for making the arrangements for our visit.



Felicity Garrard

FALL LUNCHEON FOR DIPLOMATS

One of the enduring and significant traditions of the Ottawa Garden Club is our annual luncheon to welcome new and returning diplomatic members. This tradition has its roots in the founding mandate of our club, which was formed in no small part to provide an opportunity for diplomats to meet Ottawa residents with a common interest.

This year, Patricia Padmos graciously opened her lovely Rothwell Heights home for the event. On an unusually warm day in September, guests were delighted to find themselves in cool air-conditioned comfort as they moved through Pat's spacious and artfully decorated home. President Peggy Morgan extended a warm welcome to the diplomats in attendance: Maria Anastasiades (Cyprus); Leticia Herberg Carrera (Spain); Diane Chatoor (Trinidad and Tobago); Inara Eihenbauma (Latvia); Andis Faizasyah (Indonesia); Anne Martin (Ireland); Djurdja Papazoglu (Serbia); Maria Dolores Stacey (Ecuador); and our new Diplomatic Representative, Maria de Souza Pinto (Brazil). Peggy thanked Maria for all her help organizing the event and extended a special thanks to Pat for her generous hospitality.



Pat Padmos and Maria Anastasiades (Cyprus)

Once the formalities were over, chatter and laughter soon filled the air as guests were invited to enjoy the delicious luncheon prepared by the executive. They took their places at the many dining areas tastefully arranged by Pat, and some even ventured out into the heat and humidity to have their lunch pool-side and to enjoy the vistas of sweeping lawns and lush gardens.

A number of the diplomats in attendance were very new to Ottawa and commented on how much they appreciated the warm welcome and friendly ambiance of the luncheon. Certainly a tradition well worth keeping!

Heather Brown



Diane Chatoor (Trinidad & Tobago) and Anne Martin (Ireland)



Andis Faizasyah (Indonesia)



Maria de Souza Pinto (Brazil)



Peggy Morgan and Felicity Garrard help with food prep.

HIGHLIGHTS OF FALL MEETINGS



Rideau Hall

As Canada's sesquicentennial neared its close, it seemed appropriate for **Mark Burleton** to talk to us about **150 years of Canadian landscape and garden design**. Mark has had a distinguished career in horticulture and is now Manager of Grounds and Greenhouses for the National Capital Commission. Although he is responsible for the horticulture and landscape portfolio of the six Official Residences of Canada, most of his work is focused on Rideau Hall. Using old photos dating back to before 1905, he showed us how its garden has changed over the years. Although

the layout remains essentially the same, each Governor General put his or her special mark on the garden, especially Viscount Byng's wife, Lady Byng, who established the rock garden in 1926 and planted many irises and peonies. Canadian gardens have always had an inherent connection with the natural world, and have also been influenced by informal English and formal French design. Mackenzie King's estate at Kingsmere is a good example. The formal garden at the Central Experimental Farm dates back to the 1870s and was very influential, and Mark mentioned numerous others, including Assiniboine Park in Winnipeg, the Halifax Public Gardens (one of the oldest), the Butchart Gardens, the botanical gardens in Hamilton and Toronto, the Devonian Garden in Edmonton, and in Quebec, the Reford Gardens and one of his favourite gardens in the world, Quatre Vents. Important designers of Canadian gardens include Fred Gage Todd (Mount Royal and Assiniboine Park), Heinrich Teuscher (Montreal Botanical Garden) and Cornelia Oberlander (National Gallery of Canada gardens). As Mark is primarily an arborist, he had much interesting advice about preserving old trees, and fielded many questions from the audience after his talk. His in-depth knowledge and enthusiasm for his subject sent us home with a new appreciation for the designers and creators of our unique and historic Canadian public gardens.



Lady Evelyn Byng, by Philip Alexius de Laszló, 1917

Helen Clark



Pashley Manor

What better way to brighten up a dreary November day than to be briefly transported into the paradise that is **Pashley Manor Gardens** in Sussex, England! Our speaker, **Hattie Klotz**, a well-known journalist and cookbook writer, resident in Canada for 20 years, took us on a highly entertaining tour of her childhood home, peppering her talk with wonderful anecdotes about duelling black swans, visitors falling off the terrace, sheep being brought in to trample down a leaky pond bed, and more. She described how in 1983 her parents bought a decaying Tudor manor house in Sussex with 200 acres of land, and through hard work and vision, transformed it into a world-famous, award-winning garden, now visited by more than 35,000 people every year. As Hattie said: her

father didn't buy a house that day, he bought a garden, one that existed only in his imagination. After he retired in 1992 he dedicated himself to the garden full time, re-designing and planting a range of areas, including a formal hedged rose garden, long herbaceous borders, woodland walks and a superb walled kitchen garden that now supplies all the produce for the thriving restaurant. After a slow start on first opening the garden to the public, her father staged an exhibition about Gertrude Jekyll, which led to the creation of a number of other events, including a highly popular tulip festival, as well as a sculpture festival that featured over 100 mostly bronze pieces, many of which can be seen dotted around the garden. After the garden won the HHA (Historic Houses Association) Christie's Garden of the Year award in 1999, its popularity increased still further, and it is now a thriving business, with Hattie's parents showing no signs of slowing down as they forge ahead with their latest venture - a Dahlia Festival that is attracting UK-wide attention. However, as she told us, it still remains a peaceful place, with many quiet and lovely corners in which to sit and meditate. We left with visions of gushing roses and tumbling wisteria dancing in our heads, and vowed to see this glorious place for ourselves one day.



Stunning wisteria cascading over the Queen Anne addition.

Felicity Garrard



CHRISTMAS PARTY

When Leticia Herberg Carrera, wife of the Spanish Ambassador to Canada, kindly invited us to celebrate Christmas at her residence, she requested that we all wear something red, as befits the season. Garden Club members and diplomats rose to the challenge in spades, sporting a dazzling array of Christmassy outfits that brought an extra warmth to the elegant and spacious rooms of Leticia's beautiful home. As we gathered and chatted and sipped delicious Spanish champagne, we admired Cynthia Hoisak's glowing decorations, as well as Leticia's charming traditional creche. Leticia welcomed us, introduced her fellow diplomats and described some Spanish Christmas traditions, which included a draw for a gift basket filled with wines and cheeses. Then it was time to sing! Bev Hyde accompanied us on the keyboard as we did our best to raise the roof with a selection of cheery carols, after which we made our way into the dining room to be greeted by a spectacular display of Christmas treats. Sincere thanks to Leticia and her staff and to Peggy Morgan, Sally Hutchison and Heather Brown for organizing this lovely festive occasion.

Felicity Garrard



Leticia Herberg Carrera





Sally Hutchison, Heather Brown, Peggy Morgan, Cynthia Hoisak and Leticia Herberg Carrera



Maria de Souza Pinto and Marianne Feaver



Cindy Boucher and Pirjetta Manninen (Finland)



Lerzan Kayihan (Turkey) with Hannah Homonai (Ukraine)



Jean Palmer, Marilyn Light and Marti Todd



Feliz Navidad!



Festive reds!



Dianne Breton and Cynthia Hoisak



The feast!



Renée Smith and Carol Henderson

CELEBRATING THE 150TH OGC SESQUICENTENNIAL PROJECT

As the new year begins, we can look back on our first season at the Canadian War Museum Beaumont Hamel site with a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction. I don't think any of us envisioned that the project we created to celebrate Canada's 150th year would take two years to initiate and realize, nor that the project would take on a life of its own after that.

Earlier this autumn, we met with Canadian War Museum officials on the site to review the project before the final cut of the grass paths from the Archive windows to the bench and fence. They agreed unanimously that the overall concept was pleasing and the outcome very positive. The CWM has agreed to take over the general maintenance of the site, weeding out the major offenders, and cutting the grass according to our suggested schedule. Ongoing oversight by the Ottawa Garden Club was suggested and indeed, encouraged. Our future plans include 'watchful waiting' and additional plantings.

As with any partnership with Mother Nature, the orders may be placed, but delivery and timing can remain unconfirmed. And so it has been with our wildflowers of Newfoundland, lovingly sourced, planted and tended by our band of committee members and volunteers over the past three seasons. Of course, a wildflower planting is one of the most difficult to install, with just a little to show for all the nurturing in the beginning; but as time goes on, it is our hope that our Wildflower Garden of Remembrance will grow and propagate, giving solace and pleasure to many.



Pitcher-plant - Sarracenia purpurea



The Beaumont Hamel memorial site in France.

Our 150th Committee, comprising Heather Brown, Cindy Boucher, Dianne Breton, Christine Edwards, Jane Panet and Charlotte Ward, join me in thanking each and every one of our reliable volunteers, who took on the significant task of nurturing, watering and weeding throughout the spring and summer, enabling the success of our project.

Additionally, I wish to thank Richard Rogers, our faithful, hands-on consultant; my 150th Committee for their hard work, friendship and commitment; our OGC Executive Board; the talented and generous OGC Bloomin' Artists who donated funds for future plantings; and each and every one of our members (and some

of their family members) who encouraged and supported us in many ways over the past two years.

And lastly, to our friends and officials at the Canadian War Museum for entrusting the Ottawa Garden Club with this project and for their ongoing commitment, we express our sincere appreciation.

What a wonderful year!

*Victoria Hutton
Chair, 150th Committee*

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Sarah Shapiro – Creative Arts Horticultural Instructor

Sarah Shapiro worked as an intern at the Perley Rideau Veteran's Health Centre under "our" Barb Brown, who was then the Horticultural Therapist there. Many of us who volunteer at the Perley got to know Sarah and were very impressed by her work ethic and sympathetic nature, so nominated her for the Esmonde-White award, which she received in February, 2015. Since then she has taken horticultural therapy courses in BC and has recently been appointed the new Creative Arts Horticultural Instructor at the Perley. Congratulations, Sarah! Here's what she has to say about her new role:



Sarah Shapiro

"I am ecstatic about joining The Perley Rideau team. I will be incorporating arts, music, meditation, therapeutic gardening, herbalism, and mindfulness into the Horticulture Therapy programs. I hope that my energy, passion, and gentle approach to caring for the residents will provide meaning and wellness to improve their quality of life. My goal is to foster healthy bodies, minds, and spirits through these gardening activities. I am looking forward to meeting and reconnecting with the residents, staff, and volunteers."



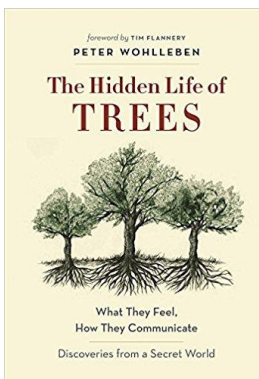
Cynthia Hoisak and her team create Fall in the foyer...



... and a glowing winter village for the festive season.

Sally Hutchison

BOOKWORM



The Hidden Life of Trees, by Peter Wohlleben.

This New York Times best seller is a marvellous book about the secret or little-known life of trees. The author is a professional forester who has managed forests in the Eifel mountains in Germany. First published in 2015 in German, this is the English edition published in 2016 by the David Suzuki Institute, with an end note by Dr. Suzanne Simard, Professor of Forest Ecology at the University of British Columbia.

Even if you do not have a botanical or forestry background, the text is still very readable. The book opens up to the reader the wonderful world of trees, how they grow, communicate, and protect themselves. We are introduced to their social networks, their senses and how they use them, their fascinating interaction with the soil they are rooted in and the host of organisms that interact with their roots. Such interesting activities as knowing when to leaf out, when to store water and how to hibernate are all explored in the light of recent evidence from forest researchers.

I found it a delightful account of trees, the forest and the soil conditions in which they thrive or fail. Their whole world seems much richer and more complex than I imagined. If you are interested in trees - these fascinating, ancient denizens of the world, so important to our climate and health - then I have no hesitation in recommending this book.

Donna Shields-Poë

BEHIND THE SCENES

In this new series, the Blooming News will feature the dedication and creativity of our members, many of whom work tirelessly "behind the scenes" to make our events and activities so successful. Our first featured volunteer is Cynthia Hoisak, photographer for the newsletter, creative director of our Perley Rideau postal cart, and flower arranger extraordinaire.

Cynthia Hoisak's Artful Creations

It was Cynthia Hoisak's passion for flowers that led her to join the Ottawa Garden Club more than 10 years ago. While on the IODE House and Garden Tour, Cynthia noticed an exquisite flower arrangement donated by the OGC. Wanting to learn more, she contacted Joan Drummond, then an IODE organizer and also executive member of OGC. Joan, who never missed an opportunity to recruit talent to her causes, not only sponsored Cynthia to join the OGC, but also engaged her to create a floral arrangement for the IODE, which she has done every year since.



Funeral arrangement for Joan Drummond

Cynthia's talent for artful floral creations was soon discovered by other club members when she won our annual flower arranging competition at one of our fall outings to Renée Smith's lovely gardens. Since then, Cynthia has been asked, and has willingly agreed, to make arrangements and centrepieces for all our special events, including our fall luncheons and annual Christmas parties. Some of these beautiful arrangements are shown on this page. Cynthia says she felt that her involvement with the club had come full circle when she was asked to create an arrangement for Joan's memorial service this past summer.

Surprisingly, Cynthia began her career, not as an artist, but as a lab technician for Abbott Laboratories in Montreal, trained in microbiology and chemistry. But she was a skilled weaver on the side, and passionate

about fabrics and textiles. While living in Saudi Arabia where her husband was on work assignment, Cynthia was looking for something to do, and ended up decorating guest homes and teaching weaving to more than 300 women from around the world. When the family returned to Canada, Cynthia decided to turn her passion into a career and at the age of 48, enrolled as a full-time student in Algonquin College's Interior Design Program. Since then she has successfully run her own business "Textile Décor", offering renovation and design services.

In her spare time, Cynthia is also the Club's photographer and the creative inspiration for our postal cart decorations at the Perley. (But that is a story for another day). She says her interest in flower arranging is "just for fun", echoing the original name given to our club by founder Lady Fowler -- "Flowers for Fun!".

Heather Brown



Created for the New Zealand Christmas party in 2015, echoing the red, black, silver/white theme of the residence decor, and using ferns, the national emblem of NZ.



Exquisite shades of pink in a cork log.



Dramatic fall colours for a Diplomatic lunch at Susan D'Aquino's home in 2016.



Cynthia's martini glass entry in the "Dazzling Designers", competition, where limes were a mandatory surprise ingredient!