



THE BLOOMING NEWS

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UPCOMING PROGRAM EVENTS

🌀 **Thursday, February 20, 2020** 12:30 pm

Rockcliffe Park CC

Happy Healthy Hostas

Anne Frederking

🌀 **Thursday, March 19, 2020** 12:30 pm

Rockcliffe Park CC

Dancing Dahlias

Olivia Chuchryk

🌀 **Thursday, April 16, 2020** 12:30 pm

Rockcliffe Park CC

The Basics of Garden Design

Mary Ann Van Berlo

🌀 **Friday, May 8, 2020** 6:30 pm

Rockcliffe Retirement Residence

Another Bloomin' Art Show

🌀 **Thursday, May 21, 2020** 12:30 pm

Rockcliffe Park CC

AGM

All About West Nile Virus

MacKenzie Turner

🌀 **June 18, 2020**

Tour of Peony Beds at the

Central Experimental Farm

Welcome to the Ottawa Garden Club

Abeer Al Jassim – United Arab Emirates

Maria José Jaramillo Alzate – Colombia

Patricia Ayorkor – Ghana

Maria Raquel da Câmara – Portugal

Vikki Eriksson – Finland

Pauline Farley – Barbados

Gabi Garcia – Venezuela

Olga Kamaldinova – Kazakhstan

Piret Lukk – Estonia

Alma Muca – Albania

Anthea Vanech Phillippou – Cyprus

Roxana Rodriguez – Peru

KATHLEEN BILLEN

The Ottawa Garden Club is delighted to welcome Kathleen Billen, spouse of the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium, as our new Diplomatic Representative. She



replaces Maria de Souza Pinto from Brazil who left in September 2019 for a posting in Argentina. Kathleen, together with her husband Johan Verkammen and their four sons, have moved

often in the diplomatic world, most recently to Lebanon and Senegal. They arrived in Canada in 2018. A lawyer by training, Kathleen is also an author who has written a travel guide about Senegal as well as a beautifully illustrated coffee table book called "Be Our Guest" which highlights Belgian hospitality and gastronomic heritage.

Kathleen says she has enjoyed warm Canadian hospitality and new friendships since arriving here. She especially loves our easy access to beautiful natural settings, and one of her favourite pastimes is hiking in Gatineau Park in all seasons. She has also become involved in various committees and is currently on the steering committee of the Heads of Mission Spouses Association (HOMSA). Her residence was recently featured on the "Homes for the Holidays" house tour in support of Hospice Care Ottawa.

We feel very fortunate to have such a talented addition to our executive. Welcome Kathleen!

The Blooming News

Newsletter of

The Ottawa Garden Club
is published semi-annually
in January and in August.
Volume 21, #1, January 2020

Editor: Felicity Garrard
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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I know it isn't everyone's favourite season, but there is a lot about winter that I love: the magical beauty of everything covered in a deep layer of snow; being outside, skiing and snowshoeing. I especially enjoy the long evenings by the fire, giving me much-needed time for reading and reflection.

Not surprisingly, what I am thinking about is gardening! Not so much the 'how to', but the 'why'.

Gardening has many obvious physical benefits. All that bending, twisting, lifting, and stretching has to be good for us! It is also an outlet for our creativity, whether working in the garden itself or by making beautiful floral arrangements. For many, gardening provides healthy food and healing herbs straight from the property. But it is also good for our emotional and spiritual wellbeing. The famous neuroscientist Dr. Oliver Sacks wrote an essay on the restorative and healing power of gardens. He said, "In 40 years of medical practice, I have found only two types of non-pharmaceutical 'therapy' to be vitally important for patients with chronic neurological diseases: music and gardens."

Gardening also adds beauty to our communities and connects us with people, whether visiting with neighbours in front of our houses, or working in communal city plots. I know that one of my favourite activities is chatting with fellow garden club members as we weed and snip in the courtyard gardens at the Perley.

And finally, being a gardener helps us make a better world. We understand the need for biodiversity, we feel the connectedness of all living things, and we see the direct impact of climate change. David Dunn, in his talk to us at the Rideau Woodland Ramble, noted the change he has seen in viable plant material over 20 years in business: for example, some trees, like the blue Spruce, no longer thrive in our weather extremes.

We know that trees are critical to the health of our planet. Scientist and author Diana Beresford-Kroeger in her recent book says, "The forest is far more than a source of lumber. It is our lungs. It cleans the atmosphere. It recycles water. It is our collective medicine cabinet." Her plan to save the planet (and ourselves) is to plant native trees, not cut them down.

Perhaps I have had too many long dark evenings to reflect (!), but I am grateful for our forests and our gardens and for our wonderful garden club, which brings us together in friendship. We have an interesting program coming up and I look forward to seeing you at our meetings.

Happy New Year to all and happy gardening!

Heather Brown, President



PROGRAM SPRING 2020

Thursday, February 20, 2020 12:30 pm
Rockcliffe Park CC

Happy Healthy Hostas **Anne Frederking**

Originally from Asia, these tough, versatile and fascinating perennials can be incorporated into the garden in many unique ways. Learn about their best companion plants, their growing conditions, problems and diseases.



Hosta 'June'

Anne is a local gardener who has been growing hostas for many years, and is a long-term member of online hosta chat lists. She started by trial and error and got into hostas gradually as she realized that her once-sunny garden was becoming increasingly shady. She is also a musician who retired from the Ottawa Symphony in 2010, but is still an active member of the Ottawa Chamber Orchestra. She teaches violin and viola, and directs a handbell ensemble at Emmanuel United Church.



Anne Frederking



Tool Talks



Do you have a favourite tool? We all enjoyed Pauline Yelle's 'Tool Talk' during the October meeting - we'd love to have more members share a Tool Talk with us. If you are willing, please talk to Pauline.

Thursday, March 19, 2020 12:30 pm
Rockcliffe Park CC

Dancing Dahlias **Olivia Chuchryk**



Some dahlia blooms from Olly's Charing House Gardens website

These spectacular, sultry and heat-loving flowers, native to Mexico and Central America, produce glorious displays of exotic blooms in a wide range of colours, shapes and sizes. All aspects of growing dahlias - planting, fertilizing, pest control, staking, digging, storing, and dividing will be presented with some demonstrations, just in time for the spring planting season!



Olly Chuchryk

Olly Chuchryk has been growing dahlias and selling both flowers and tubers since 2005. She still marvels at this flower, and uses dahlias as the theme of her textile art creations - her latest venture.

<https://www.charinghousegardens.ca/gallery>

Weeds are flowers too, once you get to know them.

A. A. Milne

Thursday, April 16, 2020 12:30pm
Rockcliffe Park CC

The Basics of Garden Design **Mary Ann Van Berlo**



A sunny section of Van Berlo Gardens

Mary Ann Van Berlo will discuss the many design elements to bear in mind when creating a garden: line, colour, texture, shape and form, space, mass and movement. The principles of repetition, rhythm, emphasis, balance and symmetry, proportion and scale, and unity and diversity in the landscape will be explored. She will also give us some general tips on how to enhance the visual

appeal of our own gardens.

Mary Ann is a member of the Master Gardeners for Ottawa-Carleton and of three horticultural societies. Her 2.4-acre garden on the St. Lawrence is part of the 1000 Islands and Rideau Canal Garden Trail. Since the trail opened in June 2015, Mary Ann has welcomed many visitors and bus tours to her garden. In June 2017, her garden was featured in the magazine Ontario Gardener.



Mary Ann Van Berlo

Friday, May 8, 2020 6:30pm
Rockcliffe Retirement Residence
100 Island Lodge Road

Another Bloomin' Art Show

Come to the vernissage on Friday, May 8 for an evening of refreshments and fun while we view (and buy) beautiful art, including paintings, jewelry, photography, and encaustics, all created by our talented garden club members.

The Blooming News, January, 2020

Thursday, May 21, 2020 12:30 pm
Rockcliffe Park CC

Annual General Meeting **All About West Nile Virus** **MacKenzie Turner**

MacKenzie is an inspector with the Ottawa Public Health Unit. She will give a short presentation on the West Nile Virus (WNV), which is spread by mosquitoes. You will learn how WNV is transmitted, the symptoms, how to reduce breeding sites and most importantly, how to protect yourself and your family.



Return of the Foster Plants!

In November, our newest regular members were charged with caring for a young plant – a Kalanchoe – for the next 6 months. They were instructed to bring back their plant in May and regale us with tales of the trials and tribulations that they and their plant faced during their winter together, demonstrating their success or not.



At the November meeting, program chair Pat Sylvester (at microphone) tells new members Margo Ledoux and Deborah Seaborn (at left) and Linda Russell (at right) what their duty is with the foster plant. New members Sonia Rajani and Keltie Mierins were not at the meeting, but were not left out! Donna Chan (in green) promised to deliver a plant to Sonia and Pat agreed to deliver Keltie's plant.



Thursday, June 18, 2020

Tour of the Peony Beds at the Farm **hosted by Blaine Marchand & Bill Wegman**

For our June outing this year we will visit the award-winning and heritage peonies at the Experimental Farm's ornamental gardens, where there are twelve planting beds displaying 400 named species and over 600 individual plants. Blaine and Bill are peony experts and Friends of the Farm members. Don't forget to bring paper and pencil to note the names of your favourite blooms and tips on how to keep your peonies happy and healthy. Further details to follow.



A GARDEN PARTY TO REMEMBER



Above: Hostess Leticia Herberg Carrera (Spain) admires Sylvie Marsan's fascinator!

Hats, champagne, sunshine, and flowers combined to make the Farewell Luncheon for Maria de Souza Pinto of Brazil a garden party to remember! Leticia Herberg Carrera (Spain) hosted the party at her beautiful Residence, and encouraged everyone to wear hats and to dress in summer pastels. The invitation list was a testament to Maria's wide-ranging interests and included friends from the Garden Club, her walking group, her Spanish Club, her French Club and the diplomatic community.



Maria de Souza Pinto



Left:
Canada vs Latvia:
A TIE!
Ann Goldsmith wearing
a fur hat (a Canadian
necessity) and Ināra
Eihenbauma wearing a
garland of real flowers
(a Latvian tradition).



Above: A Mount Rushmore of OGC presidents!! Heather Brown (current president), Victoria Hutton (2011-12) and Cindy Boucher (2013-14)



Left:
The OGC swept the hat
competition!
Pauline Yelle, Chris
Edwards and Jane
Little.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS AND DIPLOMATS

On a chilly September day, members who joined the club in May and diplomatic friends were honoured at the annual OGC Autumn Luncheon, held this year at Lisa Cogan's beautiful Rockcliffe home. Lisa was a lovely and gracious host, discreetly taking care of our every need. Before lunch, guests mingled in her spacious home and wandered through her stunning perennial gardens. Our five new members were all in attendance, and during the formalities received a warm welcome from President Heather Brown, who presented them each with an OGC pin. Our 11 diplomatic guests were also introduced and welcomed. Heather then offered a special tribute to our Diplomatic Representative Maria de Souza Pinto, who was leaving Canada for a posting in Argentina at the end of the month. Maria was made an honorary lifetime member and also presented with the OGC pin. Maria then announced that Kathleen Billen of Belgium will take over her role. Once the introductions were over, we all partook of the delicious luncheon prepared by the Executive.



President Heather Brown with new members Keltie Mierins and Linda Russell



Pauline Yelle with new member Deborah Seaborn



Our new Diplomatic representative, Kathleen Billen (Belgium), President Heather Brown, Ināra Eihenbauma (Latvia), Peggy Morgan, Chris Edwards



Our departing Diplomatic representative, Maria de Souza Pinto (Brazil), Cathy Stapleton, Anne Martin (Ireland) and Maria José Jaramillo Alzate (Colombia)



Marianne Feaver, Maria Dolores Stacey (Ecuador), Kaoru Ishikane (Japan) and Pauline Farley (Barbados)



Maria de Souza Pinto (Brazil) raffled off a prized house plant she could not take with her to Argentina – new member Sonia Rajani was the lucky winner!



Leticia Herberg Carrera (Spain) with hostess Lisa Cogan

HIGHLIGHTS OF FALL MEETINGS

September - Rambling into the Fall Season

We could not have asked for a more glorious day for the Club's 19th September outing to the Rideau Woodland Ramble and our picnic lunch at Victoria and David Hutton's WillowStone Farm. The sunshine was warm, the breeze light, and the countryside on the drive down was looking its bucolic best, with autumn colours just starting to show. As promised, we were greeted at the Ramble with coffee and delicious snacks, giving us a chance to mingle and catch up after the summer, before taking our seats in the garden for Heather's welcome and introduction to our hosts David Dunn and Rob Caron. Dave gave us a short history of the Ramble, and explained that the idea was sparked by two things – a long-term dream to share his and Rob's gardening experiences with other gardeners and collectors, and the spectacular impact of the ice storm of 1998. The storm uprooted every single tree, mostly red pine, in a two-acre swath, creating an area of open land which offered the potential for plantings which had not previously been possible. As the website puts it, the Ramble rose like a "Phoenix from the ashes of the storm", and opened officially on July 1st, 2000.



Felicity Garrard with host David Dunn



Victoria Hutton and giant sunflowers!

There are seven different planting zones in the garden, wrapped around the Centre itself, with winding trails branching out into the woodland. A path following the edge of the pretty pond is flanked with unusual species of evergreen and leads to a wildflower labyrinth. Hostas feature along many of the trails, and a demonstration bed shows off some spectacular and unusual varieties. Quirky sculptures and garden art abound, as well as bird houses, reminding us of Dave's love of the birds that feature in his paintings in the small art gallery.

A central theme of Dave and Rob's talk was the impact that climate change has had on the garden over 20 years; they notice a difference in the bird life – robins that don't migrate, more cardinals around, and no evening grosbeaks at all, and because of much hotter summers and extreme variations in rainfall they now cannot grow trees such as Colorado spruce or upright junipers.

After some happy plant shopping, we made our way to Victoria and David's beautiful country home, where we picnicked on the lawn while admiring the picturesque historic barns, colourful fall perennials and especially the extraordinarily lush vegetable garden! Thanks to Victoria and David for

their hospitality, and to all who helped to arrange this delightful day.

Felicity Garrard



Terry Hodgins: sure hands and good eye!

October – "Making Flowers Alive"

In October, Ikebana Master Terry (Jusei) Hodgins opened our eyes to the ancient and esoteric Japanese art of flower arranging. This traditional art form dates back to the seventh century, with the name deriving from the words *ikeru* (to arrange, have life, be living) and *hana* (flower). It takes years of study to fully appreciate its disciplined beauty and complexity. A teacher at the Ottawa Chapter of the Ohara School of Ikebana, Terry is a certified floral designer who became inspired by Japanese detail and the calm, meditative nature of Ikebana. Simplifying the subject for us, he noted that there are two styles of landscape arrangements: the traditional, strict Japanese style, using limited materials and prescribed methods, and the realistic, which creates scenes using natural, seasonal plants and the subjectivity of the arranger. Both of these styles use subjects, objects and connectors, much like an English sentence.

Mastering Ikebana is exacting, and there are strict rules for the numbers and proportions of each element, as well as for their placement, with one always slanted or upright and another always facing back. Colour, form and texture are carefully considered and odd numbers preferred. Terry created several different arrangements before our enthralled gaze. The first, a realistic arrangement in a low, wide receptacle to allow more oxygen to reach the plants, depicted his cottage landscape. The careful placement of three stems of yew, a bronze viburnum branch, some red cedar, a stem of crabapple with yellow berries, and some 'Green Trick' *Dianthus* in a shallow pool of water made it easy to visualize his lake, with mountains beyond. Another arrangement involved a dry, gnarled grapevine, interspersed with dried and living sunflower heads (some drinking artfully from small, spiked "kenzan" water holders) and some kale and *Gomphrena globosa* (or globe amaranth) to act as connectors. A stunning, more traditional and asymmetrical arrangement of purply-brown millet, orange calla lilies, Queen Anne's lace and purple kale was raffled off and won by one of our new diplomatic members, and a final "offering" type arrangement on a natural plank of a flat, Cinderella pumpkin, two heirloom tomatoes, a ginger root and a dried mushroom, connected by grapevines and three long beans, was a reminder of the Thanksgiving season. As he quietly and delicately placed each element and described what he was doing, Terry's presentation was almost hypnotic. There were many questions afterwards and much praise for a truly engrossing talk. Mention should also be made of Pauline Yelle's introduction, which began with a "Tool Talk"- a very funny discussion of her favourite hose sprayer attachment, which, in fact, turned out to be a pink disc water nozzle for washing cars!



One of Terry's beautiful arrangements was raffled and the happy winner was Vikki Eriksson (Finland)!

Helen Clark



November – Ottawa's Historical Farm

The speaker in November was Richard Hinchcliff, who spoke on "The Gardens at Ottawa's Central Experimental Farm". It was a most interesting lecture with excellent slides. He summarized the history of the farm, telling us how it was started in 1886 on 188 hectares on the outskirts of the city! The first director was William Saunders. The objectives of the farm were to hybridize various plants and trees that could withstand our winters. Many dedicated people worked in the gardens, each with their own interest in certain plants. Some of the names Richard mentioned were Isabella Preston, William Macoun, and more recently, our own Mary Pratte, who was instrumental in reviving the peony gardens. To honour all her hard work, a new peony has been named 'Mary Pratte'. The farm has been tended by a dedicated group of volunteers called the "Friends of the Farm", which is still very active today. When the farm was first developed, people would come out from the city, arriving by horse and buggy because it was so far out in the country. To follow up on this talk, the club is planning a visit to the Experimental Farm in June. We will be driving there in cars!



Richard Hinchcliff

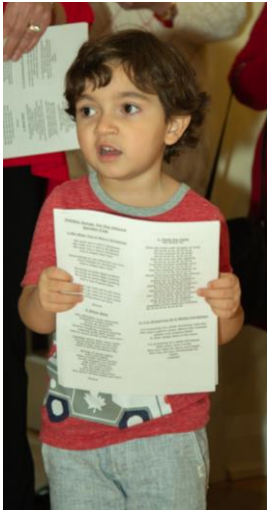
According to custom, at this meeting some members were given a foster plant to nurture and try to keep alive until the month of May, when they will bring it back to the meeting so we can see how (and whether) it survived. There was no draw this time to see who would win the privilege of caring for the plants. Instead, our five new members were each given a plant. Good luck to you all!

Marion Robertson

CHRISTMAS IN COLOMBIA



Our traditional carol sing – Maria José with her daughter Candelaria – her son Vicente (below) joined in also



A bright December morning saw many members of the Garden Club attend a Christmas Coffee Party at the home of Maria José Jaramillo, wife of the Ambassador of Colombia. Maria José's spacious and sunny home, which features interesting Colombian art, had been decorated with stunning seasonal displays by our own Cynthia Hoisak. A highlight of the morning was the presence of Maria José's two small children, who particularly enjoyed the Christmas carols! Our President, Heather Brown, welcomed everyone and thanked Maria José for her hospitality. She acknowledged the help of the many volunteers involved in organizing this event, and thanked Kathleen Billen, of Belgium, for providing a chocolate surprise. Heather presented our hostess with a basket of Canadian

Christmas treats, including maple syrup, cranberry chutney, chocolate and special Christmas tree decorations for the children.

Maria José then welcomed us and mentioned how appropriate it was to be hosting our club, considering how rich in biological diversity Colombia is, with its two oceans, three mountain ranges, moorland, jungles, rivers and flowers. Christmas celebrations in Colombia begin on December 16th and continue until the 24th. Colombian people are warm and friendly and their large families gather every night of the season to pray to the Virgin, sing carols and eat traditional food. On Christmas Eve, there are presents, fireworks and paper lanterns.

A rousing carol-singing session worked up our appetites for the beautiful display of Christmas savouries and sweets in the dining room. Many Colombian specialties were enjoyed by us all, including natilla (a gelatin-based sweet with cinnamon and coconut), arepa and empanadas (corn-based, like much Colombian food), and buñuelos (deep-fried cheese and egg balls). Other members had donated many delicious treats, and of course, the chocolate fountain with dipping strawberries was a big hit.



Members enjoyed a variety of Colombian treats at the festive table.

We left in festive mood, with many sincere thanks to Maria José for helping us celebrate the season in style.

Helen Clark



One of Cynthia's festive arrangements.



Karen Junke and Kathleen Billen of Belgium



Penny Burke and Ināra Eihenbauma of Latvia

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In the fall and again at Christmas, the Ottawa Garden Club takes a turn at arranging the decoration of the large old postal cart at the Perley and Rideau Veterans Centre. The residents enjoy seeing the imaginative displays designed and installed by Cynthia Hoisak, Pat Padmos and their talented team.



The theme in the fall was "Preserving the Harvest" – a colourful display of all the equipment and spices needed in the kitchen.



The December display showed woodland critters in the snow.



CALLING ALL ARTISTS

The OGC is planning **"Another Bloomin' Show"** this spring and we are encouraging new artists to participate. The show is a wonderful opportunity to showcase your work in a fun and casual setting.

There is no fixed theme and no limits to your imagination. The work can be abstract or representational, and all media are encouraged: painting, sculpture, fabric art, ceramics, photography, encaustics, glass, etc.

The Vernissage, which is always a festive event, will be held on **Friday evening, May 8th**, at the Rockcliffe Retirement Residence. The show will hang for 10 days.

If you are interested in being part of the exhibition, whether as an artist or sales desk person, please contact Beth Stikeman: stikeman@rogers.com

Beth Stikeman

OGC Membership on Hold

Once again, your executive has decided that our membership is currently at capacity, primarily because of the size limitation of our meeting room at the RPCC. For this reason, there will be no guests allowed at our February to May meetings, and no new members accepted for this year. This decision will be reviewed in the spring. Thanks for your understanding.

Your OGC Executive



IN MEMORIAM



Joan Warren 1929 – August 2, 2019



The program for the service of thanksgiving for the life of Joan Warren at St. Bartholomew's Church on August 9 tells a story through the two photos that the family chose for it. On the front is a wonderful close-up of Joan cutting hydrangea in her exuberant garden at Larrimac – how she loved her garden. On the back are Joan and Jake on their wedding day – how she loved her Jake.

My husband, Tom, and I first met them when Jake was Canada's high commissioner in London in the early 1970s. I recall one evening at their elegant residence when Joan, concerned that no one seemed eager to converse with their guest of honour, Princess Anne, pulled Tom over and suggested he engage her on the subject of horses. Having just been to the Grand National and witnessed the triumph of the legendary Red Rum, Tom was quick to oblige, and it worked like a charm. Joan could relax. Indeed, Joan served Canada well, quietly and with great grace, in all the places that Jake's diplomatic career took them – London, Washington, Paris, and Geneva. I suspect that few knew that Joan, born in Belfast, was an Oxford "blue" and a math scholar.

At their warm and welcoming home in Larrimac, Joan spoiled her guests with the most delicious home-made soups – three or more to choose from – often after long hikes skiing along the nearby old railway tracks. But it was in summer that we could fully appreciate what she achieved in her extensive garden – a garden that she exploited for many years to create vases of flowers for all the tables at Les Fougères where her daughter Jennifer and son-in-law Charlie preside.

We last talked with Joan at the Rideau Club Christmas lunch where, each year, her family fills a large table. The Warrens have been part of our lives. We miss them. I am happy to have some *Baptisia australis* from their garden to remind me of what we shared.

Susan d'Aquino



Ruth Weir 1928 – September 17, 2019



Every time Ruth and I got together she radiated a sense of well being. That was Ruth. An optimistic spirit with a kindly, embracing sense of humour, forever young at heart, much appreciated by her many friends and family.

She was well known in the community at large as an active, enthusiastic volunteer and member of the May Court, the IODE, the Canadian Club and the Ottawa Garden Club where she enjoyed the company of a number of close friends who shared her passion for beautiful gardens. In later years when she had some mobility problems, we attended garden club meetings together. She only missed a meeting of our club when ill or travelling.

Ruth had a special presence in our neighbourhood as well. There was always a light on in Ruth's house as if she were anticipating a knock on the door. Recently, it was the local children who knocked bringing Ruth cookies they had baked. One very important day in 1976, I knocked. I was enroute to the hospital to give birth to my second son. Ruth had

said that when needed she would love our first son to spend the day with her family. Thereafter we called Ruth our newborn son's honorary Godmother.

Ruth was a lovely, warm and generous person whose positive presence will be missed by all who knew her. She will live on in our memories.

Dinah Showman

Marti Todd 1928 - October 30, 2019

President of the OGC, 2010-2011



Marti Todd in 2010

I got to know Marti quite well because she was Vice President of the Garden Club while I was President. She was always so full of enthusiasm and energy and I loved the way she could laugh at herself. She was also a very valuable presence at the Gallery, when I volunteered there. Marti had a profound knowledge of art. She knew everyone there and she was obviously highly regarded by the curatorial staff. Life was not always easy for Marti, but she never appeared to let it get her down and even in recent years as her health failed, her spirit kept her going. The last time I spoke to her in the spring, she regretted not being able to go on our Montreal / Laurentian trip because she was going instead to a grandchild's graduation! It is hard to believe that we won't see her again at meetings, but she certainly won't be forgotten!

Sally Hutchison

Very sad news to hear about Marti. She clearly had not been well the last few times we saw her at the club, but her passing nonetheless comes as a surprise. Marti was my predecessor as President, and during those years I came to know her in a way that I never would have otherwise. She had an innate kindness that was not always apparent in her dear crusty outward manner. She always considered people's feelings first. And she was quite a lover of the arts ... anyone who visited her home could see that. I remember her telling me once that she had been Arthur Lismer's "gofer" many years ago when she volunteered at the Musée des beaux-arts in Montreal as a young teacher. What a life!

Victoria Hutton

It is hard to believe Marti is gone. I volunteered with her at the National Gallery. She loved art and the world of art. She seemed to know everyone at the Gallery and every nook and cranny of the NGC. Working with her was always fun. And she loved the Garden Club and everyone associated with it. At one time, she had a nice garden at her home. And she always spoke fondly of her family. She had great tales of growing up in NYC, of living in Montreal and establishing themselves in Ottawa. She was a lady of many parts and so many of them were excellent.

Karen Junke

Marti really was an intrepid soul, always game for all of our outings. The last time I saw her was at the April meeting when she won Pauline's beautiful Easter arrangement. She was thrilled. She will certainly be missed.

Heather Brown



The rest of the story on that Easter basket is this – at the end of the meeting, Marti was admiring the basket and I went up to her to admire it too and offered to carry it to her car for her. She said she wanted me to take it – that she was happy to have won but it was too much for her to look after and it would make her even happier if I took it - I demurred – she insisted. And I did take it - Marti was persuasive! I planted all of the plants in my little garden, including the lovely white lily – it was blooming in the basket in April and surprised me by blooming again in late October, reminding me of Marti. When I found out that that was just when Marti was fading away, I thought of those blooms as one last show of her indomitable spirit. I always enjoyed Marti's spirit! She began diminishing physically after her heart surgery and the sudden death of her son but her spirit stayed strong. I will remember her – and treasure my "Marti lily".



Kelly Noel