

WINTER-SPRING 2019

THE BLOOMING NEWS

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UPCOMING PROGRAM EVENTS

🌀 **Thursday, February 21, 2019** 12:30 pm

Rockcliffe Park CC

Bringing Nature Home: Using Indigenous Trees and Shrubs

Owen Clarkin

🌀 **Thursday, March 21, 2019** 12:30 pm

Rockcliffe Park CC

Tick Talk: This Moment in Time

Ann Stanton-Loucks

🌀 **Thursday, April 18, 2019** 12:30 pm

Rockcliffe Park CC

Foraging the Forest Floor

**Ināra Eihenbauma and
Pirjetta Manninen**

🌀 **Thursday, May 16, 2019** 12:30 pm

Rockcliffe Park CC

AGM

**Spotlighting OGC Outreach Projects at
the Perley**

Sally Hutchison and Perley team

🌀 **June 18-20, 2019**

**OGC Tour of Gardens in Montreal and
the Laurentians**

Welcome to the Ottawa Garden Club

We are delighted to welcome these members to our club:
Mapulane Sofonia – Lesotho
Kathleen Billen – Belgium

June 18-20, 2019

**Tours of Gardens in
Montreal and the
Laurentians**

Another fun-filled trip is in the works! Garden Club members and friends are invited to join another tour, led by Margaret Dailey-Plouffe, when we will be visiting some wonderful gardens in Montreal and the Laurentians. As always, we will be including some fine dining and time for shopping! More information will be available at the January 17th meeting at the Royal Ottawa Golf Club and registration will begin then.

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Sally Hutchison

The Blooming News

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Cynthia Hoisak

Winter came early this year. I hope that others were more prepared than I was as the rain barrel froze solid and the japonica snapped under the weight of the snow. Fortunately we have memories of warmer and sunnier times to help us through the cold and dark months – the beautiful sunny day we toured members' fabulous gardens and Beechwood Cemetery, and thoughts of summer as we heard about Hazel and Joe Cook's delphinium operation. Virginia Vince of Bloomfields Flowers got us thinking "holiday" with her wonderful workshop on winter arrangements. We are also grateful to Virginia for her generosity in donating all the arrangements to the Club so that we could raffle them off. And our committed and hard working Program Committee has an excellent line-up of speakers through our Winter/Spring season. Then there will be a trip to Montreal and the Laurentians in June.



Once again, Leticia Herberg Carrera invited us to her home, the official residence of the Spanish Ambassador to Canada, to celebrate our Christmas Party. Leticia is such a gracious hostess and made us feel very welcome in her festive home. Thanks to all those who contributed to making the party such a success – and to everyone who wore red!

As mentioned at our last meeting, the Executive of the Garden Club made the decision to allow guests and admit new members once again. We believe that it is essential to the continued vibrancy of the Club to bring in new members who are keen to become involved in the Club and its activities. A potential new member must attend at least two meetings as a guest (\$10 guest fee for each meeting), and then two current members can nominate her for membership. If we have more applicants than room, those admitted will be chosen by a lottery system. The Nomination Form (available on our website – www.ogc.website) must be in to our Membership Secretary by the end of March.

Where does the time go? I find it hard to believe that my term as President is almost up. This will be my last note in the Blooming News before I hand the reins over to our most capable incoming President, Heather Brown. I have been so fortunate to work with such an exceptionally dedicated Executive Committee who all work without complaint to make the Club the successful group that it is. Thanks to our dedicated volunteers who work at the Perley Rideau, to the determined gardeners in the Beaumont Hamel Garden site at the War Museum who continue to deal with the forces of nature, and to our Diplomatic members who add an extra dimension to our Club.

It has been a pleasure.

Peggy Morgan, President

PROGRAM SPRING 2019

Thursday, February 21, 2019 12:30 pm
Rockcliffe Park CC

Bringing Nature Home: Using Indigenous Trees and Shrubs in the Cultivated Landscape

Owen Clarkin

Most gardens and yards include woody plants as part of the plan. But which woody plants should be selected? This talk will introduce a variety of trees and shrubs that are indigenous to our region, but are to date uncommonly planted. Many of these woody

plants have ornamental qualities and other positive attributes which are not widely appreciated. Owen will serve as an "ambassador" for these trees and shrubs, showing how and why our yards and gardens may benefit from their future inclusion.

Owen Clarkin has been

studying the trees and shrubs of Eastern Ontario since childhood, with a focus on population trends of wild-growing trees/shrubs and identification techniques to allow confident assignment of species as plants are encountered in the wild. A frequent leader of nature tours for the public at a wide variety of sites in Eastern Ontario and Southern Quebec, he also regularly contributes to plant identification forums and provides observations for citizen science databases.



Owen next to a tall white spruce.

Thursday, March 21, 2019 12:30 pm
Rockcliffe Park CC

Tick Talk: This Moment in Time Ann Stanton-Loucks

Cases of Lyme disease have more than doubled in our area. 181 Ottawa residents tested positive last year, according to figures from Ottawa Public Health (OPH). Compared to 74 the year before, this is an increase of 145 per cent. OPH points out that only 35% of the cases were actually contracted within the city of Ottawa; in the other cases, the ticks may have been picked up while camping or hiking outside Ottawa city limits.

Ann Stanton-Loucks will dispel many myths about ticks, discuss how to identify

ticks that may cause Lyme disease, tell us how to protect ourselves and our families, and provide some tips on reducing ticks around our homes.



Ann Stanton-Loucks has been a Public Health Inspector since 1981. In this role she worked in Edmonton and now in Ottawa, with some years off to raise her children. Currently, she is the Environmental Health Advocate for Ottawa Public Health where she is the lead for the Lyme disease program and a co-researcher with the University of Ottawa Risk Mapping project.

I grow plants for many reasons: to please my eye or to please my soul, to challenge the elements or to challenge my patience, for novelty or for nostalgia, but mostly for the joy in seeing them grow.

David Hobson (speaker at our January 2018 meeting)

Gardening adds years to your life and life to your years.

Unknown

Thursday, April 18, 2019 12:30pm
Rockcliffe Park CC

Foraging the Forest Floor **Ināra Eihenbauma and Pirjetta Manninen**

The Ottawa Garden Club is in for a special treat in April when two of our diplomatic members will speak



Ināra with some forest treasures.

to us about the art of foraging the forest floor. Ināra Eihenbauma (Latvia) and Pirjetta (Jetta) Manninen (Finland) will talk about the history, culture and tradition of picking wild mushrooms and berries in Nordic Baltic countries. In their homelands, everyone

has a right of access to the wilderness and freedom to roam, and there is a long tradition of foraging for edible gifts from nature. Indeed, both Inara and Jetta learned the art of foraging while mushrooming for many years alongside their parents. They are both passionate about mushrooms, and last fall they led a group of women from the International Club of Ottawa on a foraging trip in our local forests.

Ināra Eihenbauma is the spouse of the Ambassador of Latvia, His Excellency Kārlis Eihenbaums. Since



Jetta shows off a giant puffball

arriving in Ottawa two years ago, Ināra has been actively involved in a number of local and international charities.

Pirjetta Manninen is a medical doctor by profession, specializing in geriatrics, and spouse of the Ambassador of Finland, His Excellency Vesa Lehtonen. Sadly for us, they will be leaving Canada this summer.

Thursday, May 16, 2019 12:30 pm
Rockcliffe Park CC
Annual General Meeting

Spotlighting our Outreach Projects at the Perley Rideau **Sally Hutchison and Perley team**

Have you ever wondered what some of our dedicated members do at the Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre? This month we are spotlighting these people, hearing about their work in the garden and how the fabulous postal cart is designed. Hear from several of the committee members about how it got started, who was in the original group, who is doing it now, and how it has evolved. The role of the Anstace Esmonde-White Scholarship will be described, and you will learn some interesting facts about the Committee's work while viewing some pictures of their creativity. You may want to rush out and join after hearing about this fun committee!!



Peggy Morgan, Jana Clarke, Sally Hutchison and Karen Junke during fall clean-up

June 18-20, 2019

OGC Tour of Gardens in Montreal and the Laurentians

See page 2 for preliminary information

SEPTEMBER GARDEN TOUR

Our September outing was a day filled with beauty, interest and history. It also brought the sense of a new season's beginning, as we caught up with



A dwarf conifer and sedum growing in a natural bowl of rock

Garden Club friends during our morning tours of three gardens.

Our first stop, OGC member **Cynthia Hoisak's** serene Japanese-style landscape surrounded by an ancient cedar hedge, was a revelation. The front garden featured twisty evergreens, carpets of scented thyme and 'Blue Rug' prostrate juniper, punctuated by a weeping Japanese maple and a miniature garden of lava rock planted with dainty succulents.



Hens and chicks cradled in driftwood

From there we were led to the back on a path of pavers and river stone dotted with wandering hens and chicks (the plant, not the feathered kind!) to see even more elegant oriental wonders, including waving grasses, sculptures and a tiny perfect Zen garden.

After picking up raffle tickets for a basket of gardening gifts, we made our way to **Lisa Cogan's** attractive



A well-groomed border, still colourful in September

black and white Rockcliffe home, framed by huge trees and two long and densely planted perennial borders. The beds, studded with sculpted box plants, were a mass of colourful sedums, phlox and Japanese anemones, but as we crossed a little bridge, meeting Maude the metal goat on the way, we found ourselves in a different world. This was a cool and sophisticated retreat, featuring an array of green and white variegated plants and gorgeously gushing white standard hydrangeas.



Maude - Lisa's goat

Leaving reluctantly, but with another treat in store, we entered

Donna Wishart's hidden garden through a little gate in the hedge and were delighted by the shady paradise we found. Swathes of giant hostas and brilliant black-eyed Susans edged the winding pathway, which led us in and around the garden under venerable pines and a huge black walnut. A lovely romantic touch was a crystal chandelier hanging from a tree over an outdoor table. We were tempted to sit and rest in Donna's welcoming semi-hexagonal open porch, complete with fireplace, sofas and resident pooch Bella, but lunch beckoned, to be followed a visit to Beechwood Cemetery.



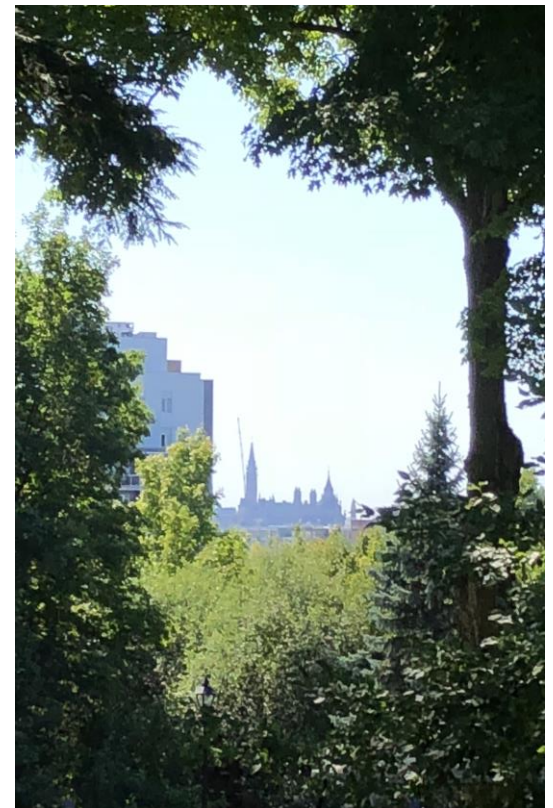
A drift of black-eyed Susans around Donna's hexagonal porch

To tour **Beechwood, the National Cemetery of Canada**, is to take a fascinating walk through Canadian history. More than 75,000 Canadians are buried here, from 27 different cultures, and it is the final resting place for Governors General, Prime Ministers, members of the Canadian Forces, veterans, war dead and the RCMP. Covering 160 acres of woodland in the heart of busy Ottawa, the ancient majestic trees create a feeling of deep peace and permanence.



Grave of Sir Robert Borden – Prime Minister during World War I

Head horticulturist Trevor Davidson began our tour by describing his responsibilities for maintaining the grounds and designing the vivid planting schemes, in particular in the area around the Pavilion, with its pretty pond surrounded by luxurious grasses and other perennials. The Pavilion itself, amongst other notable, the memorial to Tommy Douglas, commands a spectacular view of the



The view of the Peace Tower from the Pavilion

Peace Tower, a vista which is protected in perpetuity by statute. Our history guide, Nick McCarthy, then led us through some of the main memorial areas, pointing out individual graves, and demonstrating how each era is represented by the different customs and styles of the day. The most elaborate were the grand monuments of the late 19th century, when broken columns (signifying the interrupted life), and sculpted draped urns were in vogue. Ottawa's lumber barons are well represented - Bronsons, Slaters, Sherwoods and Booths - as are many other familiar and illustrious names from the past. As we moved closer to the present day, the gravestones became more contemporary and Beechwood's inclusive and non-denominational philosophy was amply demonstrated through areas filled with the distinctive graves of Greeks, Egyptians, Lebanese, Latvians, Poles, Portuguese, Ukrainians, Chinese, Vietnamese and many other nationalities and faiths.



Colourful fall border

We left Beechwood in a somewhat reflective mood, having been reminded of life's transience, but vowing to return for further exploration of this remarkable site.

Thanks to Pauline Yelle for making the arrangements for the Beechwood tour, and to the Garden Club members who kindly opened their gardens.

Felicity Garrard

GHOSTS, GOBLINS AND PUMPKINS GALORE



Host Pauline wearing her skull-decorated fascinator

President Peggy Morgan extended a warm welcome to the 10 diplomatic members in attendance and said how much we all appreciate their participation in club activities. She also welcomed special guest Markuss, the two-month old son of Anna Ustuba from the EU. Our Diplomatic Representative Maria de Souza Pinto added her welcome and remarked how much her diplomatic colleagues enjoy the warmth and friendship of the OGC.



Lerzan Kayihan (Turkey), Joan Sirrs and Maria de Souza Pinto (Brazil)



Two-month-old Markuss attracted a crowd! Maria Dolores Stacey (Ecuador), Maria de Cossio (Mexico) holding Markuss, his mom Anna Ustuba (EU), and Leticia Herberg Carrera (Spain)

Once the formalities were over, everyone helped themselves to the delicious lunch prepared by the executive. Throughout the meal, the sound of lively conversation and laughter filled the house, interspersed with grandmotherly cooing whenever Markuss was near. Too soon it was time to leave. But Pauline had one more surprise as she handed guests a gift-wrapped jar of her home-made raspberry jam as they went out the door.

A special end to a very special event.

Heather Brown

HIGHLIGHTS OF FALL MEETINGS

October - Queen of the Border

The October meeting took place on a perfect fall day, brisk and sunny, and as our speakers **Hazel and Joe Cook** of **Blossom Hill Nursery** told us, the dazzling colours of the countryside made their drive in to Ottawa from north of Peterborough a true pleasure.

The bounty of autumn was also celebrated on the Garden Club's traditional Harvest Table, spread with delicious treats contributed by several members, and presided over by Cynthia Hoisak's spectacular flower-decked pumpkin arrangement, which was available as a much-coveted raffle prize at the end of the meeting.

Hazel and Joe, with their daughter Amy, have operated their family-owned nursery business since 1994, and have built up an international reputation for their award-winning collection of delphiniums, as well as an extensive collection of peonies. Hazel is the correspondence secretary for the American Peony Society, and, as Freda Godby reminded us in her introduction, all the peonies planted by John Szczepaniak in the garden at the Global Centre for Pluralism (which we visited last June) were sourced from Blossom Hill Nursery. However, delphiniums were the topic of the day, and as we were shown to breathtaking effect, the Cooks cultivate a huge variety of the hardy British hybrid *Delphinium elatum*, as well as their own Canadian strain, in a wide range of colours, such as white, cream, yellow, pink and purple, as well as the characteristic deep blue. They have achieved this on a site which must have seemed unpromising at first, being on a slope next to a quarry and littered with stones. But the glorious spikes of these obviously thriving plants stretch as far as the eye can see, a vivid testament to the Cooks' persistence and skill. Hazel described her painstaking hand hybridization process, which produces many different colours and characteristics. The darker centres of the flowers, where the fertilization work is done, are called "bees", and she told us that she has sometimes been surprised by grasping the real thing by mistake! She and Joe emphasized (and demonstrated) that delphiniums are not difficult to grow despite their reputation, and gave us a few tips for success: The plants need staking (but not too tightly), do not like to be moved, will grow in almost any soil type that is well-drained (they can develop crown rot if they have "wet feet"), like a good snow cover and will survive without extra winter mulch. Duly informed and encouraged, I'm sure that many of us left vowing to include some of these stately beauties in our gardens in the future.



Delphiniums are called the Queen of the Border

Felicity Garrard

November - Festive Florals

The holiday season got off to a wonderful start at our November meeting when **Virginia Vince** of **Bloomfields Flowers** demonstrated the art of creating festive floral arrangements. In her 90-minute presentation she produced five spectacular and inspirational creations before our very eyes.

She began her demonstration with outdoor containers, emphasizing the importance of using natural elements – such as cedar boughs, pine cones, dogwood and ilex berries – gathered from our gardens or woods. She first filled buckets with oasis that had been thoroughly soaked, then for her first arrangement added the top of a small fir tree.

(When she uses an entire tree, she fills the bucket with earth and then replants the tree in the spring.) The bucket was placed in an attractive container, then she surrounded the tree with reindeer moss, added some



pine cones and sage oranges, a few berries and she was done. "Less is often more," she said "but you want to ensure that the arrangement is welcoming to those coming to your door."



Virginia Vince

Her second outdoor arrangement contained a sphere made of branches, surrounded by cedar, magnolia branches, and thistle. She said you could add whatever you have on hand such as bay leaves, berries, or flowering viburnum. "You just design as you go along."

She then moved on to create more exotic table arrangements for inside the home. She used a large-mouthed container and created a grid across the top using scotch or floral tape. "The grid is very important for holding the plant material in place." In her first arrangement, beautiful white hydrangeas took centre stage, accompanied by greens, anemones, silver brunnera, and skimmia with red berries. Virginia demonstrated the process of building texture on texture by creating a base of greens, adding the large blooms, then the finer material. She also emphasized the importance of keeping the indoor arrangements well hydrated and suggested frequently



trimming the stems of branches and flowers to help with absorption.

The second table arrangement was an asymmetrical beauty in deep burgundy tones. She used a pedestal container and oasis as the base. Because amaryllis was the feature flower, she placed it in the oasis first to ensure that the stems were stable. She then added some sprigs of rosehip, black beauty roses, and other flowers to create a monochromatic wonder.

As she calmly and skillfully added more plant material she kept turning the container to see the design unfold.



Kaoru Ishikane (Japan) was pleased to win one of the arrangements



as was Mapulane Sofonia (Lesotho)

Fortunately, there was a little time remaining and she quickly showed us how to make wreaths. She says you can use a dogwood or grapevine base (or even an embroidery hoop!) and then add greenery and decorative dried elements by securing them tightly around the base using binder wire (wire wrapped in brown paper).

By this time our heads were full and we were all gasping with awe! Virginia then generously raffled off her creations to six lucky winners. We all left the meeting happy and truly inspired with the confidence to create our own holiday arrangements.

Heather Brown

LADIES IN RED - A SPANISH CHRISTMAS



Cynthia Hoisak puts the finishing touches on one of her beautiful arrangements

On December 11, the lovely and spacious Spanish residence came alive with the spirit of the festive season as members of the garden club, all dressed in red, gathered for our annual Christmas party. Our gracious host, Leticia Herberg Carrera, warmly welcomed us to her home, saying that she had such happy memories from our party last year that she wanted to have us all again. She said she especially appreciated the elegant table arrangements and decorations created by Cynthia Hoisak.

During her formal remarks, she took the opportunity to read a beautiful meditation sent to her by a friend, reminding us that the true meaning of Christmas is giving love, comfort and compassion to those who are less fortunate.



Our hostess Leticia Herberg Carrera with Maria Dolores Stacey (Ecuador) and our Diplomatic representative, Maria de Souza Pinto (Brazil)



Rina Eyre, Carol Henderson and Beth Stikeman



Sally Tindale, Grace Strachan and Mapulane Sofonia (Lesotho)



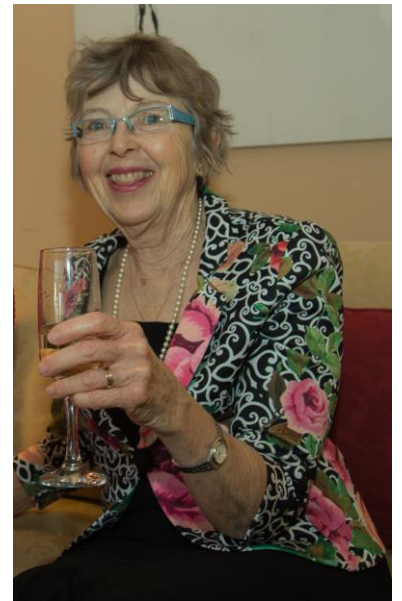
Heather Brown and Helen Clark – and a most artful arrangement of silverware!!!



Elbia Meghar (Algeria) and Club President Peggy Morgan

Both President Peggy Morgan and Diplomatic Representative Maria de Souza Pinto thanked Leticia for her generosity in hosting us for the second year in a row. She was then presented with a gift basket filled to the brim with Canadian treats from Les Fougères restaurant in Chelsea.

Following a rousing round of Christmas carols, led by Chris Edwards with Bev Hyde on the keyboard, everyone retreated to the beautiful dining table laden with savouries and sweets. We left the party filled with the warm glow of generosity and friendship.



Mary Hardwick toasts the holiday season



Voices raised in song!!

Heather Brown

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



The postal cart at the Perley Rideau Veteran's Centre beautifully set for a Harvest luncheon by our talented volunteers led by Pat Padmos.

150TH PROJECT - PLANTING AT THE WAR MUSEUM

Members of the OGC 150th committee were at the Canadian War Museum on November 7 to cast wildflower seeds over several areas of the Beaumont Hamel site. They were most grateful to staff at the museum who had lifted the turf and prepared the site in advance.



On hand to help with the seeding were Victoria Hutton, Jane Panet, Heather Brown and Cindy Boucher.



Left – Victoria Hutton shows off one of the surviving pitcher plants



Right – Once the seeds were cast, they were rolled into place. Jane Panet shows us how it is done.

HOW TO SPONSOR A NEW MEMBER

If you have a friend you think might be interested in joining our Garden Club, this is what to do:

1. Any member can invite a guest to a meeting (except the December tea). Invite your friend to attend a meeting. Make sure to tell president Peggy Morgan (peggymorgan440@gmail.com or 613-722-1619) in advance so she can introduce your guest – this is important so that there is a record of her attendance as a guest. There is a \$10 guest fee which can be paid on arrival at the meeting. Prospective members must have attended at least two meetings as a guest before they can be nominated for membership.
2. After you have been a member for two full years, you and a co-sponsor may recommend one potential new member per year. Obtain a nomination form from membership chair Karen Junke (kjunke@rogers.com) or find it on our website www.ogc.website. This should be completed and submitted to Karen (243 Second Avenue, Ottawa, ON K1S 2H8) AFTER the candidate has attended two meetings and BEFORE the end of March. Note that this form requires the signature of the sponsor, the co-sponsor and the candidate. Nominations received late will be held over until the following year.
3. New members are admitted by the executive at its April executive meeting. If there are more nominations than we have space, those accepted will be chosen by lot and the other nominations will be held over until next year.
4. The membership chair will inform those who have been accepted. The new members will be introduced at the AGM in May. They will also be honoured at a luncheon later in the year, usually October.