

Summer 2003
Volume 2, Issue 3

Milner Musings



Our mission is to preserve and enhance Milner Gardens and Woodland, to educate and inspire. All gifts to Milner Gardens help us to achieve this mission.

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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Greetings members and volunteers. The fine weather is suddenly upon us. And what a glorious thing it is. We look forward to welcoming all of you to the garden this summer. The second annual 'Affair of Note' is one event that you will not want to miss. Tickets are on sale now for this joint fundraiser to be held in the garden on Sunday, June 22. Come, enjoy an afternoon of music in a spectacular garden setting, and support the Vancouver Island Symphony and Milner Gardens at the same time.

Milner Gardens and Woodland is launching a fundraising campaign for a proposed Welcome and Interpretive Centre. This important entry to the forest and garden is to be built adjacent to the drop off circle and visitor parking lot. The Welcome and Interpretive Centre will act as a gathering and welcome point to garden visitors, serve as the centre for forest educational programs and state the importance of conservation through the 'story of the forest.'

We are calling on interested volunteers to help make this fundraising campaign a success. For more information, see the article on page 4.

Great News! Quality Foods has today announced that Q-Card customers can commit their Q-Points to support the participation of school children in the *Roots and Shoots* Program at Milner Gardens. For more information, see the article on page 6.

We welcome five Malaspina University-College students to the garden this summer.

You will find John Grinder, George Jennings and Lindsey Pippard, from the Horticulture Technician program, at work in the landscape, tour guiding, etc. Their activity here is part of their horticultural training and is an excellent opportunity for each of them to apply skills acquired in the program at Milner Gardens. We are very proud to have them here and hope that we contribute to their horticultural aspirations.

Suzanne Nyman, who you will recognize as a Horticulture Practicum Student from last year, returns to the garden in a new role as Assistant to the *Roots and Shoots Garden Program*. Suzanne's horticultural pursuits and studies now lay in the area of Horticultural Therapy a rapidly growing area full of opportunity.

Richard Crowley, a student in the Recreation and Sports Management Program, will be with us this summer in Visitor Services. The addition of Richard to the gardens operation marks the first time that a co-op student from Recreation and Tourism Program area has participated in the gardens operation.

Jim Cadwaladr
Executive Director

A WALK THROUGH THE GARDEN



*Meconopsis
betonicifolia*

With the warm weather looking like it is finely going to stay, everyone is getting out and enjoying the garden. The hard work put in by the volunteers and students is paying off with lush growth and wonderful displays of colour and shape. From the Chinese Dogwood (*Cornus kousa* var. *chinensis*) by the Dolphin Ponds to the Trumpet Vine (*Campsis radicans*) at the Pool House Arbour to the Primulas (*Primula* sp.) and Foxgloves (*Digitalis purpurea*) scattered around the garden, there are signs of a great summer of flowers. Our blue poppies (*Meconopsis betonicifolia*) are attracting a lot of attention right now as they are blooming for the first time. Soon the perennial bed on the main lawn will be out in full, as will the planting of annuals in the Viburnum bed between the

Cottage and Main House.

Up in the forest the eagle's nest is once again occupied. We have had several reports of adult eagles bringing food to the young. Hopefully some lucky person will be watching from the pullout as they take their first flight later this summer.

With the help of our summer students (George, John and Lindsey) from Malaspina's Horticulture Technician Program we hope to take on a number of different projects this summer. I will also be sneaking in plants throughout the garden as the season moves along, so drop by and see if you can spot any of the new changes.

Geoff Ball
Horticulturist/Supervisor

SNIPPETS

Several weeks ago, I had the wonderful opportunity to explore some of the nurseries and gardens of Salt Spring Island with my propagation group (aka the PGs). We headed out, 11 women armed with money, credit cards, and the back of a small pick-up truck to fill. We were determined to head home when either the money was spent or there was no room left in the back of the truck.

One of our stops included a visit to a greenhouse that specializes in Pelargoniums. The selection was incredible and everyone who was on the trip took home something unique to enjoy over the summer.

In order to enjoy the plants again next year take cuttings from your mother plant late this summer. Pelargoniums are terrific plants to propagate and all you need is a place indoors where you can over winter them. I have found that without a heated greenhouse the mother plants do not over-winter well and it is best to have new plants from cuttings. Here is how to make more of them.

- 1) Take nodal tip cuttings in mid August or early September.
- 2) Use rooting powder #1
- 3) Use a mix of 50% peat to 50% perlite or

vermiculite to stick your cuttings in.

- 4) Cuttings can be stuck in individual pots or an open seed tray.
- 5) Keep the cuttings misted while rooting and provide bottom heat.
- 6) Once rooted remove them from the heat and mist and grow on in cooler conditions with lots of good light.
- 7) If these cuttings start to become too leggy cut them back to branch out and root the pieces you cut off.
- 8) I fertilized my cuttings every two weeks with a 14-14-14 fertilizer cut by ½ to keep them from growing too big
- 9) In the spring when the weather begins to warm up begin hardening your plants off by moving them to a cold frame.

P.S we left Salt Spring with little money and no room left in the truck!

Candice Coghill
Children's Education Programmer/
Nursery Grower

FESTIVAL A SUCCESS!

Our second annual Rhododendron Festival took place on May 17th & 18th and we are pleased to report that it was a total success. The weather was agreeable and the rhododendrons did not disappoint with their spectacular display. Close to 500 people visited the garden over the two day festival and we signed up 70 new members.

The guided garden tours were very popular as always, and the guides took the opportunity to highlight the Milner rhododendron collection and showcase our new interpretive panels. Rhododendron 'King George' got more attention than ever thanks to his giant truss being featured in the 'What's in Bloom' display and the Truss Show.

The house was a hive of activity with much interest given to the Art Show of original works. A special thanks to the artists for all your beautiful work that really made the house feel like a gallery. Margaret Cadwaladr's slide show and social history talk was standing room only and many visitors took the opportunity to have their copies of "In Veronica's Garden" signed. Carol's special selection of garden books set up in the dining room was also a popular stop to browse.

It was wonderful to have Streamside Native Plants set up their display at the new Food

Garden gazebo, next to their donated display of native edible plants. They offered an impressive selection of native companion plants and I noticed many people leaving the gardens with Shooting Stars in hand. The Vireya display supplied by Glen Jamieson was also a great addition and introduced visitors to these unique tropical rhododendrons.

Thanks again to the businesses and individuals who donated prizes for the raffle. This year's raffle raised \$450. I must say it was a very pleasant task to inform all the lucky winners of their prizes and everyone was quite excited by their good fortune!

The staff is very pleased with the outcome of this event and we are already looking ahead to the 3rd annual Rhododendron Festival at Milner Gardens and Woodland. A date has been set for May 15 & 16, 2004. A sincere THANK-YOU to the Festival Committee for all of their efforts in organizing and to all the volunteers who helped out on the days of the event. As always, these fundraising events would not be as successful or fun without your involvement.

Kristi Ozero
Plant Records



'Loderi King George'

SEND MORE INFORMATION

Milner Gardens and Woodland
2179 West Island Highway,
Qualicum Beach, BC V9K 1G1
(250) 752-8573

**I would like to receive
Information about:**

- ? Donor Bench Program
- ? Contributing to a Capital Project
- ? Making a will bequest to Milner Gardens and Woodland
- ? Milner Gardens and Woodland Endowment Fund

Please Print

? Mr. ? Mrs. ? Ms. ? Miss ? Dr.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ **Prov/State:** _____

Postal Code: _____ **Phone:()** _____



*Artist rendering of the proposed Welcome & Interpretive Centre
By Shauna deKluyver*

A fundraising Campaign is now underway for the proposed Welcome and Interpretive Centre. The Current campaign totals about 20 volunteers including the entire Board of the Society. A Campaign Kit has recently been completed to help all volunteers. We are looking for additional volunteers to assist in this Campaign.

If you are interested, please call Pam at (250) 752-8573, and feel free to review the Campaign Kit at the office.

**Jim Cadwaladr
Executive Director**

Camellia Tea Room

Well, it is so nice to finally see some warm weather, which certainly does encourage visitors to sit out on the verandah and enjoy their tea and the wonderful view of the garden. It was Veronica's favourite spot, and those who do take advantage of it seem to have a hard time leaving!

We decided to have the Tea Room open on the mornings of the Rhododendron Festival this year, for coffee and muffins, which proved to be quite successful. It is always a learning experience when we try out something new for the first time, so we are pleased to report that we will do it again another time. Our new morning waiter, Lou Gueho (who did such a great job, by the way) did say he would come back again.

The tearoom ladies would all like to thank volunteer, John Gayton, very much for all the work done on the new shelf to hold the teacups. It will save many, many steps and make things much easier for all of us.

On Mother's Day weekend, we were fortunate to

have Gloria Carpenter entertain us on the verandah with soft background keyboard music. There were many favourable comments on the nice atmosphere it created and we hope to have her back soon. We are open to other offers of this type and if you are interested, please feel free to contact us.

Next time you are in the Gardens be sure to allow extra time to spend having a good cup of tea in the Tearoom or on the verandah and enjoy the beautiful view. Hope to see you soon.

Carol Hansen
Gift Shop/Tearoom Coordinator





THE GARDENER'S COTTAGE OF VOLUNTEERS

It has arrived! An idea was started last summer at the Volunteer Pot Luck Bar-B-Que to collect recipes of some of the gourmet food that we sampled that wonderful evening and put them into a book. Well a Cookbook has been created; 'Recipes Tried and True' is now available in the Gift Shop. A BIG thank you to our Cookbook committee for spending hours sorting, organizing and coping recipes, creating a wonderful book.

As you may already know, we have our next special event 'An Affair of Note' happening on June 22, 2003. After looking over our Sunday schedule, we still have a few open positions left for volunteering such as serving food, parking and gatehouse positions. If you haven't already let me know you are interested in helping out please call 752-7514.

Make sure you mark your calendars for Wednesday July 16, 2003 for our annual Volunteer Pot Luck Bar-B-Que. See below.

Pam Jonnson
Executive Assistant



V o l u n t e e r P O T L U C K B A R - B - Q U E

FOR ALL MILNER GARDENS & WOODLAND VOLUNTEERS & PARTNERS

W E D N E S D A Y J U L Y 16, 2003

5:00 – 8:00 P.M .

O N T H E M A I N L A W N

WE WILL PROVIDE ALL THE BAR-B-QUE SUPPLIES & BEVERAGES

PLEASE BRING YOUR FAVOURITE DISH FOR A HUNGRY FUN GROUP
OF PEOPLE

PARK IN THE UPPER PARKING LOT

THE SHUTTLE CART WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR ANY WHO NEED A RIDE TO
THE FRONT LAWN

RSVP: PAM 752-8573 BY July 9th

Growing Together



"On May 25th Milner Gardens had the opportunity to partake in Qualicum Beach Family Day Parade and activities with a booth at the Civic Centre promoting the Roots & Shoots program."

Over the last 8 weeks grade 3 students from Arrowview Elementary have been gardening up a storm. We have had a fantastic time getting to know each other and growing together. Students and mentors have planted carrots, radishes, beans, peas, chard, and spinach. We've learned a little bit of Latin, about edible Native Plants, mason bees, hummingbirds, butterflies, aphids, slugs and other bugs, and beneficial plants. We have learned the characteristics and some of the plants in the aster, pea, mint, nightshade, and carrot families. Students know how to transplant, weed, and water (they are experts at watering!). And they have even had to learn the hard lesson of "sharing" the garden with rabbits.

At the heart of this program are the mentors. I have greatly enjoyed the time I've spent with them. I am so thankful to have had such a wonderful and dedicated group of volunteers to work with. Every week they would go the extra step to bring something in to show the kids (and me!) or have a great piece of information that they were willing to share with the rest of us. It has truly been a terrific experience and I look forward to many more.

Over the summer, the Roots and Shoots

program will be offered to schools and other organizations. These visits will be organized as one-time activities where students or groups of children can visit the garden and take part in one of the Roots and Shoots gardening activities. This is a new adventure for us at Milner Gardens and Woodland and we can only grow from here.

On your next visit to the garden please be sure to stop by and see how our garden grows and say hello to Suzanne, our summer student working in the Food Garden and on the Roots and Shoots program with me.

If you would like to support this program and live in this area one easy way to do so is to donate your Q-points from Quality Foods to the Roots and Shoots program. Simply ask the cashier at any Quality Foods Store to assign your points to the *Roots and Shoots* program at Milner Gardens. Points donated will help underwrite the cost of the program, which we hope will make the program accessible to all students within our community and beyond.

Candice Coghill
Children's Programs/
Nursery Grower



Mark sure you put aside the time to come out for Art & Photography on July 26th & 27th when you can meet, mingle and be inspired by local artists at work. Artists will be painting, sketching, carving and photographing the beauty of this artist's garden.

Spring Courses

Come Learn at Milner Gardens

Alpine Meadow Tour

Enjoy a trip up to Mt. Washington where you will have a guided walk through Paradise Meadows' alpine flowers. Note that the day has changed from the first listings due to the late spring. The tour starts and ends at Milner Gardens. Bring your own lunch.

Date: Thurs. July 10, 9am-3pm

Guide: Will Lemmon

Regular: \$40.19+gst=\$43

Memb/Vol: \$35.51+gst=\$38

Sketching and Water Colours

Enjoy spending a day in Milner Gardens sketching and painting with noted garden painter and local artist Pauline Pike.

Date: Sat. July 5, 10am-4pm

Instructor: Pauline Pike

Regular: \$40.19+gst=\$43

Memb/Vol: \$35.51+gst=\$38

Please include payment with registration form

Cheques payable to: **Milner Gardens and Woodland**

Applications in person to:

Pam Jonnson

Office, Milner Gardens House

2179 West Island Highway

Qualicum Beach, B.C. V9K 1G1

Applications by mail (**Visa/MasterCard cheque**) to:

Pam Jonnson

Education Programs

Milner Gardens and Woodland

2179 West Island Highway

Qualicum Beach, B.C. V9K 1G1

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

(Please print)

Telephone _____ Fax _____

Email _____

Are you a member or volunteer? Yes / No

Cash _____ (in person only)

Cheque _____

Visa/MasterCard

(credit card number)

____/____

(expiry date)

(name on credit card)

Course		Fee
	TOTAL	



STAFF AT MILNER GARDENS

Jim Cadwaladr
Executive Director

Pam Jonnson
Executive
Assistant/Newsletter Editor

Geoff Ball
Horticulturist/Supervisor

Kristi Ozero
Plant Records/GIS

Candice Coghill
Nursery Grower/Children's
Programs Facilitator

Carol Hansen
Tea Room/Gift Shop Coordinator

Special Events 2003

An Affair of Note June 22nd

Join members from the Vancouver Island Symphony for an afternoon of music in the Garden. A joint fundraising event. Tickets must be purchased in advance.

Art & Photography in the Garden July 26th & 27th

Meet, mingle and be inspired by local artists at work. Artists will be painting, sketching, carving and photographing the beauty of this artist's garden.

Fall Plant Sale October 4th & 5th

Fall is a great time of year for planting. We will be offering discounts on heritage trees, shrubs and perennials propagated on site, as well as reduced entry to the Gardens.

For information on these events or to make reservations call
(250) 752-6153

Milner Gardens and Woodland
2179 West Island Highway
Qualicum Beach, BC
V9K 1G1

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
APRIL 3rd TO OCTOBER 26th
THURSDAY TO SUNDAY
AND
STATUTORY HOLIDAY
MONDAYS
10:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Administration: 250-752-8573
Volunteer Services: 250-752-7514

Fax: 250-752-3826

Reservations:
250-752-6153

E-mail:

milnergardens@shaw.ca

Web:

www.milnergardens.org

Milner Gardens & Woodland & the
Vancouver Island Symphony proudly present

'An Affair of Note'

An Enchanted Afternoon at Milner Gardens
& Woodland beautiful waterfront estate

SUNDAY JUNE 22, 2003

2 p.m. – 5 p.m.

2179 West Island Highway, Qualicum Beach

Featuring:

- "Concert in the Garden" with musicians from Vancouver Island Symphony conducted by Maestro Marlin Wolfe
- A sensory experience of sights and sounds and culinary delights

Tickets: \$50.00 per person
In advance only

Information: (250) 752-8573

