

**April 2011**

**Volume 10,**

**Issue 1**

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

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**Staff at Milner Gardens**

**Geoff Ball**  
Executive Director  
**Charlene Forrest**  
Shoots with Roots  
**Kim Hammond**  
Nursery Grower / Groundskeeper  
**Carol Hansen**  
Tea Room Coordinator  
**Michele Lacey**  
Secretary  
**Helen Reimer**  
Visitor Services Coordinator  
**Denise Winter**  
Groundsperson / Labourer



**Executive Director's Message**

Spring Greetings Everyone!

A short while ago we were digging through drifts of snow to be able to get around on site and now we are stepping around flowering bulbs as we make our way around site... what a great change.

We are heading into another exciting year here at Milner Gardens & Woodland. The gates are now open Thursday to Sunday as well as Easter Monday and soon will be open seven days a week at the end of April.

Our first event this year is a combination of the Annual Spring Plant Sale on April 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> as well as a used book sale on April 16<sup>th</sup>. Members, make sure to come by the night before the plant sale from 5pm to 7pm to get the first pick of the plants (remember to bring your membership card along with you). If you have books you would like to donate to the sale, please drop them by the Welcome Interpretive Centre on Friday April 15<sup>th</sup> during the day.

The following weekend we will once again be having our Easter Bunny Search Saturday to Monday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>.

It is hard to believe but come May, we will have been open for ten years!! On May 1<sup>st</sup> we are inviting the entire community to come join us in marking this great milestone. I hope you will come by and help us celebrate.

We have several more events planned this year. On June 5<sup>th</sup> we welcome a show of Classic and Vintage Bikes. On June 26<sup>th</sup> we kick off the Music in the Garden series with a return of the Nanaimo Chamber Orchestra. We will be running several evening concerts this year instead of one weekend. Keep an eye on the website and updates for more details as well as for other events later in the year.

As always, we have several projects on the go right now. We have had surveyors map the bank and shoreline. Thanks to Coastal Community Credit Union, we should have landscape concepts for the shoreline to show everyone later this spring. Along the top of the bank, with thanks to TD Friends of the Environment we will soon have a viewing scope that will be installed beside our new interpretive panel of Georgia Strait, the Islands and the Mainland. Our construction volunteers are also working at installing an arbour off the west side of the house to replace the old structure that was rotting away.

I look forward to spending another great year working alongside the amazing volunteers and staff with the support of all of our members. I hope you enjoy the time you spend here over the coming season.

*Geoff Ball*  
*Executive Director*

### Fund Development Committee Report

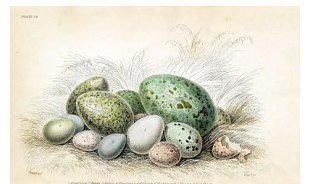
As of the first week of March, donations and grants totaled roughly \$82,000. Significant donations and grants since November include \$5000 from the Christopher Foundation, \$5000 from the Coastal Community Credit Union, \$1500 from Qualicum Beach Seedy Saturday, \$2600 from TD Friends of the Environment, and \$20,000 from the Vancouver Foundation on behalf of the Windsor Plywood Foundation. In excess of \$2100 has been received to complete the renovations to the library in Milner house. Donations of \$3500 have been made through The Book of Honours in memory of loved ones or to celebrate special occasions. A sincere thank you to the individuals and organizations associated with these generous grants and donations. Thanks also to all the individual donors who have given funds to support MGW programs and operations.

MGW has joined Canada Helps, an online agency which accepts donations on behalf of charitable organizations. This means you can now make your donation to MGW by going to the Milner Gardens website at <http://www.viu.ca/MilnerGardens>, selecting the blue donations button on the homepage, clicking the CanadaHelps.org button on the page which appears, and completing the form on the CanadaHelps site. A Revenue Canada receipt will be issued to you by CanadaHelps. Directions on the site are easy to follow; options for the type of donation, for receiving your receipt, and how to report your donation to MGW are available. Information on site security and the security of your personal information is discussed.

With the start of a new fiscal year for MGW, the Fund Development Committee once again offers its thanks and appreciation to all those who supported its fundraising activities and requests for donations throughout the year.

Look forward to seeing you in the Garden at one of the many activities planned for the 2011 season!

**Alice Marquardt**  
**Chair, Fund Development Committee**



## Milner Gardens 2011 Season

Open 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., gate closes at 4:30 p.m.

Thursday through Sunday and holiday Mondays, from March

31st to April 25th and September 8th to October 10th.

Daily April 28th to September 5th.



### IMPORTANT NOTICE

#### MILNER GARDENS AND WOODLAND SOCIETY

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of Milner Gardens and Woodland Society for the fiscal year 2010/11, will be held at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011, in room 265 of the Parksville Campus of Vancouver Island University, located in the Parksville Civic and Technology Centre, 100 East Jensen Street, Parksville. All persons, 18 years of age or older, who hold current membership in Milner Gardens & Woodland at that date, are eligible to attend and vote.

Nominations for members of the Board of Directors:

The Society's Bylaw 3.4 states:

"Members of the Society at large who wish to nominate other members to serve on the Board of Directors, must obtain and complete the appropriate nomination form which shall be available from the office of the Executive Director. Such nominations must be submitted to the Chair of the nominating committee no later than 30 days prior to the Annual General Meeting (*May 16, 2011*). Nominations from the floor at the Annual General Meeting will not be accepted."

Cindy Koutecky

Vice-Chair

Milner Gardens and Woodland Society

## Message from the Chair of the Milner Gardens and Woodland Society Board

The Board is enthusiastic about the year ahead as we start to celebrate Milner Garden's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of being open to the public. There will be special events throughout the season as we note this achievement for our community.

An anniversary project which the Board has taken on involves the Library and the patio adjoining it. The Library is a very nice space but neither it nor the book collection get much use. We have weeded the collection to focus it on topics that relate more directly to Milner Gardens, such as horticulture, art and the environment. The small tea room will continue to have a more representative collection of the Milners' very wide ranging and interesting collection of books. The Library will be refurbished and fitted with some comfortable chairs to encourage people to sit and read. A new pergola is being built over the patio outside to help bring the two spaces together.

This weeding has resulted in a number of books that will be sold in a book sale on April 16<sup>th</sup>. There are more details elsewhere in the newsletter.

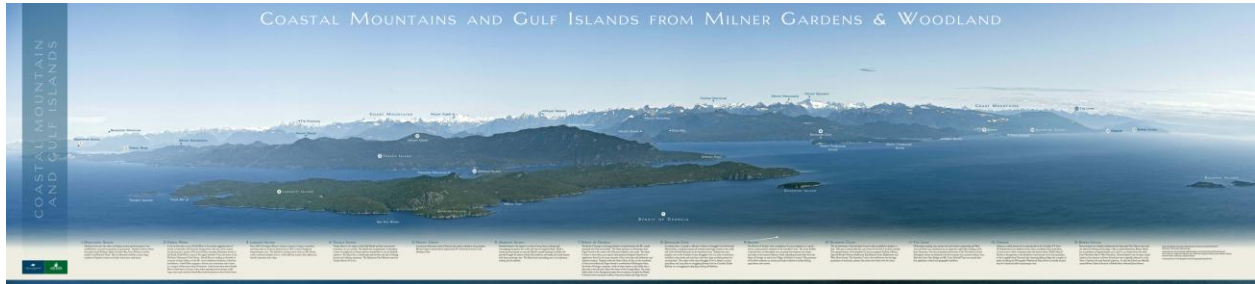
Also in the newsletter you will see a notice about the Society's Annual General Meeting and election of Board members. I encourage you to attend the Meeting and to consider getting more involved with the work that goes on at Milner Gardens & Woodland by standing for election to the Board.

### Lee Teal, Chair



**Current email addresses!! Please help Milner Gardens & Woodland save postal costs.** By changing the delivery of your newsletter from post to downloading it, you receive the newsletter faster, and in colour, and Milner updates during the year!  
**If you are not renewing your membership in person, you may pick up your new membership cards at the Welcome & Interpretive Centre when open.**

**Next time you are on site keep an eye out for  
the new panoramic sign.**



With great thanks to our VIU Geography 467 spring 2009 class, as well as Chris Carter, Linda Hildebrand, Tim Naegele, Pam Shaw and Roy Taylor, we now have a full sized version of the sign above mounted on the view point at the far end of the main lawn.

This sign is composed of multiple photos taken from 3,000 feet above Milner Gardens & Woodland, all carefully stitched together. The Geography students located and identified the main features in the panoramic view.

We are sure you will find this sign a very interesting new feature in the garden.

**Come help us celebrate our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary May 1<sup>st</sup>.  
Gates open 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**



# Shoots with Roots

education.milnergardens@shaw.ca

www.viu.ca/milnergardens/education-programs.asp

Spring 2011 Newsletter

Charlene Forrest – Program Coordinator



**Multi-visit School Program** – we're into our second last visits for each of the 14 school classes. Wind and snow have altered a few plans this season but that's all part of learning in nature. The Food Garden is already looking good; overwintered potatoes are great way to get many shovels tilling over garden beds ☺



**School's Out Sessions** – our Campfire Fridays and School's Out sessions are lots of fun, and the Spring Break Camps were a blast this year!! We're getting more requests for evening field trips. Milner has an extra magic at night; it is great to share that with local community groups.

Check out photos under 'education' at [www.milnergardens.org](http://www.milnergardens.org)



**Outreach** – we had another fantastic year at Qualicum Beach Seedy Saturday! Families love the seed hunt and planting activity unique to this event ☺ QBSS donations to SwR have been instrumental for supplies over the years; thank you QBSS! Next we were off to our annual weekend at the CVIBGS Spring Garden Festival, and soon will be sessions at schools.



**Summer Programs** – information on 2011 SwR Summer programs will be posted by mid-April. VIU GrandKids University registration is already open. Check out the information on the VIU Continuing Education webpage, under Summer @ VIU: <http://www.viu.ca/ccs/courses/summeratviugku.asp> ; they have exciting new degrees offered this year.



## Milner Garden Workshop Series

*To register for these Milner Garden Workshop Series please call Vancouver Island University Centre for Continuing Studies*

*at 1-866-734-6252 or 250-248-2096*

**Nature Photography**, Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., with Richard Sillery

**Painting a Summer Garden**, Saturday & Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> - 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., with Bryony Wynne-Jones

**Tea Cup Tales: Reading The Leaf**, Friday, July 8<sup>th</sup> - 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with Tanya Lester

**Tea Cup Tales: Reading The Leaf**, Friday, August 5<sup>th</sup> - 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with Tanya Lester

And we're off! Longer TO DO Lists, more things planned, enthusiasm at its highest, time to get started. We opened with maple tapping. Seven buckets, twelve trees resulted in about 50 litres to play with. Boiling it down took hours but as the MC Hammer song goes "can't touch dis!" We got various colours and qualities, normal I'm told, and the taste is pure maple gold. There are three more containers in the freezer to be boiled down, (sorry for taking up space Carol) I'm still collecting as of this writing and I have grand plans for next year's "event" (don't I always), and if we can keep ourselves from sampling the few finished jars we do have, some taste testing of the first Milner Maple Syrup.

Gearing up in long johns, drilling holes first thing in the morning after a hard frost, the rush of seeing the wet sawdust that is your first clue that you've got flow, the tink tink of the spile snugging up tight and that first sound of a steady drip in perfect rhythm into the collection bucket. Wood smoke smells as you boil it down on a sunny day, and the intensity of getting down to the last few minutes when the bubbles get tiny and foamy and it goes from watery liquid on the very edge, to, ta-da... Milner Maple. The only down side is that I think this Maple tapping thing is going to turn into something akin to my quilting habit, t'is very addictive! No doubt with bud burst soon to be and tapping over, the rest of the garden will make its demands known all too soon.

If interested in becoming one of the team of Milner Maple Sapsuckers, or need to know more, phone or email and we'll talk. Kits are available consisting of two spiles, a joining T and tubing and/or a locally written book on Maple Tapping to get you started, so you're ready for the first flow in late November.

Get out there and get dirty, it's good for you – and if you know of an old woodstove needing a home, think of us needing to boil down sap.

*Kim Hammond*  
*Nursery Grower / Grounds Keeper*



### **Gift Shop News**



Yet another season is close at hand and like you I am anxiously awaiting the arrival of spring. I am always looking for new products in my off

time and have been thinking of creative ways to rearrange the Gift Shop. With a small budget I have been bringing items from home and looking for nice, inexpensive display pieces. If you come across a piece of furniture that you think would be appropriate for the Gift Shop whether it is for the back patio where I try to display most outdoor items, or the inside, please let me know.

I have had some very positive feedback from members and guests of the garden regarding the items for sale in the Gift Shop that encourages me to continue to seek out local items; the trick is to find something with a good price point. I would like to thank all the members who did think of Milner Gardens when purchasing gift items for friends and loved ones.

We have been starting to do the volunteer scheduling for the year ahead and there are a few openings in the Gift Shop. We also have some regular openings for the Welcome Centre this year. There will be a small construction change to the Welcome Centre booth to make it more comfortable for the volunteers on cooler days. If you know anyone who might be interested in volunteering for a shift every week please encourage them to come see us; we would welcome more happy faces to the group.

*Helen Reimer*  
*Visitor Services Coordinator*

## CAMELLIA TEA ROOM

The dates for the next few luncheons for our volunteers and members have been set to **April 15th, May 20th, June 17th and July 22nd**. Please note that the time will now change back to **11:45 a.m.** as the Tea Room will be open for regular service right after the luncheon. April's luncheon will have a British flair. These always book up quickly so please call Carol at 250 752 8573 Ext. 224 or email [carol.milnergardens@shaw.ca](mailto:carol.milnergardens@shaw.ca).

A very big thanks to all those who have sent in jam jars recently. We'll need a big supply so please keep us in mind. We currently have a limited supply of Apple Cinnamon Light and Damson plum jelly on hand, and if you would like some, please call or email and we can put some aside for you. We've had a hard time keeping up with our supply of Curry Raisin jam so if you would like some, please contact me for special orders, as we will be busy making more soon.

We will be needing some more kitchen help this season, to make tea, wash tea-cups, etc., on a more-or-less regular basis once a week or every other week. The view from the kitchen sink is quite spectacular! Please let me know if you're interested.

We now have a Murder Mystery that is a little more involved as well as our usual Tea Time one. This one takes about three hours and also requires a minimum of eight players. They always are lots of fun and a great way to spend a couple of hours or an afternoon. Please call Carol for more information.

Once again, we're looking forward to some nice weather and we'll soon be enjoying being able to serve our customers out on the verandah!

**Carol Hansen**  
Tea Room Coordinator



Red Hat Murder Mystery Oct. 2010



We would like to thank our  
corporate partners



# MILNER GARDENS AND WOODLAND SOCIETY ANNUAL CAMPAIGN FUND

**ANNUAL DONOR CATEGORIES:** All donors will receive recognition in the annual published donors' list.

Benefits - please check box when choice provided

- Primrose Circle**      **\$100+**       One Gardens admission pass
- Magnolia Circle**      **\$250+**       Two Gardens admission passes
- Douglas-fir Circle**      **\$500+**       Four Gardens admission passes
- Rhododendron Circle**      **\$1,000+**       Four Gardens admission passes  
+ Invitation for two to annual donor reception at the Gardens
- Garden Benefactor**      **\$5,000+**       Six Gardens admission passes  
+ Invitation for two to annual donor reception at the Gardens
- Milner Partner**      **\$10,000+**       Six Gardens admission passes  
+ Invitation for two to Milner Partners' dinner  
+ Recognition in a MGW program or other agreed upon project

\*\*\*\*\*

Donor name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ Province/State: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of donation: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate below how you would like your name or names to be listed in the annual donors' list

\_\_\_\_\_

My donation is \$ \_\_\_\_\_  cash or  cheque [payable to **Milner Gardens and Woodland Society**] or  
 credit card  Amex  Mcard  Visa : No. \_\_\_\_\_ : Expiry date/month \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Official tax receipts will be issued by Milner Gardens and Woodland Society under Canadian Federal Charitable # 88675 3615 RR0001 for all donations \$10 or greater.

Please circle the following to receive more information:

- Annual membership categories
- The Book of Honours
- Donating a stock security
- Planned giving opportunities
- Making a bequest to the MG&W Society
- Installment donation by credit card

2179 West Island Highway, Qualicum Beach, B.C. V9K 1G1  
Office: (250) 752-8573 Fax: (250) 752-3826 Email: milnergardens@shaw.ca www.milnergardens.org

<b>OFFICE RECORD ONLY</b>	Date received: _____; Admission passes sent: _____
	Other information requests sent: _____

**BOOK SALE** We are having our first book sale on Saturday April 16<sup>th</sup> (Plant Sale weekend) from 10am to 2pm, near the Welcome Centre and parking lot at Milner Gardens. For sale will be books we have removed from the collections in Milner House, as part of the Library refurbishment project. There are hard covers and paperbacks, both fiction and non-fiction, covering a wide variety of topics. If you would like to donate books for the sale please drop them off on Friday April 15<sup>th</sup> between 10am and 2pm at the Welcome Centre. We would welcome books of general interest (no textbooks please) in good condition. All the books will be priced to sell – mostly \$.50 and \$1.



*Come down and help support Milner.*

**Easter Bunny Search April 23rd – 25<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**



**10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SPRING PLANT SALE**  
**APRIL 16<sup>TH</sup> & 17<sup>TH</sup> FROM 10:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.** Admission by donation. Tea Room open 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for tea service, homemade soup and scones.



**MEMBERS ONLY EARLY ACCESS APRIL 15<sup>TH</sup>**  
**FROM 5:00 TO 7:00 P.M..** Please bring your membership card to access this event.

**UPCOMING**

- ☀ Enjoy the Rhododendron Bloom April 28<sup>th</sup> – May 15<sup>th</sup>.
- ☀ Come to celebrate Milner Gardens' 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary May 1<sup>st</sup> from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- ☀ Classic & Vintage Bike Show June 5<sup>th</sup>. Event is weather dependent.
- ☀ Music in the Garden Evening Concerts. First concert June 26<sup>th</sup>. Other dates TBA.

**THE FRIENDS OF MILNER GARDENS AND WOODLAND**

**If you purchased or renewed your membership last spring, please take a moment to renew your membership now**

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES**

**Individual** \$25 + HST = \$28 **Member benefits for one**  
**Household** \$40.18 + HST = \$45 **Member benefits for adults and children living at the same address**

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS**

- ◆ Free admission to the Gardens during regular garden hours (excluding some special events)
- ◆ Priority registration for education courses
- ◆ 'Milner Musings' Quarterly Newsletter
- ◆ Gift Shop & Nursery – 10% discount off regularly-priced merchandise and plants
- ◆ Discounted Guest Passes @ \$7.59 + HST = \$8.50
- ◆ Membership in the Milner Gardens and Woodland Society

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION** Individual \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Household \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Ms. Miss Mrs. Mr. Dr. Full Name (1) \_\_\_\_\_

Ms. Miss Mrs. Mr. Dr. Full Name (2) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Province \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (work) \_\_\_\_\_

**Amex/Visa/Master Card:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Credit card expiry date:** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**Cheque: Payable to Milner Gardens & Woodland** Cards issued \_\_\_\_\_ Membership expiry date \_\_\_\_\_