

November 2011

Volume 10,

Issue 3

Our Mission is to preserve and enhance Milner Gardens & Woodland, to educate and inspire. All gifts to Milner Gardens & Woodland 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
- Matthew Palmer**
Groundsperson /
Labourer
- Helen Reimer**
Visitor Services
Coordinator



Milner Musings

Veronica Milner at the Milner House, July 1990

Executive Director's Message

Greetings Milner Members and Volunteers

So, here we sit at the end of our tenth season. Looking back over the years it is remarkable at what has been accomplished in such a short period of time. When Vancouver Island University (VIU, then Malaspina University-College) first acquired the old estate, it was in fairly rough shape; the beauty of it and all of the thoughtful work that had gone into building it was obvious, but equally obvious was the amount of work that would be required to bring it back to its glory.

Before the site was opened to the public, a tremendous project of taking an old estate garden and converting it for public use was undertaken. Roads were built, irrigation systems installed, maps created, fences replaced, interpretive systems installed, trails both re-discovered and new ones laid out, a society formed, and volunteers recruited...an entire organization started.

In the ten years since the gates swung open the work has not slowed. Even though the gardens were brought to a point of being able to accept public visits by 2001, there was much still to be done. Here is a list of projects that have been completed and programs initiated since that first opening:

Introduction of special events:

- Jazz, Classics and Music in the Garden events
- Rhododendron Days
- Spring and Fall Plant Sales
- Art & Photography in the Garden
- Milner Christmas Magic
- Numerous other small events

Construction of the Welcome & Interpretive Centre
 Installation of the West Nature Trail
 Renovation of the entrance gates from the East Trail to the back meadows
 Renovation of the Food Garden to house the new Children's Education Program, *Shoots with Roots*
 Initiation and expansion of the *Shoots with Roots* program
 Construction of the Ursus Den, the outdoor classroom for the *Shoots with Roots* program
 Connection of sewer and potable water for the Milner House, Cottage and Welcome & Interpretive Centre
 Renovation of interior of the Gardener's Cottage
 Replacement of the roof of the Milner House and Gardener's Cottage
 Opening main house to public
 Construction of administrative offices in the attic to remove them from the public portion of the house
 Renovation of most of the public space in the Milner house
 Launch of the Camellia Tearoom
 Design and installation of Rhododendron interpretive panels
 Design and installation of panoramic view of Georgia Strait and islands across the Strait
 Installation of viewing scope at main lawn
 Initiation of landscape and erosion protection designs at the shoreline
 Expansion of season openings through summer, from four-day weekends to daily, as well as extended shoulder season

There are many other small projects and upgrades that have happened over the years, but the list above gives you a good sense of the energy and support that has gone into Milner Gardens & Woodland (MGW) over the years. All of the work I have mentioned, indeed the entire operation, has only been possible with the incredible work of our amazing volunteers, generous support of donors and sponsors, the advice and input of the Milner Gardens and Woodland Society, involvement by the VIU Horticulture Technician Program, support of the greater VIU, and dedication of my fantastic co-workers. It is the combined team that has brought the ideas, energy, resources and hard work to make Milner Gardens & Woodland what it is today.

A garden is an ever-evolving place and so it is at Milner Gardens & Woodland. The energy and support continue; we are close to finishing up the library renovation and the accompanying work on the patio outside; also, we are getting plans in place to refresh the Camellia Tearoom, and new ideas for events, projects and programs continue to spring forth. These new initiatives, added to the ongoing discussions within VIU on how MGW can play a larger academic and research role within the institution, all point to an exciting future for the site and community.

For now though, at the end of the tenth year, it is time to stop and recognize all of the work and support that has gone into getting us this far. There are a great many people to thank, too many to be able to list them all individually. To everyone, current and past volunteers, donors and supporters, past and present Milner Gardens and Woodland Society Board members, VIU Horticulture Technician students and faculty, VIU employees and Milner staff, I thank you for all that you have done to make Milner Gardens & Woodland such a special place for thousands of people each year. It is an honour to be part of such an incredible group of people and such an amazing place.

Geoff Ball
Executive Director

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

This has been a wonderful summer celebrating our 10th anniversary as a public garden. Although not the best year from a weather perspective, there have been many days when it has been easy to see why Milner Gardens & Woodland was named one of the top ten public gardens in Canada.

We owe so much to the small group of people who came together as the Advisory Committee in 1999 including:

Jane Gregory	Ross Fraser	Fran Jones	Corrie deKluyver
Dick Beamish	Jon Lampman	Linda Berry	Rich Johnston
Jim Cadwaladr			

They had the foresight and determination to make this garden a public reality. It took tremendous effort in those early stages to make this happen and we are grateful they stuck to it.

So many people have had a hand in making Milner Gardens & Woodland the meaningful place it is today. They brought, and continue to bring, their talents and enthusiasm to the dozens of jobs it takes to keep Milner thriving, whether it is serving tea, raising donations, pulling weeds, stringing Christmas lights or helping our little *Shoots* with their first Milner experiences. As members and volunteers most of you have a pretty good sense of what is involved in making the Gardens work. We all know this 70 acres and our heritage house take a lot of tending.

The contributions of our members and volunteers cannot be overstated, whether it is writing a cheque or washing tea cups. As well, our Society Board members have played an important role over the past 10 years, moving us from a small, closed organization of about 20 people to where we are today with 2,000 members.

Vancouver Island University (VIU), under the able direction first of Rich Johnston and now Ralph Nilson, make it possible for Milner Gardens & Woodland to be the important asset it is in our community, today and for future generations. Without their support in so many ways, the front gates would not have opened nor remain open today.

VIU is also responsible for the staff who really make the difference at Milner Gardens & Woodland. With the wise guidance of Jim Cadwaladr and now Geoff Ball, this small but powerful group of people have brought Milner Gardens & Woodland to what it is today. They keep the 250 volunteers motivated and our 2000 members renewing their memberships each year.

So to all of you, past and present, our heartfelt thanks and we hope you enjoy the next 10 years at Milner Gardens & Woodland.

Lee Teal
Chair, Milner Gardens and Woodland Society

2012 Sunday openings - February 5th to March 25th from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Enjoy the early spring bulbs and relax with tea in the Camellia Tearoom. Admission is by donation; members free.

2012 Regular season opens on March 29th, Thursday through Sunday and holiday Mondays, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with last entry at 4:30 p.m.

Thank you to all of our generous donors from last year (2010/11 fiscal year).

Milner Partners

Windsor Plywood
Randle & Fran Jones
Roy & Janet Taylor



Garden Benefactors

Christopher Foundation
Coastal Community Credit Union
Quality Foods



Rhododendron Circle

Bill & Jean Cave
Craig & Joyce Clarke
Louise Dwyer
Janet Farooq
Lou & Marj Gueho
Lynda Lindsay
Maureen Marshall
Qualicum Beach Seedy Saturday
Harvey & Lee Teal



Douglas-fir Circle

Geoff Ball & Candice Coghill
Corrie & Shauna deKluyver
Allen & Mary Gillespie
Ian Lindsay & Associates
Robert & Dorothee Kieser
Alice Marquardt
David & Joyce Mitchell
Martha Pow
Joyce Ronyecz
Vivien Sears
Murray & Marilyn Sinclair



Magnolia Circle

Dave & Edie Alexander
Helen Cole
Pat Eagar
John & Arlene England
Gerry & Carolyn Gailey
Tela Gayowsky
Gordon Hudson
Cindy Koutecky
Patricia McLeod
Jim & Birgitta Mick
Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society
Parksville Qualicum Retired Teachers Association
Phil & Helen Robertson
Ian Seal
Joan Williams



Primrose Circle

D. Brenda Cooper
Jacqueline Cronin
Ross Fraser
Sara Frisch
Dale & Myrna Graham
Don & Jo Graham
Jerry & Barb Hardy
Eva Hilborn
Michael & Joan Jiggins
Tony Koers & Shirley Jones-Koers
Hans & Juliana Kratz
Ingeborg Lloyd
Ken & Barbara Lyall
Lynn Maynard
Viola McKee
The Moore Family
Gale Mossman
Nina Neufeld
Beverley Potter
Qualicum Beach Garden Club
Joan Rich
Beryl Speller
John & Jill Stedman
Bob & Iris Steele
Bill & Marilou Thornbury



Other Donations

Grant Auchincloss
Lorne & Anne Ball
John & Frances Dawson
Jerry & Barb Hardy
Margaret Harrison
Anne & Joe Kraskin
Chris & Susan Lee
Ruth MacKenzie
Barbara McNutt Eagles
Larry & Nancy Newland
Sharon Terry
Lynn Tomlinson
Harry & Betty Tudor
Caroline Vining



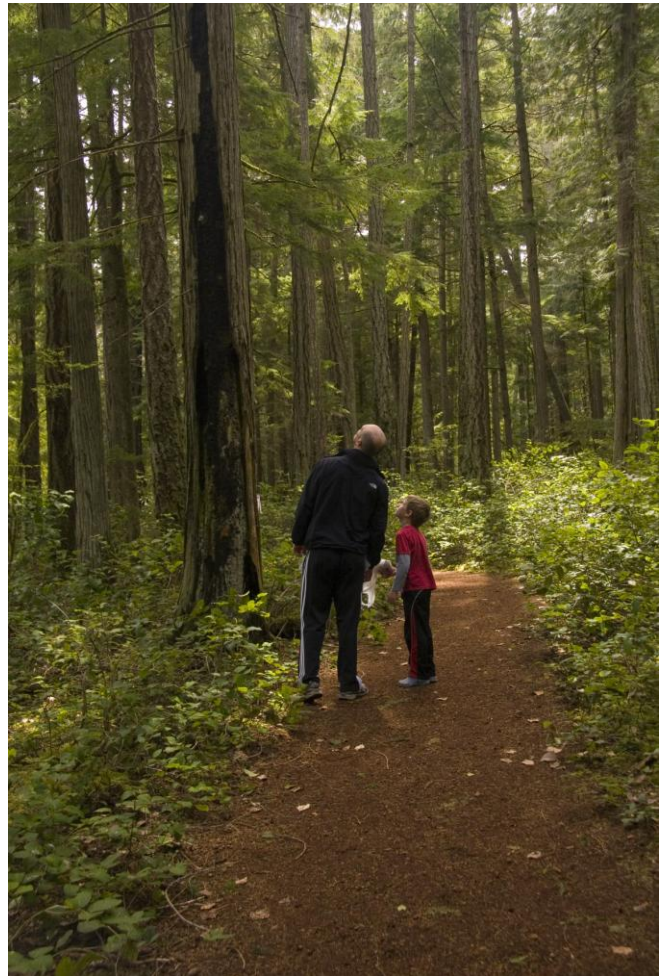
Gifts in Kind

Larry Aguilar
Elissa Anthony
Geoff Ball
Margaret Bonneau
Peggy Burkosky
Noel & Marion Burnham
Chris Carter
Eunmi Conacher
Alan Cornall
Dan Gray
Kristen Jeffrey Hitchcox
Anton Kruyt
April Lafferty
Ingeborg Lloyd
Barbara Lorimer
Jason Marlow
Sherry Mitchell
John Mortenson
Pauline Pike
David Rowe
Marlies Schottke
Ben Strating
Lee & Harvey Teal
Elena Travanut
Ina Von Wistinghausen
John Whitelaw



Library Project

Corrie & Shauna deKluyver
Pat Eagar & Barry Gladesdahl
John & Arlene England
Janet & Ghazi Farooq
Lou & Marj Gueho
Cindy & Kelvin Koutecky
Alice Marquardt
David & Joyce Mitchell
Lee & Harvey Teal



Thank you also to our many anonymous donors.

MILNER GARDENS & WOODLAND COULD NOT EXIST WITHOUT THE EFFORTS AND SUPPORT OF OUR INCREDIBLE VOLUNTEERS.

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO ALL WHO HAVE VOLUNTEERED OVER THE YEARS.

WE WOULD LIKE TO ESPECIALLY THANK THOSE WHO HAVE SUPPORTED US FOR

FIVE OR MORE YEARS...

Edie Alexander
Margaret Barnes
Margaret Brightland
Marion Burnham
Heather Crosson
Richard Crowley
Janet Farooq
Julia Garland
Birthe Jensen
Joan Kool
Judy Matwyko
Ginette McDonald
Mike Miller
Judy Pascall
Marg Parker
Martha Pow
Leila Redford
Joyce Ronyecz
June Schram
Jean Smith
Christina Taylor
Marilou Thornbury

Anne Ball
Mae Bell
Gwen Burgess
Eunice Cleaver
Charlotte Crowley
Brian Cullingworth
Bernice Fawthorpe
Eva Hilborn
Heather Kohut
Jennifer Lecky
Donna McCririck
Pat McLeod
Joanne Moger
Sophie Palmer
Liz Petersen
Ollie Quail
Maureen Robertson
Susan Rowe
Marilyn Sinclair
Ruth Statham
Harvey Teal
Mike Wansink

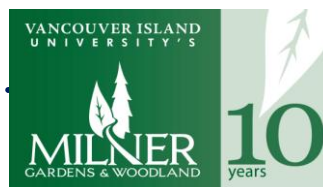
Lorne Ball
Sheila Bright
Noel Burnham
John Coady
Pat Crowley
Ed Erickson
Donna Furneaux
Kay Howard
Jarvis Kohut
Alice Marquardt
Crista McDonald
Birgitta Mick
Jeannine Oakes
Brian Parker
Vic Petersen
Duane Quily
Phil Robertson
Liz Ryan
Murray Sinclair
Anita Steineckert
Lee Teal
Yvonne Wardas

TEN OR MORE YEARS...

Dee Brock
Linda Cooper
Audrey Derrick
Pat Dickason
Arlene England
Roberta Fraser
Jan Graham
Arlene Johnston
Phil Kennedy
Inge Lloyd
Joyce Mitchell
Iris Page
Carole Slaney
Roy Taylor
Nancy Whelan

Gillian Coady
Corrie deKluyver
Ron Derrick
Joan Doyle
John England
Carolyn Gailey
Lou Gueho
Fran Jones
Sharon Kevis
Sherida Magas
Doreen Moore
Pauline Phillips
Beryl Speller
Carla Termes

Brenda Cooper
Shauna deKluyver
Joanne Diack
Mike Dunn
Alan Fraser
Gerry Gailey
Sally Hemingson
Randle Jones
Dorothee Kieser
David Mitchell
Jean Ogle
Linda Rehlinger
Janet Taylor
Lynn Tomlinson



Help make Milner Gardens & Woodland blossom!

Each year, the Milner Gardens and Woodland Society helps to raise funds to support preservation and enhancement as well as education and community programming at Milner Gardens & Woodland.

Please donate today to help support Milner Gardens & Woodland

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 list of donors

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

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 Office: (250) 752-8573 Fax: (250) 752-3826 Email: milnergardens@shaw.ca www.milnergardens.org

<p>OFFICE RECORD</p> <p>ONLY</p>	<p>Date received: _____; Admission passes sent: _____</p> <p>Other information requests sent: _____</p>
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December 2nd through 4th,
9th through 11th and 16th through 21st,
5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. nightly
Admission by donation, members free.
A family-oriented festival of lights and
music in the Garden. Gift Shops and
Tearoom open, children's storytellers
and live music in the Milner house,
Teddy Bear Cottage and Silent Auction
in the Gardener's Cottage, and Santa
and Mrs. Claus in the children's Ursus
Den. Shuttle cart available for those
with mobility issues.

We recommend you bring a flashlight.

BRING THE FAMILY TO ENJOY

MILNER CHRISTMAS

MAGIC

*If you would like to
volunteer with the
event, please contact
250-752-8573,
extension 226*



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

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

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

BENEFITS

- ◆ Free admission to the Gardens during regular garden hours (excluding ticketed special events)
- ◆ Priority registration for education courses
- ◆ 'Milner Musings' Newsletter
- ◆ Gift Shop and 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 _____