

September 2010

Volume 9,

Issue 4

*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**

Greetings Milner Community,

It has been a busy summer here with tours, luncheons and teas, weddings, visitors, events, rentals, projects and camps going on. I would like to start off by thanking the volunteers, donors, summer students and staff who have made all of this possible.

After finishing up the refurbishment of the veranda earlier this year, the construction volunteers turned their attention to the trim around the house. By the end of the summer they had repainted the majority of the trim on the house. A new group of construction volunteers has formed and are starting by building a large storage shed (with the great support of a donor) in our service area, allowing us to move a large amount of material out of our way. Now that these projects are almost complete the focus shifts to the main lawn. You may have noticed on your last visit to the garden that there are a series of metal brackets lined across the end of the main lawn. These brackets are going to be the supports for the new fence line that the construction volunteers will set up over the coming weeks.

Two other volunteers have been chipping away every week at renewing our plant signage on site, a much needed project. This is a very large task and I am very impressed with how much they have accomplished over the summer. You will be able to easily find the names for more and more of the plants in the garden thanks to their hard work.

A change that some of you have noticed is that we have not been maintaining the old pool as a crystal clear fountain. After looking at the volunteer and staff time required to maintain it as well as the hundreds of dollars in chlorine that we went through each year to keep it clear, we decided to start converting it to a water garden (and yes if you are patient and look closely there are some fish in it).

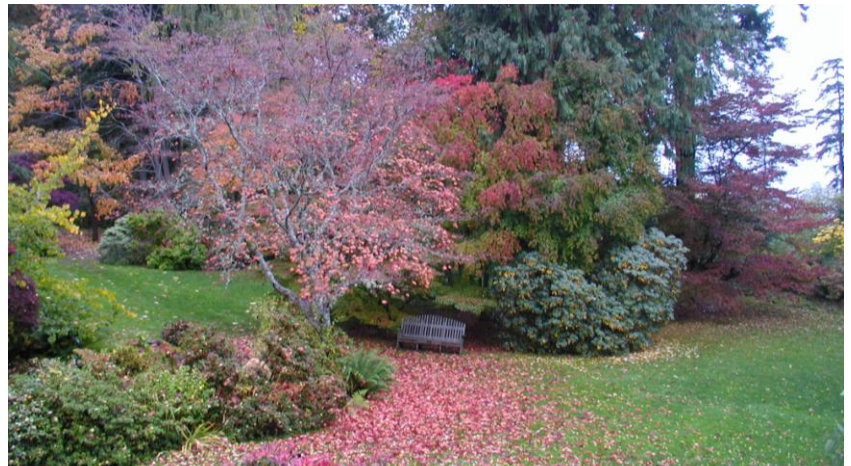
Along the shoreline, we had been hoping to launch a campaign to support the

installation of the headlands and berm that the Green Shores Project had recommended to address erosion. Unfortunately after getting the working plans and costing these out we have had to make the decision to postpone the final plans and put in place a basic erosion protection system for now. It is our hope that in time we will be able to improve on the system. The good news is that once we have the erosion halted, we will be able to start plans to open up the area to the public.

Starting just after Labour Day, we switched back to opening Thursday to Sundays and our summer students returned to school. That does not mean that things have slowed down on site; we are busy getting prepared for the next round of events: the Fall Plant Sale, Des Kennedy's presentation, Fall Colour Days and of course Milner Christmas Magic.

I hope you are able to take some time out of your busy lives over the next while and come relax in the gardens now that the fall colours are starting to show or come for one of the events this fall.

*Geoff Ball*  
*Executive Director*



### Fund Development Committee Report

As fall approaches the Fund Development Committee (FDC), gardeners all, is at work tidying its 'garden', assessing spring and summer 'performances', and working on new 'plantings' for upcoming seasons.

Sponsored by the FDC, a delayed bloomer from spring will be the presentation on Eminent English Gardens by Des Kennedy on Sept. 28. This showy event lasts only that evening – don't miss it!

As with many garden beds this year, the spring campaign for donations was sluggish and not as productive as in seasons past. All the more reason to be appreciative of, and offer thanks to, all who did contribute. Donations to date total \$26,000. Our goal for the year ending March 31, 2011, is \$80,000. The yearly fall campaign for donations will commence in November.

The FDC has been meeting jointly with the Marketing Committee to plan for special events. Several new 'specimens' are being cultivated for release later in the fall and in 2011. Watch for information in the Milner Updates.

The FDC welcomes David Paton as a new member of the committee and expresses thanks to Sharon Perrin for her contributions while a committee member.

Our thanks for your support of the Gardens through donations and attendance at special events. Have a colourful autumn season!

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



**Message from the Chair**

As I write this I am preparing for my first Board meeting as Chair of the Milner Gardens and Woodland Society (MGWS) and I am excited about the year ahead. Having been on the Board now for four years it is an honour to be sitting as Chair although a bit daunting. While the Board only meets four times a year it carries out a lot of work through its Committees, Fund Development, Marketing and the Executive.

We have had a good summer at Milner Gardens and although things may start to slow down with our guests the Fall is a busy time for the Board. It is the beginning of our real year so we are involved in many projects, including long term planning with Vancouver Island University (VIU). Next year we celebrate 10 years of being an open public garden which will require lots of planning. We face a serious fund raising project around the eroding bank and foreshore issues which will require much effort to resolve.

The Society is fortunate to have a very strong Board with a variety of talented and experienced members. Over the next few newsletters I hope to introduce all 19 members and tell you a little about them. I will begin with some of our most long standing: Roy Taylor, Corrie deKluyver, John England and Lou Gueho.

Roy Taylor was introduced to Milner Gardens as a member of the Advisory Committee formed in 1997 to plan for the Garden and establish the governance model that led to the MGWS. Roy has a background as Director of several well known gardens including the new garden at UBC, the Chicago Botanic Garden and Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, among others. He served as Chair of MGWS for several years during which time much of the infrastructure was established. The Society has been extremely fortunate that Roy and his wife Janet retired to this area as they have proved to be relentless supporters.

Corrie deKluyver has been on the Board since it was established 10 years ago. He served as the Treasurer up until this year and helped set up the financial systems. He moved to the area in 1995 when he and his wife Shauna, another stalwart volunteer, started a hydroponic pepper business in Whiskey Creek. Learning about gardening led him to Malaspina's horticulture program where he met Jim Cadwaladr, Milner's first Executive Director. Thanks to Jim, Corrie got involved and has been a fantastic volunteer and Board member since then.

John and Arlene England moved to Qualicum Beach 20 years ago and operated the Blue Willow Guest House for many years. They both joined Milner Gardens as volunteers in 2001. John has now been on the Board for seven years and has spent time on the Fund Development Committee, as a Docent and in plant sales. Arlene can be found in the tea room or ironing all the tea room table clothes and polishing all the silver.

Lou Gueho, the past Chair of the Society, is another Board member who puts in many hours at Milner Gardens. He is in his 8<sup>th</sup> year on the Board. Lou was drawn to Milner after moving from Surrey because he wanted to learn more about gardening so he joined the Wednesday morning group. Lou's wife Marj is also a veteran volunteer who spends many hours making jam for the tea room and for selling, hence her nickname "the jam lady."

**Lee Teal**  
**Chair, Milner Gardens and Woodland Society**

**Milner Gardens and Woodland Society**  
**Directors and Officers 2010 – 2011**

- Geoff Ball, Executive Director
- Corrie deKluyver
- Kevin Doyle
- Pat Eagar, VIU Appointee
- John England
- Janet Farooq
- Dawne Grant, VIU Appointee
- Lou Gueho, Past Chair
- Moira Hauk, Secretary
- Sandy Herle, VIU Foundation Appointee
- Cindy Koutecky, Vice-Chair
- Alice Marquardt
- David Mitchell
- Gale Mossman
- Ralph Nilson, VIU President
- David Paton
- Murray Sinclair, Treasurer
- Roy Taylor
- Lee Teal, Chair



**Milner Gardens 2010 Shoulder 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 September 9th to October 11th.*

**Current email addresses!! P l e a s e 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.**  
**The 2011 season opens March 31<sup>st</sup>.**



**From Sandra, our CEO of Seed Savers: The Seed Savers Program** is about to celebrate its first anniversary. Winter and spring was busy spent processing and packaging seeds. A small selection of Milner Seeds went out to Plant Sales just in time for Mother's Day and by the start of July seeds also were offered at the Pool House Gift Shop. More species became available as we continued to process seed throughout the summer and now there are about 30 species or cultivars for sale. We even were able to offer freshly-harvested seed for some of the more difficult species to germinate. Sales for our first year have been encouraging. Despite the late start this year, by mid-August seed sales had exceeded 200 packages.

Sandra and Vicky, the two members of the Seed Savers Group, have spent the summer combing the garden collecting seed. There is a lot to be done this fall – more seeds to collect, seeds to process and germination trials to run. We meet at the Gardener's Cottage on alternate Tuesday mornings and would love to have a few new members join us. If you can't meet regularly with us there may be work you can do on your own or even at home. Either way, please let Kim know if you would like to help.

Gardeners please note – **we will be selling Milner Seeds at the Plant Sale Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> (and members' early access Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>)**. Fall is THE best time to plant many perennial seeds.



**Gift Shop News**

Hello everyone; it is hard to believe that I will be setting up the Magnolia Christmas Gift Shop next month. I am still hoping to expand on items handmade by our Milner Volunteers. Do you have any ideas that we could put together? I am open to ideas.

The new items have sold well and I will continue to look for interesting gardening items for next season to add to the back patio area of the Gift Shop. There will be a few new giftware items available for Milner Christmas Magic, and I am bringing back the popular 3D Holiday specs that many guests had a lot of fun with last year.

The new cookbooks are finally in - "More Recipes Tried and True," and are available at the Gift Shop, and I have coffee beans from the Qualicum Coffee Company. What a nice gift for someone, a cookbook and coffee. There are many great gift ideas. I will keep the maple products on sale at 35% off through to the Thanksgiving weekend. I have noticed more and more volunteers purchasing gifts for friends and family, and I say "thank you for supporting Milner in so many ways."

*Helen Reimer  
Visitor Services Coordinator*



Joanne (the B) pointed out the other day how the Katsura tree has a slight fragrance of burnt sugar as you walk by. And that only means one thing – an end to that wretched heat! Not that one minds standing mindlessly in the garden, listening to the birds, chatting with visitors and being...still, while guiding the other end of a hose towards plants gasping for sustenance. To say nothing of occasionally sticking your own head under it for a moment's relief from the sensation of being so hot your head will pop right off. Plants and I prefer slightly cooler weather, and it's easier to work in. There are a large number of plants that need to go in the soil, all spaces picked out, and some even have labels ready thanks to Janet and Pat. A fresh load of soil awaits and as soon as the rains show up a little more frequently, they (the plants, not Janet and Pat) will be breathing large sighs of relief after spending the summer stuck in pots. All hands most welcome.

Plants are the life blood of this garden; next to and only surpassed by our volunteers. Volunteers who offer me, more than frequently, plants. I struggle, because I hate to waffle, am always reluctant to say no, not only because it seems ungrateful (and as a gardener truly against the grain!) but because the variety and diversity of plant material people offer is so vast! So after discussing this most pleasant problem (life is hard someone once said) it has been most generously decreed that we can have a Volunteer's Favourites Section!! Where I'm going to put more plants is still in question but a problem I welcome (as opposed to some). I still have to be discerning about what to accept but it opens a wonderful door. Not just in plant material for Milner but in potential sales and seed collection as well. So while I revel in the possibilities and before you overwhelm with your generosity, let me make some room through the Plant Sale first; I don't have another tennis court!! Get out there and get dirty, it's good for you.

*Kim Hammond  
Nursery Grower / Grounds Keeper*





CAMELLIA TEA ROOM



Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m. is the date for the next Members' Luncheon for our members, volunteers and their guests. As usual, we'll be having our October Fest menu of Bratwurst, Sweetened Red Cabbage, Hot Potato Salad and a special German dessert plus beverage, all for \$15.95 plus tax. Once again, we have just a few seats available and reservations must be made by phoning Carol at 250-752-8573 ext 224, or by emailing Carol at [carol.milnergardens@shaw.ca](mailto:carol.milnergardens@shaw.ca).

November's Members' Luncheon date will be the 19<sup>th</sup>. Please note that the time changes back to 12:30 during our closed season as we won't need to have the Tea Room ready for regular afternoon service in the winter. There will be two days set for luncheons in December as we always have lots of bookings then, December the 10<sup>th</sup> and the 17<sup>th</sup>, both Fridays. The Christmas menu will be three courses at \$19.95 plus tax.

Well, as usual, this time of year, we're heavily into jam making in the kitchen and are **desperately** in need of small jam jars, particularly half or quarter pints (125 or 250 ml) that use the snap top lids. Also, if you have any extra fruit in your garden or freezer, even blackberries, we'll make good use of it.



Things are running fairly smoothly in the Tea Room, although we could use some more help in the kitchen, either on a weekly or bi-weekly basis, or even on call from time to time. If you can help out with washing tea cups and making tea, please phone Carol at 752-8573, ext 224. We always say we have the best view in Qualicum Beach from the kitchen sink!

*On our wish list – a really good bread knife; a screen door for the kitchen, a wheelchair for guests, an electrician to rewire the nice crystal chandelier for the dining room.....*



Carol Hansen  
Tea Room Coordinator

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: _____

**FALL PLANT SALE Sep 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>  
from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**Admission by donation.**

All proceeds support the Garden.

Great discounts on heritage trees, shrubs & perennials propagated on site by Milner's dedicated volunteers. Master Gardeners will be on hand to offer advice. Afternoon tea in the Tearoom, outdoor refreshments & hot dogs.

Members only early access Fri. Sept. 24th from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.. Milner Gardens Membership card required for entry to early access sale.



**FALL COLOUR DAYS Oct 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>  
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Admission donations support Shoots with Roots Program. Scarecrow trails & Jack O'Lantern search. Soup & scones served in the Camellia Tea Room from 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m..

**October 29<sup>th</sup> COFFEE PARTY FOR VOLUNTEERS**

To show appreciation to Milner's hard working and dedicated army of volunteers, the annual Volunteer Coffee Party is being held Thursday October 29th, in the Camellia Tea Room, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m..

Please let us know if you are coming by leaving a message at 250-752-8573 ext 226 or email [volunteer.milnergardens@shaw.ca](mailto:volunteer.milnergardens@shaw.ca)



**MILNER CHRISTMAS MAGIC is scheduled from 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. from Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>.**

*Enjoy a festive light display, live music and storytelling in the Milner House, and a visit with Santa in the children's food garden gazebo. In the gardener's cottage, count the teddy bears to win a prize, and bid on silent auction items. The Pool House and Magnolia gift shops offer locally made gift items and Milner's tasty, homemade jams. Relax with tea and scones in the Tea Room. We recommend you bring a flashlight.*

**THE FRIENDS OF MILNER GARDENS AND WOODLAND**

If you purchased or renewed your membership last fall, 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

<b>ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION</b>	<b>Individual \$</b> _____	<b>Household \$</b> _____
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 \_\_\_\_\_