



January 2010

Volume 9,

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

Executive Director's Message

Greetings Milner Community,

It has been a good winter for Milner Gardens & Woodland. Milner Christmas Magic was a great success with a record-breaking 5,200 people coming out to enjoy the lights. After all of their hard work and the disappointment of last year's snowfall, I know that all of the staff and volunteers enjoyed seeing so many people from the community come and enjoy the lights. Now that we have wrapped up that event, we are busy with upgrades and preparations for the coming year.

For winter projects this year, our amazing construction volunteers hit the ground running by tackling the verandah at the main house. As we had expected, there has been a significant amount of rot building up at the base of the posts requiring a major repair. All of the posts have are being replaced and the structure underneath is getting a serious work over. After the structural repairs are complete, the space will get a fresh coat of paint and new flooring. The goal is to have it all back together in time for the season opening.

We are still working away at the plans for the shoreline, from the erosion challenges to the long term opening of the area to the public, as well as the needed fundraising to support both aspects. We will get details out to everyone as soon as we are able to.

With all of the warm weather lately the gardens are starting to show signs of spring; the snowdrops and all of their early friends are starting to come out. These should all be putting on a good show for when we are open again for Antiques in the Garden on February 21st and the Spring Harbinger Days March 6th and 7th. These two events help us get ready for our regular season opening on April 1st, scrolling straight into Easter Weekend.

We are all looking forward to the coming season and seeing everyone back; from the daily stroll to the weekly volunteer shift, it is always great to have members, volunteers and visitors enjoying and participating in the gardens and woodland; that is what makes it rewarding for all of us here!

Thank you all for your continued support,

Geoff Ball
Executive Director

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, 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.

Fund Development Committee Report

The Fund Development Committee (FDC) would like to thank all those who supported the Fall Fundraising Campaign; donations of cash are greatly appreciated especially in this current operating year with all of its fiscal challenges. The Westcoast Getaway raffle was well received with all ticket purchasers certain they had the winning ticket! Thanks to all who gave up a toonie or two to support this fundraiser. Thanks also to the Black Rock Resort, Jamie's Whale Watching, and Tofino Botanical Garden for their contributions to the raffle.

Several events have been planned by the FDC for the next few months: a Spring Speakers' Series with a gardening theme, and an Antiques Appraisal Day (see details on page 3), and another raffle (also with a gardening theme). We look forward to having you participate in these fundraising efforts.

Also in the early planning stage, and under the leadership of the Development and Alumni Office of Vancouver Island University, is a campaign to raise funds for the restoration of the foreshore and bank. Anticipate information in the next few months on how you can be part of this necessary and interesting project.

Look for details of a seminar to be held at Milner Gardens (MGW) later this Spring, on leaving part of your legacy to charitable organizations.

We have had some support from foundations with \$20,000 from the Vancouver Foundation and \$5000 from the Christopher Foundation being awarded to Milner Gardens & Woodland. Many foundations this year have reduced the amount of disbursement funds because of the economic situation, resulting in several applications being rejected. We are awaiting word on some others.

A special thank you to MGW members who have donated Gifts in Kind. These members have noticed a need and responded, for example, by purchasing a piece of equipment (e.g., a shop vac, a Cuisinart, and the upgrade of two older toilets to low flush toilets). Several very generous members have donated cash designated for specific purposes (Shoots with Roots, support for Jazz in the Gardens and horticulture are but a few examples.). A sincere thanks for all these most generous donations.

The financial support of our members beyond the purchase of membership and the contributions of our corporate sponsors play an important role in the operation of MGW. As with many organizations these days, this is a critical time for the Gardens. We appreciate the generosity you've shown and trust you will continue to back our efforts to secure funds in support of the continued operation and maintenance of the Gardens.

Alice Marquardt
Chair, Fund Development Committee



**IMPORTANT NOTICE
MILNER GARDENS AND WOODLAND SOCIETY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Annual General Meeting of Milner Gardens and Woodland Society for the fiscal year 2009/10, will be held at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday **June 15th, 2010**, in room 262 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 16th this year*). Nominations from the floor at the Annual General Meeting will not be accepted."

Lou Gueho

Chair

Milner Gardens and Woodland Society

On Sunday, February 21st 2010, Milner Gardens is once again presenting an "**Antiques in the Garden**" day as a fundraising event. If you missed this very enjoyable and interesting event last February, you will once again have the opportunity to learn more about the value of some of your special treasures. A team of six appraisers with expertise in a variety of areas including china, silver, art, jewellery, and books will be on hand to discuss your items with you.

The cost of an appraisal is \$10 for the first item and \$5 for each additional item. There is no need to register for the appraisals - just come to the Gardens on Sunday, February 21st with your treasures. The Gardens will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.. Unfortunately, we cannot handle anything larger than what you can carry, and no military, stamp, coin or doll appraisals are available.

Regular tea service as well as soup and scones are available in the Camellia Tearoom.

Admission to the Gardens is by donation; free with an appraisal. Please see website for a detailed list of appraisers and their biographies.

Milner Gardens staff and volunteers look forward to seeing you in the Gardens!



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

Herbs for the Home, Saturday, March 6th - 9:00 a.m. to Noon, with Sheila Williams

Organic Gardening, Saturday, March 13th & 20th - 9:00 a.m. to Noon, with Sheila Williams

Small Space Edible Gardens, Wednesday, Mar 24th - 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., with Rose Lynn Fleury

Rose Care, Saturday, April 10th - 10:30 a.m. to Noon, with Jean Hay

Nature Photography, Saturday, April 17th - 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., with Richard Sillery

The Art of Hanging Baskets, Wednesday, April 21st - 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., with Rose Lynn Fleury

Creative Patio Planters, Wednesday, April 28th - 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., with Rose Lynn Fleury



Shoots with Roots

Helping community Shoots make and meet Roots

Charlene Forrest – program coordinator

Winter 2010 Newsletter

www.mala.ca/MilnerGardens/education-programs.asp

education.milnergardens@shaw.ca



Multi-visit School Program - we are at the midpoint of another wonderful school program year. Now in visit #3, classes are learning about research permits as they collect a woodland plant for their native plant herbarium. In the food garden they are starting to wake the garden from its winter slumber getting it ready for planting in visit #4. We had a late addition to round out the group of 14 classes involved this year, a life skills group from John Barsby Secondary School in Nanaimo – they are great fun to work with !



School's Out and Spring Break Sessions - the 2010 Pro-D Day and Spring Break Camp information is now posted on the SwR webpage. These sessions are always a good time for participants to have fun with friends while they burn off some spring energy working in the Milner forest and gardens. There have been a couple revisions to the schedule recently, to make room for some exciting new additions to the opportunities families have for their children to participate in education, through SwR at MGW.



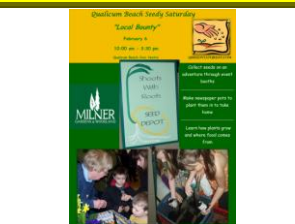
Cinema Sundays - in January we launched new Cinema Sundays in the *Ursus Den*. They run on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month and begin at 2pm. The 2nd Sunday is for "Shoots" Only, a SwR session for registered children. The 4th Sunday is "Roots" Invited, a time for anyone of any age to enjoy earth-themed films in the Den. Check the SwR webpage for movie listings and more details. The Feb 14th "Shoots" Only will show *Rock'n Learn Earth Science*, and Feb 28th "Roots" Invited will show *MicroCosmos*.



Drum Latin - we are very excited to announce the beginning of new *Drum Latin* sessions through SwR. With the school program and School's Out Day Camps we have started using djembe drums to learn Latin names of plants and animals. Thanks to Robin of Sylvan Temple Drums (sylvantemple.ca), we will have access to a fleet of fabulous drums to branch this new activity off into a whole set of sessions of their own. The first set of 4 dates begins February 14th. Visit the SwR webpage for registration information and for future session dates.



Special Guest Sessions and Camp Carpe Diem - Denise Winter (Horticulture Technician, MGW work-op student, and VIU Horticulture Therapy student) has developed new workshops for older Shoots to participate in through SwR. During Spring Break she will run two workshops for Shoots 12 yrs and older called "*Designing the Dish: Terrariums and Dish Gardens*". Visit the SwR webpage for details. us3yoga has also booked the *Ursus Den* for 4 *Carpe Diem* day camp dates in February and March. See us3yoga.com for more information.



Community Events - SwR has been invited back to 2 spring events to offer the newspaper potmaking and veggie seed planting activity for community families. On February 6th we will be at the QB Civic Centre for Qualicum Beach Seedy Saturday, with the fun seed hunt through the event booths before potmaking and planting. March 13th and 14th SwR will be at the Central Vancouver Island Botanical Garden Society Spring Garden Festival at Beban Park in Nanaimo. Please stop by to say HI and thank our volunteers ☺



Snippets

Tickling badgers. That's what was suggested to me when I asked someone for ideas to write about for the newsletter. Imagine! We both had a good laugh – but it didn't help. Considering all the things that need doing here, one would think the array of topics would be endless. That, combined with the grand plans of last year still to be tackled (or completed), again one would think more fodder. A new year always brings, well, more plans, projects and such; at least, it does in my wee piece of the planet.

But to get the season started, I am looking forward to the upcoming Seedy Saturday in Qualicum Beach, not only to promote Milner, but also to bask in the camaraderie that it generates. It's like old home week, when everyone comes out to meet and greet and get invigorated for another year of gardening. We're like seeds venturing out through the soil, and testing the air after a long winter. I find seeds irresistible; they are the very stuff of life and are still the most inexpensive element in gardening. With that in mind comes the most recent project of seed collection at Milner. We have a pretty decent selection collected by our intrepid propagation group and the persistence of Sandra W. and Rosemary W. to see the sorting and packaging through. A few more, not so minor but doable, details and we will have seeds for sale for our visitors who cannot take plants home, and anyone else who would like them.

Another group project last year has also proved most worthy; the snowdrops rescued from Nanaimo last year, transported in the old white truck, which groaned all the way home, have started to show their noses. And I expect it will be a grand display, as well as a healthy number of potted ones to sell. That was another event where the camaraderie of like-minded people was the order of the day.

As much as I enjoy being curled up at home watching old movies and quilting in peace on cold rainy days, I have missed that. I'm looking forward to seeing friendly faces, catching up and tackling projects that only get done well by joint efforts. Many hands and all that.

Much easier than tickling badgers!

Kim Hammond
Nursery Grower / Grounds Keeper

Kaelen Pedersen Saunders, 6 years old, of Lantzville, B.C., loves his prize bear (named "Bo" for the bow around his neck). Kaelen won the bear by guessing the correct number of teddy bears in the cottage during Milner Christmas Magic.



Gift Shop News

I was happy that I was able to experience a full and successful Milner Magic Event this year...and yes, for me there was magic. There were times when I was walking behind a group of guests and overheard the positive comments made about how volunteers do so much for this garden and make the event happen. I can't tell you how good it felt to hear those comments and see how well the community supported the event. It was a wonderful experience for me to work with such warm-hearted people.

I am already thinking of next year and I would really like to move forward with a table of tasteful items made by our volunteers for next year. I have an idea that I saw at the Kris Kringle Craft Fair, and I am looking for a few decorative glass blocks left over from a building project to make a "gift light." If you have any glass blocks you would like to donate, feel free to contact me. On the same subject, if you have any ideas for items for a friend or yourself to make, again, please contact me.

I have made contact with a few new local suppliers and look forward to incorporating their items into our stock. The second cookbook "More Recipes Tried and True" has made its appearance; there are a few corrections being made and the rest will be printed.

Just a reminder to everyone that on members' luncheon days members receive an additional 10% off regular priced items.

Helen Reimer
Visitor Services Coordinator





CAMELLIA TEA ROOM

(Above photos) Very tired and happy Christmas 2009 luncheon volunteers.

Well, we managed to get through our very busy Christmas season very nicely this year with the weather cooperating nicely. Last year, the big snowfall started right in the middle of one of our Christmas luncheons and, although most of us made it home without any problems, there were some of us that had very interesting trips home, so we were very happy not to have to go through that again!

The next luncheon for members and volunteers is scheduled for Friday, the 12th of February and will feature chicken and chocolate, although not in the same dish. March 19th will be our usual Irish-themed meal. Both luncheons will be at 12:30 p.m.. April's luncheon will be on the 23rd, but the time will change back to 11:45 a.m. in order to allow the Tea Room to be open for the usual afternoon service. We usually get quite booked up for our luncheons, so if you are interested, **please call me at 250 752 8573 local 224 and leave a message, or email carol.milnergardens@shaw.ca and we will confirm your reservation.**

During our closed season we can do luncheons for groups of about twenty people or more. So if you were thinking of where you could go for lunch for your next club or family get together, let us know and we'll see what we can do. Even better, why not get a group together for a Murder Mystery High Tea luncheon? We guarantee a good time will be had by all for \$21.95.

What's on the Wish List this time? Let's see..... we could do with some more large fancy three tiered platters for High Tea, if you happen to have one in the cupboard that isn't used anymore and the kids won't want. Blackberries – yes, blackberries, as we didn't get a chance to get any last year and could do with some for jam or jelly. Well, blueberries would be nice, too, for Bumbleberry jam. The birds beat us to the ones in the Garden.

We hope to have some more guest speakers in the Tea Room again this season. Last year we had a great turn-out for Don McMillan speaking about his friendship with Veronica, also Mike Yip, bird photographer extraordinaire. Look for upcoming dates in special emails or the next newsletter.

It looks like we have had a group of industrious fellows out front who have been working on repairing the verandah this winter. We can hardly wait until the nice warm days of Spring, to start serving tea on the verandah - the best seats in the house!

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

OFFICE RECORD ONLY Date received: ; Admission passes sent:
Other information requests sent:



Antiques in the Garden

Feb. 21, 2010
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Admission by donation, free with appraisal.

Appraisals by Hugh Bulmer, Tony Duke, Rob Liddicoat, Luis Porretta, Richard Rosewell & Ted Rye. \$10 first appraisal, \$5 for additional items.

View Appraisers' biographies at <http://www.mala.ca/MilnerGardens/special-events.asp>

Appraisals only; no sales. No military, stamp, coin or doll appraisals available.

Volunteer Opportunity Day (no pre-registration required) Mar. 20th, 1 - 3 p.m. and **Volunteer Orientation Day** (pre-registration is required) Apr. 8th, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

If you, or someone you know, is interested in volunteering, we welcome you to find out more about volunteer opportunities and Milner Gardens.

Spring Harbinger Days

March 6th and 7th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Entry by donation.

Enjoy the early Spring bulbs and relax with tea, soup and songs in the Camellia Tea Room.

Easter Bunny Hunt

April 3rd to 5th

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



Spring Speakers' Series All presentations will be held at Qualicum Beach Civic Centre and begin at 7:00 p.m.. Tickets are \$10 each, or the complete series for \$25, and are available for sale at the door on the evening of the presentations. Feb. 25th, Judy Newton will speak on Container Gardening; on March 25th, Gary Lewis will acquaint us with Western Australian Plants which are suitable for growing locally; and on April 29th, Des Kennedy will be the speaker on a topic yet to be determined, but sure to be both informative and entertaining! *FMI please call 250-752-6131.*



Spring Fundraiser

THE FRIENDS OF MILNER GARDENS AND WOODLAND

2010 SEASON OPENS APRIL 1ST

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

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

- Individual** \$25 Member benefits for one
- Household** \$40 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 @ \$7.50
- ◆ Membership in the Milner Gardens and Woodland Society

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION	Individual \$25	Household \$40
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** _____