



October 2002

Volume 1 Issue 4

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.

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

As we approach the completion of our second year of being open to the public I have to marvel at how the various areas of the operation have begun to take on lives of their own. The Board and various planning committees have set the stage. Staff and volunteers, all dedicated to the idea of 'making this work', have really done a superb job this year. I congratulate you all.

The fall and winter months are when we view and re-organize existing programs, plan new programs and recruit new volunteers. All of this is an effort to improve the Milner Gardens and Woodland experience for the coming season.

The garden sleeps but the work of operating a public garden carries on. One focus of new activities this coming year will be educational programming. In particular the 'Roots and Shoots Intergenerational Gardening Program' is scheduled to begin this spring. As well landscape improvements are planned

and renovations to the upper floor of the main house will take place.

We need your continued volunteer and financial support to make these activities and programs a success. To this end I encourage you to respond to one of the calls for volunteers in this newsletter, join a committee, or get involved on one of our landscape improvement or building renovation teams. It is fun and rewarding.

I look forward to seeing you at the Fall Plant Sale or perhaps the 'Old Fashioned Christmas Luncheon'.

Jim Cadwaladr
Executive Director

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A WALK THROUGH THE GARDEN

As the closing of our second season nears I would like to thank the volunteers, students in the Horticulture Technician Program and summer students for making it possible to keep Milner Gardens and Woodland looking beautiful.

During October, our last open month this year, you can enjoy a great display of fall colours spread throughout the garden. Make sure to stop and look at all of the different trees and shrubs including our collection of Maples (*Acer spp.*) as they put on their big fall displays. There is also a great collection of late flowering perennials worth seeing such as the Blue Vervain (*Caryopteris x clandonensis* 'Dark Knight') by the pool, or the Bug Banes (*Cimicifuga simplex var. simplex* and *C. simplex*

'Brunette) down by the large Douglas fir. One fantastic late season bulb is Nerine (*Nerine bowdenii*) located up at the gift shop patio, along the driveway to the main house or in pots outside the main house or up by the patio. Come and get some ideas for late season interest at your own home.

Once the fall colours have faded, we will be looking forward to the spring's flowers. Our earliest Rhododendrons will start flowering in February. The Rhododendrons will be joined by the great collection of spring flowering shrubs, perennials and bulbs found throughout the garden.

Geoff Ball
Horticulturist



SNIPPETS

Some people may think that fall signifies a time to slow down. For the West Coast Gardener fall simply means we have nicer and cooler weather to work in before the rains set in! Dividing early flowering perennials is a great gardening task that can be done now. It's one of the easiest and most gratifying ways to propagate. Instant plants! The cool weather and moist days allow divided plants to heal in and establish their root systems before winter. Some early flowering perennials to divide now are: Iris, Pulmonaria, Soldanella, Epimedium, Primula, Geranium and many, many more.

The cooler, moister days also make it a great time for planting out. If you've been thinking about purchasing a tree, shrub, or some hardy perennials for your yard, now is the time to do so. To help you out with this task Milner Gardens and Woodland is having a **Fall Plant Sale**.

On **Saturday October 5th** and **Sunday October 6th**, Milner's will hold our first Fall Plant Sale. It will be located in the upper parking lot and we invite members and active volunteers to come and take advantage of the incredible prices. Most gallon perennials will be only \$6.00 and 10cm pots for only

\$3.00. All taxes included! We'll also have a great 'Move'em Out' section where select plants will be priced to GO! Be sure to bring your membership or volunteer card to access the savings.

To mark the event, all tickets into the gardens will be half price. This gives people who haven't had the chance to experience Milner Garden and Woodland a great opportunity to see the gardens in their fall glory. The gardens are a riot of colours and sights with many fall flowering perennials. It's my favourite time of year.

Happy gardening!

Candice Coghill
Nursery Grower



HYDRANGEAS

I've been getting many questions lately about hydrangeas. Perhaps its because visitors to the Garden at this time of year can't help but notice our extensive collection, which are still very showy even as the season turns to Autumn. We have approximately 125 hydrangea plants, comprising 5 different species and numerous hybrids.

The species that highlights our collection is *H. macrophylla* ssp. *macrophylla*. Both the favourite mophead or pompom type and the lesser-known but beautiful lace-caps belong to this species. Near the Gardener's Cottage you won't miss the *H. paniculata* 'Grandiflora' or PeeGee hydrangeas, which can be trained into standards and will eventually become small trees in the landscape. The Oakleaf hydrangea (*H. quercifolia*) is a must have for the woodland garden, with their delicate panicle blooms and lobed leaves that turn deep magenta in the fall. Another interesting character is *H. aspera*, which has large, fuzzy leaves. And for anyone with a wall or fence



that needs a good cover, the climbing hydrangea (*H. anomala* ssp. *petiolaris*) is a great choice.

The question I've been hearing most often is how we get the beautiful shades of blue and deep purple in our flower heads. Flower colour in hydrangeas is dependent on the pH of the soil – acid soils (low pH) will produce blues and purples, while alkaline soils (higher pH) result in pink or red shades. Keep in mind that white hydrangeas don't change colour. To lower the pH of your soil and encourage your hydrangeas to show their blue colours you need to add aluminum sulphate. Do this according to package directions and remember that it takes time for the effects of the soil amendment to show. Don't dump on your soil amendment a week before the flowers open and expect great results!

The other question that's been coming up is when to prune. Most books say to prune after blooming but here at Milner Gardens we choose to leave the flower heads on the plants until early spring when the buds break. The blooms last late into the fall and turn many beautiful shades before they dry completely and go brown. By that time, the leaves have fallen and the shrub provides much needed winter interest. Think of a frosty winter day with dried hydrangea heads sparkling in the sunshine.

Kristi Ozero
Plant Records Department

CALLING ALL COOKS

Gourmet, yes gourmet is how to describe the Volunteer Pot Luck BBQ we had this summer. There were so many comments on the fabulous variety and wonderful tasting foods volunteers contributed, that it was decided to put together a Volunteers' Recipe Book as a fundraiser. Please do not be hesitant about sending as many of your favourite recipes that you would like to share with others either by e-mail to Carmen MacLean or drop your recipe off at the office as soon as possible. Several of the volunteers who wanted to know how they could get the recipes for those delicious salads, desserts, etc., are now part of the volunteer team ready to assemble the cook book, if you would like to be a part of this team you are more than welcome.

If you have any ideas on what catchy name we could call this book of *culinary creations* please let us know.

Carmen MacLean
Special Events Committee
(250) 951-0337
cpmaclean@shaw.ca

Or
Pam Jonnson
Milner Gardens
(250) 752-8573
milnergardens@shaw.ca



Camellia Tea Room



This summer we were pleased to offer the opportunity to our visitors to sit on the veranda in Veronica’s favourite spot and enjoy the beautiful scenery and lovely surroundings. The sound of the ocean waves, the contrasting colours of the lawn, sea and garden flowers, along with a good cup of tea, can be very soothing to the soul. Many of our members have taken advantage of the wonderful weather we’ve had this summer and have brought friends and relatives down for a relaxing afternoon “In Veronica’s Garden”. There is still time this month to come down and enjoy the fall colours with a view from the Camellia Tea Room.

Things have been buzzing in the kitchen this last month and we’re pleased to say that we’re now producing with the help of our volunteers our own “Milner” Jam and Jelly that is made with fruit fresh from the garden. We have a good supply of blueberry, raspberry and some peach jam and are now working on crabapple jelly. It all goes very well with the hot scones that are also coming from our own kitchen. It’s quite amazing that we seem to have no shortage of “testers” showing up when the aromas are wafting down the hall! We have a need for jelly, pint and quart sealers, as we still have a fair amount of fruit to put up. As always, we will be happy to accept any pretty teacups and saucers that you are no longer have a use for. These may be dropped off at the gatehouse during opening hours.

We often have a need for help in the kitchen on the weekends, to put out the dainties and wash teacups. We also expect to be busy on the week-end of October 5th and 6th during the plant sale, so if you have a little bit of time to spare and can help out once in a while, please let us know by calling 752-7514. (Personally, I think the view from our sink is the best one in Qualicum Beach, by far!). Oh yes, one more thing we’re still looking for some absolutely marvelous recipes for squares to serve with our afternoon tea. If you have a secret recipe that you’ve been hiding and think that you could part with it for a very good cause, we’ll be very happy to try it out.

Carol Hansen
Tea Room Coordinator

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:() _____



THE GARDENER'S COTTAGE OF VOLUNTEERS

First and foremost, the staff at Milner Gardens and Woodland would like to say a big **THANK YOU** to all of our wonderful volunteers for all of your support; we could not have done it without you. Our second season is almost over and what a season we have had! Many special events this year kept our volunteers very busy and this help made these events a great success. For instance, we raised \$7,500.00 from the 'An Affair Of Note' and just over \$2,500.00 from the Raffle at Art In The Garden. We have only one more event left and that is our **Fall Plant Sale on October 5th and 6th**, so if you are able to help out please contact volunteer services at 752-7514 or e-mail volunteer.milnergardens@shaw.ca

The Tuesday morning propagation group and Wednesday morning gardening group

will continue to meet until mid November to ready the garden for winter.

We had a wonderful turn out for the Volunteer Pot Luck BBQ this summer, 150 people bringing with them a great variety of dishes; its no wonder all enjoyed it.

There are still a few seats available for the Volunteer Bus Trip on October 22, 2002, so if you are interested you better get into the office real soon. Also, if you are coming to the Wednesday morning Coffee Party on October 30, 2002, please r.s.v.p. @ 752-8573. Those that are interested in working their same shifts next season as this year please let the office know so we can put your name on our list for the 2003 season. Thank you once again.

Pam Jonnson

Executive Assistant



The Pool House Gift Shop

Twelve Days of Christmas

A special offer exclusive to members and volunteers only

Shop and save in October

Starting October 5th until October 27th

◆ **Selected Books 20% off**

◆ **Clothing 30% off**

◆ **Gifts and cards 25% off**

◆ **Plants 20-30% off**

Do your Christmas shopping in the Garden!

Regular member discounts do not apply

Please show your member card or volunteer nametag to receive sale prices



'Old Fashion Christmas Luncheon'

Come and experience an
Old Fashioned Christmas luncheon

At Milner Gardens

Saturday, November 23, 2002

12:00 noon or 1:30 p.m.

\$15.00/person

Reservations required

(250) 752-8573

In House Gift Shop Open

Exclusive to Members & Volunteers only

WISH LIST

House and Gift shop

- CD Player
- Sandwich Plates
- 3 tiered serving dishes
- Cake plates
- Heavy-duty stapler
- Laminator
- Easel
- Fridge
- Large breadbaskets
- Scanner
- Binoculars
- CD's Soft Music
- Pint & Quart Sealers
- Kitchen Wall Clock

GUESS WHO 'S COMING TO VISIT?

Last fall the volunteers and staff at Milner Gardens and Woodland had a wonderful opportunity to visit Abkhazi Gardens in Victoria. The volunteers that help to make this garden run smoothly welcomed us openly with a tour and tea in the Abkhazi House. We offered an invitation to the volunteers to come and visit Milner Gardens. Well, they have taken up the offer and are bringing a busload up on October 12, 2002, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. We are looking for volunteers that will come out and show these volunteers around. Please call the office 752-8573 to let us know if you are available. Thank you.



MISSION STATEMENT
To preserve and enhance
the Milner Gardens and
Woodland to educate and
inspire

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
APRIL 4th TO OCTOBER 27th
THURSDAY TO SUNDAY
AND
STATUTORY HOLIDAY MONDAYS
10:00 A.M.—5:00 P.M.

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

Reservations: 250-752-6153
Fax: 250-752-3826

E-mail: milnergardens@shaw.ca
Web: www.milnergardens.org

STAFF AT MILNER GARDENS

Jim Cadwaladr
Executive Director

Pam Jonnson
Executive Assistant

Geoff Ball
Horticulturist/Garden Manager

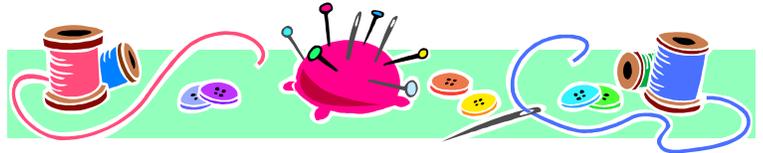
Kristi Ozero
Plant Records/GIS

Candice Coghill
Nursery Grower

Carol Hansen
Tea Room/Gift Shop Coordinator

Administration: 250-752-8573

Volunteer Services: 250-752-7514



SEWERS & NEEDLECRAFTERS

Something new is happening, come on out and join the small group of sewers who have been involved with the Camellia Tea Room sewing up a storm of tea cozies. They are planning to continue throughout the winter months creating new items to be sold in the gift shop and special projects for Raffles. If you have some great ideas to share with this group or would just like to help with the sewing, then please contact Norma Mole at (250) 752-9338 a.s.a.p. Thank you.



MILNER GARDENS & WOODLAND'S

FALL PLANT SALE

Saturday & Sunday

October 5th, & 6th, 2002

10 am - 4 pm

Admission to the Gardens
Half Price for both days

