

September 2005

Volume 4, Issue 3

*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.*

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Staff at Milner Gardens

Jim Cadwaladr  
Executive Director  
Geoff Ball  
Horticultural Supervisor  
Judy Armstrong  
Secretary  
Candice Coghill  
Nursery Grower  
Carole Hansen  
Tea Room/Gift Shop Coordinator  
Charlene Forrest  
Children's Program Facilitator  
Cameron Wilson  
Marketing & Public Relations Coordinator



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

To kick off the Fall Season we are planning a festival around the popular Fall Plant Sale, now renamed the Autumn Plant Sale and Festival. The plant sale itself will remain the central focus of this event. This year the sale will be held in the Nursery (the old tennis court) and at various locations in the garden and not in the upper parking lot as in the past. We are complementing the plant sale with harvest activities in the children's garden, fall pruning demonstrations, live music, mini tours of the garden and special tea and desserts featuring the apple. As a member you may want to attend the Members only early access sale on Friday evening September 30<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 7:30 pm, but be sure to return on one of the following two days to enjoy the music and desserts. More information about this event can be found further on in this newsletter.

This fall for the first time at the garden a number of courses of interest to garden enthusiasts are being offered through the Faculty of Adult and Continuing Education at Malaspina University-College. In the past education courses have been offered at the garden through the efforts of the Education Committee, a dedicated group of garden volunteers headed up by Geoff Ball. Many thanks to these individuals who really were the first to take on the task of developing and offering courses in the garden. This change in the way we offer courses will give the garden greater community exposure and further our mandate to educate and inspire. For more information on courses at the garden go to Malaspina University-College web site [www.mala.ca/ccs](http://www.mala.ca/ccs). Or pick up a brochure at the garden, at the Parksville Campus or at the Nanaimo Campus. You can register on-line at [www.mala.ca/ccs/registration.htm](http://www.mala.ca/ccs/registration.htm) or by phone 1-866-734-6252 (Nanaimo) or 250-248-2096 (Parksville)

I would like to extend a warm welcome to new staff member Cameron Wilson. Cameron has come on board for the summer and fall as the Garden's Marketing and Communications Coordinator, courtesy of Malaspina University-College.

I am pleased to report to you the very reassuring initial response to the gardens first annual fundraising appeal in support of operations that was launched in the June Newsletter. The total presently sits at \$65,920. Our goal for the year is \$75,000. If you have not had time to add your financial contribution to our annual campaign now is the time to do this.

I cannot stress strongly enough the importance of this annual fund drive to the ongoing security and stability of the Milner Gardens and Woodland. As with other gardens, our growth and stability depends on the nurturing it is given. Please renew your support for Milner Gardens and Woodland, and all it stands for.

Sincerely,

Jim Cadwaladr  
Executive Director

<p>Administration: 752-8573 Volunteer Services 752-7514</p>	<p>Milner Gardens and Woodlands 2179 West Island Highway Qualicum Beach, BC V9K 1G1</p>	<p>Reservations &amp; Info: 752-6153 Fax: 250 752-3826</p>
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## *Generous Donation for the Interpretative Centre from RBC Royal Bank*



*RBC Royal Bank graciously donated \$5,000 to Milner Gardens & Woodland's new Welcome and Interpretative Centre. Moira Jenkins, RBC Sales and Market Manager presented a cheque to Board members of MGW Society on August 29, 2005. Pictured from left to right are: Ron Forster, RBC Senior Account Manager, Moira Jenkins, Corrie deKluyver, MGW Society Board Treasurer and Jim Cadwaladr, Milner Gardens & Woodland's Executive Director. Under construction, the beginnings of the Milner Gardens Welcome and Interpretative Centre form the backdrop of this photograph.*

Milner Gardens & Woodland would like to thank Ron Forster, Moira Jenkins, and the RBC Royal Bank for their support and donation to the Milner Gardens & Woodland's Welcome and Interpretative Centre.

Photograph and write-up by Cameron Wilson

***Update on Welcome & Interpretive Centre construction.*** We are planning to install the roof trusses on the Welcome and Interpretive Centre this fall. This is a major operation requiring crane work to lift the trusses into place and skilled tradesmen to install the cross-bracing and roof purlins. All of the cross bracing is necessary to stabilize the roof system. We are all looking forward to seeing this phase completed. Once completed, we can move on to installing the roof and construction the interior of the building.

Below is the latest MGW Society financial report for the year ending March 31, 2005. This report reflects donation and grant activities undertaken by the Society in support of garden operations and capital projects.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Jim Cadwaladr, Ex. Dir.; Corrie deKluyver, Treasurer of the MGW Society; or Roy Taylor, Chair of the MGW Society at 752-8573

**Milner Gardens and Woodland Society**  
**Statement of Revenues and Expenditures**  
**Year Ended March 31, 2005**

	Year ending March 31, 2005	Year ending March 31, 2004
<b>Donation Revenues received:</b>		
Welcome and Interpretive Centre Campaign	\$ 43,149	\$ 39,272
General Donations	33,245	9,880
"Roots & Shoots" Program for Children Education	14,216	550
"Christmas Magic", Book of Honours, Sponsorship, Membership and other programs	<u>3,933</u>	<u>3,451</u>
Total Revenues	<u>94,543</u>	<u>53,153</u>
<b>Expenditures:</b>		
Payments to Milner Gardens and Woodland	44,683	11,959
Fundraising costs for the Welcome & Interpretive Centre	5,466	---
Administration expenses	<u>161</u>	<u>50</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>50,310</u>	<u>12,009</u>
Excess of Revenues over Expenditures	<u>\$44,233</u>	<u>\$41,144</u>
Total Cash balances at end of year, to be used for construction of the Welcome and Interpretive Centre	<u>\$85,957</u>	<u>\$41,724</u>

**Note:** In-kind donations received and receipted in these periods, amounting to \$38,231 in fiscal 2005, and 10,895 in fiscal 2004, are not included in the above.

Signed by: Roy Taylor, Chair of the Society  
 Corrie deKluyver, Treasurer of the Society

The Milner Gardens and Woodland Society's mission is "To preserve and enhance the Milner Gardens and Woodland, to educate and inspire". The society is a Registered Charity (No. 88675 3615 RR0001) and issues tax-deductible donation receipts. All funds received by the Society will be directed to Milner Gardens and Woodland. The 70-acre Milner Gardens and Woodland property is owned by Malaspina University-College.



# Shoots with Roots

Growth and production in the **Shoots with Roots** food garden this year has been fantastic! Although it truly is a garden fed with love, appreciation should again be



extended to Earthbank Resource Systems for the donation of 20 cubic yards of fish compost, and to BC Hydro for opening up the canopy over the garden and 'letting the light in'. What a difference, thank you both!



Family Day was held in June to close the last school program season, and as always it was *extremely* rewarding. The students are bursting with pride as they tour their families around, they remember the tiniest of details, and heaven forbid their painted rock had been moved by any mere fraction in their absence! Parents were amazed by what the students learned after each visit, and even more impressed when they walked through the property and had their mini-teachers explain everything to them. During the program students took numerous plantings with them, these created many stories of home plantings and experiments, including the conversion of a sandbox into a garden ☺

Summer camps in July were great fun! Some children even came back for multiple weeks as they enjoyed it so much. We worked through the woodland research and into the garden each day, sharing many laughs and building friendships. I really enjoyed the time with these kids and went through withdrawals at the end of it all. However, two "Camp Incredible" field trips helped to boost spirits. This summer camp program for special needs youth brought 5-12 yr olds one visit, and 12-18 yr olds the next. It was such a pleasure working with them.

This summer the program was also featured in the Botanical Gardens Conservation International (BGCi) newsletter. It was unexpected, and is an honor! This international exposure complements that of the Canadian BGCi traveling displays featuring the program as the "education" example. The displays will travel the country through 2005-06. More local exposure was also created through an article in the August issue of Island Parent magazine.

**And now the new school program season is about to begin.** On Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from September 13 to December 1 students will complete the first 3 of their 6 site visits. Classes from Nanoose Bay, Parksville, Winchelsea and Bowser Elementary were the first **12** to register for this year's program. Their fall woodland visits will involve:

- 1- **SwR program and MGW site introduction, woodland safety**
- 2- **woodland flora and ethno botany**

My big **wish list** item for the fall program is a sturdy tent system (i.e. wall tent). Last year to create our field school classroom I put the walls on the standard white Milner tents, and tried to pre-warm them with the propane heater. With some modification, this will be the back-up plan again this year, but it is certainly not ideal as the tents are not made for such use... especially with the program running until December this year. If anyone knows of appropriate tents that may be available, or would like to sponsor such a purchase ---- I'd LOVE to hear from you!!!!

After saying that the program is going to run into the cold, rainy season, perhaps it is not the best time to try to solicit more volunteers to mentor! But it's always worth a try. The program mentor numbers are decreasing, and although I manage to make it work even solo, the involvement of volunteer mentors really is a key element to the experience the students have. Helping **Shoots** meet and make **Roots** is an excellent opportunity to offer a foundation for those that will live in, care for and run our community in the future. The invitation to volunteer certainly also extends into the warmer temperatures that accompany the gardening sessions in the spring!!

*Charlene Forrest*



**Drying hydrangeas**

The key to air-drying hydrangeas is timing. You can begin harvesting the flower heads late August and continue into October. Hydrangeas do best when they are allowed to partially dry on the plant. Don't pick flowers at the height of their colour as they don't generally dry well. The flower head should have a papery feel to it when picked. Cut them in the early afternoon, after the morning dew has burned off and before the heat of the day sets in. Remove the leaves and arrange the heads in a vase with or without water. Keep the flower heads out of direct sunlight, as this will cause the colour to fade. The blooms should last at least a year.

Did you know many hydrangeas flower on old wood? When pruning in the spring be sure to remove only 1/4<sup>th</sup> of the old stems to ensure flowers for that season.



**Hydrangeas at Milner**

Now is a great time to visit Milner Gardens & Woodland and view our hydrangea collection. The largest group, *Hydrangea macrophylla* or Bigleaf hydrangea is native to the woodlands of Japan and is one of the most recognized hydrangeas. Within this species are two types. The first is the Hortensia or mophead group whose colours range from white through to pink, violet, red, mauve, and blue. The second is the Lacecap. While Milner is home to only blue and pink varieties, many other coloured varieties are now available on the market.

While macrophylla types are certainly popular they are by no means the only hydrangeas worthy of attention. *Hydrangea paniculata* 'Grandiflora' is a very impressive form and when left to grow naturally forms an upright shrub with large panicles of white flowers. While stunning, it is never more so than when it has been trained into a standard, as found by the Gardener's Cottage on site. Once the white blooms begin to fade in late summer they take on a beautiful blush pink.

*Hydrangea aspera* is unique as its stems and leaves are covered in a fuzzy down. Its flowers are much like a pink lacecap's but larger in size.

*Hydrangea quercifolia* (Oakleaf hydrangea) is the only hydrangea native to North America hailing from the S.E. United States. The Oakleaf hydrangea not only has attractive flower heads but also has eye-catching 'peeling' orange-brown bark.

*Hydrangea anomala ssp petiolaris* (syn. *H. petiolaris*) is a deciduous climber. It clings by aerial roots and bears domed white corymbs. Can be grown against a wall or left to form an informal shrub.

**Chanqing hydrangea colour blue/pink**

Many people understand that the pH of the soil affects the colour of the hydrangea flower head. However, it is actually the combination of soil pH and levels of aluminum found in the soil that affect the colour of the hydrangea flower heads.

A lower pH or acidic soil enables more aluminum to be absorbed by the plant turning the flowers blue. A higher pH or alkaline soil inhibits aluminum from being absorbed and turns the flowers pink.

To keep flower heads pink sprinkle lime around the plant or plant your hydrangea in a container in a soil-less mix. The lime will help make garden soil alkaline while a soil-less mix has few aluminum ions that can be absorbed by the plant.

Add a handful of Epsom salts (ammonium sulphate) to the soil if you want your flowers to remain blue.

These minerals should be incorporated into the soil late winter/early spring, before flower buds have set on the plant.



*Hydrangea macrophylla* - Bigleaf Hydrangea Mophead or Hortensia type



*Hydrangea macrophylla* - Bigleaf Hydrangea Lacecap type

**Propagating Hydrangeas**

*Hydrangea macrophylla* is one of the easiest plants to propagate. Cuttings can be taken from June through September and even into October, depending on weather conditions. The earlier the cuttings are taken the easier the plants are to 'over-winter'. Keep in mind that those taken late in the season will have to be protected from the winter elements. Cuttings should be 10-15cm long and taken from non-flowering stems. Remove the lower leaves and trim the remaining leaves by half. Cuttings can be nodal or inter-nodal. Use a rooting hormone on the cut. Stick the cuttings into pots of soil-less media being sure that they are not touching one another. Mist cuttings and place in a greenhouse or cover pots with clear plastic to create a dome. Remove from plastic once rooted, approximately 2-4 weeks.



**Happy Gardening  
- Candice, Nursery Grower**

## OUR VOLUNTEERS EARN MILNER GARDEN MEMBERSHIPS FOR 2006

Thank you to the many volunteers who assisted at Milner Gardens over the busy 2005 Season.

**To all Volunteers** – please remember to sign in each time you work volunteer hours – especially as we near the Fall Season.

Hours are entered into the databank regularly and an update on how many volunteer hours you have earned to date will be available for your review in the Volunteer/ Gardner's Cottage.

With this season coming to a close on October 10<sup>th</sup> – you may wish to 'top up' your hours with additional shifts to reach the Membership Reward Level. Also, the Christmas Milner Magic event will take place in December – and Volunteers will be needed in December.

60 hours of volunteering at MGW earns an Individual membership; 100 hours earns a Household membership. Total hours will be calculated for the period April to March. Membership(s) are issued annually at the end of March. Plus..... all volunteers are invited to our annual Potluck Party held in August.

Again, thank you and we look forward to seeing you as a Volunteer and a Member next season.

For more information regarding Volunteering at the Garden – please call the Volunteer Line at 752-7514.

## WISH LIST

### For the Tea Room

- Little Bone China Cream Jugs
- Tiny Spoons for Jam Pots
- Corelle Soup Bowls
- Dessert Forks
- Bone China cups & saucer sets
- Small jam jars for canning
- Chairs for small tea room
- Ovens calibrated
- Tables strengthened

### For the Garden

- Umbrellas
- Seat of Golf Cart Upholstered
- Canvas Wall Tent for Shoots/Roots Program
- LED Xmas Lights
- Heavy Duty Outdoor Extension Cords



## POOL HOUSE GIFT SHOP

### End of the Season Special for Members & Volunteers only

**September 30 to October 10**

Please remember to "**Show your card  
before your purchase**" and receive  
**20% Off**

all regular priced merchandise

Now is the time to think about early Christmas shopping or if you've had your eye on something in the Gift Shop, this is the time to pick it up. We still have a good selection of garden ornaments and souvenirs, as well as a great choice of Garden and BC books.

During this sale only, members may get an **extra 10% off** of Sale Priced merchandise and books.





Dear Member

Milner Gardens and Woodland is holding its 4<sup>th</sup> annual Autumn Plant Sale Saturday and Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10:00am – 5:00pm.

You are cordially invited to the **Early Access Autumn Plant Sale**, which will take place in *the Milner Gardens Nursery*. Here you will have the chance to preview and purchase plants prior to the general public. We hope you take this opportunity to take home a little piece of history.

**Event: Early Access Autumn Plant Sale**

**Date: Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Time: 6:30pm – 7:30pm**

**Place: IN THE NURSERY**

**Please bring your membership card for access to this pre-event.**

### *Volunteer Sponsored Photo Contest*

The VSG sponsored photo contest for volunteers, received 43 entries. Margaret Cadwaladr and Nancy Whelan judged entries in four categories. Prizes in the form of Milner Gardens Gift Certificates were paid for by the VSG. Winners, which were announced at the Volunteer Appreciation BBQ on the evening of August 17th. were as follows:

#### **FOREST LANDSCAPE**

1st. place Christine King  
2nd. place Christine King  
Hon. mention Arlene Johnston

#### **GARDEN/OCEAN LANDSCAPE**

1st. place Shirley Corris  
2nd. place Christine King  
Hon. mention Arlene Johnston

#### **CLOSE UP FLORA/FAUNA**

1st. place Will Lemmon  
2nd. place Alice Marquardt  
Hon. mention Arlene Johnston & Will Lemmon

#### **SPECIAL EVENTS**

1st. place Arlene Johnston  
2nd. place Christine King

Another photo contest for VOLUNTEERS ONLY is in the works and will cover the period August 1st. 2005 to July 31st. 2006. Details will be e-mailed to VOLUNTEERS, and will also be posted in the information booklets at each workstation in the Garden. The VSG will also be looking into a bus tour for VOLUNTEERS for the spring of 2006.

### **Newsletter Volunteer**

With many thanks to Volunteer, Carole Harnden, for her assistance and time in compiling and detailing the articles contained in the Milner Musings Newsletter.

Dear Members,

My name is Cameron Wilson and I am the new Marketing and Public Relations Coordinator at the Milner Gardens & Woodland. I was born and raised in the beautiful Albemarle Valley, and am delighted to be working in Qualicum Beach. I have recently completed a Master's of Business degree, specializing in Marketing, at Malaspina University-College. I have worked in the local tourism industry and am excited to be at the Milner Gardens & Woodland. I began work at the Milner Gardens in June 2005, and have had a busy and productive summer.

Marketing programs at the Milner Gardens & Woodland are progressing and new initiatives are being pursued. Current Milner Gardens marketing projects include:

- Increasing advertising;
- Increasing community exposure;
- Increasing Tour Bus and group visitation;
- Exploration of Corporate Sponsorship programs;
- Exploration of new business partnerships between the Milner Gardens and other businesses, such as increased activity/accommodation bundle packages with local resorts;
- The development of a new Milner Gardens & Woodland Five Year Marketing Plan;
- Milner Garden Visitor Surveys for the purposes of building a visitor database, and to provide visitor insight to help guide Milner Gardens & Woodland's new Five Year Marketing Plan.

New marketing initiatives bode well for Milner Gardens & Woodland's business development plans. New marketing programs at Milner Gardens are setting a solid foundation for the future of Milner Gardens. The Milner Gardens & Woodland has great market potential and the future is bright.

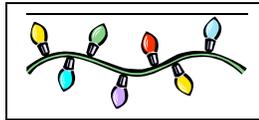
I have enjoyed meeting many of you this summer and look forward to meeting more of you. I welcome any marketing suggestions that you may have.

Thank you for your support of the Milner Gardens & Woodland, see you soon.

Yours Sincerely,

Cameron Wilson  
Marketing & Public Relations Coordinator  
Milner Gardens and Woodland  
Office # (250) 752-8573  
Cell # (250) 951-3752  
Fax # (250) 752-3826





*MILNER  
CHRISTMAS MAGIC*

Planning of the *Milner Christmas Magic* event will begin soon.

The dates/times for this event will be:

- December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> – 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm
- December 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> – 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm
- December 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> – 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Be sure to bring your family to this wonderful seasonal event.

**Yes – we will also need volunteers for this event – so please call the Gardens Administration Office if you can help out.**

*Folk Music Schedule for Autumn Plant Sale  
and Festival*

Sat, Oct 1<sup>st</sup>.

1:00 My Blue Heaven

2:00 Hayley Sales

3:00 Sarah Wood-McIntyre

Sun, Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>

1:00 Ask Alice

2:00 My Blue Heaven

3:00 Ask ALice



*Autumn Plant Sale  
And Festival*

October 1st & 2nd

Saturday & Sunday 10am – 5pm

**In the Gardens  
Admission by  
Donation**

Plant Sale held in the Milner  
Gardens Nursery.

Extra shuttle cart available for  
plant purchases.

- \*Live Music \*Tours
- \*Special Tearoom Treats
- \*Demonstrations \* Food
- Garden Harvest \* Master
- Gardeners on hand

For more information please contact Milner  
Gardens and Woodland

Phone 752-8573 or 752-  
6153

2179 West Island Highway,  
Qualicum Beach