

Spring 2003  
Volume 2, Issue 2

# Milner Musings



**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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## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

My, what an early spring. Here at the gardens we are beginning early as well with a special festive afternoon on Saturday March 8<sup>th</sup> entitled "Volunteer Opportunity Day." See the article on page 5 for more information. We hope you will join us.

As we move into our third season of the public program at Milner Gardens and Woodland the need for a Welcome-Interpretive Centre becomes more and more obvious. As we grow and change it is important that our visitors, members and children participating in school programs have a safe, convenient and meaningful way of entering the site. It is also important from an operations viewpoint that volunteers and staff working in ticket sale, guiding tours or providing shuttle service are able to provide these services in an appropriate space. To this end, we have decided to begin preparations for a campaign to secure funds to build the Welcome-Interpretive Centre. This is a very big step for us to take and I hope that you will consider supporting this initiative as it unfolds over the next year. For more information on this, please see the article, Plans for New Milner Gardens Welcome-Interpretive Centre on page 4.

Geoff Ball and his crew are nearing completion of the Food Garden renovation. This is a must-see addition to Milner Gardens and Woodland. Candice Coghill, Children's Programs Facilitator has been working in cooperation with

several grade three classroom teachers in preparing activities for the end of April launch of the *Roots and Shoots* program. Quality Foods, an outstanding supporter of community initiatives, is going to assist the children's program through their Q-CARD Points system. Once this is set up, individuals will have the option of dedicating their Q-CARD Points to support the children's program at Milner Gardens. We will keep you posted as this develops.

Kristi Ozero, of our plant records department, has been preparing a Rhododendron information system, see Kristi's article on page 3. Keith Leinweber, graphic artist, has assisted Kristi on this project. Keith, you may recall, designed the Milner Gardens Logo, brochures, and the existing interpretive panels at the welcome area and along the forest trail. He completed this work when he was a Graphic Arts student at Malaspina. Keith continues his studies at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design. Kristi was also supported by a volunteer steering committee who reviewed the work as it progressed and by numerous Rhododendron experts who visited the garden over the last flowering season to assist her in the task of identifying the rhododendron collection. This project has been and continues to be a major undertaking. We are all looking forward to seeing the results out in the

(Continued on page 4)

# A WALK THROUGH THE GARDEN

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**Mrs. GW Leak**  
One of the many  
Rhododendrons in  
bloom in April

The days are getting longer and the plants are waking from their slumber. In the garden we are trying to finish the food garden renovation before all of the buds break. It has been a very large project but it is finally starting to take shape. The new layout is simple but beautiful. It should be a great space for children to learn about gardening and for everyone to enjoy visiting.

Soon I will put down the hammer and pick up my pruners once again. The first few Rhododendrons are starting to show and thousands upon thousands of flower buds on the rest of the plants are all starting to swell. I am eagerly anticipating the show of hundreds of white and yellow Daffodils mixed with grape Hyacinths that the students, from the Horticulture Technician Program,

mass planted along the top edge of the orchard last fall. These bulbs shot out of the ground a month ago and should be in flower early to mid April.

As well as the plants getting ready for spring, there seems to be a lot of activity near the Eagle's nest. Many times over the last month, we have spotted eagles carrying branches heading in the direction of the nest. I hope that this means we will see another generation raised at Milner Gardens and Woodland.

If you have not yet seen the garden in the early spring, come see us when we open the first weekend in April.

Geoff Ball  
Horticulturist/Supervisor

## SNIPPETS

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As I look outside the office window, I see a mass of beautiful spreading snowdrops (*Galanthus sp.*). Most bulbs prefer to be moved once dry. Snowdrops, however, are one of the few plants that perform better when they are divided in-the-green. Bulbs are in-the-green when the leaves are still green and the flowers are beginning to fade. Clumps of large bulbs can be lifted and replanted individually, approximately 2" apart. If you find within your clump many small seedlings replant these in small clusters around your garden. Snowdrops are beautiful when they are planted en-mass, 25 or more to a grouping. It doesn't take many years before you have stunning display of snowdrops to brighten any corner of your garden. Happy planting!

Some other bulbs and plants that can be divided in-the-green:

- Leucojum
- Anemone
- Cyclamen
- Primula

Candice Coghill  
Children's Education Programmer/  
Nursery Grower



# Rhododendron panels debut

Even though the spring rhododendron bloom was long over, my work on the rhododendron project continued throughout this past fall and winter. Whereas the spring bloom time kept me very busy with identification, my focus lately has been on developing a series of interpretive panels. These panels will provide visitors to the garden with more information about our unique historical rhododendron collection. The panels cover three different aspects of rhododendrons. Panel One, "Discover Rhododendrons", provides an overview of the general characteristics of the genus, geography and history. The distinction between species and hybrids is explained. Panel Two, "The Collection", describes the evolution of the historical rhododendron collection from the vision of its creator, the source of the plant material and the eventual outcome – the amazing garden we see today! Panel Three, "Azaleas", explains how azaleas belong to the genus rhododendron and details the difference between evergreen and deciduous azaleas. The panel also tells the story of the origins of our Deciduous Azalea bed on the front lawn, where the panel will be located.

Along with the informative text, the panels include many colourful images, including historical photographs. They were designed to complement the existing interpretive panels along the forest trail. However, these panels will be installed within the Rhododendron Grove, at the heart of the garden.

To further compliment these new panels I am now working on a booklet that will be available at the Gift Shop for a small cost. The booklet will support the rhododendron interpretive panels and go into further detail, including historical insight and many glossy photographs. It will also include a list of our most significant specimens. The booklet will serve as a wonderful souvenir and information booklet for visitors to take away with them. We are planning to have the booklet available this spring.

We hope you enjoy these new additions to our education and interpretive system and that after your next visit you leave knowing a little more about our unique and cherished rhododendron collection.

Kristi Ozero  
Plant Records



"These panels will provide visitors to the garden with more information about our unique historical rhododendron collection."

## 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: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

# Plans for New Milner Gardens Welcome-Interpretive Centre

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Last December, a group of 15 Milner Gardens Volunteers from all sectors of our Community attended a one-day planning session to draft a long-term Development Plan that satisfies our mission “ to preserve and enhance Milner Gardens and Woodland; to educate and inspire”. The recommendations from this group were reviewed and accepted by the Milner Gardens and Woodland Society Board at their January, 2003 meeting. The Board agreed that a fundraising campaign would be launched this spring. This Campaign will be for the purpose of financing the costs of the proposed Welcome-Interpretive Centre, including the water and sanitary access to the Town of Qualicum Beach/R.D.N. systems. Total costs for the

Project, and our Campaign objective will be \$250,000. The proposed Centre will provide the Gardens not only with a new face to the public but also much needed additional facilities to enhance our visitors’ accessibility and comfort and our educational interpretive services.

Conservation of this extremely rare Coastal Douglas-fir forest ecology and preservation and enhancement of these exquisite gardens for future generations will be key features in the educational/interpretive section of the Centre.

A Campaign Committee for this project is currently being formed.

Jim Cadwaladr  
Executive Director

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(Director’s Message continued from Page 1)  
garden this spring.

Other news of importance in this newsletter is the Spring Education Courses of interest to the home gardener, brought to you by the Education Committee. Our web site has been upgraded over the last while with great results, and is primarily the work of volunteer Rich Holmboe. The Milner Gardens and Woodland Book of Honours, a new program developed to record donations made to honour individuals and organizations, is introduced see page 8.

We look forward to seeing you in the garden and sincerely hope that you enjoy what is promising to be an exciting season.

Jim Cadwaladr  
Executive Director

## Camellia Tea Room

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Well, things will soon be bustling in our end of the house, with cupboards to be cleaned, cutlery polished, and everything spiffed up for the start of the new season. Everyone is looking forward to those days of being able to enjoy “Tea on the Verandah”. It is such a pleasant place to spend a few hours with good friends.

We are hoping to be able to do some more of our own baking in the kitchen this year. If you would like to come down once in a while and bake some of your favourite squares, to be served in the Tea Room, we would be pleased to see you. Of course, if you would only be happy to part with your best recipe, that would suit us just fine!

Once again, we are making a request for sealers for our own home made Milner Jam. All sizes are needed but at this time, we are short of the smaller sized jelly jars or half pint sealers. As usual, please keep us in mind, when looking for a home for nice china teacups. We are generally a little short of help in the Tea Room on Saturday and Sundays. If you would like to come down and volunteer in the afternoons or would like more information, please call me at 752-7514.

Carol Hansen/Tearoom Coordinator

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## THE GARDENER'S COTTAGE OF VOLUNTEERS

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It's feeling a lot like spring with buds on the trees and plants peeking out of the ground reaching for the sunshine. Also, I have started to see many of our wonderful volunteers working around the gardens preparing the flowerbeds for opening. Yes, our gates will swing open to the visiting public on Thursday April 3, 2003. The staff has started to look over the scheduling lists and you will be hearing from us very soon.

Have you heard about our special volunteer opportunity day we are having on Saturday, March 8? (See box below). The staff is quite excited about this day. We will have stations setup with information, with volunteers and staff available to answer any questions our potential volunteers might have. They can fill out volunteer forms or sign up on the spot in a specific area on this day. Come out, join in the day, and bring a friend or two who might be interested in volunteering.

One last reminder to all volunteers, if you haven't already, send your volunteer hours in from March 16, 2002 – March 15, 2003 to the office, cut off date is March 15, 2003.

For the first time Milner Gardens and Woodland set up a booth at the Northwest Flower and Garden Show in Seattle. It was a five-day event promoting the gardens with great interest from our American neighbours. Our next Flower and Garden Show will be in Nanaimo on March 14, 15, & 16 so be sure to come and see us. (See box below for further information)

Pam Jonnson  
Executive Assistant

VOLUNTEERING  
at  
MILNER GARDENS AND WOODLAND

*It Grows on You!*

Come out and explore the many  
opportunities available

Saturday, March 8, 2003  
1 - 3 pm

 (250) 752-8573  
2179 West Island Highway  
Qualicum Beach, BC

A CELEBRATION OF ISLAND  
GARDENING

Central Vancouver Island botanical Garden Society  
8<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SPRING FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW  
March 14, 15, & 16, 2003  
Beban Park Recreation Centre, 2300 Bowen Road,  
Nanaimo

SINGLE DAY PASS - \$5.00  
Friday, 1-9 pm, Sat. & Sun. 9:30 am to 5 pm  
Info: [cvibgs.org/gardenshow.html](http://cvibgs.org/gardenshow.html)  
Ph/Fax: (250) 245-5601

# Growing Together

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As opening season nears and the garden begins to pop with life and colours, I cannot help but get excited about all the changes that await our volunteers, members, and visitors here at the gardens. No doubt, the biggest changes have been to a spot in the garden that was often overlooked by visitors. The place I talk of is the Food Garden.

Once known as the Berry Garden it is now the cornerstone of our children's educational horticulture program. Soon it will be filled with school children's laughter and play as they learn about the wonders of horticulture through the Roots & Shoots Intergenerational Gardening Program.

The Roots & Shoots program allows student to get their hands dirty while they learn valuable lessons in horticulture, the environment, life sciences, and many other subjects. This program will give students the opportunity to develop unique horticultural experiences and may lead some of them to a life long love of gardening. In any case, it is designed to instill a greater appreciation and understanding of the natural world.

The program will tentatively start late April with three grade 3 classes from Arrowview Elementary School. Students will take part in the program once a week for 2 hours over an 8-week period. Students will be exposed to all the newly developed landscapes in the Food Garden, which consist of the teaching gazebo, an open field for planting, cold frames, the berry garden, a composting area, a native edible plants bed, and a companion plants/herb garden. Students will have the chance to grow their own patch of vegetables organically all the while building lasting

friendships with Garden Mentors.

Milner Gardens and Woodland is determined to provide each class in District 69 the opportunity to take part in the Roots & Shoots program. The cost of running the program is approximately \$3.50 per student. Milner Gardens and Woodland will make every effort to underwrite these costs.

You as a volunteer or member have the power to help support this unique education program in several different ways.

- Sponsor a class: As a business or individual, you can sponsor a class for a one-time visit and allow students to participate in the Roots & Shoots program.
- Donate your Q-points: Milner Gardens and Woodland has tied with Quality Foods in their points system. Points donated to the Roots & Shoots program at Milner Gardens and Woodland will be used to purchase supplies to support the program.
- Become a Garden Mentor: When you choose to become a Garden Mentor you choose to make a difference in a child's life. Garden Mentors are positive role models who help guide students through the horticulture lessons.

Please contact the office for more information on these opportunities.

Through your support and generosity, we can give students a learning opportunity like no other. Help give the gift of learning.

Candice Coghill  
Children's Education Programmer/  
Nursery Grower



*"The Roots & Shoots program allows student to get their hands dirty while they learn. Here Grade 3 students from Arrowview Elementary help create vegetable cement implants for the Food Garden."*

# Spring Courses

## Come Learn at Milner Gardens

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### Rose Care

Year round rose care from planting to pruning  
*Date: Sat. April 12, 10:30-12:00am*  
*Instructor: Jean Hay*  
*Regular: \$16.83+gst=\$18*  
*Memb/Vol: \$10.28+gst=\$11*

### Backyard Propagation

Hands on instruction on how to propagate your some of your favourite plants  
*Date: Sat. May 31, 1-3pm*  
*Instructor: Candice Coghill*  
*Regular: \$20.56+gst=\$22*  
*Memb/Vol: \$14.02+gst=\$15*

### All about Herbs

Grow and use herbs easily at home  
*Date: Fri. June 13, 1-3pm*  
*Instructor: Richard White*  
*Regular: \$20.56+gst=\$22*  
*Memb/Vol: \$14.02+gst=\$15*

### Making Hanging Basket

Learn how to make your own great hanging baskets  
*Date: Sat. May 3, 1-3pm*  
*Instructor: Rose Lynn Fleury*  
*Regular: \$29.91+gst=\$32*  
*Memb/Vol: \$23.36+gst=\$25*

### Victoria Garden Tour

A guided tour through private and public gardens of Victoria  
*Date: Thurs. May 29, 8am-5pm*  
*Guide: Cyril Hume*  
*Regular: \$49.53+gst=\$53*  
*Memb/Vol: \$44.86+gst=\$48*

### Alpine Meadow Tour

A guided walk through paradise meadows' alpine flowers  
*Date: Thurs. June 26, 9am-3pm*  
*Guide: Will Lemon*  
*Regular: \$40.19+gst=\$43*  
*Memb/Vol: \$35.51+gst=\$38*

### Patio, Planters and Pots

How to plan, plant and care for small spaces  
*Date: Sat. May 24, 1-4pm*  
*Instructor: Rose Lynn Fleury*  
*Regular: \$26.17+gst=\$28*  
*Memb/Vol: \$19.63+gst=\$21*

### Pest Control, Chemical Free

Solve your backyard pest problems using natural predators  
*Date: Fri. June 6, 1-3pm*  
*Instructor: Jessica Dawe*  
*Regular: \$20.56+gst=\$22*  
*Memb/Vol: \$14.02+gst=\$15*

### Sketching and Water Colours

A day in the garden with Pauline Pike  
*Date: Sat. July 5, 10am-4pm*  
*Instructor: Pauline Pike*  
*Regular: \$40.19+gst=\$43*  
*Memb/Vol: \$35.51+gst=\$38*

### Please include payment with registration form

Cheques payable to: **Milner Gardens and Woodland**

Applications in person to:  
 Pam Jonnson  
 Office, Milner Gardens House  
 2179 West Island Highway  
 Qualicum Beach, B.C. V9K 1G1

Applications by mail (Visa/MasterCard or cheque) to:

Pam Jonnson  
 Education Programs  
 Milner Gardens and Woodland  
 2179 West Island Highway  
 Qualicum Beach, B.C. V9K 1G1

### REGISTRATION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Please print)

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member or volunteer?    Yes    /    No

Cash \_\_\_\_\_ (in person only)  
 Cheque \_\_\_\_\_  
**Visa/MasterCard**  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 (credit card number)  
 \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_  
 (expiry date)  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 (name on credit card)

Course		Fee
<b>TOTAL</b>		

# Milner Gardens and Woodland

# Book of Honours



The *Book of Honours* is a new program developed to record donations made to honour individuals and organizations. The *Book of Honours* will be available for viewing in the Sitting Room of the Milner House beginning in April 2003.

The program provides an opportunity for donors to recognize special activities and accomplishments by individuals or organizations. Special sections of the *Book of Honours* have been established to record donations for births and birthdays; weddings and wedding anniversaries; retirements; and *in memoria*.

This new program enables a donor to honour someone or some activity as well as providing on going support for the activities at Milner Gardens and Woodland. These gifts are tax deductible. Donors and honourees are notified in writing. Donors will be listed in the Annual Donors List included with Milner Musings at the year-end. What a great way to honour someone while at the same time supporting Milner programs.

If you want more information, do not hesitate to call Pam at the office at (250) 752-8573 for details on how to participate in the *Book of Honours* program.

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**STAFF AT MILNER  
GARDENS**

Jim Cadwaladr  
Executive Director

Pam Jonnson  
Executive  
Assistant/Newsletter  
Editor

Geoff Ball  
Horticulturist/Supervisor

Kristi Ozero  
Plant Records/GS

Candice Coghill  
Nursery Grower/Children's  
Programs Facilitator

Carol Hansen  
Tea Room/Gift Shop  
Coordinator

## Special Events 2003

### Spring Plant Sale April 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>

Add a piece of this heritage garden to your own yard. A vast selection of propagated material will be offered for sale, as well as reduced entry to the Gardens.

### Oceanside Rhododendron Festival May 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>

Workshops, displays, guest speakers and a truss show presented in partnership with Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society.

### An Affair of Note June 22<sup>nd</sup>

Join members from the Vancouver Island Symphony for an afternoon of music in the Garden. A joint fundraising event. Tickets must be purchased in advance.

### Art & Photography in the Garden July 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>

Meet, mingle and be inspired by local artists at work. Artists will be painting, sketching, carving and photographing the beauty of this artist's garden.

### Fall Plant Sale October 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>

Fall is a great time of year for planting. We will be offering discounts on heritage trees, shrubs and perennials propagated on site, as well as reduced entry to the Gardens.

For information on these events or to make reservations call  
(250) 752-6153

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

*OPEN TO THE PUBLIC*  
*APRIL 3<sup>rd</sup> TO OCTOBER 26<sup>th</sup>*  
*THURSDAY TO SUNDAY*  
*AND*  
*STATUTORY HOLIDAY*  
*MONDAYS*  
*10:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.*

Administration: 250-752-8573  
Volunteer Services: 250-752-7514

Fax: 250-752-3826

Reservations:  
250-752-6153

E-mail:  
milnergardens@shaw.ca

Web:  
www.milnergardens.org

*Milner Gardens and Woodland's*

Spring  
PLANT SALE

**Saturday and Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>, 2003**  
**in the upper parking lot 10am to 4pm Reduced entry into  
Gardens**