

Spring 2005



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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Milner Musings



Volume 4 - Issue 1

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

It's spring once again in the garden. Come and enjoy the garden in all of its spring magic. Everything is alive and full of promise and absolutely beautiful.

Staff, volunteers and students have all been busy preparing for the coming season. We are looking forward to seeing you in the garden and hope that you send all of your guests to us when they visit the Island this summer.

Over the winter Geoff and his crew of four have been installing Phase II of the Forest Interpretive Trail. This project is jointly funded through the Job Creation Partnership program of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada and a grant from the RBC Financial Group. Phase II completes the Forest Interpretive Trail loop and is a major addition to the Milner experience. A boardwalk through a wetland area and a delightful little bridge at the ponds will celebrate the beauty of native wetland plants in their natural habitat. This new feature is sure to delight visitors. The trail is scheduled to open in the first week of May.

Construction of the new Welcome and Interpretive Centre is also moving along. The timber roof trusses are being assembled in the service area and will be crane lifted into place at the Welcome Centre once completed. This is likely to

take place by the end of May, followed by the roof, then the interior. Read more about this project in the Fundraising Committee article. Also, be sure to keep an eye on how the project is developing each time you visit the garden.

We are entering our fifth year of being open to the public. Our visitor numbers topped 15,000 last year and we are anticipating an even stronger year this coming season. We are, however, still a young organization and continue to struggle with a yearly deficit while trying to offer meaningful programs that benefit the community and our members. Please consider donating to one of our Circle categories in support of ongoing maintenance of the garden or by making a supporting gift to a program such as Shoots with Roots.

Many thanks for your continued support. See you in the garden.

Jim Cadwaladr

SNIPPETS

With the Rhododendron Festival at Milner Gardens and Woodland merely weeks away I find myself in the Nursery readying hundreds of rhododendron plants for sale come May 7th and 8th. This is the event where I bring out the rhododendrons from the Nursery to sell and this year there will be a large selection of plants to choose from both in cultivar selection and sizes. Many of the plants we've propagated are now several years old and have started to flower beautifully with other plants being young and small giving you the chance to grow them up yourself.

The genus *Rhododendron* is one of the largest in the plant kingdom with over 850 species and thousands of hybrids. They are an incredibly diverse group both in size and cultural requirements and can be grown in most gardens once their cultural requirements are understood. If you have similar growing conditions to those found at Milner Gardens and Woodland chances are you will have a spot in your garden fit for a rhododendron from our collection.

Here are a few things to think about when choosing a site for that special rhododendron... (*Success with Rhododendrons and Azaleas* by H. Edward Reiley)

- An acid soil (pH 4.5-6.0);
- Good soil drainage (especially to the structural drainage of the soil);
- Cool soil temperature;
- High percentage of organic matter in the soil, especially near the surface;
- Loose, porous mulch;
- Light shade (the larger the plant's leaves, the more shade it requires);
- Adequate light for flower bud formation;
- Protection from wind and air damage with no frost pockets; and
- Air temperature to match cold hardiness and heat tolerance of the plant.

Happy planting!

Candice Coghill
Nursery Grower



“Bow Bells” and “Royston Blue” Rhododendron

A Wedding at Milner Gardens and Woodland

The Weddings held at Milner Gardens and Woodland in 2004 were very successful. If you or someone you know is looking for that special place to host a Wedding or have photos taken, Milner Gardens & Woodland offers a spectacular backdrop of gardens overlooking Georgia Strait. Milner Gardens is available for outdoor weddings and photo shoots. For more information regarding bookings and availability – please contact:

Carmen Maclean at 951-0337



Dear Member



You are cordially invited to Milner Gardens and Woodland's Early Access Spring Plant Sale. 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 Spring Plant Sale

Date: Friday, April 29th

Time: 6:30pm – 7:30pm

Place: Upper Parking Lot at Milner Gardens and Woodland please bring your membership card for early entry to the plant sales area.

“Love is on the Air”

A musical variety show produced by “Bard to Broadway” and included “Starlight Reverie” and “Two of Us” was held February 25th. We had Patrick Nicholson as our MC. We all enjoyed the Luv Jingle created and sung by the Bard 2 Broadway. It was an old-fashioned radio show!

The evening was a fundraiser for Milner Gardens and Woodlands new Welcome Interpretive Centre and raised approximately \$7000. Our very generous sponsors included Butchart Gardens, Coastal Credit Union, RBC Financial, Woodgrove Chevrolet, Dolly’s Home Hardware, Pharmasave, 88.5 “TheWave” and Qualicum Foods who also supplied the most decadent display of food. Local Merchants and others were very generous with interesting items for a Silent Auction and Toonie Auction. It was so very generous and enjoyed by all.

Amorous Coffee and Wine & Beer, Punch and coffee were also available.



Special thanks to all the volunteers who helped for the evening and extra special thanks to Pam Jonnson and her teenage helpers. “You were GREAT”

“Love is on the Air” committee consisted of Jackie Katerenchuk, Carol Hansen, Pam Jonnson and myself Ruth Seburn (chair).

Special thanks to Donn Gardner and his wife Sylvia who took on the job of Banker, Charlotte Crowley and Brian Cullingworth who served the wine and Carol Hanson and her crew in the kitchen. My thanks to Roy Taylor, Jim Cadwaladr, John England, Georgia McLean and my apologies if I have missed anyone. Without you all we could not have done it.

Thanks
Ruth Seburn, Chair

An update from the Fundraising Committee

Spring has finally arrived and with it, the excitement of seeing many of our collective efforts to support Milner Gardens and Woodland coming to fruition. With the hard work and success of the “Love is on the Air” event Committee, the substantial additional funding has brought the Welcome and Interpretive Centre Campaign within striking distance of our goal. Over the winter, many individual and corporate donors continued to help in many ways, bringing the total now raised in cash and in-kind donations to \$110,000. There is still time for additional donations, and a chance to have your name installed on the donor recognition wall of the Centre. If you would like to help, donor forms are available in the office. (752-8573)

Now that the Welcome and Interpretive Centre project is about to become a reality, the Fundraising Committee are pressing on with the imperative need to seek out funding for the ongoing operation and expansion of Milner Gardens and Woodland.

This spring, we ask all members to consider renewing their memberships at a level above the basic individual or family membership and become a Gardens supporter in one of the following “Circle” categories:

Primrose Circle	\$100	to	\$199
Magnolia Circle	200	to	499
Douglas-fir Circle	500	to	999
Rhododendron Circle	1,000	to	4,999
Garden Benefactor	5,000	&	above

Your donation will provide support for the ongoing maintenance and enhancement of the Gardens and for our many community programs and projects, including our primary school children horticulture education program and the addition of a second woodland trail for the enjoyment of all. Your generosity will help ensure that Milner Gardens and Woodland is preserved for our community and our children.

Corrie deKluyver,
Fundraising Committee Chair



MILNER

GARDENS & WOODLAND
MALASPINA UNIVERSITY-COLLEGE

PLANT SALE

April 30th & May 1st 10:00AM - 4:00PM
SATURDAY & SUNDAY

Great savings
Master Gardeners
Plant Hotel
Refreshment Stand

Upper Parking Lot
2179 West Island Hwy
Qualicum Beach, BC
250-752-8573



Rhododendrons for sale May 7th and 8th ONLY

** First come, first served*

R. aberconwayii
R. augustinii spp. augustinii
R. augustinii 'Royston Blue'
R. 'Bo Peep'
R. 'Bow Bells'
R. Concatenans Group
R. davidsonianum
R. 'Elizabeth'
R. fastigiatum
R. 'Ilam Violet'
R. japonicum hybrid

R. 'Jock'
R. 'Lakamus Cream'
R. 'Leda'
R. lutescens
R. 'May Day'
R. 'Nancy Evans'
R. oreotrepes 'Exquisetum'
R. pachytrichum
R. 'Pink Pearl'
R. 'Unique'
R. 'Veronica Milner'

Volunteer Support Group

The Volunteer Support Group has been quite busy over the winter. In December, 47 volunteers traveled by charter bus to Butchart Gardens, with a stop at the Merridale Cidery in Cobble Hill. Although the weather was somewhat inclement, the group had an enjoyable time and was well looked after as guests of Butchart Gardens. The VSG assisted staff and other volunteers with the planning and presentation of Christmas Magic, which once again was well attended by the public. Early in 2005, a questionnaire, put together by the VSG, was mailed out to 247 volunteers. 47% of volunteers took the time to complete and return the questionnaire. The results of the questionnaire were e-mailed to volunteers, and are posted in the Gardner's Cottage and in the communication books at each workstation. In early April the VSG assisted staff and other volunteers with Volunteer Opportunity Day, and followed up with phone calls to prospective volunteers, including scheduling them for the new volunteer orientation presentations, held April 12th, and 13th. At the invitation of the Eaglecrest Garden Club, we advised volunteers of a bus tour to Vancouver to visit Dr. Sun Yat-Sen and UBC Botanical Gardens in May. Our volunteers are reminded that Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society has extended and open invitation to them to attend MARS monthly meetings, which feature guest speakers on a variety of gardening topics. Meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre, 7:00 PM.

Lou Gueho
Chair
MGW VSG



The Milner Library

The Library at Milner Gardens and Woodland, is primarily the personal library of both Veronica & Ray Milner. The present collection provides insight into their interests and personalities.

Starting in 2000, the library was inventoried and organized. The books are classified primarily by subject matter, based on the U.S. Library of Congress system (in contrast, or as opposed, to the older Dewey system used by many public libraries). The books are presently concentrated in 2 rooms: the 'Library Room' and the 'Ray Milner Room' (the Tea Room Annex).

The Library Room was the sunroom adjacent to Veronica's bedroom, which is now the Director's Office. Upon completion of the upstairs renovation, this will be the Library Reading and Seminar room. It is hoped when the move is made that the library will be made available to Volunteers and Member of MGW.

In addition to the books, many horticulture and other journals are available. Many of these are kept current due to donations from Members. Some horticulture journals of interest include: *The Garden* (Royal Horticulture Society of the U.K.), *Horticulture* (U.S.), *Alpine Garden Club of B.C. Bulletin*, *Journal of the American Rhododendron Society*, *Canadian Gardening*, *Gardens West* (Canada), *Taunton's Fine Gardening*, (U.S.), *Washington Park Arboretum Bulletin* (Seattle).

If you are interested in the Library and its future, please contact Jim @ 752-8573.

Janet Taylor



Special Events 2005

Spring Plant Sale April 30th & May 1st

Add a piece of this heritage garden to your own yard. A vast selection of propagated material for sale. Last chance for spring shoulder season admission rates to the Garden.

Milner Gardens Rhododendron Festival May 7th & 8th

Come and enjoy the named and labeled collection of Rhododendrons and other spring flowering plants. Join in a walk/talk about the plants in a fabulous garden setting.

An Afternoon of Classical Music June 26th

Come and listen to classical music in a garden setting. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Food and beverages available. A summer fundraiser for Milner Gardens.

Art & Photography in the Garden July 23rd & 24th

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. Bonsai artists and potters too!

Jazz in the Garden August 21st

Enjoy an evening of jazz, a glass of wine and BBQ salmon dinner on the 'grand lawn' while watching the summer sunset. A perfect evening to spend with friends.

Fall Plant Sale October 1st & 2nd

Fall is a great time of year for planting. We will be offering discounts on heritage trees, shrubs and perennials propagated on site. Shoulder season admission rates to the Garden apply.

Milner Christmas Magic November 24, 25, 26, 27th and December 1, 2, 3 & 4th

An old fashioned, family oriented festival of lights and music in the Garden. **Santa will be here!**

Membership Renewal:

If you purchased or renewed your Milner Garden and Woodland membership last spring, please take a moment to renew your membership now.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Individual	\$25	Member benefits for one
Household	\$40	Member benefits for two 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

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 _____	E-mail _____
Phone (Home) _____	Phone (work) _____	

Visa/Master Card: _____ expiry date: ____/____

Cheque: P payable to Milner Gardens and Woodland



STAFF AT MILNER GARDENS

Jim Cadwaladr
Executive Director

Geoff Ball
Horticultural Supervisor

Executive Assistant
Judy Armstrong

Candice Coghil
Nursery Grower

Carol Hansen
Tea Room/Gift Shop Coordinator

Charlene Forrest
Children's Programs Facilitator



Wish List – Spring 2005

You know what they say..... Be careful what you wish for – you may get it!!! Well here goes! We have an ongoing list of items that would be useful here a MGW. Please give us a call at 752-8573 if you have something to donate.

- Commercial Dishwasher
- Bone China Tea Cups w/Saucers
- Corelle Soup Bowls
- Small Jelly/Jam Jars
- Funnel for making jam
- Mix Master

- Golf Cart
- 20 x 20 Greenhouse
- Seed Germinator (electric)
- Power Washer
- 1.2 or 5 Gal. Plant Pots
- Binoculars

- Bar or Counter Stools
- Laminator
- Computer/Work Desks
- Cassette Recorder (to record meetings)

All donations are eligible for a receipt for income tax purposes

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

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
March 31st TO OCTOBER
10th

SEVEN DAYS/WEEK:
MOTHER'S DAY TO
LABOUR DAY

THURSDAY TO SUNDAY
AND STATUTORY
HOLIDAY MONDAYS
March 31ST TO MAY 1TH
SEPT 8TH TO OCT 10TH

Administration: 752-8573
Volunteer Services: 752-7514
Information: 752-6153
E-mail:
milnergardens@shaw.ca

Milner Gardens and Woodland
Open 7 Days/Week!
Mother's Day to Labour Day

“A WALK THROUGH THE GARDEN”

by Geoff Ball, Horticultural Supervisor.

It has been another busy winter of construction. We have had a great team of participants working on building the second phase of the nature trail system. Abby, Boyd, Dezso, Glen, Harry, Kevin, Patrick and Ryan have done a tremendous job through some terrible weather.

The new addition starts directly across the road from the first trail and meanders down the western portion of the forest. The under story here is a wonderful sea of salal (*Gaultheria shallon*) near the top end and changing to a blanket of sword ferns (*Polystichum munitum*) in the lower section.

The trail features one short and one long board walk, and ends by crossing a bridge between the two ponds just beyond the plant sales area. Once the trail is complete, there will be four interpretive stops along the way.

We plan to have this trail ready for use by Mother’s Day with the signage being installed later in the season. Please come and enjoy the new walk once it opens.

