

June, 2005

Volume 4,

Issue 2

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
Executive Assistant
Candice Coghill
Nursery Grower
Carole Hansen
Tea Room/Gift Shop Coordinator
Charlene Forrest
Children's Program Facilitator



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

This summer Milner Gardens and Woodland arrives at a pivotal point in its history as we complete the transition from a private property into a world-class, functioning public garden. This has been a massive task, and our success is due to the vision, effort and contributions of many people. Now, as we celebrate nine years of hard work and achievement, we enter a new era with a different set of challenges and we do so confidently.

Thanks to some key benefactors, the persistence of Veronica Milner, and the timely intervention of Malaspina University-College, this historic private property has been preserved.

We support the garden through membership, visitor fees, sales, grants, donations and interest from a small endowment. The Milner Gardens and Woodland Society advises the Executive Director and solicits donations and grants for the benefit of Milner Gardens and Woodland programs. Malaspina University-College has limited ability to support the garden financially. The garden receives a good amount of assistance and services, such as computer support services and accounting services, from Malaspina. We also receive advice, direction and some financial support from the President and administration of Malaspina. We do not, however, receive any base funding.

This next phase of life for Milner Gardens and Woodland will be one of consolidation, as we build on the foundation that staff, volunteers, donors and supporters have created over the last nine years. Our challenge in the next five years is to achieve financial stability for our ongoing operations, and to use all the many assets and goodwill we have established to build towards a secure future.

We only have to look at our achievements over the last nine years to feel confident:

- The garden is now open to the public and offers a variety of services.
- The Milner Gardens and Woodland Society is incorporated under the BC Society Act and is registered as a Federal tax-exempt charity by CCRA.

Administration: 752-8573

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

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

Executive Director's Report - Continued



“Enthusiastic students and Volunteers soon joined in the restoration and releasing of the Garden.”

- Horticultural experts, local volunteers and related professionals have collaborated to produce a guiding mission and goals framework. Much of our future growth started at a weekend brainstorming session with an American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta (AABGA) Review committee.
- The first five-year development plan was produced during this time, and guided all our forward movement on programming, organization, public relations and development.
- Staff, with the invaluable assistance of Malaspina's Horticulture students, began the process of releasing the garden. Enthusiastic community volunteers soon joined this group. Students and volunteers also undertook the restoration of the physical aspects of the garden such as fences, ponds, paths and paving.
- The garden has been scientifically mapped and the plant collection has been tagged, creating a reliable inventory for public benefit and horticultural research.
- The house has been significantly renovated without losing its integrity. The contents have been catalogued, and historical displays created for public interest.
- The Gift Shop, Plant Nursery And Sales, And Tearoom have been created, and now add materially to our financial operations.
- The Food Garden was renovated and is the base for our *Shoots with Roots* children's program. In three years of operation the program has gained local and national recognition as an innovative community based children's program. Activities involve children (*Shoots*) and adult mentors (*Roots*) learning about how to grow and protect plants and the importance of plants to people. Our unique forest, garden and children's program are the envy of other public gardens offering similar programs. We are proud of this program and the way it has been embraced by the community.
- Today a small army of volunteers assists in every area of operations at Milner Gardens and Woodland. The operation of the gardens would be impossible without them.
- We have built up a healthy membership that provides crucial support to the garden.
- Milner Gardens and Woodland has gained recognition as a unique natural attraction on Vancouver Island.
- Last year we welcomed 15,000 local, national and international visitors to the garden. Our marketing goal is to increase this number.

These have been exciting and invigorating times. To be part of something that has been created right from its very beginnings is truly a remarkable experience for all of us.

This summer, the completion of the Forest Interpretive Trail and the construction of the Welcome and Interpretive Center will successfully conclude this first phase of life for Milner Gardens and Woodland.

Now it is time, and we are ready to move on to the next phase.

And so begins Phase Two, in which the Garden will build on these successes, and work towards financial stability in its operations. This will be achieved through increased marketing and promotion, community involvement and corporate partnerships, and expansion of education and conservation programs.

The start-up and infrastructure development of Phase One relied heavily on capital from the endowment fund. One of the first commitments by the Society on entering Phase Two is to protect the balance of the endowment fund, and start rebuilding it with a portion from future operations.

Great preparatory work has been done, our reputation is growing, our support base is expanding – now we just have to build on our foundation, and the best will be yet to come.

Working closely with the MGW Society a decision was made to launch a new annual fund raising program to support ongoing operation needs and to help rebuild our supporting endowment. Our goal this year is \$75,000. This amount reflects our deficit for last year. The Milner Gardens and Woodland Society stands ready to assist in helping to achieve this new campaign. I hope you will join us by continuing to support Milner Gardens and Woodland through your volunteer efforts and helping us to achieve our 2005 campaign target.

Jim Cadwaladr,
Executive Director



*Newly completed
Forest Interpretive
Trail includes a Foot
Bridge over the
Meadow Ponds*

The Benefits of Membership

Annual Membership

- Single - \$25.00
- Household - \$40.00

Garden Membership entitles you to:

- Unlimited entry to the Garden during regular garden hours (excluding some Special Events).
- Discounted pricing on Admission to Special Events.
- 10% discount off regularly priced items and plants at the Gift Shop & Nursery.
- "Milner Musings" quarterly Newsletter.
- Early entry into the Fall/Spring Plant Sale Events.
- Reduced admission for Member's Guests. Members do not need to accompany guests – if you purchase passes in advance.

To renew or purchase a membership – call 752-6153

Did you know? Members can purchase Guest passes in advance for only \$7.50 per ticket!!!! These make great thank you or welcome gifts for summer visitors or guests. Available daily at the Gatehouse at Milner Gardens & Woodlands

MILNER GARDENS & WOODLAND SOCIETY DONOR CATEGORIES

DONOR CATEGORIES: All donors will receive recognition in the annual published donors list.

- Primrose Circle** Private guided tour of the Garden by appointment.\$100-199
- Magnolia Circle** Private guided tour + two gift admission passes.....\$200-499
- Douglas-fir Circle** Private guided tour + four gift admission passes.....\$500-999
- Rhododendron Circle** Private guided tour + four gift admission passes + invitation for two to annual donor reception at Garden.....\$1000-4999
- Garden Benefactor** Private guided tour + six gift passes + invitation for two to annual donor reception at Garden + recognition in the MGW landscape (garden bench or other agreed upon project).....\$5,000-9999
- Milner Partner** Private guided tour + ten gift passes + invitation for two to Milner Partner's dinner at the Garden + recognition in the MGW landscape (garden bench or other agreed upon project) \$10,000 and above

OTHER DONATIONS:

IN-KIND GIFT/ITEMS Estimated Value \$.....

Donor Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City or Town: _____ Province/State: _____

Postal Code/Zip Code: _____ Country: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Please indicate below how you would like your name or names to be listed in the annual donors list or on commemorative plaques associated with the gift donation:

Please make donations payable to: **Milner Gardens and Woodland Society**

Milner Gardens and Woodland Society will issue official tax receipts under Federal Charitable # 88675 3615 RR0001
Please send information about:

Annual membership categories Honour someone in the Book of Honours

Planned giving opportunities How to make a bequest to the Gardens

Date: _____

2179 West Island Highway, Qualicum Beach, B.C. V9K 1G1 Office: (250) 752-8573
Fax: (250) 752-3826

Shoots with Roots

Summer 2005

Charlene Forrest - Children's Program Coordinator



Cabbage Fest 2005

With permission from the *Town of Qualicum Beach*, volunteers from the MGW propagation group salvaged Skunk Cabbage (*Lysichiton americanum*) from the Rupert Road development site. They delivered the plants to an SwR class who planted them at the bridge site of the new forest trail. An excellent lesson on native plants, plant conservation and teamwork!



Forest Detectives

The most requested activity by students was revisited during their final sessions. With their *Woodland Research* tags on students collected data from the sand-trap track beds. Remote cameras offered fun group photo opportunities, and confirmation of track data collection.



Shoots with Roots Herbarium

This season plant education was certainly extended beyond the use of plants in the food garden. Students were granted *Research Permits* to collect, press, glue and label native plants of the MGW Woodland. As a multi-visit project, this enabled time to learn the physical features and ethno botanical uses of their chosen plants, and to see the plants changing in their natural habitat.

Shoots with Roots

is featured as the "Education" program example on the new *Botanical Gardens Conservation International: Investing in* exhibit !!!!

Two copies of the exhibit are travelling the nation (and beyond) to prove the importance of plants, botanical gardens, research and conservation. The display will be at MGW until June



☺ Appreciation for recent offerings of donations and support are extended to:

**Central Builders – Home Hardware
Qualicum Beach Visitor Info Centre
Gardenworks**

**Qualicum Beach Antiques
Shining Sun**

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION FOR MILNER VOLUNTEERS

The Volunteer Support Group is organizing a competition as follows: Colour Photographs taken in Milner Gardens & Woodlands by amateurs only during the period August 1/04 - July 31/05 digital (unenhanced) or film, min. 5" x 7", max. 8" x 10", mounted but not framed. Winning photos can be used where appropriate for promotional purposes and become Milner property.

CATEGORIES

1. Landscape - Garden/ocean
2. Landscape - Woodland
3. Close ups (flora & fauna only)
 - two photos per category allowed
 - two prizes to be awarded in each category

Please put name, address, phone # and e-mail address on back of each picture and category in which it is being entered. Deliver in large envelope after July 15, but no later than 4 p.m. on Sunday, July 31/05 to filing box(es) marked PHOTOGRAPHIC CONTEST which will be in Gardener's/Volunteer Cottage. Photos, other than winning entries, can be reclaimed from the same filing box(es) after August 20th.

Winners will be announced and prizes awarded at the Volunteer Appreciation Barbecue on Wednesday, August 17th. (please note that if you are not able to be at the barbecue, you can still enter the competition!)



We are looking forward to receiving your many entries!

Enter your Photo and win the competition!

Pool House Gift Shop

Garden Fairies are still very popular this year. Be sure to stop by and have a look at the new selection of whimsical garden gift items that are adorned with fairies. There are birdhouses, bird feeders, garden stakes, hanging plant brackets and window hangers as well as well as a good selection of greeting cards.

Also new in the Shop are Vancouver Island and BC West Coast Adventure Books that are Ideal for sight-seers as well as those interested in short history stories of BC.

We also carry Tree-Free Greeting Cards, which, are made from plants that are grown especially for paper products. These are all garden and nature related and come with a very colourful envelope, nicely suited to be given to that special person.

Don't forget that members and volunteers receive a 10% discount on all regular priced gift and souvenir items in the Gift Shop but please show your card (membership or volunteer ID) first.

"Whimsical Garden Fairies are still very popular"

Wish List

For the Tea Room:

- A blender
- Little bone china cream jugs
- Little tiny spoons for jam pots
- Corelle soup bowls
- dessert forks
- Mix Master
- Chairs (for around the tables) in small tea room
- Large stock pots for making soups
- Music CD's (music suitable as background)

For the Garden:

- For the next BBQ supper, loan of a propane cooker/burner for corn.
- LED Xmas lights
- Canvas wall tents for 'fall' Shoots with Roots.

For the Office:

- Chairs
- File Cabinets

Rose Selection

Rosa 'Aloha': introduced in 1949, a very slow climber that will sometimes remain a bush, large sweetly scented double pink flowers, repeat bloomer

Rosa 'Amaglia': introduced in 1985, similar to R. 'Kiftsgate' with single creamy white slightly fragrant flowers but much slower growing

Rosa 'Crimson Shower': introduced in 1951, a late flowering rambler (up to 4m) that bears clusters of double crimson flowers from July to September, faintly fragrant

Rosa 'Compassion': introduced 1972, large flowering with fragrant orange-pink blooms, medium climber (up to 4m)

Rosa glauca: introduced in 1830, a species rose growing up to 2m by 2m, blue tinged foliage, bronze stems, star-like single pink flowers in late spring-summer, and beautiful hips in the fall

Rosa 'Kew Rambler': introduced in 1912, trusses of light pink apple blossom flowers, fragrant, up to 5m

Rosa Kiftsgate': introduced in 1908, a vigorous rambling rose (up to 10m) with creamy white single flowers, slightly fragrant

Rosa moyesii 'Geranium': introduced in 1938, 'Geranium' is a variety of the species rose R. moyesii, rambling rose (up to 3m) with bright red single flowers on long arching stems, bears beautiful orange red hips in the fall

Rosa 'New Dawn': introduced in 1930, 'New Dawn' is a sport of the once popular 'Dr. Van Fleet', rambling rose (up to 3m) with fragrant semi-double shell pink flowers, can be used as a hedge, specimen shrub, or climber

Rosa nutkana: native rose of B.C., shrub with single pink fragrant flowers

Rosa 'Paul's Himalayan Musk': introduced in 1845, a vigorous rambler (to 10m) with double bright rose pink fragrant flowers

Organic Rose Concoctions

Black Spot Banish

1 part milk (skim, whole, or powdered)

9 parts water

1 tsp liquid dish soap

Spray bottle

Mix 1 part milk to 9 parts water into a 1-litre spray bottle, add 1 tsp dish soap, spray rose leaves once every two weeks.

Powdery Mildew Purge

4 litres water

1 ½ tbsp baking soda

1 tbsp liquid dish soap

Spray bottle

Mix ingredients into the spray bottle and spray rose leaves once every two weeks.

Use these recipes alternating weeks on all your roses.



Rosa glauca - A beautiful species rose with star-like pink flowers



Rosa 'New Dawn'



Rosa 'Crimson'

Rose Hip Jelly

8 cups of rose hips
 6 cups of water
 1 box of Certo
 1/2-cup lemon juice
 5 cups of sugar
 Cheesecloth

Boil the rose hips for 10 - 15 min. until soft enough to crush. Crush them and squeeze through cloth, to make juice. For every 4 cups of juice add one box of Certo and bring to a boil. Add the 1/2-cup of lemon juice and 5 cups of sugar (1/2 tsp. of margarine to prevent foam). Bring to a boil and boil hard for 2 min. Remove from heat and pour into sterilized jars and seal with caps and rings. The jelly has a wonderful flavour and is the consistency of liquid honey.

Snippets

There is nothing more wonderful than the heady sweet smell of an old-fashioned fragrant rose. I will often make myself busy around the rose garden primping and preening the shrubs just so I can have the chance to stop for a moment and stick my face into the largest blossom. There's something restorative about it, once I take in that sweet scent all seems right with the world.

That being said there seems to be two camps when it comes to growing roses. Those that believe that roses can't be grown without a lot of fussing and those that believe that there is no fussing required producing the most glorious of roses.

I fall somewhere between the two. It all comes down to two things...the kind of rose you select and the location you plant it. If you don't want to spend your time primping and preening your roses choose one of the disease resistant varieties. Many of the newer roses are bred to be more disease resistant. Just remember that 'disease resistant' doesn't mean 'immune'.

When it comes time to plant your rose most plants require 6-8 hours of sunlight in order to perform really well. The soil should be slightly acidic, which is usually never a problem in our environment, and it should be loose and free draining. Feed plants during the growing season with fish emulsion, blood and bone meal, and a handful of Epsom salts (once a month for the salts). Stop feeding plants in early August.

In order to avoid problems with powdery mildew plants require good air circulation, which is achieved with proper pruning and spacing of plants. During summer hot spells they need plenty of water. In order to minimize the occurrence of black spot roses should be watered from below. Black spot is a fungus that is spread by water splashing up onto the leaves. It's also important to remove and dispose of any dead or diseased leaves.

If you find that you are still having to battle powdery mildew and black spot there are a couple of organic mixes that you can make up to spray weekly. Both alter the pH on the leaves making it inhospitable for either disease to take hold. I've had great success with both of them and I have to admit...I'll put up with a little primping and preening if I get a chance to stop and smell the roses.

Happy Gardening - Candice

PLANT SALE 

Members 35% off

Visitors 25% off

A Stunning and Romantic Location to Celebrate your Wedding Day!



A Stunning and Romantic Location to Celebrate your Wedding Day!

Planning a Wedding? Let nature work for you at Milner Gardens. Your ceremony would be breathtaking with lush gardens, an ocean view and coastal mountains as a backdrop. A picture perfect setting for your wedding photographs. Weddings in the garden are once again in full swing with confirmed bookings throughout the summer months. We have had many couples tour through the gardens in addition to receiving numerous enquiries for 2005 and 2006.

Milner Gardens was present at Bridal Fairs in Courtney and Nanaimo. As many people were unaware of Milner Gardens, it was a great opportunity to promote the gardens as a wedding venue and as a destination to visit. A wedding photograph album was developed and is on display for the public in the sitting room at the house. The Team has been very busy reworking forms and streamlining paper work as well as obtaining more photos for the display board and albums.

The Wedding Team will be working to improve and market weddings in the gardens. We ask for your support to promote the gardens among your relatives and friends as a unique place to get married.

Your Wedding Team: Carmen MacLean, Barb & Bob Ashton, Sandy Atkinson, Teresa Augustyn

Art and Photography in the Garden, July 23rd & 24th, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm each day

This years Art and Photography in the Garden will feature additional Artists over past years. So there will be more Artists for you to meet painting, sketching, photographing, carving and potting. An added feature this year is a mini-main stage for live music performances and presentations by Artists. There will also be a greater opportunity to purchase original works, prints and art cards from the Artists. As well, there will be a Silent Auction featuring original works by each of the participating Artists. Food and refreshments will be available all day. The event runs from 10 am to 5 pm each day, with the last entry to the garden is at 4:00 pm. *Don't miss this fun event!*

Don't miss an opportunity to have lunch in the

CAMELLIA TEA ROOM

Wednesday, July 27th @ 11:45

Chicken Salad Croissant

Mixed Greens Salad

Dessert and Tea

All for \$10.00 GST included

A special invitation for members and volunteers

By reservation only – please call 752-6153 to reserve your table

Jazz in the Garden, August 21st, 1:00 pm to 8:00 pm

This years Jazz in the Garden will be a full day festival featuring Phil Dwyer and Friends. They will perform a series of concerts throughout the day. Plan to spend the whole day! Food and refreshments will be available. Limited

seating will be available, but bring a lawn chair or blanket just in case. Tickets will be available in early August.

*Come and Enjoy
Jazz in the Garden*



Camellia Tea Room

Things are running fairly smoothly in the Tea Room, although we could use some more help in the kitchen, either on a weekly or bi-weekly basis or even on call from time to time. If you can help out with washing teacups and making tea, please give Carol a call at 752-7514. We always say we have the best view in Qualicum, *from the kitchen sink!*

A Special Offer for our Members and Volunteers only.

On Wednesday July 27th, we will be giving our

members and volunteers the opportunity to enjoy lunch in the Tea Room or even on the verandah, if weather permits. The menu for the day will be chicken salad croissant with a salad, dessert and tea, all for \$10.00 with tax included. This will be a fund-raising event so that we will be able to purchase much-needed dishes and silverware for the kitchen. This luncheon will be by reservation only, so first called, first served, for your choice of tables. If you must cancel, please let us know so that others may take your place.

Update on Welcome and Interpretive Centre Construction

The Welcome and Interpretive Centre will soon have roof trusses installed. The trusses have been built by volunteer Noel Burnham and are in the service yard at the garden. Noel has done a superb job and spent many hours cutting, drilling and bolting. There are five trusses in total, each truss weighing approximately 1,500 pounds. They are beautiful structures, but very heavy. Students in the Welding Program at Malaspina University-College manufactured the 120 pieces of ¼-inch steel bolting plates required for the trusses, at no cost to us.

There is still one last piece of structural cross-bracing detailing to be done and then we can move forward. We are arranging for a crane and the right trades people to do the installation work.

This project is the result of a huge effort by Milner Gardens volunteers and many generous donations of cash from our supporters, as well as in-kind donations of materials and time by local businesses and tradesmen.

Once the Centre is completed we will have a beautiful structure that has been truly embraced by the community for the benefit of the community and the garden.