



Winter 2003

Volume 2 Issue 1

**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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**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE**

Dear members, I hope this first newsletter of the year finds you in good health and eagerly anticipating the coming spring. In this issue we celebrate and recognize the many individuals, businesses and organizations that have supported us through financial or through in-kind donations over the past year. We simply could not do it without you. On behalf of the Society board of directors and staff of Milner Gardens and Woodland, I thank you.

One new initiative that has been in the works for some time is the renovation of the Food Garden (see Geoff Ball's article A Walk Through the Garden on page 2) in preparation for the spring launch of the *Roots and Shoots Intergenerational* gardening program. This program, centered in the Food Garden, pairs grade three students from Arrowview Elementary School in Qualicum Beach with volunteer garden mentors. The activities for this exciting new program have been designed to allow, "as much time as possible for children and garden mentors to get their hands dirty. It is hoped that students will take away

valuable lessons in the art and science of horticulture, as well as, a sense of the importance of inter-connection within the community." (Candice Coghill). I am pleased to announce that as of January 20<sup>th</sup> Candice Coghill will be the Children's Programs Facilitator, Candice will also continue as Nursery Grower. This part-time Facilitator of Children's Programs position is funded for a period of one year by a generous start up grant from the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust of the U. S. After the initial funded period, the program must support itself through fees and donations. We see this as an important community oriented project that marks the first program involving school children in the garden. I ask that as you witness the success of this program through the coming year that you please consider supporting it through a donation.

A long-range fundraising initiative is being considered by our Fundraising Committee. (see Corrie deKluyver's article "Gifts to the Garden" on page 7)

(Continued on page 3)

# A WALK THROUGH THE GARDEN

While the plants are resting during the winter, we are keeping very busy out in the garden. We have a crew (Bob, John, Ken, Kevin) working for us over the winter thanks to a grant from the Federal Job Creation Partnership Program. With their help, we are renovating the Food Garden so that in the coming spring we will be set up to start running a children’s program, *Roots and Shoots*. When you next visit us, you will see that this area of the garden has undergone extensive changes. By opening time, it will house two cold frames, a new arbor for the Kiwi vines, a beautiful teaching shelter/gazebo, a set of field beds for the children to work in and a rock-seating wall at the base of the largest Fir tree.

Before the crew has finished their time here, they will also have built a viewing platform along the top of the bank above the large Douglas fir tree. This platform should help to protect the bank and allow easier viewing of the giant base of the fir and the views out beyond. We are very excited about these new projects and hope that you enjoy them when you come to visit us this coming season.

Geoff Ball  
Horticulturist

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE SURVEY

This coming spring we will be offering a number of short courses. We want to make sure that the courses offered are of interest to you and the rest of the community. We would appreciate your input on the types of courses we can offer that you would find interesting.

Please take the time to fill out the following survey and return it to the garden.

I would like to take a course on the following topics:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basic Shrub Pruning          | <input type="checkbox"/> Introduction to backyard plant propagation                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Birds of the Woodland Garden | <input type="checkbox"/> Hanging Baskets   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bonsai                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Herb Gardens  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bulbs and Forcing of Bulbs   | <input type="checkbox"/> Moss Baskets  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flower arranging             | <input type="checkbox"/> Pest management   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Garden Design                | <input type="checkbox"/> Social History of Milner Gardens and Woodland             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening in small spaces    | <input type="checkbox"/> Understanding and troubleshooting home irrigation systems |

Other topics not listed here that I would like to take are:

\_\_\_\_\_

Best day(s)/time(s) to take courses are: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your input.

Please return this to the Milner Gardens Office at:

2179 West Island Highway  
Qualicum Beach BC  
V9K 1G1

## Witch hazels to brighten winter grey

Winter is a great time for planning garden renovations while branches are bare and perennials are dormant. Now you can clearly see the structure of your beds and any holes in your design that could be filled with evergreens or winter interest plants. A must have shrub to fill these gaps is *Hamamelis* or Witch-hazel.

*Hamamelis* put on a display of amazingly fragrant, spidery blooms. These delicate flowers would be lost in an exuberant summer garden, but in the grey of winter against bare branches, they explode like tiny fireworks. They dazzle in shades of yellow, gold, copper and maroon. Typically, they bloom between November and March, often lasting up to a month.

The forked, wide-spreading branches of the witch-hazel can also provide an interesting

architectural shape to your winter garden. They are moderately sized, growing on average to 12 feet in sun or part shade. And if you still need more convincing of their worth, witch-hazel leaves turn spectacular shades of red in the Autumn.

*Hamamelis* is just one genus in a diverse group of plants included in the witch-hazel family (Hamamelidaceae). Here at the Gardens we have a collection of 16 unique species belonging to this family. In 1997, an overgrown bed was reclaimed from the Rhododendron Grove and renovated to highlight this collection. The Witch-hazel Bed now contains specimens of *Corylopsis pauciflora*, *Fothergilla gardenii*, *Parrotia persica* and *Hamamelis virginiana*. Be sure to visit the Witch-hazel Bed when the Gardens open in April to see the *Corylopsis pauciflora* in glorious bloom.

Kristi Ozero  
Plant Records Department



*Hamamelis x intermedia*  
'Rubv Glow'



*Hamamelis mollis*

(Executive Director's Message continued from page 1)

Many thanks to those who participated in the December 2<sup>nd</sup> fundraising strategy retreat, and a special thank you to Reg Whynott for facilitating the event.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to Lou Gueho, Georgia McLean, Edwin Deas and Kevin Doyle as newly elected members of the Board of the *Milner Gardens and Woodland Society*. Founding directors Jane Gregory and Jon Lampman, who both played significant guiding roles in the formation of the Milner Gardens and Woodland project from its beginnings, are retiring from the board. Thank you to Jane and Jon for your past and continued support.

Jim Cadwaladr  
Executive Director

## Changes for the Board of the Milner Gardens and Woodland Society

The *Milner Gardens and Woodland Society* was established to serve in an advisory role to the Executive Director of Milner Gardens and Woodland. The *Society* is a federally tax exempt organization whose purpose is to support the development of friends of the garden and to raise funds for programs at Milner. On November 19, at the Annual General Meeting, new members of the Board were elected. They are Lou Gueho (Parksville), Georgia McLean (Bowser), Edwin Deas (Nanose), and Kevin Doyle (Qualicum Beach). Two of our founding directors retired from the Board, Jane Gregory (Nanaimo) and Jon Lampman (Cassidy). Jane and Jon played important supporting roles in the founding of *Milner Gardens and Woodland Society*. Continuing members are Dick Beamish and Rich Johnston (Nanaimo), Corrie deKluyver (Parksville), Louise Dwyer, Fran Jones and Jim Cadwaladr (Qualicum Beach), Ross Fraser (Lantzville). In 2003, the *Society* will assume

the role of issuing receipts for donations to the Garden. The Fund Raising Committee of the Board recently held a daylong workshop discussing strategies for fund raising initiatives. There are many exciting new projects that need funding and we will continue to pursue sources of funding for these projects. Success has been achieved in funding the Rhododendron Project, designed to provide accurate identification of the rhododendrons in our collections as well as providing interpretation about these special shrubs for the visitor to the garden. This two-year project will be completed in 2003. Another program funded through the efforts of the Fund Raising Committee is the new Roots and Shoots program. We continue to need volunteer and financial support of all friends as we begin our third year of operation. I know that Jim Cadwaladr and his staff appreciate any assistance you can provide.

Roy Taylor  
Chair-Milner Gardens and Woodland Society

## Camellia Tea Room



Well, we had such a great amount of fun working in the Tea Room last summer that everyone wants to do it all over again! Seriously, though, the first season proved to be a success. We noticed that quite a few members were dropping in often, for a nice relaxing afternoon tea with friends and visitors. This spring, we will all be able to enjoy the beautiful colours of the rhododendrons in bloom with that gorgeous view from the verandah.

We are pleased to say that the Old Fashioned Christmas Luncheon went over very well. We have had many compliments on everything, the meal, the great service from the volunteers, as well as the entertainment. The house looked wonderful, all decorated up for Christmas and everyone welcomed the chance to see it and the garden during the off-season. A great deal of thanks goes out to all those who helped to make it such a success. We are hoping to be able to do something similar again next season.

As usual, don't forget to keep the Tea Room in mind and be on the look out for sealer jars of all sizes, from jelly jars to quarts so that we can keep up with our supply of home made Milner Garden jams and jellies.

Carol Hansen  
Tea Room Coordinator

## SNIPPETS

Hellebores are one of my favourite perennials and are to me the harbingers of spring. If you have not experienced the beauty of Hellebores (*Helleborus* sp.) now is the time to discover them. Here in the gardens we are graced with two species of Hellebores. *Helleborus niger*, commonly the Christmas Rose, and *Helleborus orientalis*, commonly the Lenten Rose. Hellebores originate in Europe and Asia and bloom from January through to April. In the wild, as in cultivation, they have a wide range of variation. They are prolific self-seeders and their seedlings can vary greatly from the parent plant in leaf, stem, and flower characteristics. Their colours range from white to burgundy and all shades in between. This is part of what makes Hellebores so interesting to propagate.

Hellebores can be divided but division may prove difficult with large well-established plants and you may not want to risk damaging them. Division is the way to go if you want to clone the parent plant. If you like variation and surprises, I have found seed to be an excellent means of propagation. Seed can be collected in late spring/early summer. You will have to watch your plant as it develops its seed heads. Once ripe, they are much like a pea pod and explode, dispersing the seed all around the mother plant. Seed is best sown fresh into deep pots with a moist mix of 1:1 peat/perlite. The pots can be left outside during the summer months; *Helleborus* seed requires a warm period to germinate. Be sure to keep the media in the pots moist. Seeds should germinate sometime in October. (If you have purchased seed from a nursery or seed house, it may take up to 2 years to germinate.)

If collecting and sowing the seed seems like too much work leave the pods to disperse the seeds naturally. Come October check around the base of your Hellebore for seedlings. I have found hundreds (literally) of seedlings around the mother plants at Milner's. The seedlings can then be dug up and transplanted into pots to grow on.

Note: dig deeply to avoid damaging the roots and

handle the seedlings by their leaves to avoid damaging the stem.

Hellebores require 2-3 years of growth before they flower. Be patient. It is worth the time and effort. This is one perennial that you will love having in your garden year after year. The plants will do well in moderate shade but also enjoy the sun. They are drought tolerant once established and are great when planted in areas where you can see and appreciate their flowers. Often times, the old leaves are cut away from the plant in order to highlight the beautiful flowers. New growth of leaves will follow the flowers in the early spring.

I have only mentioned two species of Hellebores but there are so many more to discover, not to mention all the hybrids. Happy growing!

Candice Coghill  
Nursery Grower



*Helleborus orientalis*

### SEEDY NOTES

#### Qualicum Beach Seedy Saturday

Saturday February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2003

10 am-4 pm at the QB Civic Centre

Free Admission, Workshops, Seed and Plant Sale  
and much, much more.

#### Nanaimo Seedy Sunday

Sunday March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2003

10 am – 4 pm at Bowen Park

For more information call (250) 716-1983



# THE GARDENER'S COTTAGE OF VOLUNTEERS

Welcome to 2003 with best wishes for prosperity and good health!

A new year has begun and as I see the frost twinkling in the sunlight on the sleeping plants I can't help but think on how in just a few weeks we will see the garden start to wake up with a new beginning. How exciting it is to have a new season starting and this year we would like to introduce into our newsletter a new read. We have such a wonderful, diverse and interesting group of volunteers apart of the garden and its operations that it would be a great idea to share with our readers a little information on individual volunteers. So beginning in our Spring issue we would like to feature one/two volunteers with a profile on who they are, how they became involved in Milner Gardens and Woodland, what area(s) they are involved with and their experiences volunteering at the garden. This way we can become acquainted with our volunteers no

matter what day or shift you volunteer. Of course, if anyone would like to write an article for the newsletter whether it is about themselves or something that happened in the garden we are always looking for articles, just submit them to the office by dropping off in person or e-mail- milnergardens@shaw.ca.

With our open season fast approaching, we will be in contact via e-mail and/or telephone with everyone for training and scheduling of volunteer positions beginning March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Looking forward to see all in the garden very soon.

Pam Jonnson  
Executive Assistant



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

## Gifts to the Garden

### *Milner Leave a Legacy Program*

We are delighted that, to date, four individuals have made a bequest donation to the Milner Gardens and Woodland Society in their wills. This program provides an opportunity for anyone interested in the preservation and enhancement of the Gardens in perpetuity. Even a small percentage of most estates will provide a significant boost to the future of this increasingly popular community jewel. These initial four donors will be the first members in the newly established Milner Legacy Circle. The Legacy Circle is a recognition of those individuals who have included Milner Gardens and Woodland Society in their wills. This is a wonderful way to support the Gardens - more information about this program is available through the Gardens' office.

### *Long- Range Strategy for Development / Fundraising*

In early December a significant event for the future of Milner Gardens and Woodland took place in Milner House. A meeting, organized by the Fundraising Committee and facilitated by Reg Whynott, was attended by members of the Society Board, staff, committee chairs or representatives as well as community members.

The purpose of the daylong "retreat" was to discuss current and future needs of the Gardens from an operational and financial perspective and to recommend how these needs might be met. The resulting draft development plan to support the Gardens' mission will be presented to the Society Board at the end of January.

Everyone involved in the process brought much enthusiasm as well as expertise and a great deal of excitement and optimism was generated. The significant contribution of all volunteers who participated in the day's meeting is greatly appreciated. We look forward to presenting our Plan to all members and volunteers in the near future. We welcome any thoughts or suggestions on the development / fundraising front at any time and would be more than happy to hear from you.

This year we will be issuing our own Milner Gardens and Woodland Society receipts for income tax purposes. Our federal tax registration number is: 88675 3615 RR0001

Corrie deKluyver  
Chair – Fundraising Committee



STAFF AT MILNER GARDENS

Jim Cadwaladr  
Executive Director

Pam Jonnson  
Executive Assistant

Geoff Ball  
Horticulturist/Supervisor

Kristi Ozero  
Plant Records/GIS

Candice Coghill  
Nursery Grower/Children's  
Programs Facilitator

Carol Hansen  
Tea Room/Gift Shop  
Coordinator



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.

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

Administration: 250-752-8573  
Volunteer Services: 250-752-7514  
Fax: 250-752-3826  
Reservations:  
250-752-6153

E-mail: [milnergardens@shaw.ca](mailto:milnergardens@shaw.ca)  
Web: [www.milnergardens.org](http://www.milnergardens.org)

CALLING ALL COOKS

We are still looking for those gourmet recipes that we all enjoyed at the Volunteer Pot Luck this past summer. It has been decided to put together a Volunteers' Recipe Book as a fundraiser.

Please send as many of your favourite recipes that you would like to share with others either by e-mail or drop your recipe off at the office as soon as possible. If you would like to be a part of this team, you are more than welcome.

Can you come up with a catchy name we could call this book of "*culinary creations*", please let us know.

Pam Jonnson  
Milner Gardens and Woodland  
(250) 752-8573  
[milnergardens@shaw.ca](mailto:milnergardens@shaw.ca)

2003 WISH LIST

House & Gift Shop

- CD Player
- Sandwich Plates
- 3 tiered serving dish
- Cake plates
- Heavy-duty stapler
- Laminator
- Easel
- Fridge full size
- Large breadbaskets
- Scanner
- Binoculars
- CD's with Soft Music
- Pint & Quart Sealers

