



**Fredericton Botanic Garden
Association Newsletter**

**Bulletin du Jardin Botanique
de Fredericton**

Vol 22 No 1

Winter 2010

New Zealand Botanic Gardens

Richard and Jane Tarn

By mid December the Christmas trees were taking on the seasonal colour of their crimson blooms . . . that is the New Zealand Christmas or Rata trees, or Pohutukawa in Maori, or *Metrosideros excelsa*. Late last year we visited New Zealand, where it was late spring, and had the opportunity to visit a number of botanic gardens. Many had beautiful displays of azaleas, rhododendrons and roses – things that we are aiming for in the Fredericton Botanic Garden.



Flowers of the New Zealand Christmas Tree

While we have to choose cultivars carefully in Fredericton because of our harsh winters, in the New Zealand gardens we visited hardiness of azaleas, rhododendrons and roses was not an issue. Even the most southerly garden we visited, the Dunedin Botanic Garden, as far south of the equator as Fredericton is north, has winters that are described as frosty with uncommon significant snowfall because of its Pacific coast location.

Events in the Garden

Plant Sale Planning Committee

February 3, 7:00 pm
Resource Center

**Annual General Meeting
and Silent Auction**

February 13, 2010
12:30 pm
Marysville Heritage Center
McGloin Street

Get a break from the cold with a
dose of Warm and Green
when you join us for
"Talks in the Garden"

Insects: Man's Competitor
Dr. Bill Seabrook
February 18 at 7:00 pm

Seedy Saturday

March 27, 2010
2:00—4:00 pm
Gibson Memorial
United Church
183 Gibson Street
FBGA Members \$2.00
Non-members \$4.00

May Plant Sale and Raffle

May 30, 2010
12:00 noon to 4:00 pm
Boyce Farmers' Market,
George St.

Treasured Garden Tour

July 11, 2010



New Zealanders individually and collectively appear to appreciate their plants: private gardens, public space landscaping, parks and botanic gardens were attractive and well cared for. The New Zealand Gardens Trust lists 118 public and private gardens open to the public – a large total for a national population of 4.3 million. These gardens are helped by the climate which in most of the country is favourable for the growth of a very wide range of plants from around the world. There also appeared to be a high level of respect for gardens and parks since even when they were not completely fenced, or lacked gates, there was no apparent damage to plants and signs.

It was the mid 1800s before there was widespread European settlement so the oldest gardens date from the 1860s. Many gardens are public and are managed by towns or districts. These gardens have no entry fee. Also it appeared that public gardens have some form of “friends of the garden” organization with a major role in support for capital development. The private gardens, in contrast, have an entry fee.

Rhododendron plantings are extensive in many gardens but the largest we saw was the four hectares Rhododendron Dell in the Dunedin Botanic Garden. Some of the specimens there were old and tall, probably up to 10 m; flowers were almost impossible to see at the tips of the high branches but produced a colourful carpet when they fell to the ground.

Every garden, not surprisingly, has roses. Large botanic gardens have their collections of species roses, heritage

varieties and modern roses, complete with trial beds. However, even small towns have impressive rose gardens and none more so than Timaru (population 27,000). Here the Trevor Griffiths Rose Garden has a world class collection of 1,150 roses, identified on a planting plan, and an annual Rose Festival. This garden is in addition to the town’s Botanic Gardens.

In the later part of the nineteenth century introduction societies brought many plants (plus birds and animals) into New Zealand, mostly from Europe. Many of the plants escaped from gardens and about 240 introductions have become major plant pests that have permanently modified habitats in wetlands, coastal zones, lowland forests, shrub land and native grassland. On the other hand many native plants have found a place in ornamental horticulture usually for their form, foliage colour and texture rather than for the colour of their flowers. For example, New Zealand is the home of the well known shrub genus *Hebe*, and a number of New Zealand alpine species can be found in specialist nurseries in Canada.

Many gardens have areas planted with native species and some also have extensive collections of single species such as *Hebe* or New Zealand flax (*Phormium tenax*) which is not a flax but an Agave. A few gardens have impressive plantings demonstrating the ornamental use of native species. A few gardens also have specimens of rare and endangered plants with signage explaining the threats to each and rescue plans.

New for us were plantings from other parts of the southern hemisphere such as the colourful plants of South Africa and the Pacific Islands. Really different was the new Gondwana Arboretum in the Auckland Botanic Gardens. This arboretum contains evolutionary old trees similar to those that grew on the ancient southern continent of Gondwana in the Jurassic period some 100 million years ago before the continents separated. Included are trees in the genus *Araucaria* (that includes the Monkey-Puzzle tree), the New Zealand kauri (*Agathis australis*) and the Wollemi pine, a specimen of which is growing at Kingsbrae Garden in St. Andrews.

There is so much more that could be written about gardens in New Zealand – there is so much diversity and so much that is different from elsewhere.

For an introduction, visit the New Zealand Gardens Trust website (<http://www.gardens.org.nz>) and see for yourself.



View of the Trevor Griffiths Rose Garden, Timaru.

Thank you to Jane Tarn for her expertise in editing the newsletters.

Membership Privileges include:
Newsletters and advance notice by email of all events
10 % discount at:
Capital Landscape and City Designers, Co-op Country Store (Northside),
Corn Hill Nursery, Currie’s Greenhouses, Green Village, Kent Garden Centre,
Scott’s Nursery, Wetmore’s Landscaping, Sod and Nursery



Plan to attend the
 Annual General Meeting of the
 Fredericton Botanic Garden Association
 and Silent Auction
 February 13, 2010
 12:30 pm at the
 Marysville Heritage Center.
 McGloin Street
 Guest Speaker
Renata Woodward, Program Director
 Nature Trust of New Brunswick
"Management of Areas with Rare Plants"



Join us on Facebook

The Fredericton Botanic Garden Association now has a Facebook page. If you're one of the one in three Canadians on Facebook, you can join the FBGA group page by entering **"Fredericton Botanic Garden"** in the Search bar on Facebook, and then selecting "Join this group." We'll have announcements about events and pictures of the garden. There's also a discussion page for messages.

Talks in the Garden
 Resource Center 7:00 pm

February 18
 Insects: Man's Competitor
 Dr. Bill Seabrook

March 18
 Fredericton Area Watersheds
 Dr. Shawn Dalton

April 15
 Vietnam Exchange Experience
 Julie Baker

May 20
 Plant Sale Featured Plant (Rhododendrons)
 Brian Parker

Wanted:
Volunteers to work with the
"Talks in the Garden"
and the
"Treasured Garden Tour"
committees
Contact Valerie Hillier
valeriej_hillier@hotmail.com

The Fredericton Botanic Garden Newsletter is published four times a year by the Fredericton Botanic Garden Association, Inc. The FBGA is a registered charitable organization for tax purposes. The objectives of the FBGA are to guide the establishment of the Fredericton Botanic Garden and to foster an awareness and appreciation of plants.

To obtain information on membership and to become involved in FBGA activities please contact us: **506-452-9269**
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 or **fbga@nb.aibn.com**
Web: www.frederictonbotanicgarden.com

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Donations Wanted

The Fredericton Botanic Garden' Association's
Annual General Meeting
and 12th Annual Silent Auction
is on Saturday, February 13.

We are again making a request to members for donations to the Silent Auction. It is always exciting to receive the wonderful items you supply. They help to make this one of our major fund raisers. Please bring a friend to add a bit of competition to the bidding; they will enjoy the auction, refreshments, and live entertainment, as well as our interesting special guest speaker.

Carole Peacock has kindly offered her home again this year
as a drop off point for donations.

**Carole Peacock
36 Alexandra Street**

**Donations may be dropped off any time until Tuesday, February 9,
but please call first -- 452-1016.**

If you are unable to drop your donations off, please contact Nancy Beltrandi at 459-8004
to have them picked up by Tuesday, February 9.

It is easier for us to prepare our lists of donations and to number each item
if we have them before the day of the auction.
Your help in this regard would be appreciated.

If you can provide a plate of small sandwiches or sweets (finger food), please notify
Wayne Beckett at 459-1494 or beckett@nbnet.nb.ca

Seedy Saturday, March 27, 2010

Fredericton's Seedy Saturday is sponsored by Seeds of Diversity Canada
and the Fredericton Botanic Garden Association

Gibson Memorial United Church Hall, 183 Gibson Street, Fredericton
Saturday, March 27, 2 pm. to 4 pm.

Please bring your seeds to swap. If you do not have seeds saved, come anyway,
there will be plenty of seeds to share.

Refreshments will be served.

Contact: Ruth Muldrew 455-1828, e-mail: rmuldrew@rogers.com
or Norah Davidson-Wright 450-2848 email norahd@nb.sympatico.ca

