



**Fredericton Botanic Garden  
Association Newsletter**

**Bulletin du jardin Botanique  
de Fredericton**

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**Magnolias**

Jane Seabrook

Fredericton gardeners love to marvel at the little Magnolia bush outside the Tim Horten's coffee shop on Kings Street. Every spring it delights us with its beautiful vase-shaped stems and white blossoms. We wonder that it can survive in such a busy urban environment, but it does just fine. The Tim Horten's Magnolia is a *Magnolia stellata*, cultivar 'Royal Star', and there are several around town which seem to be doing very well.



*Magnolia stellata*

Magnolias are native to North America and China, and have large, shiny leaves which often emerge after the blossoms. The flowers of many Magnolias are very showy and bloom in the spring, often before the leaves have emerged. The saucer Magnolia, *Magnolia X soulangiana* is a hybrid between two different species and has wonderful pink or white upright blooms. Several cultivars are available: 'Ann', and 'Susan' grow well in Ottawa and should adapt to Fredericton's climate.

Breeders are beginning to release yellow-flowered Magnolias. Look for pale yellow Magnolia, 'Elizabeth' with saucer flowers. Garden centres sometimes supply Magnolia 'Yellow Bird' which also has yellow flowers. Trevor Cole write (see below) that the yellow Magnolias have bloomed in Ottawa.



*Magnolia X soulangiana*

The trick to growing Magnolias in the Fredericton area seems to be finding the right protected site and planting fairly young stock that has a chance to adapt to our climate. Most Magnolias in Fredericton seem to do well in sheltered areas near buildings. Magnolias like fairly acid soil and a thick straw or shredded bark mulch for winter protection and to keep weeds down. The white-flowered Magnolia 'Royal Star' seems to be the hardiest, but there are pink-flowered *M. stellata*, 'King Rose' and 'Pink Star' available that may not be quite as hardy, but are still lovely plants. Many Magnolia cultivars and species have to become quite mature before they bloom., so be patient! *M. Stellata* hybrids are outstanding because they bloom as quite young plants.

**Wanted:**

Contributions for 17th annual Plant Sale  
"Signature Crafts and Talents" section.  
Can you make a flower quilt, bird house, etc?  
Do you have a skill you can help some gardener with?  
Call Jane Seabrook 459-7862





*Magnolia X Loebneri*

*Magnolia X Loebneri* 'Leonard Messel' is a cold-hardy tree with pink or white, scented flowers. The leaves of this variety turn yellow in the fall. The Magnolia cultivar 'Merrill' flowers when it is a young plant. There is a beautiful white-flowered *M. Kobus* tree on the campus of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in Truro. It is protected by a U-shaped brick building and the tree stretches to the third story of the building.

Look in garden centres for these Magnolias. Cornhill Nursery in Anagance, N.B., and Green Village and Scotts Nursery in Fredericton will all have Magnolias for sale next spring.

If you would like to read more about Magnolias, look for:

- Barratt, Rosemary. 2002. Magnolias. Firefly Books. 96 pp. (I got my copy at Winners!)
- Cole, Trevor. April 2004. Magical Magnolias. Canadian Gardening. Pages 76-85.

Welcome new members

Cynthia Dionne Liz Davidson

Christina Richards Shirley Gourley

Jan Phillips Christine Lodge

## Signs of Progress

How many of you have admired our new sign at the main Prospect Street entrance?

After promising progress on signage all summer there was some late season activity in November. The result was an attractive and large new sign with our logo and our new colours. It is set in a raised bed that in the summer will contain attractive plantings. Now you can tell your friends what to look for when they come to visit, and passers-by will learn where the Fredericton Botanic Garden is located.

A Garden puzzle since late fall has been the appearance of large wood posts at many key locations. In the spring these will be completed with the addition of location signs directing visitors to the various Garden attractions. By then we also plan to have a number of interpretive signs ready to put up.

A second puzzle has been the stakes around the uphill end of the large pond. These mark the outline of the planned pond extension to include some of the very wet areas on the south and west sides. Even access to the Hal Hinds Memorial Garden is restricted in the spring and at other times when following periods of very wet weather. The changes are planned to incorporate the wettest areas and also to establish an "all weather" access to Hal's Garden.

For the next while enjoy the "winter garden" - the architecture of the trees and shrubs, the contrast of branches and snow, and the many forms that snow and ice can take.

Richard Tarn

For the Site Development Committee



## Seedy Saturday

Fredericton Botanic Garden's annual Seedy Saturday will be held at St. Andrew's Presbyterian church hall on Saturday February 26, 2005 from 1 to 4 p.m.

We will have interesting seeds for exchange including some pre-chilled seeds from 'Royal Star' Magnolia ready for planting.

See our article on Magnolias in this Newsletter issue for more information on Magnolias.

Come and see if you can find interesting seed not available elsewhere.

The admission charge will be \$2 and this will go to off-set expenses.

Refreshments will be served.

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**



## Fundraising Drive

As most of us are aware the FBGA is currently in a fundraising campaign. Many of you have already been approached and have generously donated to the family campaign. The goal of the family campaign is \$100,000. To date you have donated \$88,700 and by the time our solicitation is complete I am confident that we will pass the \$100,000 goal. To all of you who have so generously contribute please accept our sincere thanks. In particular I would like to thank the volunteers who have acted as canvassers. This is not an easy job but it one that is absolutely essential to the success of the campaign. You have all done a great job, please accept the sincerest thanks from your Board.

In addition to the family campaign the City of Fredericton has donated a total in cash and gifts in kind of \$100,000 a year for a five year period. This is tremendous support by our City Council and demonstrates genuine support for this wonderful project of building a municipal Botanic Garden.

In addition to the above, the Fundraising Committee has also applied to the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) for a \$1,000,000 capital grant through their SCIF program. Mr. John Robison has been leading this charge and has done a tremendous amount of work on our behalf. Thanks John. We are anticipating hearing the outcome of this proposal in the very near future, possibly by the time you read this newsletter.

As soon as we hear the results of the SCIF proposal the Fundraising Committee will be launching the Public component of the Campaign. This part of the campaign will be approaching the Fredericton Business Community, Charitable Foundations and the general public of Fredericton in search of a total of \$1,500,000. It looks like its going to be a very busy year. Lets all keep our fingers crossed.



**PLAN TO ATTEND  
THE ANNUAL GENERAL  
MEETING  
AND  
SILENT AUCTION  
FEBRUARY 12 2005  
AT THE  
CENTRE COMMUNITAIRE  
ST. ANNE  
MEETING AT 1:00  
SILENT AUCTION BIDDING  
BEGINNING AT 12:00**

## Talks in the Garden

The Talks in the Garden take place at the Resource Centre of the Fredericton Botanic Garden Association on Cameron Court off Hanwell Road.

The talks are held at 7:30 pm and everyone is welcome, light refreshments are served.

**Thursday, January 27th,**  
Ruth Muldrew will show slides of Daylilies she has hybridized and share information on growing daylilies.



## WIN a new screen tent!!! HELP US FIND NEW MEMBERS!!!!

All new members joining from Jan 1 until mid July will have their name entered in a draw for a beautiful screen tent. This would be a great addition to any back yard - enjoy those long summer evenings without the annoyance of mosquitoes, blackflies, etc. Give a gift membership to a new member and your name will also be entered (once for each new membership) along with the new member's name. Increase your chances of winning this fabulous prize by finding a dozen friends or relatives who are interested in the Botanic Garden and would like to support us by joining. Remember, memberships are a good bargain, and provide a 10% discount at many garden outlets



## Notes from the FBGA Membership Committee:

The committee extends a hearty thank you to the donors of 6 Christmas gift memberships. We hope that donors who met the deadline enjoyed your Christmas wreath over the holiday season.

The Membership Committee had fun decorating the wreaths following a group dinner out with the Education Committee. A special thanks to Karen Cook who provided many of the decorations (and a glue gun etc) for our wreath-decorating party. And a sincere welcome to the new members - we hope that they and all members will take full advantage of the many benefits of membership in FBGA (listed elsewhere in this Newsletter).

The Botanic Boutique was unveiled for the first time last May in the Membership booth at the Plant Sale - look for the new and improved version at the 2005 Plant Sale. Some items are in limited numbers - for example battery operated electric bug swatters for those summer evenings in the garden. Others, such as the beautifully designed FBGA lapel pins are in good supply - so be sure to find the Boutique early when you come to the Plant Sale. It was well received at the October and November Education Committee events. A short report on the Boutique's first year will be found in the Annual Report presented at the Annual General Meeting in February.

## 7th Silent Auction 2005

by Nadia and Nancy

On Saturday, February 12th, the Fredericton Botanic Garden Association is holding its Annual General Meeting and its 7th Silent Auction.

This message is a request for donations to the Silent Auction. In past years we have had a wonderful time bidding against each other, along with the fun we have interacting with everyone there, and going home with our treasured successes.

On top of that, we end up raising money for the garden that is 100% profit.

This year we are hoping for an even bigger, and more profitable auction.



The sooner the better! A detailed list of items being auctioned will be emailed to those of you on our list as the time approaches. No item will be too small or too large.

Hope to see you at the auction, and please bring a friend. The more the merrier, and the bigger the profits.

Items may be dropped off at:  
542 Pederson Crescent, between 3-5, Mon-Fri  
until February 10

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:

**452-9269, at PO Box 57, Stn. A, Fredericton, NB E3B 4Y2 or  
fbga@nb.aibn.com**

**Fredericton Botanic Garden Association  
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