



**Fredericton Botanic Garden
Association Newsletter**

**Bulletin du Jardin Botanique
de Fredericton**

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Graphic Artist's conception of the planned Entrance Garden off Prospect Street

President's Report

It has been a busy period since my last report.

The garden is now blooming in all its early summer splendor, the lilacs are in bloom and the



rhododendrons and azaleas are at their splendiferous best. It is truly worth a trip to the gardens one evening to view them. If you go over in an evening be sure to park in the Prospect St. parking lot and walk down the hill. Remember that the Cameron Court gates close at 3:30 PM.

The last Sunday in May was our 18th annual plant sale. After weeks of cool

rainy weather, the weekend provided absolutely perfect weather. Unfortunately it lured many of our customers to other recreational sites and our turnout appeared to be a bit lower than in past years.

As you may have read in the Daily Gleaner or heard on CBC Radio the Botanic Garden was awarded a \$50,000 grant by the Fredericton Community Foundation. (see inserted Daily Gleaner article) This grant was the largest ever awarded by the Foundation and was in support of our rebuilding the Entrance Garden off Prospect St. As a result of this good fortune the present Entrance Garden will be torn up and unusable this summer. This presents some problems as this garden will be unavailable for the Treasured Garden Tour's annual

UPCOMING EVENT

**TREASURED GARDEN TOUR
July 15, 2006**

Note the change in date

and also that

**the Garden Party will be held
in Government House**



garden party. I am delighted to learn that the Garden Party will be held at Government House.

The coming year looks like an exciting time for the Garden as we launch our first major development project. This project is an example of the first use of some of the moneys which you have donated to our Family Fundraising Campaign. We will be adding \$20,000 of those funds to the wonderful donation by the Foundation to create the new Entrance Garden. This construction will also alleviate some of the major water management problems which bedevil our site. A Thank-you and congratulations to board member Brian Parker for his efforts and expertise in putting together the proposal which resulted in us being awarded the grant from the Fredericton Community Foundation.

It's going to be a great year.

Bill Seabrook



The Fredericton Botanic Garden received a \$50,000 grant from the Fredericton Community Foundation on Tuesday. From left are Ann Morgan, chairwoman of the grant committee for the Foundation; Brian Parker, Fredericton Botanic Garden Association board member; and Bill Seabrook, president of the board of trustees of the Fredericton Botanic Garden Association.

Cash to help garden grow

By JENNIFER DUNVILLE
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Expect to see major changes at the Fredericton Botanic Garden this summer.

The organization received a boost from the Fredericton Community Foundation to redo its entry gardens off Prospect Street.

It's a project the Fredericton Botanic Garden Association could not afford to do without the \$50,000 grant it got as part of the foundation's 50th anniversary celebration

held at the Killarney Lake lodge on Tuesday.

It's the largest grant ever awarded at one time by the foundation.

"We are thrilled to get this grant," said Bill Seabrook, president of the Fredericton Botanic Garden Association. "We hope to start the initial planning as early as next week."

The foundation is a registered charity that invests donations and uses the income to support other charities involved in arts, health, education, heritage, social services and the environment. Each year it awards more than \$180,000 in grants.

Charitable organizations in the city were encouraged to submit letters expressing interest in the Foundation's 50th anniversary grant.

From the 18 that applied, five organizations were asked to submit a proposal.

"We were looking for something different than what we normally award grants to," said Mel McGuigan, the foundation's executive director.

"For our anniversary we wanted to award a big one and we wanted it to go toward something that would affect the entire Fredericton community."

"We chose the botanic gardens because they will impact the most people," said McGuigan. "People young and old, rich or poor, and gardeners or not can enjoy this project."

Garden board member Brian Parker said they are still shocked about getting the grant, but excited to get started on the project. The goal is to finish it by the end of the summer in 2007.

"We need to first address our flooding issues in the parking lot. Then we'll be recreating, resodding and putting in some benches," said Parker. "In the centre, there will be a large oval-shaped garden that will open up into a space where we'll be able to have functions like weddings. It will be great."

Seabrook said he hopes to draw more tourists to the area and see more families enjoying the gardens. Eventually, he said, he'd like to see the gardens as one of the more popular areas of the city.

"This is the biggest grant we've ever received. The things we'll be able to do with it will be wonderful," said Seabrook.

Thank— you to the publisher of the Daily Gleaner | Greater Fredericton for use of this article as published on page A3 on June 7, 2006

Membership

We would like to extend a hearty welcome to the many new members joining our Association who signed up during the Plant Sale, and to all of the members who chose to renew their memberships at that time.

Thank you all for your support - it is much appreciated. Special thanks to new members Susan Phillips and Pierre El-Khoury, who volunteered to help with the Plant Sale, and who have joined the Membership Committee.

The raffle prize for a new member, a big basket filled with items of appeal to a gardener, was won by Mary Lee MacDonald. Congratulations!

We hope that the new members will take full advantage of the many benefits of membership in FBGA (listed elsewhere in this Newsletter - and including the 10% discount at many local garden centres, and advance notice of the new and exciting series of monthly talks in the Garden planned to begin in September).

The names of all new members are entered in a Grand Prize draw (open to new members, to donors of gift memberships, and to anyone signing up a new member) for a beautiful and spacious camel coloured Garden screen tent - a lovely addition to any back yard. The winner will be announced July 31st. We will contact the winner.

Many membership forms were handed out (along with the map of the layout of the Plant Sale), and as a result we hope we can welcome more new members over the coming weeks as the forms are mailed in. If you have recently received a renewal reminder in the mail, please do not forget to send it in right away.

At this year's plant sale the Botanic Boutique was in a new location. Many thanks to the volunteers who took care of decorating the Boutique and running it. For those who did not see it at the Plant Sale, the Boutique will be open again at selected future events. Be sure to visit it!

We have been asked to consider having T-shirts made up with the FBGA logo. To help us gauge interest in this, please e-mail Lucy Dyer (ldyer@unb.ca) if you would be interested in purchasing a T-shirt. Thank you for your help with this.

Lucy Dyer— Membership Committee



Plant Hunters

By Jane Seabrook

So you thought "extreme sports" were new. Well you have never met a plant hunter! Even modern plant hunters, looking for plants with new medicinal qualities, have to leave civilization behind and tromp through jungles and up mountain peaks. Plant hunters 200 years ago had to be physically brave, madly enthusiastic, oblivious to danger (hostile local people, rock slides, snakes, bears, bad food and bandits), and capable of tolerating boredom on long trips. These intrepid plant explorers frequently lost their field notes and plant collections when they fell into rivers, and had to start collecting over again. And they had to keep the seeds, tubers, bulbs and plant cuttings alive until they got to home base.

Many plant hunters died while exploring. Frank Meyer, who was a Dutch plant collector, sent soybeans, kiwi fruit, yellow roses, peaches, apricots, almonds and lilacs from China back to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in the early part of the 20th Century. Meyer was absolutely intrepid and finally died having fallen from a riverboat on the Yangtze River in China. Meyer's boss at the USDA was David Fairchild, son-in-law of Alexander Graham Bell, also a famous plant explorer who introduced the Japanese flowering cherry trees to Washington, D.C.

Robert Fortune brought chrysanthemums, Japanese primulas, bleeding heart, weigelia, forsythia, tree peonies, azaleas and rhododendrons to Europe from Japan. Many of the modern cultivars of rhododendrons and azaleas that have bloomed so beautifully this spring in the Fredericton Botanic Garden owe many of their genes to the plant material introduced from Japan.

Scotsman David Douglas explored much of Western North America for Kew Gardens near London. He explored for timber trees and collected seeds of Douglas fir (named for him) and sugar pine. Douglas also met an untimely end and died in Hawaii.

The Tradescant family, father and son, returned to England from explorations of North America with lupins, cornflowers,

Virginia creeper, Michaelmass daisies and the spiderwort (*Tradescantia*) which bears their name.

In turn, Japanese plant collectors returned to Japan with plant treasures from Europe and North America.

Botanizing was, and still is, a tough game. Just imagine slogging through the bush without GPS, cell phones or freeze-dried food or bug spray, AND having to keep your field notes and fragile plant collections alive for your bosses back home. Our lovely gardens and the varied food on our supper tables are a testament to the work of plant hunters.



Site Development

by Richard Tarn

News of the Foundation 50 Grant from the Fredericton Community Foundation for the redevelopment of the Entrance Garden is described elsewhere in this Newsletter. In this space I describe other changes in the Garden this summer.

First I would like to introduce our summer students. Courtney Carrier and Meaghan Balzar are hired with support from the provincial SEED program and the federal SCP program respectively to help with the upkeep of the Garden. They are working with student Chelsey Burns, a city casual employee, who is with us for a second year. All are working with Jeff Graham who oversees the Garden for the City. Please make them feel welcome when you meet them in the Garden.

The White Garden, sponsored by Scott's Nursery Ltd, was constructed and partially planted last fall. It requires some additional planting and then will be formally opened. Watch for the announcement of this event.

The pond was enlarged last fall and now must be landscaped. Also, the adjacent Hal Hinds Memorial Garden needs some further work to move the access pathways to drier areas and to add new plants. The Site Development Committee is inviting volunteers to help with both these tasks. When the site dries up from the heavy rains of recent weeks we'll be calling members to join us for several Saturday work parties. We hope those of you who indicated on your

Talks in the Garden

I would like to thank all of the wonderful speakers who kindly donated their time and energy to our Talks in the Garden Series. Your truly informative and interesting talks helped to ensure continuing strong support from our membership, who appreciated your efforts.

I would also like to thank Wendy Bourque and Lucy Dyer who jumped in and ran events when needed.

Thank you all for making my first year a success.

Next season's schedule for the Talks in the Garden Series will be in a later newsletter.

Janis Boston

membership application an interest in helping with Garden projects will be able to join us for some of this work, to meet other members and to have fun. Announcements will go to all members on our e-mail distribution list.

Elsewhere in the Garden we have new beds of daylilies and oriental lilies. These replace the overgrown rose beds. Before some of you complain about the absence of roses, we are planning a new planting of roses using hardy varieties on their own roots that will be easier to maintain.

I hope you have had the opportunity to see the beautiful rhododendrons and azaleas in the past few weeks. Be sure to visit the Garden frequently during the summer to see the changes - take your family, your friends and visitors - and hope for some sunshine.



Tony Mais and his wife enjoying the garden bench, part of the set, he won as first prize in the Plant Sale Raffle.



Fredericton Botanic Garden Association
“A Treasured Garden Tour”
Saturday July 15, 2006
1:00 pm

Dear Member:

As summer approaches everyone’s gardens are bursting with color! Maximize your enjoyment and join us on our 8th annual “Treasured Garden Tour” on **July 15, 2006**. We will tour four Fredericton area gardens and finish the day with an Afternoon Tea at Old Government House complete with live entertainment by the ever popular Don Bosse Jazz Quartet, refreshments, fancy sandwiches and sweets. Tour the gardens from 1:00 pm-3:00 pm and then join us between 3:00 pm and 4:30 pm in Old Government House at 51 Woodstock Road. Due to construction on the upper entrance to the Fredericton Botanic Garden the planning committee has moved the Garden Party for this year only. We will be very excited to be able to show off the new entrance next year during the 9th Annual Treasured Garden Tour.



If you are interested in attending the Garden Tour, the tickets are available June 23, 2006 for \$15.00 each at Westminster Books, Trites Flower Shop, Main Street Floral Gallery, Botanicals, Mazzuca’s and Scott’s Nursery. Please pay with cash or check only. All proceeds go toward future development of the Botanic Gardens.

The organizing committee has been hard at work making the initial arrangements. We would like to invite the membership to participate in this upcoming event. A meeting will be held at the Resource Center on Tuesday June 27, 2006 at 7:00 pm to coordinate volunteers and to finalize the day’s activities. If you can help out in any of the following areas please attend the meeting or contact us:

- Information Officers at the host gardens (at least 8 individuals)
- Servers for the afternoon Garden Party (at least 10 individuals)
- Four People to take tickets
- Donations of fresh cut flowers for arrangements

All those working on the day of the tour will be able to enjoy the “Treasured Gardens” in advance at no charge. **Please register for the pre-tour at the June 27th meeting** or contact Andrew Lawson at 458-9208 to register as a “Garden Party Volunteer”. Everyone on the registered list will be invited to the pre-tour as a special thank-you. Please contact Andrew Lawson at Scott’s Nursery (458-9208) for any additional information or to register to be a Garden Volunteer.

Thank-you for your continued support.

Andrew Lawson
 Committee Chair

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:
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