



**Fredericton Botanic Garden
Association Newsletter**

**Bulletin du Jardin Botanique
de Fredericton**

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Winter 2010

President's Message

The Santa Claus Parade was fantastic this year with snow falling so thickly you could hardly see, and so many children of all ages out to see the sights.

American Thanksgiving and Black Friday shopping are also behind us.

In my own mind, this is the beginning of the Christmas season. These three events are part of the signal to say it's time to get ready for Christmas. Dig out the Advent calendars for your kids and grandkids, haul out the decorations, plan the get togethers with family and friends. Renew the traditions you love, make new ones.

And so it is Christmas for the Botanic Garden Association. In this newsletter you will see a great gift suggestion for someone who wants for nothing - A membership to our Association. The benefits are wonderful - support for a great cause, benefits at local greenhouse operations, the development and operation of the Garden. It's a gift that will never be wasted or broken or unused. It doesn't take up space in the recipient's home, requires no instructions for use, and carries a much greater benefit than it costs.

This time of year not only means Christmas is looming, but it is time to think about the last details of winterizing the garden, and planning next year's. I'm hoping for a cold snowy day during the holidays to spend time with my coffee, my cats and my new seed and plant catalogues.

We are getting ready for our Annual General Meeting to be held February 5, 2011 at the Marysville Heritage Centre. We will be featuring George Scott of Scott's Nursery as our guest speaker, a talented musician and our annual silent auction. You can look forward to hearing about our year's progress and our plans. We hope you will come and share with us, maybe join a committee as well. We will report on the Plant Sales of 2010 and 2011 and our meeting with the Local Improvement Association.

Enjoy your family and friends this Holiday Season. All the best to you and yours.

Norah J. Davidson-Wright
President

Mark your calendars:

Annual General Meeting
on February 5, 2011
George Scott of Scott's Nursery
will be the guest speaker.
Come and enjoy
the silent auction and music

Seedy Saturday
March 12, 2011

Donations continually required

In the last Newsletter I wrote about the uses that have been made of the donations and other funding the Fredericton Botanic Garden Association has received. I am writing again to remind you that, like the plants in the garden that require annual fertility, so the Association requires annual funds. When you pay your annual dues please consider a donation to help speed up the rate of growth of the Fredericton Botanic Garden. If you are not yet a member of the Association please consider joining and donating toward the development of an "oasis of beauty, tranquility and knowledge" in the heart of Fredericton.

Michael Dillon, Treasurer

2010 - International Year of Biodiversity.

The United Nations declared 2010 to be the International Year of Biodiversity. The year is an opportunity to increase understanding of the role that biodiversity plays in sustaining life on Earth.

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The biodiversity (biological diversity) of our world is the natural variation within and between all the kinds of plants, animals and microorganisms and the different kinds of ecosystems in which they, and we, live.

This diversity is vitally important – our civilizations are built on biological resources and we are dependent on them for food, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, pulp and paper, horticulture, construction materials and waste treatment. The sustainable functioning of ecosystems is essential for the cycling of water, carbon and many essential nutrients. So it is not surprising that the loss of biodiversity threatens our survival. One of the major causes of loss of biodiversity is habitat destruction and loss which is directly linked to pressures we are putting on our planet.

Strategies addressing risks to biodiversity are being developed at world, national and local levels. At the world level the international Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was opened for signature at the Rio "Earth Summit" in 1992, and came into force the following year. The major objectives of the Convention are the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of the components of biological diversity and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources.

Canada's response to the CBD was a biodiversity strategy released in 1995. It includes goals and the mechanisms to meet them. These include requirements for federal and pro-

vincial reports on how the strategy will be implemented, coordination of national and international elements, mechanisms for NGO participation and reporting.

The NB strategy, in turn, identifies biodiversity goals for the province and identifies 20 strategic management outcomes considered necessary to achieve the goals.

At the grassroots level the NB Environmental Network organized a biodiversity workshop in Fredericton last month. The purpose was for the nearly 90 participants, from a wide range of provincial organizations, to gain a common understanding of New Brunswick issues and to begin building collaborative actions to address the desired outcomes. The participants heard a wide range of presentations from government, university and NGO speakers. They reviewed the NB strategy and focused on six outcomes which address biodiversity assessment, thresholds and targets, communication and stewardship. A second workshop early in 2011 will continue the process. Watch the NBEN website for details.

Some botanic gardens make contributions to biodiversity issues including roles in education, assessment of biodiversity, research, and maintaining species collections. To date the Fredericton Botanic Garden has been occupied with building the Garden and has not yet been active in this area.

Richard Tarn

Membership privileges include:

Newsletter; advance notice of all events by email
10 % discount at
Capital landscape and City Designers
Co-op Country Store Corn Hill Nursery
Scott's Nursery Wetmore's Nursery



Please give my gift Membership

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Address _____ Address _____

City _____ Prov. _____ Postal Code _____ City _____ Prov. _____ Postal Code _____

telephone _____ email _____ telephone _____ email _____

Family: \$35 Individual: \$20 Student: \$15 Senior: \$15

Enclosed is my cheque for \$ _____

Please mail to FBGA, PO Box 57, Sta A, Fredericton, NB E3B 4Y2

