



**Fredericton Botanic Garden
Association Newsletter**

**Bulletin du Jardin Botanique
de Fredericton**

Vol 20 No 1

Winter 2008

President's Report

As I sit here looking out at the huge snow drifts I can't help but think of spring and those spring bulbs pushing up to the warm sun. Remember spring is one day closer than it was yesterday.

However, we all could use a rest. It's been a busy year at the Botanic Garden. Some of you have expressed concern about the lack of flower beds and colour in the new Entrance Garden, and rightly so. You will be glad to know that during the last week of October a number of new perennial beds were planted in the new Entrance Garden. Next summer should be a much more colourful one than it was in 2007. We have also planted the Magnolias and Japanese Maples and laid the sod in the new Memorial Garden. The only task remaining is the placement of the memorial plinth. By next spring this new Memorial Garden should be looking absolutely beautiful.

All in all it has been a good year for the Botanic Garden with the official opening and completion of the new Entrance Garden and the construction of the Memorial Garden.

Where do we go from here? At its October meeting your Board of Trustees gave final, unanimous approval to the construction of our largest project ever, the Rose Garden. The Board has committed \$60,000 a year over a five year period for the development of this garden. When you walk down the main road next spring (or ski down the road this winter) you will notice that the area for the Rose Garden has been cleared and graded and you now have a clear view of the Rose Garden site.

Such a major fiscal commitment will require the continuation of our fund raising campaign. We intend to initiate our corporate fundraising program this winter. Your board is currently in negotiation with a fund raising consultant. I hope to be able to give you the final details at our Annual General Meeting. Those of you who are new members since our very successful family campaign was carried out will have an opportunity to make a tax deductible donation to this most worthy cause.

Our Annual General Meeting and Silent Auction will be held on February 9, 2008 at the Marysville Heritage Centre on McGloin Street in Marysville. You will be receiving your invitation in the mail by mid-January.

On behalf of your Board of Trustees I would like to wish you all a very bountiful New Year.

Bill Seabrook

Site Development Committee

Richard Tarn

The early summer saw several volunteers working in the Garden on Wednesday evenings. They replanted the beds around the Resource Centre, added new daylilies to the Daylily Bed and more white flowered plants to the White Garden, and tidied up the Hal Hinds Memorial Garden. A big thanks to those who helped this summer. There will be further opportunities for volunteers to contribute to the Garden next summer.

Interpretive signs were installed at a number of locations in August. These are similar in format to the signs used on the

Events in the Garden

January 31 Talks in the Garden

7:30 pm FBGA Resource Centre,
David Boyle,
*"Yikes! I've got mould
...and Mmmushrooms!"*

February 9 Annual General Meeting and Silent Auction

12:30 pm
Marysville Heritage Centre,
McGloin St.

February 28 Talks in the Garden

7:30 pm FBGA Resource Centre
Brian Parker and Richard Tarn,
*"Where is the Botanic Garden
Going in the Next Few Years?"*

March 15 Seedy Saturday

1:00 to 4:00 pm
St Andrews Presbyterian Church
Hall, 512 Charlotte St.
FBGA Members \$2.00
non-members \$4.00

March 27 Talks in the Garden

7:30 pm, FBGA Resource Centre,
Evans Estabrooks, *"Prune the
Old and Train the Young"*

May 25 Plant Sale and Raffle

12:00 noon to 4:00 pm
Boyce Farmers Market, George St.

July 5 Treasured Garden Tour



City Trail system. The Garden signs include brief interpretive texts in French and English, images, and both the FBGA and City of Fredericton logos. Signs are in place for the Rhododendron Beds and the Capt. Steele Rhododendron Collection, the Hal Hinds Memorial Garden and the future sites of the Rose Garden and the Children's Garden.

Much has also been accomplished in the Garden during the fall thanks to the efforts of City staff. In the Entrance Garden a number of perennial beds have been planted with day-lilies, ornamental grasses, geraniums, sedums, astilbes and catmints so that next season some of the colour of the old Entrance Garden will be restored.

The Memorial Garden site, off the western-most loop of the Garden Road, which was cleared in the summer, has been planted with Magnolia trees and sod has been laid. More details about this garden will appear elsewhere.

Significant progress has been made on the Rose Garden site. Visitors now have a good view of the site from the Rose Garden interpretive sign on the north side of the Garden Road just beyond the Memorial Garden. Clearing has been completed so for the first time the size of the site, about 0.5 ha, can be fully appreciated. With the accumulation of a large amount of fill over many years the site is now close to the required grade. The next phase of work will take place next year under the five-year development plan approved by the FBGA Board.



Artist's conception of the Rose Garden

Membership

One of the benefits of being a member of the FBGA is the 10% discount offered to members by several local garden supply businesses. We have learned that this past spring some members were refused the discount by Kent Garden Centre. You will be pleased to know that this problem has been rectified and the discount is again available at that location. The temporary loss of the discount was due to an inadvertent omission of their name in a list published in our Newsletter and the use of some older brochures that had been printed before Kent Garden Centre agreed to provide a discount. We sincerely apologize to both Kent Garden Centre and to any of our members who were inconvenienced and we are very appreciative that this discount was restored. Other benefits of membership are listed elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Wouldn't a Gift Membership to the Fredericton Botanic Garden Association be a pleasant surprise for those hard to buy for people on your birthday or anniversary list? A Membership also makes a wonderful gift for any other special occasion.

Our Committee is restructuring and we would like some new input into this dynamic but small group which aims to recruit and retain members for the Association. We would like to talk to anyone interested in joining our team. We only meet a few times a year and have fun by running a membership booth and a small boutique at our annual Plant Sale in May and at the Treasured Garden Tour in July. Call Lucy Dyer at 455-8845 or e-mail ldyer@unb.ca for further information.

Submitted by FBGA Membership Committee.

Recreating Eden

Mary Soderstrom's book, *Recreating Eden*, a natural history of botanic gardens describes nine world-class botanic gardens, and two of them are in Canada. The Montreal Botanical Garden and the University of British Columbia's Botanical Garden are both featured in the book.

Ms Soderstrom writes of the gardens of empires: European gardens in London (Kew), Paris (Jardin des plantes) and the Netherlands (Leiden), gardens originally devoted to acquiring plants that would increase the commercial viability of expanding colonial empires.

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**





The Palm House at Kew

Gardens built in the nineteenth century: the Singapore Botanic Gardens, the Missouri Botanical Gardens in St. Louis and the New York Botanic Gardens are described in the historical context of an emerging recognition of the importance of plants in Asia and the United States.

Singapore, off the southern end of the Malay peninsula at the sea crossroads of Asia, is the second largest deep water port in the world, and is still an important entry point into the region. The Singapore Botanic Garden in the middle of the busy city-state is open free of charge to the public and has several unique displays of plants that grow at the equator. Part of our family's photo collection shows Bill Seabrook standing by a seven foot *Vanda* orchid hedge.

The Dutch golden age of artists like Vermeer and Rembrandt as well as the microbiologist Van Leeunhoeck, who invented the microscope, was enhanced by the riches from trade in the spices nutmeg, cinnamon and cloves from Indonesia and Southeast Asia. Enterprising traders brought the tulip back from Turkey to the Netherlands and plant breeders developed the modern tulip. Small, fast Dutch ships also took plants such as banana and sugarcane to the Leiden Botanic Garden.

Kew Gardens, near London, was established to test plants of value to the British Empire. On the sailing ship *Bounty*, poorly fed sailors mutinied because they resented the fresh water used by Kew gardeners on board to grow breadfruit seedlings at sea. It was hoped that breadfruit could be grown in the West Indies as cheap food for slaves. Kew gardeners were instrumental in taking rubber tree cuttings from their native Brazil to the Malay peninsula to establish the rubber industry in Malaysia. Today Kew is still a wonderful showcase for plants from all over the world.

Why do we have botanic gardens in the twenty-first century? I think that the sense of beauty and wonder when one sees a new flower or plant used in an unusual way is just as valid today as it was four centuries ago. If one cannot travel to the steppes of Russia and Siberia to see daylilies growing wild, we can certainly see the magnificent results of modern cross-breeding in the beautiful jewel colours of the showy daylilies in the Fredericton Botanic Garden.

Have you ever wondered what the ancient living fossil, *Ginkgo*, looks like? Well, we have one growing in the Fredericton Botanic Garden. So you think Rhododendrons and Azaleas won't grow in central New Brunswick. Think again! We have a beautiful, varied planting of unusual Rhododendrons growing in our garden on the edge of Odell Park. So, part of the purpose of a modern botanic garden is to show people the unusual plants they can grow in their own gardens. Maybe on a bright summer day in Fredericton we can just imagine what the ancient peonies at the Summer Palace in Beijing must have looked like 800 years ago.

Jane Seabrook

Reference: Soderstrom, Mary. 2001. *Recreating Eden. A natural history of botanical gardens.* Vehicule Press, Montreal, Canada 239pp.

**Plan to attend the
 Annual General Meeting
 of the Fredericton Botanic Garden
 and Silent Auction
 on February 9, 2008 at 12:30 pm**

**The event is being held at the
 Marysville Heritage Center.**

**The business meeting will be the first
 item on the agenda followed by the
 Silent Auction
 with viewing and bidding.**

Guest speaker: TBA

**Light refreshments
 will be offered**

**An invitation with details will be
 forthcoming.**

Thank you to Jane Tarn for her expertise in editing



**Fredericton Botanic Garden Association
Annual General Meeting and 10th Annual Silent Auction
Saturday, February 9, 12:30 p.m.
Marysville Heritage Centre, McGloin Street**

Request for Donations to the Silent Auction

We look forward to the wonderful goods and services
that you may donate to the auction as you have in other years.
We encourage you to bring friends so there is more competition in the bidding since this is one of our
major fundraisers. Everyone should have an enjoyable and interesting time.
As always we shall be serving our plentiful and delicious refreshments.

**Auction items may be dropped off until February 7
at Carole Peacock's, 36 Alexandra Street.
Please call Carole (tel: 452-1016) in advance.**

If you are unable to drop off your donation at Carole's
please provide a description to Nancy Beltrandi (e-mail: beltrand@rogers.com, tel: 459-8004)
by February 7, and take your donation directly to the auction.

If you can provide a plate of small sandwiches or sweets (finger food), please notify
Wayne Beckett (e-mail: beckett@nbnet.nb.ca, tel 459-1494) who is again coordinating refreshments

Seedy Saturday, March 15, 2008

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

Fredericton Botanic Garden Association

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Hall
Charlotte Street, Fredericton

Saturday, March 15, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Please bring your seeds to swap.

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

Fredericton Backyard Composters will be there
to give advice on composting

Refreshments will be served.

Contact: Jane Seabrook

Tel: 506 459-7862, e-mail: seabrook@nb.sympatico.ca

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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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