



## FRIENDS OF THE CENTRAL EXPERIMENTAL FARM

*Farm Notes - December 2014*

### ***Land Transfer from the Farm to NCC*** ***It's not just a cornfield - make your voice heard***

In his decision in November to sever 60 acres of Central Experimental Farm fields, the Honourable John Baird, minister for the National Capital Commission, has made it clear that, unlike in other countries, a national heritage site designation offers no guaranteed protection from development and doesn't even trigger consultation with stakeholders.

While the Friends of the Farm support a new hospital, it doesn't need to result in the loss of this valuable land with national historic status and ongoing long-term research. Friends' President Eric Jones and former FCEF presidents, along with the media, historians, researchers, heritage and community advocates have written about the land transfer. These commentaries are listed and will continue to be compiled on our website at [www.friendsofthefarm.ca/60acres](http://www.friendsofthefarm.ca/60acres).

In his exploration of responses to the land transfer announcement, Peter Anderson of Carleton University

noted that many see the Farm as [empty fields](#) that are "untapped, wasted" which is totally unfounded. Julie Harris, heritage specialist and co-author of the Central Experimental Farm National Historic Site Management Plan, notes that these "empty fields" are, in fact, [open-air laboratories](#) where important agricultural research continues to be conducted." It is land on which detailed scientific data has been recorded for over a century.

For more than 125 years of cropping research at the Farm, there have been many scientific [success stories](#) including 260 varieties of improved corn, many high-protein, pest-resistant soybean varieties, wheat varieties resistant to the devastating Fusarium head blight, 28 new milling oat varieties and 50 lines of hullless oats, as well as the development of new techniques and methods of cultivating, fertilizing and screening for plant diseases. As Agriculture



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Minister Gerry Ritz pointed out this week regarding the new grain legislation, "the sector generated about \$23 billion last year in grain and oilseed farm cash receipts."

It is clearly not just a cornfield. There are immense benefits to Canadians and to Canada's agriculture and food industries from such research, which depends on continuity in the field experiments using the same testing grounds year after year. Members and supporters of the Friends of the Farm are encouraged to [make your views known](#) to MPs, MPPs, city councillors and federal ministers. Help us protect the Farm in its second century.



## ***Monarch Butterfly Gardening***

**Thursday January 15 from 7 to 9pm**

New this year - a **January gardening lecture** - perfect for inspiration in the midst of winter. It is presented by the [Monarch Teacher Network of Canada](#) (MTN), Ottawa Chapter, a dedicated group of retired educators who train teachers at annual workshops to use the monarch butterfly and its life cycle in the classroom.

At the lecture you will learn everything you need to know to turn your **new or existing garden** into a monarch butterfly oasis. This includes choosing a garden site and making a plan then planting suitable nectar and host plants to ensure the monarch butterfly continues to thrive. MTN will briefly discuss the monarch's amazing migration to Mexico, reasons for its recent decline, current improved status and why planting a monarch garden can help this species at risk to survive.

The [Monarch Butterfly Gardening](#) lecture is offered on Thursday January 15 from 7pm to 9pm at [Building 72](#) just east of the Prince of Wales roundabout. Admission for Friends' members is \$12 and non-members \$15. To register call 613-230-3276 or email [info@friendsofthefarm.ca](mailto:info@friendsofthefarm.ca).

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## ***Rhythm and Blooms, the perfect pairing*** **Bonus gift with donation or new membership**

**What do these fabulous North American gardens have in common?**

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They are all featured in separate episodes of Rhythm and Blooms, the DVD journey of historicgardens set to original music. From sunrise to sunset see these magnificent landscapes through extreme close-ups and stunning vistas, breathtaking blooms and personal interviews. The programs inspire calm, wonder, and a respite from the hectic pace of electronic life. [www.RhythmAndBlooms.net](http://www.RhythmAndBlooms.net).

**Make a donation or become a new member** and receive Rhythm & Blooms as a bonus gift to thank you for your support. Choose the package you prefer in [English](#) or [French](#) with links to our fall campaign. Download the donation or new membership form or link to our [PayPal](#) page and



follow the instructions.

**With your generous support we can continue to achieve our mission of protecting and enhancing Ottawa's Central Experimental Farm and promoting its historical significance and heritage value in its second century.**

New York Botanical Garden, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Royal Botanical Garden, Van Dusen Botanical Garden, Montreal Botanical Gardens, Denver Botanical Garden, Red Butte Botanical Gardens, Desert Botanical Gardens, Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Fairchild Tropical Botanical Gardens, Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, American Orchid Society, Morikami Japanese Gardens, Reford Garden, Historic Gardens, Butchart Gardens, Asian Gardens – East, Asian Gardens – West, Missouri Botanical Gardens, Kingsbrae Garden, Longwood Gardens, Wavehill Gardens, Bellingrath Gardens

## *Three Gardens in Three Days*

**Bus Tour June  
23 - 25, 2015**

Speaking of gardens, we're offering a delightful three-day, three-garden trip June 23 - 25, 2015. The first stop is at Canandaigua, NY, to visit nine formal gardens at the [Victorian Sonnenberg Estate](#). On the second day we will motor on to the [Royal Botanical Gardens](#) in Burlington, Ontario, and on the third day we will visit the gardens of [Parkwood Estate](#) National Historic Site and Heritage Garden in Oshawa.



**First come, first served on the bus!** The cost is \$450 per person for double occupancy and for single occupancy add \$145. Bus transportation, entrance fees to the three gardens, two nights' accommodation, two full breakfasts, lunch at the RBG, and the services of a Friends' tour guide are all included in the price. Passports are needed and travel insurance is recommended because

of the US visit. For more information and to register, visit [Three Gardens in Three Days](#), call 613-230-3276 or email [info@friendsofthefarm.ca](mailto:info@friendsofthefarm.ca).

## *Gifts to the Farm That Give Back* **Bonus gift with donation or new membership**

Now more than ever we invite you to share a piece of the Central Experimental Farm history. Make a donation or become a new member and receive a bonus gift. Choose the package you prefer in [English](#) or [French](#) and receive a set of six **Heritage Building prints** by artist Richard Raycraft in an attractive portfolio. Each one has its own story related to [accomplishments](#) that brought agricultural prosperity for Canada or the scientists at the Farm who earned international acclaim.

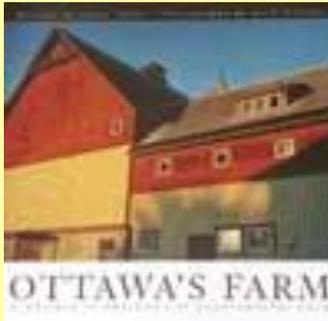
Approximately 30 heritage buildings still dot the Farm today.



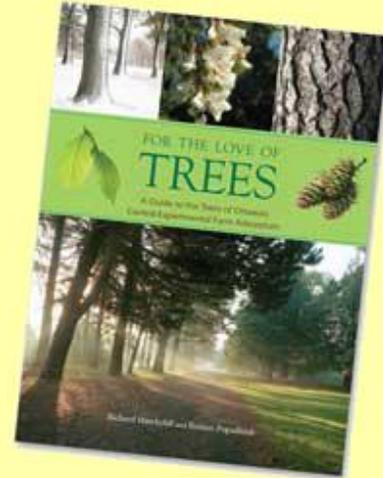
**To make a donation in any amount with nothing in return** except a tax receipt, please link to our fall

campaign [donation page](#). Download the form and select the 4th option box 'Donate Without Bonus Gift'. Or link to our [PayPal](#) page then scroll to the bottom 'Make a Donation' and follow the instructions. **With your generous support we can continue to achieve our goals of protecting and enhancing Ottawa's Central Experimental Farm and promoting its historical significance and heritage value.**

*For the Love of Trees and Ottawa's Farm*  
**Modern classics detail our national treasures**



***For the Love of Trees: A guide to the trees of Ottawa's Central Experimental Farm*** is an illustrated tribute to the heritage collection of trees at the Arboretum. It contains 580 colour photographs, 75 drawings of 92 species, and maps of 6 different tree walks. Notes on individual tree specimens, Arboretum history and its curators are part of the remarkable story begun in 1889 with only 200 trees.



***Ottawa's Farm: A History of the Central Experimental Farm*** details the Farm's social history and connection with the City of Ottawa. It is about the men and women who worked at the Farm during its first hundred years and their children, the 'Farm kids', who grew up in a unique and rural community.

Both books were written, photographed and illustrated almost entirely by volunteers as a labour of love and a celebration of our precious national historic landscapes. Add them to your library or gift them to a friend or family member this holiday season. They are available at [Bldg 72](#) from **Monday through Wednesday, 9am to 2pm**, call 613-230-3276 or email [info@friendsofthefarm.ca](mailto:info@friendsofthefarm.ca)

## ***Volunteer Spotlights*** **Over 10,000 hours donated each year**

Did you know that Friends' volunteers donate over 10,000 hours every year to support its mission and activities? Every month a different volunteer is highlighted on the Friend's website. We invite you to share the stories of our tireless volunteers such as [Millie Harrington](#), our Volunteer of the Month for December. [Previous spotlights](#) are also listed. Each volunteer has an interesting story to tell and a unique connection and commitment to the Farm. Your efforts are greatly appreciated by the entire community!



## ***Happy Holidays!*** ***Joyeux temps des fêtes!*** **And all the best in 2015! Et le meilleur en 2015!**

May the peace of the season be with all our members, volunteers, supporters and stakeholders. From the entire Board of Directors, we wish you a Happy Holiday and a healthy New Year.

À l'ensemble de nos membres, bénévoles, supporteurs et intervenants, nous offrons nos vœux : que la paix du temps des fêtes règne dans vos cœurs.  
Les membres du conseil d'administration vous font part de leurs souhaits également : que vous passiez un heureux temps des fêtes et que vous jouissiez d'une santé prospère tout au long de 2015.



## Members and Supporters,

We welcome your comments and suggestions on articles, events, activities, etc.

Please send them

to [info@friendsofthefarm.ca](mailto:info@friendsofthefarm.ca)

or call us at 613-230-3276.

Charitable number 118913565RR0001

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