



# Friends of the Central Experimental Farm

Summer 2017 Newsletter

Volume 29 No. 3

## June Blooms for Canada 150

By Mary Ann Smythe



Mary Ann Smythe

Peony team members Kathy McDougall (left), Bill Wegman (centre), Nancy Irving (right) with visitors to the peonies.

Blue skies, warm temperatures, enthusiastic crowds and bursts of colour from spring blooms throughout the Ornamental Gardens—it was a picture-perfect day for June Blooms. The Friends' contribution to Canada's 150th birthday celebrations, June Blooms was an opportunity for visitors to learn about the gardens' history, to identify many of the species and to ask questions of the Friends' volunteers who were on hand—and notably visible in bright red shirts—in their respective gardens. Volunteers also gave guided tours of the historic Preston lilac, peony and rose collections much to the delight of visitors who chanced upon the event while strolling through the gardens.

It was also a wonderful opportunity for the public to view the newly installed plaques—donated by the Ottawa Horticultural Society (OHS) to mark its 125th anniversary—honouring the Farm's contribution to hybridization in Canada. A joint project of OHS and the Friends of the Farm, the plaques celebrate the significant contribution to Canadian hybridization and the important work done by hybridizers Isabella Preston, A.P. (Percy) Saunders and Dr. Felicitas Svejda. Information was also available on the project to plant historical perennials at the Macoun Memorial Garden.

It was the Friends' recent, and very popular, publication, *Blooms: An Illustrated History of the Ornamental Gardens at Ottawa's Central Experimental Farm*, that gave rise to June Blooms so it was most fitting that the author and Friends' volunteer Richard Hinchcliff was on hand to sign copies of his book and answer questions from his vast store of historical knowledge of the Farm.

From the public's response, it's clear that June Blooms was a great success. As visitors toured the gardens—fortified by

lemonade and freshly baked cookies—and chatted with Friends' volunteers, in addition to the chorus of oohs and aahs evoked by the profusion of colours in the iris and peony gardens, there was high praise for the event and for the work done by Friends' garden team volunteers. And for the volunteers who laboured so hard to get the gardens in shape for June Blooms, it was an opportunity to meet and chat with some of the people who actually visit the gardens and who clearly appreciate their work.

*Mary Ann Smythe, writer and editor, is a member of the Friends' perennials team in the Gardens.*

## Call for Volunteers

Come and enjoy at close quarters our very special Ottawa greenspace. Join the Friends of the Farm's volunteer gardening teams this year. Please contact us at [volunteer@friendsofthefarm.ca](mailto:volunteer@friendsofthefarm.ca) or call the office at 613-230-3276. We hope to see you at the Farm!

## President's Message

Throughout the year the Friends and various members of the staff of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) work together, but over the last few months we have greatly increased our collaborative efforts. Much of this is due to working on events that celebrate Canada 150. As is often the case, some of these activities intertwined and, as always, it has been a complete pleasure to work with AAFC staff.

Our joint project with the Ottawa Horticultural Society (see page 3) heavily relies on AAFC staff assistance for both phases of the project. Jean-Pascal Gratton and Pierre Huppé took time out of their already busy schedules to help with the project and to facilitate the translation of text.

Jeremy Dizazzo and Alan Farant along with their regular support in the Ornamental Gardens helped ensure everything looked wonderful for our June Blooms event.

For many years, Michel Falardeau has gone out of his way to assist the Friends. He has actively promoted and supported



Judy Dodds

the Friends' team at the Merivale Shelterbelt. He ensured that volunteers' efforts were acknowledged at a tree planting event for eleven grade 7 students, which marked the end of an AAFC project to plant 150 trees at the Shelterbelt (see page 6).

Michel made it possible for us to use

the Neatby Building for our AGM and occasional special events. He was not only the first person to purchase copies of *Blooms: An Illustrated History of the Ornamental Gardens at Ottawa's Central Experimental Farm*, Michel also arranged to have our book signing and sale at the Neatby and Headquarters buildings. At every opportunity, he talks about our contribution to the Farm.

Robert Glendinning has taken time with the Arboretum team to teach us good pruning techniques. He also personally leads some of our tree tours.

The entire staff at Building 72 move equipment and clean the building for our annual book sale. For our Victorian Tea and Art on the Farm events, they ensure the area we use is well mowed and easy to use.

These are some of the countless ways—large and small—that AAFC staff enable and support our many activities. We certainly work together and help each other, but we owe a great deal of appreciation to the staff of AAFC.

## Message de la présidente

Tout au long de l'année, les Amis de la Ferme (Amis) et plusieurs membres du personnel d'Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada (AAC) collaborent à certaines activités, mais au cours des derniers mois, nos efforts collaboratifs ont redoublé d'ardeur, principalement pour planifier des célébrations dans le cadre du Canada 150. Comme il se produit bien souvent, certaines de ces activités sont interreliées, et comme toujours, il est bien agréable de conjuguer nos efforts à ceux du personnel d'AAC. les jardins.

Le projet commun que nous avons entrepris avec la Ottawa Horticultural Society (la Société d'horticulture d'Ottawa) (voir p. 3) s'appuie largement sur l'aide du personnel d'AAC en ce qui concerne les deux étapes du projet. Jean-Pascal Gratton et Pierre Huppé ont consenti une partie du temps bien précieux à leur calendrier pour offrir leur aide dans le cadre du projet et prêter main-forte pour la traduction du texte.

De leur côté, Jeremy Dizazzo et Alan Farant, qui ont aidé de façon régulière à

l'entretien des jardins ornementaux, ont veillé à ce que tout soit en beauté à l'occasion de l'événement « Les fleurs de juin ».

Pendant de nombreuses années, Michel Falardeau a remué ciel et terre pour venir en aide aux Amis. Il a assumé un rôle actif non seulement dans la promotion du travail d'équipe des Amis au brise-vent Merivale, mais aussi dans l'aide qu'il leur a fournie. Il a veillé à ce que les efforts des bénévoles soient reconnus lors de l'événement de plantation d'arbres à l'intention d'un groupe d'élèves de 7<sup>e</sup> année, ce qui mettait fin au projet d'AAC consistant à planter 150 arbres dans le secteur du brise-vent (voir p. 6).

Grâce à Michel, nous avons pu tenir notre assemblée générale annuelle et d'autres événements particuliers à l'édifice Neatby. En plus d'être le premier à faire l'achat de quelques exemplaires de *Blooms: An Illustrated History of the Ornamental Gardens at Ottawa's Central Experimental Farm*, il a fait en sorte que la signature du livre et ses ventes aient lieu

au même édifice et aussi dans ceux de l'administration centrale. Dès que l'occasion se présente, il ne manque pas de vanter notre contribution à la Ferme.

Robert Glendinning et son équipe de l'Arboretum ont consacré une partie de leur temps pour nous enseigner de précieuses techniques d'égagement. De plus, Robert set de guide lors de certaines visites des arbres sur la Ferme.

Tout le personnel du bâtiment 72 s'active au déplacement du matériel et au nettoyage en vue de la vente de livres annuelle. Il voit également au bon entretien et à la préparation des endroits où auront lieu le *Thé victorien* et *Les Arts sur la Ferme*.

Bref, qu'elles soient élaborées ou minimes, elles ne représentent qu'un aperçu des façons dont le personnel d'AAC nous fournit son aide et nous permet de tenir toutes nos activités. Nous travaillons assurément en collaboration, et nous nous aidons mutuellement, mais nous vouons une profonde gratitude au personnel d'AAC.

## Promoting the Gardens as a Destination

By Eric Jones



The Canadian Garden Council and the Ottawa Garden Council are promoting gardens across Canada as tourist destinations. One of the major projects is June Garden Days, and the Friends of the Farm took part by hosting June Blooms on the 10th.

Another major project of the Canadian Garden Council is the Garden Promenade, a new project that draws visitors to notable gardens along a route leading from Rideau Hall along Sussex and the Driveway to the Farm, then back to the Ottawa River and to garden experiences in the Outaouais. The Farm's Ornamental Gardens and Arboretum, as well as Fletcher Wildlife Garden, are destinations along the route thanks to participation by the Friends and FWG.

The Garden Promenade has events planned for every month of the season, from the Tulip Festival in May through the end of October, and some of the Friends' events coincide with those of the Promenade. Details appear on the website [www.gardenpromenade.ca](http://www.gardenpromenade.ca).

The Ottawa Garden Council is a local group that has organized to unify local garden groups and help implement some of the national projects locally. The purpose is to raise awareness of the importance of gardens in the life of the City. The website is [www.gardensottawa.ca](http://www.gardensottawa.ca).

*Eric Jones represents the Friends of the Farm on the Ottawa Garden Council.*

## Joint Project Launched

By Blaine Marchand

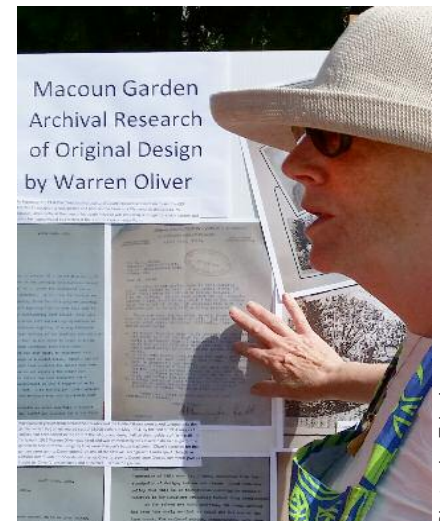
Three Ottawa Horticultural Society (OHS) members—Lynn Armstrong, Rob Brandon and Tuula Talvila—took part in the June Blooms event. The Society, jointly with the Friends of the Farm, has installed English and French plaques on the important role the Central Experimental Farm (CEF) played in hybridizing ornamental plants suitable to the Canadian climate and on three hybridizers associated with the CEF—Isabella Preston (lilacs), Dr. Felicitas Svejda (Explorer roses) and A.P. (Percy) Saunders (peonies).

In the pergola by the Explorer Rose Garden, Rob Brandon greeted visitors to explain the scope of the project and the panels, which in addition to text, have QR codes by which people can access more information on the CEF hybridization and the hybridizers along with glorious photographs by Anne Bresner-Johnston and Kitty Langill of varieties in the Ornamental Gardens.

Over in the Macoun Memorial Garden, Lynn Armstrong, a horticultural historian, and Tuula Talvila, explained the historical research undertaken to uncover original plantings in the garden, which is dedicated to the memory of William T. Macoun, Dominion Horticulturist (1910-1933). Southeast and southwest portions of the garden will be planted this fall with perennials beloved by Macoun. Denise Kennedy, Friends of the Farm's team leader for the garden,



Rob Brandon and Tuula Talvila in the pergola with the plaques



Lynn Armstrong at the Macoun Memorial Garden

has been assisting Lynn and Tuula.

This joint project celebrates the 150th anniversary of Canada and the 125th anniversary of the founding of the OHS. Fittingly, Macoun was President of the OHS in 1899.

*Blaine Marchand is the Friends of the Farm's Director of Gardens.*

## Upcoming Events

For more information, visit [www.friendsofthefarm.ca](http://www.friendsofthefarm.ca) or call 613-230-3276.

### Victorian Tea

- Sunday, July 30, 2 to 4 pm.  
[Will be cancelled in event of rain]
- Classic tea served under the trees of the Arboretum.
- Enter the best hat and best costume (male and female) contests.
- Bring a patio chair and listen to live music.
- Location: Under the trees in the Arboretum near Building 72, east of the Prince of Wales roundabout.
- Free parking; tickets for formal tea \$13, reservations not required.



### Art on the Farm

- Saturday, August 12, from 10 to 4 pm.  
(Rain date: August 13)
- Artists working in various mediums will display and sell their original works under the trees of the Arboretum.
- Event also features a silent auction of artwork, sale of art books, and refreshments.
- Free admission, free parking.



### Used Book Drop-off

- Saturday, October 21, 10 am to 3 pm.
- Save your books and donate them for a great cause.

- Note that we do not accept magazines, textbooks or encyclopaedias.
- Location: Building 72, Arboretum.
- Take the east exit off the Prince of Wales roundabout.



### Fall Frenzy Online Silent Auction

- Thursday, November 16 to Friday, November 24.
- Going, going, gone! Our 9-day silent auction offers something for everyone!
- Details on our website.

## Guided Arboretum Tree Tours

The following are upcoming 2017 guided tree tours in the Arboretum. Although the tours are free and open to the public, please register in advance at [trees@friendsofthefarm.ca](mailto:trees@friendsofthefarm.ca) or call 613-230-3276. These tours begin at 10 am. See [www.friendsofthefarm.ca](http://www.friendsofthefarm.ca) for more information on these and other tours.

#### July 9 - Tree Growth and Pruning, by Jacob Sheppard

To cut or not to cut: that is the question. Pruning can be a helpful technique to improve the appearance and extend the life of trees and shrubs. Timing is important too, both in terms of the age and vigour of the tree and the time of year. Knowing a bit about how plants grow goes a long way in helping to decide how—and

whether—to prune them. Join us to learn about it as we look at some examples in the Arboretum.

#### July 30 - What does it mean to be a Native Species, by Owen Clarkin

Populations of a number of “Native” tree species have steadily declined for decades, with long-term conservation an emerging concern. What does it mean when we say a tree is indigenous to a particular region?

What about non-native, naturalized and invasive trees? We will explore these subjects, and the history of tree planting in the Ottawa area, via an interpretive tour of the magnificent and historical tree collection at the Dominion Arboretum.

## Talks on Research

To celebrate 150 years of agriculture, talks on past and present research are being presented by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. The public is invited to attend the upcoming free lectures at the K. W. Neatby Building, Salons A/B, starting at 7:00pm. Each lecture takes about 45 minutes with a question/answer period following the presentation. Free parking is available in the lot beside and spaces around the building. For more information, contact [Christine.Poirier@AGR.GC.CA](mailto:Christine.Poirier@AGR.GC.CA).

**July 13** - Mapping agriculture from space: Is it really rocket science, by Heather McNairn and Andrew Davidson.

**August 24** - Ergot: An ancient enemy and modern friend, by Mindy Liu.

**September 14** - Our silent workforce - Insect pollinators, by Jeff Skevington.

**October 12** - Celebrating our 150th birthday: A novel bacterial species named after Canada, by James Tambong.

## Heritage Ottawa Walking Tour of the Farm

*August 27, 2 pm. Meet at Building 72 in the Arboretum*

Join Peter Anderson and Julie Harris for a guided walk at the Central Experimental Farm. Peter, a doctoral student at Queen's University, is completing a thesis on the historical geography of the CEF and Julie, heritage consultant and public historian, co-authored the CEF Management Plan. For more information go to [www.heritageottawa.org/events/central-experimental-farm](http://www.heritageottawa.org/events/central-experimental-farm).

# Shari Haas: Finding a New Farm to Call Home

By Mary Ann Smythe

In 2015, just five short years from retirement, Shari Haas began to consider life after work. "I started to ask myself: 'What am I going to do when I retire? Who will I be?'" My life has essentially been family and work. In all the government pre-retirement workshops they stress that you should have something to look forward to. I wanted to be prepared for the next chapter in my life so I began to search for my 'something.' " Shari discovered her "something" by chance when she spied an ad for Director of Events for the Friends of the Farm in her community newspaper.

## The key attraction

It was a eureka moment—the key attraction being "Farm." Shari was born and raised on a dairy farm near Morewood, south east of Ottawa, and all of her 27 years with the federal government have been agriculture-based. She started her career with the Farm Credit Corporation in 1990 and when it transferred head office to Regina two years later, Shari moved to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC). In 1997, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency was created from AAFC's Inspection Branch and there Shari spent 10 years as a project officer in the bio-tech office before moving to her current position as a financial manager in a laboratory setting.

When you add Shari's early years helping on the family farm—tending the "gardens galore" with her mother, participating in and then leading 4-H clubs—and her long-time involvement in the government's workplace United Way campaigns, it's easy to see why she thought Director of Events would be a perfect fit.

## Preparing for retirement

Although still working full-time when she accepted the volunteer position in 2015, Shari was anxious to "get going" and lay the groundwork for retirement. She thought she fully understood what she had agreed to take on; however, it became immediately evident that she had underestimated the scope of the "job." Director of Events is, perhaps, the most hands-on position on the Board of Directors. It involves scheduling, coordination, letter-writing, ordering food on occasion, shopping for and purchasing supplies, renting tables and chairs, writing reports, attending monthly Board meetings, the list goes on and on and on..... Shari has also added a new event to the time-honoured list of Friends' activities—she developed the

popular autumn online Fall Frenzy auction, and canvasses local businesses for donations.

Did she realize how much work was involved when she signed on as a volunteer? "No," she laughs, "but I would do it all over again. I'm so lucky to work with such a dedicated team of volunteers with such diverse talents. Every hand helps. It's an honour to be part of the Friends of the Farm."

As well as organizing events, Shari likes to be a contributor. "I enjoy being involved in the nitty gritty." At the spring plant sale, she arrived with her truck loaded with plants, trays of homemade baking and bouquets of tulips straight from her mom's garden for the Friends' plant and bake tables, with her husband in tow to help with the heavy work. "My mother never had a paid job. She was always volunteering, always baking and contributing. She's my role model and mentor. Where I can contribute I do. I like to see the things I'm passionate about done well."

## A new Farm to call home

Her role model and mentor recently experienced declining health and Shari has slipped into the role of caregiver for both her parents, who have had to leave the farm where they spent 66 years of married life. The task of settling them into a seniors' residence was made even more emotionally taxing for Shari because the farm that's been in the family name for over 100 years will be sold over the next few years. She will be sad to lose the family home but finds solace in her time at the Experimental Farm. "Until a few years ago, I didn't know that the Friends of the Farm existed. I brought my children to the cattle barns and Ornamental Gardens when they were young, and I even worked at the 930 Carling building, but I didn't know anything about the organization. And now, because of the Friends, when I say goodbye to our family farm, I have a new Farm to call home."



Rick Haas

# Team Leaders in the Gardens and Arboretum

Friends of the Farm team leaders in May at a meeting chaired by Blaine Marchand, Director of Gardens. Left to right: Eric Jones, Denise Kennedy, Christine Banfill, Kitty Langill, Fiona Cowell (obscured), Maura Giuliani, Bill Wegman, Linda McLaren, Annie Creighton, Kate Hadden, Nerine Waldron (obscured), Blaine Marchand, Jean Currie, Polly McColl, Judy Dodds (President of the Friends). Missing: Carol MacLeod.



Josephine Stanic

# Thanks for the Trees

By Richard Hinchcliff



J-P Gratton with the young tree planters. Thomas Davidson (in red shirt) wields a shovel.

Each week the Grade 7 gifted class at Hawthorne Public School in Ottawa has a "Thank-you Thursday."

Student Thomas Davidson sent his Thursday thank-you to the Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), for preserving the trees in the Arboretum.

The Minister was thrilled with the letter and asked Pierre Corriveau, assistant deputy minister, and Michel Falardeau, director, to go to the school and talk to the class about the trees. They took the Friends' books *For the Love of Trees and Blooms*, as well as other publications about the department, to leave with the class.

In his letter of reply to Thomas, Minister MacAulay quoted from the Trees book: "The Ginkgo has been on this earth

since the time of the dinosaurs." Thomas and the class were therefore excited when they were invited to plant a Ginkgo tree at the Merivale Shelterbelt on June 14. Instructed by Jean-Pascal (J-P) Gratton, they enthusiastically wielded shovels, watering cans and mulch. J-P brought leaves from another Ginkgo for each of them to take and press at school.

Michel told the students about the work of the Friends of the Farm at the Shelterbelt and introduced Judy Dodds, president of the Friends, Polly McColl, leader of the volunteer team and other volunteers present. After the tree planting, Polly led the class along the Shelterbelt, pointing out the various trees and shrubs, and answered their many questions.

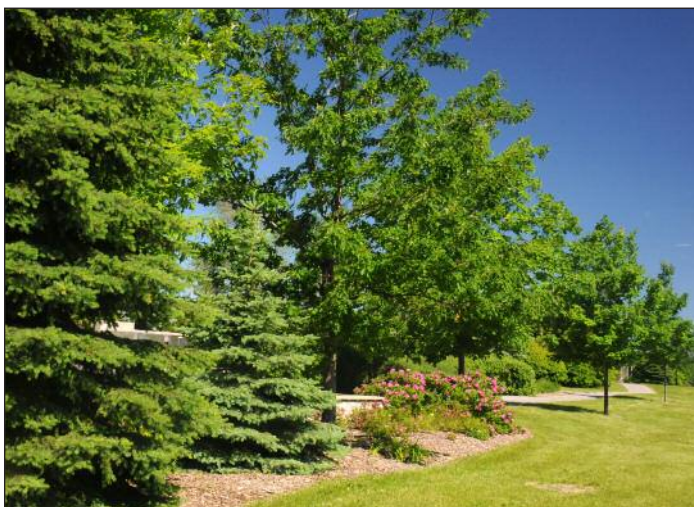
## 150 Trees for Canada 150

The Ginkgo tree planted by the Hawthorne Public School students was the second last of 150 trees planted at the Merivale Shelterbelt by AAFC to celebrate Canada's 150th year of confederation. Minister MacAulay represents Cardigan in eastern Prince Edward Island and the last tree planted was a Red Oak, the official tree of P.E.I. The Minister will ceremonially "plant" this last tree at a special occasion in the fall.

This project to celebrate Canada 150 completes the tree planting of the Shelterbelt along Merivale Road. It



Michel Falardeau with the first of the 150 new trees planted at the Shelterbelt.



The oldest section of the Merivale Shelterbelt.



New Canada 150 plantings at the northern end of the Shelterbelt.

coincides with the retirement of Michel, who initiated the shelterbelt project in 2003 and asked the Friends of the Farm at the time to lead it.

Michel has provided ongoing enthusiasm for the Shelterbelt and support for the Friends efforts. Asked what he thought about the Shelterbelt now, he said, "It's amazing. I was looking at photos from the official opening by Governor-General Adrienne Clarkson in 2005, and there was hardly anything there at that time. Now look at it."

Polly McColl reported that around 150 trees and 400 shrubs were previously planted at the southern end of the strip along Merivale. Although a few trees have had to be replaced, such as those lost to the Emerald Ash Borer, overall the plantings have been a success. Those previous trees were purchased over the last 13 years with funds from generous donors, who are recognized on plaques at the small pavilion at the southern end of the Shelterbelt.

J-P and his team plant on average about 150 trees around the Farm during a whole year; so planting 150 all at once was a challenge. Despite a lot of bad weather, the team got the job done in a couple of weeks, with major help from a recently acquired tractor-mounted tree spade.

Among the new Canada 150 trees are maples, lindens, spruce, Douglas-fir, as well as a special Ginkgo for Thomas Davidson and his classmates, and a Red Oak for the Minister.



Students from Hawthorne Public School; Thomas Davidson is on the left.



Another tree planted by AAFC staff (left to right) Robert Glendinning, J-P Gratton, Tyler Benson



Michel Falardeau with Faraaz Jan and Thomas Davidson.



Polly McColl leading the class along the Shelterbelt.



Ethan Murphy and Judy Dodds

# Two Men From Kamouraska

By Richard Hinchcliff

**T**wo men from the Kamouraska region of Québec led the Department of Agriculture at the beginning of confederation 150 years ago. Jean-Charles Chapais was the first Minister of Agriculture and Joseph-Charles Taché was the first Deputy Minister.

## Jean-Charles Chapais, Father of Confederation, First Minister of Agriculture

Chapais was born into a well-to-do family in 1811 in Rivière-Ouelle, a community about 165 kilometres downstream on the St. Lawrence River from Quebec City and about 20 kilometres from the village of Kamouraska. After Jean-Charles had received a classical education at a seminary school, his father bought him land in the Saint-Denis area, where he became a "smallwares retail merchant," as well as a farmer and wholesaler.

Active in the church, in education and in the incorporation of the municipality, he became the first mayor of Saint-Denis in 1845 and its first postmaster in 1849.

Chapais was instrumental in getting government funding to establish an agricultural faculty at the College Ste. Anne-de-la-Pocatière in 1858. It was the first agriculture college in Canada and the second in North America.

### Career in provincial and federal politics

Chapais had a long pre-Confederation career as a member of the legislative assembly (for Kamouraska County) of the province of Canada. He became a father of Confederation as a delegate to the Québec conference of 1864. (Joseph-Charles Taché, who was to become his Deputy Minister at Agriculture, was an official at that conference.)

Following confederation, Sir John A. Macdonald appointed Chapais to cabinet as Minister of Agriculture. In fact, his department was called Agriculture, Statistics and Public Health, so besides agriculture he was responsible, for example, for the import and export of animals, immigration, the census, patent administration and trademarks, public

health, manufacturing and the arts.

He had that portfolio for only two years before Macdonald moved him to the post of Receiver General. It was noted at the time that his "modesty and unselfishness seem to limit his value and diminish his influence" as a minister.

During the time he was a cabinet minister at Ottawa, Chapais also served as an MLA at Québec. In 1871 when politicians were no longer allowed to sit both provincially and federally, Chapais quit provincial politics and two years later also quit federal politics.

He may not have achieved much in politics, according to the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, but his name "is written with bold indelible strokes in the institutions and history of Saint-Denis."

### Jean-Charles Chapais Jr. – active in agriculture

Jean-Charles Chapais and his wife Georgina had six children, including Thomas, a politician and historian, and Jean-Charles Jr., who made his mark in agriculture. Before the experimental farms were set up, Jean-Charles Jr. conducted research at his own farm on how fruit trees adapted to northern climates. He helped establish one of the first combined cheese and butter factories in Québec, and in 1890 became assistant commissioner of the Dominion Dairy Commission, remaining in the federal public service for 34 years.

Jean-Charles Chapais Sr. died at Ottawa in 1885; he and son Jean-Charles Jr. are buried at the church of Saint-Denis-de-la-Bouteillerie at Saint-Denis, Québec.

### Joseph-Charles Taché, First Deputy Minister of Agriculture

Joseph-Charles Taché, MD, was the first



Jean-Charles Chapais

Deputy Minister of the Canada Department of Agriculture, Statistics and Public Health. A few years earlier he had been appointed to the position of Deputy Head of the Bureau of Agriculture for the Province of Canada.

Prior to coming to the Department, Dr. Taché had had an interesting and varied career. In 1847 he was elected to the Québec National Assembly. In 1853 he was appointed chairman of the Parliamentary Committee to study navigation in Québec ports and in 1855 he represented Canada at the Universal Exposition in Paris, for which he was the first Canadian to be named Chevalier de l'Ordre Impérial de la Légion d'Honneur by Napoléon III.

In 1857, Taché was appointed to head the new daily newspaper *Le Courrier du Canada*, which became one of the most influential papers in Québec, and he was co-founder of the literary journal *Les Soirées canadiennes* to which he also made numerous contributions. Shortly after being appointed to the Bureau of Agriculture, he was involved as an official with confederation conferences in Charlottetown and Québec City.

As Deputy Minister, Taché was a strong leader. He organized in 1871 the first census in Canada after Confederation, discovered a means of controlling cholera (the biggest killer in Canada at the time), modernized the leper clinic at Tracadie, NB, in 1870, and undertook a major study of leprosy in 1872. After examining grape growing in France and Italy, he introduced viticulture in the area of Ontario later to be known as Vineland.

Taché was born in Kamouraska, Québec, on 24 December 1820, where he had his early schooling. He earned his medical doctorate at the Medical Bureau of Québec and received his diploma in 1844. He interned in l'Hôpital de la Marine, Québec City, following which he practised privately in Rimouski.

Although he was seriously ill and absent during the year, Taché was Deputy Minister when the experimental farm system was begun in 1886. He retired from the Department shortly after and died in Ottawa on 16 April 1894.

*The profile of J-C Taché is based on a document published by the Friends of the Farm in 1992 recommending the naming of heritage buildings at the Farm. Richard Hinchcliff edits this newsletter.*



Joseph-Charles Taché

LAC/C-081492

## Record Sales at the Friends' Plant Table

Donna Pape and Shari Haas, coordinators for the Plant Sale in May, reported record sales at the Friends' table at this year's very successful fundraiser for the Friends of the Farm. The event requires over 50 volunteers, and Donna and Shari paid tribute to this year's hard-working volunteers who made it so successful, "from the plant identifiers and baking receivers on Saturday to the early morning set-up crew, to the volunteers that worked during the sale and to everyone that donated plants and baking."



## A Blooming Roundabout

By the time you read this, you will see more clearly what is taking shape, thanks to an AAFC Canada 150 project, on the roundabout bed at Prince of Wales and the Scenic Driveway.



The Friends of the Central Experimental Farm is a volunteer organization committed to the maintenance and protection of the Ornamental Gardens and the Arboretum of the Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Membership for the Friends of the Farm costs \$30 per year for an individual, \$50 per year for a family, \$25 for seniors/students. Payment by PayPal available on website. Membership fees support the many projects of the Friends of the Farm.

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 Charitable Number 118913565RR0001

## Spring Arboretum Tours



Eric Jones

Robert Glendinning, tour guide, at cherry tree.



R. Hinchcliff

Tour guides Eric Jones and Zoe Panchen (inset).



R. Hinchcliff

Chris Schmidt, insect tour guide.

About 50 people came out on a so-so day in early May for a "Flowers in Trees" tour in the Arboretum. Guides Robert Glendinning and Zoe Panchen found lots of flowers for the group to look at, focusing on some that are unusual in Ottawa's changing climate.

Later in May, with a special nod to the 150th anniversary of Confederation, guides Zoe Panchen and Eric Jones led a large group on a "Tree Leaves of Canada" tour. Nearly all the provincial and territorial trees of Canada are found at the Arboretum. Zoe even suggested a territorial tree for Nunavut, which currently doesn't have one.

On a very hot June 11, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada research scientists and tour leaders Chris Schmidt and Henri Goulet pointed out evidence of insect activity on leaves, twigs and bark of various trees. Many youngsters were fascinated by the variety of beetles, wasps and other creatures. The tour highlighted the interdependence of plants, insects and birds, all providing support for the natural world.

### NEW MEMBER REGISTRATION FORM

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 ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ POSTAL CODE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 PROVINCE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 TELEPHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 FAX #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

### TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

FAMILY ..... \$50/year  
 ADULT ..... \$30/year  
 SENIOR/STUDENT ..... \$25/year  
 BASIC CORPORATE ..... \$250/year  
 NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION ..... \$25/year  
 INDIVIDUAL LIFE ..... \$600  
 SENIOR COUPLE LIFE ..... \$650  
 DONATION ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### INTEREST IN VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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Please make cheque or money order payable to: "Friends of the Farm." A receipt for income tax purposes will be issued for all donations of \$10 or more. Payment by PayPal is available on website.

We are located at Building 72 in the Arboretum. You can visit us or mail this part of the form with your payment to:

**FRIENDS OF THE CENTRAL EXPERIMENTAL FARM**  
**Building 72, Central Experimental Farm**  
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Telephone: 613-230-3276

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

Website: [www.friendsofthefarm.ca](http://www.friendsofthefarm.ca)

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## Green Roofs—Growing up in the World ... (continued from page 12)

A well-constructed green roof can reduce the cost of heating and cooling buildings by as much as 50%. This factor alone has implications as fuel costs increase and competition for remaining energy supplies becomes fiercer. A properly installed green roof doubles the life span of the roof, thus saving replacement costs and reducing pressure on increasingly scarce landfill sites. Living roofs help to reduce urban heat island effect, an effect that is potentially dangerous to those of us who are vulnerable during long spells of hot humid weather.

In Canada's 150th anniversary it is gratifying to note that Canada places well on the world stage—fourth in square footage of green roof installation. Toronto is leading the way with building codes that require green roofs on many new buildings—residential, commercial and industrial. It is likely that other Canadian cities will follow their example.

### Could you build your own green roof?

The answer is a conditional "Yes". It would need to be an "extensive" green roof, probably on a garage, a shed or a porch. An extensive roof can occupy steeper slopes but must be planted with smaller plants. Step by step instructions are available on the internet and materials are available locally. So are the drought resistant plants most suitable for green roof installation.



Green roof on Canadian War Museum

Holiday in Arizona and you will note that many conservation areas in Arizona feature ramada shelters. Hunter-gatherer tribes used them as stopovers and as temporary shelter from extreme summer heat. Our equivalent here would be "arbour" except that arbours are not closed at the top.

### Build your own ramada topped with a green roof

Besides building a structure that will support a green roof, this project provides a great outdoor area for summer living. Children, with their limitless imaginations, will see a stage, a clubhouse, a castle, you

name it. If you're really gung-ho you and the kids can learn all about pre-Columbian gardening and agriculture—all as a result of constructing a ramada with a green roof in your 2017 back yard!

*To see how Ottawa is leading the way in modern urban agriculture, Edythe Falconer, Master Gardener of Ottawa-Carleton and Friend of the Farm, recommends the video at:*  
<http://healthimpactnews.com/2011/urban-agriculture-in-ottawa-could-be-a-model-for-food-security-in-other-cities/>

## Definitions

**Extensive green roofs** tolerate slopes up to 40 degrees and usually support a growth medium (specialized soilless mix) depth of 9-15 cm or 4-6 in. They are best planted with low growing, low maintenance plants such as sedums, grasses and wild flowers. Most drought-resistant rock garden plants work well on an extensive green roof.

**Intensive green roofs** are more demanding. Consultation with a structural engineer is essential. Slope potential is much less than with extensive green roofs. Intensive roofs must support a greater depth of growth medium and a heavier plant load. Intensive roofs can grow small trees, shrubs and taller perennials, preferably those that are moderately drought resistant.

## Summary of Green Roof Benefits

- Reduction of "urban heating" effects.
- Increased life span of roofs.
- Reduced costs of heating and cooling.
- Rainwater absorption.
- Increased biodiversity.
- Improvement of air quality.
- Improvement of aesthetics in the public realm.
- Local and regional job creation.
- Addition of new amenity spaces and improved health.
- Additional space for growing edible plants.
- Opportunities for plant research.

# Green Roofs—Growing up in the World

By Edythe Falconer

**G**reen roofs are becoming important features of new or retrofitted buildings. The Algonquin College Centre for Construction Excellence has a green roof on a north facing slope. Its students will be at the forefront of green roof technology.

Ashbury College has a green roof that is both beautiful and utilitarian. It consists of four quadrants, each of which is dedicated to growing different plant categories including vegetables. Students plan and tend the gardens. Produce is used in the college kitchen where students assist in processing and cooking the results of their learning and labour.

Ducks Unlimited in Manitoba has a green roof dedicated to prairie grasses. Every year the roof is set on fire to renew its feathery expanse for the next year. What an interesting sight this must be! The roof burns while the building remains intact.

Not For Profit Housing in Ottawa has many green roofs where residents grow fruits and vegetables. Plexiglass barriers extend the growing season without depriving plants of sunlight.

## A green roof on the hospital

Every major city across Canada has a hospital with a green roof. Some have two. Now that the location of our new hospital has been determined perhaps prospective contractors will weigh the merits of green roofs and include them as an option in their submissions.

Think of the Ottawa Hospital's new Civic Campus with a green roof modelled after the principles used in the Ashbury construction and in some Not For Profit housing units. Think of that roof producing fresh food for the hospital. Think of the green roof on the new hospital being an extension of the research that goes on at the Central Experimental Farm, building upon past and present research and well into the future.

## Adding to the urban growing space

In Ottawa the Greenbelt, parkways, parklets and the Central Experimental Farm soften the hardscape of our city. As Ottawa grows, we become further and further removed from our rural past. All over the world, including Canada, we are losing top soil at an unsustainable rate. Building additional growing space within our urban environment should be a priority. Green roofs can provide more of this space. Aside from the initial cost of construction, they can provide long-term savings on heating and cooling buildings, and extend the life span of roofs and rainwater capture potential.

Years ago when I first wrote about green roofs in the *Ottawa Sun* I was assisted in my research by two local contractors—Job Done Construction Ltd. and Godfrey Roofing Inc. Job Done's first project was installed on the contractor's own roof. Subsequent roofs were constructed on the NDP's headquarters and a Bridgehead coffeehouse. A Godfrey Construction project was the 3,800 square foot green roof on Ashbury College.



Green roof at Ashbury College.

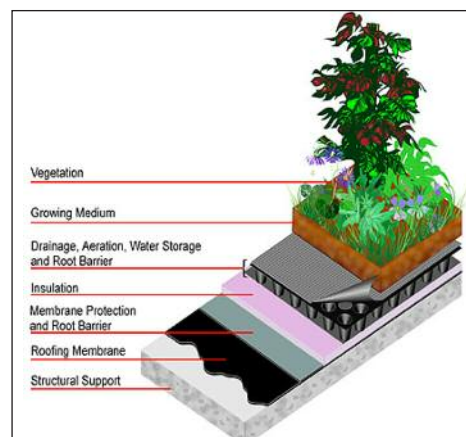
Ashbury College

The Canadian War Museum is covered with tall grass species native to our area. The grasses are intended to symbolize resurrected fields of war and the resurrection of the site itself. Contaminated soil had to be removed before the Museum could be erected. Now its extensive green roof dramatically reduces the cost of heating and cooling, and increases the lifespan of the roof structure itself. The mix of soil and construction materials with a holding capacity of up to 720,000 litres of storm water helps reduce costs for handling storm runoff.

In 2006, Philadelphia had one green roof. Now it has more than 60. The city has many other green initiatives. Their motivation derives from a desire to live effectively with the challenges of recession and a need to solve the problems of decaying infrastructure. Their green program packs a double whammy. It creates jobs and at the same time reduces expenses.

## Are green roofs all that new?

Not really. Our first prairie barn circa the 1930s and early 1940s had a sod roof. It provided insulation that cooled in the summer and warmed in the winter. Further south, where trees were scarce, many pioneer houses had sod roofs. They weren't strong enough to graze animals, although the odd chicken did make it to the top. In modern British Columbia goats graze on green roofs fertilizing the grass, feeding themselves and amusing tourists.



A layer cake of green roof technology

www.lid-stormwater.net

Continued on page 11