



Friends of the Central Experimental Farm

Summer 2012 Newsletter

Volume 24 No. 3

New Blooms Each Day - Daylilies at the Farm



John Janitz

'Pink Ballerina' Daylily (*Hemerocallis*), Ornamental Gardens, 2009

Daylilies (*Hemerocallis*) are native to Eurasia, including China, Korea and Japan. The name *Hemerocallis* comes from the Greek "hēmera" (day) and "kalos" (beauty). The bloom lasts only one day.

The orange daylily, seen by the roadside and which tends to take over many gardens, is the original daylily that pioneers brought to Canada. It is sometimes incorrectly called a "tiger" lily when, in fact, the tiger lily belongs to another lily species. The daylilies at the Farm are, as I like to call them, the refined cousins of this original daylily.

The outer beds of the Iris and Daylily Garden at the Ornamental Gardens are home to the main collection of daylilies. This unified garden of 14 separate beds, designed by Sharon Saunders, Lead Hand, Ornamental Gardens, is based on a Victorian English parterre. Completed in 2006, it includes four curved garden beds, each containing 40 daylilies.

A collection of 40 miniature daylilies can be found in the Rock Garden and another 28 Lorrain/Lycett daylilies are located on the western side of the Ornamental Gardens, near the Preston heritage daylily collection. Daylilies are also in the perennial borders and the Macoun Memorial Garden.

Building a collection of Canadian daylilies

The oldest daylilies in the collection are divisions of plants that were in the Farm's 1959 collection. Breeders Russell and Sass introduced the oldest of these varieties in the 1940s. Other early breeders who have introductions at the Farm are Claar, Spalding, Marsh and Reckamp from the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s, and Stamile and Peck from the 1990s.

The latest additions are from Canadian breeders – Morry of Manotick, just south of Ottawa, Rocheleau and Tremblay of Rimouski and Charlevoix, Québec, respectively, and Lorrain and Lycett of Orono, Ontario, east of Toronto.

Rocheleau presented three daylilies to the Farm to mark special occasions. The Ontario Horticultural Association donated a large collection of Lorrain/Lycett daylilies, and Avalonia Daylilies in Manotick donated six from Morry. These donations are much appreciated, and we hope to acquire more of the wonderful daylilies being developed by Canadian breeders.

Before the new daylily garden was created, plants were kept in two long and several smaller round beds. When the garden was

Continued on Page 3

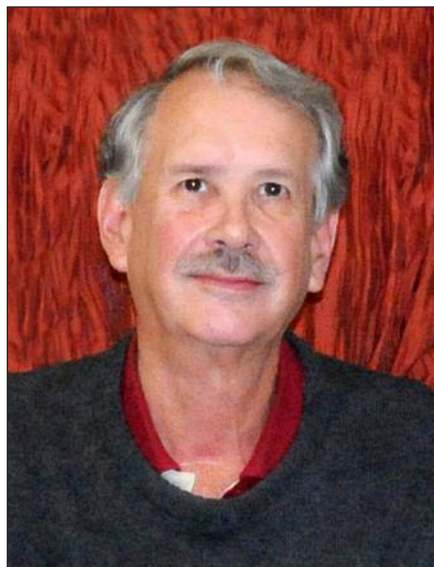
President's Message

Welcome to summer 2012. After an unusually warm spate of weather in March followed by a short return to winter, it is finally summer, so let's get out and fully enjoy it.

A warm welcome to our new garden volunteers and many thanks to the returning garden teams and the events volunteers who have already been hard at work and continue to give freely of their time in support of our fundraising activities. Needless to say we also appreciate the generous financial help from our members.

This year has brought a number of significant changes to the leadership of the Friends. We've had many changes in the Board of Directors, Coordinators, Advisors, and Team Leaders.

We will miss our long-serving Treasurer John Gribbon who is stepping down after 10 years. We welcome two new Directors



– Jane Cornish as Treasurer and Donna Pape as Director of Volunteers. Tom Hillman, who joined the Board last September as Director of Events, has settled in quickly and is doing an admirable job coordinating our full slate of events. We will also miss Mary Pratte, our expert advisor on peonies. Bill Wegman, who has led the Peony Team for many years, replaces Mary. Several garden team leaders are also leaving. We will miss the generous and talented work done by all of these dedicated volunteers and thank them for their many contributions. See Page 10 for a full list of our garden team leaders for 2012.

Whether volunteer or member, thank you for your continued support. I look forward to seeing and speaking to you throughout the year in the gardens or at one of our fundraising events.

Chuck Craddock

Mots du président

Bienvenue à la saison estivale 2012. Après une brève période de chaleur inhabituelle en mars, suivie d'un bref retour à l'hiver, l'été apparaît enfin, indice de la vie au grand air. Profitons-en pleinement!

Je désire souhaiter une chaleureuse bienvenue à nos nouveaux jardiniers bénévoles et exprimer toute ma reconnaissance aux équipes de jardinage et aux coordonnateurs d'activités qui ont déjà repris leurs activités avec ardeur et qui continuent à donner librement de leur temps pour appuyer nos activités de financement. Il ne va pas sans dire que nous sommes aussi fort reconnaissants de l'aide financière que nous procurent nos membres.

Cette année, plusieurs changements importants se sont produits au sein de la direction des Amis. Il en a été de même au conseil d'administration (CA) et chez les coordinateurs, les conseillers et les chefs d'équipe.

Nous regretterons l'absence de John Gribbon, trésorier de longue date, qui quitte son poste après 10 années de service. Nous accueillons deux nouvelles directrices : Jane Cornish, à titre de trésorière, et Donna Pape, comme directrice des bénévoles. Tom Hillman, qui s'était joint au CA en septembre dernier, s'est rapidement adapté à son poste et s'acquitte admirablement de ses fonctions en tant que coordonnateur de l'ensemble de toutes nos activités. Mary Pratte, notre conseillère experte attirée à l'équipe des pivoines, laisse son poste, et c'est le cas également d'autres chefs

d'équipe. C'est Bill Wegman qui succédera à Mary en tant que conseiller auprès de l'équipe; il en avait d'ailleurs assumé la direction pendant un bon nombre d'années dans le passé. Assurément, le travail inlassable et créateur de ces bénévoles nous manquera, et nous les remercions de leur contribution à divers égards. Veuillez vous référer à la page 10 pour voir la liste complète des chefs d'équipe de jardinage en 2012.

Que vous soyez bénévoles ou membres, je tiens à vous remercier de votre solide appui. Il me tarde de faire votre connaissance et d'avoir l'occasion de vous parler au cours de l'année, que ce soit dans les allées des jardins ou lors de nos activités de financement.

Chuck Craddock

Help Us Celebrate Canada's 150th Birthday

A special birthday deserves a special celebration. The Friends of the Central Experimental Farm would like to commemorate Canada's 150th birthday in style. And we're looking for ideas for projects or activities that will celebrate 150 years of confederation and over 130 years of the Central Experimental Farm.

Canada's milestone isn't until 2017, but we've started the planning process and are anxious to develop a list of priority projects that will guide our efforts over the next five years.

Whether you're a volunteer, member, donor or just have an interest in or love of the Farm, please send along your ideas. We're looking for suggestions that are consistent with our mission – to maintain, enhance and protect the Arboretum, gardens and other public areas, under the direction of AAFC, and increase awareness of the heritage value of the Farm.

So don your thinking caps and send along your thoughts/suggestions to Eric Jones at eric.jones086@sympatico.ca, or leave him a message at the Friends' office (613-230-3276).

New Blooms Each Day – Daylilies at the Farm *(continued from Page 1)*

ready, daylilies were identified, divided, and replanted in the newly designed beds. Plants that could not be identified were relocated to other areas around the Farm for decorative purposes. The new beds were enlarged and with the relocation of the collection of miniatures to the Rock Garden, there is now additional space to accommodate new daylilies from Canadian hybridizers.

Many of the plants at the Farm are award winners. The American Hemerocallis Society bestows awards on outstanding daylilies. The highest of these is the Stout Award, presented annually to one cultivar, in honour of Dr. Arlow Stout (1876-1957), botanist and pioneer American daylily breeder. Other awards include Honourable Mention for cultivars judged excellent beyond regional levels and the Award of Merit given annually to 10 cultivars proven to be good performers over a wide geographical area.



'Banana Cream'

R. Hinchcliff



Polly McColl

Carol MacLeod, Nicki Quintero, Paul Bertrand, members of the daylily team, August 2011.

Daylily volunteers

Volunteers tend to the daylilies at the Farm from May to September, working under the direction of AAFC staff. Volunteers on the iris and daylily team, led by Carol MacLeod, weed, deadhead, divide and replant. Every three years, plants are divided, inspected for pests and diseases, and replanted. New volunteers are always welcome.

In previous years, too many yellows and pale coloured daylilies blended together in the beds. In 2011, when they were replanted, the colours were distributed more evenly. We hope it will be showier this year, and easier to compare old and new cultivars, to see how far breeding has come since that original, and sometimes disliked, orange daylily first appeared.

Polly McColl
Friends of the Farm Iris/Daylily Advisor

Before and After in the Arboretum



Photos by Eric Jones

An area at the northern end of the Arboretum, May 30, 2012, before and after the work of the Friends of the Farm Arboretum team

Upcoming Events

For more information, visit www.friendsofthefarm.ca or call 613-230-3276.

Strawberry Social

- Sunday, July 1, 11:30 am to 2 pm.
- Come and enjoy a delicious strawberry treat while participating in the Canada Agriculture Museum's holiday activities.
- Admission to the museum is free on Canada Day; the strawberry treat is \$6.
- Visit the museum's website at www.agriculture.technomuses.ca for more information on the day's events.
- Location: Memory Park, Canada Agriculture Museum. Parking and the main entrance are located off Prince of Wales, south of the roundabout.



10 Mile Run and Cowpattie Relay on the Farm

- Wednesday, July 18, 6:30 pm.
- Join the Friends of the Farm and the Run Ottawa Club for a challenging 10-mile run through the Central Experimental Farm. Get a team together for the 10-mile Cowpattie relay.
- Location: Morningside Lane, CEF.



- Visit www.runottawaclub.com for more information on the race and how to register.

Victorian Tea

- Sunday, August 12, 2 to 4 pm.
- Classic tea (with new menu!) served under the trees of the Arboretum.
- Bring a patio chair and listen to live music.
- Enter the best hat contest and don period costume (optional).
- Location: Building 72, CEF Arboretum.
- Admission and parking free; tea \$8.



Art on the Farm

- Saturday, August 25, 10 am to 4 pm.
- Rain date August 26.
- Artists will display and sell their original works under the trees of the Central Experimental Farm.
- Location: NCC Driveway and Maple Drive, CEF.
- Free admission and parking.

Annual General Meeting

- Wednesday, September 19, 7 pm.
- Guest speaker Mary Cook, storyteller extraordinaire (see below).
- Location: K.W. Neatby Building, CEF, Carling Ave., west of Maple Drive.
- All are welcome. You do not have to be a member to attend.



For the Love of the Farm Art Exhibition and Sale

- October 6 - 7, noon to 9 pm; October 8, noon to 6 pm.
- A juried exhibition and sale featuring the work of a group of artists working in a variety of media.
- Location: Building 72, Arboretum, CEF.
- Admission and parking free.



Thank You

We asked, and you quickly answered our calls. First, Friends' volunteers and members generously whipped up home-baked goods for our April Craft and Bake sale and then a month later dug up, potted and labelled plants from their own gardens for the annual Rare and Unusual Plant Sale on Mother's Day. The FCEF table at both events was overflowing with donations and when the receipts were tallied, our coffers were \$1,100 richer (\$640 from baking, \$460 from plants).

Buyers at the plant sale went home not only with new treasures for their gardens but also helpful advice from the Master Gardeners who were onsite to offer suggestions for sun and shade gardens and remedies for ailing plants.

Many thanks to everyone who donated baked goods and plants and to our volunteers who worked at each of the fundraisers. As always, many helpful hands contributed to the success of these events.

Joy of Memories

A delightful story-teller and award-winning broadcast journalist, Mary Cook is certain to entertain when she brings her stories of hardship and humour, growth and learning to life at the Friends of the Farm Annual General Meeting on September 19.

Mary grew up in the Ottawa Valley in the 1930s. A broadcast journalist with the CBC for 48 years, she continues to write for many newspapers and magazines, and is one of Eastern Ontario's most prolific writers, folklorists and historians.

A seven-time ACTRA award-winner for excellence in broadcasting, Mary is best known for her story telling. Her stories have filled 11 books, including "This Then Was Home," "One for Sorrow, Two for Joy," and "Liar, Liar, Pants on Fire."

Come out and hear her in person on September 19, when she brings her stories to life in a talk about the "Joy of Memories" at the Friends of the Farm Annual General Meeting.

Wednesday, September 19, 2012, 7 pm K.W. Neatby Building, Carling Ave., CEF

You don't need to be a FCEF member to attend. Free and open to everyone.



Mary Cook

Paul Dick: Roots Run Deep in the Soil

To say that Paul Dick is an ardent gardener is an understatement. When Paul lived in Prince Edward Island where he worked with Veterans Affairs, he maintained a 50' x 100' vegetable garden, a circular herb garden measuring 24 feet in diameter, and created a path through a wooded area on his 10-acre property that he planted with native wildflowers. Then there was the collection of gooseberry and various current bushes, high bush blueberries, and dwarf fruit trees. And while bee keeping might not qualify as gardening per se, Paul planted his yard with flowers that attracted bees to his 12 hives. The bounty from Paul's considerable labour fed the family almost year round. Once the produce was ready, Paul's wife Sharon took over, freezing, canning, and preserving to stock the family's larder.

When Paul and Sharon moved to Ottawa in retirement, he brought his love of gardening with him, albeit on a smaller scale. The Dicks' home sits on a 77' x 100' lot and Paul makes use of every foot. His yard is a showcase of plants and flowers, with the vibrant castor bean plants in his front yard a popular attraction for passers-by. He also added a greenhouse that produces salad greens – as well as peppers, tomatoes, cucumbers, etc. – from April to November. Paul likes to experiment with new crops; jicama and sweet potatoes rank among his more noteworthy successes.

Paul attributes his love of gardening to his maternal grandmother. "My grandparents had a cottage on the Richelieu," he explains, "where my grandmother, Ida, maintained a garden. When we visited, she always 'encouraged' us to participate." His grandmother's garden is more than a fond memory; the lessons learned from her as a child have developed deep roots in his adult life.

Considering Paul's love of things that rise from the soil, it is not surprising he found his way to the Friends of the Farm. Paul and Sharon signed up as volunteers five years ago and also took out a life membership. Paul is part of the iris/daylily team and also one of the hardworking volunteers who help with fundraising events.



Paul Dick in his greenhouse

Photo by Sharon Dick. Inset photo by Mary Ann Smythe

Paul believes in community service. He "feels a kinship with people who volunteer. They are giving people," he adds. "They give of their time, their experience." Individually, they may have very different backgrounds, but, collectively, he has found, the desire to "give back to the community" creates a unifying bond.

Quiet, unassuming and soft-spoken, Paul says his garden team offers the best of two worlds: he can work on his own in solitude or join in any of the discussions that might be floating across the flower beds. "The people are so friendly" he says of his team-mates, "and very generous with their (gardening) advice. I've learned so much from Carol (MacLeod) as team leader and Paul and Janice (Bertrand) are a great resource."

Since joining the Friends, Paul has spent the winters in the bowels of Building 72 sorting books for the Friends' book sale and then returning in June to help set up for the sale. It is painstaking work but as a voracious reader he takes great pleasure in sorting through the titles. Paul is a lifelong learner and books are a valuable tool to increase his knowledge and expand his own world. From books

and magazines he learned about organic gardening, which he practices devoutly, and they are an excellent resource for planning trips he and Sharon enjoy together.

Much of the Dicks' travel has been to visit their four adult children and seven grandchildren who are far-flung across Canada and the United States. Family is very important to them and, in fact, they relocated from PEI because Ottawa is a much easier base from which to access domestic and international flights.

Non-family travel is meant to inform and educate. You won't find the Dicks sunning on some tropical beach, but, if pressed, Paul will gladly talk about his dream trip to the Metropolitan Opera in New York or the couple's recent cruise on the Baltic Sea.

Paul leads a full and rich life and to be invited into his world, whether deadheading lilies in the Ornamental Gardens, sorting books in the basement of Building 72, or washing dishes after the Victorian Tea, one leaves richer for the experience.

Mary Ann Smythe

Daylilies For All Tastes



'Twist and Shout'

Daylilies come in many forms and colours, from doubles to bi-coloureds, with bands or ruffles, spider or trumpet shapes. Visitors to the daylily beds at the Ornamental Gardens will surely see at least one that suits their taste.

Sharon Saunders of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada likes the nocturnal daylilies, which begin blooming in the evening and continue the next day. She also looks for daylilies that dispel their old blooms: a flower drops off as soon as it has died and a new flower blooms the following day. That way the stem is left clean and the plants look tidy and beautiful, without need of deadheading.

Daylilies, says Sharon, "are all round easy plants, no-brainers." Dark-coloured varieties, she notes, however, do better with dappled light. If it's too sunny for them, the colours wash out. She also cautions gardeners who covet colourful daylily varieties shown on websites from down south. These plants often need long, warm growth periods to generate the advertised colour, and may not look as good in the Ottawa region as they do in warmer climates.

Sharon has also found that with some of the fancy new daylilies, a double-ruffled tetraploid, for example, the flowers break off easily. They are so "crispy," she says, they can snap off.

Nevertheless, there are beautiful burgundy and other dark-coloured daylilies available in Canada. For best effect in the garden, Sharon recommends that they be planted with carefully matched colours.



'Firestorm'



'Double Bold One'



'Nuit de Baie Saint Paul'

Grand Lady of Horticulture

The 100th anniversary of Isabella Preston's arrival in Canada in 1912 and her subsequent achievements in horticulture are being celebrated this year. Edythe Falconer, Master Gardener and Friends of the Farm rose advisor, writes here about the Preston roses.



'Carmenetta'



'Patricia Macoun'

Photos by R. Hinchcliff

Isabella Preston's life encompassed the sinking of the Titanic, two World Wars, suffrage for women, the Roaring Twenties and Dirty Thirties, JFK's assassination, and even Flower Children. Through it all she pursued her interests steadfastly despite pressure to conform to the limited roles deemed appropriate for women in her times. Ultimately, she was hailed "Queen of Ornamental Horticulture."

Isabella Preston was born in Lancaster, England in 1881 and died in Georgetown, Ontario in 1964. In England, Isabella helped her father with the family farm and attended a ladies' horticultural college. In 1912, she moved to Canada where she lived and worked in the Guelph area for several years. At first she picked fruit, but then enrolled in the Ontario Agricultural College (now University of Guelph) where she became a dedicated student of plant breeding, mentored by College experts.

In 1920, at age 40, Isabella relocated to Ottawa. She applied for work at the Central Experimental Farm and was hired as a day labourer at minimum wage. At the time, Dominion Horticulturist W. T. Macoun was looking for someone to fill a newly created position in ornamental horticulture. No men were available and Macoun had already noticed the talents of CEF's new

employee. Isabella was appointed Specialist in Ornamental Horticulture – supposedly a temporary position – but one that lasted until her retirement in 1946.

By the time she retired, she was widely known and respected for her extensive work in plant breeding. Isabella's achievements include the Preston lilacs (described in the FCEF spring 2012 newsletter), the Stenographer series of lilies, Fighter Aircraft lilies, Canadian Lake crab apples (Rosyblossoms), Canadian River Siberian irises, and the Preston roses.

The CEF rose program had ended with the introduction by William Saunders of 'Agnes' earlier in the century. Preston restarted the program with a view to producing zone hardy roses of beauty and resilience. She liked to work with hardy species roses such as *Rosa glauca*, *R. cinnamomea*, *R. setigera* and *R. rugosa*. Her rose hybrids never won her awards as did her other achievements, but they did provide an excellent stage for the work of Dr. Felicitas Svejda at the CEF and other contemporary hybridizers.

The Preston roses included Agassiz, Algonquin, Antenor, Ardelia, Caribou, **Carmenetta**, Chippewa, **Conestoga**, Cree, Eric, Huron, Iroquois, **Langford**, Micmac, Millicent, Mohawk, Nascapsee, **Orinda**, **Patricia Macoun**, Ojibway, Poliarchus,

Regina, Rosania, Sylvander, and Valeria. Highlighted roses are still available. The CEF rose garden has 'Patricia Macoun' and 'Carmenetta'.

Though many of her rose varieties have disappeared, this does not diminish the magnitude of her accomplishments. Quietly she challenged gender bias and set the stage for new generations of breeding programs at CEF and elsewhere. She brought with her an inquiring mind and a solid work ethic that she readily applied to her chosen field. We are richer for her many contributions.

Edythe Falconer



Isabella Preston

Gardening Advice Fit for a King



Moorside, estate of the late Rt. Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, 1950

The Right Honourable William Lyon Mackenzie King, 10th Prime Minister of Canada, loved the Central Experimental Farm. He considered it a showplace of scenic beauty and was a frequent visitor. He also found the Farm to be a source of expertise that he could draw on to help with the gardening and farming at his beloved Kingsmere estate.

King is Canada's longest-serving Prime

Minister. Except for several months in 1926, he was in power from 1921 to 1930, and again from 1935 to 1948.

Early in 1922, King sought advice from W.T. Macoun, Dominion Horticulturist, on how to beautify his grounds at Kingsmere. Macoun dispatched Isabella Preston, his new specialist in ornamental horticulture, and T. F. Ritchie, a specialist in vegetables, who developed a planting plan. The Prime

Minister was slow to respond and, when he did, wondered about obtaining shrubs and plants that might be thinned out at the Farm and otherwise discarded.

"I do not wish to take advantage of my relation to the Government to suggest any contribution from Experimental Farm sources, but if an opportunity of the kind does present itself, I should be grateful if you would let me know ... Please understand that this is not even indirectly a request; I am only asking for information, so as to be able to benefit by a chance which may offer ..."

King may not have considered it a request but Macoun certainly did, and shortly thereafter, he and the minister of agriculture, W. R. Motherwell, went to Kingsmere to meet with the Prime Minister.¹

On October 9, 1922, King wrote in his diary: "... Mr. Motherwell came out with Mr. Macoun... We had a good hour's talk together, and then took a hurried walk over the property during which time Macoun made notes of certain plants and shrubs and flowers which are to be sent out from the Experimental Farm on a truck on Wednesday for planting."

Two days later, he added: "Taggart the chief gardener at the Experimental Farm came out this morning with three men, they brought a number of hardy perennials and several shrubs and vines, and 'willows' which they planted." The following spring, King wrote: "It fills me with delight to think of flowers and blooming plants and shrubs on my own property."

In 1936, a set of roses created at the Farm by Isabella Preston was sent to King. The Dominion Horticulturist at the time, M. B. Davis, requested a report on the success of the roses, "continuing the fiction that King would treat any plant material from the Farm as trial material."²

From sheep to spittlebugs

In 1927, King bought a neighbouring property in Kingsmere, which he made into a hobby farm, with new barns, stables, chicken coops, gardens, and orchard. As a result, he needed advice on many matters, from making an asparagus bed to raising pheasants to inspecting his sheep.



Prime Minister W. L. Mackenzie King (left), during opening ceremonies at the Macoun Memorial Garden, June 6, 1936. He wrote in his diary that he was very tired that day and was unhappy with his speech, although it had "some good thoughts".

¹ Edwinna von Baeyer, *Garden of Dreams: Kingsmere and Mackenzie King*, Dundurn Press, 1990

² Edwinna von Baeyer, *ibid*, p.128



Library & Archives Canada, C-024304

Rt. Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King and Pat

On April 30, 1928, he recorded in his diary: "Last night I phoned Dr. Grisdale of Experimental Farm re sending out a veterinary surgeon, to look over sheep and also class of seeds etc. required. He promised to go out to Kingsmere today with Macoun of Farm."

Dr. J.H. Grisdale was Deputy Minister of the Department of Agriculture and former

Director of the Central Experimental Farm. Another expert King consulted was Dr. J.J. de Gryse, Chief, Forest Entomology, later appointed Director, Forest Biology Division. On July 6, 1939, King wrote:

"... had Mr. de Gryse come out from the Experimental Farm to look at the new pest on some of the pine trees. It is called the spittlebug. I am greatly distressed at the extent to which it has tackled the pines. To save them it will require a great deal of spraying. De Gryse is to speak to the head of the Farm about sending out someone to do this job."

A treasured refuge

While Kingsmere was a treasured refuge for the Prime Minister, King continued to enjoy the Farm throughout his life. His diary

entry of June 14 1950 reads: "Had dinner and then went for a drive out through the Experimental Farm ... A most beautiful drive." It would prove to be his last recorded visit to the Farm. King died just over a month later on July 22, 1950.

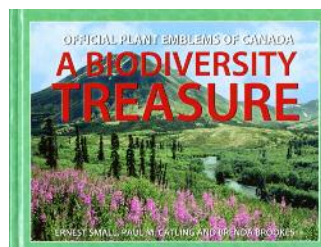
Richard Hinchcliff

A Clerihew

The Experimental Farm
Combines usefulness with charm.
I suppose you could say the same thing
Of Mr. King.

by Geoffrey Vivien
(Ottawa Citizen, May 6, 1947)

Official Plant Emblems of Canada – A Biodiversity Treasure



By Ernest Small, Paul M. Catling and Brenda Brookes
Illustrated. 432 pages
Government of Canada Publications, 2012
ISBN 978-0-660-20057-6
\$49.95

Ants drag away the seeds of the white trillium, Ontario's floral emblem. This means of seed dispersal is called "myrmecochory." If you pick a trillium, according to superstition, it will rain. The trillium represented "modest beauty" in the secret, coded "Victorian language of flowers."

Such a mix of scientific information and intriguing anecdotes, along with hundreds of photos, paintings and illustrations, is in a fascinating new book by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) scientists Ernie Small, Paul Catling and Brenda Brookes

about the native plants that have become official emblems of Canada, its provinces and territories.

Each of the ten provinces and three territories has a floral emblem, and all but Nunavut have an official tree. Alberta and Saskatchewan have official grasses, and Nova Scotia has an official berry. And Canada, of course, has the maple. Although these particular plants represent much fewer than one per cent of Canada's plant species, "they are wonderful ambassadors for increasing awareness of the importance of the entire Canadian flora."



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 in the Friends of the Farm costs \$25 per year for an individual and \$45 per year for a family, \$20 Seniors/Students. Membership fees support the many projects of the Friends of the Farm.

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Arboretum Landmark Gets a Makeover

When entering the Arboretum from the roundabout, we are immediately reminded of the Farm's heritage landscape. The 88-year-old landmark building (#74) on the left at the entrance is one of 28 Farm structures that the federal government has designated as a heritage property. The heritage designation means the exterior is to be preserved in its original state, as far as possible.

With a recent exterior makeover, the building looks as good as new. All the windows were replaced last year, says Anthony Cesare, project manager, Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada (AAFC). The soffits and fascia boards have been repaired, and it has a new coat of paint. Some years ago the interior was renovated and air conditioning installed.

Decorative timber over the second storey and the attic exterior at the entrance places the architecture of this building in the Queen Anne style, according to a Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office report. The beautiful setting in the Arboretum gives the building "an isolated and pastoral feel suited to the rusticity of the Queen Anne style."

This "botany building" (officially known as the Botanical Laboratory Building) was built in two stages. An original section was completed in 1924 as the home of the Botany Division and an addition on the east side was added in 1941. It later became a research facility for the Agro-Meteorology and Engineering and Statistical Research Divisions, and is now occupied by employees of AAFC's Corporate Management Branch.



Construction of extension to Building 74, May 1941

Photo by Ron Campbell, courtesy of Elizabeth Truemer



R. Hinchcliff

Building 74, April 2012

Friends of the Farm Coordinators and Advisors, 2012

Team

Arboretum Team
(Wednesday)
Bloom Time Records
CEF Roses (Friday)

Daylily/Iris (Wednesday)
Explorer Rose Team (Friday)
Herbarium Research
Hosta Team (Wednesday)
Macoun Memorial Garden
(Monday)
Lilac Team 1 (Monday)
Lilac Team 2 (Friday)
Peonies (Thursday)
Perennials/Annuals (Tuesday)
Rock Garden (Tuesday)
Shelter Belt (Tuesday)
Tree Plaques (Wednesday)

Collection

Daylilies and Irises
Lilacs
Peonies
Roses
Trees

Coordinators

Catherine Hooper,
Chuck Craddock
Jean Currie, Catherine Hooper
Fiona Cowell, Edythe Falconer

Carol MacLeod
Cyril Benson
Judith McBride
Linda McLaren
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Advisors

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INTEREST IN VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

YES ☐

NO ☐

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

FAMILY \$45/year
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SENIOR/STUDENT \$20/year
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DONATION \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

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.

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
Ottawa, ON K1A 0C6

Telephone: (613) 230-3276

Fax: (613) 230-1238

Email: info@friendsofthefarm.ca

Website: www.friendsofthefarm.ca

Bird, Bee and Butterfly Buffet

The Ornamental Gardens this year feature a special bed of plants that nurture our urban wildlife. Sharon Saunders of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada chose the theme “Bird, Bee and Butterfly Buffet” for her entry in a landscape design contest commemorating 80 years of All-America Selections (AAS).

The kidney-shaped display bed is situated south of the Ornamental Gardens at the entrance to the Centennial parking lot off Prince of Wales. It is across the road from the Arboretum and Fletcher Wildlife Garden, and just south of the Organic Garden.

The exceptional plants that Sharon chose are AAS winners. An independent plant trialling and award program, AAS has been testing new flowers and vegetables since 1932. The organization works with the world’s most prominent breeders to trial their best new varieties anonymously, then has them rated by independent horticulture experts who volunteer their time as AAS judges.

After a rigorous trialling, only the best garden performers are declared AAS Winners. Participating AAS Display Gardens, such as the CEF’s Ornamental Gardens in Ottawa, then showcase the winning varieties of flowers, plants and vegetables that are made available at garden centres or online seed sources.

The Ornamental Gardens have been receiving seed from AAS for nearly 50 years. The Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton and the Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens also display AAS winners.

In each of the 22 gardens in the contest, AAS winners must comprise a minimum of 50% of the total landscaped area. The gardens are judged by an expert panel at the end of the season and winners announced and recognized in October. We will provide progress reports on the garden and the contest in upcoming newsletters.

In the meantime, please drop by for a visual taste of the Bird, Bee and Butterfly Buffet.



Sharon Saunders

Previous All-American Selections in the Ornamental Gardens

Farm Memories? Photos?

Many people have fond memories of the Central Experimental Farm. Perhaps you walked through the lilac rows in spring, had your wedding photos taken in the Macoun garden, enjoyed a summer picnic in the rose garden, tobogganed down the slopes of the Arboretum in the winter, or taken your children or grandchildren for a ride on the tally-ho wagon. Whatever your special memory, we'd love to hear about it.

And if you also have photos to share – of the Ornamental Gardens, the Arboretum, the buildings, out around the Farm fields, or of people and events – all the better.

We are collecting stories and photos for publication in this newsletter and we'd love to hear from you, no matter how brief is your memory or how few are your photos. Nothing would be published without the author's/photographer's express permission.

Please contact Richard Hinchcliff at hinchcliff@primus.ca or Mary Ann Smythe at mas.langford@hotmail.ca or either through the Friends' office at 613-230-3276.



M. A. Vachon, Library & Archives Canada, DAP/15A-29

“William Saunders” and “Sara Agnes Saunders” arrive at the Farm in 1986 for CEF centennial celebrations. Saunders was appointed Director of Experimental Farms in 1886

Daylilies for the Garden

Daylilies can be used in perennial borders, as specimens, in foundation plantings, and in combination with grasses. They are herbaceous perennials with thick fleshy roots and long strap-like leaves. The flowers are funnel-shaped and come in every colour and shade but blue. Plants are from 12" to 4', which includes the scape (flower stem).

Daylilies begin blooming in mid-May and continue into September. There are short-, mid-, and late-season bloomers, with some having longer blooming periods than others. Some are nocturnal, meaning they open at night and remain open the following day. Each bloom lasts only a day but there are many buds on each scape opening on successive days.

Normally, daylilies have six petals, three broad and three narrow. Petals may be round such as 'Lemon Mint' or pointed such as 'Fuchsia Fashion'. Some daylilies have more than six petals and these are considered double daylilies, such as 'Double Delicious'. Another category has six long, narrow petals spaced apart and these are called spider daylilies.

Bloom size ranges from 2.2" to 7". Both single and double daylilies can be miniature as well, with blooms 3.5" or less. Some are fragrant.

One of the easiest plants to grow

Daylilies are one of the easiest plants to grow. They require sun or partial shade, approximately six hours of sun daily, good garden soil, and moderate water. Deadhead after blooming and, when all the buds and



'Apache Uprising'

Polly McColl

flowers have bloomed, cut the scape back to ground level. In the fall, cut the plants back to about 6" to 8" for easier spring cleanup. Divide every three years or as required. Come spring remove old foliage; new shoots emerge in early spring. Very few, if any, pests attack daylilies and they are subject to very few diseases.

Several terms are used in describing daylilies. The throat is the deep funnel part of the bloom, the eyezone is the darker or lighter or different coloured area just above

the throat. Terms such as self-coloured, bi-coloured, ruffled, and pleated are self-explanatory. Some blooms are flat such as those of 'Mardi Gras Parade', while others are more trumpet-shaped, for example, 'Just in June'. 'I Dream in Green' has recurved petals, that is, the flower petals curve backwards. Gold or diamond-dusted flowers appear to have a yellow/gold or white glitter on the bloom. 'Water Wheel', for example, exhibits gold-dusted flowers.

Two other terms used to describe daylilies are diploid and tetraploid. Usually daylilies have 11 pairs of chromosomes, which are referred to as diploid. Breeders have been able to produce daylilies with double the number of chromosomes, causing larger and thicker petals, brighter colours, and stronger foliage. These are called tetraploid. Both diploid and tetraploid daylilies are beautiful and colourful plants.



R. Hinchcliff

Ornamental Gardens, July 2011

Polly McColl, Master Gardener