

FRIENDS *of the* Central Experimental Farm

Fall 2022 Newsletter | Volume 34 No. 4

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The Trees We Didn't Plant

by Robert Glendinning

In the Arboretum and for that matter throughout the entire Farm, trees are growing that were not planted. The ones that have been allowed to stay or have managed to escape our notice are referred to as self-seeded trees. You could call them weed trees, but sometimes nature puts a tree in the perfect spot for our purposes.

If you see a coarsely serrated compound leaf popping out a bush or at the base of a tree, there is a good chance you are looking at a Manitoba Maple or Box Elder Maple (*Acer negundo*). It may deserve first place as the king of the weed trees. I am sure many of you have seen them growing out of a crack in concrete or along a neglected fence in the city. It is worth mentioning that this species is dioecious meaning it has male and female trees. The female trees bear the seeds and are the ones to watch out for if you want to avoid an unintended forest. It is native to North America, but not to our locale. In books, the polite term 'naturalized' is used to describe its range.

The Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*) is another unwelcome guest. You may

have one planted on your property. In the Arboretum's living collection, we have an extensive selection of cultivars, some with very appealing ornamental qualities. Its crime is that it outcompetes our native Sugar Maple in urban forests. We are in the process of removing it from the Arboretum's woodland. These maples are very good at reproducing. Next spring, take a walk in the maple collection just before the grass is cut for the first time. You will observe more seedlings than you can count, and most are Norway Maples. Amur Maple (*Acer ginnala*) is a slightly newer introduction to North America and it as invasive as the Norway Maple. It is often planted in commercial areas, such as around office buildings or on roadsides. It does have a beautiful fall colour.

An historic arboretum like ours has no shortage of other imported trees. Euonymus trees are well represented. There are some beautiful specimens that self-seeded, appearing in the rock wall at the bottom of the Arboretum. They must be 50+ years old. Again, they provide beautiful fall colour. Nearby you will find a collection of Cork Trees (*Phellodendron* sp.) which although not a source of cork, are very prolific. Like the Manitoba Maple they are dioecious. They never really seemed to catch on with the public, which is just as well, since they are

Continued on page 4...

PHOTO ABOVE:

Euonymus alatus in the Arboretum. "There are some beautiful [*Euonymus*] specimens that self-seeded."

IN EVERY RESPECT À TOUS ÉGARDS



ERIC JONES

President, Friends of the Farm | Président, Les Amis de la Ferme

This year we have welcomed many groups of people who have participated in guided walks through areas of the Central Experimental Farm, as well as taken part in a wide range of lectures and events held here.

The Friends offered numerous tours of the Ornamental Gardens, including four in the peony beds, tours of the Rock Garden, Macoun Garden, the perennial borders, as well as the lilac and iris collections. We provided one tour in French and hope to have more in the future. There have been the usual guided walks of the Arboretum, each with a different theme to help educate the public about different aspects of trees. The Friends have also given several presentations to various societies to help increase awareness of and appreciation for the Farm.

To this can be added the efforts of other groups that bring people along the paths and into the corners of the Farm, e.g., the Fletcher Wildlife Garden and the Agriculture and Food Museum. And of course, the work done by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada that draws in scientists and the farm community as part of its research mandate.

This exposure to the Farm builds an understanding of and respect for the width and breadth of its value to the public, whether it involves learning things about growing plants, studying agriculture and food, or simply finding a place to rest in a natural setting.

Out of this respect comes a wish to protect the Farm, and some preliminary efforts in that direction are described in the articles by Parks Canada and Heritage Ottawa on pages four and five of this newsletter. These articles show that there is an encouraging interest in finding ways to protect historic places like the Farm. But it's not as easy as you might think. The proposed federal legislation is moving in that direction but falls short of the goal.

The Friends of the Farm appreciate this initial work very much but call on all concerned, including MP Yasir Naqvi, to help us do more to ensure the Farm's continued survival and flourishing. We've seen over the past decade how important it is to protect the Farm, and there is indeed room in this proposed bill to address the protection of the CEF directly. Let's do that.

Let's respect the Farm in its entirety, so there will be no further losses to this great place.

Cette année, nous avons accueilli de nombreux groupes de personnes qui ont pris part à des promenades guidées dans les secteurs de la Ferme expérimentale centrale, et qui ont de plus assisté à un large éventail de conférences et d'événements ayant lieu sur place.

Les Amis se sont prêtés d'emblée pour y offrir un grand nombre de visites, d'abord dans les jardins ornementaux avec ses massifs de pivoines, dans le jardin de rocailles, dans le Jardin commémoratif de Macoun, les plates-bandes de vivaces et enfin les collections d'iris et de lilas. Une visite s'est déroulée en français, et nous espérons bien avoir l'occasion d'offrir de telles visites en plus grand nombre à l'avenir. Les habituelles randonnées dans l'Arboretum en compagnie de guides ont aussi eu lieu, avec un thème différent pour aider à éduquer le public sur les différents aspects des arbres. Les Amis ont également fait plusieurs présentations à divers organismes pour aider à rehausser la sensibilisation à l'égard de la Ferme afin d'en apprécier la richesse ou la valeur.

À ceci s'ajoutent les efforts d'autres groupes qui par leurs actions invitent les gens à découvrir les sentiers et les recoins de la Ferme, par exemple, le Jardin écologique Fletcher et le musée de l'Agriculture et de l'alimentation du Canada. Non sans compter le travail qu'accomplit Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada qui attire les scientifiques et la communauté des agriculteurs dans le cadre de son mandat de recherche.

Cette exposition à la Ferme permet de comprendre et de respecter l'ampleur et l'étendue de sa valeur pour le public, qu'il s'agisse d'apprendre des choses sur la culture des plantes, d'étudier l'agriculture et l'alimentation, ou simplement de trouver un endroit pour se reposer dans un cadre naturel.

De ce respect découle le désir de protéger la Ferme, et à cet égard, quelques efforts préliminaires dans cette direction sont décrits dans les articles de Parcs Canada et Patrimoine canadien aux pages trois et quatre de ce bulletin. Ces articles démontrent un intérêt manifeste de concevoir des moyens qui assurent la protection de lieux historiques tels que la Ferme. Mais ce n'est pas aussi facile qu'on puisse l'imaginer. La législation fédérale proposée va en ce sens, mais demeure bien en deçà de son but.

Les Amis de la Ferme sont fort reconnaissants de ces premières démarches. Ils font cependant appel à tous les intéressés, notamment le député Yasir Naqvi, à nous aider pour en faire davantage afin d'assurer de façon continue la survie et la prospérité de la Ferme. Nous avons vu au cours de la dernière décennie à quel point il est important de protéger la Ferme, et il y a effectivement de la place dans ce projet de loi pour aborder directement la protection de la Ferme. Allons-y!

Respectons la Ferme dans son intégralité afin d'éviter d'autres pertes à ce lieu grandiose.

UPCOMING EVENTS 2022



ANNUAL NON-DINNER

Please join the Friends for our popular annual fundraiser. Not a single person will show up and we will be delighted. You can help the Friends of the Farm just by staying at home!

- Individual seats \$25
- Couples \$50
- Family \$100
- Table of Six \$250
- Community \$500

Your support is greatly appreciated, and your donation is tax deductible. You can contribute by using our online fillable form for cheques or PayPal at <http://friendsofthefarm.ca/donations/>.



USED BOOK DROP-OFF

Clean out your shelves and donate your books for a great cause! Friends of the Farm volunteers will be ready to unload your boxes and bags of gently used and re-gifted books. Check the Friends' website for the date, time, and place of this event and the much-delayed used book sale.

STAY TUNED!

For more details, use the QR codes below to stay tuned:

2022 Events

Facebook



Randy Taylor

CELEBRATION BENCH PROGRAM AT AN END

One of the last celebration benches being installed by Mitch (in red shirt) and Lucas of Treestone Construction in August. These benches have been installed in beautiful locations throughout the Arboretum, thanks to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and generous donors. The program, which began in 2019, has now ended.

HEADS UP! ROAD CLOSURE ON BIRCH DRIVE



2.

1. Section of Birch Drive closed on July 11, 2022 at the new hospital site. *Credit AAFC.*



3.

2. Birch Drive closure at Maple Drive, and bulldozer, August 16, 2022.

3. "Construction Site." Birch Drive closure near the William Saunders Building, August 16, 2022.

THE TREES WE DIDN'T PLANT

(Continued from page 1)

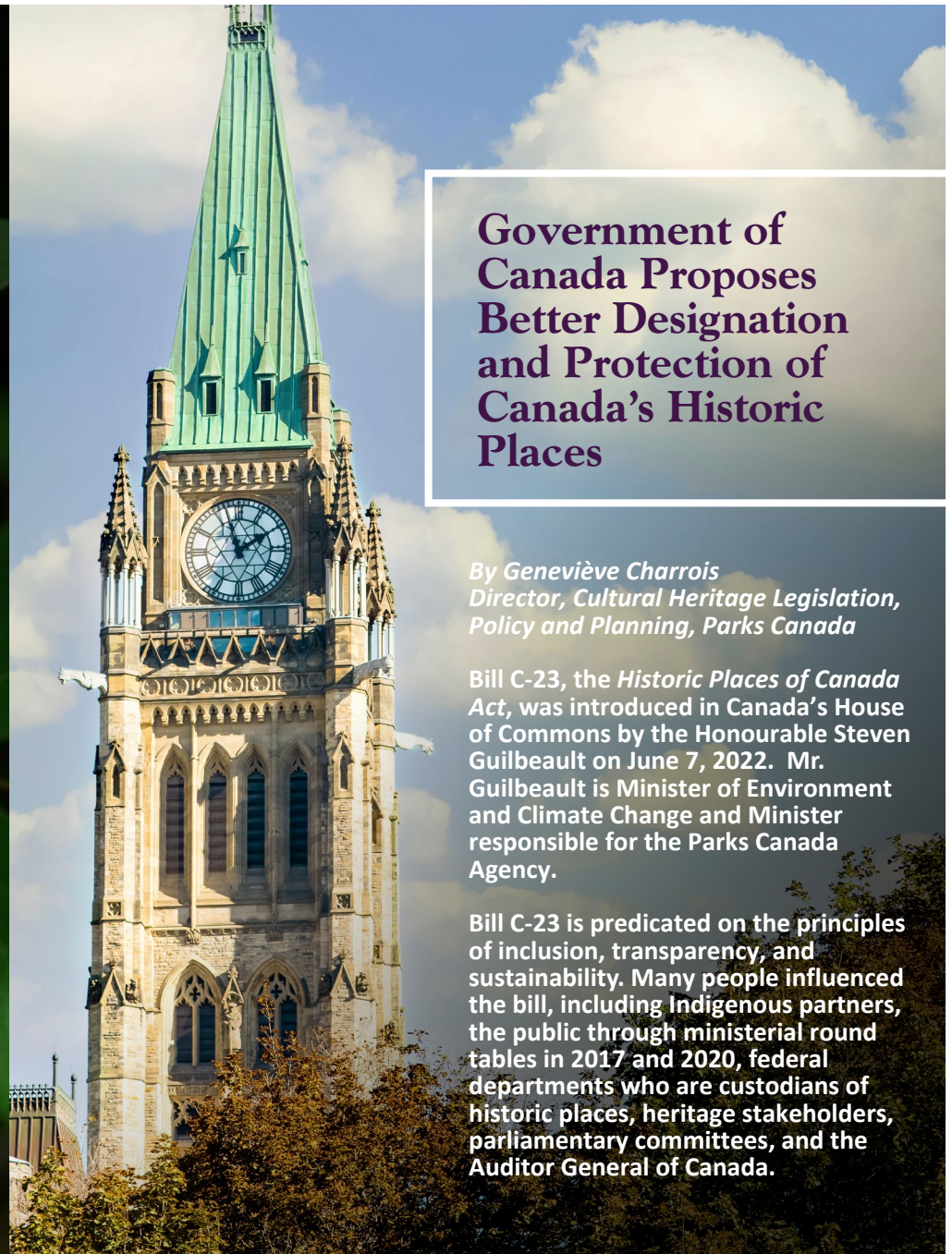
now flagged as invasive. Because they have been for the most part relegated to arboreta, they are not the problem they might have become.

Mulberry (*Morus alba*) is another uninvited guest. One can thank the birds for most of these plantings. Who can blame them as the fruits are fantastic. The squirrels like to plant Buckeye/ Horsechestnut (*Aesculus* sp.) all over the Farm. Although elms have been decimated by Dutch elm disease, their prolific habits make them a common tree. Hackberry (*Celtis*), is a very frequent guest here as is the Ash. Crabapples, cherries, and hawthorns are not shy either. Lastly, European Buckthorn finds places to grow everywhere and may deserve to tie the Manitoba Maple in the ranking of most prolific weed trees.

The above is not a complete list. We humans have done so much altering to this world (I am being polite) it is nice to see that nature is still successful. I know there are concerns about many of the non-native invasives and I share those, but still it is worth taking a moment to respect the natural world even if it is imported. Then the weed wrench, pruner, chainsaw etc... can do what it has to.

Robert Glendinning, Propagator/ Landscape Gardener with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, is a frequent contributor to this newsletter.

Leaves of the Manitoba Maple – “king of the weed trees.” Credit: [inaturalist.org](https://www.inaturalist.org)



Government of Canada Proposes Better Designation and Protection of Canada's Historic Places

By Geneviève Charrois
Director, Cultural Heritage Legislation,
Policy and Planning, Parks Canada

Bill C-23, the *Historic Places of Canada Act*, was introduced in Canada's House of Commons by the Honourable Steven Guilbeault on June 7, 2022. Mr. Guilbeault is Minister of Environment and Climate Change and Minister responsible for the Parks Canada Agency.

Bill C-23 is predicated on the principles of inclusion, transparency, and sustainability. Many people influenced the bill, including Indigenous partners, the public through ministerial round tables in 2017 and 2020, federal departments who are custodians of historic places, heritage stakeholders, parliamentary committees, and the Auditor General of Canada.

The Government of Canada currently relies on a range of legislation and policies to identify, evaluate, designate, and then protect and conserve historic places under its care. Properties recognized for their heritage value are subject to various policy and legal regimes that have been developed over time. The result is that the designation of a heritage property does not necessarily result in its protection or conservation.

In recent years, however, there have been increasing calls for greater legal protection for Canada's historic places.

Subject to Parliamentary approval, the proposed *Historic Places of Canada Act* would respond to these calls with a sustainable framework to protect and conserve federal historic places. This would be the first legislation of its kind in Canada, bringing the country on par with other G7 countries who all have comprehensive legislation to protect historic places.

Bill C-23, if adopted as written, proposes measures to enhance inclusion and transparency in federal heritage designations, including a stronger voice for Indigenous peoples.

As drafted, the bill would modify the composition of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada to include one representative each for First Nations, Inuit and Métis. If adopted, this measure would directly address Call to Action 79(i) of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

Additional measures intended to promote inclusion and transparency would address Indigenous and community knowledge, revisit past designations, and create a public register to ensure the public and decision-makers have the information they need.

If adopted as written, Bill C-23 would include measures to support the protection and conservation of some of Canada's most treasured sites such as the Parliament Buildings, the Central Experimental Farm, the Fortifications of Quebec, and the Rideau Canal.

Measures that would be applicable to federal historic places would include their listing on a public register, the codification of the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada* as a common tool to guide conservation, as well as mandatory consultation with Parks Canada regarding proposed actions that could affect the heritage value of federal historic places.

As the Government noted in its response to the Minister's 2020 round table on Parks Canada, Parks Canada has a number of tools at its disposal to support Canada's cultural heritage. In addition to efforts to strengthen federal legislation, the Minister also committed that Parks Canada will explore opportunities to increase support to owners of historic places and continue to implement the *Framework for History and Commemoration: National Historic Sites System Plan 2019*.

Heritage Ottawa Responds to the Government's Proposal

"Bill C-23: A good start but needs strengthening."

In its August newsletter, Heritage Ottawa stated that: "Canada is the only G-7 country without legislation to protect its designated heritage places. This fact leaves hundreds of places of cultural heritage value without legal protection. And that includes Canada's Parliament Buildings.

"The draft bill is an important first step and Heritage Ottawa was pleased to see that it addresses recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Report with concrete actions to support recognition of the history and culture of Indigenous, Inuit and Métis peoples.

"Other protective measures in the draft bill, however, need strengthening if the legislation is to be truly effective. Heritage Ottawa recommends that the government consider the following additions to the draft bill:

- **Accountability:** include a mechanism for reporting on the state of federally owned heritage properties, such as a tabled Annual Report.
- **Dispute Mechanism:** where departments that own federally designated heritage assets disagree with Parks Canada Agency on appropriate heritage conservation measures, an independent third party (such as the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada) could be empowered to mediate.
- **Disposal:** from time to time, the federal government disposes of heritage designated properties. The continued protection of these properties should be ensured under new ownership with the implementation of such measures as conservation easements.
- **Coverage:** the draft bill only applies to heritage designated properties owned by federal departments; to strengthen its effectiveness the bill should apply to all regulated entities, as is the case with the Accessible Canada Act.
- **Provision of implementing Regulations.**

"These practical measures would serve to make Bill C-23 a more robust effective piece of legislation. Heritage Ottawa will convey our concerns on the draft legislation to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, the Honourable Steven Guilbeault, and to Parliament in the fall, when the bill moves to second reading in the House of Commons. Stay tuned."



**Learn
More!**

For more information on the progress of Bill C-23 in Parliament, please follow this link:
<https://www.parl.ca/legisinfo/en/bill/44-1/c-23>

For more information on Parks Canada's work on this issue, please visit:
<https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/lhn-nhs/loi-bill-c-23>

For questions about federally administered historic places, please contact Parks Canada at
pc.legislationlieuxhistoriques-historicplaceslegislation.pc@canada.ca

Seismology at the Farm

By Sharon Odell

Nature and scientific study have always been alluring subjects, especially when it comes to powerful natural phenomena such as earthquakes.

At the north end of the Central Experimental Farm near Carling Avenue lies the Dominion Observatory Campus, Canada's national observatory site. This particular location was chosen for seismology research because of the Gloucester Fault Line nearby. The observatory complex is renowned as the home of the Canadian astronomy program and was once the source of official time for Canada. Although the astronomy program closed in 1970, the Seismology Division continues to operate today.

HISTORY OF CANADIAN SEISMOLOGY

Many seismic recordings and discoveries occurred over the last hundred years at the observatory complex. Magnitude seven earthquakes were recorded in 1906 (San Francisco), in 1929 (Grand Banks), in 1925 (Shawinigan QC), and then again in 1933 (Baffin Bay). There was a recording of a magnitude six

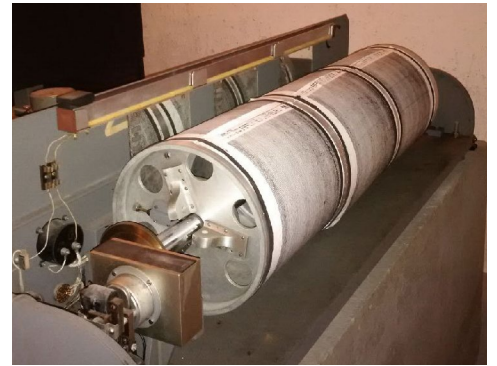
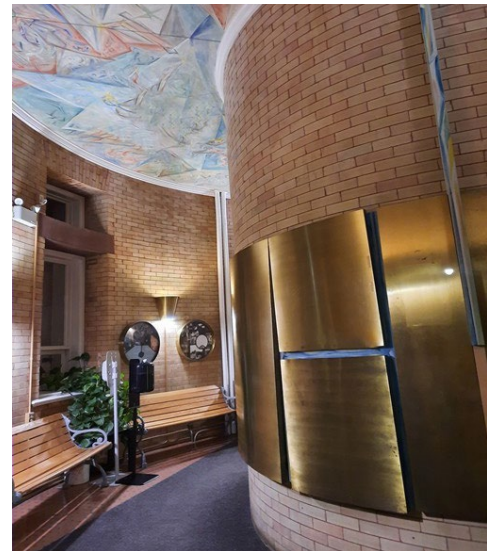
earthquake in 1935 (Timiskaming); and 5.7 magnitude earthquakes were captured in 1944 (Cornwall), 1982 (Miramichi), and in 2010 (Buckingham, Quebec).

The Dominion Observatory opened in 1904 and the first seismographs were installed in 1906. This early equipment only detected strong-magnitude earthquakes. However, in time, the technology improved and with it the ability to record further seismic activity. The Seismology Division of the Earth Physics Branch of Canada's then Ministry of Mines and Technical Surveys is now known as the Seismology Division within Natural Resources Canada (NRCan).

The seismology program grew quickly, along with surveying, under the observatory campus's first director, William Frederick King. The Survey and Seismology Building (No. 7) was constructed in 1913-1914 by Dominion Lead Architect David Ewart, the final

project of his career, after he had completed the other campus buildings. Otto Klotz, who had been the first lead seismologist, succeeded King as director in 1916, and by 1920 had established the initial seismometer network across Canada. During 1925-27, the first underground seismology vaults were built, complete with an underground tunnel to allow staff access. In each of these vaults, stand-alone square cement piers were created to provide solid bases for seismology equipment to be set upon. These enabled advanced seismic recordings to take place free from above-ground interference.

Drs. Stewart, Beals, and Hodgson served as the next successive directors of the Dominion Observatory Campus. By 1962, the Seismology Division was entirely housed within the Seismology Building. Also, as time passed and technology changed, the original seismic vaults became outdated. New ones were excavated to replace



them in 1960-61. They still exist today between the Seismology Building and the Dominion Observatory, and in 2014 the tunnels connecting them to those buildings were restored.

CELEBRATING CANADIAN SEISMOLOGY TODAY

Seismology continues to be celebrated at the Dominion Observatory Campus. It has a rich history and can boast of many distinguished staff, past and present. The science of Canadian seismology has many fascinating aspects, and those who have personally experienced earth tremors may be especially interested in them.

The last head draughtsman for the Earth Physics Branch (which consisted of the gravity, geomagnetism, geothermal and seismology divisions) was Lyman Warren. Prior to Warren, the head draughtsman was Juan Geuer, who served from 1957-1979. Geuer had a simultaneous career as a well-known Canadian artist.

Geuer's admiration for seismology was directly referenced in some of his art forms. This is certainly the case for an installation consisting of brass panels that he hung upon the telescope pier (circa 1968-75), in the center of the rotunda entranceway of the Dominion Observatory. Beyond being a decorative element added to the building interior, the panels are connected to a manometer on the observatory roof above, and to a seismometer below. As a result, the panels tend to vibrate when seismic motion is detected, providing visual evidence of movement in the earth's deep, and expressing what is often unseen in science. In

2017, during the first and only to date Doors Open Ottawa event at the Dominion Observatory Campus, staff enabled visitors to take a rare tour of the seismology tunnels, vaults, and historic equipment. Visitors were also shown how seismographs can capture and measure earth tremors outside of earthquake monitoring, such as the 1966 collapse of Ottawa's Heron Road Bridge during its construction. The impact of the fall was so intense it registered on seismometers at the Dominion Observatory site 5.5km away. In 2018, this seismic event was acknowledged when the bridge was re-named the Heron Road Workers Memorial to pay tribute to the nine dead and many injured.

The study of seismology and earthquakes in Canada provides an important benefit that is not very well recognized. This scientific discipline's recorded discoveries and results are used to set important safety standards. These are essential in planning new construction in this city, across Canada, and even on a global scale. The seismic scientific study at the Dominion Observatory Campus has led to the better understanding of earthquake hazards, resulting in the first National Building Code for Canada that came into force in 1941. The Code has as its foundation the meticulous seismic records that are continually updated for our benefit today.

To learn more about the history of Seismology on the Central Experimental Farm, please consult Dr. John Hodgson's volumes titled *"The Heavens Above and the Earth Below": A History of the Dominion Observatories, Parts I and II*, Geological Survey of Canada, 1989.

Sharon Odell has a 26-year career in museology. She has an M.A. in Art History from Carleton University and sits on the Advisory Committee for Applied Museum Technology at Algonquin College. She specializes in research on art, science, architecture, and the history of women in science. A member of the Friends of the Farm, she is also a member of the Ottawa Center of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada and sits on the Dominion Observatory Preservation Committee.

ABOVE PHOTOS FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:

1. Seismology underground vaults being constructed in front of Seismology Building, 1960-1961. J. H. Hodgson, *Geological Survey of Canada, Energy Mines and Resources Canada*, 1989

2. Inside a seismology vault, with a seismic pier at the center showcasing historic equipment. Dominion Observatory campus, Doors Open Ottawa, June 3, 2017. S. Odell

3. Interior rotunda entrance to the Dominion Observatory in August 2022, with display of seismology-related, brass-plate sculptural art installed around the central telescope pier. Display by Juan Geuer, artist, and past Dominion Observatory draughtsman. S. Odell

4. Historic seismograph on display, set upon a seismic square pier in underground vault. Dominion Observatory campus, Doors Open Ottawa, June 3, 2017. S. Odell

Photo by Barb L.

Putting Your Garden to Bed

FOR THE WINTER

by Mary Shearman Reid

A garden really is a year-round hobby and so the fall is no exception. There's lots to do in your garden in addition to tucking everyone into bed and planning for the following year.

It's not too late to put 'container grown' plants in the ground. Late September is a good time, and even early October is good for deciduous plants. The soil in the fall is often warmer than in the spring! The key is to water daily for two weeks and then weekly until the ground is frozen solid.

Bulbs can go in, too, of course. You'll have increased success with them if you buy mature bulbs. These should bloom for you in the first spring, whereas younger bulbs might not. All bulbs need to go through the growing season and should be left standing so that the plant can photosynthesize and replenish the bulb's energy for the next year, whether they bloom or not.

Bulbs should usually be planted by the middle of October, but with our changing climate, you'll need to play it by ear. Workable ground is what you want; tulip bulb planting can be later! Squirrels and other critters can make bulb planting frustrating. You can use blood meal, chicken manure, dog hair, boards, or chicken wire to help to protect bulbs from squirrels. Squirrels don't usually dig up daffodils. A fritillaria bulb can deter squirrels too, as these bulbs are quite smelly!

Most plants can still be divided in the fall. A plant is telling you that it needs to be divided if:

- it is floppy, falling over, or splayed in the middle (e.g., *sedum*)
- if the centre is dead or there's a hole in the middle, (e.g. *Siberian iris*)
- it has fabulous blooms one year and then not much the next

If the plant is an early bloomer, divide later in the season; fall or late summer blooming, divide earlier in the season. It is easiest to divide ornamental grasses in the spring, because then you don't need to worry if it is a warm- or cool-season grass.

BULBS

Most summer bulbs are perennials, just not for us Ottawa gardeners. You'll need to bring these plants – usually their root system (e.g., tubers, corms, bulbs etc.) – indoors for the winter. It is usually prudent to bring in tuberous begonias before the frost; most other bulbs can wait until later. The longer the bulbs stay in the ground (before they really freeze!), the bigger they will be. Some plants e.g., cannas, can just be left in their pots for the winter. Cut them back and wait for spring. Others can be stored as bulbs in a cool, dry spot.

PERENNIALS

Will you cut back your perennials for winter – or will you not? This is

entirely up to you. Leaving your garden standing or partially upright allows you some winter interest, and just as importantly, the birds can enjoy seeds from the spent flowers, and insects can enjoy a winter home in the hollow stalks of your perennials. If you decide to cut your plants back, then most herbaceous perennials can be chopped – to about 5 cm/2 inches above the soil. Cutting back reduces overwintering pests and diseases. Cut your plants when you or they are ready (not necessarily all at once). The plant might look spent early on, e.g., daylilies – so you can do any cutting back gradually. There is no need to cut back evergreen perennials such as candy tuft or plants that are low to the ground or prone to heaving, such as bugle weed or coral bells. Shallow-rooted perennials and/or first-year plants benefit from mulching. This helps to prevent them from heaving.

COMPOST

It's less work to add compost to your garden in the fall since it doesn't need

to be worked in. You can just add up to 2.5cm/one inch all over. The freeze and thaw cycle will work the compost into your garden for you.

PRUNING

It could be too late and or too early to prune! Pruning spurs on new growth. You don't want to cut off next year's blooms. Lilacs, for example, will have already formed their buds by the fall for the following year's blossoms. Some plants such as hydrangea or clematis have different pruning needs. When in doubt, do nothing and re-assess after the following year's growth. Any vines that might whip around in a winter wind can be tied back to their trellis.

BUNNIES

If you have bunnies in your neighbourhood, you might want to wrap some of your plants (especially fruit bushes, burning bushes, and anything expensive, e.g. Japanese maples and magnolias - those bunnies have Cadillac tastes!) with something like chicken wire. There are also some products on the market that you might try to deter the rabbits' appetites.

EVERGREENS

We all think our evergreens and broadleaf evergreens, especially well-established cedar hedges, don't need much attention. They really do need a drink just like you and me. Plan to water them once a week starting in September until the ground is frozen solid. Spring 2022 showed us a lot of 'brown' evergreens, mostly due to a northwest wind. It could also be the reflection of the sun off the snow in a southern exposure. The needles require lots of fall watering to fend off



Mary Shearman Reid

Bulbs should usually be planted by the middle of October, but with our changing climate, you'll need to play it by ear.



Mary Shearman Reid

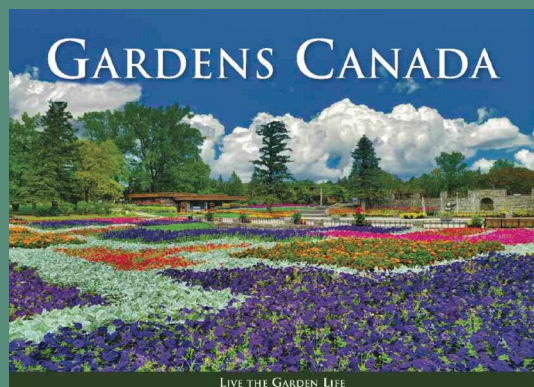
Open wrapping is better than totally closed wrapping.

desiccation over the winter. If you are thinking of wrapping an evergreen, wait until the ground is frozen. This will deter critters from setting up shop for the winter. Open wrapping is better than totally closed wrapping. If the wrapping is closed and we get a winter thaw, you'll need to remove it to make sure there is no heat build-up in the middle of your plant. If you think your plant might splay or open with winter snow, you can tie the plant up with jute or netting and then just cut off the string in the spring.

No wonder you are tired out – there is still lots to do AND it's fun!

Mary Shearman Reid grew up in a family of gardeners, worked as a gardener during her summers at university, and for the past 25+ years finds herself at Green Thumb Garden Centre in Ottawa. She is a member of Landscape Ontario, a CLHM (Certified Landscape Horticulturist Manager), and volunteers as a Master Gardener.

A Visual Feast



"This celebration of gardens across the country is a visual feast." - Alexander Reford, Director, Reford Gardens
(from his opening message in the book)

The Ornamental Gardens and Arboretum at AAFC's Central Experimental Farm are among one hundred popular and admired Canadian gardens presented in a new book, entitled *Gardens Canada - Live the Garden Life*. Parks Canada historic sites are also included, as well as award-winning landscapes that illustrate garden designs, trends and innovations from coast to coast.

Readers are invited to "live the garden life," get their hands in the ground, and visit a Canadian garden. The book was released by the Canadian Garden Council and is now available at the Friends of the Farm online boutique for \$28.50 per copy.

Rhododendrons “are set within a beautiful rolling landscape.” *Joan Butcher*

Ornamental Beauty

AT THE KENTVILLE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

by *Joan Butcher*

Every year, on Rhododendron Sunday (traditionally held on the second Sunday in June), thousands of people flock to Kentville, Nova Scotia to admire the showpiece collection of rhododendrons and azaleas that include more than a dozen varieties developed at the town’s Research and Development Centre. The flowers range in colour from vivid oranges and reds to softer pinks and whites, and are set within a beautiful rolling landscape of impressive trees, shrubs, and flower beds.

Since its establishment by the Government of Canada as a horticultural station in 1911, and through a bewildering number of name changes (e.g., the Dominion Experimental Research Farm, the Kentville Research Station, the Kentville Experimental Station, and the Atlantic Food and Horticulture Research Centre), this Centre has contributed enormously to agriculture and science locally, nationally, and internationally.

It was established near the eastern limits of the town of Kentville in Nova Scotia’s Annapolis Valley. It was one of the sites in a network of agricultural stations, first established in 1886 with the Central Experimental Farm and four others across the country, to develop new agricultural methods and crops. The goal was to provide expertise to farmers so they could grow a greater range of products, raise better livestock, and increase agricultural

output. The Kentville location was originally designed to be a horticultural research station that emphasized enhancing Nova Scotia’s apple production, but it expanded its role over the years to include, among many research areas, livestock and poultry, integrated pest management, food storage technology. And without the assistance of the Centre, it is unlikely that Nova Scotia would have developed a thriving wine industry.

A BUILDING BOOM

Construction of the farm buildings, which began in the summer of 1912, was accomplished at an amazing rate. Within two years, eight structures were raised – the foreman’s house, a double tenement house for a herdsman and gardener, a dairy building, a poultry building, a greenhouse with a potting and workroom attached, a carriage house, a barn to accommodate horses

and cattle, and the superintendent’s residence. The barn and residence are now Recognized Federal Heritage Buildings, given their historical associations and architectural and environmental value.

The charming residence, known as the Blair House, was constructed for Dr. W. Saxby Blair, director of the Station from 1912 to 1938. A two-storey, wood house, it was built in the arts and crafts style with a hipped roof featuring large dormer windows on three sides. Its design is that of a typical foursquare, with a symmetrical main façade that includes the central entrance. Inside, the house has maintained some of its original features, including a fine staircase and wood trim and panelling on the main floor that still features a natural blonde oak finish. The Main Barn, a landmark to Nova Scotia agriculture, was built into the sloping terrain at the Station. Originally



used as a dairy barn, it is a large, timber-frame structure, with a metal, gabled roof and shed-roofed additions on each side. The building features a striking red-painted exterior of narrow-gauge clapboarded pine siding, small six-over-six wood sash windows and white trim. Originally, the barn had an upright silo and a root cellar.



Its type is known as a bank barn, commonly built in Ontario at that time. These barns tended to be constructed into a north-facing

hillside (or bank) for increased insulation. As a further advantage, the different elevations at the front and the back of the barn allowed the upper storage level and the lower floor area to be accessed from ground level, i.e., one entrance at the top of the hill and the other at the bottom.

EXPERIMENTS WITH ORNAMENTAL PLANTS

In January 1912, William T. Macoun, Canada's Dominion Horticulturist, assured members of the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers Association, an organization instrumental in the establishment of the research station, that ornamental plantings would be a prominent feature of the farm. In an address entitled "The Work of a Horticultural Station, With Special Reference to the Station at Kentville, N.S." he said "Experiments should be tried at Kentville to determine what ornamental plants will succeed best, and the grounds should also be laid out so that they will offer suggestions for their own places to farmers and fruit growers who visit the Station."



The Station was fortunate in its first superintendent, Dr. Saxby Blair, who was an outstanding horticulturist with great expertise in landscaping and a love for ornamentals.

Hard labour was required to transform hilly brushland and fields full of tree stumps into park-like grounds. Although teams of oxen were used for ridding the ground of roots and rocks, dynamite also had to be employed. By 1913, staff had two hectares cleared and seeded for lawn. Shrubs and trees were sent from the Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa. The tree plantings included Butternut, Heartnut, Phellodendron, Japanese Maple, and Catalpa.

By 1915, the landscape was beginning to transform, with the addition of beds of perennials and roses, as well as shrubs and hedges. These were not only ornamental; they helped separate the residential section of the station from the working farm. These plantings are largely gone now, but the beautiful native and non-native trees and the extensive lawns remain. The hillside at the front of the centre is like a mini-arboretum, where you can wander and enjoy the magnificent, towering rhododendrons and azaleas. It is Atlantic Canada's largest such collection.

First planted by Saxby Blair in the 1920s, the collection was enhanced over the years as the result of the extensive and painstaking research into ornamentals that took place at the station for nearly 40 years. Flowering shrub research officially began at the station in 1958 under acclaimed plant breeder Donald L. Craig. The varieties developed in Kentville went on to win 16 major awards and 200 ribbons at national and regional flower shows.

The Centre is no longer involved in ornamentals research now that this activity has been transferred to the horticulture industry. But the annual Kentville display is a testament to the research program that provided the hardy, flowering shrubs that to this day beautify Canadian gardens.

Joan Butcher, a Friends of the Farm volunteer, previously worked for the federal government as a communications director.

SOURCE MATERIAL: Agriculture Canada, *Advancing Agriculture, A History, Kentville Research Station 1911-1986*, 1986.

CREDITS & CAPTIONS: 1. Rhododendrons in June, Kentville, Nova Scotia. *Joan Butcher* 2. "The charming residence, known as the Blair House." *Joan Butcher* 3. "The Main Barn, a landmark to Nova Scotia agriculture." *Joan Butcher* 4. Clearing the land with an ox team, Kentville Experimental Research Farm. Agriculture Canada, *Fifty Years of Progress on Dominion Experimental Farms, 1886-1936*, Ottawa, 1939.



R. Hinchcliff

An Arboretum Engagement

Alana Fawcett thought she was meeting Zissis Hadjis and his brother for a family get-together among the crabapple trees in the historic Arboretum. In fact, Zissis had set up a display of flowers, candles, and delicacies, and when Alana arrived, he knelt and asked her to marry him. "Such a wonderful surprise," said the elated Alana. Our very best wishes to the happy couple.

IN OUR BOUTIQUE

PHOTO CARDS

Photo cards featuring colourful images of the Arboretum and Ornamental Gardens in all seasons are in the Boutique. Blank inside, the cards make a fine choice for any occasion.

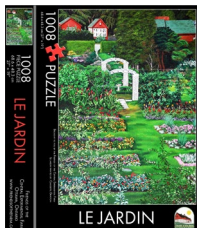


VISIT THE BOUTIQUE AT

www.friendsofthefarm.ca/boutique

PUZZLES

Also in the Boutique are three Jigsaw puzzles featuring images of the Ornamental Gardens, including this delightful painting by Claudette Gratton. With three puzzles to choose from, you are sure to find the perfect gift or treat for yourself.



BOOKS



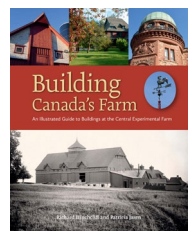
"A tour de force in both words and pictures ... this book is a must-read (and must-enjoy) for everyone who cares about (the Farm's) past and its future.

Bravo." Ailsa Francis, Ottawa Citizen, about *Blooms: An Illustrated History of the Ornamental Gardens*.



Ottawa's Farm: A History of the Central Experimental Farm is a captivating story of a national historic site, its people, and their achievements.

"I wanted to make it something that people would want to read whether they cared about history or not." Author Helen Smith.



"The story of the buildings (at the Central Experimental Farm) is brought to life by fascinating tales of the people who worked and, in some cases, lived in them." Heritage Ottawa, about the book *Building Canada's Farm*.

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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.

The Friends of the Central Experimental Farm publish the *Newsletter* (ISSN 1702 2762) four times a year (Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall). All members receive the newsletter and it is sent by regular mail or e-mail.

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Benefits include discounts on Master Gardener lectures, one free admission per group per visit to the Canada Agriculture and Food Museum, quarterly printed newsletters by post, and monthly *Farm Notes* e-newsletter.

We also accept donations to support our activities and events, which also support the garden teams that maintain the cherished Ornamental Gardens.

A variety of donations can be made through our webpage:
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