



The Cary Bulletin

Published since 1993 by
THE FRIENDS OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE GARDENS SOCIETY
Volume 18, Issue 4, August 2010

SEA RAVEN ON THE SALISH SEA

On July 15, along with government representatives and Coast Salish leaders, I celebrated the official naming of the Salish Sea. The Salish Sea encompasses the waterways from the south end of Puget Sound in Washington State to Desolation Sound at the north end of the Strait of Georgia in British Columbia, including the Juan de Fuca Strait. The name is applied to the waters as a whole, and does not replace names already in place. At the ceremony, I presented a hand-carved canoe to the Navy in honour of its 100th anniversary. The 15 ½ foot red cedar canoe is named “Sea Raven on the Salish Sea” and is a traditional Northern-style, ocean-going canoe. I carved and painted the canoe with the help of my brother, Mark Point, and master carver Chief Tony Hunt. Its permanent home will be at CFB Esquimalt.

The Honourable Steven L. Point, OBC
Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia



^^ His Honour and Master Carver Chief Tony Hunt with the canoe ‘Sea Raven on the Salish Sea’ and members of the Canadian Navy.

His Honour and Chief Tony Hunt work on the canoe ‘Sea Raven on the Salish Sea’. *(Photo by Don Craig)* >>

Text and photographs supplied by Adrienne Dunton, Communications and Events Coordinator, Office of the Lieutenant Governor, Government House.

CONTENTS

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. ‘Sea Raven on the Salish Sea’ | 2. From the Library Shelf | 5. The Jane Rogers Rose |
| 2. Garden Supervisors 2010 | 2. Bulletin Publication Committee | 6. South African Stars |
| 2. Non-Gardening Supervisors 2010 | 3. President’s Message | 6. Harvest Celebration Bazaar & Craft Fair |
| 2. E-Mail Messaging | 3. Message from Government House | 7. Far Away Close to Home |
| 2. Board of Directors 2010 | 3. Welcome New Members | 8. Notices |
| | 4. Around the Gardens | 8. Key Decisions |

**FRIENDS OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE GARDENS SOCIETY
GARDEN SUPERVISORS 2010**

Cottage	Phyllis Muir	Second - Yvonne Jordan
Country Garden	Ruth Minshall (Tues); Maxine Brook (Thurs)	
Cut Flower Garden	Terry Hanak	Second - Jan Drent & Sheila Moulton (Tues); Second - Rita Porter (Thurs)
Flower Arrangers	Audrey Smith	Second - Peggy Dallamore
Herb Garden	Marion Elliott	Second - Eileen Collier
Iris Garden	Val Smith	Second - Karen Phillips
Nursery	Marlene Reed	
Orchard	<i>Vacant</i>	
Pearkes Peak	David and Crenagh Elliott	
Peter's Rocks	Peter Underwood	
Pool Garden	Jessica Sluymer	
Rock and Alpine	Rand Harrison	
Rockland 1	Diane Symes	Second - Sandra Fleischman
Rockland 2	Phyllis Muir	Second - Dianne Adams
Rotary Garden	Michael Russell & Siewkeen Quah	
Winter Garden	Carol Dancer	
Sunken Rose Garden	Nairn Hollott	
Terraces	Alison Leamy	
Victorian Rose Garden	Vaughn Edwards	Second - John Ruitenbeek
Woodlands	Pat Boyle	Second - Eileen Edgar
Tool Shed Manager	David Langley	

NON-GARDENING SUPERVISORS 2010

Archives Group	Sue Baptie	
Bulletin Mailing Group	Renate Ferguson	
Coffee/Tea Mornings	Liz Wallis (Tuesday) & Martha Livingston (Thursday)	
Cottage Upkeep	Renate Ferguson	
Tours & Teas (2010)	Angela Newton	
E-mail Communications	Jean Williams	
Greeting Cards	Margaret Nelson	
Library	George Metcalfe	
Photography Group	Renate Ferguson	
Telephone Committee	Eileen Edgar	Second - Frances Bardon
Christmas Lunch (2009)	Mary Caké, Peggy Dallamore & Noella Birch	

E-MAIL MESSAGING

Society messages for distribution to Friends by e-mail should be sent to Jean Williams at least a week ahead of time: jwbaskets@shaw.ca or 250-477-5848.

FROM THE LIBRARY SHELF

As a member of the 'boomer generation', Brian Minter shares the attitudes of redefining and fighting aging. There is a growing realization that the nutritional values of fruits and vegetables bring significant health benefits. His article in *Gardens West*, Vol. 24, No. 3, describes the value of varieties of celery, tomatoes, broccoli and strawberries. Brussel sprouts, kale and cabbage are all loaded with sulfuraphane and indoles, noted cancer-fighting chemicals. Indoles activate detoxicating enzymes and bind them to chemical carcinogens in the intestinal tract to neutralize their harmful effects.

George Metcalfe

BULLETIN PUBLICATION COMMITTEE

Members include Marion Jensen, Nigel Godfrey, Val & Howard Smith. Comments, suggestions, original and photo materials are welcome and may be left in the 'Publications Folder' in the Cottage, or contact any of the above-named members. The deadline for receipt of contributions for the **October issue** of the *Cary Bulletin* is **Friday, September 17, 2010**. Members of the Friends, wishing to forego the paper version, can access the *Cary Bulletin* via the House web site at www.lt.gov.bc.ca in the first week of February, April, June, August, October and December.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2010

The Friends of Government House Gardens Society	
President: Alex Muir	alex_muir@telus.net
250-592-0407	
Vice-President: Angela Newton	newton_foster@shaw.ca
250-381-0752	
Past President: Brian Rogers	brianarogers@shaw.ca
250-592-8882	
Secretary: Marlene Reed	marlenejreed@telus.net
250-382-5651	
Treasurer: Catherine Spencer	catherinespencer@telus.net
250-382-6340	
Gardening Operations: Nairn Hollott	nairnhollott@shaw.ca
250-744-4019	
Garden Support: Howard Smith	hsmith@island.net
250-598-3385	
Activities: Audrey Smith	audnbill@shaw.ca
250-382-0314	
Directors-at-Large:	
250-595-7751 Michael Rankin	mjrankin@shaw.ca
250-592-9994 Peggy Dallamore	pdal@shaw.ca
250-598-0542 Denise Stocco	stocco10@shaw.ca
250-477-0899 Janet Renouf	storyline@shaw.ca
Head Gardener: Valerie Murray	vmurray0@gmail.com
250-592-2005	
Volunteer Coordinator: <i>Vacant</i>	
Membership Coordinator: Susan Bartol-Drinker	susan.bartol-drinker@shaw.ca
250-380-9447	
Honorary Member: Carol Dancer	w.dancer@telus.net
250-721-5273	
Director of Operations/Government House:	
250-387-2080 Jermy Brownridge	jermy.brownridge@gov.bc.ca
Government House web site	www.lt.gov.bc.ca

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I write this we've held two of the three concerts on the lawn. As we were setting up for the second concert, we saw three deer in the orchard. I had heard they would go after fruit trees but this is the first time I've watched. They would rear up and balance on their hind legs, and reach up into the tree to pick off the lower leaves and even the fruit (plums in this case). Their balance on two legs was really quite incredible. I do need to remember to take my camera along more often!

The first two concerts were a lot of fun. We served up sausages and hot dogs, samosas, watermelon, cookies, ice cream treats and drinks. There were some really good crowds for both. I expect the third one will also be well attended. This is, of course, the inaugural use of the new band shell. I talked to some of the musicians afterwards and they appreciated it, especially the marvellous view of Trial Island and the Olympics. One of them commented that the view was almost too distracting. I think the younger attendees also enjoyed the new venue. There was a crowd of kids dancing on the stairs that lead up to the stage. What a marvellous sight that was!

The gardens are looking great this year in spite of a slow start due to cool weather. The meat meal has helped prevent too much deer damage, though I have noticed we cannot afford to miss an application or they get in there for a nice feast. With the various gardens looking so nice, it shows up a big contrast with some areas that have not yet seen any grooming or restoration. A lot of this is due to lack of enough volunteers to do everything that we would like to do. With the latest recruitment, we have filled out our numbers a bit, and now we're starting to get into some of these areas. I was working in an area last week from which the ivy had been pulled. Little shoots had started to show again, and when I tried to dig them up, I discovered huge root systems just below the surface. What a fun job trying to pull them out! We'll keep at it and hopefully we can start to make these areas a little tidier.

We have scheduled the Harvest Festival for October 1 and 2 - refer to page 6. If you are interested in helping then we'd love to hear from you. If you want to be involved, you can ask any member of the Board (we're all listed on page 2 under Board of Directors in this Bulletin). We'd love to hear from you.

Alex Muir

MESSAGE FROM GOVERNMENT HOUSE

Dear Friends:

We have enjoyed great success in our Tea and Tours this summer, as well as at the "Music on the Lawn Series". The new band shell and concession area proved to work fine for the food sales, and the weather certainly helped as well. I also enjoyed working closely with some different Friends volunteers. The special events are a lot of hard work on top of all the hours that go into gardening, tour guiding or other duties at Government House. 'Set up' and 'Tear down' are particularly tiresome, so a special thanks to those involved in the teas, costume museum, open houses and concerts.

The House is winding down a bit for the season. We typically have few events in August but it is a good time for staff to catch up on paper work and take a few well-deserved vacation days. With over 400 events per year, and Winter Games earlier on, Their Honours, too, will be taking a few days to be with their family. We will be winding up a little earlier this year as we prepare for the Long Service Awards kick-off on September 14. As it stands now, we will have only 12 nights, with roughly 250 retiring public servants, coming through per evening. We will be putting the corsage makers and lettuce growers to work, that is for certain, but any proceeds we are able to generate will surely go to my favourite cause. We haven't sorted out the rest of the autumn calendar yet, but it is sure to be as hectic as years past. We look forward to showing off our glorious gardens to so many domestic and international visitors.

Thank you for making us all look so good!

I will be writing this before the Annual Summer BBQ, but for those that were able to attend, I hope you enjoyed it. We certainly will enjoy mixing with you and sharing some stories and smiles again this year.

Enjoy the rest of the summer, and thanks again from all of us at the House for all you do.

Jerymy Brownridge, Director of Operations, Government House

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Susan Currie

Nancy Grant

Mary Noble

Ann Allison

Clare Walton

Dan Gibbs

AROUND THE GARDENS



1. Taffy Carsley at the potting shed.
2. Mary Cake and Barry Gaetz on Pearkes Peak.
3. His Honour and Dr. Richard Hebda examine mosses in the Woodlands.
4. "The tongue" - a food offering at the annual Woodland's picnic.
5. Foxglove lilies (*Eremurus*) soar on the upper Terraces.

Photos 1&2 supplied by Penny Tennenhouse; 3&4 by Kathleen Martin; and 5 by Nigel Godfrey.

THE JANE ROGERS ROSE

The following is from the story of the 'Jane Rogers' rose as told by Mrs. Jane Rogers, Chatelaine of Government House from 1983 to 1988.

Mrs. Rogers tells us that she has always loved roses. When she came to Government House, she was very upset over the neglect of the roses growing in the gardens at that time. Because of her position, she was able to raise money to help restore the old rose garden which was located on the right-hand side of the driveway as you enter the grounds. Also, she would ask for a donation of a rose if she was to be given a gift while performing her official duties.

In recognition of her efforts, the Trustees of Government House Foundation decided that a rose should be given the name 'Jane Rogers'. The International Rose Federation gave their permission but with the stipulation that the rose could not be sold commercially. The rose was chosen by Mrs Rogers and grown in Surrey, England. The rose was then sent on to Government House and planted in the old rose garden. The old rose garden was dug up in 1990 and eventually became the Country Garden. Mrs Rogers managed to rescue her rose, planted it in her own garden, and gave a few away to friends, always the best method to preserve a treasured plant.

In 2007, Herb Leroy asked if I could find a 'Jane Rogers' rose and place it in the gardens. I discovered Robin Denning had two small rooted cuttings in his nursery at Brentwood Bay. We took possession that spring and the 'Jane Rogers' rose once again was growing happily in Government House Gardens, this time in full sunshine on the Terraces.

The 'Jane Rogers' rose is a classic hybrid tea rose, peach suffused with shades of yellow and with a light spicy fragrance.

Carol Dancer



^ Carol Dancer with the 'Jane Rogers' rose.

Photo supplied by Mary Cake.

< Two closeups of the 'Jane Rogers' rose.

Photos supplied by Nigel Godfrey.

SOUTH AFRICAN STARS

The vuvuzelas have grown silent but before our focus has totally shifted from South Africa I want to celebrate a star of that country's plant world, a rather loud member of the lily family. *Kniphofias*, or red-hot poker, as they are commonly called, evoke strong feelings and mixed reactions from many gardeners. Perhaps it is their often strong colours and shapes that tend to dominate a planting scheme that make people reluctant to embrace them. It is these same qualities that make them stars when they are used with thought.

Kniphofia were introduced into cultivation in Britain, under the name *Aloe uvaria*, by Frances Masson, the first professional plant collector employed at Kew Gardens. Their current name recognizes the German botanist Professor Johann Hieronymus Kniphof (1704-63).

The *Kniphofia northiae* in the south end of the west Rock and Alpine bed looks very much like an aloe, so it is easy to see how this species might have been misnamed by early collectors. This species was named after the Victorian botanical artist, Marianne North who brought a live plant to Kew. It is evergreen and one of the most tropical looking plants hardy enough to be grown outdoors. When well grown, its leaves can reach 6 feet in length and 6 inches wide at the base. This plant is grown more for its leaves than its flowers that appear in late summer.



It is the showy flowers, however, that people most identify with *Kniphofias*. The tall flower spikes rise well above the leaves in most varieties. They can be used to dramatic effect to punctuate a border and generally contribute to the bones of a garden layout. As a bonus, they are a favourite of hummingbirds.

The orange and yellow flowers of old 'pokers' are the most familiar of the species. But *Kniphofia* have been hybridized for more than 100 years and plants are now available in a wide range of shades from creamy white, through chartreuse, melon and gold. By choosing carefully, you can have *Kniphofia* in bloom for 7 months of the year. Cultivars may provide specific colour for early, mid- and late summer schemes. Some varieties bloom well into November. All do best grown in a fertile, moisture retentive soil, in full sun. Good drainage is essential. The plants are generally long-lived and respond well to a rich feed. Any dividing should be done in the spring.



This being my first full year in Government House gardens, it is wonderful to watch and see the variety of plants growing here. Old garden plant lists indicate that we have other unusual *Kniphofia* species growing in these gardens besides *K. northiae*. I am on the lookout this season for *K. caulescens*, *K. linearifolia* and *K. typhoides*. I am also looking for the hybrid *K. 'Traffic Lights'* which looks beautiful in a Google search.

Rockland Border 1 has a new planting of the short creamy yellow *Kniphofia* that has been blooming all through June. These plants came unnamed from the Nursery Garden, so, maybe someone can help us put a name to it? They look wonderful skirting the banana tree at that location. The newly planted hypericum bed at the top of the Terraces has a taller and darker yellow variety (see photo at left) that resembles *K.*

'Percy's Pride', and an elegant mid-orange specimen (see photo at the top of this page).

Like the vuvuzelas, *Kniphofias* are hardly subtle but in the right places they offer lots of drama in the garden. I think we should welcome them into our gardens more often.

Valerie Murray

HARVEST CELEBRATION BAZAAR AND CRAFT SALE - OCTOBER 1 & 2, 2010.

- The following goods will be very acceptable donations for our bazaar:
- Books, framed artwork, fabric, yarn, games, kitchen gadgets, kitchen implements, small tools, jewelry, ladies hats, scarves, CD's, potted plants, baskets, designer totes, "interesting white elephant goods", bowls, "juried gems", dishes, and on. All items in good condition that might be a treasure for someone else will be most welcome. Please cleanse cupboards, drawers, and garages!
- Drop off at the Butterworth Cottage will be on the first four Thursdays in September between the hours of 12 and 1 pm. To make drop off arrangements before September, contact Angela Newton at 250 381 0752 or
- Email: newton_foster@shaw.ca (this address has an underscore between newton and foster).

FAR AWAY CLOSE TO HOME

My recent trip aboard the MV Aurora Explorer was a marvelous excursion. It's a freighter, a self-propelled 'barge', that services out ports on the islands and inlets northeast of Vancouver Island. From March to October the movement of cargo though seems almost secondary to its being a vacation cruise ship.

The Aurora Explorer not only delivers fuel, equipment and boom chains, for example, to remote logging camps, fish farms and private resorts, and returns to the big island with vehicles to repair and things to recycle, but also, perhaps more importantly, gives travelers a chance to see first-hand how it operates while cruising through some of the world's most breath-taking scenery. Evidence of logging appears but the awesome landscape is not diminished. Sun-sparkling waves, snow-capped mountains, cloud-shrouded valleys and green-turquoise glacial water, provided an unparalleled panorama.

The cruise took us through the Discovery Islands, up Bute Inlet and to the very end of Toba Inlet with delivery/pick-up stops enroute. The vessel's shallow draught allows it to get right up to shore and lower its ramp in the remotest of places, including beautiful beaches where we disembarked and wandered. At Blind Channel on West Thurlow Island, ship's mate, Philippe, took us on a beautiful rainforest hike through fern and salal dells, and around moss-laden nurse logs to an 800-year old cedar. Then later, Captain Ron maneuvered the vessel right up to the cliff where 'Aurora' Falls tumble out of the forest crashing down to the sea. At Brem River, where we tied up overnight (and where the loggers quarters is a retired BC ferry), we eagerly watched for elk and grizzlies reported to visit the estuary daily. We didn't see them but were happy to observe dolphins, eagles and seals elsewhere.

Twelve passengers occupy six simple yet commodious 'staterooms' and the service is on a par with any big cruise ship. Excellent wines were from the Comox Valley and the food was exemplary, including yummy prosciutto-wrapped goat cheese crostini, velvety seafood bisque and cracked crab, grilled steak with garlic prawns and shitake risotto, eggs benedict and freshly baked orange biscuits were some examples of the fare offered. We watched crew members set the prawn and crab traps and haul in the catch. They picked blackberries and salmonberries for us too!

The six crew members were incredibly congenial hosts, making us feel right at home. Dinners were served on white tablecloths and help yourself buffet lunches were beautifully laid out in the kitchen. And if you tired of sunning on the promenade deck you could retire for a snooze or a read, or head up to the wheelhouse to chat with the captain and fellow passengers.

Our three-day trip came full circle when the Aurora Explorer headed around Mitlenatch Island Nature Provincial Park and north through Discovery Passage. She worked hard against the tidal river running southward and as we approached homeport in Menzies Bay near Campbell River, the rising tide visibly roiled through Seymour Narrows. The 430 kms we traversed in our wonderful corner of the world was a unique getaway not far from home. **Arthur Timms**



Photos supplied by Arthur Timms



NOTICES

TEA/COFFEE MORNINGS

Tea and coffee, accompanied by delicious edibles, will be served in the Cottage on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 11 am. in the second full week of each succeeding month from March to and including October 2010. The next mornings are **August 10 & 12**, and **September 7 & 9**. All members are welcome.

WANTED FOR THE CARY BULLETIN

In order to make the *Cary Bulletin* more useful and interesting to the membership, members are invited to submit their horticultural questions to the editor and receive, in the following edition of the *Bulletin*, an answer written by a qualified 'plant guru'. Additionally, are there any members who would like to write a brief article for the *Bulletin* that they feel would be of interest to readers? Subjects might include "Why volunteer in the gardens at Government House?" or, a review of a gardening book or recent garden magazine article; or, a gardening anecdote, amusing or otherwise. Written questions or articles may be left in the 'Bulletin Folder' in the Cottage. See page 2, *Bulletin Publication Committee* for the next deadline to receive contributions.



KEY DECISIONS

Concerning the future of Plant Sales and the role of the Nursery Group, members will be interested to know that key decisions were made at the July 7, 2010, Board of Directors meeting, as summarized below.

The Board decided to cease holding yearly Plant Sales. Instead, there will be several mini-plant sales that will be scheduled throughout the year in conjunction with Public Events at Government House such as Teas and Tours, Concerts, Guided Tours and Craft Sales. The focus at these sales will be on offering plants ready to bloom. Plants will come from Government House Gardens via the Nursery and also from donations from the gardens of members. A new group (yet to be named) is being set up with responsibility for all aspects of selling plants on behalf of the Society.

These decisions took into account a variety of factors following many discussions, consultations, and benefiting from ideas coming from members. An important factor was the healthy financial condition of our organisation, thanks in part to successful past Plant Sales, the dedicated work of the Nursery/Plant Sale members, public events bringing in revenue, and the support of many Friends.

Overall, there will be more emphasis on using plants from gardens on the estate and from the Nursery and less on buying plants from outside, thus reducing total expenditures. In this regard, Valerie Murray, our Head Gardener, has been very pro-active in meeting the demands from Garden Supervisors by moving around and finding new lodgings for required plants.

On the subject of the future of the Nursery Garden, after years of hard work and successful sales, the Nursery Group ran out of steam and volunteers. It became crucial that its workload and responsibilities be reduced. Following review by the Board, it was given a new mandate, namely, *The Nursery Group is responsible for discretionary acceptance of plants brought from other Gardens and Friends propagators, for propagating, proper potting and holding, until plants are ready for sale.*

The Nursery has now one quadrant to work with rather than four. Further, it is no longer responsible for organizing and running plant sales. The Board believes that these measures will make the work of the Nursery Group more manageable and pleasant. Marlene Reed is the Acting Supervisor.

To any member, whose destiny has not yet been fulfilled, here is your call "To Be the Nursery Supervisor". We will love you for it! Just let us know! Also, anyone interested in joining the new group that is responsible for organizing the sale of plants for next year, 2011, please contact me stocco10@shaw.ca.

Many thanks are extended to Valerie Murray, Janet Renouf, Brian Rogers and yours truly who put their minds together, assessed the challenges, and proposed solutions to the Board of Directors.

Denise Stocco