



Cross Pollination

November 2011

In Memoriam

John Simkins died peacefully at the age of 92 on September 18, 2011. John was an original member of the Burlington Master Gardeners that was formed in 1986 now called The Halton Region Master Gardeners. He was granted Emeritus status in 2006. John was a passionate gardener and became known nationally and internationally for his work as a tree peony hybridizer. He founded the Canadian Peony Society, served on the RBG Board of Directors, was an active member of the Oakville Horticultural Society, and a member of the Garden Writers Association of America. He was recognized as an outstanding community volunteer.

Roberta's Tip of the Month

In the JMaxGarden newsletter #153, I followed up on their reference to a Weed Seedling Identification Guide from Manitoba Agriculture. It is an interesting and informative little pamphlet and can be obtained (free) by phoning their office in Manitoba at 204 745 5630 (not the one in the newsletter) and they will mail out to you.

Help Wanted

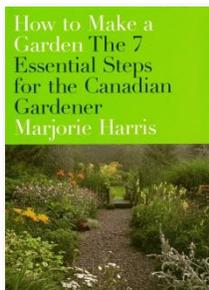
Halton Master Gardener's is looking for a couple of 'ideas' people to join the committee of Program Planning. Interested participants would be looking primarily for quality speakers for our meetings as well as possible in-house events such as the tour of Sheridan Nurseries we enjoyed this summer. Interested? Talk to Doris or Claudette for more details.

Things to Do

Saturday, January 14, 2012 join the Toronto Master Gardeners for an engaging day of practical learning at the Toronto Botanical Gardens.

Book Review

By Jane Leonard



*How To Make A Garden
The 7 Essential Steps for the Canadian Gardener*
By Marjorie Harris
Random House, 2006, \$29.95

When I started my garden I began reading books about it. Some were very technical and full of all those Latin words. Some just listed all the plants the authors could think of with a bit of information on each of them. Some specialised in Shade Gardens, Water Gardens or Japanese Gardens. A lot of books told you all about the various aspects of gardening, but, after I found this book, *How To Make A Garden, The 7 Essential Steps for the Canadian Gardener* I got everything in order.

Marjorie Harris lays down the basic rules for setting up a garden with a bit of humour and in a no nonsense, straight forward style that is easy to understand. The 7 steps help new gardeners and even those with established gardens use a little common sense and some organisation to end up with something very worthwhile.

The first step is to Become A Pregardener to lay the foundation. Check the light, the soil, the water and your budget. Where to start. What to start with. You have to Know Your Soil. Your whole garden depends on the type of soil you have and how you can improve it with compost. And Marjorie's favourite line - Mulch, Mulch, Mulch!

Plan A Garden Style. Japanese or English Cottage; Informal or Formal; Rose Garden or Rock Garden; Contemplative or Contemporary. Then Make a Garden Map with the patio and that Maple tree in place so you know where to plant the rose bushes. Now How to Select Plants you want in your garden. Meet the ever-informative Plant Tag. Perennials and Annuals, a couple of nice shrubs? bulbs? - Decisions, decisions, decisions. You will need a plant list, first to build on.

Home from the garden centre and How To Plant. Make up some nice containers, too. Now comes the most important part: the Garden Care. Weeding, watering, the birds and the

bees. And the most important point is to keep it tidy and organic; then a lot of problems will be minimal or non-existent.

At the end of the book there are her Top Ten Plants, the Top Tips for Garden Maintenance and The Indispensable Plant List. Since she lives in Toronto, you know that the plants she recommends will be winter hardy and suitable to have in your own garden. She also gardens organically so there are no references to any banned pesticides.

Do not get the idea that my garden is done. *How to Make a Garden* always seems to have more ideas than I have space. And if I move those perennials over there and put that statue over here, maybe I can put in a water feature! No, a Japanese maple tree. Very nice.

"Gardening is one of the most fascinating and compelling projects you can throw yourself into." - Marjorie Harris

Gardens of Quebec and the Maritimes

By Lorne Sparrow



In July Elaine & I travelled to the Maritimes. Over 17 days and almost 6000 km we visited 8 gardens, 8 museums, 6 historic churches and experienced the East Coast friendliness and charm.

If you like gardens then these should be on your MUST SEE LIST

Gardens of Quebec

Domaine-Joly-De Lotbinière is near the village of Sainte –Croix located on the South Shore of the St. Lawrence River about 1 hour west of Quebec City. This 19th century estate garden started in 1851 was the summer residence of Montreal lawyer Sir Henri-Gustave Joly-De Lotbinière. The plant identification list names over 2000 varieties of plants. Huge Black Walnut

trees (*Juglans nigra*) grace the front lawn. A selection of roses both old such as "Baron Girod de L'Ain" to the modern "John Cabot" are planted through the flowing garden beds.

Reford Gardens (Les Jardins De Mètis) located 2 hours east of Rimouski is a must stop. This garden is known best for the rare Himalayan Blue Poppy that can be grown in this region. Around every turn in the pathways there is something new and wonderful to discover such as fields of lupines, sculptures and the International Garden Festival where 25 unusual gardens are presented.



Gardens of New Brunswick

New Brunswick Botanical Garden is near the Quebec/New Brunswick border on the Trans Canada Hwy near the town of St. Jacques. This 7 acre botanical garden features a large arboretum, perennials, annuals, shade garden, alpine garden and a rose garden. The 50 varieties of roses featured in the garden were floribunda, explorer, parkland and rugosa. No Hybrid Tea roses. Harison's Yellow and Metis were two roses of note.



Kingsbrae Garden located at St. Andrews was opened to the public in 1998. Featured at the entrance to the garden is the Premiers' Arboretum showcasing the provincial trees to commemorate the 1997 Premiers' Conference held at Kingsbrae. Old and new gardening styles

are used to enrich and promote home gardening. Sculptures can be seen throughout the garden. Roses are grown in the knot garden style. There are more than 2500 varieties of trees, shrubs and plants on the 27 acre site. The orchard contains several heirloom varieties of apple trees.



Gardens of Nova Scotia

Annapolis Royal Historic Garden is located in the Annapolis Valley town of Annapolis Royal.

This is the place to be when the roses are in bloom. We were most fortunate to be there when the roses were at their best. The garden features more than 250 varieties of roses. Roses that caught my eye were the Moss rose Marechal Davoust mp 1853, Hybrid Kordeii climber Sympathie mr 1964, Hybrid Tea La France mp 1867 considered to be one of the first Hybrid Teas introduced and the prototype of the class. There was an excellent representation of the Explorer and Parkland roses. We also found the shrub rose Jim Lounsbery hybridized by Joyce Fleming who lives in Grimsby.



Other note worth gardens and places to visit are:

Quebec

Musée De La Mémoire Vivante is located midway between Quebec City and Rivière-du-Loup in the village of Saint-Jean Port-Joli. This recent reconstruction of a Seignorial manor house built in the early 1800s displays artifacts and describes life during that era.



Nova Scotia

Lunenburg – Restoration of the Bluenose II

Halifax - Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21

- Citadel National Historic Site

- Halifax Public Gardens and Historic 1887 Bandstand

West Pubnicos – Musée des Pubnicos et Centre de Recherche for people with Acadian roots

The Annex room displays 300 cameras spanning 100 years of photography

Annapolis Royal – Tidal Generating Station

New Brunswick

Kings Landing – Kings Landing Historical Settlement

Hartland – Longest covered bridge 391 meters (1,282 ft)

Florenceville–Bristol – Potato World Museum

Fredericton – School Days Museum

Prince Edward Island

York – Veseys trial gardens and retail shop

If you travel to the Maritimes take your appetite. We enjoyed fabulous lunches at every garden we visited. When on PEI be sure to partake of a Lobster supper. I don't like lobster but certainly had my fill of other great seafood.

When we arrived home after 17 days on the road we realized that we had seen a lot but there was oh so much more to see and do.

