

Finnerty Garden Friends

MARCH 2017

40 years of Community Support

The Finnerty Garden at UVic has always had tremendous support from the community, and in recognition of that support, the following is a list of founders, donors and contributors we could find in our past records and newsletters (living and deceased). As with all lists spanning forty years, I'm sure there are some we missed, so apologies if you're not mentioned here, your efforts are appreciated all the same.

The Buchanan Simpsons, Richard & Susan Stoker, Edmund Lohbrunner, Mary Greig, Tony James, Herman Vaartnou, John Trelawny & family, Betty Kennedy, Judith Asmundson, Robin Dening, John Gordon, Joe Harvey, Eryl & Lynn Morton, Valerie Murray, Carmen Varcoe, Elizabeth Wilson, Agnes & David Lynn, Dr. E & Mrs. M Von Rudolff, Roger Wiles, Shirley Lyon, Daphne Donaldson, Lynda Strong, Ian McTaggart-Cowan, David Pollock and the Finnerty Family descendants, Sam Macey, Bill Cross, Beth Doman, Ken Webb, Alec McCarter, Hector Bussiere, Carol Dancer, Anne Mace, Marilyn Florence, Judith Terry, Margaret deWeese, Norman Todd, Paul Turmel, David Whitehead, Bentley Sly, Tony Wallner, Bill McMillan, Robert deGros, Tony Bobbitt, Noah Violini, the Kreiss Family, Sean Rafferty, Rhonda Rose, Gerad & Roselind Schacht, George Radford, Hamish Roberston, Sarah Blackstone, Karen Grose and of course, the current grounds crew in the garden, Peter Roberts, Jeremy Quin and Chelsea Bentaberry. Lastly, to the many plant sale volunteers and those who provide support through membership in the Friends of Finnerty Garden, thank you all!

As the Garden evolves, so do its caretakers.

The Finnerty Garden turned forty last year, and it wouldn't be the wonderful place it has become without the dedication and support of the caretakers, both from the community members in advisory roles, and from the UVic staff. Three of those caretakers have recently retired from the advisory committee and the grounds crew, and the University wishes to express its profound gratitude to outgoing Chair **Carmen Varcoe**, long-time committee member **Eryl Morton**, and horticulture Supervisor, **Rhonda Rose**. Among these three dedicated gardeners, they have been a part of Finnerty Garden for over 30 years. Thank you for all you've done, and we wish you the very best!



Dedication Ceremony

Members of the Thailand community organized and participated in a tree planting ceremony in the Garden on December 4th, planting a Grandiflora Magnolia to commemorate and honour their departed King, his majesty Bhumibol Adulyadej. The new tree is on the Henderson south lawn alongside University Drive.

King Bhumibol Adulyadej received an honorary degree from the university in 1999. The ceremony was attended by Madame Consul General Sutthiluck Sa-ngarmangkang from Royal Thai Consulate-General, Vancouver and Phil Calvert, former Canadian Ambassador to Thailand. Former Director of the Centre for Asian Pacific Institute, Bill Nielson also attended.



Call for Volunteers

Would you be interested in coming out for a day or any part of it on Saturday April 22nd?

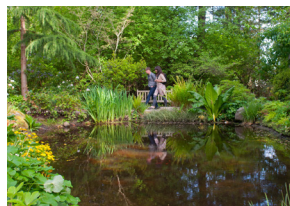
We are planning our first community "Spring Clean-up" in the Garden. We need help raking, cutting out and pulling out the dead and diseased, clipping back the ferns, and general tidying up for the spring bloom in May. We'll supply the tools, just wear a good pair of work shoes or boots, bring some gloves, and join us for a fun day of digging in the dirt. Light lunch and refreshments will be provided. Come for a morning shift (9 a.m. – noon) and stay for lunch, or start with lunch and stay for the afternoon (noon – 4 p.m.).

Please RSVP and sign up for a shift with our volunteer co-ordinator Anne Mace, via phone or email at (250) 479-7677 | amace@telus.net



Safe and Sound, and protected for years to come

This summer a 7-foot-high deer fence was installed, completely enclosing the Garden, with a brand new black chain link fence, designed for long life, and superior protection for the Garden. Gratitude and thanks to Denis from Tower Fence products for the great discount and wonderful installation.



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Winter in the Garden

Winter in Finnerty Garden has been challenging this year. Not for the Garden, but for the gardeners that maintain it. Mother nature was relentless with snow and sub-zero temperatures; therefore, regular maintenance proved very difficult.

Prior to the snow, we managed to remove some of the old deer fence and added rabbit fence to the bottom section of the new fence. We will finish removing the old fence over the next few months.

Between snow falls, we installed four new benches in various locations in the Garden. We also prepared the site for the new Information Kiosk which should be installed sometime this spring. The Kiosk is a donation from the Trelawny Family. It will be located to the right in the fern bed, just after the arbour. It will house a map and other information about the Garden.

If you had visited the Garden in the New Year, you may have had difficulty entering through the main entrance. This is because the university is installing a Heat Plant in the corner of Parking Lot 6. The construction is to be finished at the end of March (just in time for Rhododendron season).

We also received notice that Rhonda Rose will be retiring after 30 years with the University. A great many of these years were spent in Finnerty Garden. She has been a huge part of the growth of Finnerty Garden and is a wealth of knowledge on the history of the Garden. She will be greatly missed.

With everything that happened this winter, the winter flowering plants still flowered. In fact, the flowering season seems to be prolonged, likely because of the cooler temperatures. Or, the plants knew that we needed a little 'pick-me-up' after one of the toughest winters in years.

From the head gardener,
Jeremy Quin



First day of Spring

Wow I can't believe it, winter is finally over, or so they say. Normally we would be getting ready for the plant sale and cleaning up the Garden. This year I am getting ready to retire after more than thirty years at UVic.

The plant sale has disappeared and the installation of the new deer fence has almost cleaned out the Finnerty Garden enhancement fund. The Advisory Committee and I have not been able to think of a fund-raising idea since the end of the famous Finnerty Plant Sale. We need volunteers to help us figure out a way we can generate money to enhance the garden now and in the future, some kind of legacy event. The advisory board is planning a volunteer day to get people interested in the maintenance of Finnerty, with recent changes to grounds staff, we need that support.

I know how many people from all walks of life enjoy the garden and in order to enhance it and keep it fresh there needs to be a consistent and successful fundraising initiative. I know once I retire I will become a volunteer in some capacity. I hope when you receive this newsletter you may have an idea on how you can help the Finnerty Garden to continue to be the jewel it is now and into the future. I know the University and the Advisory Committee will be glad to hear each and every one of your ideas.

See you in the Garden sometime!

All the best,
Rhonda Rose

Tribute to John and Ruth Trelawny

As a project to honor their parents and recognize the Garden they both loved and were a part of, the Trelawny family has been working with the University for the past year on the design of an information Kiosk to be placed in the garden, just inside the main gates. The siblings have built the kiosk, all in cedar, and with the completion of the footing, weather permitting, we will be installing the structure in April. It will hold the new walking maps of the Garden, and information on the history and founders of the site and the Rhododendron collection.

Finnerty Advisory Committee

We have a group of very dedicated talented people who from time to time help out with the selection, placement and general overall stewardship of Finnerty Garden. This is a group comprised of horticulturalists, landscapers, amateur gardeners & arborists. During the growing year, we meet to walk through the Garden to critique and suggest ways in which we can continue to make the Garden the wonderful oasis it is. The committee this year includes Bill McMillan, Sean Rafferty, Rob Degros, Tony Bobbitt, Hector Bussiere, Noah Violini and taking on the role of Chair, Anne Mace. On behalf of the University, thank-you to all those committee members who give so freely of their time and advice.

Membership

Membership in the Friends of Finnerty Garden is \$20 per year (single or family). Funds raised through membership support enhancements within the Garden which would not be possible otherwise.



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For further information, please visit the Finnerty Garden website: uvic.ca/finnerty



FRIENDS OF FINNERTY GARDEN MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL & UPDATE FORM

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Sign me up for ☐ 1 year (\$20) ☐ 2 years (\$40)

Please make cheque payable to: **University of Victoria**

If you wish to donate above the membership fee selected, we will send you a tax receipt for the difference.

Please Clip this box and send to:

**Mr. Charles McQuade, Friends of Finnerty Garden,
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Victoria BC V8W 2Y2**



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