



The Cary Bulletin

THE FRIENDS OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE GARDENS SOCIETY

<http://fghgs.ca>

Since 1993 Volume 30 Issue 1 Spring 2024



Message from President Patty Grant

"Whan that Aprille with his shoures soote/ The droghte of March hath perced to the roote..."
– Geoffrey Chaucer

We've leapt into March and are ready for a new year in the gardens. After more than 30 years of garden stewardship at Government House I'd like to thank the many volunteers – past and present - for your steadfast support, hard work, and contributions to the Friends gardening and non-gardening activities. I'm honoured to be part of this team.

I am always gratified that so many members, either by choice or circumstance, volunteer on the other side of our organization: not everyone enjoys kneeling in cold soil, dealing with reluctant weeds and rocks, or fetching and carrying the many wheelbarrow loads of compost to the gardens. (I know, I can't believe it either.)

These activities, which include in-House floral designers, coat check, greeters, the tea room and costume museum, support and complement the Friends in its mission to develop and maintain the grounds for the public's continued use, education, and enjoyment.

Snowdrops, daffodils, and crocus all begin to show at the first signs of warm weather as we wait impatiently for the longer days of gardening. While spring does gladden the heart at its arrival, it also heralds the necessity of cataloguing winter losses in the gardens. We also take stock of our irrigation system, hoping that it will rise to the occasion of keeping our flowers and trees protected from the increasingly dry summers.

But perhaps one of the most welcome signs of spring is the golf cart of beverages and treats from Government House. This signifies that spring gardening has indeed begun and is a harbinger of the coffee mornings to come. I look forward to these occasions for gardeners and non-gardeners alike to socialize and enjoy each other's company as all of our members remain active and engaged.



"You are never too old to set a new goal or to dream a new dream." ~ CS Lewis

To Contact the Board of Directors
email: Friends.GH@gov.bc.ca



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Cut Flower	Terry Hanak
Dogwood Azalea Walk	Carol Dancer
English Country	Raynette North
Floral Designers	Liz Thompson
Friendship	Carol Dancer
Herb	Nancy Murray
Iris (Thursday)	Carol Dancer
Nursery	Gerry Gibbens
Pearkes Peake	Sharon Vermaning
Pool	VACANT
Rock and Alpine	Laraine Fowler
Rockland Border 1	Kate Cino
Rockland Border 11	Alex Muir
Rotary International	Louise Klaassen
Garden of Friendship	Jacob Verbake
Sunken Rose	Nairn Hollott
The Terraces	VACANT
Vegetable	Mary Cake
Victoria Rose	Vaughn Edwards
Winter	Carol Dancer
Woodlands (Tuesday)	Dave Clark
Woodlands (Thursday)	Rosemary Balfour

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email: nongardeningdirector@fghgs.ca

ACTIVITY	COORDINATOR
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Costume Museum	Mary Anne Skill
Friends Archives	Sue Baptie
Greeters	Patti Shaughnessy
House Archives	Caroline Duncan
In-House Floral Designers	Audrey Van Osterhout
Tea Room	Sheila Connelly
Website	Eleanor Wallace



The beautiful rose, and a water colour portrait of it by our own Liz Thompson.

Law of Gardening - After your hands become coated with dirt and you are already kneeling, your nose will begin to itch and you'll have to pee.



Rosa canina, commonly known as the dog rose, blooms with sweet-scented flowers that are usually pale pink, but can vary between a deep pink and white.



Message from Government House

Dear Friends:

We are well into 2024 and were delighted to get out on the first Tuesday and Thursday of the official gardening season with some croissants and hot chocolate partnered with a bit of liquid enhancement.... There is a lot of buzz out in the gardens despite the cool weather. Your gardens are remarkably beautiful and make a true statement to all who visit the grounds. Your efforts are very much appreciated.

Of course, throughout the winter we continued to enjoy the support of the diverse nongardening volunteer groups and we truly couldn't deliver on events and engagements without these fine folks.

As spring has sprung, we have started prep for the Mews, including freshening it up with paint, both inside and out. We look forward to the opening at the end of May.

I'm particularly excited about the Costume Museum's Royal Canadian Air Force 100th display, which I'm confident will be remarkable.

I was so pleased to see the Coronation path has held up over the winter rains. Thank you again to the Friends and Government House Foundation and all who contributed their time and energy in supporting this project. Another thanks to the fantastic Woodlanders who are sure to see a spike in guests with the better access.

The House staff and I are very excited to host the "Tools Up" reception happening again this spring (invites to be sent in short order). Their Honours and MacDuff are always delighted to visit with everyone at this happy occasion.

One more final and sincere thank you to the flower ladies whose incredible work has enhanced hundreds of events. Also, the Tea Room volunteers who look after local and international guests, the greeters who make everyone feel so welcome, whether it be on the Grounds or in the House, and to the museum folks who do such a stellar job in showcasing the history of this beautiful estate.

Finally, to all the volunteers whose dedication and ready smile have contributed so much to showcasing our Ceremonial Home and grounds, you have my thanks for a wonderful year ahead.

Thanks again for all that you do. I look forward to seeing you soon around the House and in the gardens!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jermy Brownridge".

Jermy Brownridge
Private Secretary & Executive Director



The Following are all the Non-Gardening Activities that Members can join in.

If you are interested in joining any of these groups, contact Patti Shaughnessy at shaughnessypatti@gmail.com

Rudi's Tea Room

Rudi's Tea Room offers a selection of treats provided by Government House and, in the summer, seasonal greens from the vegetable garden.

We are delighted to announce that the Tea Room will once again offer indoor dining service May 21 to September 1.



We need wait staff for three-hour shifts, morning and afternoon Tuesday to Friday from 10 am to 3 pm

If interacting with the public is your cup of tea (sorry for the pun), or you would love to be part of the Cary Mews group that welcomes visitors, **we are looking for more volunteers to join us.**

The Costume Museum

The Costume Museum features a series of changing themes that showcase its more than 200 costumes from the 1860s to the 1970s, vintage accessories, period artifacts, Government House memorabilia, and generous donations of family heirlooms from the public.

This year we will be featuring the varied lives of the wives of the Lieutenant Governors before they became Chatelaines, the Canadian Airforce 100th Anniversary and the discovery of a very special little dog.

We are looking for more volunteers to join us.

Museum volunteer Gillian Vanderson stands beside a floral display celebrating the Friends 30th Anniversary.



Greeters

The greeters welcome visitors to the estate and provide that positive first impression. They are ready to answer questions, give directions, or suggest a tour of the gardens with a well-deserved stop for refreshments at Rudi's Tea Room. Greeters are often the first point of contact for visitors and will provide them with information related to the estate, i.e., basic history of the gardens (plant knowledge not necessary), the House and the Mews area.

Lee Peacock, Vince Bennett and Mary Lou Marksteiner ready to welcome visitors to the Mews



The peak of greeter duties begins in May and ends at the end of August. However, greeters may be active year-round, from time to time, during the off season.

Government House staff request assistance from the volunteers for events hosted on the grounds. Talking notes are provided by both the House and the Friends board, together with an information binder on the estate, with maps and brochures

We are looking for more volunteers to join us



Greeters (from left) Jackie Bennett, Linda Flynn, Deana Brynildsen, and Patti Shaughnessy

Floral Arrangers Garden

A group of 20 members with diverse talents are not only gardeners, they have an artistic side as well.

For the garden season, they are expected to care for a diversity of plant material from shrubs and perennials to a vast selection of annuals. Flower farming demands a huge knowledge of maintaining, harvesting, and cutting for blooms. Not only are they weeders, but on occasions, they have removed major heavy tree stumps and created garden paths and beds.



The battle with tree stumps. Digging: Charlene Graham, Patricia Hultman, Patricia Bluemel with Dorothy Pitt and Liz Thompson looking on.

They provide foliage and flowers to decorate Government House, the Tea Room and Mews, and, for 18 weeks, to create bouquets to raise funds for the Friends. **Over a thousand arrangements were assembled last year.**

Skill Sets and Camaraderie

The group's skill set encompasses master gardeners and artists both in the floral world and canvases.



Lorian Roberts is a master Ikebana teacher.

This includes an Ikebana expert, several designers in the floral department, a china painter, water colourists, or those who work in oil and acrylic mediums all of whom follow the principles of design in form and colour. New members who join are mentored by those more senior to develop their interests as well.

The passion for flowers is the glue that binds the group together. A special bond has developed over the years that unites us all. For companionship makes the garden grow with pride.

From the Tuesday group of 12 members and Thursday team of 8, 2 members are responsible for

organizing the special demands of Mother's Day and Thanksgiving flowers.



Mothers Day arrangements ready for sale

Gifts of plant and cut blooms are brought in by group members to enhance the garden and bouquets. Two volunteers work both Tuesday and Thursday and many summer Sundays. Another brings extra tools for special projects, plus buckets of leaf mulch for the garden.

The coffee breaks bring out the bakers with diverse recipes along with laughter, stories of travel, and loved ones which share the highs and lows in life.

For many members, our paths cross in learning more about flower arranging in Ikebana classes and from the Victoria Floral Artist Guild over the years. Several are involved with In-House designers in assembling arrangements for Government House events. Novices can join as Liz Thompson the coordinator initially started 14 years ago without knowledge in floral work. If you have the desire, good things will come.

The Tuesday group is: Marnie McNeil, Merle Newberg, Anne Roburn, Valerie Sterling, Patricia Hultman, Patricia Bluemel, Lorian Roberts, Roz Mellander, Kate Wetteland, Barb Ritten, Dorothy Pitt, Christine McNeil, and Melanie Lightree.

The Thursday group is: Nadine Englehart, Liza Allan, Bev. Muller, Iris Thomson-Glen, Anne Glommen, Charlene Graham, and Bernadette Norris. Extra Help Watering on Sunday is Leslie Joan.

For the up and coming season, **we would welcome two new volunteers to the Thursday group.**

For in the dew of little things, the heart finds its morning and is refreshed.

Khalil Gibran

I like gardening—it's a place where I find myself when I need to lose myself.

Alice Sebold

Coat Checkers/Ushers

This group is for those who enjoy interacting with people. It is active year-round. It's made up of two parts, the coat check, and the usher, volunteers. Most events are held in the evenings, but there are some morning and afternoon events as well. We rotate positions throughout the season so that everyone has an opportunity to volunteer for each position.

Coat Checkers: During the event, collect guests' belongings and give them claim tags to retrieve these after the event.

Ushers: Ushers are normally located near the dining room and buffet entrances. Ushers direct guests in an orderly fashion to and/or from the dining buffet table. This shift begins just prior to the guests being directed to and from the buffet and ends shortly after the last table has been seated with their meal. They also provide direction to other areas such as wash-rooms, and the coat check etc.

We are not required to know or provide historical knowledge of the House.

Friends - they are kind to each other's hopes and cherish each other's dreams.

Henry David Thoreau

The Friends Archives

The Archives is active year-round. Our purpose is to collect, preserve, and make available for study a variety of information created by the Society and its members. We hold over 36 boxes of records in acid free containers, located on the 3rd floor of Government House on new rolling metal storage racks. The collection is a most interesting and eclectic group of correspondence, minutes, maps, plans, reports, and photos telling the story of all the perseverance, and hard work of members of FGHS over 33 years in creating the wonderful gardens we have today.

The Archives group was fortunate to complete organizing and listing all the boxes and files up to 2019. This listing, called a Finding Aid, is available with access to the originals by appointment under Government House security guidelines. There are currently two members, Sue Baptie and Olivia Craster. We had the computer and archival skills of Ann Ten Cate for seven years until she returned to work at the BC Museum as well as the historical acumen of the late Howard Smith.

We would welcome 2 or 3 new members with an archives, library, or computers skills background.

Check out the newly improved Friends website: www.fghgs.ca

Have you checked out the newly improved Friends website yet? It's chock-a-block full of current news about the Friends, photos of our beautiful gardens and interesting news and information about the many activities at Government House and with the Friends.

Our new web master, Eleanor Wallace, who also edits this newsletter, is doing a stellar job keeping the website up-to-date with all the news that the Friends members need and want to know.

So do check it out - and if you have anything you would like to contribute to the website - stories, news, or photos of our lovely gardens, send your submission to our president Patty Grant at pattygrant@gmail.com



Did Someone Order Goodies for Delivery?

The Peakes Peak crew enjoys the arrival of Tania, director of House operations, as she delivers pastries and cups of hot chocolate (some seasoned with "medicinal" Baileys). The treats are always a delightful surprise for the Tuesday and Thursday gardeners at the beginning of the gardening season.



Call for Nominations to the Board

The Nominating Committee is welcoming nominations for up to three new FGHS Board members to be elected at our Spring AGM.

Please contact **Valerie Murray** vmurray0@gmail.com if you:

Would like to nominate someone you believe would make a great addition to our Board.

Are interested in: joining the Board; sitting on Board committees.

Want to know more about the role of a Board member.

"Find gratitude in the little things and your well of gratitude will never run dry."

- Antonia Montoya.

Floral Designers of Government House



If you have ever wondered how the many floral displays arrive in Government House, you need only to look to the Friends own In-House Floral Designers group. Led by co-ordinators Lynne Thompson and Audrey van Osterhout, 15 dedicated volunteers design and create the colourful and eye-catching floral arrangements that regularly grace its rooms and hallways and appear at special events.

It all begins when the House hospitality services manager tells the group a month before about upcoming events. "Lynne and I decide on a colour scheme and which flowers to use. We tell the designers the size, the number and kind of flowers to use, and where in the House they go. They then come up with their own design. We have some very creative and talented designers and we don't need to tell them how to do their jobs."

While each month requires a different number of arrangements, Audrey says autumn is their most active time. "In September, we worked 312 hours and in October, 404 hours. For the six weeks of long-service awards, we created 66 designs each week which required well over 700 volunteer hours. Of that, the organizing team took about 200 hours to order the necessary floral items."



Clockwise from left: Jennifer Bennett, Lynne Thompson, Paulette Beckley, Linda Senior, Janet van Klaveren, Audrey van Osterhout

Two further events that needed floral designs were held one week later, including the annual Gala. The organizing team spent about 150 hours planning and ordering for these events and volunteers worked about 201 hours on Gala floral designs.



These were only some of the flowers which were used to make the Gala designs

Audrey says this is a different kind of event as, "It needs not just more arrangements, 66 rather than the usual 25 to 30, requires more spectacular ones, and uses more dramatic flowers as well." Lynne has been involved as a floral designer for 25 years, Audrey for 12. "Planning and creating the designs is the best part of my work," says Audrey.

For both Audrey and Lynne and the floral design team, they are continuing a volunteer tradition begun more than 35 years ago by Jane Rogers, wife of Lieutenant Governor Robert Gordon Rogers (1983 – 1988). "Jane recruited community ladies who brought their own flowers and then later used ones from our on-site greenhouses," says Audrey. "Now, the flowers and greenery are usually sourced from a local wholesaler. A Vancouver wholesaler is used when more exotic flowers are required. When the flowers are in bloom in the floral designers' garden, those are used as well." While the source material and volunteers may have changed, the results continue to be spectacular and always much appreciated.

Linda Senior (sitting) and Lynne Thompson, working on designs for the Gala.



A sense of beauty is the gift of God, for which those who have received it in good measure, can never be thankful enough.

Gertrude Jekyll

Call for Nominations to the Board of the Friends of Government House Gardens Society

The Nominating Committee is welcoming nominations for up to three new Board members to be elected at our Spring AGM. Please contact Valerie Murray at vmurray0@gmail.com

- If you are interested in joining the Board,
- If you would like to nominate someone you believe would make a great addition to our Board,
- If you want to know more about the role of a Board member,
- If you are interested in sitting on Board committees.

Our Board is a cohesive team made up of volunteers with diverse interests and experiences. In partnership with Government House, we support, shape and improve the 20 gardens dotted throughout the grounds. The Board also supports all our volunteers wherever they work on the Estate, including those not associated with gardening.

2024/25 Membership Renewal

Current memberships have been extended from December 31, 2023 to March 31, 2024. Annual FGHGS memberships will now run from April 1 - March 31.

Membership renewals of \$20 per person are due March 31. Members have three payment choices:

1. Online at: Become a Member – Payment options: e-transfer to fghgstreasurer@gmail.com. Please note your name in the comments.

3. By (snail) mail: Make your cheque payable to FGHGS (do not send cash). Send to: FGHGS Membership Co-ordinator, 1401 Rockland Avenue, Victoria BC V8S 1V9.

Note: Membership cards can be mailed, upon request, by including a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your payment to the above address.

Some of the 'little things' - the colours, the textures, the patterns of nature that every day, in every season, remind me there is beauty in this world, and make me grateful.

- Emma Mitchell

CPR/AED Course A Success

The Friends funded 18 volunteers to take a Red Cross CPR/AED Level C Course on March 1st. The House generously provided space in the Maclure Room for the course. Gardens represented at the course were: Vegetable, Floral Designers, Nursery, Terraces, Pearkes Peak, English Country, Mews Area -Tea Room, Museum, Greeters, Cottage and Woodlands.

The participants welcomed the opportunity to update their knowledge, practise their skills, and discuss the best ways to respond in the event of a medical emergency. All volunteers are reminded that:

In the event of a medical emergency:

- 1) Call 911
- 2) Call Security (mobile 250-387-2079; office 250-889-2697)
- 3) Send someone to the main gate to direct the ambulance.
- 4) Remain with person to provide care.

It is important to remember that bystanders who provide immediate CPR save lives. Security personnel are CPR/AED trained and will bring a first aid kit and an automated external defibrillator (AED) with them when called.

Government House rules state that the only people allowed to use the AED on GH grounds are Security and trained House staff.

2024 Communities in Bloom

“The colour orange is part of the **Plants Love You** campaign by **Communities in Bloom**. In 2024, everyone is invited to plant orange in honour of our Indigenous communities as we celebrate all ways plants love you.”

~Canadian Garden Council



Live the Garden Life, a legacy of the Year of the Garden 2022, is a public education campaign developed by Gardens Canada and its stakeholders to celebrate Canada’s garden culture and nurture the future.

Canadians of all ages, and in all parts of the country, garden at home and in their community, visit gardens, and reap the many benefits gardens provide.

This is your invitation to Live the Garden Life and Make a Difference by:

- * Gardening at home or in the community
- * Saving money by growing nutritious and delicious food
- * Experiencing the health and therapeutic benefits of gardening
- * Belonging to a garden club or horticultural society
- * Recognizing Garden Heroes
- * Gardening for the environment
- * Inspiring children or novices to garden
- * Visiting Canada’s extraordinary public gardens on Canada’s Garden Route
- * Volunteering in the garden community
- * Living in Garden-Friendly Municipalities
- * Attracting pollinators in your garden
- * Celebrating Garden Days in the weeks leading up to National Garden Day on the Saturday before Father’s Day.

Sharpening Services

Vern from **Sharp and Sharper** will once again be bringing his mobile sharpening truck to the lower parking lot from 9 to 1230 on the following dates

April 2 & 4 May 2 & 7

June 4 & 6 July 2 & 4

Aug. 6 & 8 Sept. 3 & 5

He accepts cash, cheques, and e transfers

Sharpening Services

Sharpening Services	Price List
1. Knives	75¢ /inch
2. Serrated knife	90¢ /inch
3. Bevel Edge Grooming Scissors	\$2.50 /inch
4. Fabric Shears	\$2.25 /inch
5. Hatchet	\$8.00 each
6. Axe	\$10.00 each
7. Meat Slicer	\$35.00 each
8. Drill Bit	\$6.00 each
9. Medical/hygiene Scissor	\$8.00 each
10. Secateurs (Hand Pruners)	\$8.00 each
11. Loppers	\$10.00 each
12. Hand Hedge & Grass Trimmer	\$12.00 each
13. Paper Cutter	\$35.00 each
14. Tin Snips	\$10.00 each
15. Pet nail Clipper	\$6.00 each
16. Chisel & Serger Blade	\$3.00 each
17. Rotary Blade	\$5.00 each
18. Round Pizza Cutter	\$3.00 each

PANTONE COLOUR CHOICE FOR 2024

Pantone’s pick for 2024 colour of the year is called “Peach Fuzz,” officially called “Patone 13-1023 Peach Fuzz.” The colour feels gentle, velvety, and subtly sensual according to the design and colour authority.

BC Council of Garden Clubs challenges members to think of some complementary colours in the garden to plant with this unique colour. Gary Lewis, Phoenix Perennials, suggests that a magenta colour would look beautiful with “Peach Fuzz.” Think of the dark magenta alliums (Allium sphaerocephalon, or drumstick allium) mixed with some roses with the “Peach Fuzz” colour.

If you look the right way, you can see the whole world is a garden.

- Frances Hodgson Burnett

Upcoming Events

Ross Bay Cemetary Tours

The Chatelaines of Government House.

Sunday March 24, 2 p.m.

Meet at the new entry gate on Fairfield at Stannard (there's a crosswalk)

Cost \$5 - hosted by The Old Cemeteries Society

In anticipation of a summer 2024 exhibit at the Government House Costume Museum, we will visit the graves and hear the stories of the wives of one Governor and seven Lieutenant Governors of British Columbia. These women were not only the "keepers of the keys" for Government House, they were interesting and accomplished women in their own right who left their mark on Victoria.

Learn about Lieutenant Governors and the responsibilities that their wives were expected to take on. Also mention of the fire that destroyed Cary Castle and led to the building of the 1903 house.

Featured Chatelaines include:

Amelia Connolley Douglas

Julia Elizabeth Hyde Trutch

Ellen Chislett Richards

Jane Shaw Moir Dewdney

Laura Miller Surlles Dunsmuir

Emma Riley Paterson

Martha Loewen Barnard

Genevieve Wright Prior



It is the Year of the Wood Dragon.

Everyone is welcome to the Chinese Canadian Museum in Fan Tan Alley to celebrate the year of the Wood Dragon.

Their newest display features Victoria's own Canadian Chinese Magician Tony Eng.

Victoria Local Garden Clubs

Gordon Head Gardening Club, www.facebook.com/pages/category/Community-Organization/Gordon-Head

Peninsula Garden Club, www.peninsulagardenclub.ca/

VANCOUVER ISLAND
ROCK AND ALPINE GARDEN SOCIETY

ANNUAL SPRING SHOW



Come and enjoy outstanding show entries, including rock & alpine, woodland, bog and succulent plants. There will also be displays, vendor & seed sales, door prizes, a silent auction and tea service. Plants grown by club members will be sold throughout the event.

Sunday April 21 9am to 4pm
Admission by donation
Mary Winspear Centre
2243 Beacon Avenue Sidney, BC



For info visit www.virags.com
Facebook- [@vancouverislandrockandalpinegardensociety](https://www.facebook.com/vancouverislandrockandalpinegardensociety)
Instagram- [@virags_pics](https://www.instagram.com/virags_pics)

Victoria Local Garden Clubs

Vancouver Island Bonsai Club, www.victoriabonsai.bc.ca

Vancouver Island Heather Society, www.bcheathersociety.org

Vancouver Island Rock and Alpine Garden Society, www.virags.ca/

Victoria Cactus & Succulent Society, victoria.cactus-society.org/

Victoria Chrysanthemum Society, www.facebook.com/

Victoria Dahlia Society, www.victoriadahliasociety.org/

Victoria Floral Artist Guild, victoriafloralartists.ca

Victoria Horticulture Society events, vichortsociety.org

Victoria Lily Society, www.facebook.com/Victoria-Victoria-Orchid-Society
Victoria Orchid Society, www.victoriaorchidsociety.com/

View Royal Garden Club, viewroyalgardenclub.wordpress.com/

Western Garden Club, www.colwood.ca/news-events/community-calendar/event/community/we...

Victoria Rhododendron Society, www.victoriarhodo.ca/