



# The Garden Master News



Newsletter of the Atlantic Master Gardeners Association

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## 2017 AMGA Conference Celebrating 10 Years!

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**Conference 2017** will take place on **Thursday, July 13<sup>th</sup> to Friday, July 14<sup>th</sup>**

Following is the schedule for the Conference to be held in the Studio, Collins Building, Dalhousie Agricultural Campus in Truro:

#### Day 1, July 13, 2017:

8:30-9:00am - Registration /Welcome  
 9:00-10:30am - AMGA PowerPoint Presentations available /how to use them by Aileen Reid.  
 10:30-10:45am Anniversary Celebration with Level 1 students.  
 10:45am - 12:15pm- Gardening for Wildlife by Carol Goodwin  
 12:15-1:00pm - Lunch  
 1:30 - 3:30pm - AGM  
 3:30 - 4:00pm-Exchange of Unusual or Unique Plants and Presentation of 10th Anniversary Plants.  
 5:30 -7:30pm - Dinner-King Lam Restaurant, 39 Main St, Truro, NS  
 7:30pm - Graduation/Certification/Recertification

#### Day 2, July 14, 2017:

9:00-10:00am - Research and Advice on Growing Christmas Trees, - by Dr Raj Lada  
 10:00 - 10:15 - Coffee Break  
 10:15- 11:30 am - Tending the Garden We're Given, Marian Munro, Curator of Botany Nova Scotia Museum.  
 11:30am -12:00pm - Members in the Spotlight  
 12:00 - 1:00pm - Lunch on your own  
 1:00 - 2:00pm- Identifying and Protecting Native Bees - Karen Smith  
 2:00 - 2:15-Concluding remarks, conference evaluation and feedback  
 2:15 - Garden Tour, 18 Charles Ct, Truro

Hope to see you there!



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## Notes from the Treehouse

- by Lynn Brooks



Yes that is a truly depressing picture. But it was only the beginning. At the end of March the lads showed up to replace my deck which after 40 years was showing its age and of course was "not to code". How I hate that phrase which seems to be the first thing out of the mouth of any tradesperson that walks thru my door, and getting "up to code" always costs a lot of money.

But this picture is less about the deconstruction and more about the humongous rocks that were dug out when the footings were installed. It never ceases to amaze me how unkind the last Ice Age was to my little slice of the world. It has taken over 20 years of backbreaking labour but I now accept my boulders as the perfect mulch, no weeds can grow under these puppies. Time and moss just make them better. Thanks to my muscular son who comes to visit when

asked, only needing to be fed his favourite foods, they are now relocated. The smaller ones that I can handle are piled for future use, (chipmunks are already investigating as a potential new home). The big ones are sited and partially buried in the new bed that will result from the deck rebuilt. Note for a topic at a future Master Gardner conference, "how to use stone effectively in the landscape". I fret that my gardens tend to look more like overpopulated pet cemeteries, so unlike the artistic creations I see in gardening magazines.

On the local front the Coastal MGs are doing a plant sale on May 11 at the IWK/Grace hospital site. The proceeds are to buy plants, especially perennials, for the Play garden. After all these years I feel a shift in attitude is happening. The Child life department which oversees the space have from the start been thrilled to have our help. But now the kitchen staff are asking for an area to grow herbs!! And last year the hospital finally got a grounds keeper on staff, and changed landscape companies. That was definitely a step in the right direction. What has thrilled me personally is the support the local Master Gardeners have given the garden. I just have to send out the email and the volunteers start flooding in. A fact that has not gone un-noticed by the hospital.

After a bit of a mixup on dates the conference planning for the 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> July is now in place. The King Lam restaurant were pleased to welcome us back. It was so nice last year to have a place to talk

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## Notes from the Treehouse

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and eat all to ourselves. As much as I enjoy the lectures, it is the opportunity to meet face to face that I really look forward to. We will have been in existence for 10 years and this is a chance to look at how we manage ourselves as we go forward. My being a master gardener, was and is my commitment to the environment. The moment I step out my door, I need to see growing things. I do not have the knowledge or the education to change the world but if I influence just one other person or child to look down and see what lies beneath their feet, or see the tree in the forest, I am satisfied. At 71, I no longer have the luxury to put things off. I can no longer say: "yes I will help but not right now, there are other things I need to do or places I want to go first". So please join us in Truro and lets together plan how we grow as gardeners and as an organization.

As always we, on your executive, are only a mouse click away..

- Lynn



## Upcoming Events

- **Membership Dues and Volunteer Hour** submissions are due on **May 31, 2017**.

Check website for forms and details for submission:

<http://atlanticmastergardeners.ca/documents/hours.doc>

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- **MG Summer School**  
- **July 10-14, 2016**

Dalhousie University Agricultural Campus - Truro, NS  
a week of learning activities for the classroom and outdoors, including Plant propagation, Planting techniques, Pruning, Garden maintenance, Pests and diseases, Troubleshooting plants and gardens, fertilizing, liming, mulching and composting, garden tool selection, use and maintenance.

<http://www.dal.ca/faculty/agriculture/extended-learning/programs-courses/master-gardener-training/summer-school-level-i.html>

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- Deadline for submission of articles for the **Summer Newsletter** will be **July 28, 2017**.

[suestuart@bellaliant.net](mailto:suestuart@bellaliant.net)

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- The next **AMGA Executive Meeting** will be held on **Monday, June 5, 2016 at 1pm**. If you have a topic you would like to have added to the meeting agenda, please contact one of the Executive members on the back page of this Newsletter.

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# VISIT TO MACKENZIE KING ESTATE, GATINEAU PARK

- by **David Oldacre**

I am also a member of the Brome Lake Garden Club which presents speakers in the Winter months in nearby Knowlton, and in the summer organizes tours of gardens in the Eastern Townships. There being no Master Gardener organization in Quebec and having received my Master Gardener from the University of Guelph, I joined of the Oakville chapter of MGOI and when that folded in 2012, I joined the Halton MG chapter where I am currently the webmaster. It was also at that time that I became an out-of-province member of the AMGA which had been thoroughly worth while.

I have lived in Quebec since 2001, and since then I have really enjoyed the country side in the Eastern Townships where I live and have visited a number of beautiful gardens in the immediate area as well as those beyond. A number of these are close to big cities – Montreal, Quebec City, and the Ottawa/Gatineau area.

This article is about the Mackenzie King Estate in Gatineau Park which he established in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. My partner and I visited it during our late September trip from Fort Coulonge along the north shore of the Ottawa River to Montebello. It is on 72 Barnes Road, Chelsea and you will need to find your way to parking area P6 Chemin Mackenzie King from Promenade Champlain. I have to admit that we got a bit lost finding our way around there but the GPS eventually got us to the right place!

There is a booklet [Mackenzie King Estate](#) (Guides to

the Gardens of Quebec) ISBN 2-7621-2354-2 which has a brief history about the Estate, the Outaouais, Mackenzie King and his legacy, along with a tour guide of the Estate itself. During our visit, I took a number of photos which I have included with this article. These include views of the gardens at the Domaine Mackenzie King at Moorside and the Kingswood cottages overlooking Kingsmere Lake.

Our tour began with the walk to the Domaine Mackenzie King at Moorside which is east of the P6 parking area.



**MACKENZIE KING ESTATE-SUMMER RESIDENCE AT MOORSIDE**

The trail goes through the woods by a bit if a circuitous route about 500 metres on reasonably level ground. The Domaine itself was the summer residence of Mackenzie King when he was Prime Minister. On the ground floor is a reception area with a tea room which serves a tasty lunch and overlooks the grounds of the estate. On the top floor is an interesting museum about the life of Mackenzie King, his offices, his living quarters and his activities there.

## VISIT TO MACKENZIE KING ESTATE

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Conveniently there is a trail which goes through the French Garden, the English Garden, The Window on the Forest and the Hidden Garden, and once can follow the trail to the Water Fall, The Abbey Ruins, and back to the Domaine. A map of the trail may be found at the website of the PDF at:

[http://www.ncc-ccn.gc.ca/sites/default/files/pubs/gp\\_trailfactsheet-2014\\_e5\\_lauriault-waterfall.pdf](http://www.ncc-ccn.gc.ca/sites/default/files/pubs/gp_trailfactsheet-2014_e5_lauriault-waterfall.pdf)



FRENCH GARDENS

This states that the trail is about 3 km long, the level of difficulty is easy to intermediate, the elevation gain is 77m and would take about an hour to complete. See also the website at :

<http://www.ncc-ccn.gc.ca/places-to-visit/gatineau-park/article/2013-08-21/mackenzie-king-estate-makeover> for a description of the interactive exhibits at the Estate.



ENGLISH GARDENS

We were there in late September, when the fall flowers were in bloom so the French and English gardens were very pretty as you can see by the photos. However we learned that in the summer the waterfalls dry up, so we ignored that and followed the trail up to the ruins of the Abbey and back to the Domaine.

The second part of the tour was a walk to the cottages at Kingsmere Lake. We retraced our steps to the parking lot and continued on to the trail turning N on to a trail leading to a group of buildings which includes the main cottage, the guest cottage, and the garage.



THE MAIN COTTAGE AT KINGSWOOD

We visited both of the cottages which contain memorabilia of both Mackenzie King and his mother Isabella to whom he was absolutely devoted. The main cottage was built in 1903, with an addition in 1916, and is one of Canada's Historic places.

The website providing information about the cottage may be found at :

<http://www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=11371>

## VISIT TO MACKENZIE KING ESTATE

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GUEST COTTAGE AT KINGSWOOD

And with that we took a leave on a sunny but crisp late afternoon in the early Fall with the trees just showing hints of their full autumnal colours.

We enjoyed our visit very much, and hope that you will consider visiting this beautiful estate on your next visit to the central provinces of Canada.

If you do plan a visit, I recommend that you pick up a map from the Visitor Centre before you enter the park itself. We found that GPS service within the park is not always available in certain areas, and that is when we had the biggest trouble finding our way to the Estate. That said, though Gatineau Park is a beautiful place to visit, and there are lots of other places to visit, one of which is Meech Lake (remember that) and another is the Promenade Champlain, the last part of which runs along the edge of the escarpment overlooking the Ottawa river and Ontario beyond that. The view there is awesome. It is also a popular place for cyclists because this end of the park is the highest, and one can see them toiling up the gradient to the end, and then zooming down at high speed to go back down again! Often they go faster than the official speed limit!

## Gardening Events of Interest

- **NSAGC CONVENTION 2017, June 2 & 3 2017**

- Hosted by Cape Breton District 1

- Inverary Inn, Baddeck

- See Website for complete schedule:

<http://www.nsagc.com/Convention2017Info.pdf>

<http://www.nsagc.com/NSAGC%20Convention%202017%20Registration%20Form.pdf>

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- **DAYLILY DAZE**

**Daylily Daze**  
Nova Scotia Daylily Society

receive free daylily

Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup> 2017  
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM \$5.00

Learn more about the Nova Scotia Daylily Society.

Shop and talk to vendors.  
Enjoy refreshments and a light lunch.  
Win one of the raffles!  
Participate in workshops.

Talk hemerocallis.

...and more!

Hammonds Plains First Baptist Church Hall  
1839 Hammonds Plains Rd.

<https://sites.google.com/view/nova-scotia-daylily-society/home>

- Interested in **Plant Sales?**

Don't forget the **Coastal Master Gardener's sale** Thursday, **May 11<sup>th</sup>** from 10am -1pm at the **IWK !**

Other plant sales are listed on the NSAGC website:

<http://www.nsagc.com/plantsale.htm>



# AMGA Executive 2017

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