



January 21, 2015

## Chair's Message

It's the time of year when our Gardens are at rest, but that's not the case with the FOG Board of Directors. This is the time of year when we write up



The Former Superintendent's House

Photo credit: D. Weir

grants, hold meetings with local community organizations, and plan for the coming gardening season. Funding challenges are debated and new concepts and ideas are introduced. Grants are proving more difficult to obtain as the competition for those limited funds has intensified in the past few years. FOG's Board feels that increasing the amount of money that flows directly to us via visitor donations, the annual plant sale etc. will allow us to concentrate on enhancing and maintaining the Gardens throughout the year. To that end we have petitioned the Research Station (PARC) to allow us to take over the wedding, reception and picnic bookings. Currently, FOG has no way to tie these Garden events to donations. If this arrangement is approved by PARC, FOG will need a few committed volunteers to help manage those bookings. If any members feel this might be something they would enjoy doing send me a note and I'll explain the details.

This is the time of year to renew each of our [memberships](#) as

**Summerland Ornamental Gardens**  
 Located at:  
**The Pacific Agri-Food Research Centre**  
 4200 Highway 97  
 Summerland BC Canada

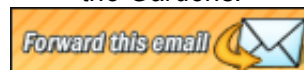
**Friends of the Gardens**  
 P.O. Box 1363,  
 Summerland BC V0H 1Z0  
 250.494.6385

[Click here to email us!](#)

[Click here to visit the Summerland Ornamental Garden's Website!](#)

Join Our Mailing List!

Please help us by inviting friends and family to support *The Friends of the Gardens*.



Like us on Facebook

### GARDEN HOURS

Summer  
 8:00 am to 8:00 pm  
 Spring/Autumn  
 8:00 am to 6:00 pm  
 Winter  
 8:00 am to 4:00 pm  
*(Weather Permitting)*

*Admission to the Garden is free. A suggested donation of \$5 is appreciated.*

**Board of Directors**  
 Chair  
 Aaron Anderson

well as think about what other volunteer opportunities there may be for you. Every year our volunteers put in some 2,000 hours helping plant, mulch, prune, weed as well as put up tents, man booths at the plant sale and germinate seeds in the greenhouse. FOG enjoys a remarkable volunteer crew and I'm sure 2015 will be no exception.

As you all know 2016 is Summerland Ornamental Garden's 100 year anniversary and the Friends of the Garden's 25 year anniversary. We have some great fun ideas for this celebration and look forward to sharing these plans with you at the AGM in March.

I look forward to seeing you all then!

Aaron Anderson

## Annual General Meeting

When: Wednesday, March 4 2015 7pm

Where: Pacific Agri-Food Research Centre

After a short AGM meeting our local historian Frank Kappel will give a presentation on the yesteryear of the Gardens, which will be followed by refreshments.

Members will be able to renew their membership.

New members are welcome!

NOTE: [BOD bylaw revision](#)

### Presentation by Frank Kappel

## 100 Seasons in the Sun, The Story of the Summerland Ornamental Gardens

The Summerland Research Station was established in 1914 by the Canadian Department of Agriculture. In 1916 R. H. Helmer, the first Superintendent of the Experimental Farm, established the gardens at the Experimental Farm.

Vice Chair

**Don Gayton**

Secretary

**Bev Krieger**

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**Louisa Carter**

Directors

**Daniel Mosquin**

**Gwen Steele**

**Marian Rudisill**

### Staff

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**Wilma Kruger**

Assistant Gardener

**Trina Taylor**

Community Program

Director

**Eva Antonijević**

### Pacific Agri-Food Research Centre

Garden Manager

**David Weir**

Integrated Services

Manager

**Karen St-Martin**



Over the past 99 years the Gardens have made a significant contribution to the life of the Okanagan Valley. The Gardens and the gardeners provided valuable information including what species and varieties to plant to the appropriate design for gardens. The express purpose was to promote the beautification of the gardens of the communities in the valley.

### **Frank Kappel Biography**

Frank retired from the Pacific Agri-Food Research Centre, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) at Summerland in 2011 where he led the sweet cherry breeding program since 1994. He came to Summerland in 1988 after working at the Harrow Research Station (AAFC) in Ontario as a pear breeder. Before that he was an Extension Horticulturist for the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food and was raised on a fruit farm in the Niagara Peninsula in Ontario.

Frank keeps himself busy by pretending he is a blueberry farmer, dragon boating, local history, social dance, and community volunteer.

## **Secretary's Report**

It's once again time to think about The Friends of the Summerland Ornamental Gardens membership renewal. Although the weather isn't garden friendly, it is conducive to taking some contemplative time to ponder the projects we want to put energy towards during the 2015 gardening season.

One of the projects we on the board have been working on this winter is the Intergenerational Landed Learning initiative. This endeavor is comprised of a class of grade 6's paired up with "more experienced" gardeners who meet once a month starting in April and ending in September to plant,

maintain, and harvest a vegetable garden.

Last year was our first attempt, and the glowing reviews from staff, students, and volunteers inspired us to enhance the project for this year. We have developed a curriculum that includes soil preparation, seeds and planting, pollinators and plant adaptations, as well as harvesting and biomes. We have also prepared a volunteer training program with help from our Master Gardeners.

If you have any interest in helping out either by volunteering or making a small donation, please let me know. We are very excited about this project and would love to see it grow. I encourage you to renew your [membership](#) and also become involved in any one of our exciting projects!

Bev Krieger



Bev Krieger with KVR Middle School Students

## Shaking the Yews, Embracing the Cedars

By Don Gayton

I am by instinct a hardnosed gardener. If a plant can't make it in my yard with a minimum of care, then it's outta here. I have adapted the parental "tough love" and "logical consequences" strategy to domestic landscaping. But like with most autocrats, my sense of absolute power is a mere illusion: there is the wife to be reckoned with.

We have an eight foot high cedar hedge that a previous homeowner planted. I trim it a bit every year, but that is all the care it gets. Suck it up, hedge. Every winter, wife Judy says we should wrap the hedge in burlap, or tie it up. I have steadfastly refused that request, saying nah, it'll be fine, until this winter. After our near-record 33 centimeter snowfall in early January, the tops of the cedars were all splayed out and loaded with snow. They looked like grotesque palm trees, and branches were on the verge of breaking off. Even after the snow melted off, they stayed that way. Some of the extreme cases looked like alien monsters, with menacing green tentacles reaching down to abduct innocent pedestrians.

Women are able to convey very complex messages just with their eyebrows, and Judy's



Don Gayton at work sampling native vegetation

eyebrows said, "I told you so." Humbled, I got out some rope. My job was to wrap my arms around each cedar and cinch the upper branches together, while Judy tied the rope around them. As I wrapped my arms around one cedar shrub after another, my nose buried in their wonderful scented foliage, I had much time to reflect. On this coastal, wet-climate species that is ubiquitous in every neighborhood of our hot, dry Okanagan valley. Also on wives, eyebrows and theories of landscape maintenance.

We do have another hedge, of English yew, which is lovely and requires far less water to maintain than the cedar hedge. After the heavy snowfalls (two of them!) the yew branches were also leaning out at perilous angles, each with a load of snow attached. For some reason (aesthetics, maybe?) I didn't like the rope idea for the yew hedge, so I adopted a different strategy of shaking the snow off of each branch. So much for tough love. Shaking dozens of individual branches over and over again also gave me time to think. Actually, embracing cedars and shaking yews is quite a pleasant winter activity.

*Don Gayton is a FOG Board member, author and ecologist. More info at [www.dongayton.ca](http://www.dongayton.ca)*

## **Please renew your membership or become a member of the Friends of Summerland Gardens!**

[Click here to download the Membership Form](#) and send us a cheque.

Here is also an option to pay by PayPal.

[Family Membership](#)

[Individual Membership](#)

[Student Membership](#)

[Life Membership](#)

[Corporate Membership](#)

The Friends depend on a strong membership to ensure we can uphold the mission of keeping the Gardens maintained for all of us to enjoy. We encourage you to keep your membership up to date as your support is needed to keep us growing.

## **Donation**

As an organization directed by a volunteer Board, we know the value of contribution and we trust that you will agree that gifts to the Gardens are beautiful, accessible and lasting.

All donations are tax deductible. You can make a secure online donation right now via our Canada Helps donation page. Donate by [clicking here](#)



## FOG Mandate

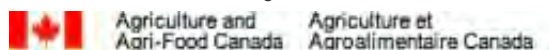
- FOG (the official name is "Friends of Summerland Research Station Gardens") is a non-profit charitable organization formed in 1991 to conserve, enhance and maintain the landscape features of the Gardens in collaboration with the Pacific Agri-Food Research Centre.
- The Gardens are nationally significant and comprise the Okanagan's largest public botanical collection and are a top regional attraction for both residents and visitors.
- The Gardens serve as the Okanagan's leading demonstration site for landscaping in dry ecosystems and include Canada's first and largest Xeriscape Demonstration Garden where the Friends have been engaging and educating the community about water conservation landscaping since the 1990's.

## Membership Benefits & Opportunities

- Monthly tours, workshops and presentations
- Increase your plant and garden knowledge
- Participation in our planting and special events
- Help preserve and maintain one of the most spectacular places in British Columbia!
- Participation in future planning
- Be an advocate for horticulture and heritage preservation
- Newsletter
- Weeding Wednesdays
- Gardening in the Dry Interior of British Columbia, published by FOG in 2006

THE FRIENDS OF THE GARDENS SOCIETY IS SUPPORTED BY MANY INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS WHO CONTRIBUTE TO THE ONGOING SUCCESS OF THE GARDENS.

Pacific Agri-Food Research Centre



BC Gaming

We acknowledge the financial assistance of the Province of British Columbia.



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