

Friends of the Summerland Ornamental Gardens

www.summerlandornamentalgardens.org



July 6, 2015

Chair's Message

As I look outside this morning there's a beautiful refreshing rain falling. You can see the plants all happy and rejoicing. It is so overdue. It seems like we went from late winter directly into summer sometime in late April. Everything is way ahead of normal in terms of growth up at the Gardens. The ground has been so dry. This rain will help.



Wilma Kruger, Head Gardener; Aaron Anderson, Chair; Trina Taylor, Gardener

A lot is happening at FOG. We had an excellent Spring Plant Sale, which brought in close to \$18,000. Thank you all for coming up to purchase our plants and help us with our fundraising. The support from our garden suppliers for the plant sale was excellent and gets better every year. Thanks to all of you who volunteered over that weekend and helped turn it into a special event.

Our Intergenerational Landed Learning Initiative with grade 6 kids growing vegetables -aligned with their school curriculum requirements -has finished for this school year. As usual we had a big Harvest meal with the produce the students and mentors grew. You can see pictures of the event on our Facebook page. We will be expanding our ILL program in the coming year and have received several grants to support this wonderful program.

Our Autumn Garden Tour Committee has put together a very diverse selection of Penticton gardens to tour on Sept. 19 and once again our Garden tour event will feature food and wine as well as the gardens themselves. We've had terrific response from a group of local businesses that will be sponsoring our Tour. I

**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!](#)

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Summerland Ornamental
Garden's Website!](#)

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the Gardens*.

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GARDEN HOURS
Summer

think this should be a fun day and I encourage all of you to get tickets and take it in. There will be some surprises along the way that you won't want to miss.

There's also some good work going on planning our Centennial celebration for the Gardens next year.

Eva has been successful getting grants for land stewardship and water conversation related work at the Gardens so some interesting projects are ahead of us. Wilma and Trina have done a great job, along with Dave and volunteers, getting the Gardens in shape after the winter. I think the first half of 2015 shows that things are moving in a good direction for FOG and we envision continued activity in the coming months.

Enjoy the summer!
Aaron Anderson

Greetings from the gardeners!

Summer has arrived and we are well into another heat wave. The Gardens have many mature trees that provide shade to sit and enjoy the view or to picnic. What a wonderful place to escape the heat. We encourage you to bring friends and family here during the summer months.



Foxtail lilies (Eremurus spp.) in our new Crescent border

Our new perennial Crescent border has drawn a lot of attention and many people have queried the name of the beautiful yellow spiky flower known as Eremurus, more commonly known as Foxtail Lily. If you are interested in planting these bulbs they are available through catalogues or your local garden center in late summer or early fall.

The Annual Spring Plant Sale fundraiser in May was well attended and we would like to thank the many volunteers who helped make it such a great success.

On Thursday May 21st the Gardens were planted with thousands of annuals and perennials by many helping hands. These beds are now full of vibrant colorful combinations.

We aim to have a monthly work party throughout the season and will keep you posted. Weedy Wednesday continues to have a great turnout of volunteers but if you are unable to attend Wednesday we are in the gardens Monday through Friday and you are welcome to join us.

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

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Eva Antonijević

Pacific Agri-Food Research Centre

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David Weir

Integrated Services

Manager

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Have a wonderful summer everyone.
Wilma & Trina

Spring Plant Sale Fundraiser

The weather was perfect for the F.O.G. Mother's Day weekend Plant Sale this year. It was a great success both financially and for the large number of visitors to the Gardens. Our gardeners had put together a wonderful collection of plants for sale, and the other vendors complimented what we had to sell. Consequently customers were satisfied, and we were very happy with our sales!



Marlene Hitachi and I sold many remaining plants at the Penticton Farmer's Market the following Saturday, and the few plants left over were sold at the Hummingbird Information Centre.

A **big thank you** to the many volunteers that worked so hard to make our sale a success. We had so much enthusiastic help before, during, and after the event that it really was a joy to organize!

Once again our local businesses were instrumental in making the sale successful. Thanks to the Summerland & District Credit Union, Dunston Insurance staff, Mike Byland and the Bylands Nursery, Billy Boerboom and the Windmill Garden Center, Richard Hunt from the Penticton Whole Food Emporium, and the Summerland Greenhouses for donating time and materials in order to help continue the maintenance of the Summerland Ornamental Gardens.

Bev Krieger,
Plant Sale Committee Chair

Demonstrating Water- and Climate-wise Landscaping Practices in Canada's Driest Region

Building on the success of a pilot project, Friends of the Summerland Gardens initiated a number of new conservation program activities designed to show local residential landscapers how changing their approach to water use could supply high quality landscaping while reducing demand for scarce freshwater.

This year the project has received funding from EcoAction Community Fund (\$39,000), Okanagan Basin Water Board's Water Conservation and Quality Improvement grant (\$18,000), Telus (\$10,000),



FOG board member Marian Rudisil and our volunteer extraordinaire Juliet Schoonderwoert were promoting water-wise plants donated by Bylands Nursery during our Spring Plant Sale fundraiser

TD Friends of Environment Foundation (\$4,200), District of Summerland Climate Action Initiative (\$3,000) and Fortis (\$1,000) to expand our Water-wise Demonstration Garden, measure and improve irrigation and conduct public outreach and education.

For more information or to get on our list as a volunteer, please contact Eva

at friends.summerlandgardens@gmail.com

Hope to see you at some of our events this Fall!
Eva Antonijevic, Community Programs Director



Telus's representative, Jim Henderson, presenting a cheque for \$10,000 for our Fostering Eco-Literacy - Intergenerational Landed Learning Project at Summerland Ornamental Gardens

Intergenerational Landed Learning Initiative

This school year FOG supported a second season of growing vegetables with Joanna Sluyter's grade 6 class from KVR Middle School. We began our year in February with a leader training program. Twelve experienced gardeners came to learn and plan how to grow a Spring vegetable garden with 30 adolescents. The group of elders and students met one afternoon a month from April to June, culminating in a wonderful harvest luncheon of mixed salad greens and a tasty assortment of breads donated by True Grain Bread bakery in Summerland.



The students' learning journey included soil preparation, seed choice, garden planning, planting, and maintenance, the importance of pollinators, and the harvesting and preparation of food crops.

Although gardening has been our focus, through this program relationships are formed between the students and their leaders, and this is what makes the program such a success. Many thanks to our wonderful volunteers, Marian Rudisill, Pat Pattison, Connie and Ray Davis, Jan Carlson, Renee Martin, Jennifer Povoledo, Dave Curr, Aaron Anderson, Pam Willis, and Eva Antonijevic. We



also extend appreciation to our gardeners, Wilma Kruger, Trina Taylor, and Dave Weir for putting our tomatoes in the greenhouse for a few weeks to toughen them up, making beautiful bouquets for our luncheon, and remembering to water our veggies!

The success of this initiative has been spread through word of mouth by teachers, students, and parents, and now other classes are asking for the same experience! If you would like to be part of this excitement please contact me, Bev Krieger at bevkrieger@gmail.com. We provide lots of support and training so you don't have to be an expert gardener or have experience working with students ... just an open mind and heart, and a strong interest in helping young people learn about growing their own food!

Bev Krieger, Vice Chair

Autumn Garden Tour - Penticton **Saturday, September 19, 9am to 3pm**

The Friends of Summerland Ornamental Gardens are hosting their second [Autumn Garden Tour](#) featuring diverse gardens of Penticton, during the spectacular fall season. Ten venues, including two inspiring large scale food growing gardens, one public native garden and seven impressive private gardens comprise this Tour taking place on Saturday, September 19, from 9am to 3pm.

Each garden on this self-guided tour was chosen for its individual style of landscaping, landscaping architecture, and plant choices, with a special focus on edible, natural and water-wise designs.

This tour promises something for everyone, from avid gardeners to bee keeping enthusiasts to casual park strollers. In one of the gardens the tour participants will enjoy art and saddler craft, and in another food, prepared with vegetables grown on site along with an opportunity to test local wines.

A few highlights include:

- Farm to Table vegetable gardening
- The conversion of a backyard swimming pool to a wildlife pond (in progress)
- A Japanese shade garden
- An outdoor living and dining room
- A spring fed Koi pond

Tour participants will be able to see which native plants are the most decorative, see time tested dryland landscaping plants, compare different composting techniques, and see different methods of growing food crops.

Garden owners, Friends, and Master Gardeners will be available at each garden to answer questions.

This event is a fund-raiser for the Friends, and advance tickets are available now from participating businesses or directly from Friends. The main sponsor of the Autumn Garden Tour is Penticton Lakeside Resort and Valley View Farm.

This is a true community event with many local businesses helping with their financial support! See below.

All proceeds go to the Friends of Summerland Ornamental Gardens.

Tickets are \$20 and are available from the following outlets:

- Osoyoos: Home Hardware
- Oliver: Future Gardens
- OK Falls: Jardin Estate Jewellers & Antiques
- Penticton: GardenWorks
- Penticton: Books 'n Things
- Naramata: Naramata General Store
- Summerland: Martin's Flowers
- Peachland: Visitors' Info Centre
- West Kelowna: Bylands Garden Centre
- Kelowna: ArtKnapp
- Vernon: Swan Lake Nurseryland

Main Sponsor:

[Penticton Lakeside Resort](#), Valley View Farm

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For more information, please contact:

Bev Krieger, Vice-Chair, Friends of Summerland Ornamental Gardens

E-mail: bevkrieger@gmail.com Phone: 250-494-8857

www.summerlandornamentalgardens.org

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Convention Centre & Casino**



PENTICTON LAKESIDE RESORT AND VALLEY VIEW FARM PROUDLY SPONSOR

A SUMMERLAND ORNAMENTAL GARDEN
EVENT

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**AUTUMN
GARDEN TOUR
PENTICTON**

EXPLORE THE
DIVERSITY OF
PENTICTON GARDENS

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 19TH, 9:00 – 3:00

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FOOD & WINE: (for details visit)
www.summerlandornamentalgardens.org

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Keep us Growing! A Friends of SOG fund-raising event.

Friends office: 250.494.6385 | email: ffriends.summerlandgardens@gmail.com | www.summerlandornamentalgardens.org

SUPPORTED BY THE MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION OF BC

**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.

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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!

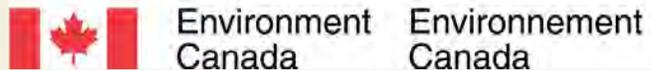
- Participation in future planning
- Be an advocate for horticulture and heritage preservation
- Newsletter
- Weeding Wednesdays
- Gardening in the Dry Interior of British Columbia, published by FOG in 2006

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



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BC Gaming



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





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