



April 29, 2016

Chair's Message

Spring 2016 so far has been a barnburner. Mid twenties in April? Feels like June. The nights have been cool enough however to keep tomatoes in the greenhouse. On the topic of tomatoes, don't miss our upcoming Plant Sale on May 7th & 8th. This is our biggest fundraising event of the year and we will have much on offer including: heritage vegetables, herbs, drought tolerant shrubs and plants and a great selection of ornamental grasses. We look forward to a stellar plant sale, our 20th one, this year also marks FOG's 25th year of operations.

More news on the anniversary front, we are so pleased to be hosting a fabulous weekend long celebration on July 16 & 17 to properly celebrate the Gardens 100th Birthday. Our Centennial Committee members have been working hard for months putting our Centennial event weekend together. It is a real community affair inspired by the historic farm picnics that were a touchstone of summer life in the valley between the 1920's through to the 1950's. Food and fun will be plentiful and this will be a free event that everyone can enjoy.

Wilma and Trina, with volunteers on Wednesdays, have been hard at work cleaning up and getting the gardens ready for the season, and for our Centennial.

For those of you who haven't been up to the gardens yet this year your missing seeing the new corten steel raised beds created for our Intergenerational Landed Learning program. They are the nicest I've seen in the Okanagan Valley.

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Summerland Ornamental Gardens

Located at:

**The Pacific Agri-Food
Research Centre**

4200 Highway 97S
Summerland BC Canada

Friends of the Gardens

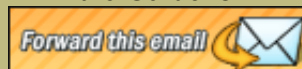
P.O. Box 1363,
Summerland BC V0H 1Z0
250.494.6385

[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*.





Our new corten steel raised vegetable beds

Our Xeriscape garden renovation is underway thanks to funding from the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust and the Okanagan Basin Water Board. We will need your help with planting and irrigation installation later this spring.

If you have been wondering about ways in which you can help the Friends of the Gardens, please let us know. We are planning and preparing for our Garden Centennial Celebration in 2016, and we have a variety of volunteer jobs -- one that just might suit you!

All in all 2016 will be a banner year for FOG. We have a lot of fun events planned so stay tuned and make sure to visit the Gardens throughout the season.

Look forward to seeing all our members up at the garden this year!

Aaron Anderson
Chair

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

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Vice Chair
Bev Krieger
Secretary
Bonnie Fulton
Treasurer
Louisa Carter
Directors
Marian Rudisill
Jan Carlson
Connie Davis

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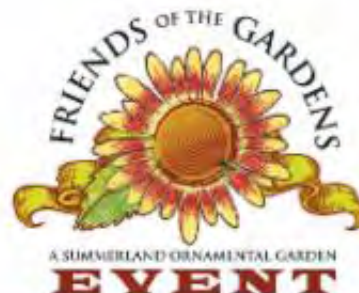
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Assistant Gardener
Trina Taylor
Community Program
Director
Eva Antonijević

Pacific Agri-Food Research Centre

Garden Manager
David Weir
Integrated Services
Manager
Sandra Varchol

20TH ANNUAL (GARDEN'S CENTENNIAL YEAR) spring plant sale

MAY 7TH AND 8TH 8:00 – 4:00



EXTENSIVE PLANT SELECTIONS :

Native Plants • Annuals • Perennials • Herbs • Garden Art
Heirloom Vegetables • Drought-Tolerant Plants • Invasive Species Display
Master Gardener's Tent • Bonsai Display • Meadowlark Festival Booth

LIMITED SUPPLIES AVAILABLE – SHOP EARLY

WORKSHOPS : 9:00 am drought-tolerant perennials

10:00 am all about roses

11:00 am all about tomatoes

12:00 pm container planting

MOTHER'S DAY

- Mother's Day Hanging Flower Baskets
- Bring Mom to select her own basket and tour the Gardens!
- Mother's Day Lunch, all weekend, by BRODO Kitchen

BRODO
KITCHEN

EVERYONE WELCOME

Keep us growing! Please help us by inviting friends, family and neighbours to this annual fundraising event. All proceeds support the Garden.



HWY 97, SUMMERLAND (Summerland Research and Development Centre), Off Highway 97, opposite Sun-Oka Beach Park

FOR MORE INFORMATION: www.summerlandornamentalgardens.org

friends.summerlandgardens@gmail.com

250.494.6385 – Leave a message – we're out in the Gardens!

<http://www.summerlandgardens.org/whats-happening/upcoming-events/>



HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



A large selection of plant material is grown by FOG Gardeners Wilma and Trina



Brodo Kitchen will be on site on both days - bring your Mom for a special Mother's Day lunch



There will be artists and artisans selling their arts and crafts

100 Seasons in the Sun A Community Centennial Celebration

July 16 and 17, 2016
10am - 5pm

The Summerland Ornamental Garden is entering its Centennial year and the Society is organizing a grand celebration. **100 Seasons in the Sun** promises to be a fun family event with activities for all ages. Mark your calendars for July 16 and 17. The event will be open from 10am to 5pm each day.

If you love gardens and history, there will be lots for you to see. **Tours of the gardens** and the former **Superintendent's Residence** are scheduled for both days. If you love **music**, you will love the musicians we have invited: Debi Johnson, Yanti, the children's choir, Linnea Good and David Jonsson, the Okanagan Big Band, Tavis Weir and Company, and to round out Sunday afternoon, Cod Gone Wild will take to the stage. Check the website for more details about the tours and entertainment.

If you are into **art**, there will be **artists and artisans** demonstrating their skills and offering their masterpieces for sale. The local quilters guild and the rug hookers guild have both created an amazing centennial piece to raffle. The local

potters guild is also creating a wonderful clay sculpture, "Nature's Bounty", that will be installed in the Gardens. A Botanical drawings exhibit, sponsored by the Penticton Art



Archival photo of a Family Picnic at the Gardens
Photo courtesy: Summerland Museum and Archives



One piece of the clay sculpture entitled Nature's Bounty created by the local potters guild

Gallery, will be mounted to showcase a series of botanical illustrations created by pioneer Julia Bullock-Webster in the 1890's.

There will be a **silent auction** where you can place your bids and perhaps take home some art, some wine, or any one of the many items that will be up for auction. Watch for more details as July approaches.

Children will enjoy games, singing, art opportunities, and even a potting shed where they can be junior gardeners.

There will be **food vendors on site** or you are welcome to

bring your own picnic. Since this is a public venue, please do not bring alcoholic beverages with you.

There is **no gate entrance fee**, but you are welcome to drop a token of your appreciation into any of the donation boxes located throughout the gardens or at our website. **A free shuttle bus** will bring visitors from the parking lot at the Research Centre to the Gardens and back throughout the day.

If you are **interested in volunteering at the event**, talk to Connie Davis. She would love to hear from you at 100seasonsinthesun2016@gmail.com or at (250) 494-1448. If you are looking for more details, check out our website at www.summerlandgardens.org and look for the link to the Centennial.

Be sure to mark your calendar...July 16 and 17 - Summerland Gardens Centennial.

Tell your family and your friends. Plan to bring them along with you to our *100 Seasons in the Sun* celebration!

See you there!

Marian Rudisill
Centennial co-chair

Gardeners Message

Spring greetings, we are very happy to be back and it's been a great start to the 2016 season! It's exciting to see the greenhouse bursting with colourful drought tolerant annuals and perennials, herbs and veggies that we have propagated for the Gardens and the upcoming fundraiser Plant sale May 7th and 8th.

Our Xeriscape garden work party in March was a tremendous success and we had a great turnout of volunteers. Thank you. We aim to have a **monthly work party** throughout the season and will keep you posted. We continue to have a great turnout of volunteers on Wednesdays but if you are unable to attend on that day we are in the Gardens Monday through Friday and you are welcome to join us.

On Wednesday May 18 we are planting throughout the Gardens and if you would like to volunteer we will have a sign-up sheet posted at the Plant Sale. We look forward to seeing you for a fun day of planting followed by food and refreshments.

If you have not been to the Gardens recently you may have already missed early spring flowering bulbs.

However the flowering trees and shrubs to name a few include Magnolia, Daphne, Forsythia, Pieris Japonica, Ribes, provide vibrant pops of colour throughout the Gardens. So come to the Gardens and enjoy the colourful blooms before they fade away from our warmer than usual weather.

Wilma & Trina



Intergenerational Landed Learning

Our Landed Learning Initiative is well underway for this year. We have 14 volunteers who are enjoying working with two classes of middle school students; one class of grade 6's from KVR Middle School, and one class of grade 8's from Summerland Middle School.

Our first session entailed learning to be still and use our senses in order to bring in important information. As we went on a hike around the gardens we used our senses to notice signs of Spring.



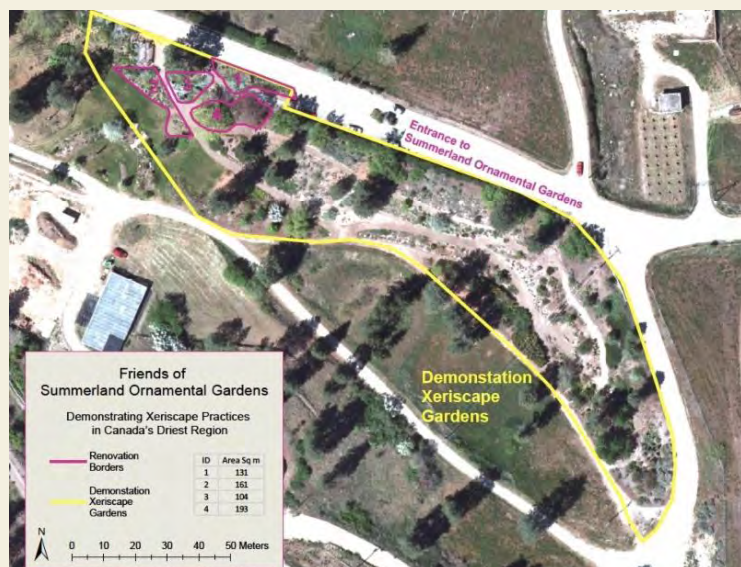
Each class is divided into six colour groups. We had the students mark their group's growing space in our brand new raised beds. The students then shared and changed their garden plans, using what they knew about companion planting as well as the position of the sun. They returned to their classrooms to fine tune their planning and then returned to the Gardens on April 15th to plant their early crops! Both classes have already started tomato plants at school to be planted on May 20th.

Come up and visit the new raised beds and hopefully you will see vegetables growing very soon! We would like to take this opportunity to extend our gratitude to the funders of our ILL Program: Telus, TDFEF and FortisBC.

Bev Krieger,
Intergenerational Landed Learning Committee Chair

Demonstration Xeriscape Garden Renovation

The Friends are happy to announce that we have received funding from both Stanley Smith Horticulture Trust based in San Francisco, and the Okanagan Basin Water Board's Water Conservation and Quality Improvements grants towards a project entitled ***Demonstration of Xeriscape Practices in the Okanagan***. Both organizations recognize the importance of promoting water conservation landscaping through demonstration.



The main aim of this project is to demonstrate resilient landscapes that can withstand and thrive in drought conditions. This will be achieved by renovating and enhancing sections of the 23 year old Xeriscape Demonstration Gardens, the first and largest, in Canada.

Back in 1993 when Brian Stretch, Head gardener of the day, and the Friends were first building our Xeriscape Demonstration Garden the Denver Xeriscape principles were incorporated. Colorado drought tolerant shrubs and perennials were featured and they are still thriving at the Gardens.

We have now learned a great deal more about regionally tested Okanagan plantings and our Xeriscape Garden needs to better represent our regional expertise. We will work closely with [Okanagan Xeriscape Association](#) to integrate principals of the [Okanagan WaterWise Make Water Work](#) drought awareness program while carrying out our renovation.

Donna Lane, our long time member and volunteer landscape architect has produced a design incorporating input from the Friends grounds committee. Plants have been ordered and we encourage all of you to join our **community-planting event** for this exciting project once we set a date. We will keep you updated.

Stewardship as it relates to water conservation will be a feature of the project and we will hire Bruce Naka to design and install efficient in-line drip irrigation in the Xeriscape Gardens in a workshop setting. Hence workshop attendees will experience hands on learning both in terms of drought tolerant plant material and how they should be installed as well as efficient irrigation systems for Xeriscape Gardens. We will post news about signing up for this **irrigation workshop** in the coming weeks.



One of our favourite drought-tolerant shrubs planted by Brian Stretch in the early days of the Xeriscape Gardens, a Colorado native: cliff fendlerbush or false mockorange (*Fendlera rupicola*)

Eva Antonijevic
Community Programs Director

Volunteer Opportunities 2016



We value our volunteers.

- **GARDENERS**

Help put our Gardens over the top for the Centennial event.
Weekly Wednesdays working in the Gardens throughout season.
Regular Work Parties.

CENTENARY EVENT JULY 16th & 17th 2016

T-shirts provided, check in centre, light beverage and snacks,
safety vests as required and orientation mini-workshops as needed.

- **PARKING/TRAFFIC CONTROL**

Two hour shifts 9am - 5pm. Orientation provided.

- **SETUP / TAKEDOWN**

Small tents, tables, chairs, pylons, barricades.

- **PARK MAINTENANCE**

Circulating, clean up. Collect re-cycle/garbage. Washrooms reviews. A roving presence on the site. Two-

hour shift minimum.

- **GARDEN GREETERS**

Comfortable communicating with the public. Welcoming and directing. Hosts/Hostesses and a friendly 'go to' for our guests. Two-hour shift minimum. Orientation provided on site in advance of event.

- **HISTORICAL HOUSE TOUR GUIDES**

Orientation provided on site in advance.

- **OPERATE BEVERAGE KIOSK**

Lemonade and water sales. Comfortable handling \$\$

- **VOLUNTEER CENTRE HOST**

Assist check-ins, direction, man snack-relief area.

- **SHUTTLE COACH HOST**

Ride circle route, welcoming guests, inform and ensure safety of riders. Two-hour shift minimum with an orientation on site in advance.

PLEASE Consider minimum two-hour shift, take a break to enjoy the festivities and return for a second shift of two hours, same area or a change. Parking is very limited so plan your arrival early of shifts and consider carpooling with friends/family.

For more information please contact Connie at: 100seasonsinthesun2016@gmail.com

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 CanadaHelps donation page. Donate by [clicking here](#)



FOG Mandate

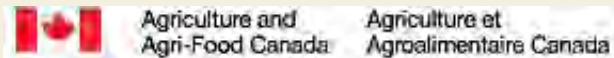
- FOG (the official name is "Friends of the Summerland Research Station Gardens") is a non-profit charitable organization formed in 1991 to conserve, enhance and maintain the landscape features of the Gardens in collaboration with the Pacific Agri-Food Research Centre.
- The Gardens are nationally significant 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



This project was undertaken with the financial support of:
Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de :



Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust



BC Gaming



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- Parkers Chrysler Dodge Jeep Pentage Winery Poplar Grove Cheese
- Summerland Greenhouses Upper Bench Estate Winery ValleyView Guest House & Spa

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