



The Garden Master News

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Summer Gardens of Eastern Canada



I wonder what it would be like to
live in a world where it was
always June.

- Lucy Maud Montgomery



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- by **Jim Sharpe, AMGA President**

With the weather so cold and rainy this spring, the theme for July 11 Annual Conference "Gardening in Challenging Environments" rings very true. Join us for a day for education with Todd Boland from Memorial University Botanical Garden, Darwin Banks and Bernard Jackson from Friends of the Dalhousie Garden, Jamie Ellison on garden photography and Alan Banks from Harbour Breeze Daylilies and Japanese Irises. In early May I visited Alan's extensive gardens in Jeddore, on the Eastern Shore of Nova Scotia, forty minutes from Halifax. I was extremely impressed with the extent, design and ocean views from his garden beds and plantings. He advised that when Europeans' visit, they comment that they have never seen gardens so beautiful. He thinks that his gardens is very small compared to the famous gardens in Europe and the British Isles. However I agree with the Europeans, for although his garden is small by public garden standards (1-2 acres), the views of the water are breath taking and the use of rock, paths, extensive daylilies and irises are inspired. Truly a world class garden in the company of other gardens in Atlantic Canada such as Memorial, Friends of the Garden Rock Garden, Tangled Garden, Annapolis Royal Historic, Halifax Public, Kingsbrae and the NB Botanical. We need to celebrate our wealth of gardening expertise and inspiring gardens in Atlantic Canada!

For celebration, I look forward to the July 10 banquet to honour those completing their Master Garden Certification and our Master Gardener volunteers. Please register for the conference and banquet as soon as possible. Our AGM will be held at Collins Horticultural Building at the Dalhousie Agriculture Campus from 1:30 - 3:00 pm on the same day. Please come to share your interest in our activities and help

build a more vibrant organization.

This month I will be travelling to Valley Forge, Pennsylvania to attend the International Master Gardeners Conference from June 17-21. I look forward to their extensive field trips and lectures and will provide a full report at the Annual General Meeting. In talking with Lynne Marie Sullivan, who has attended past conferences, I understand that they have had a great variety for their conferences, including one that was conducted on a cruise ship on the West Coast from Seattle to Alaska. Wouldn't it be fun to plan a Master Gardener conference for an East Coast cruise from New York to New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island and Quebec?

There are still a few seats left in the "Art of Gardening: Lessons from Chanticleer" workshop with Joe Henderson on Saturday, September 7th at the Collins Building and Alumni Gardens on the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus. We have a very good number already registered from our own membership, the Atlantic Rhododendron and Horticulture Society and the Atlantic Landscape Designers Association. It will be a great time to improve your skills and ideas for designing your garden. Please contact me as soon as possible if you are interested in participating.

Best wishes for wonderful gardening this summer!

- *Jim*

Les Jardins de Lotbinière

- by David Oldacre

As a member of AMGA whose residence is in La Belle Province du Québec, I have realized that other members of AMGA are interested in gardens to visit in Quebec. So far, I have written articles for the AMGA Newsletter on Reford Gardens on the S shore of the Gaspé Peninsula not far from Matane, and another on the Mackenzie King estate near Gatineau, Quebec.

Here is another I visited in 2015 on les Route des Navigateurs (Rte 132) which runs along the south shore of the St Lawrence river. It is about half way between Becancour and Laval and overlooks the community of Donnacona on the N shore of the river.

I discovered it quite by chance. As an English speaking Quebecker, I wanted to be able to learn more French and in particular improve my reading skills. My speaking skills are not good and tend to cause French speakers to go to sleep before I am half way finishing my sentence, but I had enough knowledge of the French language to improve my grammar and reading.

The tool I used for this exercise was Duolingo, and part of the fun of using this tool was the ability to select articles and translate them with other users of Duolingo. I started out on this exercise by selecting Wikipedia articles on famous people of Quebec - which included the famous explorers to what was to be called New France such as Jacques Cartier and Samuel de Champlain, which I expanded upon to include some of the early men of France such as Cardinal Richelieu and Francois de Laval which led to articles on the important people in the development of New France.

With my horizons beginning to expand, I then started to select Wikipedia articles on various places in Quebec, initially close to where I live in the Eastern

Townships, but then I expanded outwards to Montreal and Quebec City which is really learning about what Louis XIV – the Sun King - expected of the colonization of New France – and the establishment of the Domaine System – where his appointees (Seigneurs) were granted land to colonize and exploit resources of areas north and south of the river.

The Domaine system was still in effect after the “conquest” of Quebec by the English forces of James Wolfe in 1760 but by the time of the formation of Upper and Lower Canada after the Napoleonic wars the Domaine system was slowly being dismantled.

In most of these Domaines, the Seigneurs had established large estates (Seigneuries) for their personal use which usually included their main residence plus lesser buildings for the people whom they employed to provide personal services to the owner and his family and manage the grounds of the estate. Naturally this meant the development of gardens which the owner could proudly show off to other members of the Quebec elite and individuals of importance – who ran the province.

Lotbinière was one such estate, which was originally founded in 1662. The seigneur responsible for the creation of the gardens of the estate was Henri-Gustave Joly de Lotbinière, KCMG, PC (December 5, 1829 – November 16, 1908) who served as the fourth Premier of Quebec, was a federal Cabinet minister, and the seventh Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia.

It was this garden which I visited in September 2015 while I was on a camping trip to Nicolet which is a few miles to the east of Becancour and the bridge over the river to Trois Rivières. It turned out to be the best

Les Jardins de Lotbinière

(Continued from Page 3)

time of year to visit the estate during the last week before it closed down for the season – and consequently I more or less had the place to myself.

After walking through the welcome centre – which was closed - I went on to the Gardener's cottage



Gardeners cottage

where I paid my admission fee, and then spent the next ¾ hour walking around the various gardens and taking lots of photos. There were a few visitors which I kept on running into, perhaps 20, so it was a good opportunity to view the gardens without the crowds.



The quiet pond

The individual gardens were grouped – so at the entrance point I visited the Romantic Pond Pond which was mostly a shade garden, and the gardens around the beaver pond, and then a group of formal gardens .



The formal garden (1)

From this point there is a wide area of lawn where people could picnic,



The formal garden (2)



The view of the long walk

and the Seigneurial walk.

Close to this was the main house and the group of buildings including the Maple House, the Servants Cottage as well as two other outbuildings which may have been used for the same purpose.

Les Jardins de Lotbinière

(Continued from Page 4)



View of the garden and the house



View of the work cottages

After this I walked down to the Quai past a small waterfall from the beaver pond, down to the walk through the marsh area. The Quai itself was in ruins – and I don't know how long ago it was last used as there was no information about that in the brochure.

It was directly across the river from Donnacona on the north shore.



All the while I was taking lots of photos, and trying to make up my mind about the differences between the Domain gardens and those of Reford Garden. In general, I would say that Elsie Reford taught herself to become an horticultural expert and it showed in the way she selected her plants and the layout of her gardens .

This garden, on the other hand, is renowned for the number of different species of plants in the garden of which about 3500 are listed in the brochure, So it is a completely different style, but quite beautiful all the same.



AMGA CALENDAR

- Dalhousie University Faculty of Agriculture, Extended Learning,
Master Gardener Summer School, July 8-12, 2019

- **AMGA AGM, and Conference, Wednesday, July 10-11, 2019** to be held in **Collins Building, 160 College Rd, Millbrook, NS**



Map Directions:

<https://www.google.com/maps/placeCollins+Building,+160+College+Rd,+Millbrook,+NS+B6L+1V6,+Canada/@45.3724613,-63.2643293,17z/data=!3m1!4m5!3m4!1s0x4b594e2c408df83f:0x89cd3a86be0af80e!8m2!3d45.3724613!4d-63.2621406?hl=en-US>

- AMGA member **Pot Luck Lunch - Wednesday, July 10, 2019, 12:00pm** with **Summer School Students** at **Collins Building**. Come along and chat with the students and your fellow MG's while we share Lunch!

- AMGA **AGM 1:00PM**, Wednesday, July 10, 2019, **1:30-3:00pm**

- AMGA **Annual Banquet & Graduation**, Wednesday, July 10, 2019, **5:30pm**, **King Lam Restaurant**, 39 Main St. Truro, NS

- **AMGA Annual Conference**, Thursday, July 11, 2019, **9:00am 3:30pm** **"Gardening In A Challenging Environment"**

- **Fall Workshop - September 7, 2019**
Art of Gardening: Lessons from Chanticleer
by Joe Henderson

- **Articles for Fall Newsletter** are due by **September 2, 2019**

Email articles to :

suestuart@bellaliant.net

AMGA 2019 EXECUTIVE

Contact Executive members by e-mail at:

atlanticmastergardeners3@gmail.com

PRESIDENT: - Jim Sharpe

VICE-PRESIDENT: - Sandra Matchett

PAST PRESIDENT: - Lynn Brooks

SECRETARY: - Gigi Pelletier

TREASURER: - Johanne Robertson

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MEMBER AT LARGE (2): - Ann Buck
Halifax, NS, (COASTAL GARDENERS)

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Cape Breton, NS

MEMBER AT LARGE (4): - Heather Connors -Dunphy
New Brunswick

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR: - Carolyn Downie

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: - Sue Stuart