



The RHODOTELLER



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Coming Events

6 February 2007 – Executive Meeting

The meeting will be held at the home of Diana and John Scott, 6432 Eagles Dr. Courtenay. Drive down Coleman Rd., turn left onto Left Rd., and Eagles is close to the end. Left on Eagles, their house is on the right hand side and has a push button gate. Meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.

13 February 2007 — Regular Monthly Meeting

Program: Nadine Boudreau and Harry Wright with a digital slide presentation of the City of Courtenay's summer plantings including the "Mile of Flowers", an annual planting along Cliffe Ave.



Presidents View

(by Harry Wright)

Really, have we had enough winter yet? February... I like this month, because we are on the countdown for the end of winter here on the Island. This is also the time I plant my Rhododendron seeds, the results of last spring's hybridizing. Crosses made and collected that hopefully will produce better plants than their parents. One of the downfalls of doing my own hybridizing is that it may take five or six years before I can choose which are worthy of being grown on, or which poor specimens will be sentenced to the chipper. Oh well, half the job of being a true gardener is waiting, and I have lots of time, as well as other chores to keep busy. The seedlings from the 2006 experiments are looking good. These seedlings in the photo are the cross of 'Courtenay Queen' and 'Fortunii'.

Our garden did not receive any major structural damage from the storms this winter. However the very early freezing weather we endured in November had a rather nasty effect on a lot of buds. Several buds have turned brown and this year's bloom will be rather diminished. Deadheading will be much quicker and easier this coming spring. One can only hope that spring will arrive and behave as expected.

Don't get too overzealous if we go into a long stall of spring-like conditions through February. Remember the ground is too wet and cold for jumping the gun on planting. Don't dig if the soil is too soggy or you may create a monster for later on. It is still a long time until bedding plant season.

North Island Rhododendron Society

2006/2007 Executive:

President

Harry Wright 338-8345

Vice-President

Dave Crucq 339-7845

Secretary

Diana Scott 338-0208

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Don Law 339-2735

Director: Ways & Means

Dave Godfrey ... 335-0717

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Director: Publicity

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Director: Newsletter/Library

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Social Committee:

Evelyn Wright .. 339-7493

Bernice Morrison 339-0932

Revenue Table Committee:

Joan Walsh 335-1349

Tiffany Wyles... 336-8188

Historian:

Lois Clyde 337-5754

The club meets the second Tuesday of the month (except May through August) at the United Church Comox Avenue, Comox 7:30 p.m.

Member Notes

(by Dave Godfrey)



But if you must get on with the gardening, and just can't wait another day, then February is the month you can get those seeds started indoors. Start seeds indoors under lights and a bit of bottom heat if you don't have a heated greenhouse. The top of a refrigerator is a good place to get some seeds started. Plant only what you need, as seeding too thickly in containers makes for leggy, crowded seedlings that are difficult to transplant and ones of poor quality. Never use soil from the garden for planting indoors (unless it is sterilized first). Soil less mixtures, or a combination of potting soil, peat and perlite, are lighter textured so roots can easily penetrate. They are sterile, so you have less chance of soil-borne problems for seedlings.



Courtenay Queen x Fortunii

Clear plastic mini tents over seeding packs, new cuttings or transplanted seedlings are effective for keeping everyone happy. Several of the grocery stores now use plastic packs for bakery products, pre-cooked chickens, etc. These are ideal containers to make very effective 'mini-greenhouses'. If using loose plastic bags, however, make sure to prop the plastic so it doesn't touch the leaves. Any place that leaves meet plastic seems to be a trigger for rotting problems.

Get those perennials, annuals and rhododendron seeds going this month or next and we will have no problem filling up our revenue table in the spring with all the 'extras'.

See you at the meeting. Harry



Rhododendron Species Foundation

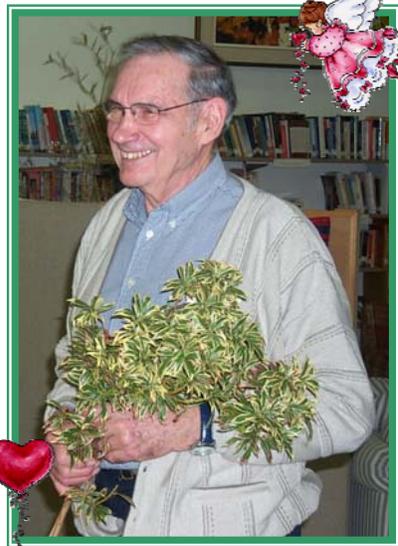
For those members touring across the border, NIRS membership provides an opportunity to visit the Rhododendron Species Foundation and Botanical Garden in Federal Way, Washington. The facility is home to one of the largest rhododendron collections in the world. Over 10,000 rhododendrons grow in a beautiful 22 acre woodland of tall native conifers. The flowering season in western Washington begins in early January and continues through late July with the majority of species in bloom from March to May. Free passes are available when presenting your NIRS membership card.



Those members attending the meeting on January 9th enjoyed an informative and entertaining evening. President Harry Wright welcomed all to another year of social meetings, and gave a special welcome to Jake and Claudia Ellis. Jake was a member of NIRS about 20 years ago, before work took them to Kamloops. Now that they are retired and living in the Black Creek area, they've decided to rejoin the club.

Membership chair announced that our membership currently stands at 57, comprised of 52 regular members and 5 associates. Of these, 45 have paid dues for 2007, and the remainder will hopefully be paid in the next few weeks. Another name tag order will be placed soon. Any member wishing a name tag for only \$6.00, is asked to contact Brian ASAP.

Following the business portion of the meeting, President Harry



provided another rhodo identification slide presentation. This was followed by Bernie Guyader's informative educational on "Winter Damage" and how to recover from it.

For the entertainment portion, members and guests enjoyed a power point presentation of the trip last spring to the Whidbey Island chapter and gardens prepared by Noni Godfrey. Those who attended the tour enjoyed a trip down memory lanes, while

others enjoyed seeing the beauty of the Whidbey area. Some indicated they'd like to see the gardens for themselves; while others exclaimed that they will not be missing future trips, as it looked like too much fun.

The lucky winner of the door prize "Sappho" was Nadine Boudreau, and the raffle prize winner was none other than Dorothy Law, whose excitement consisted of "again!!"

PH tester pen

As we begin gardening in the spring, don't forget for a small rental fee you can use the NIRS' new pH tester to check the conditions of your soil. The pen is available for one week at a price of \$10 (with \$5 refunded upon the pen's return) and can be picked up and returned to Harry Wright.

ARS Journal magazines

Members who do not read or keep their ARS Journal magazines, President Harry asks that you bring them to a meeting. They can be passed along to new members or distributed to various locations for others to enjoy.



Garden Chatter Natter and Notes

(by Mary Palmer)



How does rooting hormone work? When we take stem cuttings we tap into the plant's natural ability to produce roots from any part of the plant in order to create a new specimen. These roots arise from young cells in the stem, close to the vessels passing water and food up and down the plant. The rooting process is helped along by plant hormones called auxins, which is why we cut under a leaf or node, where auxins are more concentrated. Dipping the base of the cutting into hormone rooting compound adds extra synthetic auxins, while fungicides are often added to prevent decay. However, some plants are sensitive to extra auxins, so follow instructions carefully.

Did you know gardeners in Britain can grow huge pumpkins? I saw one illustrated in *Amateur Gardening* last Nov. that weighed 1,124 pounds (509.8 kg).

That was a pumpkin! But guess what the owner did with it? He used it for a boat, just like the Nanaimo bathtubbers. They put a little engine on it after scraping out the insides, and a man sat in it and found it went 4 miles per hour! "It handled surprisingly well for a pumpkin!"



I noted in *Amateur Gardening* that bumblebees are in a bit of a crisis in Britain. I hope this is not true here. Be sure to have plants in the garden that will keep them healthy, for they are one of the best pollinators we have. They pollinate veggies, fruit and all kinds of wild flowers in summer. When they

first emerge in winter is their toughest times, so try to have some of these plants in your garden: *Viburnum botnantense* (a few flowers every warm spell from October to April, then a good showing - wonderful perfume too). *Arbutus unedo*, *Pieris japonica* (these plants do even better than rhodos in my garden), no winter weather bothers them, and they bloom very early. *Mahonia aquifolium* (another October to April flower producer). Also *Sarcococca confusa* (fantastic perfume, blooms in January). There are many other plants, some of which most of us have - winter blooming heathers, *Daphnes*, and *Hellebores*. In fact, I think we do quite well for the bumblebees. That reminds me, though, that my very tall *Daphne mezereum*s were severely beaten down by one of the heavy wet snows that we had this winter. Luckily, I have many seedlings in the garden, so will have to start again with these plants.



Another article in this magazine reminds me that I am one of those gardeners who is always looking for a bargain. Sometimes, according to this writer, I am probably being "pound foolish", for I can't resist a shrub bargain. We really should try to tip a plant out of the pot, and see if roots are wound round and round the sides of the pot. I have read you should try to unwind them, even cut them in places, to make sure they learn to spread out.

"Pots of congested seedling are never good value - leggy, root-entwined plants won't get off to the best start in life. And ignore those root-bound 'bargain' trees and shrubs too - you'll do more harm than good trying to loosen roots that are spiraling as tight as a coiled spring". However, if the plants looks a though it would be worthwhile for taking hardwood cuttings - well, take a chance.



It might be worthwhile to buy perennials that have died to the ground for the winter. Tip them out of the pot - you might see healthy roots and crowns to make 3 or 4 plants from 1.

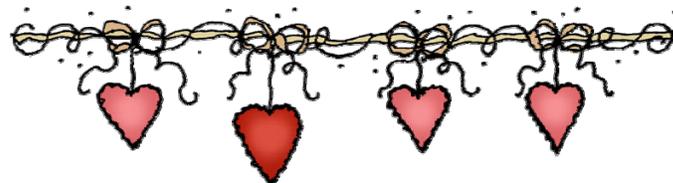
Split bags of compost are good as long as they have been kept in a dry place. But even there - I once had a broken bag of mushroom manure that provided us with mushrooms for months!

If slow-release fertilizer has been kept in a cool, dry, frost-free shed it will be usable, but in a humid greenhouse it would deteriorate.

In some gardens we still see daffodil leaves tied in bunches or cut off at 4-6" after flowering is finished. This does make the plants look tidier but is a disaster for the daffodil bulbs. They need the energy produced by leaves to build up the bulb for next year's flowering. Try to ignore the mess for six weeks until the leaves turn yellow or brown. Or plant daffys in a bed with hostas, euphorbias or other perennials whose emerging leaves will soon cover the dying daffodil leaves.



Did you know there is a new *Gardenia* on the market that is hardy to -10C? "Kleim's Hardy" is its name, and it was available in garden centres in Britain last year. This plant will flower from June to Sept., in partial shade, lime-free soil.



Glendoick Gardens

These beautiful gardens, which some of the ARS members from the Pacific Coast were able to visit in 1996 when the ARS Spring Conference was held in Oban, Scotland, were described by Roy Lancaster, a modern-day plant hunter. In an article in *Gardeners' World* magazine, May 2006. "This famous garden is noted for its remarkable plantings of trees and shrubs, in particular its rhododendrons, and the variety of woodland and streamside perennials. However, what makes this garden so special is the wealth of plants introduced as seed from the wild by the Cox family over the years.

The garden was begun in 1921 by Euan Cox who, three years earlier, had accompanied the well-known garden writer and plant collector Reginald Farrer on a plant-hunting expedition to Upper Burma. Euan's interest in collecting and planting unusual plants was continued by his son Peter, resulting in a whole host of new introductions from the Himalaya, China, and Tibet.

Almost every year since 1981 Peter has traveled to these countries, and for the last 10 years or so he's been joined by his son Kenneth. Is it any wonder then, that Glendoick Gardens should be imbued with such a strong presence of the east's fabulous flora?

Like all the best plantsmen's gardens, Glendoick's strength lies in its rich variety, which makes a visit at any time of the year a worthwhile experience. But it's in April and May that the gardens are at their most exciting and colourful as the many hundreds of rhododendrons, most of them of wild origin, go into overdrive and fill the whole woodland with their sumptuous blooms".

He goes on to describe rhodos with peeling bark, and unusual flowers, and other companion plants such as *enkianthus* and *viburnums*, *primulas* and *hostas*, *meconopsis* and *giant cardiocrinums*. On a chilly January day, I am back in that garden too, and observing

all those fantastically beautiful plants. I noticed huge meconopsis with bright yellow and orange flowers, stems thickly covered with orange hairs. A tree covered with bright pink flowers (this was in early May) that I couldn't identify, but decided must be a malus that I had not seen before, rhodos near the house that had been touched by frost the night before (just like at home), and rows and rows of lovely little dwarf rhodos such as 'Ptarmigan', 'Curlew' and 'Pintail'. These were all arranged so that colours matched or blended - purple with yellow, various shades of pink ... just lovely.

If any members are planning a trip to "the auld country", my advice is - go straight to Scotland, in May. As well as visiting other fabulous gardens, take in their annual rhodo conference, and visit Glendoick Gardens. Apart from Vancouver Island, this area is about as close to Heaven as you will ever get.



Hellebores

by Carol Klein.

If you would like to try breeding your own hellebores, there is a very clear article in the magazine *Gardeners' World*, March 2006, with wonderful photos. If anyone would like to "have a go", ask me for the article. Meantime, here are the main instructions.



"If you decide to grow your own plants, the only important requirements are two really good hellebores and a lot of patience. Although you can use any old plants, you may as well start with the best. Either choose two quite different hellebores or, if you want to concentrate on a particular characteristic or colour, choose those that display unique features. Plants can be pollinated in pots in cold frames or unheated greenhouses, or outside in the open. It is warmer work when done in the greenhouse, but pollinated flowers are more prone to rotting when indoors.

1. In February or March select the plants from which you will breed your hellebore. Choose a mother plant - the one to be pollinated and will eventually bear the seeds - for its vigor and a good even flower shape. Choose a father plant - which will supply the pollen - for the colour and shape of its flowers.

2. The day before you intend to pollinate your plant, cut at least one fully open flower from the father plant, making sure it has 2.5 cm (1") of stem. Bring this flower into the house and float it in a shallow bowl of water overnight. By the next day, the pollen should be fluffy. If you prefer, you can forgo this step and take pollen without removing the flower head - however, cutting the flower does give you more control.

M.P. Note: I would think it depends on the weather too - best to take the flower into the house.

3. Select a few flowers on the mother plant that are just about to open and mark them by gently tying a bow of coloured wool around their necks. To keep track of the plants, label them with a number and note down both the number and a brief description of the variety in a notebook. Stick a bit of the same coloured wool alongside the description of the plant.



4. It is best to pollinate on a bright, sunny day. As pollen is more prolific in warm conditions. On your chosen day, gather pollen from the father plant by brushing it from the anthers. Some people use a soft brush, which is fine if you're only making one cross, but if you are making more, a black plastic pen top is better, as you can see clearly if the top is clean of stray pollen grains, whereas they can hide in brush bristles. Simply take the pen top and rub it on your sleeve to create static. Move the top close to the anthers of the father and pollen will jump onto it.

5. Gently pull back the petals of the mother flower and transfer the pollen to its stigma. The stigma should be slightly sticky and receptive to the pollen, but you will notice the anthers in this flower will not yet be developed. (Some breeders cut off the anthers to guard against self-pollination, but this is not necessary with an unopened flower). Now gently close the flower. You can repeat this up to 3 times on the same flower.



6. May or June - harvest the seeds. With a bit of luck, seed will be set and starting to ripen at the end of May. The seed pods will fatten and change from pale green to brown, at which point you need to collect the seed before it is shed. Ripe seed should be shiny and black. If possible, sow the seed immediately as it doesn't store well. If you do need to save it, put it in a paper bag or envelope and store it in a cool, dark place. Remember to label it.

7. Sow the seed on the surface of compost in small seed trays or pots, spacing at regular intervals. Any seed compost will do, but a loam-based type with extra grit is ideal. The seedlings may be in the tray for some time and loam-based compost contains lots of nutrients which will sustain growth longer. Cover the surface with coarse grit to improve drainage around the emerging seedlings, as well as retain moisture and deter algae.



8. Label the tray, recording the names of the plants crossed and the date. Water thoroughly with a fine rose and place in a cold frame or a sheltered spot. Protect from mice. Germination should start from Sept. on.

9. Oct-Nov - Once the plants have made true leaves, they can be separated and potted up individually. The following spring, pot them into one-litre pots or grown on and plant into final positions. The most exciting part is when you see the flowers of the new progeny you've helped to create, about 2-3 years after pollination. These will be totally new hellebores and you will be the first to see them.



The Weather



In our area, it seems the two most important issues for a gardener are the weather and slugs. At the moment, the only thing we need to consider is the weather. Goodness knows what we will get next, but November and December were months to remember. I expect most of us lost trees - or branches of, and shrubs; but in some cases, this might be a blessing, for we often hate to part with miserable looking things because they were gifts from a friend or relative years ago. If a wind gust took them away this past month, it gives us a chance to replace them with a new one "in memory of..."

Helen Chesnut, writing in the Colonist 4 January, gave good advice "Consider completing only necessary repairs for now. Winter is not over yet. If a branch is hanging off a tree, still partly attached, sever it before it falls further and rips bark off the trunk. Clip away other parts that are clearly never planning to pick themselves back up off the ground. Clear fallen debris that could smother the crowns of perennials such as primroses. Leave the main pruning and any necessary reshaping until late winter and early spring, when the worst weather is over and new growth is soon to begin".

Snippets From Sayward

(by Rose-Marie Silkens)



So often my winter contributions to the newsletter focus on weather, and this time I'm going to resist the temptation to lament loud and long. I think we were a little better off on the North Island than those further south, and while power failures are unpleasant, they are certainly less disruptive than they are in the city. As I write this, it is -6, with very little snow cover to protect marginally hardy plants. As my Norwegian relatives say, we'll have to wait and see.

In the context of concerns over invasive alien plants, I'm eager to add a postscript to my November comments on the *Ilex aquifolium* hybrid JC van Tol, which is self-fertile and allegedly sterile. Just after I sent that item to Noni, *Gardens West* published an article by Carol Hall ("Holly with a Green Conscience") which states that so-called sterile female forms can be pollinated if exposed to male pollen. I guess I won't be planting a 'JC van Tol.' The article does say that variegated *I. aquifolium* plants set light crops of berries so they should be safer, but I have found that to be true only of the smooth-leaved varieties.

I haven't cut down any of my large hollies yet, and have to keep pulling out scores of volunteers. In a bit of an experiment of my own, I have left a few plants in a wooded area on Hardwicke Island, next to a trail. We have never noticed volunteer hollies in the woods get larger than a foot or so before we never notice them again, but can't be sure if that's because they fail or because we haven't observed them. So I have marked these plants to see if they do in fact survive.



Survival is certainly the word that comes to mind regarding the Wollemi Pine, a species discovered in Australia in 1994 and slated to be introduced to Canadian gardeners this spring. Declared a new genus, *Wollemia nobilis* is a conifer known only as a fossil until about 100 living specimens were discovered in Wollemi Park in New South Wales. In the family *araucariaceae*, it is related to the Norfolk Island pine and monkey-puzzle tree. Besides unusual dark green foliage characteristic of that family, it has 'bubbly brown bark' and likes to sprout multiple trunks.

Wollemi pine is known to be hardy to -12 but may be more cold tolerant. According to Brian Minter, it makes a good houseplant in bright indirect light.

Plants will be sold with authentication certificates, and royalties from sales will be returned to the Australian government to fund conservation goals. I'm trying to acquire a few (there's only one distributor, in Aldergrove) and if I'm successful, will bring them to the sale in May.

Hosta Virus X (HVX) is becoming more prevalent in Canada, as the disease is inadvertently spread through commercial and amateur

sources alike. Apparently not all infected plants manifest signs of the disease right away, so the virus can be transferred unknowingly. To complicate matters, before the disease was identified, plants that were thought to be interesting new varieties were released into the marketplace because of leaf patterns caused by the virus.



Gold and gold-centered hostas are most commonly affected, with random blue or green mottling on the leaves being symptomatic. Often this is accompanied by mottling along the veins. Affected leaves will have a different texture or thickness, and are often puckered. On green hostas, the characteristic 'ink-bleed' mottling still appears, but sometimes it is pale yellow rather than green.

Spread of the virus is by sap contact, so division or deadheading, or even bruising leaves while weeding, can transfer it. Symptoms will not be visible until leaves have unfurled, so acquiring or distributing hosta eyes early in the season may not be wise. Apparently it is impossible to guarantee or certify that a plant is virus-free because of the nature of the disease. Hostas acquired more than six years ago should be fine, unless they have been contaminated by contact with infected plants.

Detailed information is available on the website www.hostalibrary.org.



Rhododendron Albiflorum

Those of you who have hiked up around and on the way to Paradise Meadows have spotted specimens of this delicate rhodo. Bernie Guyader had one in the garden for some years, but in general they do not seem to take to the lower altitudes. It is one of the two rhodos native to our island.

This plant is not as well-known as *R. macrophyllum*, as it grows generally in sub-alpine areas, and has been seen at 4000 ft. on Mt. Brooks in Strathcona Park, 3500 ft. on Mt. Arrowsmith near Port Alberni, 3300 ft. on the San Juan Ridge, and 2300 ft. on Mt. Benson near Nanaimo.

Many seed collectors and rhodo species growers such as the Species Foundation at Federal Way, have tried growing *R. albiflorum* from seed collected at these higher altitudes, with dismal success. Perhaps seed collected from lower-growing forms such as on Mt. Benson could meet with more success.

In the book "Wild Flowers of the Pacific Northwest" by Lewis J. Clark and edited by John Trelawny of Victoria, the plant was noted to be found "at the 800 ft. level near Muchalet Inlet". It is this observation that has caused quite a stir with the Rhododendron Species Foundation as well as members of the Western North America Rhodo Species Project.

I realize that "near Muchalet Inlet" covers a lot of territory from its entrance at Nootka Island to its head at Gold River but this low-level form of *R. albiflorum* needs to be verified and seed collected. Surely some hikers, hunters, loggers or other nature buffs familiar with the area or who know of people familiar with or live in the Gold River area could get the word out there and track down this elusive "lowlander".

This material taken from the Nov. 2005 newsletter of the Victoria Rhodo Society, and written by Al Campbell, Cowichan Valley Chapter. Has anyone in our club any further information about this plant?



Editors Note

Snow Laden Shrubs



In response to a question about whether or not it is necessary to remove heavy wet snow from shrubs, the following information was offered in an old issue of a garden magazine:

Heavy, wet snow usually falls when the weather is fairly warm, often in early winter while many deciduous shrubs and trees still have their leaves. Although this type of snow usually melts quickly, some plants are especially susceptible to damage. It's a good idea to gently brush snow off these if it starts to accumulate or the branches droop from its weight. However, don't remove snow from garden beds, as it provides insulation and prevents heaving. This occurs when sun-thawed ground refreezes, causing the soil to expand and literally heave up plants, dislodging them.

To remove snow from shrubs and trees, use your hands or a broom to gently brush the excess off branches and twigs. You can also lightly shake some small trees. Keep in mind that woody stems tend to become more brittle in cold temperatures, so use care to avoid snapping them. It might be best to leave bent branches or trees to recover on their own as the temperature warms.

Snow from high branches can be removed by standing near the branch and, using a long-handled broom, tap it from beneath. Occasionally, melting snow will form a layer of ice on branches, twigs and leaves, so be careful when it begins to fall. It is important to be extra careful when removing snow from iced plants, as they are prone to snapping.

To help protect tall hedges or shrubs, it is a good idea to bind them with heavy twine in the fall to help protect them from becoming misshapen by the weight of heavy snow. It is also a good idea to reshape hedges or shrubs the next time you prune so the plants are wider at the base than at the top.

Keep in mind, that a blanket of snow also helps protect any bud sets from subsequent freezing temperatures. Therefore, it is sometimes beneficial to leave light snow on some plants, such as rhododendrons and azaleas.



New Library Books

Brugmansia and Datura

Successful Bonsai

Firefly Encyclopedia of Trees

Mushrooms & Other Fungi of North America

Peonies

Pruning & Training Plants

Old Fashioned and David Austin Roses



Biography of Louise Casson



Louise and Roger Casson moved to the Valley in 1998, having lived briefly in Langley prior to living abroad. Originally from Saskatchewan, Louise and Roger spent 8 years in Venezuela and Jamaica while Roger was in the RCMP. Louise loved her tropical gardens, taking particular pleasure from the many fruit trees which included Bombay mango, lime, orange, grapefruit, avocado and banana. While in Jamaica Louise



worked with a number of volunteer organizations and was involved in charity work with local orphanages.

Both Louise and Roger are friendly, outgoing people and when they arrived here they opened a Bed and Breakfast called "Casson House" off Mission Road. Over the years they developed their 5 acre property into a beautiful garden full of a variety of plants including many Rhodos. She tells me that the deer particularly enjoyed her garden! Looking for a change of location and ready for a less involved retirement, Louise and Roger sold their property and moved into a new home on Suffolk Avenue in 2005. Members may have toured her new garden this past spring as part of our 2006 NIRS Garden Tour. Louise designed the garden and indicates that the pond and the raised veggie gardens are highlights for her. Having done interior decorating prior to leaving Canada, she enjoys the design aspect of gardening and has assisted a number of friends in the development of their garden.



Louise has been a member of the Horticultural Society Executive, working on the phone committee, heading up the Information Table and Grow and Show, and most recently finishing up her duties as the person sending out email reminders. Louise knows a number of people in our Rhodo club and is looking forward to meeting everyone and participating in our club activities. Welcome Louise and Roger!



Recipe Requests

DUTCH SPICE COOKIES

- 1 C butter at room temperature
- 1 C shortening
- 1 C sugar
- 1 C golden brown sugar, packed
- 2 large eggs, beaten
- 4 C flour
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp cloves
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1 tsp allspice
- 1 C slivered almonds



Cream butter and shortening smooth; add sugar and eggs beat well. Mix in dry ingredients, almonds. Shape into 2 rolls; wrap and chill overnight. Slice 1/4" thick, bake ungreased cookie sheets at 350° F for 8-10 minutes. Makes about 6 dozen cookies.