

## **Darts Hill Garden Conservancy Trust Society (DHGCTS): 2020 in Review**

**Prepared for the Society's Annual General Meeting – Saturday March 13, 2021**

### **2020 Year End Report from the Society's Chair, Susan M. Murray**

Hello Darts Hill Garden Conservancy Trust Members. 2020 was a most unusual year. Cancellations and postponements were a constant theme in all spheres of our lives due to the COVID 19 Pandemic. 2020, saw for the first time, the cancellation of both Spring and Fall Open Houses and the popular Sounds of Summer Special Events Program organized by the City of Surrey Partners in Parks, for example.

The Garden opened early in June and was open regularly until Thanksgiving for Public Garden strolls only. The City of Surrey used a time ticketing system to manage the number of visitors permitted at any one time and collected a \$5.00 entry fee, which was donated to the Society. The significantly reduced visitor numbers for 2020 speak volumes. People were encouraged to stay home by the Provincial Health Authority and they did.

In spite of everything, DHGCTS volunteers worked on various tasks in the garden in very small groups and off site using their home facilities to propagate plants, to work on projects on their computers, and attended committee meetings online and so on. *The Oracle* newsletter highlighted these volunteer activities during the year. Much was achieved by Society volunteers in 2020. Thank you to all Society volunteers, your time and effort is appreciated!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Society's Board members for their service in 2020:

Pam Yokome  
Lorna Fraser  
Sanne Dryborough  
Douglas Justice  
Jane Robinson  
Dan Nielsen  
Sharon Lawson  
Ron Fawcett  
Maria Fish  
Susan Lazar

In particular, thank you to retiring Board member Susan Lazar, who will complete her three year term at our AGM.

### **2020 statistics in review:**

- 214 DHGCTS members in 2020 (291 members in 2019, 221 in 2018, 200 in 2017)
- 1,514 visitors in 2020 (8,602 in 2019, 6,522 in 2018, 4,700 in 2017, 2,300 in 2016)

DHGCTS 2020 Report to the Membership



- No garden tours were available in 2020 to garden clubs and other visitors
- Approximately 700 new labels were made/or placed in the garden for a total of over 4,000 plants inventoried in DHGP
- \$5,252 was made by Plant Sales by Appointment only- all Plant Sales days were cancelled (\$9,752.85 in 2019, \$8,150 in 2018, \$7,200 in 2017)
- 29 *A Secret Garden: the story of Darts Hill Garden Park* books were sold
- Hundreds of on site volunteer hours in DHGP were logged by Society members

### **Returning Society Initiatives in 2020:**

The July Artist- in- Residence program with Surrey artist Claire Moore was very successful.

The Z. inc Art Collective, “Resplendent” temporary art installation was cancelled.

The DHGCTS Member’s Christmas wreath workshops were cancelled.

### **New Society Initiatives in 2020:**

The DHGCTS planned to offer four new workshops in 2020, unfortunately only two, the Kokedama workshop and the Forest Walk workshop in September went ahead, but in modified formats.

### **Society Accomplishments in 2020:**

The Society assisted the COS in the production of the virtual video tour of Darts Hill Garden Park, released for Senior’s Week in June.

The DHGCT Society created two new standing committees reporting to the Board, The DHGCTS Fundraising Team and the Workshop Coordinating Group.

The Society received a 2020 Cultural Grant for \$3,000 from the City of Surrey.

The DHGCTS Fundraising Team organized the successful Fall Fundraising Auction, which grossed \$3,426.

The Society’s website was upgraded to host the Fall Fundraising Auction and the Auction software can be used again.

The website was updated and reorganized to include a Donate page and more information about volunteer opportunities was added as well.

There was an overall decrease of visits to our website - 19,548 unique visitors as opposed to 35,215 in 2019 and 27,862 in 2018. There was an uptick of website visits during the Fall Auction period.

Publicity of the garden via Instagram and Facebook posts was frequent and well received by an ever larger audience.



Society volunteers participated in the Darts Hill Garden Park Welcome Pavilion Steering Committee, which is working on the design of the new entry and washroom building.

Over 300 new plants were planted in DHGP in 2020 as result of the work of the Collections Committee.

The Labelling Group added 700 more plants to the Master Inventory.

Significant work occurred by Board members to revise the Society's Constitution as part of the Society's bid to successfully achieve Charitable Status from the Canada Revenue Agency in 2021.

The Plant Propagation and Plant Sales Group continued their work in Darts Nursery, constructed a new lathe house and, with other volunteer groups, completely renovated the old veggie beds into a new home for dozens of peony plants.

Volunteer groups like the Native Plant Group quietly carried on maintaining the Native Loop and Demonstration garden. Others kept Darts House tidy and neat while the Newsletter Team produced four excellent newsletters. Society volunteers just kept soldiering on, despite the closures and restrictions associated with the Pandemic.

### **Community Partners in 2020:**

The Alpine Garden Club of BC organized a club sale of alpines in the Maple Meadows, and donated a number of plants plus a modified Alpine Seed exchange took place.

The BC Bonsai Club offered one modified fall workshop at Darts Hill to their members.

The Friends of Semiahmoo Bay assisted in several work parties in 2020.

The Master Gardeners Association of BC was not active in DHGP in 2020.

The South Surrey Garden Club Weekly Weeders completed Bed 26 maintenance regularly plus weeded Beds 41 and 42.

Thanks to our Community Partners for their volunteer work in Dart Hill Garden Park in 2020!

### **What to look for in 2021!**

#### **Special DHGCT Society Sponsored Events and Activities:**

Z.inc Art Collective: "Resplendent", temporary arts installation in DHGP- May 7- July 31 2021.

Five artists, Sylvia Grace Borda- 4 weeks in total- April, May and September, Scarlet Black- the month of May, Willa Downing- the month of June, Rosemary Burden June 15- July 15, and Cora Li-Leger- the month of July, will all be creating art in the garden as part of the Artist in Residence program!

Four adult themed and five youth "Botany for Kids" workshops are planned by the Society and plus lots of Public Family Programming will be organized by the Partners in Parks, City of Surrey (COS).

DHGCTS 2020 Report to the Membership



Both the Society and COS, are following the guidelines of the COVID 19 Public Health Orders so all activities, programs and events are subject to change. Notice of cancellations, when needed, will be posted on the Society's events/ calendar or sent to the membership in the monthly Mail chimp mail out.

The Society also has planned several special ways to celebrate the Society's twentieth Anniversary (2001 – 2021). More about this in the *Oracle*.

[Questions?](#)

[info@dartshill.ca](mailto:info@dartshill.ca)

Check out [www.dartshill.ca](http://www.dartshill.ca) for the schedule of 2021 events.