

THE ORACLE

A Newsletter from the Darts Hills Garden Conservancy Trust Society

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR:

SUSAN MURRAY

Hello Darts Hill Garden Conservancy Trust Society Members

September and October were surprisingly busy in Darts Hill Garden Park. Garden Strolls, Plant Sales and the very special September 19 crevice demonstration by Paul Spriggs were well attended. A video of the Paul Spriggs demo is available on our website: [About the Garden - Darts Hill Garden Conservancy Trust Society](#). Scroll down the page to find it. It was very good to return to some semblance of normality after months of uncertainty.

In September, the DHGCTS submitted an application for a fifth grant from the City of Surrey Cultural Grants Program for 2022. Successful applicants will be announced sometime in early January. If successful once again, the \$10,000 grant will support art activities in the garden such as the Artist in Residence program (AiR) and Temporary Art Installations.

DHGCTS Workshop Coordinator Rosina Cuk presented several educational opportunities to Society members and the public in the late spring, summer and fall. The three Resplendent Explained Zoom sessions in June were a big hit. Herbalist Ana Dushyna offered three herb workshops which were well received by participants, one each in August, September and October. The Christmas Wreath workshops are scheduled for November 27 and 28. These workshops are popular and this year sold out quickly!

IN THIS ISSUE:



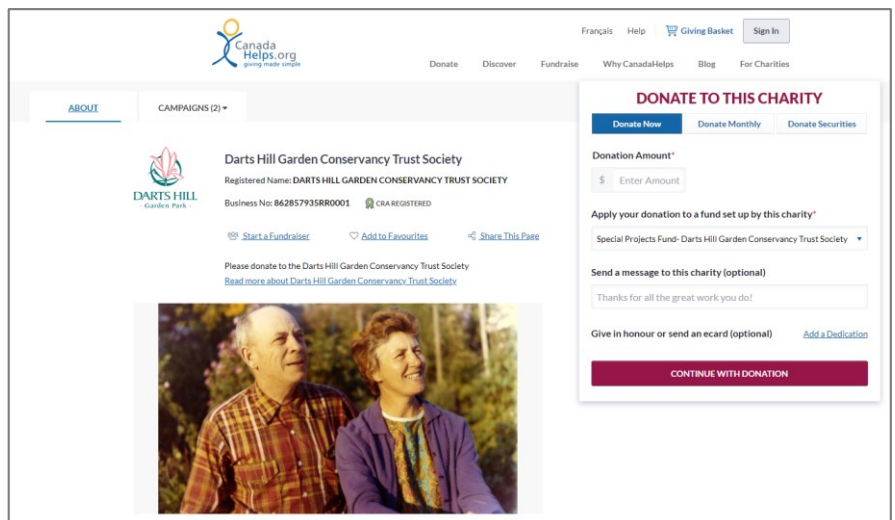
- Update on activities including Cultural Grant & Workshop opportunities
- 20th Anniversary accomplishments
- Registered Charitable Donations
- The Early Days – Margaret Charleton
- Farewell and thank you to Sanne Dryborough
- Annual General Meeting notice
- From The Archives – journal notes
- Francisca Darts – Charles Sale
- Fall & winter in the native garden
- How I Met Mrs. Darts – Kathy Piccott
- City Operations Update
- Fall & winter garden tips – videos with Mrs. Darts

November 2021 is officially the 20th Anniversary of the Darts Hill Garden Conservancy Trust Society. Here is the report on the 2021 projects sponsored by the Board in celebration of this milestone in the life of our Society:

1. **The Crevice Alpine Plant Demonstration by Paul Spriggs** on September 19 was a huge success. Thank you to Pam Yokome and her team of volunteers for organizing this event on behalf of the Society. Well done!
2. **Garden Promotion: FIVE new videos** focusing on the Artist in Residence program were produced by Who's Dan Productions Inc. Thank you to Ron and Judy Fawcett for spearheading this initiative. Fabulous! Look for the links to these videos on the new [Art in the Garden](#) webpage.
3. **The 20-year Index for *The Oracle*** : Kathy Piccott has indexed Spring 2009 to 2021 so far. Wow! Thank you Kathy for working so diligently on this very timely project.
4. **Thirteen historical articles** were written for *The Oracle* in 2021. Thanks to the following volunteers for contributing their memories: Douglas Justice, Marlene Gurvich, Susan Murray in the Spring *Oracle*; Mary Dunn, SurreyCares and Susan Murray in the Summer *Oracle*; Owen Croy, Colleen Nesbitt (SSGC) and Graham Laine in the Autumn *Oracle* and Margaret Charleton, Charlie Sale, Kathy Piccott, and one last article about videos of Mrs. Darts (by Susan Murray) in the Winter *Oracle*.

The DHGCTS Board of Directors has been working to implement procedures and policies to help the Society fundraise. The Darts Hill Garden Conservancy Trust Society (DHGCTS) V.2 GIFT ACCEPTANCE AND RECOGNITION POLICY was adopted by the Board September 13, 2021. DHGCTS- LOOK to the Future- CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION REPORT-V5 was discussed and an action plan developed for the coming months. The Society has engaged the services of CanadaHelps to develop an online donation page to collect donations and render tax receipts automatically. [Darts Hill Garden Conservancy Trust Society | Charity Profile | Donate Online | Canadahelps](#)

The Darts Hill Garden Conservancy Trust Society (DHGCTS) is incorporated under the BC Societies Act and is a registered charity. Charitable No. 86285 7935 RR0001. Several options to donate, in addition to Canadahelps, are available. Contact treasurer@dartshill.ca for more information about how to make your donation to the Society for the 2021 tax year.

The image is a screenshot of the CanadaHelps website's donation page for the Darts Hill Garden Conservancy Trust Society. The page layout includes a top navigation bar with links for 'Donate', 'Discover', 'Fundraise', 'Why CanadaHelps', 'Blog', and 'For Charities'. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column features the organization's logo, name, and registration details (Registered Name: DARTSHILL GARDEN CONSERVANCY TRUST SOCIETY, Business No: 862857935RR0001, CRA REGISTERED). It also includes links to 'Start a Fundraiser', 'Add to Favourites', and 'Share This Page'. Below this is a photo of an elderly couple smiling. The right column is titled 'DONATE TO THIS CHARITY' and contains a 'Donation Amount' input field, a dropdown menu for 'Special Projects Fund- Darts Hill Garden Conservancy Trust Society', a text box for 'Send a message to this charity (optional)', and a 'CONTINUE WITH DONATION' button at the bottom.

The **February 26, 2022, AGM** of the Society will be held in the Emmanuel Evangelical Church, 17029 16th Avenue, as in past years. Watch for more information about the AGM in the January and February 2022 Members' Mailchimp mail-outs. The Society is looking for volunteers to stand for election. Please contact info@dartshill.ca if you are able to contribute to the Society and to DHGP in this way.

Registered Charitable Donations

An Alternative to Using Cash

As with every Autumn, the end of the calendar year draws closer and many of us turn our minds to making donations to registered charities and obtaining income tax receipts. This is 'time sensitive' and to be effective must be done by the end of the year, i.e. December 31. Some refer to it as practising 'benevolence.' Others refer to it as 'tax planning.'

In the past when making charitable donations I found myself getting out my cheque book, issuing cheques to my favourite charities and then waiting for the cherished income tax receipt. **For those of you that have the good fortune of owning an investment portfolio which comprises equities (stocks) there is a more beneficial way of making donations.**

The current strong equity markets provide an opportunity to maximize your position as it pertains to charitable giving and dealing with your accrued capital gains.

If you were to sell an equity position (a winner) to raise cash to make a charitable donation, 50% of the resulting capital gain would be added to your income for tax purposes. **Not** a good plan when this increases your exposure to income tax when trying to be benevolent.

However, this is not applicable if you were to donate the equity position to a registered charity without selling it in your name. Since the capital gain is not realized in your hands, the charity benefits 100% and you get a receipt (for the full value of the equity donated) which will help in reducing your income tax. Everyone benefits, the charity and you.



Should you wish to donate to Darts Hill Garden Conservancy Trust Society, now a Registered Charity #862857935RR0001 for income tax purposes, the Society has established two ways in which you are able to do this by using 1) '[CanadaHelps](#)' or 2) our own Bank's investment firm 'RBC Dominion Securities.'

Tabled for the upcoming year, 2022, Susan Murray and myself will be asking the Society's Board of Directors to consider establishing a recognition criterion for donors, which will be exhibited on our website.

Happy to discuss this with any member wishing additional information by sending an email to [**donations@dartshill.ca**](mailto:donations@dartshill.ca).

Contributed to The Oracle by:

Ron Fawcett
Director and Treasurer
Darts Hill Garden Conservancy
Trust Society

THE EARLY DAYS

PROVIDED BY MARGARET CHARLETON

This article is the TENTH in a series in celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the DHGCT Society 2001-2021

I was a long-time friend of the Ed and Francisca. I first met them at an Alpine Garden Club meeting. We both lived at opposite sides of the Lower Mainland so getting together was through such meetings. After that first meeting Francisca introduced me to the Vancouver Rhododendron Society so consequently twice a month we were together and able to engage in plant talk. We quickly realized that we had a great deal in common. I remember particularly the enormous number of plants they brought to club plant sales. At one sale, at Van Dusen on a Saturday, they did so well that they went home and dug another truck load for the next day. This in spite of the distance between their home and the sale. Both Ed and Francisca held positions in these societies. It was not long before she inveigled me into becoming Show Chairman. They were a great couple to work with.

Their plant enthusiasm led to annual visits to nurseries in Washington and Oregon in search of plants unavailable in B.C. that greatly enhanced their plant collection. Beds were all numbered and the plants recorded. They were blessed with great soil and knees. Any time I visited Dartshill there usually was a new bed being planted. Garden visits opened one's eyes to new plants that absolutely had to be obtained.

I got to know "Eddy", as Francisca called Ed, when he drove us to Alpine, Rhodo, and Hardy Plant Study Weekends. These events, held in Vancouver, Victoria, Seattle, and Portland, provided good speakers, a great display of plants, interesting banquets, many interesting garden visits, and much socializing.

Locally Francisca would bring to meetings interesting cut stems from her garden and discuss the virtues of each, pointing out those that she highly recommended. She was well qualified to judge show plants and was called upon to judge not only cut flowers but shrubs and fruit, and vegetables. She was kept busy spring and fall judging at Lower Mainland garden societies.

Visitors met another denizen when visiting Dartshill: Gus the Border Collie, a breed that the Darts had previously raised for sale. Curling was another of Francisca's passions.

As the years moved on and Ed became frail, Graham was hired to help, and discussions began as to what to do with the garden. Their decision was to leave Dartshill to Surrey.



1994 travels. Margaret Charleton and Charlie Sale are on the left, with Francisca Darts second to the right (next to her sister Louise on the extreme right).



Leaves from *Ginkgo biloba* in Bed 25.
Photo: S. Murray

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Jane Robinson, Membership & Hospitality

Upcoming Schedule

THE GARDEN IS CLOSED to the General Public, except for Members on Members' Days, until April 2022.

CHRISTMAS WREATH WORKSHOPS

MEMBERS ONLY **sold out!**

Nov. 27 and Nov. 28, 10am-1pm

MEMBERS' DAYS

Sunday, November 14, 11am-3pm

Sunday, December 12, 11am-3pm

Sunday, January 9, 2022, 11am-3pm

Sunday, March 13, 2022, 11am-3pm

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

Saturday, February 26, 10am-12pm

In this month's little corner of *The Oracle*, I'd like to acknowledge the amazing contribution to the Darts Hill Garden Conservancy Trust Society by a long-time member, SANNE DRYBOROUGH.

At the end of October, Sanne made a move and is now too far away to continue her involvement with Darts Hill Garden. She has left some very big shoes to fill.



Sanne and Jane

Sanne was elected to the Board in 2006 but was a volunteer prior to this. I have a photo of me sitting beside her at the plant sales table in 2010 learning the ropes in my first year. Recently I've become more aware of what Sanne's impact has been when I joined her on the Board's Membership & Hospitality Committee.

I believe Sanne's primary interest was volunteering with Propagation and over time she became a member of the team that manages the propagation and storage of the plants for sale; records the plants and their #s; organizes volunteer work sessions; and runs plant sales and other related tasks.



Sanne and Ross Williams



Sanne procured door prizes for the AGM

When COVID cancelled plant sales, Sanne let people book appointments with her and met them in the Garden to buy plants. This gave us an unexpected boost in plant sales revenue this year. Then, as with other volunteer organizations, you tend to acquire other duties over time and Sanne left with a full resume.

She was voted onto the Society's Board of Directors, became the Secretary and took on the Membership part of the committee I shared with her. Sanne was also involved with several parts of the AGM planning each year. All of these are time-consuming jobs.

When the book *A Secret Garden* was published, Sanne joined the Book Marketing & Publicity Committee. She processed orders and made it easier for buyers to collect their book at the Welcome Table instead of paying mailing costs.

Sanne has now earned a quieter life walking her beautiful rescue dog and working in her own garden.

Thank you, Sanne, for being such a tireless volunteer worker for the DHGCT Society. I enjoyed working with you and hope you got a lot of joy from your time spent in Darts Hill Garden. Come visit again soon.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

DATE: FEBRUARY 26, 2022

Time: 10:00 a.m. to noon (doors open at 9:30)

Place: Emmanuel Evangelical Covenant Church

17029 - 16th Avenue (across from the Darts Hill Garden main parking lot)

Health guidelines, at that time, to be followed.

The meeting will include recruitment for Board positions. Our guest speaker, from the Alpine Garden Club of BC is David Sellars. His presentation will be titled 'Rock Gardening rocks.' It is anticipated that a light lunch will be served, with a tour of the garden, following the meeting. The garden will be open until 3:00 pm.

Four Board positions are open for election. If you are interested, please contact the Society at info@dartshill.ca. As details of the AGM are finalized, they will be emailed through Mailchimp to the membership, and posted on our website www.dartshill.ca.

JOURNAL NOTES

Kathy Piccott, our stalwart and indefatigable newsletter editor, and I have a shared responsibility from the Society for much of what happens in Darts Hill's historical family residence. Kathy had undertaken organizing the storage cupboards and I joined her to help make decisions about what should be kept and what could be safely discarded as no longer being of value. Those of you who are regular readers of **From the Archives** will easily understand why we were pleasantly surprised and delighted to discover two boxes that had been hidden from easy view to be FULL of wonderful records, informative notebooks and potential material for this column!

This being the last issue celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Darts Hill Garden Conservancy Trust Society seems a perfect time to share a document from Francisca Darts explaining somewhat how she came to be the totally amazing gardener she became and indirectly why Darts Hill Garden Park is one of the world's important botanical gardens.

There is no date on the document, but as there is no reference to any City of Surrey involvement, Kathy and I think it is safe to assume it was written at least before 1994, when Francisca was 78 years old. We know for certain that at that age she was fully functioning, both mentally and physically.

It reads as if it might have been an address to a group who were touring the garden, or more likely on an occasion where she was receiving one of the many awards she received from garden societies and garden clubs. Although she did not suffer fools gladly and could be very direct about what she thought should or should not happen in HER garden, she was equally generous with appreciating and thanking others for all she learned from those who knew something she did not know.



A Portion of my Life.

Although born in the city of The Hague, Holland, (definitely city people) I could have eventually become interested in gardening by osmosis of the Netherland's reputation. My family emigrated to Canada in 1926 and like many from Europe, were ticketed to Winnipeg. Later we moved to Flin Flon, - what a place for gardens!! We moved to Vancouver in 1933.

My gardening life really did not begin until Ed, who was born in Vancouver, and I bought acreage in South Surrey, of which we have retained 7½ acres. The land was second growth, mostly alders, but with stumps and left over logs from the 1980's and 90's, and evidence of old skid roads. We lived in Vancouver but spent week-ends and holidays here clearing land, - we put up a shack. 16th Avenue was also bush, no services and we brought in water. We have not had any children and were able to rough it. Electricity finally arrived and we drilled for water - ready-mix cement not available. We moved here in 1946 with much to be done.

I was fortunate in knowing many wonderful people who passed on their horticultural knowledge and experience to one really interested. They were, as I am, believers in hands on gardening. Being an avid reader and collector of books I found a tremendous source.

In my early gardening years the plants I would read about were not available locally or too expensive for my budget so I grew them from seed. This included trees and shrubs as well as perennials. I was never afraid to try. It was, and still is, a wonderful experience.

And of course, those of you who have spent any time with her very large and specialized library will know by now she must have been "an avid reader," as she describes herself. Not only an avid reader but one who purchased and read a broad range of garden-related books including many by historically important gardeners.

The last paragraph is further confirmation, for the understanding that a significant number of plants in the existing garden were grown from seed.

FRANCISCA DARTS

PROVIDED BY CHARLES SALE

This article is the ELEVENTH in a series in celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the DHGCT Society 2001-2021

I first met Francisca in the Spring of 1993 when Margaret and I were returning from an American garden conference. After crossing the border we decided to visit Dartshill. Margaret wanted to introduce me to her great friend, Francisca Darts. There was an instant mutual liking – I suppose because we both loved Margaret.

It soon became clear to me from their many telephone conversations how much they trusted each other's judgment. Over the following ten years, Margaret and I, along with Pat and Red (Winston) Lowther, were called upon to help flesh out Francisca's desire to preserve for posterity the garden that she and Ed had so lovingly created. In the course of this, Red and I were appointed executors of her will and trustees of her estate.

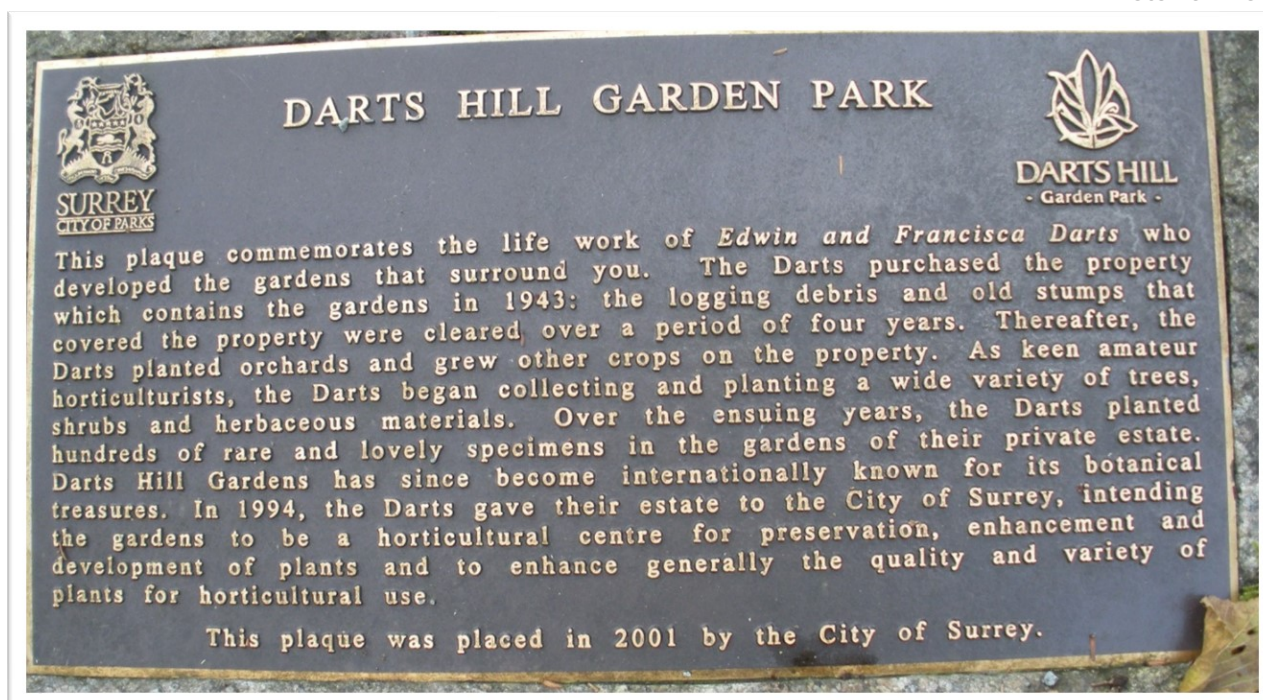
The first step was to determine if the City of Surrey was interested in acquiring the garden and if so on terms suitable to Francisca. Francisca was adamant that the spirit of a quiet private garden be maintained. Owen Croy, Manager of Parks for the City, was most supportive. A committee was formed to formalize Francisca's wishes and met monthly over an extended period. Early 1998, on behalf of the Darts Hill Garden Park Policy Committee, I presented recommendations that Francisca was content with to Surrey Council. A portion of the park was designated 'Life Estate' in order she remain in her home.

Following the passing of Francisca, I was a member of the Policy Revision committee. The revised Darts Hill Garden Park Policy was adopted by Council in September 2015.



Some members of the Policy committee: Douglas Justice, Charlie Sale, Margaret Charleton, Gerry Gibbons.

Photo: J. Robinson



FALL AND WINTER IN THE NATIVE GARDEN

Submitted by Nancy Oike, including photos

The Native Garden is located to the north and east of the Meet and Greet area. Visitors are drawn to its loop trail early in the growing season when its spring flowers burst into bloom. First up will be early shrubs such as oso berry and flowering currant. Then will come a few annuals, more flowering shrubs, and the early perennials which will rise, bloom, set seed, and die back before summer's end.

The Native Garden is at its peak during April and May but tends to look a little shabby when ephemeral plants disappear and others hold onto their ripening seed heads.

As a result, the volunteer Native Plant Group is giving more attention to enhancing the garden's variety and beauty during the late-summer, fall, and winter seasons. The group is adding more late-blooming perennials such as goldenrod, Douglas aster, and yarrow; broadleaf evergreens; and deciduous plants featuring colourful berries and autumn colour. This fall, the volunteer team has added over 50 trees, shrubs, and perennials to enhance the late-season beauty of the area.

Also contributing to the year-round experience is a beautiful new winding pathway that was recently created by the City of Surrey. Its purpose is to invite visitors into the area and direct them away from the former steeper back loop trail, which has now been decommissioned as a trail but turned into a new planting area. Darts Hill Garden technicians brought in rotting logs and stumps to create visual interest and a planting medium for plants that thrive in rotting wood, such as red huckleberries, licorice ferns, and rattlesnake plantain.

Here are just some of the fall additions:

Plant Name	Location	Seasonal Interest
<i>Viburnum edule</i> highbush cranberry, <i>mooseberry</i>	8e and 7e	White summer flowers, followed by red berries and red autumn leaves.
<i>Sorbus scopulina</i> western mountain ash	7n and 8w	White summer flowers, orange berries, and red autumn leaves.
<i>Goodyera oblongifolia</i> rattlesnake plantain	7n and 7e	Evergreen leaves with distinctive snakeskin-like markings; spikes of white flowers in summer.
<i>Ledum neoglandulosum</i> Trapper's tea	7n	Evergreen shrub with white flowers.
<i>Polystichum munitum</i> (many added from other parts of the Garden.) Western sword fern	8e, 7n & along pathways	Large, evergreen; add colour and structure to the winter garden.
<i>Struthiopteris spicant</i> Deer fern	7w	Medium sized, evergreen; add colour and structure to the winter garden.
<i>Vaccinium vitis-idaea</i> Lingonberry	7w, 7n	Small evergreen shrubs; white bell-shaped flowers in early summer; edible red berries in autumn.



Rattlesnake plantain



Licorice fern and autumn leaves



Gnarly stump



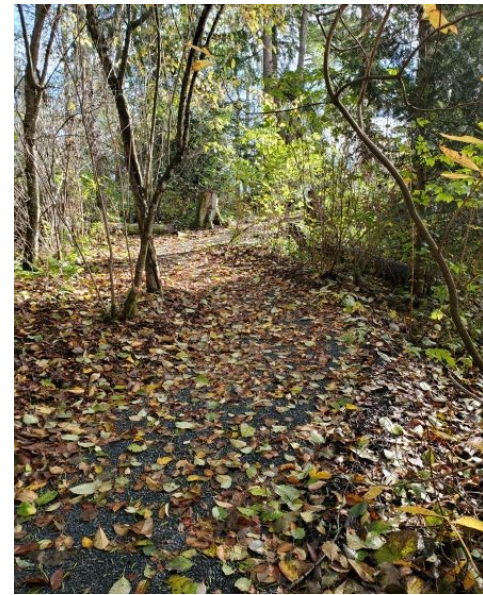
Mushrooms on rotting stump



Lingonberries with fall colours



New winding trail
Photo: Susan Murray



New winding trail now established

The Native Group is not too quick to pick up fallen leaves and twigs, so that fall colour can be enjoyed even when the leaves are on the ground.

They may be tidied up later but are largely left to provide winter protection for plants and beneficial insects, to decompose, and to go back to the soil.

Many of our new plantings have been given protection from the garden's most voracious predators: slugs, rabbits, and deer. Our volunteers have become adept at slug-stomping, creating rabbit cages, and caging trees.

Finally, when you next visit the native area, be on the lookout for two lovely new and informative signs about native plants and the garry oak meadow. They, too, will enhance your knowledge and year-round experience in the Native Garden.



Nerine codora – Bed 33



Paeonia rockii – Bed 32

HOW I MET FRANCISCA DARTS

BY KATHY PICCOTT

This article is the TWELFTH in a series in celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the DHGCT Society 2001-2021

I grew up in Quebec. High school ended at Grade 11 and post-secondary education was mostly paid for if you were under the age of 19 years. So I went to CEGEP, taking Commerce. Two years later, with my diploma in hand, I knew my strengths were in administration. I took a six-month 'Secretarial College' program, where we were taught typing speed by way of a 33" record album rotating and spitting out a tick ticking sound. We were taught that we should always have a spare pair of stockings in our desk drawer, in case we got a run. We were also taught short-hand in the form of speedwriting.

It would be more than 20 years later that, as Assistant to the Manager of Parks, that short-hand was needed to take minutes of a meeting with Mrs. Francisca Darts (Edwin Darts had recently passed), who had gifted their property to the City of Surrey. I've never looked back.

To say I fell in love with this woman may be a bit much but my admiration for her was immense. She loved her garden. And she respected the process to ensure her garden survived beyond her life.

From 1997 to 1998 I was the Secretary to a task team, meeting once a month; developing the Darts Hill Garden Policy with Mrs. Darts' guidance. The task team included friends who were gardeners, professional gardeners, a lawyer, educators, and City staff, who all had perspectives to share. Mrs. Darts listened, sometimes changing her mind a bit to include something she hadn't thought about, but always made decisions based on ensuring the garden had a future. With respect, she stood her ground to portray her vision. And all the members of the team listened.

In 2001, a Society was formed. Most members of the task team were eager to start it up in a Board position. In the early months of 2002, I became the Secretary to the Board for two terms. Mrs. Darts was our patron and attended these early meetings.

Working in an office fulltime I didn't have much opportunity to visit the garden. I wasn't a gardener, although I enjoy playing in the dirt. On the occasions that I was needed as a Secretary at the garden I was given tours, provided knowledge on any of the plants that we may have walked by, taken up the 'secret steps' to the house to help with one thing or another. My cherished gift are my memories of this woman and these short interludes with her at Darts Hill.

On a side note, Mrs. Darts' love for her plants had me hooked. I needed a small part of her enthusiasm. I took a two-year horticulture diploma course in the evenings and weekends, graduating with that glimpse of what she knew and why she was saving her garden.

I don't know what I did in my life to have been so fortunate to have spent time with this woman but I did have that privilege and I am still volunteering at the garden some 24 years after having met her. I received a small thank you in the form of a Dartshill Gardens business card and it is held in a place of honour in my home.



For anyone reading this I encourage you to [watch the videos](#), hosted by Mrs. Darts. And keep an eye out for more upcoming videos. They can be found on the Darts Hill Garden Conservancy Trust Society's webpage. Perhaps it will help to understand what an amazing woman she was and what a gift this garden is.

CITY OPERATIONS

Prepared by Maria Fish
Park Operations Coordinator

The fall season was well received by the public with more regular opening dates than we've had in the past. The numbers from this fall rivalled those from 2019.

Visits to the Garden

In total we had 830 visitors to the garden this fall. As mentioned, this was encouraging since we rivalled the fall numbers from 2019, 882. A great accomplishment when you compare the weather between the two years, we had a much wetter fall this year.

We had almost a hundred visitors on September 18th, Fall Harvest Day, this was our largest day for the fall season with multiple activities throughout the site put on by both the City and the Society. Thank you to everyone for making the day a success.

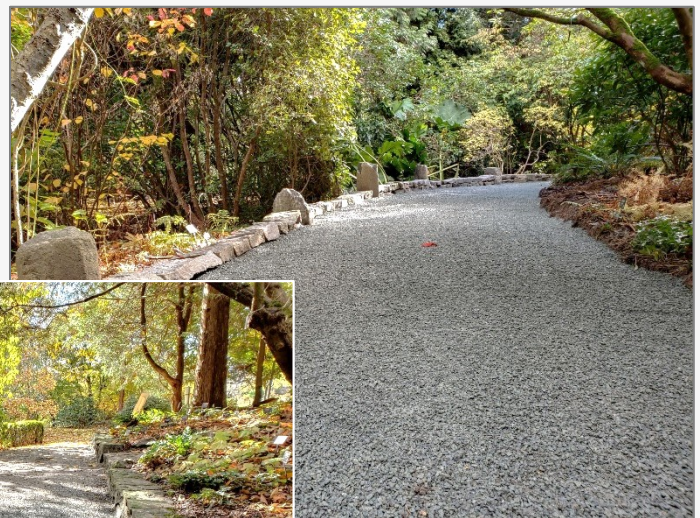
Improvements to the Shack

The Crevice Troughs have been placed behind the Shack and work has started on touch ups to the building. Testing was done to check if there were any toxic materials to contend with. Fortunately, we did not find any asbestos; however, we did find that there is lead in the paint. Remediation of the paint will be done prior to proceeding with work.

We will painting and reroofing the structure as weather permits. As part of our 2022 Capital Project plan, we would like to propose improvements to the area behind the Shack where the Troughs were placed.

Entrance Improvements

Work has been started on the location of the walk. The potential location has been flagged out in consultation with a registered biologist and Park Development Services. The initial layout has sparked conversations around costing of the walk, which we will address in our Capital plans.



© Susan M. Murray

© Susan M. Murray

Pathway Improvements

Stone retaining walls have been installed in place of the rotting wooden retaining walls along Gunnera Walk. The installation and resulting expansion of the path width will provide a complete cart loop inside the garden and greater access during tours and events. This was an amenity requested by both staff and Society members during the 2019 master planning process.

Irrigation

There were changes to future watering restrictions, released by Metro Vancouver earlier last week, that will affect the garden as we move forward. We will be proceeding with work in Beds 25, 24W and 24E; however, the emphasis will be on the installation of drip irrigation. The notification of changes to future watering restrictions prompted staff to look into the viability of the use of the well on site, if needed. It was found that the well was not registered for non-domestic use. We will be proceeding with obtaining proper licensing.

Maple Meadows

Working with Park Partnerships we will be conducting some minor improvements to Maple Meadows before the end of the year. We will be raising the grade and levelling the ground around the existing Porta Potty. This will allow us to have an additional portable unit installed at this location, when needed, and provide for some screening/privacy for users. We are looking at screening options for the bulk bins, planters to soften the look of the Maple Activity Centre and potential upgrades to the electrical. These improvements are planned to enhance the visitor experience during events.

Tree Work

End weight reductions have been completed on the *Morus alba*, known as white mulberry, and an updated risk assessment has been completed. .

The tree is no longer considered to be high risk to the public, staff will continue to monitor annually.



FALL AND WINTER GARDEN TIPS FROM FRANCISCA DARTS

Written, with two quotes transcribed from historical videos,
by Susan M. Murray

This article is the **LAST** in a series in celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the DHGCT Society 2001-2021

The City of Surrey and the DHGCT Society are pleased to announce a new historical project for 2022. As many of you know, Francisca Darts was often interviewed (from about 1991 to 2007) in Darts Hill Garden Park by Marlene Gurvich, a producer at Shaw and also Rogers TV. Twelve of these historical videos have now been archived by the COS in addition to the Darts Hill Garden Park promotional video produced for the City of Surrey in July 2001 (see the note below). The city has received permission to share these historical clips of Francisca Darts in her garden. Thank you, in particular, to Shaw TV and Marlene Gurvich!

The 2022 video project will enable a visitor to use their phone, using a quick code, to view a short clip of Francisca as she talks about the plant the visitor is standing in front of. The COS has the technology to do this but it will take some time to bring this ambitious new project to fruition. The Society is donating “in kind” services by transcribing the videos, confirming/updating plant identities (scientific names have changed), confirming the locations of the filmed plants when possible and determining if the plants are still in inventory, plus assisting with film editing as the project progresses. At the completion of this project Darts Hill Garden Park will have a visual resource like no other botanical garden in the Pacific NorthWest. Each and every visitor will have the ability to hear and see Mrs. Darts offering her sage advice as she enthusiastically describes plants in the garden in detail!

Mrs. Darts was an extremely knowledgeable plantswoman. This article shares some of her timely garden tips and advice as spoken in the videos. Francisca's words show what a wonderful spontaneous speaker she was! For more of Francisca's notable quotes about her favourite plants please read Marlene Gurvich's lovely article in the Spring *Oracle* "Walks and Talks with Francisca."

Here is the first quote, Fall themed, in its entirety, from a video titled: **Yard Yak #22- Xmas 1994- Darts Garden, Berrying Shrubs, Wreaths** (quote: minutes 1:50 to 3:25) Twenty-seven years ago Mrs. Darts was filmed in DHGP in November for this video.



***Euphorbia characias* subsp. 'Wulfenii' Mediterranean spurge now located in Beds 41, 49**

"This plant was also grown from seed, not by me, this time, although I have done it in the past. It is evergreen and what you see is stems, which will form into racemes in the early spring which are ... oh, two feet high sometimes and six inches or more wide. They are composed of ...ah... yellow flowers, both on the inside and the outside and they stay on the plant for months. In fact, even when it is in seed I find it attractive and I hate to cut them back but eventually you have to and especially when the new growth which comes ...ah... right from the base is getting about a foot or so long, and gee I've got to do something so you cut all the old stuff down. Wonderful for the compost pile. And then you ...ah... just wait for the rest of the stems to get to their full beauty for the winter and in the spring again you have that wonderful context of yellow.

It's both hardy and you can ...ah... grow it in either sun or shade. It doesn't matter too much about the soil. I have had it growing in different situations. I don't think it would like wet feet but otherwise there's no problem with it.

That's Euphorbia 'Wulfenii' "



Garden Time- January 1997

Here is a winter-themed quote, in its entirety, from the video titled: **Garden Time- January 1997** (quote: minutes 9:21 to 11:19). Twenty-three years ago Mrs. Darts was filmed in DHGP in January for this video.



***Cotoneaster meiophyllus* Chinese cotoneaster, Bed 34** (the same plant shown in the video is still in Bed 34!)

"What I am showing you now is a cotoneaster. And I know what people say ...oh... cotoneaster, because it's a common species that usually comes with yellow berries, also red berries ...ah... in a big shrub, quite frequently coarse, taking up room ... but this one I've had for ten years and is daintier. And that is one of the reasons I like it. Not only because it's daintier, the berries are themselves are smaller, as you can see, ...umm... and there's enough of them but it's pretty, it's not gorgeous, it's not beautiful, but it's pretty, it's attractive and I like it! It's Cotoneaster meiophyllus and it was given to me ten years ago. And actually, it's only in the last couple of years that I have come to appreciate it. Because otherwise, umm, oh well, another cotoneaster, until in this winter I came upon it and it was so pretty. Now I must tell you that before we came to photograph it, there were already birds eating the berries. So that if I didn't take it today probably in a week's time there won't be a berry left because there was a whole mass of birds around here, they have taken the bottom ones already. So that if you are a bird lover, this is for you! I really, I really think so.



The Shaw videos are a treasure trove of historical material about the plants in the garden. Mrs. Darts's commentary tells why she valued them and sometimes offered tips and advice as how to grow and maintain them. The 2022 Historical Video Project is a worthwhile one, indeed!

NOTE: there are two videos already available for viewing on our website:

1. Called the *History of Darts Hill Garden Park Part I* (14:55 minutes), this video is a shortened version of the Darts Hill Garden Park Promotional video produced for the City of Surrey in July 2001 (26:21 minutes).
2. The second video, *History of Darts Hill- Francisca Darts* (42:55 minutes), is actually two different videos combined. The first section is Francisca Darts in her kitchen with an interviewer Peter Thompson while the last section is *Yard Yak #22- Xmas 1994 - Darts Hill Garden* only. The quote about the euphorbia can also be found at minute 39:08 in that video.



My role as Editor is to remind authors of upcoming deadlines, should they wish to submit articles or photographs. When these articles arrive, I manipulate them to fit into templates that our webmaster has provided to me. This newsletter could not be finalized without the care of our proof readers. Thanks again to James Good, Pam Robertson, and Susan Murray ☺ Kathy Piccott

CREVICE ROCK GARDEN DEMONSTRATION

On Saturday, September 19, Paul Spriggs, crevice garden designer extraordinaire, demonstrated the fine art of crevice gardening at Darts Hill Garden Park. Paul Spriggs, who is from Vancouver Island, provided an enthusiastic and informative master class in alpine crevice building to an appreciative audience of Society members, Alpine Garden Society members and the public. Three different rock landscapes were installed in the hyper tufa planters built by the wonderful volunteers of the Society's Plant Propagation and Plant Sales Group.

Special mention goes to Pam Yokome, who organized and managed the demo from the purchase of rocks and gravel, construction of the hyper tufa planters to sorting out arrangements with Ken Warren regarding placement of materials and planters plus making sure plants from members of the Alpine Garden Society were available for planting on the day of the event. Pam's intrepid team included Graham Laine, Ross Williams, Anne Sprung, Lloyd Bauer and thanks to Ken Warren for his assistance too.

What a successful day! Well done everyone!

Photos: Susan Murray



The Darts Hill Garden Conservancy Trust Society (DHGCTS) is incorporated under the BC Societies Act and is a registered charity. Charitable No. 86285 7935 RR0001.

Please consider making a donation.

CONTACT:

info@dartshill.ca

dartshill.ca

Darts Hill Garden Conservancy Trust Society is an organization working in partnership with the City of Surrey to ensure the preservation of Darts Hill Garden Park.

