

2005/2006 WINTER

The Oracle

www.dartshill.ca

A newsletter from the Darts Hill Garden Conservancy Trust Society

Darts Hill Garden Park is located on 16th Avenue, at 170th Street, Surrey, B.C. Accessible by pre-booked tours only. Call 604-501-5050 for your tour.

Comments from the Chair:

Susan Murray

“2005 is drawing to a close and the volunteers of Darts Hill Garden have accomplished much. The Publicity and Marketing Committee, under the able direction of Greg Sims has met several times to brainstorm ways to increase the profile of the garden to the greater horticultural community. One of the action items was to develop a presentation of Darts Hill through the seasons. This presentation is now available, so if your service group, garden club, school or any other organization would like to have a speaker come and talk, please contact our speaker coordinator, James Good at 604- 536-2199. My thanks to Norma Senn, Graham Laine and the city of Surrey for photos and of course, Francisca, who provided images of the garden in its early years for the presentation.

In one initiative, the Labeling Pilot Project, city staffers, Neal Aven and Alan Cheung began the time consuming but oh, so necessary task of updating the Plant Collections database. The database was first created in the mid '90's, shortly after Francisca gifted the garden to the City. Beds 1- 5 were re-inventoried this summer. Neal has created a new mapping system that locates the plants in each garden bed on a digital map. Accession numbers have been created and scientific nomenclature revised for the plants in Bed 2B, which was selected as the first bed to receive new labels. The first metal hangs tags and plastic display labels are in production as I write this. The labels will be placed in the garden in the New Year, so come along and let us know what you think of the label style and size at our next Member's Day.

A new volunteer group, under the auspices of the Garden Operations committee, called the Labeling Group will continue the work begun in the Pilot Project. If you are interested in volunteering for this subcommittee please contact me at susan.murray@telus.net. I look forward to hearing from you.

The Propagation Group, also under the umbrella of the Garden Operations committee had a good beginning this year and continues collecting material for propagation.

Every activity contributes to the garden's development and I am well pleased with the steps that we made together in 2005 on behalf of Darts Hill Garden Park. On that note I would like to extend thanks to Mary Dunn, who completed her term as chair of the Guides Committee on December 1. Thank You, Mary, for your enthusiasm and hard work.

On behalf of all the Board Members of the Darts Hill Garden Conservancy Trust, I wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. See you in the garden in 2006! Reserve a spot in your March calendar for the Annual General meeting! We are planning a special event on Saturday March 11, at 11:30 am to celebrate our patron, Francisca's 90th birthday! What an accomplishment!

Notice of Annual General Meeting March 11, 2005

The Board are calling for nominations for two Director positions. For more information, visit www.dartshill.ca or contact us at 604-501-5067

Most of us are too busy gardening to remember the pristine significance of the word "garden" which comes to us from the Persian, meaning Paradise. **author unknown**



Photo Contest

We have seen many photographers in the garden and are very interested in accumulating a photo library, so we're having a couple of photo contests.

Submit photos between January – June and we'll draw for a prize. (Then again from July to December).

Photos can be submitted digitally to kmpiccott@surrey.ca, by bringing your photo into the garden on members day, or by mailing your photo to the Society, c/o 909 – 164A Street, Surrey, V4A 8N1

All photos submitted will remain the property of the Society and will be posted on our website.

CONTACT US:

Chair	Susan Murray	604-530-9679
Vice Chair	John Smith	604-594-5271
Secretary	Kathy Piccott	604-594-8507
Treasurer	James Good	604-536-2199
Membership Coordinator	Christine Deagle	604-538-4972

UPCOMING MEMBER DAYS:

Although the garden is closed in December, jot down the first few members day in 2006:

Sunday **January 15**, 11am to 3pm

Sunday **February 19**, 11am to 3pm

Sunday **March 19**, 11am to 3pm

Corrected dates:

You don't want to miss the many plants that flower through the cold periods, particularly the *Hamamelis* (Witch hazels), some *Mahonias*, the *Grevilea*, and a scented *Lonicera x Purpusii*.



An annual membership to Darts Hill Garden Society - \$20

What a great gift idea!

Individual Rate/Senior/Youth \$20.00 Couple (2 people at the same address) \$25.00

Family (2 adults, 2 children under 18) \$35.00

I would like to purchase a gift membership for:

Member Name _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov. _____

Postal code: _____ Tel: _____

Please make cheque payable to: Darts Hill Society, Mail cheque to: 909 – 164A Street, Surrey, B.C. V4A 8N1

In the Garden, by Graham Laine



The large *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* 'Ellwoodii' close to the house has been looking sad for more than a year and has finally reached the point of critical die-back (most likely due to a root rot disease) and had to be removed. This tree, often described as a slow growing compact evergreen, grew so well in the deep soil below the house (from

the drive and basement excavation) that it attained a height of approximately 14 meters and a crown diameter of 4.8 meters. It was one of two Elwoodii's planted by Francisca over fifty years ago on either side of a set of cement steps. Over the years they had grown so big and grown together, that around 1990 the one to the East was cut down to allow access to the steps and more afternoon light to the house.

After two or three years following the removal of the Eastern tree, the die-back scars on the remaining tree had grown over with new foliage. However, in about 1993, a particularly bad ice storm caused the tree limbs/branches to splay apart. Repairs were done by using rings of green coated fence wire cinching the branches together.

Some years later, in the late fall of 1999, a fierce wind storm snapped most of the wires and completely splayed the tree apart again. To save the tree and do a better repair job, the decision was made to remove the dead core of the tree, build a permanent wooden scaffold (21 feet high x 4 feet square) to replace the core, and individually pull in and secure with wires and ropes each trunk/limb/branch to the scaffold.

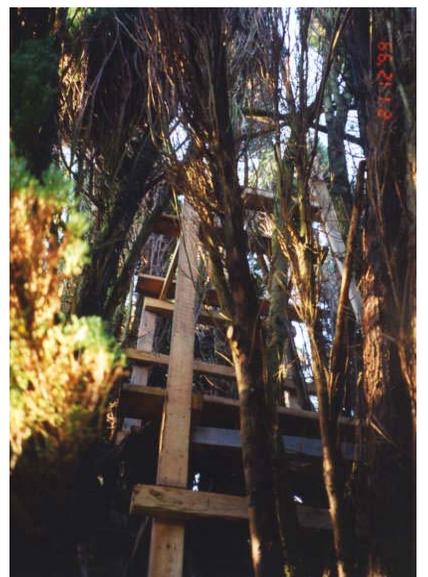
Finally the tree was 'tidied up' by being bound with five rings of green poly. rope. The ropes were soon hidden by new growth and we were able to enjoy the tree for several more years.



A different view now the tree has gone; and this new aspect adds interest to the garden especially with the recently planted *Cedrus atlantica* 'Glauca Pendula' doing very well with a full compliment of fine new foliage this year.



Francisca saying goodbye to one of the original ornamental trees she planted at 'Darts Hill'



Scaffold ready to tie tree in

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

It's that time of year again – no, I am not referring to the Christmas season, but the time when many of our members will receive a reminder to renew their memberships. We have now changed to an “evergreen” membership, which means that new memberships will be renewed one year from when they were first taken out. But because of our previous system, most memberships will still come up for renewal at the end of each calendar year. Letters have now been sent to these members.

Those receiving the above-mentioned letters will notice that we now have the ability to provide presentations about the garden to groups who request them. So if you are a member of a group who would like one of our volunteers to give them a talk accompanied by slides of the garden, we would be happy to hear from you. A presentation could be followed by a group tour, with a volunteer guide to show you the highlights in person. For information on tours (for any group over 5 people), please call 604-501-5050. A charge of \$5 per person is required for all booked tours.

We very much appreciate your support of the outstanding plantsman's garden that is Darts Hill. Your contributions through memberships and the moneys we receive from guided tours are vital in helping us with operating expenses. We want to keep our members happy and feeling that they are receiving value for their membership dollars. But if you can think of anything more that your Membership Committee can do to enhance this, we would like to hear from you. Of course, many of us think that just being able to walk through the garden on Members' Days and seeing the changes wrought by the seasons is value and joy enough. Even those of us who are guides, and who are in the garden frequently, are often amazed to find something interesting that has previously gone unnoticed by us. I can be reached by email through the website – www.dartshill.com, or you can phone me at 604-538-4972.

We hope to see all of you in the garden again in 2006.

Christine Deagle, Membership coordinator

Propagation Committee

Part of the mandate of the Society is to propagate plants from the stock in the garden. The object is to replace stock when necessary and make available plants for sale at our open days. This sub-committee has been formed to begin this operation. If you wish to be associated with this process, please contact John Smith at 604-594-5271 or jsands@telus.net

Amendments to the Society's bylaws will be presented at the Annual General Meeting for adoption.

2.6 Dues: Each member shall annually pay the membership dues set by the Board. Notice of such dues will be sent annually no later than one month prior to the anniversary of joining. All dues must be paid within 90 days or 3 months from the date of notification.

10.7 Duties of Secretary – eliminate item 10.7 e) maintenance of the register of members

10.9 Duties of Membership Coordinator – add 10.9(d) maintenance of the register of members



An organization working in partnership with the
City of Surrey to ensure the preservation of Darts Hill Garden Park



DARTS HILL
· Garden Park ·

