

# The Watering Can

June 2013

Newsletter of The West Carleton Garden Club and Horticultural Society  
P.O. Box 326, Carp ON K0A 1L0



## Celebrating our Gardening Friends - Mary and Roy Reynolds

Mary and Roy Reynolds have been long-time residents of West Carleton and joined our garden club in 1989. Roy has served, in the past, as our club's Treasurer and Mary and Roy currently look after the set-up and put-aways for our monthly meetings' social 'n snack break.



Roy and Mary were introduced to gardening at a young age. Roy's parents in England had an allotment garden during WWII for growing vegetables to feed the family. One of his uncles was a market gardener and also worked at the Royal Horticultural Society's Wisley Gardens. Mary's doesn't claim to have a gardening background but has developed her considerable gardening skills during married life.

Roy was part of the British high-tech migration to Canada in the early 1960s. Roy and Mary met and married in Montreal 50 years ago and moved to west-end Ottawa in 1963. Roy, employed with Bell Northern Research (BNR) for 35 years, worked on the design of BNR's pre-digital communication switching systems. A functioning 1960s memento of BNR days sits on his desk—a phone that works even in power outages. Mary's career was in technical drafting, first with Northern Electric in Montreal and then for 30 years with various federal government departments where, as a graphic designer, she managed the production of departmental publications.



The Reynolds bought their Ottawa riverfront lot in 1971. When the house was built, they acted as their own general contractors and in hindsight, says

Roy, "this enabled us to save many mature trees including an old serviceberry and several patches of lady slippers and red and white trilliums." Roy relates "Rocks left over from house construction enabled us to landscape the area

into 3 terraces with 2 ponds." An arborist advised the Reynolds on which of the large, mature trees to keep and have pruned.



Says Roy, "We now have a garden heavily shaded by a mix of red oaks, maple, fir and cedar trees, resulting in an annual harvest of more than 120 bags of leaves and a garden too shaded

to grow vegetables, except for the rhubarb, which has proved impossible to kill by neglect. The Reynolds tried growing tomatoes, but chipmunks and raccoons were the main beneficiaries. Cherry tomatoes grown in hanging baskets have, however, been a success. A 12-foot-diameter herb garden has also proven successful. Varieties of ferns, hostas, a Japanese maple and a Japanese lilac tree grace their gardens: spring-blooming fritillarias, spiraea and azalea shrubs and a small hardy rhododendron

are featured in front gardens and the riverside garden has hydrangeas and many other shade-loving perennials. Hanging planters and pockets of



annuals provide pockets of all-season colour to the gardens. Tulips (deer food to the local deer

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**Next Meeting**

**June 11, 2013**

**This monthly meeting is our Spring Social:**  
featuring sweet or savory delectables (with a spring theme) brought by all club members.

The meeting also features our *Annual Plant and Vegetable Show* and first annual *Photography Competition*, guidelines for which are also in the club's recently-distributed 2013 yearbook.

### Mary and Roy Reynolds (continued)

population) are not part of the Reynold's plant palette. Wildlife visitors to their garden include porcupines and, on one occasion a few years back, a black bear. The installation of an in-ground irrigation system, using river water, has helped solve dry-weather problems on their thin-soiled, rock-based property. Their Dunrobin-area gardens have been on previous garden club garden tours.

Thinking of uninitiated projects, Roy says, "I always meant to try tomatoes on an anchored, floating raft on the river to isolate them from munching marauders!"

Other than gardening, Roy has had a long time involvement with racing and cruising sailboats—his own and friends. When he retired, Roy sought out sailing adventures as a navigator. He helped with delivery trips from the British Virgin Islands to New York City and from Kingston to Little Current in Lake Huron. He was a navigator in the 1984 race from Toronto to Prince Edward Island. Sadly, the arrival of GPS has taken most of the challenge out of a successful navigation. These days he sails mostly on the Ottawa but a week on the North Channel in Lake Huron is always welcome. He plays at golf with some old friends in the summertime, enjoys playing duplicate bridge, and wishes there was a game of duplicate to be had locally.

Mary volunteers for the National Art Gallery in their Looking At Pictures (LAP) program. This year Mary talked about art to many local children at St. Michael's in Fitzroy, Stonecrest Elementary and Huntley Centennial schools.

The Reynolds currently have six grandchildren and are looking forward to a seventh later this summer. Meanwhile, Mary and Roy are preparing their gardens for their 50th wedding anniversary celebration.

### Did you know?

Tearing romaine and iceberg lettuce the day before you eat it quadruples its antioxidant content. Thawing frozen berries in the microwave preserves twice as many antioxidants and more vitamin C than thawing them on the counter or in the fridge.

Source: Jo Robinson, *Eating on the Wild Side: The Missing Link to Optimum Health*. Little, Brown and Company, 2013. 416 pages. (Book to be released June 4, 2013.)

### Open Garden Day @ Reilly's

3328 Diamondview Rd., Kinburn.

**Saturday, June 8 (10 am to 4 pm)**

Club members and friends are invited to view our gardens specially primed for a garden tour in support of two other garden clubs to which we belong: the Ottawa Horticultural Society and the Ottawa Valley Rock Garden Society.

### "They're Everywhere!" Plants

by Phil Reilly



There are few plants that I dislike. There are, however, a few plants that I've grown tired of!

Members of the ornamental onion family evoke my rant against prolific self-seeders. True, the 30-inch tall towering purplish balls of tiny florets of *Allium christophii* (left) and *Allium aflatanense* 'Purple Sensation' (below) are eye-catchers above other shorter-statured early-season bloomers.

Also true, the dried, dark brown balls of seed heads offer an architectural Buckminster Fuller-ish geodesic spikey dome above their neighbours for another few weeks. They are also very ornamental in some of the floral arrangements Carole brings into the house as table centres.



But ... oh my gosh, do these onion family members ever "seed about". As I write this, I am ridding the gardens of hundreds (maybe even thousands) of these garden colonizers—one bulb at a time. Because they are bulbs, this means digging to obtain the bulbs is necessary—cutting off this year's growth does not get rid of the blighters as the bulb will produce another culprit next year if it is not extracted. Mentioning the writing of this rant to Carole, she pleaded "Remember, I want some 'Purple Sensation' for my floral arrays. Don't cull them all out of the beds!" "Fat chance", I retorted!

If only the hundreds of seeds per plant fell into neat little piles at the base of the mother plant where they could be easily dug "en masse"

### West Carleton Garden Club September Meeting:

Tuesday, September 10, 2013  
7:30 pm

Speaker: David Hinks, Master Gardener  
"Garden design to attract birds to our gardens"

### Meeting Reminder

The September meeting is also our  
Vegetable and Fruit Show.

### Monthly Meetings

Monthly meetings of the West Carleton Garden Club begin at 7:30 pm the second Tuesday of the month (September to June) at the Carp Memorial Hall, 3739 Carp Road, Carp.