



## BRUECKNER RHODODENDRON GARDENS STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE (BRGSC)

**Wednesday, June 11, 2009**

Port Credit Arena, 40 Stavebank Road  
**'Youth and Seniors' Room 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

**ATTENDEES:** Frank Buckley (City of Mississauga) (interim Chair), Christina Woodward (Secretary), Para Kanp (City of Mississauga), Marta Brueckner, Maria Da Costa, Robert Kernohan, Edel Schmidt, Daphne Van Ginkel, Liz Malicki

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1.	<b>Approval of Minutes for May 13, 2009.</b>  [ Moved: Liz Seconded: Edel]	
2.	<b>Status of Chair position</b>  <i>In Camera Discussion</i>	
3.	<b>Report from Head Gardener</b>  a. 5000 annuals have been planted b. Shape of Godfrey Lane bed has been significantly modified. Large volume of stones in the soil were a handicap, but did not bear on the changed design. Despite the lateness into the season, Para has assured the committee that he will be able to obtain the desired plants. The Design Team's responsibility was completed with formulation of the design; preparation and planting is regarded as Garden Parks responsibility which Para assured the committee he would undertake. c. This has been peak week for rhodo blooms, all late rhodos are now in flower. There are many visitors from all over Ontario, with many cameras and questions. d. The run-off water from neighbouring private property into newly planted rhodo bed is being handled by bye-law enforcement officers. Until this has been resolved, the adjacent plants have been moved over to avoid possible contamination.	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>e. Bye-law is also looking at the western fence where a dead tree needs to be taken down.</li> <li>f. 1000 yellow tulips have been ordered for fall planting.</li> <li>g. Discussion on the rhododendrons. It was agreed that the Report should include a special section on the rhodies.</li> <li>h. Rust is under control on rhodos in the Liz bed.</li> <li>i. Solomon's Seal behind the showcase bed, and some Sweet Woodruff have been removed as invasive plants too close to the rhodo roots.</li> <li>j. HD bed is in good shape</li> <li>k. Valve shut-off is malfunctioning and is being repaired.</li> <li>l. There is a need to replace 4 large rhodies, PJM's.</li> <li>m. Frank brought to committee's attention that there is the potential that some rhododendrons could be donated to the BRG from source other than Brueckner. The Design Team would arrange to make plans to receive them.</li> </ul>	
4.	<p><b>Report from Design Team</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Godfrey Lane bed as discussed earlier. The issue of watering this new bed was again discussed. The water tank is too difficult to bring through the treed areas; manual watering is the only option. The south bed is in too much shade to proceed as planned and that part of the project is on hold.</li> <li>b. Karen Seleger Hill onsite visit: Isola Bella rhodies are doing well 22 Karen Seleger's survived Vandalism has surfaced Signs will be installed in next week or so What to replace the Karen Selegers with? There is an opportunity for purchase through Niagara Chapter of ARS, a very good price Design Team will select and provide list to Frank – Frank is willing to fund delivery. We require a quotation including shipping costs. There will likely be the option to pay and deliver later.</li> <li>c. Volunteers are gradually being found and organized. Liz has a Thursday morning work party which she has organized herself.</li> </ul>	<b>Design Team</b>
5.	<p><b>Report from Volunteer Coordinator</b></p> <p>We are still waiting to receive hours from some members.</p>	<b>ALL</b>
6.	<p><b>Debriefing May 24 Garden Tour</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. 60 people took the tours that were offered over a 2 hour period</li> <li>b. Tour groups were small, intimate, lots of interaction among the</li> </ul>	

	<p>visitors and many questions fielded by tour guides.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c. The script was a great assist</li> <li>d. Visitors clearly enjoyed the experience.</li> <li>e. If held next year, suggest early June</li> <li>f. Brochure was greatly appreciated by visitors – it was also a learning experience: contact and web address are needed, drop-off address for the comments form was lacking.</li> <li>g. Some visitors were out of country or other provinces</li> <li>h. Offers to send photos of the Garden from way back</li> <li>i. Great networking for BRGSC – found that TOPCA already posted information on the tour on its website</li> <li>j. Billboard was very helpful and noticed by many</li> <li>k. Good coverage/turnout from Booster, Snap, Mississauga News</li> <li>l. Cyclists unfortunately used the main path instead of the trail, creating some unsafe episodes for pedestrians.</li> <li>m. Betty’s Bike Ride organizers added to this problem by routing their cyclists through the path, not the trail. In addition, they stapled their notices to the trees. Staples are not very good for the trees.</li> </ul>	<b>ALL</b>
7.	<p><b>Cloverleaf Garden Club Tour</b></p> <p>Tour Guides  Liz 10:00 a.m - 12:00 p.m.  Christina 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.  Edel 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.</p> <p>Parking may be limited on account of weddings.  Donated bottled water will be available.  The city will provide a small table.</p> <p>There will be a billboard of the Club.</p> <p>Christina will get her photos of the 2009 blooming to Daphne.  Daphne will create a poster from the photos.  Christina to print more comment forms.  Christina will send the updated brochure to Frank to make copies.  Maria to fold brochures.</p>	<b>Christina  Daphne  Frank  Maria</b>
9.	<p><b>New Business</b></p> <p><b>Web page</b> - Christina has updated, with revised brochure and Minutes of April.</p> <p><b>Maps</b> - Christina showed the original maps she has been reviewing to piece together the detailed stages of the initial planning and placement of each rhodo in identified beds. There was no ad hoc planting and</p>	

	<p>demonstrates the well-thought out and exhaustive process that was used by Joe Brueckner and City Parks staff in the design and layout of each bed. Liz commented this would be an ideal opportunity to reconstruct some of the original design if and where feasible.</p> <p><b>Hybrids</b> - Christina noted that a hybrid is a singular, one-time plant and cannot be replicated, even if the parent cross can be replicated. Each time a cross is repeated, the resulting plants will have their own characteristics. This places emphasis on the importance and urgency of preserving a hybrid, by care of the original and by propagation methods of the plant. There are still a few named Brueckner hybrids in BRG, which do not exist elsewhere. About 230 rhodos and azaleas remain of the more than 1000 originally planted.</p> <p><b>Inventory</b> - Christina has taken a reasonably complete photographic inventory of this year's flowering, and has identified the location (bed and/or plant codes). This will be available at a later time.</p> <p><b>Deadheading &amp; Pruning</b> - Para would like this process to be done without any tools so that in the event of presence of disease to prevent infection from one plant to another. If there is pruning to be done, tools have to be sterilized between plants.</p>	
9.	<p><b>Next Meeting</b></p> <p>Thursday, July 9, 2009.</p>	
10.	<p><b>Adjournment at 9:20 p.m.</b></p>	

**Recorded & Submitted:**



## **Brueckner Rhododendron Garden Design Concept**

**Theme of the Gardens:**

- Natural garden directed by the conditions of the zone: woodland, wetland, flatland, creek, lake shoreline
- Communities of rhododendrons and azaleas grow in the woodland environment.

- All plantings, plant beds, treed areas, pathways, landscaping structures, seating and rest areas are allocated to spaces that will accommodate for the perpetuation of this unique specialized collection.

## **Best Management Practices:**

### Procedure 1

The BG Design Team will create a design concept for a zone or a bed. It will be drawn up on paper for approval by the Committee.

a) These guidelines will be followed for the design:

- Location of the rhododendron / azalea communities: Garden spaces are designed to maximize use of potential growing sites.
- Planting of trees: Trees and their locations will be planted in potential growing sites which will correspond to future rhododendron and azalea beds.
- Open spaces and vistas: The retention of open spaces will showcase specific Garden vistas such as views to rhododendron / azalea beds, the natural grandeur of single specimen trees, or the waters of Lake Ontario
- Naturalized landscaping: All landscaping will relate to a natural design that is appropriate to the theme i.e. paths / garden floors / walls / fences / steps / logs / arches / arbors / hedges / rock features / container features / garden buildings.
- Beds: Rhododendrons and / or azaleas will be incorporated into all beds / areas that are suitable to their specific growing conditions.
- Companion planting: Companion plants, those tolerating the same growing conditions as rhododendrons and azaleas, will be selected and assimilated into all beds. Care will be taken to avoid competition for space at maturity, nutrients and root entanglement.
- Perennial planting: Perennials will be selected for the following reasons:
  - Blooming time and duration of bloom
  - Colour of the flower and leaf
  - Habit of growth
  - Compatibility with woodland theme
  - Rare / uncommon selection
  - Low maintenance
  - Attraction for birds/butterflies/insects
  - Appealing to the senses (smell, touch, sight - colour)

- Annual / Bulb planting: Annuals /bulbs will be specifically used to punctuate spaces with their colour palette according to selected perennials and the woodland theme. Diminished reliance on annuals will occur as perennials, shrubs, grasses and other plant material mature.
- Tecumseh Creek shoreline: This shoreline will be identified as a naturalized space with its own biodiversity of native plant material.
- Four-season interest: This will be introduced in all zones and beds.
- Structure in the Beds: Every bed will contain specifically designated structural ‘bones’ / a focal point to sustain interest throughout the four seasons.

b) These basic principles of design will be used selectively in order enhance the natural beauty of the zones or the beds:

Balance

Contrast

Emphasis

Harmony

Movement

Unity

Variety

Light and shade

Scent and sound

Time, climate and season

Motion

Transition

Layering

c) In order to achieve these design principles, the following elements will be considered:

Colour

Line

Shape

Size

Space

Texture

## **Procedure 2 –**

The Design Concept will include the following:

- Design plans will incorporate the recommendations of the Head Gardener.
- Design plans will be structured to minimize disease problems naturally.
- Design plans will follow CPTED guidelines.

- Design plans will consider maintenance needs. Care will be taken to use low maintenance plantings wherever possible. Pruning edging, mulching will be essential to sustain the design concept.

**Procedure 3 –**

Planting, digging will occur according to the plans approved by the Committee

The Design Concept is subject to periodic review.

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Adopted by vote BRGSC June 11, 2009