



## BRUECKNER RHODODENDRON GARDENS STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE (BRGSC)

**Wednesday, August 12, 2009**

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

**ATTENDEES:** David Culham (Chair), Frank Buckley (City of Mississauga), Christina Woodward (Secretary), Para Kanp (City of Mississauga), Maria Da Costa, Robert Kernohan, Liz Malicki

**REGRETS:** Marta Brueckner, Edel Schmidt, Daphne Van Ginkel

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1.	<p><b>Approval of Minutes for July 9, 2009, as amended</b></p> <p><b>[ Moved: Liz Seconded: Frank]</b></p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> 50% attendance constitutes Committee quorum</p> <p><b>Consensus:</b> Proxy votes as requested by members unable to attend are approved where consensus issues are concerned during meeting</p>	
2.	<p><b>Report from Head Gardener</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- BRG suffered some storm damage with several trees down</li><li>- During its on site planning meeting August 10, the Design Team identified a prime rhodo planting area on KS Hill which has been overtaken by forsythias and lilac bushes. These shrubs have now been trimmed and some removed (wood has been chipped) to accomodate the restoration planting designated for this particular area.</li><li>- Forestry has pruned up quite a few trees as per Frank's request and this is providing some long-awaited respite for the rhodos which do not receive adequate light and air on account of the low canopy. There is still more pruning to be done.</li><li>- David Smith, Agronomist, has taken soil samples for testing from all areas of the BRG including the east side. There is the genuine possibility that the damaged or deseased rhodies on the slope of the showcase area are suffering from the accumulated effects of dog urine in the soil over the past 20 years. Committee discussed the value of planting a line of plants to serve as a barrier or buffer to</li></ul>	

	<p>the rhodies, planted away from the rhodie drip line. Frank suggests that a more permanent solution be sought, namely, keeping animals out of the area. Where dogs are not a nuisance in a park, in a garden setting their habits are very destructive. Coincidental to this finding, for the next month or so Animal Services will sporadically visit BRG; plain clothes officials on foot will monitor animal activity. Frank also suggested that signage should be revisited to support a permanent solution. For example, progressive signs. However, controlled access needs to support this type of sign.</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p><b>Report from Design Team</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- DT has met twice since July meeting.</li> <li>- Liz reviewed the on site planning process for the East garden which has roughed in the areas designated for future rhodo beds and up for discussion going forward. The suggestion to re-locate the pathway has been introduced, and which takes into consideration the proximity of the adjacent private property, the need to optimize rhodie viewing, the wet terrain and Parks Dep't requirements..</li> <li>- Another on site planning meeting for the KS Hill design is needed. The new rhodie inventory will be delivered in early September necessitating a completed mapping of the area so that ground can be prepared in time, and schedules drawn for planting.</li> <li>- DT has discussed on several occasions some needed structure for the BRGSC and Liz brought forward 5 suggestions that involve a need to be research-based, be well thought out, and be cost effective for the City: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Create long range plans (1 to 5 year) e.g. new trees and their placement</li> <li>2. Be consistent with the Woodland Garden theme as outlined in the BRG Vision. This would enable a cohesive plan for BRG and would affect plant selection. The existing list of suggested plants should be expanded to include perennials and other shrubs. Therefore, plant selection should be projected to coincide with local plant availability.</li> <li>3. Network closely and effectively with other public gardens, such as Royal Botanical Gardens, Cloverleaf Garden Club Tour participants, Riverwood, Toronto Botanical Gardens, etc. Frank has offered to share some of the maps from Riverwood.</li> <li>4. Focus on developing the existing beds. Put in place long term plans for each area: look at the existing collection in each, its harmony and cohesiveness in relation to the theme and other aspects of BRG, use a collaborative approach across the BRGSC in the development of all areas.</li> <li>5. Self-evaluation for DT, as, for example, done in other stewardship committees. Liz has offered to dialog with Gardena from Riverwood. During the winter months DT should schedule itself for a self-evaluation exercise of what worked, what did not, how effective was the outcome, etc. It should then be brought back to Committee for further discussion.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Design Team</b></p> <p><b>Frank</b></p> <p><b>Liz</b></p>

	<p>There was extended discussion initiated by David on the new structure and function of the Design Team.</p> <p>New: David flagged Robert's request to plant a hosta bed south side of the comfort station, near the current hosta bed.</p> <p>Robert will bring his request to the DT and this will be discussed as part of the DT agenda, to be scheduled.</p> <p>Godfrey Lane Bed will be re-mapped for the record, to show the changes that were made once construction was underway.</p> <p>David discovered a pocket of overcrowded hostas in an area adjacent to the nursery which he separated and removed to the east side edge of the creek. Consensus that this action was appropriate.</p> <p>In addition, ferns were removed to the naturalizing areas.</p>	<p><b>Robert</b></p> <p><b>Design Team</b></p>
<p>4.</p>	<p><b>Report from Volunteer Coordinator</b></p> <p>David reminded those who have yet to provide their hours, to do so.</p> <p><b>To date: Jan. July, 2009 - total recorded 618 hours</b></p> <p>Add 6 hours for August.</p> <p>Committee agreed that hours cannot be added after year end, when the final count is made.</p> <p>For future agenda item: discussion on distinctions between "sweat equity" hours vs other time volunteered.</p>	<p><b>Christina</b></p>
<p>5.</p>	<p><b>Donation Process – Valuation</b></p> <p>Christina presented her findings to date on processes used to put a price tag on rhododendrons in the retail market and what the equivalent would be for tax receipt purposes.</p> <p>Normally price is set by whatever the market dictates with respect to demand. The price of a landscape size plant will usually be supported by the following considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the cost of the scion (cutting) or seed</li> <li>- a factor for the rarity of the cultivar</li> <li>- age and size of the plant</li> <li>- field grown or not</li> <li>- the cost of growing and nurturing the plant for X years</li> <li>- cost of moving to a new location</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a profit factor</li> <li>- other</li> </ul> <p>For rhododendrons that are not in commercial production, it is more difficult to arrive at a price, especially in the case of one-of-a-kind hybrids. In this situation, these plants can be regarded as works of art or scientifically unique.</p> <p>Discussion took place on what the City would be comfortable with, and it was decided that Christina will explore further contacts and do additional research and would draft a formula that the Committee could discuss further.</p> <p>David requested that references be provided in the report back from Christina.</p> <p>Para and Frank will make available the template the City now uses for valuating the cost of trees.</p>	<p><b>Christina</b></p> <p><b>Para, Frank</b></p>
<p>6.</p>	<p><b>Marketing Matters</b></p> <p>Christina contacted the Mississauga Public Library and arranged to have brochures distributed to each branch as well as Central. Some modifications need to be made to the text in the brochure, including adding a contact phone number. All agreed that the colour print version is the best, but this involves a cost. <b>Unresolved.</b></p> <p>Daphne made contact with the Ontario Horticultural Association which invites BRG to become an Associate Member that would entitle BRG to 4 special events in the calendar of events plus an introductory profile in the newsletter. Agreed that we should take this opportunity.</p> <p>Liz 's report on her findings from other stewardship groups was deferred until next meeting.</p> <p>David has discussed with Dorothy Tomiak on posting a piece in her electronic newsletter (part of the Port Credit group).</p> <p>BRG should take membership in the Peel Volunteers group, the fee to be covered by City.</p> <p>We need a submission to post in the Ratepayers newsletter. More on this to come.</p> <p>David will draft a letter that Carmen Corbasson and David Mueller can send out to schools, inviting interest in BRG and environmental issues.</p> <p>BRG was recently featured on the front page of SNAP, in conjunction with the spring tour.</p>	<p><b>ALL</b></p>

7.	<p><b>Other Business:</b></p> <p>Robert raised concerns regarding bicycles on the main pathway. There are far too many bikes and create a hazard for pedestrians. There is little that can be done without capturing significant feedback and comments.</p> <p>Frank announced receipt of the CVC permit (good for 1 year) which gives the go-ahead for the swale and pathway at the infill area. Drainage will be dealt with immediately, the pathway requires further design and more planning.</p> <p>Frank thanked David for his generous match to the \$100 donation received last month. It will be applied to the naturalized area.</p>	
11.	<b>Next Meeting - August 27, 2009</b>	
12.	<b>Adjournment 9:35 p.m.</b>	

**Recorded & Submitted:**

*CAWoodhead*



**BRUECKNER RHODODENDRON GARDENS STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE (BRGSC)**

**Wednesday, August 27, 2009**

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

**ATTENDEES:** David Culham (Chair), Frank Buckley (City of Mississauga), Christina Woodward (Secretary), Marta Brueckner, Para Kanp (City of Mississauga), Maria Da Costa, Robert Kernohan, Liz Malicki

**REGRETS:** Edel Schmidt, Daphne Van Ginkel

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1.	<p><b>Approval of Minutes for August 12, 2009, as amended</b></p> <p><b>[ Moved: Liz Seconded: Daphne]</b></p> <p><b>Note:</b> suggested agenda items will now be shared prior to meeting and decision on final agenda will be arrived at collaboratively.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Marketing Matters</b></p> <p>Continuation from Meeting of August 12 –</p> <p><b>Motion:</b> Resolved that the BRGSC request that the City of Mississauga obtain membership on our behalf with the volunteer agency of Peel "Volunteer MBC" for 2009 at a cost of \$50 per annum.</p> <p><b>[ Moved: Daphne Seconded: Liz]</b></p> <p><b>Motion:</b> Resolved that the BRGSC request the City of Mississauga obtain membership on our behalf with the Ontario Horticultural Association for 2009 at the required per annum fee.</p> <p><b>[ Moved: Daphne Seconded: Liz]</b></p>	<p><b>Frank</b></p> <p><b>Frank, Daphne</b></p>

<p>New</p> <p><b>I. Liz presented an informed report back to Committee on her meeting with Robin Haley, Volunteer Stewardship Coordinator, Riverwood.</b></p> <p>Included in this report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the role of the volunteer coordinator was defined</li> <li>- of 40 volunteers, 20 are regular from Thursday to Saturday; 4-5 work the flower beds</li> <li>- Head Gardener is voluntary; a white board is used for scheduling weeks in advance</li> <li>- Volunteers engage in both indoor and outdoor activities; office work counts toward volunteer hours</li> <li>- Acknowledgment of volunteers</li> <li>- Application process for volunteering</li> <li>- Promotion through formal notices, word-of-mouth, other</li> <li>- Partnering with environmental groups</li> </ul> <p>Liz shared the Riverwood volunteer form and posters prepared for the schools.</p> <p>At this time Maria distributed two forms from Recreation and Parks: an information sheet for volunteers and a waiver of liability. Both forms need to be customized for BRG, all BRGSC members are required to sign them.</p> <p>Frank offered to obtain the volunteer package available from Mississauga City Parks.</p> <p>Liz addressed the importance and significance of developing a well-crafted and informative volunteering package, as it is critical for building the BRG infrastructure. It should be in place before we recruit more volunteers. She proposed the following steps be taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Put a volunteer package together (include e.g. any waivers (Frank will deliver), list of precautions</li> <li>- Identify tasks for Volunteers</li> <li>- Appreciation and acknowledgments (what recognition do we currently extend?)</li> <li>- Letter and poster to schools (David: letter to School Counsellors is in preparation. Any “no response” should be followed up)</li> <li>- Enhance BRG presence in community e.g. Echo Buzz (Stephanie Crocker should be contacted as a liaison for BRG)</li> <li>- Corporate involvement (Sierra Club, potential for sponsorship of donations, grants, promotional posters and brochures, extend invitation to corporations to participate and arrange a tour for them)</li> </ul> <p><b>II. BRG Brochure</b></p> <p>Christina requested the committee arrive at a decision on the paper type for reproducing the brochure.</p> <p>Frank suggested that instead we explore other refinements to the brochure and offered to send the file to the Graphics Department for their advice on</p>		<p><b>Frank</b></p> <p><b>Frank</b></p> <p><b>Frank</b></p> <p><b>David</b></p> <p><b>David</b></p> <p><b>David</b></p> <p><b>Frank</b></p>
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	<p>achieving a more professional production.</p> <p>III. Ontario Horticultural Association Daphne confirmed that application as an Associate Member is \$50. This level of membership includes publishing BRG events in the Newsletter. Daphne read out the OHA letter of invitation to the BRG to join.</p> <p>IV. Ontario Parks Association Frank suggested we send a blurb about the BRG to the OPA magazine.</p> <p>V. Landscape Trade Para suggested we do the same for this magazine.</p> <p>VI. Christina suggested that we draft a master template that provides all the important details about BRG which can be modified and tailored for all promotional and PR efforts. This type of consistency would help eliminate typos and factual errors and repetition would strengthen the message. Christina will draft the template at the request of the committee.</p>	<b>Christina</b>
3.	<p><b>Report from Head Gardener</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- topsoil from J. Darling Park was moved to East Garden</li> <li>- one week was given for soil preparation in infill planting area</li> <li>- forsythias have been removed from infill area</li> <li>- tree elevations throughout the BRG have been completed; wood chipping to be done yet</li> <li>- lilly bed needs sprucing up; to be addressed during winter months</li> <li>- drain construction has been completed in West Garden</li> <li>- Godfrey Lane bed cracked concrete has been fixed</li> <li>- Removal of hogweed in naturalization areas needs to be done – not for volunteers</li> <li>- Drain pipe from neighbouring house on west side: Enforcement established that it carries water from the eavestrough. We will attach weeping tile to channel the run-off into a trench.</li> </ul>	

<p>4.</p>	<p><b>Other Business</b></p> <p>The Design Team brought forward the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- KS Hill planting is to commence in mid-September upon receipt of plants</li> <li>- DT has held 3 meetings over 6 weeks and has developed extensive and complete design plans for KS Hill</li> <li>- Liz presented the report which she prepared on Design Considerations for KS Hill, which was supported by an array of background information and relevant detail</li> <li>- Christina reviewed the to-scale mapping she had done of the KS Hill and other areas to receive new plantings</li> </ul> <p><b>The Committee receives both Design Considerations for KS Hill and Map of KS Hill (Design Considerations to be attached later)</b></p> <p>Frank raised the planned rework and upgrade of the path in the infill area adjacent to KS Hill. The mapping draws attention to the damage that might ensue to plantings if the upgrade were done. Discussion followed on the need to upgrade.</p> <p><b>Motion: Retain the current grassed pathway and decline the upgrade to create a formal pathway in the infill area adjacent to KS Hill.</b></p> <p><b>[Moved: Christina Second: Liz]</b></p> <p>The savings resulting from this decision could be put towards needed protection for the rhodies. This is also an opportunity to review the plants that were unavailable at time of purchase or to add additional plant material. A recommended list will be drawn up.</p> <p><b>Motion to endorse the design plan as proposed by the Design Team.</b></p> <p><b>[Moved: Maria Second: Daphne]</b></p> <p>Next step: implementation to be put in place.</p>	<p><b>Design Team</b></p>
<p>5.</p>	<p><b>Next Meeting: October 8</b></p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p><b>Adjournment: 9:30 p.m.</b></p>	

**Recorded & Submitted:**

*CA Woodhead*

# Garden Design Considerations

*August 2009*

**Name of Bed:** KS Hill

**Location:** west section of BRG / south of the Showcase Bed

## Site Consideration

### **Topography of the land:**

- higher elevation with the land sloping down toward Lake Ontario

### **Protection from the Winds:**

- slope is protected from the northwesterlies & breezes from the lake by a dense canopy of trees (Austrian, pine, ash)
- a neighbour has erected a fence on the western border

*Problem: plantings are needed to hide the fence and garden shed*

*Solution: new order for plantings - 6 columnar yews*

### **Light Exposure:**

- deep shade, little filtered sunlight

*Problem: tree branches are dense and allow little air flow and sun to reach floor*

*Solution: the canopy of tree branches needs to be lifted in order for diffuse light to occur, air flow to exist, and to allow the sun to dry the soil in order to prevent fungus from growing*

### **Condition of the Soil:**

- part acidic under the evergreens, part sand

*Problem: fungal infection exists where the previous Karin Seleger plantings existed*

*Solution: infested areas will be avoided and no new rhododendrons planted*

*Problem: soil at the bottom of the hill is boggy*

*Solution: beds will be raised at least 8" in order to prevent root rot & fungal infestation*

*Problem: soil needs amendment in order to promote growth of healthy rhododendrons*

*Solution: beds will be mixed with peat moss / Milton supply of crushed pine bark and needles*

*Problem: many roots of the Forsythia / dogwood occupy this space*

*Solution: area will be backhoed and the roots remove*

### **Size of the Bed:**

- this area has been identified as part of the infill section as determined by the City
- it stretches down the wide slope and is intersected by a wide, grassy walkway
- the west end of the bed has been enlarged due to the trimming back of the forsythia and the cleaning out of weeds

## **Bed Considerations**

### **Purpose of the Bed:**

- KS Hill is the continuation of the Showcase Bed, a colourful visual, experience for the visitor
- it will contain plantings of rhododendron and companion flowering shrubs following the Design Concept for BRG

### **Viewing Aspects:**

- down-slope views (from the path and seating area at the hilltop) will not be obstructed
- up-slope views will be considered in plantings arrangements

*Problem: the grassy walkway allows easy access to the beds and is in danger of being trampled by the public and dogs (on-going urine problem)*

*Solution: horticultural barriers (TBD) will be planted in order to maintain the health of the plantings*

## **Plant Considerations**

### **Plant Type Requirements:**

- strong hybrids, that can withstand drought, possible abuse
- hybrids must be bushy, colourful, with full trusses that will lighten dark shade
- staggered bloom times
- mixture of lepidote, elepidote and companion flowering shrubs
- in the future, possible plans will include companion perennials and spring bulbs

### **Planting Design:**

- rhodo groupings will be planted in odd numbers - no less than groups of three with each cultivar planted in a triangular growth pattern
- dark and tall plantings in the back will be interspaced with white or lighter shades to enhance colour placements
- blocks of colour will exist
- cultivars in the front will be lighter
- if a planting is determined to be a showcase personality, it will be planted singularly
- companions will be strategically placed in order to contrast texture, colour, bloom time of rhododendrons or to hide unsightly structures (fence/shed)

## **Architectural Layering**

### **Top Level:**

- pine trees / elms / Austrian pines

### **Middle Level:**

- lilac / 25 year - old hydrangea tree

### **Bottom Level:**

- lepidotes / elepidotes / flowering shrub companions arranged in groupings according to size (please refer to Marta's Research List and the Planting Map)

**Forest Floor:**

- to be determined

**List of Plantings Dispersed to Other Sites:**

In order to create unity amongst the plantings within the BRG , the following plants have been dispersed to other sites:

1. Home Depot Bed - Enkianthus (Red Bells) / Pieris (Forest Flame)
2. KS Hill fence - 3 Viburnum (Mohawk)
3. Peony Bed - 3 Birkwoodi Viburnum / 1 Enkianthus (Red Bells)
4. Showcase Bed - Pieris (Mountain Fire) / Fothergilla (Blue Mist)
5. David's Bed - 5 Weston's Aglo

Nick Yarmoshuk's suggestion for planting rhododendrons:

**These are the following things that have to be done:**

- 1. Prepare the wide, oval, not very deep hole, with loosened soil at the bottom of the hole. I strongly recommend putting a couple of shovel full of pine bark mulch into the hole and then (on to which) the rhodo would be placed.**
- 2. Remove the plant from the pot and loosen the rootball. (5 minutes)**
- 3. If necessary create a planting cone and set the plant. (5 minutes)**
  - 4. Loosely fill in the hole. (5 minutes)**
  - 5. Mulch with pine bark ((2 minutes)**
  - 6. Anchor the plant. (2 minutes) .**

**Throughout the planting process, deep root watering is vital to successful planting.**

**Plant Profiles - Marta's list of shrubs and names / height / spread / colour / flowering / hardiness / notes / seasonal.**

Quantity	Shrub		Height	Spread	Colour	Flowering	Hardiness	Notes	Seasonal
3	Catawbiense Album	Elepidote	6' at 10 yr		white	late to mid spring	25F below 0		
5	Cunnungham's White	Elepidote	4' at 10 yr		white	late to mid spring	15F below 0	slow growing	
3	Edith Bosley	Elepidote	5' at 10 yr		purple	mid spring	15F below 0		
7	English Roseum	Elepidote	6' at 10 yr		pink	late to mid spring	25F below 0	fast growing, vigorous	
5	Roseum Elegans	Elepidote	6' at 10 yr		lavendar	late to mid spring	25F below 0		
5	U of Helsinki Haaga	Elepidote	5' at 10 yr		pink	late spring	20F below 0		
3	War Dance	Elepidote	4' at 10 yr		red	mid spring	23F below 0		
3	Hong Kong	Elepidote	5' at 10 yr		yellow	mid spring	20F below 0		
5	Black Satin	Lepidote	3' at 10 yr		purple	late to mid spring	20F below 0	Related to PJM. Shade and part sun	
5	Olga Mezitt	Lepidote	3' at 10 yr	erect	pink	early to mid spring	15F below 0		fall colour

5	Weston's Aglo	Lepidote	3' at 10 yr		pink	early to mid spring 15F below 0	25F below 0		
3	Enkianthus	Camp. Red Bells	5-6'	3-4'	scarlett	early summer		full sun/part shade	
3	Enkianthus	Showy Lantern	6-8'	3-4'	pink	early summer		Full sun for fall colour	scarlett
3	Fothergilla	Gardenii Blue Mist	4-6'	3-6'	white	April-May		deciduous Dwarf, mounded, flowers before leaves	carrot crimson
3	Fothergilla	Mount Airy	6'		white	April-May		slowly suckering. flowers before leaves. Deep blue green leaves	multi-colour
3	Leucothoe	F. Scarletta	3'	5'	scarlet	May-June		semi-evergreen. pink and green leaves	burnished to burgundy
3	Pieris	Jap. Forest Flame	6'		creamy	March-May		evergreen - sun/part shade. Sheltered	red>pink>cream>green
3	Pieris	Jap. Mt. Fire	4-6'	3-5'	white	March-April		sun/part shade	



