

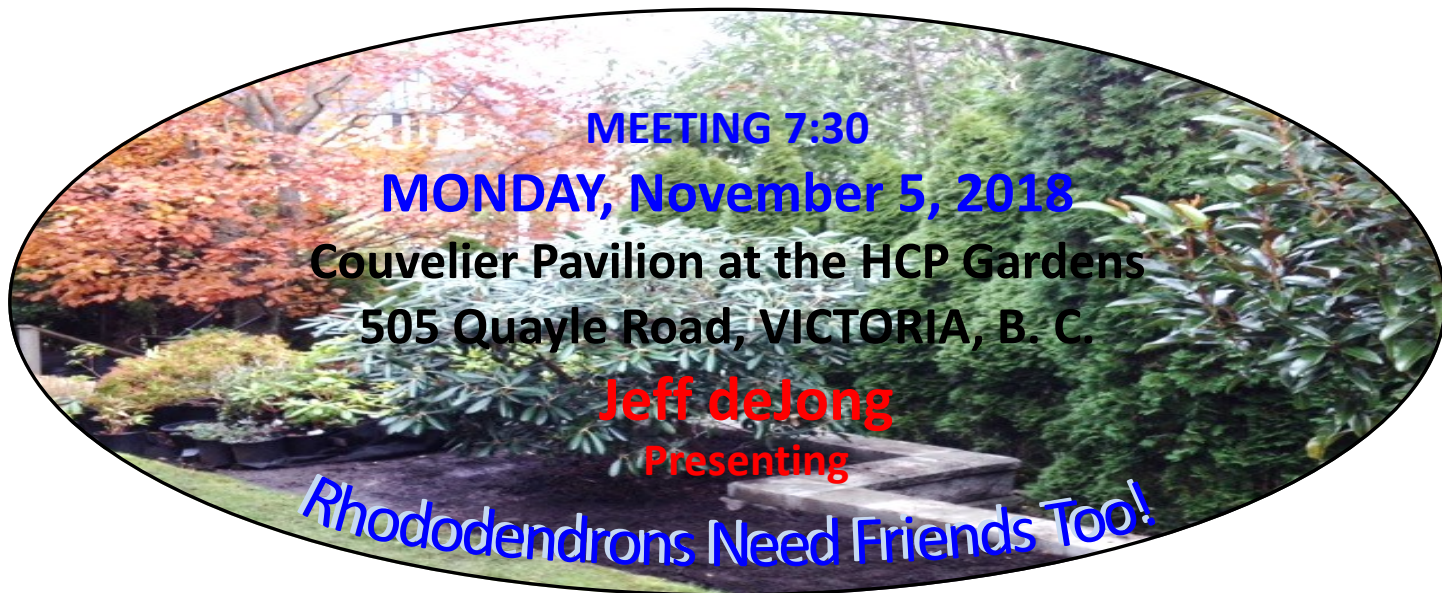


# The Victoria Rhododendron Society Newsletter

4821 Townsend Drive, Victoria, BC V8Z 5P2

November 2018  
[tkmcmillan@telus.net](mailto:tkmcmillan@telus.net)

Thirty-Eighth Year of Publication  
<http://victoriarhodo.ca>



## In This Issue

- ◇ Upcoming Events ----- 2
- ◇ Editor's Notes ----- 3-4
- ◇ Newsletter Additions (NEW)----- 4
- ◇ Your Children Grow Up ----- 5-7
- ◇ Board Members ----- 8
- ◇ Key Contributors ----- 8

## REFRESHMENTS

by

Brenda Macdonald & Sean Rafferty	Dave Mackas & Karen Burns
Carolyn & Tony Marquardt	Anne & Bruce Maycock
Johanna Massa	Kathy McKay

**PLEASE EMAIL** Betty Gordon at [bbgordon@shaw.ca](mailto:bbgordon@shaw.ca)

or phone 250.479.0210 if you are coming with your wrapped goodies or snacks. Coffee and tea are supplied. Assisting Betty with the setting up and/or cleanup is really appreciated. Thank you.



**BRING YOUR OWN MUG**

# Upcoming Events

2018	Event	Place
Nov 5 7:30	General Meeting - The Couvelier Pavilion Jeff deJong - Rhododendrons Need Friends Too!	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road
Nov 19 7:30	Propagation Group Meeting Call Ken Webb 250-744-1745	TBA
Dec 3 5:30	Christmas Potluck Dinner - The Couvelier Pavilion	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road

## 2019

Jan 21 7:30	Propagation Group Meeting Call Ken Webb 250-744-1745	TBA
Feb 4 7:30	General Meeting - The Couvelier Pavilion Ann Nightingale - Victoria Birds	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road
Feb 18 7:30	Propagation Group Meeting Call Ken Webb 250-744-1745	TBA
Mar 4 7:30	General Meeting - The Couvelier Pavilion	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road
Mar 18 7:30	Propagation Group Meeting Call Ken Webb 250-744-1745	TBA
Apr 1 7:30	General Meeting - The Couvelier Pavilion	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road
Apr 15 7:30	Propagation Group Meeting Call Ken Webb 250-744-1745	TBA
May 6 7:30	General Meeting - The Couvelier Pavilion	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road
May 20 7:30	Propagation Group Meeting Call Ken Webb 250-744-1745	TBA
Jun 17 7:30	Propagation Group Meeting Call Ken Webb 250-744-1745	TBA
Jun 23 Noon	VRS Summer Picnic	TBA
Sept 2 7:30	General Meeting - The Couvelier Pavilion	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road
Sept 23 7:30	Propagation Group Meeting Call Ken Webb 250-744-1745	TBA
Oct 7 7:30	General Meeting - The Couvelier Pavilion	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road
Oct 21 7:30	Propagation Group Meeting Call Ken Webb 250-744-1745	TBA

# Editor's Notes



by Theresa McMillan

A review of Geoff Ball's talk on October 1 on "Milner Garden History and New Species Garden".

Our second fall meeting, on the Milner Garden, was well received. As well as learning about the history of the garden near Qualicum, we learned about its development from an estate of 70 acres, including 60 acres of ancient forest, to a garden specializing in species rhododendrons.

For the history of the garden, this began as a private estate; read "In Veronica's Garden", by

Luckily, an anonymous donor financed the purchase which became part of the University of Vancouver Island. The new species garden was initiated with donations from the Victoria Rhododendron Society and several other garden clubs.

Milner Garden is known for its large and growing collection of species rhododendrons. The original gardens had many, but identifying the plants has been difficult. Labels have been disappearing as bark has grown over them. Many rhododendrons



Margaret Cadwaladr. Details about the book are on page 5 in the October issue of this Newsletter.

In 1996, Veronica Milner offered the garden to U.B.C., University of Victoria and Malaspina College but the institutions could not afford it.

thought to be species have been re-examined and found to be hybrids.

There is an on-going search for more species for the Milner Gardens, true species, much more

*(Continued on page 4)*

*(Continued from page 3)*

difficult to find than common hybrids. Hundreds of plants have been collected.

The upkeep of the gardens is done through staff at the University of Vancouver Island, District 1 volunteers and very many other volunteers. This includes careful monitoring of rhododendrons for summer watering, and removal of too large conifers that can out-compete rhododendrons for water, or shade them so much that they no longer bloom. Soil that is too wet can be another problem. A mix of big rocks, sand and gravel, and mulch make the best base for these difficult to manage, swampy areas. As well, there is the usual weeding and deadheading. A gardener's work is never done!



Milner Gardens and Woodland is home to 10 acres of lush gardens, which in turn are surrounded by an old-growth forest seven times that size. *(Courtesy of : <https://www.visitparksvillequalicumbeach.com/things-to-do-milner-gardens> )*

## NEWSLETTER ADDITIONS

If you would like to share your rhodo/garden pictures, techniques, successes or questions, just email [victoriarhododendron@gmail.com](mailto:victoriarhododendron@gmail.com), Attention Editor.

Thank you.

## Your Children Grow Up, Then They Leave Home and occasionally your Rhodos leave also

Story by Ian Duncan  
Photos by Anne Allen

As parents you nurture your children, feed and care for them, watch them grow into young adults and then they leave home to start a new life of their own. Sometimes our rhodos do the same.



R. smirnowii x yak - age 10 in 2008

In 2008, we moved her into a new bed when she was about 3 ft. tall, a budding teenager. That's her next to a magnolia. R. smirnowii x yak liked her new spacious room. But over the years, she and her buddies grew until they were getting in each other's hair, just like some peoples' kids I



know.

In 2017, she was about 6 ft. tall. There she is standing next to me. It was time to move out.

R. smirnowii x yak was reluctant to go, so I brought in my large A-frame crane and winches.

*(Continued on page 6)*



*(Continued from page 5)*



I dug around her root ball, about 4 ft. in diameter and a foot down.

I levered her out of the ground and onto skid poles, slid her onto a tarp, and removed the crane.



*(Continued on page 7)*



I slid her and her tarp up the tailgate of the trailer, settled her in, and waved goodbye as she headed off to a new life.



Below is *R. smirnowii* x yak in her **new home**, with another 'Ian' to appreciate her. Sometimes kids gravitate to someone like one of their parents, if only in name.



## VICTORIA RHODODENDRON SOCIETY BOARD

### President

### Vice President

Brenda Macdonald 778-528-3647  
[victoriarhododendron@gmail.com](mailto:victoriarhododendron@gmail.com)

### Past President

Lois Blackmore 250-478-6615

### Treasurer

Bill Gordon 250-479-0210

### Secretary:

Sharon Joseph 250-383-1756

### Members-at-Large

Carol Dancer 250-721-5273  
Carolyn Marquardt 250-477-8387  
Carrie George 250-642-3176  
Ian Duncan 250-479-0820  
Jackie Ralph  
Ken Webb 250-744-1785  
Linda Gilmore 250-642-2256  
Lloyd Gilmore 250-642-2256  
Lynne Ferrie 250-478-1100  
Theresa McMillan 250-478-3515

## KEY CONTRIBUTORS

### Audio & Video Equipment & HCP Meeting Room Steward

Ian Duncan 250-479-0820

### Membership

Brenda Macdonald 778-528-3647  
Carrie George 250-642-3176

### Newsletter Committee

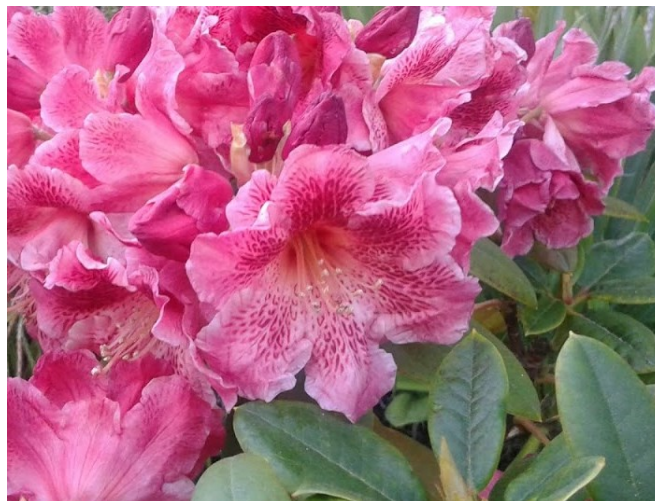
Theresa McMillan, Editor 250-478-3515  
Bill McMillan 250-478-3515  
Joyce Whittle 250-656-7313  
Linda Gilmore 250-642-2256  
Madeleine Webb 250-744-1785

### Refreshments Organizer

Betty Gordon 250-479-0210

### Website

Calvin Parsons 250-590-0489  
<http://victoriarhodo.ca>



'Moe Massa'  
unregistered cross by Lloyd Gilmore