



Friends of the Gardens Newsletter

Spring 2010

Jardins de Métis

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Aussi disponible en français

***Il était deux fois un jardin* awarded Prix du Public ARTV**



The new film by Philippe Baylaucq *Il était deux fois un jardin* (*Twice Upon a Garden*) won the prestigious Prix du Public ARTV at the International Festival of Films on Art held in Montreal in March. All five screenings of the film were sold out and provided packed audiences with a beautiful and moving film about the gardens and their history. The documentary captures the beauty of the gardens in all seasons and the frenetic

activity surrounding the building of the International Garden Festival. Filming started in June 2007 and was completed in April 2009, and the filmmaker distilled more than 100 hours of high-definition film into a 53-minute documentary.

Il était deux fois un jardin will join other winning films from FIFA on an international tour, with stops at such institutions as the Louvre in Paris, the AIA/Center for Architecture, the Mid-Manhattan Library and the Morgan Library in New York, the National Gallery of Art in Washington, the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, the Musée national des beaux-arts in Quebec City, the National Gallery of Canada and the Tate Modern in London. The film will have its inaugural broadcast on Télé-Québec on Labour Day Monday, September 6 at 9 pm. A DVD version of the film with both English and French-language versions and a selection of 60 archival photographs of Elsie Reford and 100 garden photos by Louise Tanguay is available for sale from the garden's on-line shop for \$19.95 and from producers Garry Beitel and Barry Lazar of Beitel/Lazar Productions and reFrame Films.

Gardens present authors of *Great Gardens of America* to Montreal audiences

The gardens presented writer Tim Richardson and photographer Andrea Jones in Montreal in March to celebrate the publication of their book *Great Gardens of America*. Tim and Andrea spoke to the Montreal Garden Club and to an audience of students, faculty and the general public at the Université de Montréal. They completed their brief tour of Montreal with a book signing event at the Nicholas Hoare bookshop.

Published by Frances Lincoln in the United Kingdom, *Great Gardens of America* features twenty-five gardens in the United States and Canada. Les Jardins de Métis/Reford Gardens are one of just two gardens in Canada included, the other being Les Quatre Vents, the garden created by Francis H. Cabot in La Malbaie. *Great Gardens of America* is available from our garden shop.



Partenaire principal

May 2010

Oursins Wows Visitors at Canada Blooms



The Gardens returned to Canada Blooms in March and exhibited *Oursins* by NIPpaysage where it was the most photographed garden at the show. *Oursins* was created by NIPpaysage last summer for exhibition on the Place de la Dauversière next to the Musée du Château Ramezay Museum. At Canada Blooms the three urchins generated lots of interest as they were floating in a pool of bright red tulips. They made the front page of the style section of the *Globe and Mail* and were also featured on several television broadcasts. Mélanie Gauthier, Pierre-Olivier Ferry and Marie-Christine Bureau gave out several thousand brochures to prospective visitors to encourage them to make the trek to the gardens and to visit other gardens in Québec en route.

The Germans are Coming – 2010 edition of the International Garden Festival

The 11th edition of the International Garden Festival will feature 21 gardens, including four gardens by leading international designers based in Berlin. The 2010 edition of the Festival will present gardens created by 65 designers from Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, the United Kingdom and the United States. The opening night party will be on Friday, June 25 and the Festival will open to the public on June 26.

The designers from Berlin invited to take part in the Festival are TOPOTEK 1 (Martin Rein-Cano and Lorenz Dexler), Thilo Folkerts of 100landschaftsarchitektur with Berlin-based Canadian artist Rodney Latourelle, and Gero Heck and Marianne Mommsen from relais Landschaftsarchitekten. Artist Kai Schiemenz will create a sculptural piece to add to *Bois de biais*, the garden designed by Atelier le balto (Véronique Faucheur, Marc Pouzol and Marc Vatinel) that has been exhibited since 2006.

Three projects were chosen by a jury from a record 276 proposals submitted by over 600 architects, landscape architects, designers and artists from 34 countries. The winning designers are: Studio Bryan Hanes (Bryan Hanes, Jose Menendez, Yadiel Rivera Diaz, Brenna Herpmann) landscape architects, and DIGSAU (Jules Dingle, Jeff

Goldstein, Mark Sanderson, Jamie Unkefer, Aaron Jezzi) architects, all based in Philadelphia; Habitation (David Vago, Simone Marsh and Nick Brown) landscape architects from Sydney, Australia and Rosetta Sarah Elkin, a Montreal-born landscape architect based in Amsterdam. All of the proposals submitted for the 2010 competition can be seen on the web site of the Catalogue of Canadian Competitions (www.ccc.umontreal.ca).

The gardens returning for the 2010 edition are: **Forest. Square.Sky** by Suresh Perera (Montreal), **Seedling** by Mateo Pinto, Carolina Cisneros, Victoria Marshall (New York City); **Dymaxion Sleep** by Jane Hutton and Adrian Blackwell (Toronto), winner of the Gold Medal 2009 *Design Exchange Award* in the Landscape Architecture Category, **HAHA!** by spmb (Eduardo Aquino, Karen Shanski, Ralf Glor and Matt Baker from Winnipeg) and Martin Gagnon (Montreal), **Every garden needs a shed and a lawn!** by Deborah Nagan (United Kingdom), **Réflexions colorées** by Hal Ingberg (Montreal), **Bascule** by Cédule 40 (Julien Boily, Sonia Boudreau, Étienne Boulanger and Noémie Payant-Hébert from Saguenay), **Fractal Garden** and **Round Up d'Après Monet** by Legge Lewis Legge (Andrea Legge, Deborah Lewis and Murray Legge from New York City and Austin, Texas), **Réflexions suspendues** by Francesca Moretti, Federico Brancalion, Rodolfo Roncella and Mirando Di Prinzio (Italy), **Le Bon Arbre au Bon Endroit** by NIPpaysage (Mathieu Casavant, France Cormier, Josée Labelle, Michel Langevin, Mélanie Mignault from Montreal), **Oursins** by NIPpaysage, and the iconic **Blue Stick Garden** by Claude Cormier (Montreal), displayed adjacent to Estevan Lodge. The oversized chair by NIPpaysage will return to the entrance to the gardens where it has been a popular attraction since 2005.



Métis-sur-Montréal



The Gardens will be returning to Montreal this summer for the presentation of an ephemeral garden as part of our annual Métis-sur-Montréal event. A new garden by architect Philippe Nolet will be presented on the Place de la Dauversière from May 27 to October 10. **Broderie buchée** is inspired by the French tradition of ornate parterres. But rather than using boxwood, the curvilinear forms will be made from spruce logs, salvaged from blowdowns in the gardens or the nearby Metis River Park and trimmed and sanded for their urban presentation. They will be viewed by thousands of visitors in Old Montréal and perhaps serve as temporary seating for tired travellers.

Métis-sur-Calgary



At the invitation of the City of Calgary, the International Garden Festival is presenting **Passe-moi un sapin Rita – Come Play in my Garden** by Rita, the Montreal duo of Stéphane Halmaï-Voisard and Karine Corbeil. The garden will be one of six contemporary gardens on display at Olympic Plaza in Calgary from May to October as part of a special event to celebrate the centenary of the Calgary parks department. The Rita garden features 50 little green trees that can be moved through an imaginary landscape. The garden is particularly popular with children who revel in the playful and participatory aspect of the garden. This will be the 4th presentation of the garden. It was a popular feature of the 2008 edition of the Festival and

has also been exhibited in Montreal at the headquarters of the Caisse de dépôt et de placement and at Canada Blooms. The City of Calgary is also presenting gardens designed by festival alumni Pete and Alissa North, Eduardo Aquino and his team from spmb (Karen Shanski, Ralf Glor and Matt Baker) and Doug Moffatt and Steve Bates.

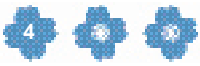
Hydro-Québec - Lead Partner of the Gardens



One of the popular and photogenic gardens of last year's edition of the Festival was **Le Bon Arbre au Bon Endroit**, a garden that presented Hydro-Québec's efforts to educate Quebecers about the importance of planting the right tree in the right place to protect the electricity grid from damage and to assure that ornamental trees not be pruned or cut if they are too close to hydro lines. Presented for a third time this summer, the garden again illustrates the dynamic partnership between the gardens and Hydro-Québec. Hydro-Québec was the first sponsor to show an interest in the Festival when it was still just an idea in 1999, and have since supported every edition of the Festival as well as partnering in the creation of the Mitis River Park, promoting energy efficiency initiatives, burying the electric wires that traverse the site and assisting in the garden's environmental and conservation projects.

Growing the Gardens

The Gardens began the restoration of Elsie Reford's picking garden and *potager* last autumn. The first garden at Estevan Lodge was the vegetable garden, created in a pasture between the stream and what was then the main road that separated the estate from the village of Grand-Métis. It was first planted for Sir George Stephen soon after he built Estevan Lodge in 1887. When Elsie Reford began using Estevan in the early 1900s, she expanded the vegetable garden to include a vast selection of vegetables and berries and transformed the central part into a picking garden to provide fresh flowers for her bouquets. It was the beginning of her adventuring in gardening. When the gardens were sold in the 1960s, the vegetable garden became a plantation of red pine trees and remained largely unchanged until the pinetum was transformed into the trial beds for blue poppies. An intern landscape architect from Belgium, François Loiselet, helped research the project and identify the plants to be grown in the garden. Stuart Webster Design is completing the plans and drawings.



Other components of the project include the replacement of the bridges in the gardens constructed by Gervais Pineault of St. Léandre. The first phase of the project is funded by a grant from Québec's Ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition féminine. Premier Horticulture of Rivière-du-Loup has donated peat moss for the project.

Mitis River Park Builds for the Future

The Mitis River Park completed several exciting projects last autumn in anticipation of the 2010 season, including the construction of a 25-foot observation tower overlooking the Mitis River and the St. Lawrence. The tower will be inaugurated on June 19. Guest curator Dr. Michel Fournier has several projects underway for the coming season, including a new exhibition *Moving Giant: The Great Lakes – St. Lawrence Ecosystem*. Created for the Montreal Biosphere Environment Museum, *Moving Giant* is an award-winning exhibition created for young people to inform them of the St. Lawrence ecosystem and the environmental challenges it is presently facing. The annual community clean-up of the beach along the St. Lawrence will be held on Saturday June 5th.

Gardens' Culinary Products Get a New Look



The Gardens range of culinary products have been given a new look and will be for sale at the gardens and select stores this summer. Chef Pierre-Olivier Ferry and his team in the kitchens of Estevan Lodge last year made a selection of jams, jellies, spreads and pickles featuring flavours from the plant collections. The first products in this line of specialty gourmet products are: Blueberry and Lavender Spread, Wild Strawberry and Lemon Basil Spread, Wild Mint Jelly, Labrador Tea Jelly, Crabapple Jelly, Daisy buds in White Wine Vinegar, Fiddleheads Pickled in White Wine Vinegar and Pickled Daylily Buds. These gourmet delights provide extraordinary flavours as well as a souvenir of a visit to the Gardens. They will be available in the cafés and garden shop this summer and can be purchased on-line from the gardens' web site.

Cooking Up Some New Delights

Chef Pierre-Olivier Ferry and his team are gearing up for another busy summer. The Estevan Lodge Restaurant will open for lunch on June 15, the Friday Gourmet Evening will start on July 2 and every Saturday through the summer has

been booked for a wedding or a special event. More than 135 groups have reserved for lunch or dinner in Estevan Lodge. He has also modified the menus in the cafés to offer a wider range of light fare, with several selections inspired by the tastes and flavours of the gardens.

On Exhibition

From June 5 through July 15, the exhibition room in Estevan Lodge will welcome Mont-Joli artist Andrée Lévesque for an exhibition of new paintings *D'émotions en paysage* inspired by the gardens and its trees. From July 17 through October 3, we will feature works by Métis-sur-Mer summer residents Janis Gillan and Rasa Pavilanis. They have been inspired by the life of Elsie Reford to create a series of paintings that will show the other facets of her life and times and her other interests, fishing, horses, music and travel.

Les Jardins de Métis Launch Fundraising Campaign

Les Amis des Jardins de Métis launched an ambitious fundraising campaign on December 1 to raise \$400,000 for endowment and \$200,000 for the gardens' capital projects. More than \$200,000 has been raised so far for the endowment of the International Garden Festival. We are grateful to the donors to the endowment fund of the Fondation des Jardins de Métis and to the annual campaign of Les Amis des Jardins de Métis. The capital fund will help fund various projects including energy conservation initiatives, the installation of a sprinkler system to protect the historic Estevan Lodge and the Elsie Reford garden internships to encourage young Canadians to pursue careers in horticulture.

Les Amis des Jardins de Métis is a not for profit corporation founded in February 1995 by Les Ateliers Plein Soleil and members of the Reford family. The board of directors is composed of: Guy D'Anjou, Alexander Reford, Lewis Reford, Jacqueline Roy, Jean-Yves Roy and Sally Tingley.

The International Garden Festival is administered by **La Fondation des Jardins de Métis**, whose board is composed of Lesley Johnstone, Alexander Reford, Lewis Reford and Stuart Webster.

Partners : Canada Council for the Arts, Canadian Heritage, Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, Emploi-Québec, ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation, ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition féminine, ministère du Développement économique, de l'Innovation et de l'Exportation, Tourisme Québec, CLD de La Mitis, SADC de La Mitis, Hydro-Québec, Association des musées canadiens, Canada Summer Jobs, Carrefour jeunesse-emploi Mitis, Fédération des chambres de commerces du Québec, Heritage Canada Foundation.

Sponsors : Atlantis, Caisse populaire Desjardins de Mont-Joli, Canada Blooms, Fédération des caisses Desjardins du Bas-Saint-Laurent, Ferme J.-L. Drapeau, Gaspésie Sauvage, IGA Alimentation de la Mitis, MacDougall, MacDougall & MacTier Inc., Miellerie Tête en Fleurs, Pépinière Charlevoix and Premier Horticulture.

Collaborators : Carrefour de la littérature, des arts et de la culture, Centre de design de l'UQAM, Festi Jazz international de Rimouski, Musée régional de Rimouski, Parc de la rivière Mitis, Musée du Château Ramezay, City of Montréal, Société de développement commercial Vieux-Montréal, Arrondissement Ville-Marie and City of Calgary.