



## SUMMER 2017 NEWSLETTER

### FOG EVENTS

#### WALK WITH US SERIES



The Friends held four fun and educational Walk With Us events at the garden last year including a scavenger hunt and a walk with John Acorn. This season we have planned 3 walks, with the first having happened on June 11 in the Japanese garden. On July 30<sup>th</sup>, Dr Lee Foote will lead the next walk through the garden and highlight all the changes that will happen over the next couple of years. If you have been to the UABG lately you will notice a huge crane and a lot of building going on. This is the Aga Khan garden that will be completed in 2018. Our last Walk with Us event will be Sept 18 and will conclude with FOG's annual potluck lunch in the Fieldhouse. Please watch your emails or go to the website for updates on these walks. If anyone has ideas for next year or knows someone who would like to lead a group for a walk please let me know. These events are free to all FOG members and guests need to pay regular entrance fees to the UABG.

#### FOG CASINO



The Friends of the Garden completed another successful casino June 8 and 9 at the Starlight Edmonton Casino. Thank you to all the fantastic volunteers that gave up their day or evening to help out. It would not be possible without our members and other volunteers. Thank you to FOG Treasurer Secretary Karen Raboud for organizing all the volunteers and the event and to Ieuan Evans for passing on all his knowledge. You are all awesome! Keep an eye on your email for an invite to the UABG this summer for a thank you social.

## KIDS IN THE GARDEN BURSARY

Last summer 964 children from 17 different groups took advantage of the FOG sponsored bursary at the DBG. The kids were able to participate in a structured program and enjoy the outdoors. These groups would not traditionally be able to afford to attend the gardens without the bursary. We were thrilled to hear that so many children were able to enjoy a fun and educational day at the University of Alberta Botanic Gardens. Your donations help to sponsor these programs so thank you to all who gave so generously.

## FOG'S 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

In June 2021, the Friends of the University of Alberta Devonian Botanic Garden will celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! Much has been accomplished by the Friends so far and the board has decided to mark the anniversary with the building of a replacement Imrie Boardwalk. The boardwalk is overdue for an upgrade to make it safer and more accessible to all. It is initially estimated that \$135,000 needs to be raised for this project by 2020. Through generation donations FOG has already has \$36,700 towards this project so we are well on our way. We will be looking for different fundraising ideas and grants to achieve this goal.

## WHO WAS MARY IMRIE?



The FOG board has been saying the name 'Imrie' a lot as we discuss re-building the boardwalk and fundraising for it. But why is it named the Imrie wetlands and boardwalk?

The Imrie Wetlands were named after Mary Imrie who donated the land to the DBG upon her death in 1988. Mary was the first female architect in Alberta and she and her partner, Jean Wallbridge designed many homes and

some commercial properties in the Edmonton area. They were the most well-known Alberta women architects of their day. After WWII it was difficult for women to be hired to design commercial properties so Mary and Jean did mostly residential homes. Their projects were characterized as open spaced floor plans with many windows to let in natural light and the surrounding scenery into their designs. This was a unique idea in Edmonton as was their flare for organizing volunteer work parties to reduce construction costs. Later the pair focused on schools and hospitals as they liked the satisfaction of knowing they were helping others. The most intriguing item that I read was that when Mary travelled and couldn't find a camp ground in an area, she bought some land and camped on it. When she died, all her properties were donated so others could camp whenever they travelled. Mary Imrie was a fascinating, hardworking and caring person who left her mark on Alberta with her beautiful, nature inspired buildings.

## 2016 DONATIONS TO DBG

As well as funding the bursary, FOG has donated funds to help purchase other necessary items for the University of Alberta Botanic Garden. A large, event tent and outdoor meeting place furniture were purchased in the spring. These will be used by most that visit the gardens. Some of the generous donations from the Welsh Society were used to tidy and maintain the David Thompson House and the surrounding gardens. In the summer, the garden purchased a walk behind aerator to help with the maintenance. So far in 2017 FOG has bought the garden a new chainsaw, a mower, bobcat parts, shingles for a gazebo and growing benches for the greenhouse. FOG's mission statement is that we are dedicated to raising funds for the DBG. Through donations, grants and casinos, we are able to achieve this goal.

## THANK YOU TO BISHOP SAVARYN SCHOOL



An awesome group of grade five girls from Bishop Savaryn School had a fundraiser and donated to the Friends to use towards pollination. Hal Hopkins, a garden volunteer, built a beautiful bee house that has been put in the Herb Garden. Have a look the next time you visit the gardens and see how many bees have moved in. Thanks girls for caring about the environment and working hard to make a difference!

## MEMBERSHIPS AND DONATIONS

Please call Dana at 780-221-6467 if your FOG membership is overdue for renewal or if you would like to make a tax deductible gift to the Friends. Or you can go to our website at [www.friends-devonianbotanicgarden.org](http://www.friends-devonianbotanicgarden.org) to make a donation or renew/purchase a membership or mail it to the address below.

The Friends of the Garden is a registered not-for-profit society. All donors who support the Friends will receive a charitable tax receipt for the full amount of each gift. (Charitable Registration # 118933308RR0001). All gifts received support areas of need at the Devonian Botanic Garden.

### **FOG memberships make awesome gifts!**

Friends of the Garden, 13040 – 137 Avenue, PO Box 69227 Skyview, Edmonton, T5L 5E0

We hope to see you at the UABG this year. If you have any questions or comments please let Dana know by phone or email.