



**Rhododendron
Society
of
Canada**

Bulletin 1976
Volume 5 Number 2

**Société
Canadienne
du
Rhododendron**





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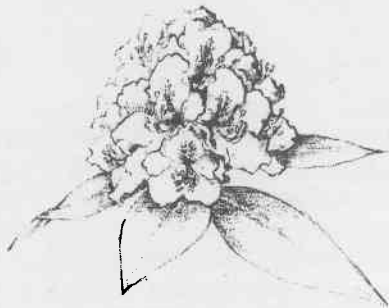
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EDITORIAL COMMENT

Five years — three hundred members — two official Regional groups — not too bad for a Society dedicated to a plant "that you can't grow in this country, you know!". The Regional Notes in this issue show that there are a good many people more than ready to prove the fallacy of this preconceived idea. As one who is involved in growing rhodos and azaleas commercially I can testify to a distinct surge of interest over the past few years, directly traceable to personal contact with other growers, and to increasing Society activity in Flower Shows, meetings, lectures, public plantings, etc.

Five years — of very dedicated work by a strong core of people who laid the foundation and who now are delighted to see many members stepping forward to help build upwards, with fresh ideas for organization and expansion. At the last general meeting a motion was made to examine our Constitution for possible ammendment, in order to facilitate increased efficiency in the running of the Society at the National level. The various activities of the Society have recently been assigned directly to the charge of one member of the Board, in order to spread the work load and broaden the spectrum of benefits to members. These assignments are:

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 Seed Exchange: Ray Halward
 Book Reviews and Purchases: Dorothea Lovat Dickson
 Liaison with Regional Groups: President of National Group

If you would like to serve on a committee in any of the above activities please contact the Director in charge (see members address list enclosed).

In five years — we've never lacked a quorum! Our Executive meetings are always well attended and lively occasions. At the most recent meeting we were privileged to have as our guests Dr. and Mrs. Bob Rhodes from the "Garden of Eden", Family friends of our Vice President, Kathy Leishman. Both are actively involved in the Vancouver Shapter of the American Rhododendron Society, which joined RSC as a group membership. They have followed the development of the Society in the east with great interest and are impressed with the steady growth and the enthusiasm shown by our members. While here they were able also to visit a number of rhodo gardens in the area.

If you enjoy growing rhodos and belonging to the Society, tell others; bring them to the meetings, show them how many different varieties there are to chose from (see Source List — this issue). Who knows? Five years from now — How many members?

WINTER OF 1975-76 IN OSHAWA

D. Hinton Oshawa, Ontario

As we all know, the winter of 1975-76 was a little harder than normal for our area, although we were lucky in having a fair snow cover which protected the smaller rhododendrons, these being mainly seedlings in my case. The extreme cold temperatures that I recorded in my garden were as follows:

Night of January 18, 1976	-26°C/-15°F
Night of January 23, 1976	-29°C/-20°F
Night of February 2, 1976	-27°C/-16.5°F

I was surprised when there was less damage than I expected. I have no protection around my plants except the one year old seedlings that are in beds with snow fence over them and a sheet of plastic 18" high around these to give some protection from the wind. There is very little shade in my garden. Damage was done to other plants in my garden that had never been touched before. My seven foot high Japanese Maple was dessicated to about three feet with odd branches still alive above that. Deutzia "Pride of Rochester" was hit back to about the six inch level but is now growing back well. The flowering almond and wisteria had all flower buds killed along with a Viburnum carlecephalum standard.

In the rhododendrons we will try to give an account of all the damaged noticed. Plants that were completely killed were: Wheatley, Daphnoides, Scintillation and Pink Flair. These plants were only about one foot in height. The hardest hit seedlings were a cross obtained from the seed exchange that were now three years old and a good twelve inches high. These were *R. fortunei* x 'Rochelle' and of about twenty-six plants only four survived and these were damaged. The 3 seedlings of *R. smirnowii* x *R. fortunei* that I have were all damaged plus seedlings of *R. fortunei* itself. One plant only of about 25 *R. smirnowii* seedlings had any damage at all. 'Fastuosum Flore Pleno', 'Mrs. T.H. Lowinsky' and 'Blue Ensign' had bad foliage burn and flower buds killed. On 'Mary Fleming' just two flowers opened that were on the ground, all other flower buds being killed. 'Windbeam' was killed back to snow level but all buds below that flowered well. 'Nova Zembla' lost a few florets in its trusses on the top portion of the plant.

Now maybe I should list some of the survivors. To start with we will take the plants that had no damage on leaf or flower. These were 'Catawbiense Album', 'Caroline' (rated at only -15°F), 'Conewago', 'Ramapo', *R. dauricum*, *R. dauricum album*, some small plants of 'King Tut', 'Besse Howells', 'Boule de Neige', and seedlings of *R. carolinianum* - "Owl Tree F2", cream, and pink forms. On small plants with no flower buds there was no damage to 'Candy', 'Gomer Waterer', 'Pink Twins', 'Pinnacle', 'Ice Cube', 'The General', 'Janet Blair', 'Prize' or 'America'. My seedlings that had little or no damage were *R. metternichi*, *R. brachycarpum* spp. *tigerstedtii*, 'Disca'-selfed, 'Bosutch' x *R. chrysanthum* and 'Janet Blair' x (*R. yakusimanum* x *R. catawbiense album* 'Glass).

Overall I had expected the damage to be worse, but was intrigued to find a few like 'Caroline' to have suffered no damage at all and other like 'Conewago' and *R. dauricum* to have flowered the best that they have since I have had them. Let us see what future winters will bring.

FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING AND FLOWER SHOW 1976 MONTREAL, QUEBEC

M. Van Alstyne Mississauga, Ontario

June 5th — the date of our 5th Annual Meeting and Flower Show has passed, leaving behind feelings of satisfaction in the strength of our Society and consolidation of our members and a host of pleasant memories of a most enjoyable and successful weekend. Our congratulations to the Show Committee, ably chaired by Rudy Behring, to the members in the Montreal area and to our host, the Montreal Botanical Garden; and a big thank you for the well organized facilities and the warm welcome we received.

Members converged on Montreal bearing rhodo and azalea trusses many miles, from the advanced climate of Southern Ontario's "Banana Belt", from the late spring of Nova Scotia and all stages in between, providing a wider representation of bloom than we have had in other shows. The many well travelled entries created a most colourful display in the bright greenhouse at MBG. One corner of the large, central display area had been landscaped by their staff as a woodland slope. This was planted with large rhodos and azaleas in full bloom to show the thousands of visitors how to use them in the garden.

The Annual Meeting was held in the Administration Building after which a fine box lunch was enjoyed on the lawn.

The major event of the day was the official opening of the new Ericaceous Garden. Members gathered at the site of the old quarry where Jack Van Gemeren and his staff have made wonderful progress in establishing the pine and oak shelter and planting areas according to the plan (see Vol. 3, No. 2, p.14). M. Andre Champagne, Director of the Montreal Botanical Garden welcomed us in his own warm and inimitable way. The Agriculture Canada Research Station of Kentville, Nova Scotia donated a rhododendron for a ceremonial planting. Selected was the first released named hybrid from that Station — 'Evangeline' (*R. fortunei* x *R. smirnowii*) bred originally by Leslie Hancock of Mississauga. Les was pleased with the honour and the choice, remarking on the historical French-English background of 'Evangeline' in the beautiful poem by Longfellow. He then spoke of the symbolism of the gesture — an Ontario hybrid, raised and released in Nova Scotia and brought to Montreal to represent the united efforts of rhodo lovers across the many miles to foster the ever widening enjoyment of the genus.

Mrs. Elinor Clarke of Massachusetts was a special guest, representing the American Rhododendron Society, and bringing a plant of 'Russell Harmon', an American hybrid, to commemorate this special occasion. The two plants were duly put in the ground with much fun and friendship. A number of other plants from both sources were donated also, to augment the new garden.

In spite of a very hot afternoon, members enjoyed visiting the home gardens of Joe and Joanne Ronsley, new members M. and Mme. Chevalier, Louis and Dorothy Schwartz, and the Morgan Arboretum nursery. Even after one of the most severe winters in many years a surprising number of azaleas and rhodos brightened the gardens.

Dinner followed at the motel where most of the members were staying. Our guest this year was Mr. Anthony Shammarello of South Euclid, Ohio, noted

Above

Planting ceremony at MBG. Fron left: Andre Champagne, Jack Van Gemeren, Elinor Clarke and wielding the spade, Leslie Hancock. Photo: *M. Van Alstyne*

Below

MBG Staff. From Left: Andre Bouchard, Piere Bourque, Palmer Johnson, Rudy Behring, RSC show Chairman, M. Ducette, Andre Champagne. Photo: *Dr. H. G. Hedges*



rhododendron breeder and nurseryman. Tony treated us before dinner most lavishly, and after dinner treated us with a fine illustrated talk on his own well known hybrids, many of which are proving suitable for Canadian gardens. It was a great pleasure for us to have Tony share his time with us during the busy season, and Hank Hedges announced later that the RSC was pleased to offer Life Membership to our new friend. This was Tony's first trip to Canada and we certainly hope it won't be his last.

The winners of the day's Flower Show were announced by Ken Begg and the four existing trophies for outstanding entries were presented. (See Report of Judges in this issue.) As special commemoration of our 5th Anniversary, our outgoing President Mary Cohoe donated engraved silver coffee spoons to all First Prize winners who were home gardeners. Mrs. Cohoe was then presented with a plaque in honour of her diligent leadership of the past year.

An Honorary Life Membership was presented to Dr. Robert J. Hilton, Director of Guelph Arboretum, for his support and guidance during our formative years, his active participation in developing the judging teams and in recognition of his lifelong devotion to all beautiful ornamentals. Leslie Hancock made the presentation and the Award was accepted by John Ambrose, also from the Arboretum, on behalf of Dr. Hilton who was not able to be present.

It was a long day but a most enjoyable one. The long way home began the next day with a pleasant stop at the home of Rudy and Monique Behring in Laval, to see their growing collection and to say once again "Au revoir" to many new friends.

RHODODENDRON SOCIETY OF CANADA 5TH ANNUAL SHOW — JUNE 5, 1976 MONTREAL BOTANICAL GARDEN

Report of Judges

CLASS	PLACING	SPECIES OR HYBRID	EXHIBITOR
1A	1	County of York	A.W. Smith
	2	Chionoides	R.E. Halward
	3	Album Elegans	R.E. Halward
1B	1	Scintillation	A.W. Smith
	2	English Roseum	G. Stap
	3	Superbum Pink	H.G. Hedges
1C	1	Parson's Gloriosum	H.G. Hedges
	2	Parson's Gloriosum	H.G. Hedges
	3	Catawbiense Boursault	K. Tove
	Hon. Men.	Blue Peter	A.W. Smith
1D	1	Caractacus	R. Behring
	2	Nova Zembla	E. Nilson
	3	Nova Zembla	D. Hinton
2A	1	Valhalla	R.E. Halward
	3	Moonshot	Kentville
2B	1	King Tut	R. Behring
	2	Spring Dawn	R.E. Halward
	3	Pinnacle	R.E. Halward

2C	3	Caroline	D. Hinton
2D	1	Mars	R. Behring
	2	Romeo	R.E. Halward
	3	Vulcan	R.E. Halward
2E	1	Ice Cube	Ottawa Research
	2	Janet Blair	K. Duncan
	3	Ice Cube	R.E. Halward
3A	1	X71-07	Kentville Research
	2	66B	H.G. Hedges
	3	6239	MBG Montreal
3B	1	Unnamed	M. Cohoe
	2	7108	Kentville Research
	3	N2 x <i>R. yakusimanum</i>	Kentville Research
3C	1	63-H-B	H.G. Hedges
	2	6508	R. Behring
	3	Unnamed	H.G. Hedges
3D	1	7141	L. Fretz
	2	7124-B	K. Begg
	3	Unnamed	L. Hancock
3E	1	Goldsworth Yellow x Catalgla x <i>R. yakusimanum</i>	Kentville Research
4A	1	(<i>R. fortunei</i> x <i>R. smirnowii</i>) x <i>R. yakusimanum</i>	Kentville Research
	2	S74-02	Kentville Research
4B	1	X7116	Kentville Research
	2	<i>R. yakusimanum</i> X America-39	H.G. Hedges
	3	<i>R. fortunei</i> x <i>R. smirnowii</i> 'East Kent'	Kentville Research
4C	1	Unnamed.	H.G. Hedges
4E	1	Unnamed.	K. Begg
5	2	Ramapo	Kentville
6	1	<i>R. yakusimanum</i> 'Mist Maiden'	Kentville Research
	2	<i>R. smirnowii</i>	L. Hancock
	3	<i>R. yakusimanum</i>	A.W. Smith
8	1	<i>R. carolinianum</i>	Kentville Research
	2	<i>R. ferugineum</i> var	Ottawa Research
	3	<i>R. carolinianum</i>	R. Behring
9B	1	Ghent seedling	Kentville Research
	2	Fanny	K. Duncan
	3	Norma	L. Hancock
9D	1	Coccinea Speciosa	MBG Montreal
	2	Gandavense	L. Schwartz
	3	Gandavense	MacDonald College
9E	1	Narcissiflora	L. Schwartz
	2	Nancy Waterer	L. Hancock
	3	Narcissiflora	L. Schwartz
10A	1	Persil	MBG Montreal
	2	Persil	L. Hancock
	3	Knaphill White	L. Hancock
10B	1	Homebush	L. Hancock
	2	Sylphides	K. Duncan
	3	Unnamed	L. Schwartz
10C	1	Satan	MGB Montreal
	2	Fireball	L. Hancock
10D	1	Gibraltar	MBG Montreal
	2	Knaphill Hybrid	L. Hancock
	3	Copper Cloud	R.E. Halward

10E	1	Knaphill Hybrid	L. Hancock
	2	Knaphill Hybrid	L. Schwartz
	3	Klondyke	R.E. Halward
11A	1	Exbury Seedling	H.G. Hedges
11B	1	Exbury Seedling	H.G. Hedges
11C	1	Exbury 71-B	K. Begg
11D	1	Exbury Seedling	H.G. Hedges
	2	Exbury 71-B	K. Begg
	3	Exbury Seedling	K. Leishman
11E	2	Exbury Seedling	K. Begg
11F	1	Knaphill Seedling	K. Duncan
	2	Exbury Seedling	Ottawa Research
12	1	Unnamed	L. Schwartz
	2	Koster's Brilliant Red	G. Hancock
	3	Spek's Brilliant	K. Duncan
	Hon. Men.	Unnamed	L. Schwartz
13	1	Seedling	Ottawa Research
	2	Hybrid	Ottawa Research
	3	Seedling	H.G. Hedges
14	1	<i>R. vaseyi</i>	Kentville Research
	2	<i>R. japonicum</i>	Kentville Research
	3	<i>R. roseum</i>	Ottawa Research
15A	1	Palestrina	K. Duncan
	2	Palestrina	L. Hancock
15B	1	Rosebud	H.G. Hedges
	2	Rosebud	K. Begg
	3	Blaauw's Pink	L. Hancock
15C	1	Herbert	L. Hancock
	2	Amoena	L. Hancock
	3	Beethoven	L. Hancock
15D	1	Hino Red	Kentville Research
16	1	Unnamed	L. Schwartz

LIST OF EXHIBITORS

K. Begg Fenwick, Ontario
 R. Behring Laval, Quebec
 S. Campbell Black Creek, Ontario
 M. Cohoe Mississauga, Ontario
 J. Cooper Don Mills, Ontario
 R. Dean Toronto, Ontario
 K. Duncan Don Mills, Ontario
 A. Elstien Malone, New York
 L. Fretz Vineland, Ontario
 F. Gallop Mississauga, Ontario
 R. Hall Malone, New York
 R. Halward Hamilton, Ontario
 L. Hancock Mississauga, Ontario
 H. Hedges Burlington, Ontario
 D. Hinton Oshawa, Ontario

Kentville Research Station Nova Scotia
 Mrs. Kilburn Malone, New York
 K. Leishman Mississauga, Ontario
 McDonald College St. Anne de Bellevue, Que.
 A. Miller Merrickville, Ontario
 Montreal Botanical Garden
 E. Nilson Mississauga, Ontario
 Ottawa Research Station Ontario
 E. Purdy Oshawa, Ontario
 L. Schwartz Senneville, Quebec
 A. Smith Niagara Falls, Ontario
 G. Stap Burlington, Ontario
 Mrs. Stevens Lake Placid, New York
 K. Toye Burlington, Ontario

TROPHIES

John E. Brent Award Best in Show
'Gibraltar' Montreal Botanical Garden

E. Frank Palmer Award Best Canadian Hybrid
(Goldsworth Yellow x Catalpa) x *R. yakusimanum* Kentville Research Station

Best Species Award
R. yakusimanum 'Mist Maiden' Kentville Research Station

Blanche E. Snell Award Best Rhododendron in Commerce
'Gibraltar' Montreal Botanical Garden

HOME GARDENER 5TH ANNIVERSARY SILVER SPOONS

Rudy Behring Laval, Quebec
Mary Cohoe Mississauga, Ontario
Ken Duncan Don Mills, Ontario
Lyll Fretz Vineland, Ontario
Hank Hedges Burlington, Ontario
Dave Hinton Oshawa, Ontario
Louis Schwartz Senneville, Quebec
Al Smith Niagara Falls, Ontario

PRESENTATIONS FOR HORTICULTURAL SOCIETIES

The Rhododendron Society of Canada has introduced a program of presentations available to horticultural societies, garden clubs and similar groups, designed to assist in the selection, cultivation and propagation of rhododendrons and azaleas. Each presentation will be planned to meet the particular needs of the audience, and may include coloured slides, sound movies, demonstrations and discussions.

If you would like to organize such a presentation for your local group, contact Fred Gallop, 1142 Algonquin Drive, Mississauga, Ontario L5H 1P4 (Telephone (416) 278-7361)

SLIDE LIBRARY

Treat yourself to some winter evening entertainment. The Slide Library now contains over 600 slides which may be borrowed by members. A copy of the master list from which to make a selection is available on request. Please note change of address. Write to R. Behring, 24 Rendale Avenue, St. Catherines, Ontario L2M 6G1.

**OUR FIFTH ANNIVERSARY
FALL MEETING OCTOBER 30, 1976**

L. Hancock Mississauga, Ontario

It was a gala occasion. With a wonderful feeling of freedom from responsibility I sat back and enjoyed the proceedings. Close by sat our First President, my long time friend Willem Brender à Brandis. I am sure Bill felt the same as I did, a sense of inner contentment that what we had assisted in starting five years before was blossoming into a sound growing organization for the promoting of beauty and friendship. Al Smith, our Research Consultant sat on my right, Director Rolf Shoen to my left. There was excellent member attendance, including some from long distances, E. Egelkraut from Midland, and Mr. and Mrs. H.P. Barber from Kingston. It was a great feeling to be surrounded by people of like mind.

President Dave Hinton in the chair announced that it was five years to the day since 33 people gathered in this same Royal Botanical Gardens Administration building to form the Rhododendron Society of Canada. He then invited Bill Brandis to read the minutes of the original organizational meeting and afterwards asked the Charter members present to stand and introduce themselves.

Ken Duncan, President of the Toronto Region reported on the plans underway for the 1977 Sixth Annual Meeting to be held on June 3/4/5 in the new floral hall at the Civic Garden Centre, Don Mills. At this point Dr. J.B. Brueckner, a prominent rhododendron breeder who has recently moved to Mississauga from St. John, New Brunswick, was introduced. He welcomed members to visit his home on Carmen Drive at the time of the Show and view his extensive collection of species and many of his own hybrids.

The main item of business was the report of Mary Cohoe's Nominating Committee. The slate was written on a large blackboard for all to see. One name was added from the floor, Trevor Cole of Ottawa. Mrs. Edith Kenzie regretfully declined. It was then moved and seconded that nominations be closed, so an election will not be needed. Elected by acclamation and taking office in June of 1977 will be K. Leishman, President; Captain R.M. Steele, Vice President; M. Van Alstyne, Editor; L. Hancock, Assistant Editor; F. Gallop, Public Relations; A.W. Smith, Research; Dr. H.G. Hedges, Secretary Treasurer; and as Directors for a three year term, T. Cole, Ottawa; A. Gracie, Mississauga; G. Stap, Burlington; and J. Van Gemeren, Montreal.

As the programme continued it was evident that our meeting convenors, Kathy Leishman and Dorothea Lovat Dickson had done an excellent organizing job. Dorothea gave an illustrated talk on how to create spatial beauty by combining the right selection of evergreens, both narrow and broad leaved, with deciduous woody plants. Special emphasis was placed on foliage texture, colour contrast and harmony, so that whether or not the plants are in flower, the garden remains attractive at all seasons. This was followed by Edith Kenzie, also a member of the Toronto Bonsai Society, giving a demonstration of plants suitable for Bonsai, in particular such plants of the rhododendron genus that lend themselves to the Bonsai Art. On behalf of Rudy Behring who was unable to be present, Marjorie Van Alstyne presented a series of coloured slides of beautiful rhododendrons of

the world, for visual entertainment and education, as few of them were suitable for the Canadian climate.

Then followed the Birthday celebration. Janeth Cooper brought to the front a large cake, complete with a beautiful pink icing rhodo truss and five lighted candles. Al Smith thought they should have me blow out the candles. I should have demurred to Bill Brandis who worked so hard as our First President, but I obliged by inhaling enough puff into my old chest to extinguish them. Co-hostesses Connie Gallop and Janeth Cooper provided excellent refreshments, chief of which was the delicious cake itself.

Graham Stap officiated as Treasurer of a Plant Sale which brought to a close a most entertaining Saturday afternoon.

CLINIC

A.W. Smith Research Consultant HRIO, Vineland, Ontario

This past season with the unusual amount of rainfall has proven without a doubt the necessity of perfect drainage for the growing of rhodos. There have been many cases of Rhododendron Wilt, even in planting sites that were raised beds and others on sloping terrain.

This disease is found in soils that are too heavy and become soggy due to poor drainage. The disease enters the root system and eventually plugs the tissues of the plant. Scraping away the bark at ground level will disclose a brownish staining of the sap wood. In time the entire stem will be encircled and it will kill the plant.

Infected plants should be removed and discarded. The infected area should be drenched with a fungicide such as Maneb*. The growing area should be improved with the addition of sand and peat.

I would like to stress the importance of planting container grown rhodos properly. So many people get their rhodos off to a poor start because they are afraid to disturb the root system. It would be a great help if the nurseryman handling container rhodos would instruct his personnel to emphasize the importance of breaking up the root ball so the roots will come in direct contact with their new planting area. Several times this season I have pulled up plants at various gardens which showed that the root system had never penetrated from the root ball but had retained the shape of the container. In most cases a sick looking plant will indicate poor planting.

*** NOTE** Apply Maneb 80% at 5 level tablespoons per 100 square feet in sufficient water to drench the soil 15 inches deep. A watering can is very suitable. Maneb 80% fungicide is available under the Wilson name. (Plant Protection - W.J.B.)

ARTIFICIAL vs. NATURAL PLANT PRODUCTION

Leslie Hancock Mississauga, Ontario

At the Spring RSC Plant Auction held in the Administration Building of RBG Hamilton, the audience was treated to an address on Hydroponics while waiting for the auction to begin.

Briefly, hydroponics is the "science" of producing plants in water with the aid of fertilizer (plant foods) in solution. No soil is used. Rhododendron fans, being mostly nature loving people, the talk largely fell on deaf ears.

Most people recognize the great benefits that have come to us as a result of modern biological science. We live longer and are able to apply the new knowledge not only in protecting the human species, but also in growing large numbers of healthy plants. No one recognizes this fact better than the commercial plantsman.

The mistake comes in thinking we can outdo nature and do equally well artificially what is normally accomplished by following natural law. Hydroponics is a perfect example of this. One must first build a watertight container, then use piped water, and thirdly go to the purveyor of soluble plant foods for our fertilizer ingredients. Even then it is only a crude substitute. The great values of plant vitamins built by animal droppings and beneficial micro-organisms, plus the symbiotic relationship of other companion plants can never be put into the water tank. Even if these little understood factors could be added, what would be gained?

The genus *Rhododendron* has taught its devotees a great lesson. If plants can think and feel as some people say they can, we have certainly got the message. The individual rhododendron says "I will not be pushed around. If I am to grow to my rightful size and beauty you must provide me with precisely the site and soil requirements I need. You can put me in a greenhouse and force me to produce one crop of my beautiful flowers, but after that I am only fit for the garbage can. You can stuff me in a pot and feed me liquid food till my attenuated roots encircle the pot, after which it will require an heroic operation before I can be transplanted to my rightful place in the good earth."

The analogy could be carried even further. We can install people on the umpteenth floor of a high-rise building, separated from any contact with nature. We can feed them with factory processed foods and surround their lives with mechanized activities, but should we be surprised if vandalism, violence and all sorts of abnormal human behavior are the result? Enough said!

SEED EXCHANGE

If you have not yet sent seed to share with other members please do so as soon as possible. Send cleaned and packaged seed, well marked, to R.E. Halward, PO Box 399, Station A, Hamilton, Ontario L8N 3H8.

LEPIDOTE RHODODENDRONS IN EASTERN CANADA

J. Brueckner Mississauga, Ontario

When I first saw, some forty years ago, a bunch of *Rhododendron ferrugineum* on a dining room table of a hotel in the European Alps, I had no idea that this charming flower is a rhododendron. Its name Alpenrose — Rose of the Alps — readily revealed by the waitress was not very helpful at the moment and was rather confusing to my scant knowledge of botany. The flower I saw was definitely not a rose. However, this incident aroused my curiosity which led to further inquiries and searching.

At that time, even more than today, people who knew something about rhododendrons had an image of the typical large leaved hybrids with pompous flowers in mind. When by chance confronted with a lepidote any reference to these plants being also rhododendrons was taken with disbelief or at least with some headshaking. And this is not really surprising, since members of the lepidote group look so very different from those of the more uniform group of elepidotes.

Probably anybody who is attempting to write a contribution on lepidote rhododendrons is tempted to go into a lengthy description of their virtues. I am no exception, but will try to confine my remarks chiefly to the practical aspects of Canadian or cold climate gardening. In general, as it is well known to most of us, the lepidote group of rhododendrons is a group larger than that of the elepidotes in at least two respects; it contains a greater number of species and extent of geographical distribution, reaching far to the North (important for Canada) with a number of arctic species represented, and far into the tropics, even beyond the Equator into the southern hemisphere. There are also far greater variations, from species to species, within this group with regard to general appearance of plants, size and shape of leaves, as well as of flowers. These are exactly the aspects which make the scaly leaved species and their hybrids so fascinating and so valuable for our gardens.

There is hardly a landscape use in the garden to which the lepidotes could not be put with advantage, let it be the single plant placed as an accent, or their employment in numbers for carpeting, in shrub-borders or even hedges. They are equally suited for the humble or the sophisticated rock garden. They can be freely interplanted with (dwarf) conifers. With their variable leaf patterns, exotic appearance and masses of flowers they enliven and add a note of interest to a conifer plantation, which otherwise could be somewhat monotonous or even on the sombre side. In fact both parties can profit from an association, since the conifers can give protection or shelter to the more tender kinds of rhododendrons. As they blend much better with conifers than the large leaved elepidotes, very natural looking displays can be created, which are effectively protective when planting lepidotes on the leeward side of mugho pines or surrounding them with junipers or mugho pines which are kept in bounds by trimming.

Although dwarf lepidotes can tolerate more exposure than their large leaved brethren, it should be remembered that they still are rhododendrons and may require shelter, as well as suitable cultural conditions. There are substantial individual variations as to the amount of sunshine a lepidote can take, which is further compounded by the location and climate of the garden; maritime or

continental, cool and moist or hot and dry in the summer, and so forth. Since no absolutely valid rules can be established it is advisable for the beginner and even for the advanced to stay on the safe side and set the plants in a location where they get some shade during the hottest hours of the day or where they receive 'dappled sunshine'. There may be somewhat less flowers, but very likely healthier looking plants.

Personally I am convinced that the lepidote rhododendrons have a great future. They match very well the thinking and preference of modern men with their interesting and varied growth patterns, with their striking flower displays (let us not forget the Malesians) and their adaptabilities. They are equally at home in a small or in a large garden or for that matter in a container. They have a greater tolerance to exposure than the elepidote rhododendrons and very likely there are more species and there are more hybrids, or hybrids that will be made, which will tolerate the Canadian climate.

One may conclude on reading the foregoing appraisal that I have neglected the culture of the large leaved rhododendrons in my garden in favour of the lepidotes. Nothing could be further from the truth. I have an extensive collection of elepidotes and did a good deal of experimentation with these, however, the small leaved, scaly rhododendrons are in the foreground of my interest. During years I have acquired a good number of different rhododendrons, most of which were and are kept in containers. Those which were set out were carefully observed for their performance in a cold climate. In this paper I am trying to present my experiences with the lepidotes in Eastern Canada. However, in this regard, I feel it is essential to supply some data on the climate, location and ground conditions of my garden.

My observations were almost exclusively confined to the Saint John area of New Brunswick, though I have a few preliminary data or indications already with regard to my present place of residence south-west of Toronto, about a mile from Lake Ontario. Saint John, as well as my trial grounds, were within Zone 5/b (Canadian Plant Hardiness Zone Map). My garden was about ten miles from the Bay of Fundy, well within the fog belt.

On a steep slope, with an exposure to the southwest, the ground was very rocky, granite, with small to extensive and even deep pockets of gravelly soil, rich in humus. The Ph was around 4.5. In spite of this I added much peatmoss to the earth and also some dolomitic limestone powder. As a rule sheltered and favourable locations were chosen for placing rhododendrons, however, most of the plants under observation were planted in the same sheltered area in order to obtain comparable results.

The observations extended from 1969 to 1976 as a rule, some plants being under observation for a longer period of time, other for a somewhat shorter period. Minimum temperatures for the seven winters ranged from -22.5°C (-9°F) to -32°C (-27°F) with a mean value of -28.2°C (-18.7°F). In some winters there was heavy snow cover on the ground with much of the snow turning into ice, causing substantial damage by breakage. In others there was little or no snow at all on

the ground for long periods of time. In more than one winter the ground was bare for most of January, the coldest month. The summers were cool, moist and foggy, especially July.

Whenever reference is made in the text to winter protection it should be understood that light protection means an exceptionally sheltered spot or the application of lath screens; heavy protection means several layers of fir bows or branches over the plants.

The area where my garden is located here in Ontario has a rating of Zone 6/b. Apart from mulching the plants have not received any winter protection.

Rhododendrons of the Ferrugineum Series always fascinated me so I might as well take them first in relating the results of my observations. I have seen *R. ferrugineum* at variable altitudes in the European Alps. Most are found between 1,500 and 2,000 m on mountainsides, on steep rocky slopes, over and between rock rubble, on stony alpine meadows (moorlands) and along high pastures in full exposure. However, I have also seen plants and well established colonies under trees, in forests in fairly dense shade. Whether exposed or not, the ground was always moist and contained plenty of humus. I cannot neglect to emphasize the role and significance of rocks, good drainage, moist humus and dense, matted alpine vegetation, which, in my opinion, assure a cool rootrun, essential for the survival of the plant. It can get mighty hot in July on a sunny day on a southern mountain slope in the Alps. The illustration on the front cover is a photo of such a rocky slope in the southern Alps with the most beautiful colony of *R. ferrugineum* I have ever seen in full bloom.

I have grown all three rhododendrons in this series, *RR. ferrugineum*, *hirsutum* and *kotschyi*, but have only limited observations with *R. kotschyi*. This rhododendron hails chiefly from the colder Carpathian Mountains of Central Europe and might even be hardier than the former two, something worthwhile for Canadians to remember and further explore and exploit. In our climate in New Brunswick, not far from the shores of the Bay of Fundy, I had no problems in growing these rhododendrons in full sun. They were thriving and were perfectly hardy. However, when going more inland to warmer and drier climates in the summer, I would give these plants more shade and would even recommend in locations with hot summers a modified scree or moraine culture which would assure moist conditions with good drainage. It is obvious that the growing medium should contain much humus, peatmoss, as well as gravel and rocks and should have a Ph around 5 or somewhat less. For this reason the gravel and especially the sand, if used, should be of igneous (volcanic or non-sedimentary) origin, devoid of (calcium) carbonates. Although, it is stated that *R. hirsutum* is lime tolerant, all do best in a growing medium of acid reaction.

All three rhododendrons are lovely shrubs of low stature, *R. ferrugineum* being the tallest, not over 1 m, and *R. kotschyi* the dwarfest. They are slow growing with crimson, or rosy or pink colored flowers. There is a double flowered form of *R. hirsutum* available which is especially attractive. All three are charming, natural looking plants and it really pays to take a little effort for success in cultivation.

R. ferrugineum — See below. Photo: J. B. Brueckner



The color illustration represents a rhododendron, essentially with the characteristics of *R. ferrugineum*, with most of its flowers spent when the picture was taken. It was sold to me a number of years ago as a small 3" plant under the name of *R. kotschyi*, which it definitely is not. It could be an unusual clone of *R. ferrugineum* or a hybrid of *R. ferrugineum* with possibly *R. kotschyi*. It is a slow growing, dense and compact plant, hardy, with attractive crimson flowers.

The study and observation of plants, the trials and experiments bring many surprises, pleasant ones and sometimes disappointing ones. I had a very pleasant surprise, in finding that some hybrids of members of the Anthopogon Series, contrary to widely held opinions, were hardy in my trials. I am referring here to 'Maricee' by James Caperci, a hybrid or an unusual clone and 'Sarled' by Collingwood Ingram, a hybrid, both of *R. sargentianum*. They were hardy with light protection and even without winter protection during the whole length of my trials. I am very glad that I can make known these observations, since the above rhododendrons are exceedingly attractive plants of low stature, dense growth, lovely daphne-like flowers, an interesting peeling and mottled bark on older specimens and a general charm which is hard to describe.

I have another hybrid also of *R. sargentianum*, with *R. kotschyi*, which might be even better and hardier than the two previous ones. However, my trials of only two years duration with this plant do not yet permit me to reach a final conclusion.

R. ferrugineum — See below. Photo: J. B. Brueckner



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Only *R.* 'Maricee' has an American rating of hardy to 0°F, but not the two others. I have not yet subjected *R. sargentianum* itself to trials, which I am planning to do. Unfortunately, other members of the series, *RR. anthopogon*, *cephalantum* var. *crebreflorum* and *trichostomum* var. *ledoides* were not satisfactorily hardy. This is surprising, since the last of the three plants is a parent of one of the hybrids.

Other plants with a similar rating, hardy to 0°F (-18°C), gave less favourable results. Thus, *RR. campylogynum* (several varieties), *charitopes*, *cremastum*, *lepidotum*, *leucaspis*, *lutescens*, *pemakoense* and *uniflorum* were either winterkilled or not satisfactorily hardy. *R. rupicola* survived the winters with heavy protection and one winter here in southern Ontario without protection and without any damage. *R. patalum* a close relative of *R. pemakoense*, survived the winters with heavy protection and even flowered, whereas *R. pemakoense* was winterkilled, even with good protection.

Of hybrids in the same class *R.* 'Rose Elf' was hopelessly tender and was heavily damaged during the last winter in southern Ontario.

None of the plants with a rating of hardy to -5°F, which I have tested in New Brunswick, proved very hardy. These include *RR. ambiguum*, *brachyanthum* var. *hypolepidotum*, *calostrotum*, *keiskei* (the dwarf form), *racemosum* (several forms), *radicans* (several forms), *trichantum* and *trichostomum*. I had plants of *RR. glomerulatum* and *microleucum* outside for one winter in southern Ontario and they suffered no damage. I feel that *R. glomerulatum* might be quite a hardy plant and I regret that I had not tested this plant in the more severe winters of New Brunswick.

The situation substantially improves when we proceed to plants with a hardiness rating of -10°F (-23°C). *RR. fastigiatum*, *hippophaeoides* and *impeditum*, once established, were perfectly hardy. It is well known that young plants are more tender than old ones and this is even more true for the dwarf lapponicums and plants with a similar stature and habit. Young plants in this class may very well need some protection, but as they grow older they, so to speak, protect themselves by their twiggy, matted and intertwined growth habit. This might also be a reason why older plants are less likely to suffer from bark splitting.

The above three lapponicums are very attractive plants in their better forms and, especially *R. impeditum*, excellent for carpeting and in rock gardens. I grew them in full exposure which produced dense and compact plants for best display.

Other lapponicums, without an American hardiness rating, which grew well in my grounds are *RR. lysolepis* and *tapetiforme*. Both are hardy plants, though *R. lysolepis* might be a bit on the tender side. *R. capitatum* is a peculiar not very attractive looking plant, which endured but did not seem to be happy. I almost have the impression that our climate was not harsh enough for its liking.

Unfortunately, several other rhododendrons with a rating of hardy to -10°F did not fare as well. Thus, the yellow flowered *R. chryseum* and the violet flowered

R. russatum (the *cantabile* form) were not hardy, but here in southern Ontario *R. russatum* did well for one winter. Neither were *RR. glaucophyllum* and *tsangpoense* hardy. The reputation of *R. keleticum*, of being a very hardy plant, could not be proven out in New Brunswick. If anything, one of its close relatives, *R. chameunum*, seemed to have a greater cold tolerance. 'Bluette' is a beautiful rhododendron, but it is not hardy for the climate of New Brunswick and was damaged during the winter here in Ontario. On the other hand, *R. 'Sapphire'*, rated to be hardy only to 0°F, was doing quite well in New Brunswick and I would expect it, from the experience of one winter, to be perfectly hardy in southern Ontario. It is a nice, one foot high bush, however, its flowers are inferior to the high quality flowers of *R. 'Bluette'*.

We might as well lump together the few rhododendrons which are rated to be hardy to -15 and -20°F. *R. 'Wilsonii'* was perfectly hardy without and *R. 'Cutie'* with good winter protection. *R. 'Cutie'* was hardy here in southern Ontario for one winter without protection. *R. 'Pioneer'* survived without protection and flowered sparsely, but it was not a happy plant. *R. 'Conemaugh'* was damaged, even with heavy protection. *R. 'Dora Amateis'* did not do well at all when planted outside and had to be kept in containers. One gathers the impression from the literature that *R. micranthum* is a very hardy plant. In my grounds it was gradually winterkilled, in spite of heavy protection, and never flowered.

There are a number of plants, some of them quite recent hybrids, which have no hardiness ratings. For example a species, *R. pumilum* was not hardy. On the other hand it was an unexpected surprise to find that *R. 'Pink Drift'* is a very hardy plant. I can recommend it as a low and dense, floriferous rhododendron, excellent for carpeting. However, its flower color is a debatable 'pink'.

An outstanding new hybrid of Dietrich Hobbie's, with large rose lavender flowers, *R. 'Lavendula'*, was quite hardy in a sheltered spot with little winter protection and several specimens without any winter protection did not suffer any damage last winter here in Ontario.

It is really a misfortune that the so very desirable and charming yellow hybrid *R. 'Chikor'* of Peter Cox was not hardy and might not even be sufficiently hardy in Ontario. Another of his hybrids, *R. 'Ptarmigan'*, was able to endure with heavy protection the rigors of the winters in south eastern New Brunswick.

These are the lepidote rhododendrons on which I have sufficient observations to give, or I am almost tempted to say, to hazard an opinion. This opinion, the result of my observations, of course should not be taken as infallible. There are so many variables involved in such studies, from variations in climate and especially microclimate, through requirements and fulfilment of growing conditions, to variations in characteristics of different clones and even individual plants, that it is impossible to make a rigid categorization. All I can say is, that my observations may serve as a guide and encouragement to others interested in cultivating a variety of rhododendrons not widely grown as yet in eastern Canada. There shall be a reasonably good chance of success with kinds I have found suitable for areas in Zone 5/b or milder.

Finally, this paper cannot form any claims of being comprehensive in any respect. It gives a random selection where there is a tremendous number of plants. Many more of these were never investigated, although some could likely succeed in a cold climate. Neither were such famous and hardy rhododendrons mentioned as *R. carolinianum* and two of its very satisfactory hybrids, 'Ramapo' and 'P.J.M.', well known to all of us. Not even is there any reference made to the unquestionably hardy *Rhododendrons* of *dauricum* and *lapponicum* with which I have spent much time. Perhaps these and their hybrids, as well as others still to be tested, could form the subject of another communication at a later time.

PLANT PROTECTION NOTES

W.J. Brender & Brandis

Earlier this year Agriculture Canada had announced that the insecticide chlordane would be classified as a "Restricted" pesticide by January 1st, 1977. This was based on the possible harmful effect on beneficial soil organisms and residues in vegetables. Restricted pesticides are not available to home gardeners who may only purchase "Domestic" products. Agriculture Canada has now postponed their restrictions until January 1st, 1978.

Some of our members found it difficult to obtain the insecticide endosulfan which has been sold only as FMC (formerly Niagara) Tree and Shrub Spray. In 1977 Wilson Laboratories will also sell endosulfan as Wilson Borer-Kill with label recommendations for rhododendrons and azaleas.

Chlorane controls the Black Vine Weevil whereas endosulfan is effective against the Rhododendron Borer as well as the Black Vine Weevil. For details see R.S.C. Bulletins Vol. 1, No. 1, page 19 and Vol. 4, No. 2, pages 17-18.

Please keep in mind that insecticides should be used only when actual insect damage warrants their use, never as a kind of insurance against possible insect problems which may not develop at all. This concept differs from disease control for which fungicides have to be applied either preventative or when the first signs of disease are noticed.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

President

David Hinton
RR2
Orono, Ontario

(Slide Library)

R. Behring
24 Rendale
St. Catherines, Ontario L2M.6G1

CANADIAN SOURCES FOR AZALEAS AND RHODODENDRONS

Trevor Cole Ottawa, Ontario

Compiled from 1975 and 1976 catalogues on file at the Experimental Farm, Agriculture Canada. Number code follows list.

Azalea

Adonis	57, 66	Herbert	22, 91, 135
Adriaan Koster	25	Hexe	99
Amoena	57, 66	Hino Crimson	21, 25, 57, 66, 99
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Balzac	109, 135	Hi-No-Mayo	21
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Ben Nelson	120	Hotspur	57
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Cameo	91	Karen	22, 135
Caroline Gable	21	Kathleen	109
Cascade	22, 135	Klondyke	57, 73, 109, 119
Cecile	25, 79, 90, 109, 119,	"Knap Hill" mixed	21, 57, 66, 129, 130
	120	Knap Hill Orange	120
Christmas Cheer	25	Knap Hill Pink	120
Christopher Wren	25, 109	Knap Hill Red	120
Coccinea Speciosa	47, 57, 79, 109, 129	Koster's Brilliant Red	91, 129
Copper Cloud	109	"Kurume" mixed	130, 133
Coral Bells	14, 25, 57	Lemonora	57, 129
Corneille	109	Leonora	120
Corsage	57, 66	Little Beauty	21, 57
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Dr. Charles Baumann	109		66, 108, 113, 129,
Dr. Jacobi	25		130
Dr. M. Oosthoek	129	Mother's Day	21, 57
Dr. Richenbach	109	Nancy Waterer	109, 129
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Emmy	99	Noordtiana	21
Everest	66	Norma	109
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	132, 133	Oregon Queen	120
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Fireball	129	Pallas	57
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Flame	120	Persil	25, 57, 109, 120
Florida	21, 57, 66	Pink Delight	57
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George Reynolds	79	Princess Royal	120
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Gibraltar	57, 79, 90, 109, 119,		119
	120	Purple Triumph	66
Ginger	79	Queen Emma	57, 109, 129
Gog	120	Radiant	25, 109, 129
Gold Dust	120	Renne (Fireglow)	79
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Gumbo White	21, 57, 99		120
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<i>annae</i>	120
<i>artosquameum</i>	120
<i>augustinii</i>	120
<i>auriculatum</i>	120
<i>brachyanthum</i> var <i>hypolepidotum</i>	3
<i>bullatum</i>	120
<i>bureavii</i>	120
<i>calendulaceum</i>	109
<i>callimorphum</i>	120
<i>camtschaticum</i>	3
<i>canadense</i>	120
<i>carolinianum</i>	109, 120
<i>catawbiense</i>	111
<i>concatenans</i>	120
<i>dauricum</i>	109, 120
<i>decorum</i>	120
<i>didymum</i>	3
<i>elliottii</i>	120
<i>fastigiatum</i>	3
<i>fortunei</i>	120
<i>glaucophyllum</i>	3
<i>haematodes</i>	120
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<i>insigne</i>	120
<i>kaempferi</i>	109
<i>keleticum</i>	21, 120
<i>lepidostylum</i>	120
<i>luteum</i>	120
<i>macrantha</i> see <i>R. indicum</i>	
<i>maximum</i>	91
<i>mucronulatum</i>	14, 90, 91, 109, 135
<i>myrtilloium</i>	21
<i>myrtilloides</i>	3
<i>obtusum</i>	66
<i>occidentale</i>	109
<i>oreotrepheis</i>	120
<i>pemakoense</i>	3, 120
<i>ponticum</i>	57
<i>poukhanense</i>	109
<i>prostratum</i>	3
Forest No. 30891	3
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<i>radicans</i>	3
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<i>serpyllifolium</i>	3
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Anna Rose Whitney	21, 25, 57, 66, 79, 120
Annie Dalton	120
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Augfast	120
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Baden Baden	21, 57, 120
Bagshot Ruby	120
Beau Brummell	120
Beauty of Littleworth	120
Belle Heller	79, 120
Berryrose	120
Besse Howells	120
Betty Arrington	120
Betty Wormald	57, 66
Biskra	120
Blood Ruby	120
Blue & Gold	21
Bluebird	120
Blue Diamond	21, 25, 57, 120
Blue Ensign	66
Blue Jay	21, 120

Blue Peter	21, 57, 66, 79, 120, 127	Countess of Derby	120
Blue Tit	21, 25, 57, 66, 120	County of York	120
Bobolink	120	Cowslip	120
Boddaertianum	120	C.P. Raffil	120
Bonfire	21, 120	Cream Crest	21, 120
Bonito	120	Creeping Jenny	3, 120
Bo Peep	21, 120	Cremerne	120
Bosutch	120	Crest	120
Boule de Neige	21, 109	Crimson Glory	120
Bow Belis	25, 57, 120, 133	Cunningham Sulphur	120
Bric-A-Brac	120	Cunningham's White	21, 57, 109, 120
Brilliant	120	Cutie	21, 120
Britannia	120	Cynthia	21, 25, 57, 66, 120
Brocade	120	Damozel	120
Buchanan Simpson	120	Daphne Jewiss	120
Bud Flanagan	120	David	25, 120
Burgundy	120	Dawn's Delight	120
Burma Road	120	Day Dream (Biscuit Form)	120
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Captain Kid	120	Dexter's Giant Red	120
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Carita	57, 120	Diane Titcomb	120
Carita Charm	120	Dido	120
Carita Golden Dream	120	Direktor E. Hjeim	120
Carmen	3, 21, 57, 120	Doncaster	120
Caroline	109, 120	Dora Amateis	21, 109, 120
Caroline Grace	120	Dormouse	120
Cary Ann	21, 120	Doubloons	120
Castle of Mey	120	Dragonfly	120
Catawbiense Album	14, 21, 22, 57, 73, 91, 102, 109, 120, 135	Dr. H.C. Dresselhuys	109, 120
Catawbiense Boursault	14, 21, 22, 42, 91, 109, 119, 120, 135	Dr. S. Endtz	21
Catawbiense Grandiflorum	14, 42, 90, 91, 109, 120	Dr. Stocker	120
Cavalier	21, 120	Dr. V.H. Rutgers	109, 120
C.B. van Nes	120	Duchess of Edinburgh	120
Cetewayo	120	Earl of Athlone	120
Cheer	21, 79, 109, 120	Earl of Donoughmore	120
Chevalier Felix de Sauvage	120	Earl of Morley	120
Cheyenne	120	Edith	120
Chikor	120	Edith Mackworth	120
China	120	Edward Dunn	120
Chink	120	El Alamein	21, 120
Chionoides	90, 109, 119, 120, 127	Eldorado	120
Christmas Cheer	57, 66, 120	Elie	120
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Clementine Lemaire	79, 120	Emasculum	120
Clove	120	English Roseum	57, 73, 90, 102, 109, 119, 135
Conroy	120	Ermine	21, 57
Conyan	120	Esquire	120
Coral Reef	120	Ethel	120
Coral Velvet	120	Etta Burrows	120
Corona	120	Evening Glow	21, 57, 66, 120
Cosmopolitan	21, 57, 120	Everestianum	120
Cotton Candy	21, 57, 66, 120	Exburiense	120
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		Fabia Exbury Form	120
		Fabia James Form	120

Fabia Roman Pottery	120	Independence Day	120
Fabia Royston Form	120	Irene	21
Faggetter's Favourite	120	Jacksonii	120
Fancy Free	120	James McIntosh	120
Fastuosum fiorepleno	21, 66, 120	Jan Dekens	21, 57, 66, 120
Fayette	120	Jan Steen	120
F.C. Puddle	120	Jean Mary Montague	21, 25, 57, 60, 66, 79, 120
Fine Feathers	120	Jenny x bureauvii X Fabia	3
Firebird	120	J.H. van Nes	21, 66, 79
Fittra	120	Jingle Bells	21, 57, 120
Flora Plena Rosea	21	Jock	21, 57, 120
Fragrantissimum	120	John Coutts	120
Francis B. Hayes	120	John Walter	66
Fred Wynniatt-Joyful	120	Jolly Red Giant	109
Full Moon	120	Josephine	120
Furnival's Daughter	120	Juliet	120
Fusilier	120	Jutland	120
General Eisenhower	21, 57, 120, 133	Karkov	120
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General Sir John du Cane	120	Katherine Dalton	120
Gene's FaVourite	120	Kentucky Cardinal	120
George Fraser	120	Kimberley	120
George Watling	120	King of Shrubs	120
Gertrud Schale	120	King Tut	120
Gina	120	Kluis Sensation	21, 57, 66, 120
Gloriana	120	Kluis Triumph	120
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Gloxineum	120	Lady Annette de Trafford	120
Goldbug	120	Lady Berry	120
Golden Belle	120	Lady Bessborough	120
Golden Orfe	120	Lady Chamberlain	120
Goldfort	120	Lady Chamberlain Gleam	120
Gold Mohur	120	Lady Clementine Mitford	66, 120
Goldsworth Orange	120	Lady de Rothchild	120
Goldworth Yellow	120	Lady Primrose	120
Gomer Waterer	21, 57, 66, 120	Lady Roseberry	120
Graf Zeppelin	21, 66, 120	Lamplighter	21, 57, 120
Grenadine	120	Langley Park	21, 120
Grierosplendour	120	Last Chance	120
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Grosbeak	120	Leda	120
Grosclaude	120	Lee's Dark Purple	21, 22, 52, 120, 135
Gypsy King	120	Lee's Scarlet	120
Harvest Moon	120	Lenape	120
Hawk Beauhieu	120	Leo	120
Hawk Exbury	120	Leona	120
Hecla	120	Leonora	120
Helene Schiffner	120	Letty Edwards	120
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Hobbie No. 3	120	Little Ben	120
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Humming Bird	21, 57, 120	Louis Amateis	120
Hurricane	79, 120	Louis Pasteur	120
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Idealist	120	Lucy Lou	120
Ignatius Sargent	21, 120	Luscombei	120
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Lydia	120	Odee Wright	120
Madam Carvalho	57	Old Copper	21, 120
Madam de Bruin	21, 57, 120	Old Port	120
Mme. Guillemot	66, 79	Olive	120
Madam Masson	21, 79, 120	Olympia Lady	3, 120
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Margaret Bean	120	Parson's Grandiflorum	73
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Mariloo-Eugenie	120	Peek-a-Boo	120
Marinus Koster	21, 120	Persephone	120
Mary D. Black	120	Peter Koster	120
Mary Fleming	109	Pilgrim	120
Mary Greig	120	Pink Cameo	120
Matador	21, 120	Pink Drift	120
Maureen	120	Pink Pearl	21, 25, 57, 66, 120
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Melrose	120	Polar Bear	120
Miss Jack	120	Ponticum Roseum (syn. Maximum Roseum)	90
Molly Ann	120	Popacetapetl	120
Moerheim Beauty	21, 57	Praecox	57, 109, 120
Moonstone	25, 66, 120	Prelude	120
Moonstone Royston Form	120	President Lincoln	120
Moonstone Pink Form	120	President Roosevelt	21, 120
Moser's Maroon	120	Princess Alice	120
Mother of Pearl	120	Princess Camille de Rohan	120
Mrs. A.T. De La Mare	66, 120	Princess Juliana	✓ 120
Mrs. Betty Robertson	21, 25, 57, 79, 120	Professor F. Bettex	120
Mrs. C.E. Pearson	21, 66, 120	Prostigiatum	120
Mrs. C.S. Sargent (as Sargent)	102	Psyche	120
Mrs. Davies Evans	120	Ptarmigan	120
Mrs. Donald Graham	120	Puget Sound	120
Mrs. E.C. Stirling	21, 66, 120	Purple Emperor	120
Mrs. Furnival	120	Purple Lace	21, 120
Mrs. G.W. Leak	21, 79, 120	Purple Splendour	21, 57, 66, 79, 120
Mrs. Horace Fogg	120	Purpureum Elegans	73, 109
Mrs. J.G. Millais	120	Pygmalion	120
Mrs. Leopold de Rothschild	120	Pygmy	120
Mrs. Lindsay Smith	120	Pyrex	120
Mrs. Mary Ashley	120	Quaver	120
Mrs. Paul B. Smith	120	Queen Mary	120
Mrs. P.D. Williams	120	Queen of Hearts	120
Mrs. Robert W. Wallace	120	Radium	120
Mrs. Sassoon	120	Rainbow	21, 120
Mrs. T.H. Lowinsky	120	Ramapo	21, 109
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Naomi Early Dawn	120	Redhead	120
Naomi Exbury	120	Red Star	120
Naomi Nautilus	120	Red Velvet	120
Naomi Pixie	120	Renaissance	120
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Netty Koster	120	Reve Rose	120
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Robert Allison	120	Stella Waterer	120
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Robin Hood	120	Sugar Plum	120
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Rodeo	120	Susan	120
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Rubinia	120	Tony	120
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Scintillation	21, 120	Van Nes Sensation	66
Seattle Springtime	120	Veronica Milner	120
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Spring Glory	120	Yunncinn	120
Spring Parade	120	Zelia Plumecoco	120
		Zinderze	21, 120

NURSERIES

- 3 Alpenglow Gardens, 13328 King George Hwy., N. Surrey, B.C.
 (14) Braun's Nursery, P.O. Box 129, Mount Hope, Ontario
 (21) Les Clay & Son Ltd., 3666 24th St. Langley, B.C.
 (22) John Connon Nurseries Ltd., Box 200, Waterdown, Ontario
 25 David Hunter Garden Shops, 3030 Kingsway, Vancouver, B.C.
 36 Gaze Seed Co., Box 640, St. John's, Newfoundland
 42 Hasselman Nurseries Ltd., Sherkston, Ontario

- 47 Humber Nurseries Ltd., R.R. 1, Woodbridge, Ontario
 (57) Massot Nurseries, 1606 Westminster Hwy., Richmond, B.C.
 58 McConnell Nursery Co., Port Burwell, Ontario
 (66) E.J. Murray & Son, 7376 Blenheim St., Vancouver, B.C.
 73 Pinehaven Nurseries Ltd., 475 Queensway West, Mississauga, Ont.
 (79) Reimers Nurseries, 4586 Dyke Rd., Yarrow, B.C.
 90 Sheridan Nurseries Ltd., 700 Evans Ave., Etobicoke, Ontario
 91 Soltz Garden Centre, 3850 Kingston Rd., Scarborough, Ontario
 98 Tulip Gardens, R.R. 3, Ingersoll, Ontario
 (99) Van Vloten Nurseries, 11765 — 176th Street, Pitt Meadow, B.C.
 102 Weall & Cullen Nurseries Ltd., 784 Sheppard Ave. E., Willowdale, Ont.
 108 Windover Nurseries, R.R. 4, Petrolia, Ontario
 109 Woodland Nurseries, 2151 Camilla Rd., Mississauga, Ont.
 111 Douglas Valley Nurseries Ltd., 12 Sherwood Dr., St. John, N.B.
 113 Paloranta Nursery, Lakeshore Rd., R.R. 4, Salmon Arm, B.C.
 115 Oriental Nurseries, Hwy. 6, Mount Hope, Ontario
 118 De Groot's Nurseries Ltd., 889 Exmouth Street, Sarnia, Ont.
 119 Mulligan Bros. Ltd., Waverley, Halifax Co. N.S.
 120 Silver Creek Gardens, 32224 Dewdney Trunk Rd., R.R. 2, Mission, B.C.
 (127) Thames Nursery Distributing Co., P.O. Box 10, Mitchell, Ontario
 (129) Cannor Nurseries, 48292 Chilliwack Central Rd., R.R. 1, Chilliwack, B.C.
 (130) Corbetts Nurseries Ltd., Box 430, 2396 — 272nd St., Aldergrove, B.C.
 (132) Allied Nurseries, 2695 Front Rd., Windsor, B.C.
 (133) Homestead Nurseries Ltd., Wright Rd., Clayburn, B.C.
 135 Little Tree Farm, 460 Springbank Drive, London, Ontario

Numbers in brackets denotes wholesale only

REGIONAL NOTES

Kentville, Nova Scotia July 23, 1976 Press Release from Agriculture Canada

Agriculture Canada's rhododendrons have winning ways. An unnamed seedling with flesh-pink blooms, a product of the rhododendron breeding program at the research station here, was named the best Canadian-bred plant at the Canadian Rhododendron Society's recent annual show in Montreal. Station entries also captured 17 other ribbons.

The blooms were taken to Montreal in a van by Donald Craig, scientist in charge of the breeding program. "Getting them there was a challenge," Dr. Craig says. "We kept the branches in a solution of one half ginger ale and one half water. The ginger ale provided sugar and carbon dioxide to keep the flowers fresh. I kept my fingers crossed and used a spray bottle to moisten the blooms all the way to Montreal."

The first rhododendron hybrids at the Kentville station were planted in 1919. About 1,000 seedlings a year are now produced in the breeding program begun in 1958.

"Our objectives are to develop new, compact, hardy plants — older rhododendrons, intended for estates, are too big for modern gardens — and to test species and varieties collected from other sources for suitability in Canada. We now have a long list of hybrids and species adapted to the Canadian climate."

Rhododendrons are ideally suited to the acidic soils of coastal gardens and may be grown in the milder inland areas if proper attention is paid to preparing the planting site, Dr. Craig says.

Five Kentville-bred rhododendrons have been named — Evangeline, Bellefontaine, Gabriel, Acadia and Grand Pre. They are the first of “the Acadian line” — the name chosen for all rhododendrons developed at Kentville. Evangeline and Bellefontaine as well as six unnamed hybrids have been donated to the new rhododendron beds at Montreal Botanical Gardens and were planted there during the rhododendron show.

Ottawa, Ontario R.D. Robertson

We had a rough winter here, -31°F (-35°C) with 50 mph winds, and a lot of people lost a lot of things, particularly roses. Mr. Cole at “The Farm” was not too happy about their rhodos but I looked over their beds and thought things not *too* bad, particularly in comparison with my own few! ‘Nova Zembla’ I thought was completely dead after four years of just struggling through; however it is making at least an attempt to come back and I have pruned almost to the ground. ‘Catawbiense Boursault’, which has stood up so well for the same period of time, looked very bad with all its foliage dead, but it is making a strong comeback and I have pruned severely to produce a lower bush. It looks as if low bushes which can become snow *buried* may be our only hope in Ottawa. ‘America’ and ‘Catawbiense Album’ which I obtained last spring, being low and therefore snow covered before I added other protection did very well and bloomed profusely. Next year . . . ?

Kingston, Ontario J.R.B. Boocock

My intention is to try all of the varieties suggested for colder areas, even if it means crowding. I thought you might be interested in how last year’s plants and related ones did for me.

Following lows (measured on a calibrated max-min thermometer close to the house) of -17°F (-27°C) and -13°F (-25°C) in the previous two years, last winter we hit -26 or -27°F (-33°C). *Euonymus* “Emerald Gaiety” and “Emerald ‘n Gold” and *Hedera helix* “Baltica” were cut back to the ground, although *Hamamelis mollis* survived. ‘Parson’s Gloriosum’, close to but not against the house (north side) protected by burlap top and sides, died back to one branch but I think this plant was chlorotic (leaves light green and veined all season.) *R. schlippenbachi*, ‘P.J.M.’ survived and flowered. *Kalmia latifolia* survived as did ‘Coccinea Speciosa’ but this last lost its flower buds to the frost. All the above were protected top and sides with burlap.

The other rhododendrons were in a raised bed on the east side of the house with a 45° screen of burlap. Plants had 9” high wooden boxes around but not on top. There was straw around the boxes. On the coldest night I put “hot water bottles” in this bed. The wind could blow lengthwise through the bed — a mistake.

'Catawbiense Album' and 'Nova Zembla' succumbed while 'Catawbiense Boursault', 'Purpureum Elegans' and 'Roseum Elegans' survived with some leaf burn. Considering the temperature I was pleased at getting any survival and I will obtain replacements next year.

'Roseum Elegans' survived for a friend at Odessa which was colder than Kingston so this looks like a good variety.

TORONTO REGION Janeth Cooper

The Toronto Region of the Rhododendron Society of Canada has had another year of progress in our task of building the Edwards Gardens plantings into a special feature of the Gardens; and indirectly, becoming a group of friends able to carry out and enjoy joint projects.

Participation in the Toronto Garden Club Show started off our gardening year, and then our auction provided the funds for more plants for our new beds in the Garden. The last minute change of date by someone did not start our auction off on a good note, but by the time the evening was over, a good time had most certainly been had by all who came to the meeting. Our two auctioneers, Michael Brown and Ross Dean were more than equal to the task and things went very smoothly. As well as generous donations from our members, we had plant material from the following nurseries —

Joseph's Flowers	White Rose Nurseries
Sheridan Nurseries	Woodhill Nurseries
Weall and Cullen	Woodland Nurseries

The Planting Committee has had several hectic sessions, as the beds were not always ready when the plants were; and the writer recalls one hot afternoon when it seemed that every Rhododendron in the garden was standing about on the lawn waiting to be replanted. Another session of planting some Azaleas in full bloom was barely completed when a family group from China gathered in front of the bed and began to take pictures with the colour of the new plants in the background as if they had been there for years. This year, several trees were purchased to be placed in those beds which are plagued by winter sun.

At an executive meeting in September, Mr. Hancock and Mrs. Van Alstyne toured the Gardens with us and expressed pleasure at the extent of the beds and the prospect of colour for next year. Next June the membership at large will have a tour of the Gardens and can see for themselves how things are going.

This year plants were donated to the Gardens by the following members —

A. P. Craig	Mrs. E. L. Kenzie
Mrs. J. Cooper	Mrs. J. Waxer
Mr. K. Duncan	Mrs. B. Wilkins
Mr. L. Hancock	

Mississauga, Ontario L. Hancock

This young and growing city, which already has a fair number of Society members, warmly welcomes to its ranks the persons of Dr. and Mrs. J. B. Brueckner. Dr. Brueckner was Director of Clinical Chemical Services for the Province of New Brunswick, and he and Mrs. Brueckner have come to southern Ontario for their retirement to be near their son Peter, who is also a medical doctor in Toronto.

In company with Captain (Dick) Steele, in 1971 I was privileged to visit Joe's home and garden in St. John, N.B. He had been doing considerable breeding with rhododendrons and I was amazed at his accomplishments. With great care he has now shipped his whole remarkable collection of species and hybrids to their new home on Carmen Drive, Port Credit, and with the help of his son Peter already has them well established in a good arrangement of flower beds.

Unfortunately, our gain is the Maritimes' loss. There is no question that Dr. Brueckner's influence will give a great stimulus to rhododendron breeding in Southern Ontario. His keen insight into the horticultural possibilities of the hardy species of the various lepidote series also will make his contribution unique. He already has a series of crosses and F1 hybrids of *Rhododendron lapponicum* and probably has given more attention to this species as a parent than any other breeder in the western world.

NIAGARA PENINSULA REGION Rolf Schoen (Compiled from Minutes)

Following a questionnaire sent out to rhododendron growers in the Niagara area, a meeting was held at HRIO on April 21, 1976. Thirty-five people present voted unanimously to apply for official Regional status in the RSC. The name selected was the Niagara Peninsula Region. Officers elected for the inaugural term were: Arthur Oslach, President; Lyall Fretz, Vice President; Rolf Schoen, Secretary-Treasurer.

A Truss Exhibit and Plant Auction was held at HRIO on May 23, with a tour of the Memorial Garden and the Woodlot at the height of the flowering season.

The second General Meeting, also at HRIO, was on October 6, with 20 members present. Three Directors for the Region were elected: Mrs. N. Neprily, R. Behring and T. Kamada. Plans were made for a Regional Newsletter in the spring.

Al Smith then showed slides and discussed plants available to members through bulk purchases. A large number of orders were placed. This venture to obtain new and untried varieties not readily available in the area, and at reasonable cost may prove to be a popular project.

Guest speaker was Rudy Behring who gave an illustrated talk on his visit to Germany in 1975. It might scare the small lot owner to see what enormous dimensions rhodos can evolve to under almost ideal growing conditions. One can only envy a man like Herr Hobbie, who grows rhodos with an ease and perfection that come close to "Goldenrod" culture in this country.

Rudy also talked about the possibilities of establishing a public rhododendron garden in his new home town of St. Catherines and has already located a suitable site on the east side of the Welland Canal in Port Weller. This was given the support of most members present.

To round out the evening, we watched the film "Mr. Hancock's Woods" which serves as a vision to all of us but will take many years for us to reach.

Owen Sound, Ontario

"Operation Rhodo" has recently been launched by the Owen Sound Horticultural Society. Mr. Jack Hinde, Public Relations Officer, conceived the project and has made arrangements for twelve volunteer members to test rhododendrons in their gardens. These members will each receive a young rhodo and literature on culture and will report on their progress. Mr. Hinde writes a gardening column in the Owen Sound Sun-Times so "Operation Rhodo" has been getting good publicity. RSC wishes them every success and looks to possible members for our Society in the future.

NEW MEMBERS

Arnold, Frank
1093 Algonquin Drive
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Avery, Mrs. Elizabeth
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42 Chemin Belvedere
Montreal, Quebec

Chouinard, Jean-Francois
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Montreal, Quebec H2A 2J8

Clark, Glenn
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Doner, Howard T.
RR2
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St. Bernard de Lacolle
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140 Derry Road East, RR6
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Members of the newly formed Niagara Peninsula Region enjoy a tour of the Woodlot at the Horticultural Research Institute, Vineland in May. Photo: R. Schoen



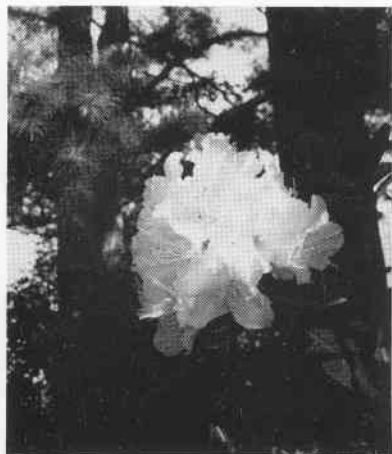
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