

GROWING TOGETHER



Cobourg Horticultural Society Newsletter

Winter Edition 2020



PHOTO: THE SECRET GARDEN

MOVIES FOR THE GARDENER

Well it's finally that time of year where I love nothing more than a good movie – the local Northumberland film festival, an old VHS from the cupboard or the anticipation of the glitz and glam of the Oscars awards.

It won't come as a surprise however that gardens have always played an important role in movies. Directors love them because they're visually compelling backdrops flooded with natural light, and writers love them for all the deep-rooted metaphors. The movies feature gardens that many would never have the opportunity to visit in real life – a private estate or a hidden location. So what a treat it is to experience gardens in film and especially this time of year when our gardens are taking a Winter's nap. Here are some film suggestions to keep you intrigued throughout the winter months. I have included links to the movie trailers where applicable, but check out the

Cobourg Library for a great selection, free of charge:

The Great Gatsby (2013): A cool and calm garden at night.

The Godfather (1972): An unforgettable garden scene with an orange.

It's Complicated (2009): Meryl Streep's lovely vegetable garden.

You've Got Mail (1998): Filmed in the 91st street Gardens of New York

The Secret Garden (1993): An obvious choice (and note a new version will be released in 2020)!

Our Winter newsletter shifts focus this season, away from the execution of how to garden, back to the planning mode and what we might look forward to in the colder months ahead and as we inch closer to Spring. Of course this month, your mailbox is likely to be filled with seed catalogues and our Winter speakers over the next period promise to inspire you to try something new. In the Newsletter, we also included many upcoming events in our area to make note in your calendar. We don't completely ignore Winter however: be sure to check out page 3 where we feature two *Globe and Mail* articles



Cobourg
Horticultural
Society

OUR UPCOMING MEETINGS & SPEAKER SERIES

Wed. February 5, 2020

Pamela Welbourn

Antique Gardens

.....

Wed. March 4, 2020

Peter Keeping

Clematis

.....

Wed. April 1, 2020

Dawn Golloher

New Perennials

All meetings held at the
Cobourg Columbus Centre,
Join us for coffee, treats & social
time before meetings
commence at 7:30pm

recommended by Jennifer Darrel on shipping container gardening in Canada's North and page 5, where we show you how to build your own cold frame for growing late winter greens, **Keep warm! MB**



Our 20th Annual Show!

Our show is once again partnering with Fleming College and will be hosting the 2020 show at the Fleming Trades and Technology Centre, Peterborough

Fleming College is located at 599 Brealey Dr. in Peterborough's south end.

Friday April 24th 2020

5pm to 9pm

Saturday April 25th 2020

10am to 5pm

Sunday April 26th 2020

10am to 4pm

"New" General Admission: \$10
Enjoy the show all weekend!

All three days include great speakers, demonstrations, 150 vendors, children's garden, garden displays and floral arrangements.

For more information, visit

<https://peterboroughgardenshow.com/>

or like us on Facebook!



A new local radio program:

In The Garden

Hosted by Ingrid Schumacher

MONDAYS at 12pm on 89.7fm

DID YOU MISS IT?

Cheryl Kydd and Dilys Robertson from the Cobourg Horticultural Society were interviewed on the radio program on December 16 2019

Listen to their interview online via podcast by clicking [HERE](#)



2020 Membership renewals are now due!

Purchase yours at our meetings

\$20/single or \$30/family

Makes a great gift for a friend too!

A container for growing rather than shipping – food for Canada's North

SOURCE: WRITTEN/PUBLISHED IN THE *GLOBE AND MAIL* ON APRIL 3, 2019

Ketchup for \$14, orange juice for \$29 and cauliflower for \$13.79 – the Facebook group *Feeding My Family* exchanges snapshots of food prices in Nunavut, which are up to three times as high as the national average. In Canada's remote northern communities, traditions have shifted from the consumption of locally sourced, hunted and harvested food to store-bought food, most of which is transported over long distances, resulting in high prices and a limited selection.

A Statistics Canada report estimates that more than one-third of households in Nunavut lack access to safe and healthy food – a level that is four times the national average. Statistics about food in Canada's North inspired Qiang Zhang, a professor in the Department of Biosystems Engineering at the University of Manitoba who has been thinking about greenhouse design for almost two decades, to find an answer. The shipping container can be used as a growth chamber or to house an energy-conversion system, which turns local biomass into energy. "We've got a solution," says Dr. Zhang. "We are developing a system that we can pack in a shipping container, ship it to the North, and the container becomes part of the greenhouse structure." With support from the Canada Foundation for Innovation, he set to develop a nearly complete prototype of a low-cost, energy-efficient and all-in-one greenhouse that functions in an extreme northern climate.

"[The greenhouse] will be heated with locally available biomass materials, such as solid waste or wood, which are processed into pellets," says Dr. Zhang. "And we will also use energy-efficient LED lights specially designed for growing greenhouse plants." The shipping container can be used as a growth chamber or to house an energy-conversion system, which turns local biomass into energy. Heating and powering the greenhouse is a unique, ultra-high-efficiency boiler-generator, powered by pellets. And each greenhouse could ship with its own biomass heating facility. Dr. Zhang hopes to partner with a northern Manitoba community of several hundred to test-drive the new system and grow the first crop. "Hopefully it will be suitable for application across the North," he says.

Sea-can gardens aim to ease Arctic food insecurity

SOURCE: *THE CANADIAN PRESS*; PUBLISHED IN THE *GLOBE AND MAIL* ON JAN 29, 2020

Betty Kogvik must have one of the most unusual jobs in all Nunavut. In a land of naked rock and treeless tundra, she's a gardener. "I never grew plants before in my life," she said from her home in Gjoa Haven, high above the Arctic Circle. "It's so relaxing."

Ms. Kogvik and her husband, Sammy, are helping run Naurvik, a project jointly funded by the federal government and the Arctic Research Foundation. Naurvik – Inuktitut for "growing place" – consists of two shipping containers outfitted to grow vegetables that proponents hope will help ease northern food costs. "The idea is to work with the community and train local technicians in the many different ways of growing plants in this system," foundation head Adrian Schimnowski said. It also addresses questions far beyond anything on Earth. One of the partners in the program is the Canadian Space Agency, which is using it to study how food can be grown in closed conditions and how people can best work together in those situations. "How can people work in a small, very tight environment and produce food and live and interact with each other?" Mr. Schimnowski asked. Naurvik, so far, is two windowless shipping containers outfitted with hydroponics and full-spectrum lights. Between a windmill and a solar array, it's about three-quarters powered by renewable electricity even during the Arctic night. Mr. Schimnowski said the power will be completely green once the days get longer.

Fresh food in the North is a long-running issue. With the exception of "country food" harvested from the land, everything has to be flown in. That makes it expensive and, often, old. Naurvik is a step toward addressing that. The program has already had two harvests of lettuce, which were delivered to local elders. "They were so happy and excited," Ms. Kogvik said. "They said things were so fresh. They really enjoyed them." A crop of cherry tomatoes is on the way in about two weeks, she added. It's a small start, Mr. Schimnowski said. But shipping containers are widely available across the North. Naurvik uses a large amount of scavenged local material. Once the program is running smoothly, it could easily be scaled up and instituted elsewhere. It could make a real contribution to food security, Mr. Schimnowski said. Elders are also being consulted about what kinds of foods should be grown. Blueberries and cloudberries, both traditional crops, are front-runners. So are plants used for traditional teas and medicines. Mr. Schimnowski said the Gjoa Haven project should be fully operational by 2025. Four people in Gjoa Haven are now tending it. Mr. Schimnowski said the project is an example of northern research that addresses community needs and involves local people both in designing and running it.

Do you know a local student who will be pursuing post-secondary studies in Horticulture or Environmental Studies in 2020?



Cobourg Horticultural Society Scholarship

Our most rewarding annual event is choosing a recipient for the **\$1,000** Cobourg Horticultural Society Scholarship to a deserving local high school graduate with exemplary marks who wishes to pursue post-secondary education in a field related to horticulture or the environment.

Applicants should download the following documents:

[Scholarship Requirements](#)

[Horticultural Scholarship-Application](#)



Ecology Events at Villa St Joseph Ecology and Spirituality Centre

445 Monk Street - Cobourg

Saturday March 14, 2020 10am to 2pm

Cobourg Seedy Saturday – Seed Exchange

Admission is free and everyone can take home seeds even if you don't bring any to exchange. We do hope that many of you have saved seeds of your favorites that you can share with others! There will be some vendors selling their seeds and produce. We hope to see you there! More information to come
Contact: **David** at wintertime23@hotmail.com

Thursday, April 23, 2020 6:30 to 8pm

Workshop: “Seed, Soil and Soul”

Have you experienced sacred moments in the garden? If this is a deeper connection you would like to nurture, you are invited to attend this workshop on organic gardening. Here you will be introduced to the basic skills and rhythms of organic culture, learning to work with nature to grow healthy vegetables and fruit. This is an opportunity to get your hands into the wonders of the soil which sustains us and to touch the blessings of all creation. Cost: By Donation.

AN EASY TO BUILD COLD FRAME FOR WINTER GARDENING

This plan doesn't require a lot of tools, a contractor's license, or 500 trips to the hardware store!

Source: Rob Wotzak, *Fine Gardening Magazine* - Issue 136

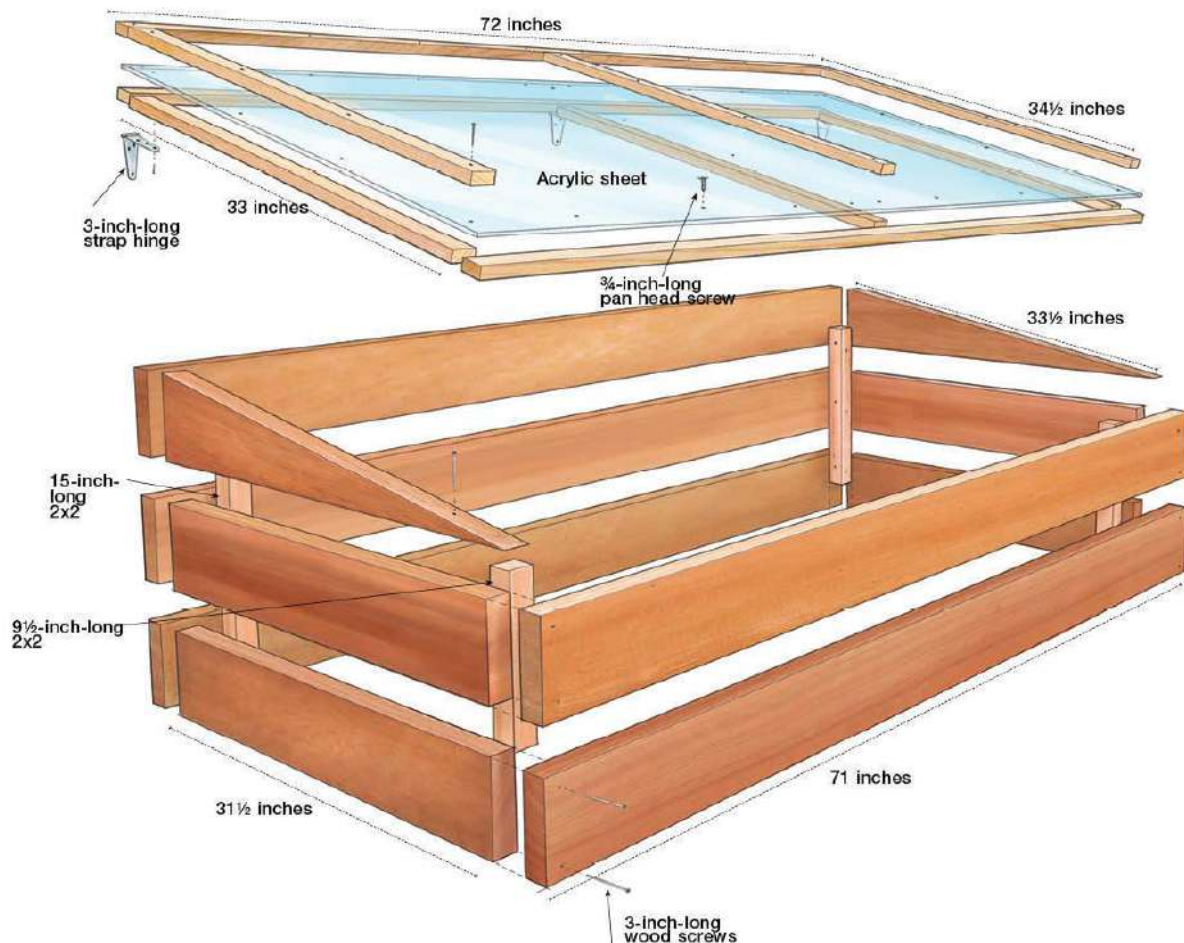
Cold frames are little solar greenhouses that provide a favorable environment for hardening off seedlings, growing cool-weather crops, and protecting tender perennials. They don't require outside energy; they, instead, collect and retain warmth when the sun's rays penetrate the clear-plastic, glass, or fiberglass sash. The walls of the frame are most often constructed out of wood, but it's not unusual to use concrete, stone, or even straw bales. There is no standard-size cold frame, so its dimensions will depend on the amount of your available space, how you plan to use the cold frame, and the size of your sash material; 3 to 4 feet is a convenient space to reach across.

I used a 72-inch-long and 36-inch-wide sheet of acrylic for my sash and clear 2x6 cedar for the structure. The cost of cedar is justified by aesthetics; plus, the wood is rot resistant, lightweight, and easy to work with. I attached the 2x6s to 2x2s in the corners, and the sash frame is made out of 1x2s.

Because this simple design requires only a few different lengths of wood, you might want to ask the folks at the lumber yard to make all your cuts to size, which they will often do for free or for a small fee. The only tricky cut to make—and the only one they won't make for you at the lumber yard—is the one to create the triangle-shaped side boards, which are made from one 33-inch-long 2x6 cut on the diagonal.

Here is a diagram which shows all the supplies you will need:

An easy-to-build cold frame



Continued on next page

Continued from previous page - Source: Rob Wotzak, *Fine Gardening Magazine* - Issue 136

The ideal location for a cold frame is a southern or southeastern exposure with a slight slope to ensure maximum solar absorption and good drainage. A sheltered spot with a wall or hedge to the north will provide protection against winter winds. Sinking the frame into the ground somewhat will also allow you to use the earth for insulation. Create a path to your cold frame and clear plenty of space around it to maximize accessibility.

Screw two 71-inch-long boards into the butt ends of two 31½-inch-long boards so that they make a shallow box. Attach the 2x2s in each corner to align the second and third layers and to fasten everything together.

To assemble the lid, clamp the acrylic sheet between the 1x2s. Use 1¼-inch-long deck screws spaced about every 12 inches to attach the layers together. Leaving off the bottom strip allows rain and snow to glide off rather than puddle on the surface.

Along the front, use pan head screws to fasten the acrylic to the wood.

Construction tip: careful with that drill

Pre-drill all screw holes to avoid splitting the wood or cracking the acrylic. Take care not to penetrate the other side of the material you are pre-drilling.

Northumberland Master Gardeners 2020 Bus Trip to Montréal



June 23 to 26, 2020

Highlights include:

3 nights in the Fairfield Marriott in Downtown Montréal (Includes breakfast)

Montréal Botanical Garden

Le Jardin Michel Corbeil (nursery and garden centre)

Jean Talon Marche, Pepiniere Jasmin (garden centre)

Machal Gardens (private garden), Shakespearian Garden (community garden)

Chillane Garden (private garden)

Free time in Downtown Montréal

Dinner at the Mandarin Restaurant on the way home

Cost: \$580.00/ person double occupancy or \$820.00/ person on single occupancy.

\$200.00 is due at time of registration. Balance due by May 8, 2020

Pre-register now by contacting Christa Bisanz at bisanz@eagle.ca

Seats on the bus are limited



Photos from Our December Meeting

Below: Members enjoying a up-close glimpse at some of the specimens referred to by our Speaker, Doug McCrae who delivered an engaging talk on birds and wildlife in your garden!



Photos courtesy of **Sharon Thompson**



Congratulations Bob on your Life Time Achievement Award!

Above: Bob Clement, who always ensures the coffee is on! Award presented by Brian Garrison, Past President
Photo courtesy of **Sharon Thompson**



**Cobourg
Horticultural
Society**

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