

# S I T E L I N E S

Bimonthly Publication of The British Columbia Society of Landscape Architects



## Jardins de Métis

President's Message • Cambie Boulevard • ISA • Green Roofs

August 2005



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The purpose of **Sitelines** is to provide an open forum for the exchange of ideas and information pertaining to the profession of Landscape Architecture. Individual opinions expressed are those of the writers and not necessarily of those of the BCSLA.

# President's Message

## August 2005 BY MARK VAUGHAN, MBCSLA

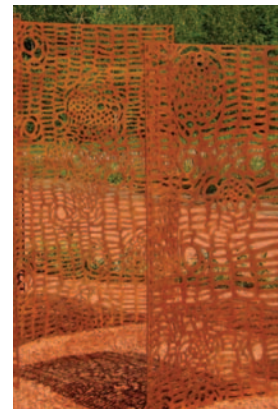
**Y**our BCSLA Board of Directors and scores of enthusiastic volunteers have been very busy. We are grateful for the time and expertise that our Members generously donate to help BCSLA successfully offer programs, services and activities to the Membership.

Congratulations to Liz Balderston, Fiona Chamberlain, Steve Clarke, Meredith Mitchell and Linda Nielsen who successfully completed the exam process and now have their names entered into the Registered Member Roster. Another congratulations to Cecilia Achiam who has also passed the Board of Examiners and is the most recent addition to the Landscape Architect Membership category. The Credentials Committee will be reviewing several new membership applications later this summer.

Thanks to Ted Horsey, Chris MacDonald and Patrick Mooney who have completed their terms on the Board of Examiners. Tish Davis has been nominated for reappointment. We anticipate that three new appointments to the Board of Examiners will be confirmed this summer. Several candidates will be eligible to sit for the 2005 Fall Board of Examiners.

Landscape Architecture Project (LAP) volunteers, Don Vaughan, Ian Wasson and Deborah LeFrank, met with Ministry of Advance Education representatives late last year to discuss proposed amendments to the Architects (Landscape) Act. Ministry officials have indicated that these amendments will not be reviewed until Spring 2006.

BCSLA Board Members have graciously agreed to work on several projects. Kate Davis-Johnson dedicates her time and energy as Treasurer and she always makes sure we are careful spending your money. Dave Hutch has volunteered to succeed Jennifer Stamp on the Environment Sub-Committee. Chris Sterry has formed a task force to revise the Recommended Fee Guide.



Australian Garden, photograph by Susan Herrington

Bev Windjack continues to lead the BCSLA Vancouver Island Chapter. The Chapter meets regularly for social and professional development activities. Start up funds for a BC Interior Chapter has been allocated in the 2005 budget. Jeff Cutler, Past Director, continues to suggest revisions to the draft competition policy.

Tom Barratt has been tasked with running the Communications Sub-Committee. His group, with guidance from Pawel Gradowski, P&PR Committee Chair, oversees updates to **Sitelines**, the website and other initiatives. David Rose has taken the lead on the **Sitelines** Annual and Membership Roster and the Visioning Sub-Committee. After negotiations with Naylor Publications it was agreed to reformat the Annual. The new format will make the Annual easier to use, as it will contain member listings only.

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## President's Message

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Editorial material will be forwarded to Laura-Jean Kelly and Cameron Murray, Sitelines Co-Editors, as newsletter submissions. Laura-Jean and Cameron continue to work hard to produce a quality newsletter for our Members. They recently added four colour pages that will increase content and revenue. Please send your book reviews, articles, project details, thoughts and images to them for inclusion in Sitelines. We love to hear what everyone is up to.

Nancy Paul and Pat Harrison, Registrar, serve as Continuing Education Committee Co-Chairs. They continue to work on initiatives that were started many years ago by dedicated volunteers. With funding assistance from the Real Estate Foundation of BC, the CE volunteers organized the successful Urban Forest Workshop in March. The second part of this program will see Maureen Connelly

conduct a presentation on Green Technology in September at the BCIT Great Northern Way Campus. Nancy worked hard to organize the Greenways and Bikeways workshop with PIBC, Translink and Better Environmentally Sound Transportation that was held in June. The CE Committee welcomed several new volunteers who continue to revise the CE monitoring process with input from the Membership.

Congratulations to Moura Quayle who stepped down as Dean of the Faculty of Land and Food Systems to accept an appointment as Provincial Deputy Minister of Advanced Education. Moura will remain as a Landscape Architecture Faculty Member. Many thanks to Moura for the vision and leadership that she brought to UBC during her tenure. We are pleased to welcome Dr. Murray Isman as Acting Dean who will oversee all of the ongoing faculty activities using his considerable experience as a successful research

scientist and a strong citizen of UBC since 1983. Cynthia Girling serves on the BCSLA Board of Directors as the UBC Liaison.

Ron Myers continues to serve as the Public Sector Sub-Committee Chair. This group meets quarterly to discuss issues of interest to those Members employed in the public sector. They also arrange tours of projects throughout the Lower Mainland.

The BCSLA Board of Directors was made aware of an industry-wide escalation in insurance costs resulting in a dramatic increase in the yearly premium. The premium went from \$1,000 to \$25,000 per year. Insurance brokers advised us that Directors and Officers are increasingly liable for legal costs as a result of increased legal disputes. Liability can result in personal loss for volunteers in this position. Architects and engineers have discovered that the expense for adequate insurance is well spent. The costs associated with any legal entanglement are substantial. We

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contacted allied professions and two brokers while researching costs and found that the insurer was competitive. As with most businesses we discovered that circumstances change and through the extraordinary efforts of several volunteers BCSLA has been able to secure Directors and Officers insurance for the substantially lower premium of \$2,190. The existing policy was cancelled on May 1, 2005 at the same time the new policy came in to effect. Cancellation of the policy included a cancellation fee but in the end a refund of \$8,350 was recovered. Special thanks to Kate Davis-Johnson, Jay Lazzarin, Tom Llewellyn and Will McKenna. Tom is working with Kate to determine how the change in insurance carriers impacts membership dues and the BCSLA budget.

BCSLA was asked to host the 2006 CSLA Congress, which is being held in conjunction with the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture (CELA) Annual

Conference. Approximately 500 delegates are expected to arrive in Vancouver to participate in the conference, which will be held June 14-17, 2006 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Cynthia Girling represents CELA; Liane McKenna represents CSLA while Pawel Gradowski and Blair Guppy represent BCSLA. A host of Members have volunteered to help out with this conference but more volunteers are required. I strongly encourage you to step forward to help make this conference a memorable one.

June 17, 2006 has been set aside for a Super Saturday events with the Architectural Institute of BC/Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, the Planning Institute of BC/Canadian Institute of Planners. More than 1,500 professionals, academics and students are expected to gather to share in mobile workshops, joint CE activities and social events. Early discussions with Patrick Condon and Ray Straatsma, UBC Design Centre for

Sustainability, are underway to include a one-day event to field test a multi-disciplinary design charette for the entire GVRD.

It is hoped that delegates will stay for the UN World Urban Forum III (WUF), which will be at the Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre from June 19-23, 2006. UN-Habitat and the Canadian government have started preparations for WUF, a meeting that will bring together public and private institutions, experts and decision-makers from around the world to discuss the key urban challenges facing the world today. For details visit [www.unhabitat.org/wuf/2006/default.asp](http://www.unhabitat.org/wuf/2006/default.asp).

In conclusion, I urge everyone to get involved with a Committee or on the Board or write a submission for Sitelines. It is a rewarding experience and allows you the opportunity to have a say in the BCSLA.

Enjoy the rest of the summer.



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# Cambie Heritage Boulevard

BY CLIVE JUSTICE MBCSLA

*The Cambie Heritage Boulevard has received recognition as a Heritage Urban Landscape with a 'Statement of Significance' and is now rated a Class A City of Vancouver Heritage Resource.*

Late last year Donald Luxton & Associates, who teamed up with PwL Partnership Landscape Architects, with principals Chris Sterry MBCSLA and Jeff Philips MBCSLA FCSLA and CA (Certified Arborist) were commissioned to undertake an analysis and assessment of the Cambie Street Corridor. One of the purposes was to come up with a Statement of Significance for this Urban Amenity Landscape.

Not many of us will know the significance of the Statement of Significance (SOS). Until I got involved in the study of historical gardens and landscapes I didn't know that an SOS is the essential first step in the process required by Parks Canada to have a site like Cambie Heritage Boulevard declared a National Historic site. This designation has been the goal of the Cambie Heritage Boulevard Society ever since Mayor Gordon Campbell and City Council declared the grass carpeted and wide treed median on Cambie Street, from King Edward to Southwest Marine Drive, a municipal heritage site in 1993.

I would have preferred it to be called a Heritage Landscape rather than a Site or as the Harland Bartholomew Plan for Vancouver of 1927 suggested, Pleasure Drives or Parkways. However, Landscape, Pleasure Drive and Parkway may be too specific and perhaps are archaic terms in today's urban world.

The study was released without any fanfare in March of this year. It was commissioned by RAVCO with an overview by the City of Vancouver Planning Group, consisting of Transit, Heritage and Parks members. I believe it to be a milestone event, to use another archaic term, in the battle to maintain Vancouver as a livable city and also to recognize that there is an urban heritage that need not include buildings.

Since Cambie Heritage Boulevard had never been formally evaluated against the City of Vancouver's Heritage Evaluation Criteria; Don, Chris, Jeff and their teams undertook this task as an integral part of the study. While the criteria was slanted primarily to

sites with buildings on them and not trees; it was no surprise to the writer and to the Cambie Heritage Boulevard Society that the evaluation qualified the Boulevard as a Heritage Register A Resource. It scored 70 out of a maximum of 100 points and ratings of Very Good and Excellent in 8 of the 10 categories that were evaluated under the ABCD evaluation areas, namely: A/ Design History, B/ Cultural History, C/ Context and D/ Integrity.

The process to come up with the Statement of Significance for Cambie Street and Boulevard required an overall assessment combining the Heritage, Urban Design and Landscape Values of six separate sections, along the length of the street. These sections were roughly delineated by their development history extending along the Cambie Corridor from King Edward south to SW Marine Drive. The evaluation on the three counts for each Section combined: the treed and grassed median, the treed and landscaped side boulevards, and the landscaped front yards and façades of the buildings fronting each side. The overall evaluation result for each Section follows.

I agree wholeheartedly with the method of evaluation. I have also added comments after each section score that I hope will broaden and explain the unique visual and landscape/horticultural qualities, as well



Cambie Boulevard photo by Uta Arajs



Cambie Boulevard photo by Uta Arajs

as the arboricultural/dendrological history, that comes from my familiarity with the trees on Cambie Street and within Queen Elizabeth Park, through all seasons over a period of forty-five years, that I have lived in Vancouver and traveled this street. *These I have included in italics.*

**A.** Exceptional Value was attributed to the section between King Edward and 29 Avenue. *A magnificent and unique stand of 70 year old Sequoiadendron, between golden English Elms and large clumps of massed, yellow March-blooming Forsythia, on the median with Hinoki False Cypress alternating among variegated-leaved native Dogwood in the side boulevards. These form a rough textured tapestry of intermixed white spring flowers, yellow and green all-year-round foliage, as well as red, pink and cream fall foliage that create vivid contrasts at all seasons.*

**B.** High value was attributed to the section between 29 Avenue and the Bend.

*The Southbound view from the road in this section is across groves of mixed canopy shapes and colours, where no buildings intrude. The conifer forest provides a background to enhance the cloud effect of early spring-blooming and fall foliage. It reminds us we have left the confines of tall buildings and are about to enter a more natural environment. Northbound, we come down out of the forest and catch a narrow distant view of False Creek towers above car tops, with the North Shore mountains in the far distance, as if*

*viewed through a telescope. This section, in my view, should be raised to Exceptional.*

**C.** Better than average value was attributed to the sections between the Bend and 39 Avenue and between 45 and 59 Avenues.

*Between the Bend and 39 Avenue is a palette of seasonal colours. Foliage and flower are displayed on the Korean Dogwood and Oriental Cherries. A diversity of forms, flowers and foliage colour is displayed as each tree comes into view in succession along the Eastside boulevard. Rounding the bend in Spring is likened to a fashion display of white wedding gowns and pink evening gowns. Northbound, we drive into and out of the dark Oak forest grove that canopies over from the park into an open overview of the city.*

*The 45 to 59 Avenue section of Cambie has the greatest diversity of shapes, forms and species reflecting our inheritance from the Victorian English garden tradition of Loudon, Henry and others. This passion for collecting, growing and displaying plants, and in particular trees, is nowhere shown better than along Cambie boulevard in these fourteen blocks. The countries of origin of these tree species, I believe, mirrors the rich ethnic diversity that makes up our nation.*

*The rating of better than average by the Luxton/PWL Landscape Study should be extended beyond 59 Avenue to Southwest Marine Drive and raised to above average value, if only, to include the large, pictur-*

*esque, late summer-blooming fine foliage Japanese Pagoda tree or Chinese Scholar tree, Sophora japonica. The reason for the name Scholar tree relates back to the Chou Dynasty (122-240 B.C.) when Sophora was officially cited to be the memorial tree to be planted beside the tombs of scholars. It is found wild in China and Korea and was introduced into Japan, thus has the Latin species epithet japonica because it was first found in Japan by Europeans. (Many plants with the japonica epithet are originally indigenous to China).*

*From 60 North to 57 Avenue there are several Manitoba Oaks, Quercus macrocarpa in the median. In Canada, the American-named Bur Oak, of the Eastern Deciduous Forest, extends naturally up some 200 miles between the two long lakes in that province. It was considered by Scots plant explorer David Douglas, in 1815, to be one of the most majestic of the eastern Oaks. The young Douglas on his first visit to Eastern North America was probably paraphrasing François André Michaux, the botanist/dendrologist son of the Eighteenth century French botanist and North American plant explorer André Michaux. These Oaks, though they never equal the stately magnificence or age of the Sequoiadendron however, are slowly starting to assume a majestic stature. They should be good for 200, if not 500 years.*

*The side boulevard plantings of Dogwood hybrids and species include Vancouver's Centennial tree Eddie's White Wonder. A local creation, it is a hybrid between Cornus nuttalli, the Pacific Dogwood, our provincial floral emblem and the Eastern Dogwood, C. florida. It was created in the 1940's by Henry Eddie, a pioneer nurseryman of Sardis, in the lower Fraser River valley. White Wonder is rated hardiness Zone 5 CanAg/USDA; while the Pacific parent is rated Hardiness Zone 7. White Wonder received world wide recognition as a garden tree for its floriferousness, large cream bracts and fall colour, when introduced in the 1960's. Because the tree was created locally it should always be called Eddie's White Wonder Dogwood, to honour its creator. Continued on page 8*

## Cambie Boulevard

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Our native Pacific Dogwood and its gold variegated leaf form, (another introduction by Henry Eddie), is a feature of Cambie's side medians. Both consistently flower twice in a season. There are many multi-trunk fifty year-old specimens of both varieties on Cambie's side boulevards, North and South of 37 Avenue, Vancouver's East-West south-side bikeway. In common with Eddie's White Wonder these Pacific Dogwoods can be grown as a boulevard tree only in the Pacific Northwest. It is our cool cloudy coastal climate here that permits them to be grown successfully along our streets.

Average Values were attributed to the sections between 39 and 41 Avenues and 59 and Southwest Marine Drive. Lower than Average Values were attributed to the section between 41 and 45 Avenues.

The person most intimately responsible for the planting of Cambie Heritage Boulevard from its inception was William (Bill) Livingston. As Superintendent of Parks beginning in 1938 and for the next 36 years, Livingston was responsible for creating, building and managing the physical park system in Vancouver. He oversaw the development of more than thirty of Vancouver's Parks, beaches, recreation grounds, playing fields, display gardens, treed streets and boulevards including Cambie Heritage Boulevard. Bill died in 1990 leaving the city a great legacy of parks and recreation places. One of the many legacies Bill left us that he and his foreman Ernie Pitt are closely identified with is the arboretum that includes the VIP and Royals planted trees and the trees of the Cambie Heritage Boulevard. From King Edward Avenue's magnificent California Big Trees and English golden Elms to the Korean, and native Dogwoods, Japanese flowering Cherries, Manitoba Oaks, Red and Yellow Cedars, Cypresses and the Chinese Scholar tree at Southwest Marine Drive, this arboretum and Bartholomew Pleasure Parkway garden of stately trees will now continue as a living monument and a reminder of our English

and Scottish founding heritage; but will also come to symbolize the ethnic diversity that is Canada.

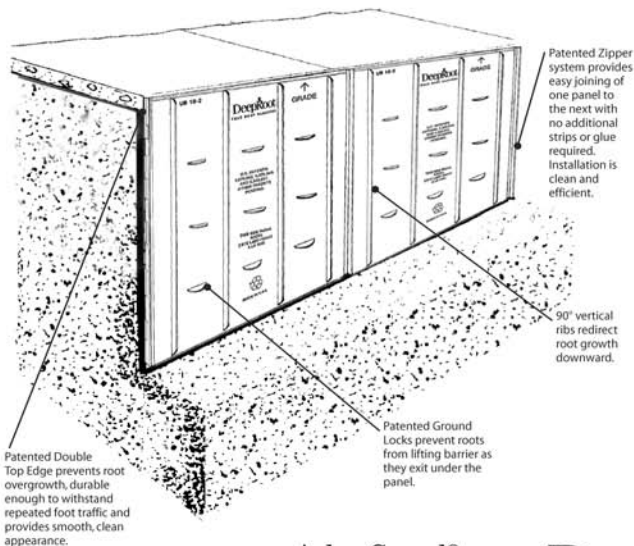
In the opinion of this ornamental tree historian, the Luxton/PWL Statement of Significance would be greatly enhanced by the incorporation of an explanation of the dendrological/horticultural uniqueness, visual descriptions and local historical details of the Cambie Heritage Boulevard that I have enumerated in this essay. In addition, the Vancouver Parks Board that now manages the Cambie Heritage Boulevard, will need

guidance provided by a different set of management and maintenance practices and procedures - ones that are structured to conserve, preserve and protect Cambie Heritage Boulevard as a living heritage landscape. Let's hope that our city Heritage Department will see fit to commission such guidelines.

Clive L. Justice, PhD, FCSLA, Lm BCCLA, Lm IDS is a Garden, Heritage Tree & Rhododendron Historian, Landscape Architect, Urban Amenity Forester and Past President of the Cambie Heritage Boulevard Society.

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# The Value of Trees

September 24 - 28, 2005, Victoria, BC

BY JOE DALY, MBCSLA

The Pacific Northwest Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) will be holding their annual training conference in Victoria, BC from September 24 - 28. The conference will be held at the Victoria Conference Centre.

This conference is an excellent opportunity for landscape architects to network with our arboriculture colleagues and to learn more about the ISA. The conference will include preconference workshops, field tours, tradeshow and lectures. The conference organizing committee is proud to have Dr. Alex Shigo, often referred to as the Father of Modern Arboriculture, as a keynote speaker. Other presenters include: Julian Dunster, Brian Fisher, Bruce Fraedrich, Bob Duncan and Beth Buchanan, to name a few.

The British Columbia Society of Landscape Architects is an official sponsor of this conference and has been instrumental in having James Urban as a key component of the program. James Urban is a nationally and internationally known landscape architect who has developed several new approaches to improving the growing conditions for urban trees. He is a frequent lecturer and author.

As a benefit of being an official conference sponsor, the BCSLA membership may register at ISA member rates.

The following is a summary of opportunities to hear or meet James Urban at this conference.

## Sunday, September 25

Tree Academy - Urban Soils Workshop  
The Tree Academies are optional preconference activities with a separate registration fee.

The Urban Soils Workshop is a four-hour workshop to be held on Sunday afternoon. The difference between natural and urban soils will be discussed. Soil assessment meth-

ods, evaluation of different urban soils and remediation methods to improve growing conditions will be taught. The session will include soil mix design, issues related to amending existing soil and improving drainage. Several alternatives to improving rooting space under paving will be discussed in detail including advantages and disadvantages, installation methods and cost.

James Urban, FASLA, ISA and Michael Mills, ISA will teach the workshop. Michael Mills is a consulting arborist based in the Vancouver area and well known as an advocate for sustainable urban forests and the promotion of industry standards.

## Monday, September 26

Monday is Field Day and is devoted to tours, clinics and demonstrations. Several events and tours will all take place in, or start from, Beacon Hill Park, including: Garry Oak Ecosystems, Evaluating Decay Using the Tomonograph, Heritage Trees of Victoria, Tree Climbing and Rigging Techniques, Root Diseases and a walkabout with James Urban to review Urban Soils.

Lunch with Jim in the Park

While not part of the official program; arrangements are being made for BCSLA members to meet informally with James Urban over a picnic lunch in Beacon Hill Park. You are encouraged to register for all or part of the ISA conference, however, it is not necessary to register for the conference to attend this lunch. If you would like to attend please contact Joe Daly by email at [joed@city.victoria.bc.ca](mailto:joed@city.victoria.bc.ca) or by telephone at (250) 361-0368.

Field Day - Urban Soils Walking Tour (early afternoon)

A two-hour walk will start in Beacon Hill Park and end in the downtown core. The purpose will be to examine soils and trees



Photograph of James Urban, courtesy of James Urban.

in the urban environment of Victoria. Experience and discuss different types of common tree problems, trace how some trees grow while others languish and still others thrive by exploiting and destroying the paving of cities. The walk will include several excavations of trees and soils and look at some of the techniques being employed by the city of Victoria to improve its urban trees. Hands on use of different soil probes and devices to assess urban soils will be included.

James Urban, FASLA, ISA, Michael Mills ISA and Joe Daly, BCSLA, ISA will lead the tour. Conference registration is required to attend the walking tour. Limited enrollment (30) and advanced sign up required.

## Tuesday, September 27

Lecture - It Takes Brown To Make Green (early afternoon)

For years, the arboricultural profession has supported putting the right tree in the right place. But, at some point on the road from the forest to Main Street, soil becomes so poor that almost no tree is "right". A new direction is needed. If the goal is to create a diverse urban forest with healthy trees, we need to design the tree's soil environment to meet that expectation. We need to make the space right for the tree.

This lecture will be a broad overview of the steps needed to place trees in landscapes that range from a suburban lot to a downtown streetscape.

For full conference registration information please contact the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture as follows:

Phone: 1 - 800 - 335- 4391

Fax: 503 - 874 - 1509

Email: [info@pnwisa.org](mailto:info@pnwisa.org)

Website: [www.pnwisa.org](http://www.pnwisa.org)

# Soil and Plants: The Latest Trend in Roofing Materials

BY LINDA GEORGE BCIT's Centre for the Advancement of Green Roof Technology

**G**reen Roofs, roofing systems that support vegetation growth, are garnering interest as a cost-efficient and earth-friendly alternative to traditional roofs. In British Columbia, the B.C. Institute of Technology is producing climate-specific data at its Green Roof Research Facility with the aim of providing industry, government and consumers with locally researched information to support the use of green roofs in B.C.

## Green Roof Research at BCIT

The BCIT Green Roof Research Facility, a 100 square metre building, was constructed in 2004 on Vancouver's Great Northern Way Campus with the purpose of researching the storm water control and thermal performance of green roofs. Growing demand for product development and testing from industry has prompted BCIT to expand its capacity and create the Centre for Advancement of Green Roof Technology, with funding support from

the Natural Science and Engineering Research Council and Western Economic Diversification Canada.

The research centre is a hub for the local green roof industry, conducting product performance testing and providing demonstration roofs. BCIT holds a monthly open house at the Research Facility to promote awareness of integrated green roof systems and their performance within the Greater Vancouver region. Pre-packaged green roof evaluation modules are also available for companies wanting to test the performance of their products, or determine the climatic performance of a green roof in their area.

## About Green Roofs

Green roofs are layered roofing systems that include waterproof and root-resistant membranes, a drainage system, filter cloth, growing media and plants. They can be created in place or installed using modular sections.

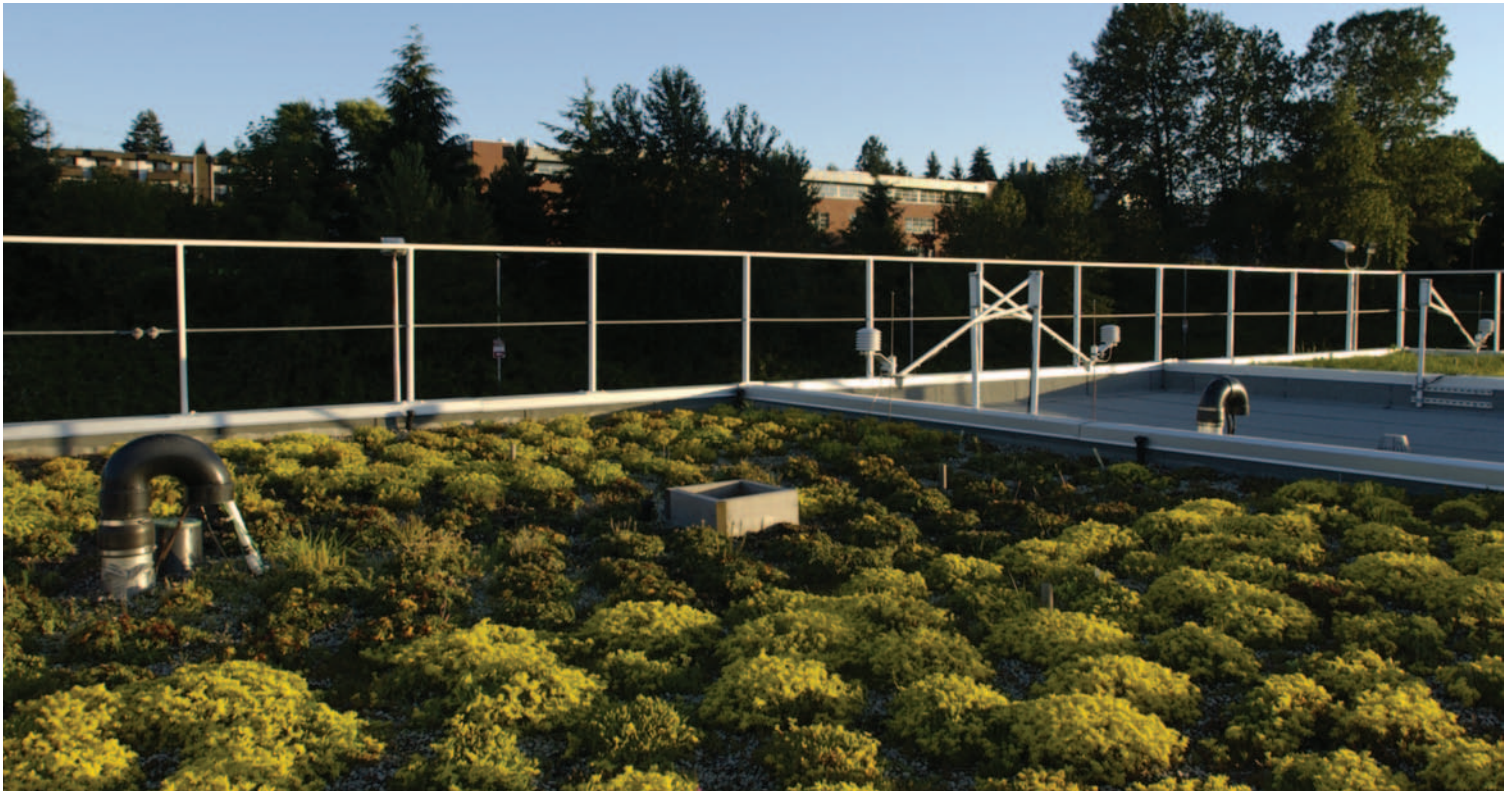
Green roofs have limited impact in short span construction. The weight of a 3" green roof is approximately equal to the gravel ballast used in inverted roof systems. For long span construction, load considerations need to be engineered.

In BC, both the Community Charter and Local Government Act allow for vegetated roof systems. This system also meets a municipal demand for pervious surfaces on building sites. As well, green roofs are proven not to increase fire risk.

Versions of green roofs have been used around the world for centuries, particularly in Western Europe. In Vancouver, the Regional District has identified approximately 300 roofs with some type of vegetation—several of these were established as early as 1976. Recent interest in British Columbia has been spurred by benefits that include the following:

## A/ Reduced Storm Water Runoff

This is an issue in urban areas, particularly those in rainy climates such as Vancouver. During heavy or continuous rain, runoff can overpower storm water systems and damage waterways and fish habitat. The



Green Roofs photo by Scott McAlpine BCIT

research centre is now quantifying research that indicates green roofs could absorb 60 to 70% of Greater Vancouver's rooftop rainfall.

### B/ Energy Efficiency

Green roofs reduce the energy required to heat or cool a building. The research centre has found that green roofs reduce energy loss through the roof by 35% during a Vancouver winter (summer data will be available in October, 2005.) As a result, we expect less expensive building air-handling systems can be used. And while the initial cost for a green roof is higher, their lifecycle cost is competitive with traditional roofs. Membranes on green roofs typically last twice as long as those on traditional roofs because the temperature is regulated.

### C/ Reduced Urban Heat Island Effect

For a city, the mass adoption of green roofs will reduce the urban heat island effect and cool cities during hot summer months.

### D/ Extended Lifetime

Greening the roof provides protection by reducing the daily temperature change of the roof membrane and extending its length of performance over time.

### E/ Creation of Extra Green Spaces

Green roofs make the most of unused space within the increasing density of our cities. Rooftops can be developed into social and recreational spaces and used for urban agriculture.

**Green roofs typically fall into two categories, as follows.**

#### 1. Extensive Green Roofs:

Low maintenance groundcover systems are ideal for large flat roof buildings and apartments; but are also suitable for sloped residential roofs. Desert grasses and succulent plants are embedded in three to six inches of lightweight growing media. After one year, the plants do not require watering, although an annual spring weeding of tree seedlings brought in by birds is needed. In preparation for the 2010 sustainable Olympics, the Vancouver Convention Centre will have 2.4 hectares of very low maintenance green roofing.

#### 2. Intensive Green Roofs:

Fully landscaped roof top gardens can accommodate many uses and require regular maintenance. Diverse plants and trees are planted in 8 to 12 inches of soil amid features such as walkways, railings and lighting. Parks, playgrounds or vegetable gardens are possible. In Greater Vancouver, Electronic Arts has a rooftop park, while the Vancouver Fairmont Hotel grows herbs on its rooftop for the hotel kitchen.

#### Outlook

Long-term owner/operators, such as government and large organizations, are expected to be the first to adopt green roofs. Developers typically wait for proven consumer demand, which in this case is

likely, as green roofs offer a good fit to the heightening interest in environmental stewardship, quality of life, sustainable design and ecological lifestyles.

The marketplace is primed for this innovation, which has huge potential for growth and job creation. The trend has already begun in Vancouver, where all civic buildings, including the Olympic Athletes Village at Southeast False Creek, are designated to be LEED Gold buildings, undoubtedly resulting in a booming green roof industry.

For more information, please refer to the BCIT website:

<http://www.greenroof.bcit.ca>.



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# Notice Board

## AIBC Walking Tours of Nelson, BC

For the first time this year, the Architectural Institute of BC (AIBC) will be offering architectural tours of Nelson, BC. Joining the established tours in Vancouver and Victoria, Nelson offers a range of architectural styles that have been divided into four tours: Ecclesiastical Architecture, Downtown, Heritage Homes, and Art Deco and Moderne. Tours started on July 26, and will continue until August 31. For more information, tour descriptions and times, visit [www.aibc.ca](http://www.aibc.ca) and download a tour brochure.

## Heritage and Sustainability: Canadian Communities and Kyoto

On September 15, 16 and 17, join the Heritage Canada Foundation for their Annual Conference in Regina, Saskatchewan. The theme of this year's conference, "Heritage and Sustainability: Canadian Communities and Kyoto," will explore built heritage conservation practices as a key part of sustainable development. For more details please visit [www.heritagecanada.org](http://www.heritagecanada.org).

## Green Roofs- Beyond Basics Workshop - BCSLA CE Credits Available.

Your BCSLA Continuing Education Committee, with the generous support of The Real Estate Foundation of BC, has arranged Green Roofs - Beyond Basics Workshop and Tour. Maureen Connelly, BCIT Research Head, has developed an intense half-day program for September 21 from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm that includes: an overview of Green Roof Technology: its history and design, hands-on build-it exercise and a Green Roof Research Facility tour. Register by noon on September 14 to take advantage of the "Early Bird" rate of \$45. Fees for Non-Members and all registrations after September 15 is \$55. GST is extra. Workshop fees include all hand-outs and a light lunch. For more details please contact the BCSLA office. For more information on the presenter and the facility please visit <http://www.bcit.ca/stories/maureen.shtml>. Seating is limited.

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## Arborist Certification

Designed for landscape architects and park professionals who are preparing to write the International Society of Arboriculture exam. Topics include tree identification, plant physiology, pruning, installation and establishment as well as other areas covered in the exam. Note: three years of industry experience is required to write the exam. The exam for certification is not included in the class. Courses will be held at Burnaby Central School (4939 Canada Way) starting in October. Costs are \$250 for ten sessions. For more details please call 604.664.8888.

## Green Building Grant Program

The Green Building Grant Program was established by the Real Estate Foundation and Vancity Credit Union to minimize the impacts of climate change and improve sustainable land use practices by supporting green building initiatives in British Columbia. The Program will provide one or more grants (up to \$50,000 each) to qualified recipients. Grants awarded will total \$100,000 maximum, per year. The Program will not fund a single component of a project (e.g. architectural design costs). In order for a grant to be approved under this Program, other required resources must be substantially in place. The application deadline is Monday, October 3, 2005. Download the application form at: <http://www.realestatefoundation.com/gbgapplication2005.pdf>.

# Our Future: Sustainable Cities – Turning Ideas into Action

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN Habitat) has released a call to potential partners and non-governmental organizations around the world to come forward with ideas and suggestions for themes, sub-themes and format for networking events, exhibitions and special events for World Urban Forum III (WUF III) taking place in Vancouver, June 19-23, 2006 and is expected to attract over 6,000 delegates from over 150 countries including representatives from least developed countries. The main theme of the event will be Our Future: Sustainable Cities – Turning Ideas into Action.

The World Urban Forum was first launched by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) in 2002 and was recently held in Barcelona, Spain. The Forum, a biennial event, is becoming a key international forum devoted to sharing information on the critical issues of cities and communities, shelter,

sustainability, and other issues related to globalization and urbanization. It is projected that in the next fifty years, two-thirds of humanity will be living in towns and cities. A major challenge is to minimize burgeoning poverty in cities and improve access to basic facilities such as shelter, clean water and sanitation for the world's urban poor.

World Urban Forum III in Vancouver WUF III will also mark the 30th anniversary of the first UN Conference on Human Settlements which was held in Vancouver in 1976. That event raised international awareness of the importance of human settlement development and sustainability and led to the creation of the Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) by the United Nations General Assembly.

In March 2005 the federal government announced that thirty-six high-profile Canadians would participate in a National Advisory Committee to shape the

direction of Canada's preparations to host World Urban Forum III. Chaired by the Honourable Michael Harcourt and Ms. Huguette Labelle, the Committee includes representatives from the provinces of British Columbia and Quebec, Canada's Aboriginal peoples, labour as well as private, public, municipal and NGO sectors.

The federal government has established a Secretariat to manage preparations and has appointed Mr. Charles Kelly, who was instrumental in the planning and execution of the original 1976 Habitat conference, as Commissioner General, WUF 2006 Canada Secretariat. The GLOBE Foundation of Canada, under the direction of Dr. John D. Wiebe, President and CEO, will provide administrative and logistical support to the Secretariat, as well as leading in the planning of a companion exposition that will be part of the 2006 event. For details please visit <http://www.unhabitat.org/wuf/2006/default.asp>.



More than fifty BCSLA construction site signs are in circulation throughout the province. Both large and small signs have been manufactured and are ready to order. The order form and a photo of the signs in use is available on the BCSLA Members only website or by contacting the BCSLA office.



# BCSLA Calendar of Events

August 15-16	CSLA Board of Governors Meeting Winnipeg, MB
August 17-20	CSLA Congress – Exposed!, Winnipeg, MB
August 23	BCSLA Board of Directors Meeting
Sept. 8-10	CLARB Annual General Meeting, Los Angeles, CA
Sept. 13-14	BCLNA CanWest Hort Show, Vancouver, BC
September 23	BCSLA Board of Directors Meeting
Sept. 25-28	The Value of Trees: Pacific Northwest Chapter ISA Annual Conference, Victoria, BC
October 3	C/LARE Sitting Sections A and B
October 3	C/LARE Sitting Section D
October 7	Landscape Architectural Registration Exams (LARE) Candidate Order Deadline: December 2005 Sitting
October 7-11	ASLA Annual Meeting & Expo, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
October 25	BCSLA Board of Directors Meeting (date tentative)
October 28	BCSLA Board of Examiners Fall Sitting
October 31	2006 Sitelines Annual Update Submissions
November	BC Landscape and Nursery Association AGM (date tentative)
November 8	World Town Planning Day
November 22	BCSLA Board of Directors Meeting
December	Landscape Architectural Registration Exams, Vancouver, BC
December	BCSLA Festive Season Party
December 20	BCSLA Board of Directors Meeting
December 31	BCSLA 2006 Membership Dues Payable
December 31	BCSLA Continuing Education Form Submission Deadline

# Les Jardins de Métis International Garden Festival

BY SUSAN HERRINGTON

The 6th edition of the International Garden Festival at Les Jardins de Métis opened on July 26, 2005. Since its commencement in 2000, this garden festival in rural Quebec has consistently explored “what is a garden, and how can we expand our experience of a garden?” This year’s twelve temporary gardens designed by landscape architects, architects, and artists from Canada, the United States, France, and Australia continue this line of questioning. As noted by the Festival’s founder, Alexander Reford, 2005 brought the best weather since the festival’s initiation. This was a subtle, but key observation. Late snow falls, frozen ground, and relentless winds off the St. Lawrence River challenged Reford’s grandmother, Elsie Reford, who between 1926 and 1958 established an extensive

ornamental garden on the site now shared with Festival.

As witnessed in previous festivals, the way we physically demarcate gardens with their vertical, base, and overhead planes, continues to captivate designers. For example, “Modulations” by Philippe Coignet and David Serero from France explores garden walls as elements that can both reflect and conduct movement. Undulating terrain covered with a lush tapestry of ferns and reflective walls enclose their garden. These unique walls are made of horizontal bands of steel that were twisted with hand clamps on site and secured to steel columns. Their effect mirrors your image in a distorted yet verdant reflection of the garden, enticing you to travel through the twists and turns of their design.

Likewise, the materials we use in gardens continue to be probed at Les Jardins de Métis. This includes the exploration of surfaces, colours, and textures of materials, but also how materials with culturally specific meanings can be used differently to give new meaning to our experiences with them. Charles Waldheim and Glenn Herman, with Jessie Peterman and Shannon Lee from Toronto, designed “Subterranean.” Here, the garden’s overhead plane is made of a tangled mass of flexible black polypropylene conduit, typically used for the purposes of organizing power cables and telephone lines. Suspended over the heads of visitors, the conduit lines are transformed into a giant subterranean root structure that feeds upon a colossal plant imagined above. Sunlight is almost completely blocked in this entrance passage to the garden and enhanced by the ground plane, which is made of black aquarium gravel (used in fish tanks). The garden passage terminates in an opening where sunlight filters through the trees and illuminates a hydroponically fed



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black plant that reveals the importance of both water and air to plant life.

The Festival has traditionally welcomed designers to either recreate a bit of their own local landscape at the Festival or to draw out an essential element of the beautiful Métis regional landscape where the gardens are located. With their garden, "Eucalyptus: Light and Shadow," Katie Cullity of Taylor Cullity Leathlean Landscape Architects and artist Ryan Sim, both from Australia, brought a piece of the Australian desert to the Festival this year. Their sensory rich garden (augmented by eucalyptus oil hidden amongst the garden's foliage) captures both the colour, smell, and thermal sensation of the designer's home landscape. The garden is almost monotone in colour, containing a base plane of rust-coloured crushed stone and a series of staggered metal screens that have been chemically rusted by the designers. The only green is a sinuous swath of eucalyptus plants that weave along the edge of the garden. The steel screens are particularly unique as they create a filigree silhouette of sunlight and shadow on the ground plane. These screens are perforated with the pattern from a magnified image of the Eucalyptus leaf. This pattern was traced by

hand, and then put into Autocad and sent electronically to the steel cutters. The opening day was bright and sunny and made the visceral intentions of this garden very effective.

In contrast, the garden "Soil Horizons" by Lola Sheppard and Mason White, from Lateral Architecture in the United States, distills the literal terra firma of the Métis region. Their garden contains seven soil samples in plexiglass containers that are placed on pedestals made from wooden shipping crates. Each sample was extracted from a different location around Métis and each reveals a varying soil horizon in: depth, colour, and texture present in the region. In collecting these samples, the existing vegetation that thrives upon the soil was maintained and adorns each of the samples like a head of hair. Entering the garden, at first they look like pieces of abstract sculpture; but upon closer inspection they serve as a didactic device revealing the rich profiles of soil that lie hidden just below our feet.

The organizers, Alexander Reford, Lesley Johnstone, Yvan Maltais and the dedicated community of Friends and supporters are highly commended for this year's Festival.

The Garden Festival experience contributes a unique dimension to the historical gardens created by Elsie Reford. Since the Festival's inception in 2000, the Reford gardens have made a concerted effort to restore the grounds and buildings. This has included the rejuvenation of Elsie Reford's original garden designs, and the successful cultivation of the temperamental Himalayan blue poppy (*Meconopsis betonicifolia*), the progeny of the first plants that Reford grew from seed in the 1930s. A new visitor's centre with a gift shop and restaurant has also been constructed, and the historic Estevan Lodge, built in 1887, has been redesigned to host exhibits, workshops, lectures, and school programs. This year a new exhibition entitled "Estevan Lodge - A Vacation Heaven" is on display, while the main floor gallery exhibits works from the permanent collection of the regional museum in Rimouski.

*For further information of the historical Reford gardens and the International Garden Festival see*  
<http://www.jardinsmetis.qc.ca/english/index.htm>



Eucalyptus Light and Shadow, photograph by Susan Herrington



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