



# "Niagara Rhodo" Newsletter of the The Niagara Chapter, Rhododendron Society of Canada October, 2009

**Our Purpose:** We are a non-profit organization whose aim is to promote, encourage and support interest in the genus *rhododendron*. **Our goal is to encourage gardeners to grow and appreciate these plants, by providing educational meetings with knowledgeable speakers, access to topical publications and hosting joint meetings with other chapters.**

## Inside This Month

1. President's Message
2. Sunday, November 1, 2009
3. Membership News
4. Winter Care Indoor Azaleas



**Rh. schlippenbachii  
fall colour**

## Rhododendron Grower's Prayer

I do humbly ask for forgiveness of all the rhododendrons which died through my ignorance or through bad advice. Hopefully our website (and by extension this Newsletter) will atone for my errors and help the novice grower avoid the same mistakes.

(adapted from) **Marc Colombel, President,**  
Société Breton de Rhododendron (France)

## *President's Message*

The Niagara Chapter of the Rhodo Society continues to attract new members, and, based upon activity on the Rhodo Niagara website ([www.rhodoniagara.org](http://www.rhodoniagara.org)) interest in the Chapter's activities continues to be high. We may be in "a sweet spot"... Your Executive is not complacent and continues to plan 6-9 months out to ensure that we have a new batch of P4Ms in the pipeline, an interesting and stimulating Speaker's Program, and some Garden Tours next spring. Some of these plans are shown in the Program section of this Newsletter, others will be announced as they are developed.

In this issue we outline some of the benefits of the full ARS membership. The ARS is currently running a membership drive by encouraging the affiliates to attract members. Members of ARS affiliates help provide our "intellectual capital" and rhodo plant material. Plants, are being offered as an incentive, sent to our doorstep. We could win this prize, by attracting 3 new full members, and expanding our total to 30 ARS members. Furthermore, each person who attracts a new member will be offered a one gallon plant, and, each new member will receive a similar plant..

We look forward to seeing you at the November meeting. Remember to bring a friend or two. By expanding our network, we can continue to offer superior value to our membership .

Sondra Meis

**Sunday, November 1, 2009**  
**Vineland Research Station, Rittenhouse Hall,**  
**Victoria Avenue, Vineland ON.**  
**'Garden Canadensis' in Milton Ontario**  
**Chen and Linda Choo**

The Choos are avid and creative gardeners who employ a conscious thoughtful approach to gardening that considers the spirit that evolves out of their creation.

Their [website](#) describes the products of their work. They describe their major challenge on their web site:

*We called our garden 'Garden Canadensis' to signify this is a northern garden and our connection with this land. Our garden can be considered a typical Zone 5 garden; fortunate enough to grow Japanese maple and some cherries and dogwoods etc., but not nearly as fortunate as a Zone 6 or 7 garden on the range of ornamental plants that can be reliably grown.*

Nevertheless, they also grow a significant collection of rhododendrons. **Meet them on Sunday, November 1, 2009 at 2 P.M. to share in the experience of developing a unique garden. Remember, Eastern Standard Time will be in effect.**

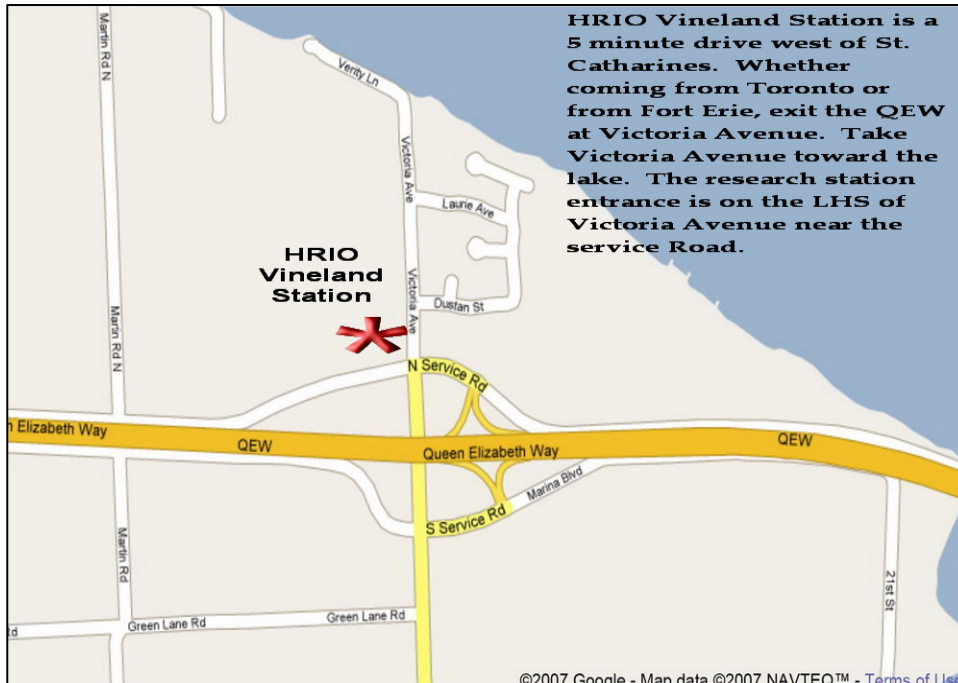
*Sunday, November 1, 2009 at 2 P.M.*

*Vineland Research & Innovation Centre, Rittenhouse Hall, Victoria Avenue, Vineland ON.*

**'Garden Canadensis' in Milton Ontario**

**Chen and Linda Choo**

<http://www.gardencanadensis.ca/cusian/garcan.html>



The November 1 meeting at 2 P.M. features two members of the Niagara Chapter who have created a restful yet inspiring venue northwest of Oakville in Milton. Over the years Chen and Linda Choo have added a considerable number of rhododendrons to their eclectic, yet carefully considered, collection of shrubs and perennials. Chen has worked this summer to prepare a series of slides that describe their work and the current state of the gardens. There will be ample time for discussion, questions, and answers.

In addition, there will be a second part to the program. Following Chen's talk and slide show, Nick Yarmoshuk will lead a question and answer session that will focus on whatever questions on rhododendron culture may arise from the membership. In particular this part of the program will start with a discussion of some questions that have been raised in recent weeks about the impact of this summer's weather on bud development, the significance of colour change in rhododendrons, and how to treat tender, non-hardy azaleas during the winter. We suggest you come prepared with some questions that you have always wanted to ask but did not have an opportunity to do so.

### **Where is Rittenhouse Hall?**

Rittenhouse Hall located adjacent to the right of the old administration building. Enter the first driveway to the Vineland Research and Innovation Center's site from Victoria Avenue, cross the bridge and bear right to the front of the administration building. A parking lot appears on the right hand side of the roadway. Rittenhouse Hall is directly opposite the parking lot.

### **Winter Care of Tender Azaleas**



The photo to the left shows a tender azalea grown by my friend Lydia in Montreal. This lady, undoubtedly has a green thumb. Here is how she takes care of this plant. In the summer she removes the plant from the decorative white pot and puts the plant out on her north facing porch. She waters this plant "every few days when the soil in the top 1 inch seems to be getting dry". Once a week she adds "a tiny bit of balanced fertilizer". In the late fall, just before the first frost, she moves the plant indoors and sets it before a bright east facing window. Her living room is cool with temperatures in the mid 60's F. perhaps even cooler close to the window. She never lets the soil dry out, watering every few days. She adds soluble fertilizer lightly once a month, and mists the plant every few days to compensate for the winter dryness.

# Membership Renewals

To assist new members to better understand the structure of membership available in the Niagara Region Chapter (NRC), we note that we are a Chapter of the Rhododendron Society of Canada (RSC). The RSC is also District 12 of the American Rhododendron Society (ARS). Members who hold ARS (Niagara) membership are also Local NRC members. But Local NRC membership is also available without membership in the ARS.

Local and ARS membership renewals for 2010 are now due. In the chart that follows we show the benefits available at each level of membership.

Members who, in the past, have subscribed to ARS membership will notice that the Family membership category no longer exists. Individual membership includes spouses.

The Niagara Region fee for ARS membership has been lowered to \$CDN35 while ARS membership has increased to \$USD40.

The membership fee for local membership only remains at \$CDN10 for members who do not provide email addresses and \$CDN5.00 for those who provide e-mail addresses.

## Membership Fees and Benefits of Membership

<u>Benefit of Membership</u>	<u>\$5.00</u> <u>With E-mail</u>	<u>\$10.00</u> <u>No-Email</u>	<u>ARS</u> <u>Membership</u>
1. Quarterly ARS Journal with valuable plant information	.....	.....	Yes
2. Annual Conferences offering lectures, tours and networking.	.....	.....	Yes
3. Discounts on reference books.	.....	.....	Yes
4. An outstanding seed exchange program.	.....	.....	Yes
5. Local Newsletter sent by Canada post	.....	Yes	If Requested
6. Local Newsletter sent by e-mail	Yes	.....	Yes
6. Participation in local Chapter meetings	Yes	Yes	Yes
7. 10% discount at General Annual Plant Sale	Yes	Yes	Yes
8. Access to Plants for Members (P4M) rare plant program	Yes	Yes	Yes
9. Personal - on demand - rhododendron culture advice	Yes	Yes	Yes
10. Participation in test and display gardens	Yes	Yes	Yes

Shown on the next page is a form which has been mailed to ARS members. We would appreciate all members to complete the form at the bottom half of the page.

Please select the category of membership that you wish and mail the form with your cheque to the membership secretary at the address shown below before **November 15, 2009**.

**Lillie Haworth  
4 Deer Park Court  
Grimsby, ON  
L3M 2R2**

*Niagara Region Chapter, Rhododendron Society of Canada*  
*American Rhododendron Society*

**Membership 2010**

Membership fees for the American Rhododendron Society 2010 are now due.

To continue receiving *The Journal* all fees must be submitted to the membership secretary by  
**November 15<sup>th</sup>** for submission to ARS.

Please make cheques payable to RSC Niagara and send to  
**Lillie Haworth**  
**4 Deer Park Court**  
**Grimsby, ON**  
**L3M 2R2**

**Fees for 2010:** ARS \$CDN 35.00 Individual or Family membership .....

Commercial membership \$CDN 90.00 .....

**OR**

Niagara *Newsletter* only

Niagara Chapter email delivery \$CDN 5.00 .....

Niagara Chapter Canada Post delivery \$CDN 10.00 .....

Please return section below with payment:

.....

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

Telephone: ..... Email: .....

Membership category \$. . . . . Membership Fee enclosed.