

## Montreal Botanic Gardens – June 15

We were extremely lucky on Saturday June 15 - it was one of the few beautiful sunny and warm days that we have had in recent weeks. A group of 43 members met at the Greely Community Centre and we were on our way, on time at 9:00 am. We were at the garden gates in less than two hours and after a group photograph everyone was free to explore the gardens at their leisure. One group headed out on an organized tour that they found to be very informative.

The roses, peonies and irises were in full bloom and quite spectacular. The Chinese and Japanese gardens provided delightful landscapes and the bonsai exhibit in the Japanese garden is amazing, especially the plants that are over a 100 years old and still going strong.

The more formal gardens along the west side of the property were in various stages of flowering and one could spend hours checking out different plants and admiring the colourful designs both of plants and sculptures.



Our visit coincided with the construction of many of the plant sculptures that will be part of an exhibition that opened on June 22nd called "Mosaicultures Internationales". It will be there until September. It was very interesting both to see many of the finished sculptures as well as to watch the method used to construct the exhibits. Many hands were still planting or adding finishing touches to the sculptures throughout the gardens. There are thousands of plants in some of the sculptures and the final exhibit will be incredible to see. While many are an array of colours others are formed from just one type of plant. One of my favourites was a dog entirely of grass! In contrast, the exhibit with the dancing cranes was a wash of different colours. Some sculptures were fun and fanciful and others just amazing in their complexity.

Our small group ended the day in the conservatories looking at plants and exotic plants from around the world, from tropical and desert areas.



We were ready for boarding the bus at 4:00 pm and everyone was back in good time. The return journey passed quickly for those of us who watched the gardening movie "Greenfingers", starring Helen Mirren and Clive Owens about a group of prisoners who end up designing a garden for the Hampton Court Flower Show.

Many thanks are due to Jane Rietze for planning the event, booking the bus and organizing the ticket sales as well to Denyse Becker and Lee and Phyllis Nickerson who assisted with ticket sales and other related tasks for the trip. It was a great day.

