



Welcome to
**BEAULIEU
GARDENS**

EST. 1891

“Nowhere in the east can be found gardens that surpass those surrounding the Lougheed home. Hedges of sweet peas and banks of shaded astors are brilliant bits of color against the bright greengrass and the darker greens of the bay trees that border the drives.”



NEWS TELEGRAM, 31 AUGUST 1912



“Another very fine lilac bush in Calgary is to be seen in the gardens of the beautiful residence of Sir James Lougheed, 707 Thirteenth Avenue west. This is also of the Japanese variety, and is about seven years old. This year it was fully loaded with blossoms, though its best period has now passed for this summer. This tree is about the same size of W.R.Hull’s.”



THE CALGARY DAILY HERALD, 16 JULY
1920

MAP



1

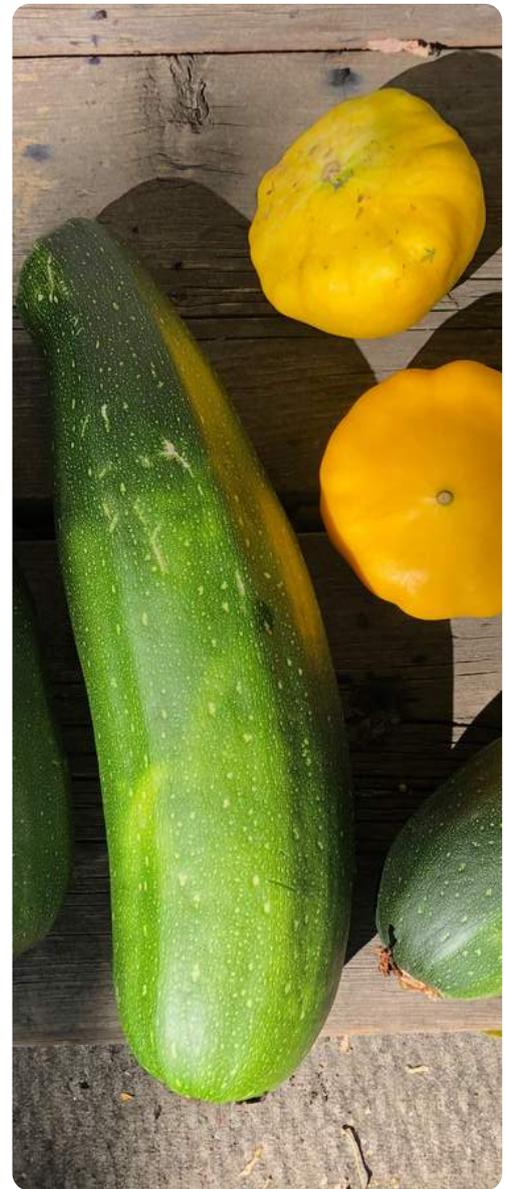
Main Entrance

In order to draw attention to the public entry to the building, several large planters filled with lush, vibrant annuals have been placed on either side of the stairs. Although modern in shape and design, the colour of the planters complement the historic house and period garden ornaments.

In keeping with current trends towards sustainable gardening, these are self-watering. A reservoir of water at the bottom of the planter is filled once a week and allows for moisture to be wicked up as plants need it. This reduces water loss to the atmosphere, and saves on the time and labour of watering.

The shrubs growing in the raised concrete planters are **Meyer lilacs**, originally found growing near Beijing, China in 1909. In June they present an outstanding show of small, light purple flowers with amazing fragrance.





This space is where to find vegetables, herbs and edible flowers that can be successfully grown in Calgary gardens. This season to connect with our indoor exhibit, the center raised bed has been planted with vegetables commonly used in Chinese cooking. They can be found alongside the familiar **pole beans, kale, lettuce, carrots, beets, tomatoes** and **zucchini**. Herbs in this garden include **chives, dill** and **mint**. The urn showcases an **ornamental banana** with **oregano** trailing over the edges.

Veggie Garden



3

Cutting Garden



Flower arranging was first recognized as an art form in the Victorian era and using flower arrangements to decorate the home was considered a skill essential to any young woman's training. This garden showcases many plants well-suited to harvesting for use in a vase or bouquet. Perennials are plants that return each year and our garden includes **peonies**, **blazing star**, **iris** and **echinacea** – all in shades of pinks and purples. Two kinds of **ornamental onions (alliums)** planted last fall as bulbs can be used for fresh cuts, or as dried flowers. **Sea holly** is used for its steely-blue foliage, and is also used for fresh or dried arrangements. Late in the season **culver's roots**, and the vibrant yellow of **golden rod** will take over. Annuals are added each year and this season you'll find **crocosmia**, **snapdragons**, **dusty miller** and **marigolds** among others.



Isabella Lougheed was known to be particularly fond of roses, and she grew many selections in her garden. That tradition has been carried forward into the current day. Roses can be found in several locations on the site, but the Memorial Rose Garden displays the greatest variety. The rose arbour is an exact replica of one that was on the grounds at the time the Lougheeds lived in the house. It was erected in memory of volunteer Margaret Exton. The arbour supports a climbing rose – **John Cabot** – a fragrant repeat bloomer with fuchsia pink/red blooms. Each year the volunteers train the rose to climb higher over the arbour. Many other roses in the garden were believed to be grown in the original Beaulieu gardens. Other plants are included to complement the roses. A large **Mock orange** shrub with a mass of white fragrant flowers blooms in spring before the roses, as do a wonderful **bleeding heart** specimen and many **bearded iris**. Mid-season you'll see **big betony, poppies** and **daylilies** extending the season of interest.

Memorial Rose Garden



5

Dome Bed

Created to balance the circular bed surrounding the flagpole, this bed's nickname comes from the domed window atop the dining room that sits directly above. Always used for annuals, this year we are emulating a carpet bedding scheme. Carpet bedding was very popular in Victorian gardens, using plants of similar heights to create a pattern on the ground. Ours will showcase edible flowers that will be harvested and used in our restaurant. Included are two types of **pansies**, **flowering kale**, **calendula**, **nasturtiums** and **dianthus**. You might find some petals in your salad!



This lower portion of the garden was rebuilt in the early 2000's to accurately replicate the garden structures and layout found on site during the time of the Lougheeds. The balustrades, straight formal lines, steps leading down into the garden and the large circular beds are all illustrative of Victorian gardens and this spot is very popular for weddings and photos. This year the colour scheme for annual plantings of the beds and containers within the site is yellow and pink. Choosing and adhering to this theme helps to create and maintain a sense of continuity as visitors move through the gardens.



In the Circle Beds, taller plants are put in the center, gradually stepping down to plants that hug the edges of the sidewalks. Highlights this year include **papyrus 'King Tut'** in the center of the north and south beds, along with **cosmos, snapdragons, marigolds** and **baby's breath**. The center circle features **dwarf pampas grass** in the middle, surrounded by striking pink **dahlias, brown eyed Susans, dianthus, marigolds** and **petunias**.

Formal Gardens ~ Circle Beds





Formal Gardens ~ West Beds

The beds flanking the steps down into the Formal Garden are home to some of the plants most closely associated with the original Beaulieu Gardens. Pink **Sarah Bernhardt peonies** are a heritage variety, named for the famous actress. Species peonies bloom earlier in the spring, and can be found at the south end of this bed in the shadier location they require. Peonies have a long history and connection with Chinese gardens and culture, fitting well with the theme of our indoor exhibit this summer.



Morden Blush hardy roses were bred as part of the Parkland rose series in the 1970's but would no doubt have met with approval from the garden-savvy Lougheeds. Blooms are lightly scented, semi-double in blush pink to ivory. Later in the season the **hollyhocks** come into their own, towering 8+ feet tall in a range of flower colours from pink to a deep purple and maroon. Traced back to the days of the Lougheeds, hollyhocks pop up in several pockets of the garden, but are the most visible here where they peak over the top of the balustrades. Seeds for these plants are available in the gift shop. Annuals fill the rest of the beds, sticking with the pink and yellow scheme. This year you will find **brown eyed Susans, lavatera, cosmos, marigolds, dusty miller** and **snapdragons**.



These smaller beds include more perennials – most notable of which are the **delphiniums** that rise up against the walls on either side of the stairs. These require careful staking by our volunteers each year. Also a feature is the **Prairie Traveller's Joy clematis** that grows vigorously on the balustrades beside the steps. Although there are a handful of clematis native to Alberta, many were introduced from China, and of the 300 species found worldwide, about half are found in China. **Annabelle hydrangeas** are grown here as well and will produce huge white flowers in late summer. Although this species is native to North America, many other hydrangeas originate in China.

Formal Gardens ~ East Beds



A CHINESE GARDEN

Chinese gardens are designed to be places of beauty and serenity to enable the visitor to experience a spiritual connection with nature. They are designed to provide respite from a noisy and stressful world. Chinese gardens also contain a variety of plants chosen to provide beauty for each season and we aim to do the same, through a mixture of trees, shrubs, perennials, and annuals.



The growing conditions in most of China are significantly milder than we find in Calgary. That means that perennial vegetable and herb plants that might be used in Chinese cooking (ginger, lotus root, lemon grass) will not survive in our gardens.

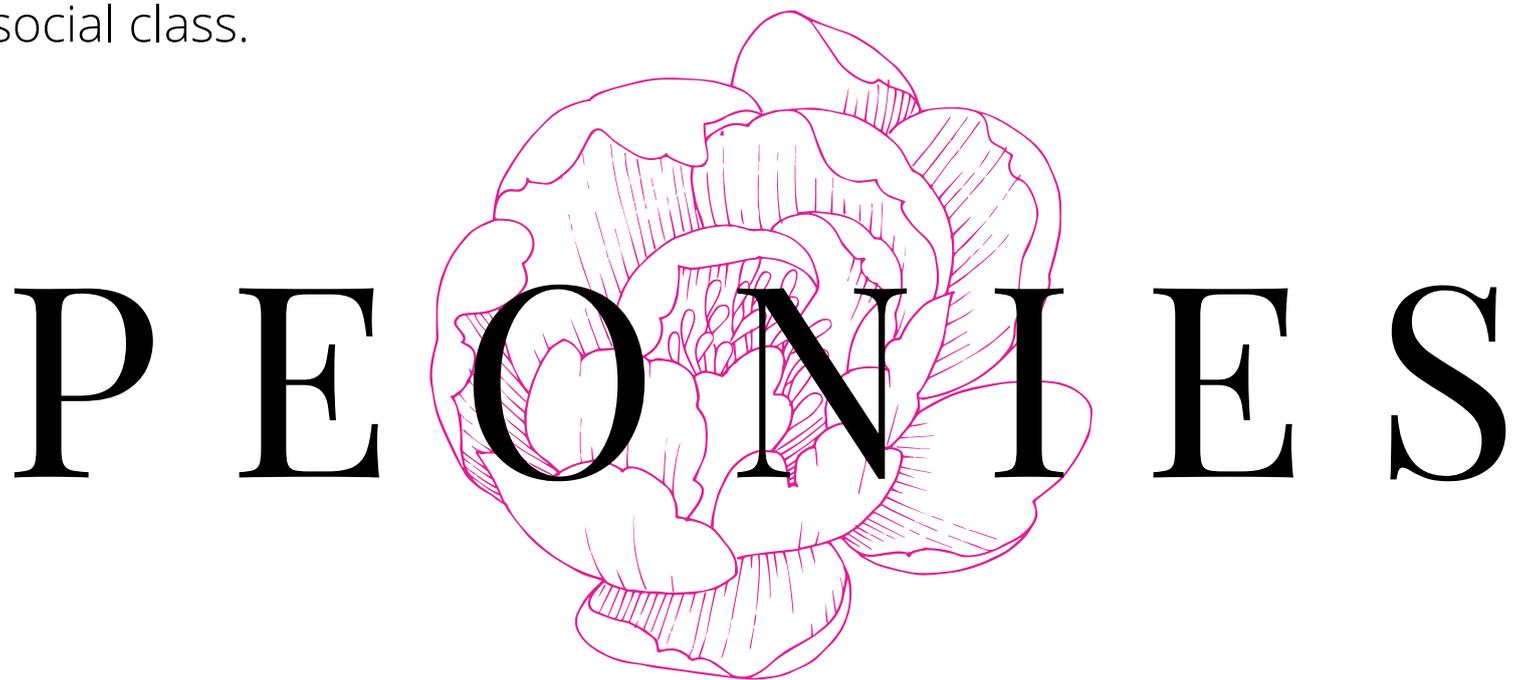


At Beaulieu Gardens the easiest Chinese vegetables to showcase are greens. In our vegetable garden, the center raised bed has been planted with these. Most have been direct sown into the garden with the exception of the Joi Choi pak choy which was planted as small transplants. Garlic chives are perennial plants, and can be found in the ground on either side of this raised bed.



Peonies were one of the first flowers cultivated in China. Known as the 'King of Flowers' they have been popular as far back as the Sui dynasty (581-618 AD) when masses were planted in the Imperial Palace. Very expensive and exclusive, they were China's official flower until 1929.

Chinese gardens frequently feature plants with symbolic meaning, and peonies certainly fit this criteria. They are considered a symbol of spring, female beauty, and reproduction. Peonies represent wealth and prosperity; luck and fortune; honour, power and high social class.



The herbaceous peonies (*Paeonia lactiflora*) seen in countless local gardens originated in areas of Asia including China. These are extremely long-lived perennials, available in a wide range of flower colours and shapes. Several examples can be found in Beaulieu Gardens including **'Sarah Bernhardt'** and **'Duchesse de Nemours'**. You will also find an Itoh peony (cross between tree and herbaceous peony) in our Memorial Rose Garden. Although less common and more expensive, they are sought out for their colour tones which include shades of yellow, peach and purples not found in other peonies. There is also a grouping of light pink, early blooming species peonies (*Paeonia veitchii*), planted in the Formal Garden in the shadier location they prefer. These are indigenous to China.



LOUGHEED HOUSE