

# Perth and District Historical Society

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Perth and District Historical Society - News Release – March 2023

## **The Perth and District Historical Society March 16, 2023 Meeting: Perth's Heritage Gardens**

The Perth and District Historical Society welcomes everyone to its regular monthly meeting at 7:30 pm on March 16, 2023. This meeting will lead us towards the coming gardening seasons.

Lynda Haddon, community gardener and past president of the Perth & District Horticultural Society (PDHS) has organised the care of several principal Town gardens for nearly 20 years. She became aware that there was no recorded history regarding these gardens, despite their pivotal importance to Perth's unique ambiance. Thus, she worked to bring them back to their former glory with many other PDHS volunteers while researching their origins. The result of this work is a trilogy of monographs focusing in turn on three prominent gardens: The Flag Garden, the gardens of Inga Va, and the Town jewel, the Matheson House/Perth Museum Gardens. In this talk, Lynda will provide an overview of their origins, including how one of these beautiful structures very nearly met the fate of a wrecking ball.

In the presentation, we learn interesting points about each garden. The Flag Garden on the east bank of the Tay River was created in 1925 by an ancestor of Perth's Deputy Mayor, viewed best from the nearby bridge on Gore St. The gardens surrounding the house known as Inga Va had their start during the Town's early days with succeeding owners continuing development and growth of the grounds. Matheson House, home to the Perth Museum and the Perth Visitor Centre, can boast of three distinct gardens in the past – the front garden enclosed by the stone wall topped by an iron rail, the formal garden to the east of the house and accessed from either the dining room inside the house or a small gate from the street, and a courtyard to the west with a replica bake oven where the kitchen garden was originally located. However, it is also significant to recognise and appreciate the importance of the on-going role played by PDHS with their efforts in maintaining this part of Perth's history while providing beauty in Perth.

Note: Covid-19 precautions will be in place.

The Perth and District Historical Society is dedicated to learning about and popularising our history and is a forum for discussion and celebration of our area's rich culture and heritage. The meetings are held the third Thursday of the month and are open to the public, at 7:30 pm at the Royal Canadian Legion, Perth-Upon-Tay, Branch 244, home of the Hall of Remembrance, 26 Beckwith St. E. in Perth. The usual "Toonie Fee" applies for each meeting. For information, contact Ellen Dean at 613-264-8362. Our website at [www.perthhs.org](http://www.perthhs.org) has additional information about us and items of interest related to Perth and district.

*Article submitted by the Perth and District Historical Society*