

International Day of Peace – A Georgian Connection



The Georgian Youth Choir performed a concert specially recorded for International Day of Peace at Abkhazi Garden. The Georgian Youth Choir was introduced by Irakli Matkikashvili, the master of the choir. The choir performed on the estate that belonged to Nicolas's grandmother's family.

As well Georgian historian Guram Makhoshvili spoke live via Zoom from the Hotel/Ampelo Garden in Georgia. He shared videos of Ampelo Garden and the ruins of the Abkhazi estate. The garden is located just across the street from Prince Nicolas's paternal estate in Kardenaxi. The street bears the name of Konstantine Abkhazi, Nicolas's father.

Here is a link to the Youth Choir performance: Please enjoy listening to the beautiful and unique sounds of traditional Georgian folk music.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1wY26nGNUD6Twm6LPez6MDzlOo4aS9pZZ?usp=sharing>

Many thanks to Zurab Ivanishvili of the Georgian Diaspora in Greater Vancouver, who arranged this cultural connection on International Day of Peace.

International Day of Peace – Kalyna Ukrainian Choir



After the captivating performance by the Georgian Youth Choir, we had a live performance of the Kalyna Ukrainian Choir.

The choir celebrates ancient Ukrainian traditions, melodies, and harmonies and is directed by Lina Streltsov.

Hearing the harmonious and poignant music of the Kalyna Ukrainian Choir on International Day of Peace was a special experience in the garden of love, peace and healing.

Photo by Tom Maxie

GVSCU Grant



The Land Conservancy of BC is very grateful for a grant of \$5000 to Abkhazi Garden from the Greater Victoria Savings Credit Union.

This grant was matched by The Land Conservancy of BC. The money has allowed Abkhazi Garden to purchase new chairs, tents and sound equipment for community cultural events such as International Day of Peace and Victoria Conservatory of Music performances.

Wifi in the Garden

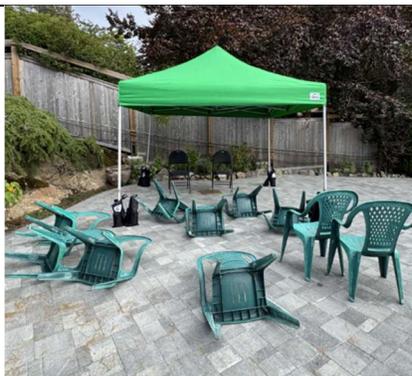


As well the Greater Victoria Saving Credit Union's grant and funding from The Land Conservancy of BC has allowed Wi-Fi to be provided throughout the garden.

We have installed a Eero Max 7 – Mesh Wi-Fi router inside the Teahouse and two Eero Outdoor 7 - Outdoor Wi-Fi access points. One outdoor device is located on the northwest corner of the house and another one on the southwest corner of the house.

To have access to the Wi-Fi in the garden, go to settings, Wi-Fi, and join Abkhazi Garden. The password is AbkhaziGuest.

Music in the Garden



The wind blew the music out of the violinist's music stand and knocked over the chairs.

We had many musical performances this summer from the Victoria Conservatory of Music and one from the Jubilee Clarinet Choir in the Abkhazi Courtyard.

Our last performance of a violin duo was cancelled because of the wind.

A huge thank you to volunteer, Joan Peggs, who donated to our Music in the Garden series.

A New Docent and Special Gift



Our docent team was strengthened this year with 6 new volunteers: Arla, Barbara, Gail, Jane, Jocelyn and Leslie.

Our newest docent, Jane has gifted the garden with a cover for the Summerhouse to use during events when the sun is glaring and it is raining.

The cover has been designed by sail sewing expert, Laura Clutchey. Thank you, Jane, for such a special gift.

Special Guests in the Garden



Visiting over High Tea in the Tearoom that was the Ball's former home.



Many thanks to Christopher and Pamela for giving more Abkhazi artifacts to the garden.

Site manager Cherie and docent Karen welcomed Christopher and Pamela Ball to the garden.

Over a complimentary high tea from the Teahouse, we learned about the special relationship between the Abkhazis and the Balls.

The Balls supported the Abkhazis' in their last years and Peggy sold the garden to them when the city, church and university would not take it on.

In 1995, the Abkhazi Ball Garden was part of Victoria's Annual Garden Tour which showcased 10 of Victoria's Most Beautiful Gardens.

Visiting the Garden is a Sisterly Thing to Do



People visit the garden as individuals, couples, friends, families and groups.

We often have groups of sisters. In the first group, shown here, we have four sisters from the prairies. Our docent, Ron, met these ladies in James Bay and invited them to the garden.

The second group of 5 sisters came with their aunt who is seated on the left. They came from Ontario and the States. They had a special occasion in the garden together.

25th Anniversary Open House and Fall Plant Sale



Many thanks to our volunteers who helped with our Annual Fall Plant Sale. We brought in over \$4600 this year which is up \$600 from last year.



We provided wheelbarrows so our customers could shop with ease and take their goods back to their cars. Some of our neighbour customers brought in their own wheelbarrows to do their shopping.



On Grandparents Day, this young granddaughter was designing a garden in her Abkahzi Garden Activity book with her grandmother at her side.



Many thanks to the Teahouse for two gift cards of An Afternoon Tea for Two. The draw was popular at our 25th Anniversary Open House.

Weddings and Then Anniversaries in the Garden

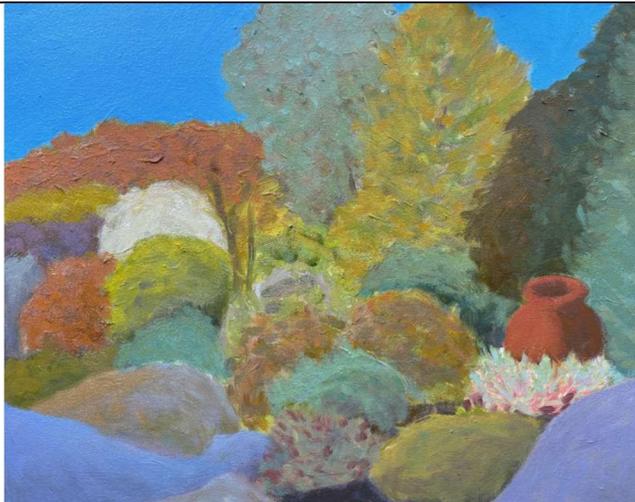


Every year, people who were married in Abkhazi Garden, return to celebrate their anniversary.

Charity and Jonathan were married in the garden 16 years ago in 2009. They came back with family this summer to have High Tea and celebrate their anniversary.

The Teahouse at Abkhazi Garden currently offers wedding ceremonies in the morning from 9-11am and a High Tea reception following the ceremony from 11:00-12:30pm.

Peggy's Letter Carrier



Margaret Hantiuk was one of the artists who took part in the 25th Anniversary Art Show Fundraiser this year.

When Margaret was a letter carrier, Peggy would give her a tour of Peggy's garden on Margaret's lunch break

Margaret was part of the team that saved the garden from being developed.

Coming to the Costume Museum in 2026



In 2026, we will be celebrating 80 years of Abkhazi Garden.

The Costume Museum at Government House will be showing the Abkhazi Collection from May to September 2026.

The three ball gowns shown here are now part of the collection and will be on display with Peggy's cocktail dresses.

The embassy of Georgia to Canada will be lending Prince Nicolas's uniform for this 80th Anniversary exhibition.