

## Highlights of IPPS Area Meeting in Ottawa, Ontario

About 35 participants enjoyed a wide-ranging, informative and well-organized area meeting in the vicinity of Ottawa, Ontario at the end of July. After a nearly 6-hour bus ride from southern Ontario, meeting participants had lunch, then dove right into an afternoon of speakers. The topics included:



- *Design & Implementation of a Nursery Biosecurity Plan* by Bart Brusse of Sheridan Nurseries. This talk explained Sheridan's response to the threat of boxwood blight, a very significant crop for the nursery and ten garden centres. The company relied heavily on other IPPS members to help develop the biosecurity plan.
- *Composting Nursery Waste & Utilizing Organic Matter in Field Production* by Case Vanderkruk of Connon Nurseries NVK. The use of white mustard as a cover crop to discourage nematodes was notable.
- *Things You Need to Know about Water Treatment* by Dr. Youbin Zheng of the University of Guelph. In his inimitable style, Youbin demystified important factors in water treatment from the point of view of a production nursery.

A few other speakers rounded out the program which generated many questions and discussion among the listeners.



*Keith Osborne (right), area meeting organizer, presenting keynote speaker Ed Lawrence with a gift.*

The dinner keynote speaker was Ed Lawrence, a well-known garden communicator in Ontario. Ed spoke engagingly on how the public views the nursery industry.

The next day started early with a tour of the residence of Canada's Governor General, known as Rideau Hall. By comparison, the roles of the U.S. President are largely carried out by two positions in Canada: the Prime Minister and the Governor General. The Governor General is Canada's appointed Head of State and commander-in-chief of Canadian forces, while the Prime Minister is elected.

As expected, Rideau Hall is quite beautiful and peaceful. Some remarked on the luxury of having a team of gardeners to maintain an attractive conservatory and landscape, as well as a chef with a well-utilized kitchen garden.



*The chef cutting herbs in the kitchen garden at Rideau Hall, the residence of the Governor General of Canada.*

Next stop was the Dominion Arboretum, on over 50 acres (26 ha.) in the heart of the city of Ottawa. There were many woody species pushing their hardiness zone (4) limits and some cultivars which hold promise for interesting new introductions.



*Model of the green roof layers at Algonquin College in Ottawa, Ontario.*

The Centre for Construction Excellence is part of Algonquin College, which has 24 construction related programs, including one in Green Architecture. Here the group saw an indoor, 5-storey high “biowall” with tropical plants and an extensive green roof which helps this high performance building envelope achieve an R-50 insulating value.

The last stop was at the Ferguson Forest Centre where participants saw seedlings with known seed provenance being grown for specific bioregions.

Many thanks to Keith Osborne, his committee, Landscape Ontario and the many speakers and tour guides who helped provide such an outstanding event.



*Ottawa Area Meeting tour participants at the Ferguson Forest Centre*