

# **GERALD THOM MEMORIAL NATIVE PLANT GARDEN**

# Gerald's vision

He envisioned a garden for the community that demonstrates the beauty and hardiness of native plants.







# Who was Gerald Thom?

**He was a very special human being:**

- optimistic, energetic, respectful, principled, inspiring, fun;
- a passionate steward of Cowichan Lake;
- an educator and champion of youth.

**He was recognized for his leadership:**

- Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society – founding president (2009 – 2013);
- Lake Cowichan - Citizen of the Year (2013);
- BC Lake Stewardship Society - Lake Steward of the Year (2013);
- Canadian Heritage Rivers - National River Conservation Award of Merit (2016);
- Lake Cowichan School – Gerald Thom Memorial Bursary (2015 - ).



# Winter 2013

Gerald, CLRSS volunteers, and LCS students began work on the site by the museum that had been cleared by the town's work crew.









# Spring 2014

In the spring of 2014 a CLRSS work party prepared the garden for Lake Days.









# Fall 2015

**CLRSS volunteers began a regular maintenance program by adding soil and removing invasive species.**









# Spring 2016

The plants were left to mature for more than a year, with limited maintenance.





# Fall 2018

It was decided to establish the “Gerald Thom Memorial Native Plant Garden” to realize Gerald’s initial vision for the garden as a showcase and educational resource for the community.





# LCS students completed assignments at the garden.





**It was mulched with maple and alder leaves in the fall.**





# Spring 2019

Planning with Dave Polster resulted in the addition of plants, signage, and a walking path through the garden.





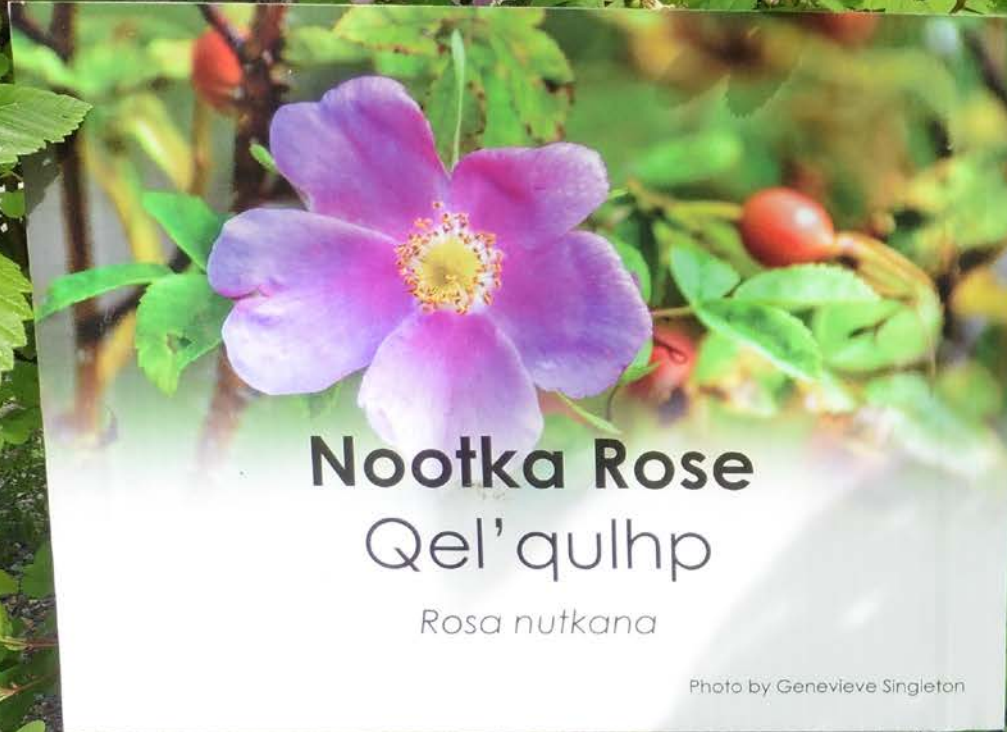








The signs give common, Hul'qumi'num, and scientific names.





**Caroline Thom spoke at the dedication of the garden during Lake Cowichan's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.**





# Spring 2020

The path was created and lined with riverstones, some trees were pruned, weeds were removed, and sturdier signs erected.









Photo by Genevieve Singleton

# Gerald Thom Memorial Native Plant Garden







## Fawn Lily

*Erythronium Oregonum*

Photo by unknown source



## Stream Violet

*Viola glabella*

Photo by Genevieve Singleton





lovingly tended by the members of the Cowichan Lake and River  
Stewardship Society and by the Town of Lake Cowichan

**Gerald Thom  
Memorial  
Native Plant Garden**



# Acknowledgements:

- The Town of Lake Cowichan for providing the site;
- Genevieve Singleton and Judy Brayden for their contributions to the content and design of the signs;
- Dave Polster for his guidance in the development and maintenance of the garden;
- Christine Brophy for sourcing the additional native plants;
- Lake Cowichan School for providing student volunteers and for using the garden as an educational resource;
- CLRSS members for suggesting that the garden be a memorial for Gerald and for volunteering to make it a success.