

For Immediate Release

Newly released book ***A Secret Garden: the Story of Darts Hill Garden Park*** will be the subject of a talk by author Margaret Cadwaladr. The book traces the lives of Ed and Francisca Darts who transformed their rough, stump-covered Surrey acreage into an award-winning fruit and nut orchard and then to an acclaimed garden containing rare and unusual shrubs and trees, many grown from seed. With Ed's unwavering support, Francisca became one of the most knowledgeable garden experts in western Canada in the era of "super plantswomen." Beloved for her enthusiasm and generosity in sharing her immense knowledge of plants, Francisca was associated with many of the most respected groups and individuals in the gardening community of her time. The Darts donated their garden to the City of Surrey in 1994.

The book was published by the Darts Hill Garden Conservancy Trust Society with the support of the City of Surrey. All profits support the garden. Margaret Cadwaladr is also author of ***In Veronica's Garden: The Social History of the Milner Gardens and Woodland***. A new, expanded edition of the Canadian best seller was published in 2018.

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Some comments about the book:

This much anticipated history of Darts Hill Garden by Margaret Cadwaladr is well told and beautifully illustrated. Beyond describing Francisca Darts' amazing horticultural journey, Cadwaladr brings to the page a fascinating cast of local characters and a lucid, evocative record of the times. It is a delightful tribute to Francisca and her wonderful garden.

Douglas Justice,
UBC Botanical Garden

[The book] will undoubtedly have a long shelf life and will serve many levels of interest. New gardeners will find it contains advice and inspiration. Those who knew and loved Francisca Darts will enjoy reading the history of her life and work and they can also treasure hearing how the garden came together bit by bit.

Steve Whysall
Retired Vancouver Sun Garden Writer

The garden's story needed to be told.

Alleyne and Barbara Cook