APRIL

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April brings early-mid season rhododendrons, magnolias and clouds of pink cherry blossoms. Take a stroll down the Camellia Walk, located just outside the westernmost edge of the golf course, to see a collection of mature camellias salvaged from old homes in the West End that were demolished during the 1960s.

Images on reverse:

1 *Darmera peltata*
2 *Camellia japonica x*
3 *Rhododendron* 'Mrs. G W Leak'
4 *Magnolia liliiflora* 'Nigra'
5 *Rhododendron* 'President Roosevelt'
6 *Rhododendron* 'Moonstone'
7 *Magnolia stellata*
8 *Magnolia x soulangiana*
9 *Rhododendron williamsianum*
10 *Camellia 'Aunt Mavis'*
11 *Lysichiton americanus*
12 *Magnolia* 'Yellow Lantern'
13 *Koelreuteria paniculata*
14 *Rhododendron concinnum*
15 *Rhododendron* 'Elizabeth'

1 *Darmera peltata*

Umbrella plant is a unique herbaceous perennial in that it produces flowers before it produces leaves. In April, its leafless flowers stalks begin to push up through the ground and eventually erupt into a cluster of small, pale pink flowers. These are followed by large, peltate leaves, produced singly atop thick stalks.

2 *Camellia japonica x*

There are more than an astounding 3000 cultivars and hybrids of Camellia japonica in cultivation. A handful of these can be viewed from late February through late April along the Camellia Walk, on the west side of the Stanley Park Pitch and Putt course.

3 *Rhododendron* 'Mrs. GW Leak'

'Mrs. GW Leak' has large pink flowers with a burgundy blotch on the upper petal, and drooping leaves. It looks very similar to *Rhododendron* 'Mrs. Furnival;' one way that the two can be told apart is that 'Mrs. Furnival' blooms two weeks later than 'Mrs. GW Leak' and has a slightly lighter blotch.

4 *Magnolia liliflora*

Lily magnolia has striking dark pink, nearly purple vase-shaped flowers. These begin blooming in late April on bare branches. The selection 'Nigra' is shorter than most, but produces flowers at an exceptionally young age.

5 *Rhododendron* 'President Roosevelt'

'President Roosevelt' can generally be described as a variegated rhododendron, as both its leaves and its flowers are multi-coloured. 'President Roosevelt's leaves are large and waxy, mixed green and chartreuse, while its flowers are picotee type, and fade from dark pinkish-red at the edges to pure white in the middle.

6 *Rhododendron* 'Moonstone'

Rhododendron 'Moonstone' is a *Rhododendron williamsianum* hybrid that becomes covered in creamy white bell-shaped flowers in late April and early May. It has a compact habit, small round leaves and coppery new growth characteristic of williamsianum crosses. The flowers of 'Moonstone' may change colour slightly from year to year, depending on seasonal conditions, ranging from pale yellow to cream to nearly pure white.

7 *Magnolia stellata*

Star magnolia produces 3-4 inch wide white flowers. Its petals are more narrow than those of most magnolias, with about 12-18 being produced per flower. These are very showy in bloom, and are ever so slightly fragrant.

8. *Magnolia x soulangiana*

Saucer magnolia is a small deciduous tree that

only ever reaches a height of about 5 metres. It has a multi-stemmed habit and produces perfect pale pink flowers tinged with purple in the spring.

9 *Rhododendron williamsianum*

Rhododendron williamsianum is a unique rhododendron. In April, it produces delicate, nodding bell-shaped pink flowers, which are held in trusses of two or three throughout its dense foliage. Even without flowers, *Rhododendron willamsianum* can be easily identified by its rounded leaves and copper-coloured new growth. It is shrubby and mounded in habit, and will grow to be, at most, about 1.5 metres tall.

10 *Camellia* 'Aunt Mavis'

One of the loveliest camellias in the garden can be found on the west side of the Camellia Walk. Its single flowers are bright pink with a cluster of sunny yellow stamens in the centre of each.

11 *Lysichiton americanus*

Skunk cabbage is an iconic native wetland perennial in coastal British Columbia. It gets its name from the pungent smell it produces, which is considered unpleasant by some. Its other common name, swamp lantern, comes from its bright yellow flowers, which begin to bloom in April.

12 *Magnolia* 'Yellow Lantern'

Yellow lantern magnolia produces beautiful pale yellow flowers, which are unique in that they emerge at the same time as the leaves do, whereas most magnolias flower before they leaf out. The specimen on the Magnolia Walk is being steadied by a chain attached to a maple on the other side if the path.

13 *Koelreuteria paniculata*

Golden raintree, as *Koelreteuria paniculata* is commonly known, is a deciduous tree that produces dry, papery, orange lantern-like fruit. These fruit persist through the fall as the tree's compound leaves turn a beautiful bright golden yellow colour, into the winter all the way up until new leaves are produced. This *Koelreteuria* is a very large specimen. While its exact age is unknown, it is probably at least 60 years old. When *Koelreteuria*'s leaves first appear in the late spring, they are a pale salmon pink, and later mature to green.

14 *Rhododendron concinnum*

Rhododendron concinnum is a shrubby and fast growing, and produces smaller, slightly fragrant purple flowers in late April. Its glossy green leaves also emit a pleasant scent, particularly when crushed.

15 *Rhododendron* 'Elizabeth'

This is perhaps the best and most reliable of all red rhododendrons, and is thus commonly planted. 'Elizabeth' is low-growing, has nice dark green foliage, and prolific bright red trusses. It is easy to grow and generally problem-free.