**Good homes for the ornamentals**

Over the years many of you have walked into the greenhouse area through the double doors as you exit the foyer area of the James Richardson Auditorium (Ag Building room 172 and 170) or walked down the main greenhouse hallway and peered into the windows of greenhouse #1 and #2 to enjoy the rooms filled with orchids and other flowering, tropical ornamentals.

Some of you may also recall the days when the Department of Plant Science had a thriving horticultural program and the conservatory greenhouse was filled with tropical and other ornamental plants. Some of you may also have noted the shift in research emphasis overtime along with a decline in the ornamentals present including the transformation of the conservatory for crop research.

Due to further shifting in research emphasis and ultimately the allocation of staff resources to that research it has now been decided to further par down the ornamental collection. As a result the orchid room is now empty as we have shifted and organized plants into greenhouse #1. You will see those plants soon dwindling as well.

But please note the following:

1. The Dept. of Plant Science has faithfully and freely provided convocation plants for six to eight ceremonies each year for over 35 years. That tradition will continue and the plants necessary to service those ceremonies will be kept (primarily in the plastic house and in the “orchid” room).
2. We hope to fix the lights in the Ag. Building atrium (under the stairs) and place and rotate some plants there to beautify that area.
3. Some of the plants will be finding a home in the biological sciences greenhouse and possibly the U of W and Assiniboine Park conservatory.
4. After a period in which persons that have kept and/or gave plants to the collection have a chance to claim their them we will be offering them to all others interested either through an auction, lottery or give away (depending on the interest shown).

Perhaps, like you, we are saddened that some of these beautiful plants will be leaving but also grateful that we can still claim a remnant of the past to enjoy.

Sincerely,

Rob Visser and Cathy Bay

The Greenhouse Staff