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where did Rhodena get her seeds from? She got them from a woman named Elizabeth. And Elizabeth gave them to her daughter. And Elizabeth's daughter Margaret was the source of the Hollyhocks in our area. We couldn't check to find the original plants where Elizabeth MacDonald used to live. Because (it was) recently bulldozed, the whole place. But luckily, the seeds were passed on. Now, she didn't have the Hollyhocks any more either. For some reason, they failed. Hollyhocks are not a perennial. They're a biennial. And if they're in a good place, they'll seed themselves from year to year. But if they're not, they'll die out. And the only way to start them again is with seed. But she had luckily passed the seed on to somebody else, who lived at Little Narrows - Kathleen. So I went to see Kathleen, and there they were. Kathleen gave me seed; I have them in my garden; and I pass seed around to a lot of people. Because one of the Hollyhocks that she had Riverside Cleaners Cape Breton's Only Drive-Thru DryCleaning KINGS ROAD • SYDNEY Lowest Drycleaning Prices in Town! in her possession was called the Black Hollyhock. And it's very dark purple. It's beautiful--just a beautiful flower. It looks black in the bud. And when it opens up, it's kind of a claret colour--white in the middle. And when the flower gets wet, the colour actually comes off on your hand. And it was used as a food dye, to give herb tea a nice tea colour--or wine. So it was used herbally. But around here I don't think it was used herbally.... I'm fascinated by the fact that these people, in their hardships, did this. But I think this is why they did it. Because they needed that in their life. They needed some form, some release. You see Rhubarb in the flower garden. Now, Rhubarb they did use. So they had something useful in there. But you know, the Forget-me-nots--what are they going to do with Forget-me-nots? They grow them because they gave them spiritual sustenance in some way.... I mean, there's a zillion Petunias out there called White Cloud, right? And you take it and you put it in your garden. It blooms beautifully all summer, and then it's dead. So you can't really form any attachment to it, you know. It's not like the Peony that's grown there for 75 years....

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