



# SCOTIA GARDENER

Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs

## President's Report

It's that time of the year when all gardeners get a chance to rest a bit. Yes, I know you are already checking out new plants in the catalogues and designing new beds but you have to admit it is less physical if not less challenging. And of course, we are all dropping hints for which gardening delights we would like to see under the tree.

Usually I reflect on the joys (and pain) that have come during my gardening year. This year I find myself thinking of all the new people I have met from all over the province that share the same obsession. From Cape Breton to Yarmouth and from Pictou to Halifax, I have met experienced and inexperienced gardeners that all are warm and welcoming. I have toured gardens that range from petite to amazingly large. I have visited clubs that are small in numbers and others that have large memberships. All share the same love of gardening be it annuals, perennials, vegetables or trees and shrubs. And all love to talk about their gardens, their future gardens and their past gardens. It is truly amazing and I am happy I said yes to taking a position on the board of the NSAGC.

I would like to thank District 2 for their invitation to say a few words at their fall rally and also District 5. Both rallies were fun and informative with interesting speakers. (And oh my the food!)

I would also like to thank all the District Directors for taking time out to attend the Education Seminar in November. All comments from the directors at the end of the session were extremely positive and appreciative. This has certainly led to more awareness of the responsibilities of the position and more communication among all. Time and effort are required to ensure these events happen so a big thank you to Susan, Pamela, Arthur and Don for taking the time to prepare the course and answer questions. All in all, a very successful learning event.

So as the New Year, unfolds the board will be encouraging all members to register for the 2017 Convention in Cape Breton and to help celebrate Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday by Planting the Province Red and White.

Do have a wonderful holiday with family and friends.

Vicki Willis



Our leader, Vicki Willis, head of the class. Your executive and Directors hard at work at our September meeting

## NSAGC Photo Contest Plan to Entre Now

### Tips for taking better photographs in your garden.

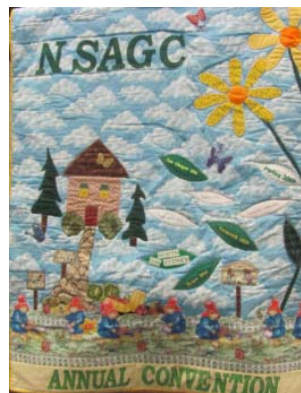
If you want to take stunning pictures of your garden then you should be aware of terms that photographers often use. Photographs that immediately catch your attention have what is called "the wow factor." Such pictures may have images that appear to "pop out" of the picture or they can be so sharply focused that photographers use the term "tack sharp" to describe them. The terms "pop out" and "tack sharp" are tags that you can put into your internet search browser. Entering "how to take tack sharp pictures" or "how to take pictures that pop out" will give you access to web sites that will help you improve your garden photography. Of these terms, "tack sharp" is what you should probably concentrate upon. Remember that the closing date for the NSAGC's garden photography contest is Monday May 8<sup>th</sup>. For more information, please go to the NSAGC's web site at: <http://www.nsagc.com/Photo.htm>.

### Looking for a Volunteer.

Do you have an interest in photography, Currently the NSAGC Photographic Competition requires contestants to mail in their submissions. Each year, there are members who ask whether they can upload, rather than mail, their images. In our digital age, many photographic contests allow, or even require, contestants to submit their images this way. The NSAGC is looking for someone to propose to the NSAGC Directors how this could be best achieved. Are you interested in taking on this project? If you are, or if you would like more information, please contact, [aclinch@av.eastlink.ca](mailto:aclinch@av.eastlink.ca).

## Mark your 2017 Calendar Now - June 2nd & 3rd

Although it's many months away, if you plan on attending the Convention in 2017 in Baddeck, Cape Breton, you can book your accommodations any time now. The Inverary Resort has allotted a block of rooms, just identify yourself as an NSAGC attendee. There are many types and prices of rooms. Call 902-295-3500 or 1-800-565-5660, and check their website [www.capebretonresorts.com](http://www.capebretonresorts.com)



## PLANT GIVEAWAY

In 2008 the NSAGC Future Projects Committee initiated a plant giveaway to every member of a garden club in Nova Scotia. Each year a different perennial is chosen and are purchased in bulk and distributed at the annual convention to garden clubs for distribution to their members. These are given free to members as one of the many perks of membership in the NSAGC.

The perennial selected for 2017 is Hosta 'Fragrant Blue'. This Hosta is one of the best blue types on the market and is an excellent landscape specimen by itself or in mass plantings. Fragrant Blue is a medium size Hosta about 15 to 20 inch tall. For those gardeners who like to plant in groups of three or mass plantings additional plants can be obtained by your club placing a bulk order as described below.




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### BULK ORDERS OF HOSTA 'FRAGRANT BLUE'

ORDER FORM FOR Hosta 'Fragrant Blue' PLANTS

Name of Club \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Plants Requested @ \$2 each \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person in Club \_\_\_\_\_

Fill in Order Form, make cheque or MO out to the Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs and forward to:  
Arthur Haskins, 8780 Highway #2, Great Village, NS., B0M 1L0

For any further information contact Arthur at 668-2838 or [ahaskins@eastlink.ca](mailto:ahaskins@eastlink.ca)

Plants to be picked up at the Convention in June.

#### **Tags and Seals from NSAGC**

For your next Flower/Vegetable Show don't forget to order your Tags and Seals from the NSAGC. NSAGC provides 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place, Honorable Mention and Best in Show Seals or stickers for the judges to use during your show. These seals can be placed on the Flower Show Tags after judging. It is a nice way to remember what award you won.

The Tags have room for the class, selection, variety, exhibitor's number, name and address. The participant's information can be covered during the judging by a fold and a slot to insert the end of the tag so the judges can't see who the exhibitor is.

The Tags & Seals are both 10 cents each to purchase through your garden club. These can be mailed to your club or your club can save on postage by being picked up during our Annual NSAGC Convention.

If your club would like to place an order please contact Valerie Despres either by phone or email. The phone number is (902)847-1001 or email address is [vdespres@eastlink.ca](mailto:vdespres@eastlink.ca)

Valerie Despres, NSAGC Tags & Seals

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#### **THE NSAGC IS NOW ON FACEBOOK**

Join the NSAGC Group. We now have almost 1700 gardeners who have joined. Every member of the group may post events, pictures, questions, answers, and interesting things about gardening. Members may also invite others to join. On Facebook, go to Groups, search NSAGC on the top bar and ask to join.

Questions? Contact [annjones@eastlink.ca](mailto:annjones@eastlink.ca)

**Check out our NEW LOOK NSAGC website**  
[www.nsagc.com](http://www.nsagc.com)



#### **NSAGC at Saltscapes Expo 2017**

The NSAGC will again have a presence at the 2017 Saltscapes Expo held at Exhibition Park near Halifax. Reserve the dates of April 21<sup>st</sup> - April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2017 to drop by our booth and say hi and buy a plant or two. This event serves as a great opportunity for the NSAGC to promote your Garden Club and others around the province to over ten thousand people who visit this event. Again this coming year the main emphasis will be on providing information on how to join a Garden Club or even how to start a new club. Astilbe plants (3 different colours) will be sold to offset the cost of the booth and if this coming year is like last year we should be able to cover all cost and have a bit of a surplus. This is a wonderful show with many interesting vendors with samples and a number of informative lectures and interesting music events, hope to see everyone there.

### NOVA SCOTIA DAYLILY SOCIETY

The summer of 2016 will go down in the history books as one of the driest since records have been kept here in Nova Scotia. Depending on where in the province you are, descriptions like “abnormally dry, moderate drought and severe drought” have become the main talking points of not only weather forecasters but around gardens and gardeners everywhere. Those that did get rain were fortunate, those that did not suffered.

This past September, at our annual general meeting, I became the newest President of the Nova Scotia Daylily Society and all of our executive but one are new this term. We are looking forward to the coming season and putting our spin on the workings of our club. A big congrats goes out to the previous executive with particular thanks to Mary Ridgley, now past President, for all of her efforts this past year.

You might gather from our name that we love Daylilies! The interest from our members seems to range from “dailyness are neat and form part of our overall garden” to “the absolute daylily KEENERS who often have collected registered dailyness into the thousands of different specimens”. Some of our members simply collect for their personal appreciation while some collect, hybridize and sell new introductions and proven winners.

New introductions and making them available to our members is a big part of our fund raising effort each year. A new introduction ranges in cost from as little as \$100 all the way to \$400 or over. Its all about supply and more so demand. If a hybridizer has introduced a new look, whether it be simply the colour combinations or the bud count, or the fragrance, some KEENERS will just have to have it. Simple as that. But, the challenge is who has all sorts of monies for a double fan of some new introduction? Reality says not many of us will pay into the hundred of dollars for a new plant so the NSDS has found a solution of purchasing new introductions and sharing with the members.

We have as one of our hardest working committee's a “Babysitting Plant Program”. The concept is simple enough and works well within our group. Our club purchases new introductions from a variety of hybridizers. On occasion they are from Nova Scotia, sometimes they are from Ontario, and often they are from the USA. The basic idea is for the club to sponsor the purchase of a number of new introductions from distant hybridizers that the average person may not be able to afford. The club then lends those plants to qualifying members to “babysit” individual plants for up to three years in their own gardens. After three years, the babysitter gets to keep a double fan and return the rest for our next plant auction. A win, win for everyone. The auction is lively, plants go quickly, and best of all we are able to have members gain new additions to their gardens and raise monies for our club.

Another of our big events is our Annual Daylily Daze single day event held towards the end of June or early July. This past year was once again a huge success under the watchful eye of Joan Bradley this years Chair. Members and the public are invited to participate in the purchase of day lilies at most every price point starting at five dollars on up. If an attendee is looking to simply add some basic new day lilies to their garden or to purchase the latest and greatest of introductions from local hybridizers, this is the place to be. Also, held on the same day were a number of workshops including photography in the garden, hobby beekeeping, plant divisions and more. A silent auction was also on hand from donated items, and of course the day would not be complete with a variety of great food and drink. All in all a great day, mutually beneficial for members, the general public and the our club. Thanks Daylily Daze Team!!

You might gather that I could go on and on about our Daylily club but in reality the only way to share in the excitement is to attend one of our meetings or better yet - become a member!

We have a website and Facebook page. Please take a look and do we ever look forward to meeting you sometime soon!

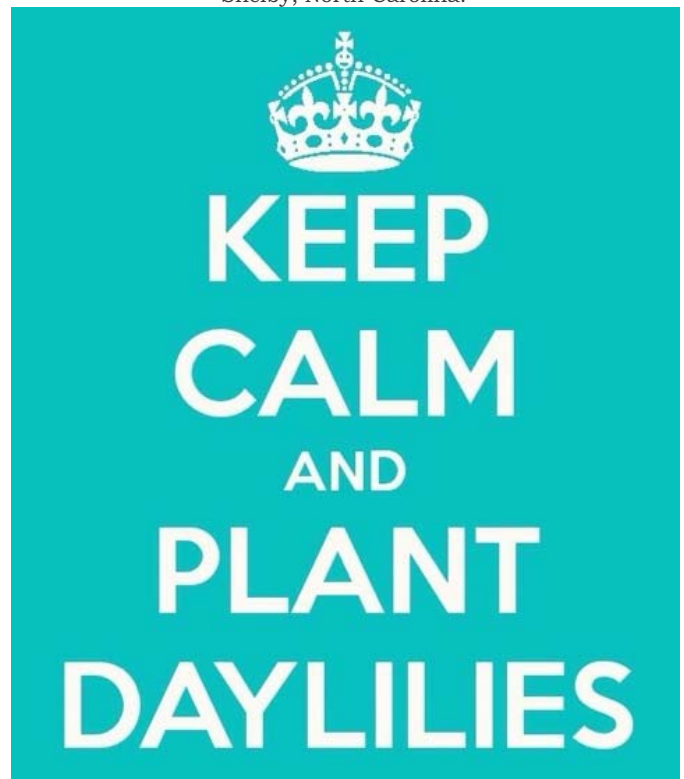
Greg Sutcliffe, President



At the annual summer barbecue. l to r: Heather Casely, member from Truro, Paul Owen, guest speaker from Shelby, North Carolina, Allan Banks, member and past President from the Eastern Shore.



Summer barbecue. l to r: Brian Smith, founding member of NSDS, Linda Smith, founding member of NSDS, Mary Ridgley, member and past President, Paul Owen, guest speaker from Shelby, North Carolina.



**Update From Dartmouth Horticultural Society**

Well into our fifth decade, DHS continues to be an active and interesting group of gardeners! Bravely stepping into the President's chair this year was Linda Mosher, supported by able Executive members. With a membership of 98, and average of 40 members & guests per monthly meeting, there is always lots of chatter, laughter, and easy access to good gardening help. Our resource library is updated each year, available at every meeting thanks to Kathy Rutherford, and is well used. We do have guests at every meeting, thanks to multiple publicity sites coordinated by Janet Quigg.

Our Program Coordinator, Kathy Harvie, has organized a great year of speakers ranging from Growing Clematis to Container Gardening to Tree Care to Putting the Garden to Bed; and she ensures we know about special speakers in other local clubs so that we can attend. A few meetings each year also include Seed Exchanges, Plant Exchanges, or Bring Your Gardening Questions.

The annual Plant Sale was held on May 28th, superbly coordinated again by Ann Li Huestis, with help from many club members who donated plants or worked on site. This sale raised over \$3000, and along with memberships and a monthly 50/50 draw, allows us to: give an annual Bursary to a student in Plant Science at Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture, have honorariums for speakers, pay for supplies/equipment and room rental, and supplement our special events like Provincial Gardening Week activities.



Sullivan's Pond

Moir Garden, supplying mulch and annuals for the volunteers, and recently delivered 400 daffodil bulbs!

The 4th Gaggle of Gardeners bus tour, expertly coordinated again by Debbie Symonds, saw 48 people shopping for plants at several nurseries in the Annapolis Valley, and having a great day of laughter and friendship. This year we enjoyed July garden tours at homes of Kathy Harvie and Eileen Reid, and an August Potluck in the garden of Liz and Ron Jackson. Debbie Symonds is coordinating our annual Christmas Potluck on Dec. 5th, where we also gather Food Bank donations. And as a new year approaches, a committee chaired by Susan Hazelwood has already done a lot of legwork to get DHS ready to host the NSAGC Central District Meeting on April 22, 2017 with the theme of "A Garden That Pleases You".

DHS wishes all our fellow NSAGC club members a healthy and prosperous New Gardening Year!



Avis Faulkner

The beautiful Moir Gardens at Sullivan's Pond, Dartmouth. Over many years Audrey and Lorne Moir created and lovingly cared for these pretty gardens.

**Country Garden Club**

**Central North and South District Meeting, 2016**



The Central North and South District meeting was hosted this year by the Country Garden Club of Elmsdale. It was held October 22, 2016 at the Milford Recreation Centre. The weather person had predicted quite a down pour for that day, but it held off until after the meeting. The hall was beautifully decorated in the fall colours.

Vicki Willis, president of the NSGCA, gave a welcoming speech, as well as Elisie Locke, Director Central North and Elizabeth Hill, Director Central South.

There were 11 clubs represented, each giving a report of their last year's activities. A luncheon was provided after the reports, which was enjoyed by all who attended.

Stephen King was the guest speaker and he gave a presentation on Planning and Design for Community Gardens. It was very informative and we left with some great ideas for our own community gardens.

The Country Garden Club would like to thank all those who attended, and the contributors who donated towards the gift bags, door prizes and set up of the hall. A special thank you to the garden clubs who helped provide the sweets, we had lots and some gardeners were able to take a few goodies home with them. We would also like to thank the volunteers who helped the Country Garden Club set up the hall.

Next year's meeting will be hosted by Great Village Garden Club. Hope to see you all there.

Cathy Pryde



Many great draw prizes



Guest Speaker Stephen King



Excellent attendance, enjoyed by all

**North Sydney Garden Club Christmas Workshop**

On Dec 3rd, North Sydney Garden Club hosted their Christmas workshop to the public. It was a great success and a fundraiser for our club. Just over 100 people made 2 crafts each. The crafts were a Christmas centerpiece, with red or gold candle, a fir, pine, pinecones and Holly in a wet oasis, and a wall decoration, comprised of dried Iris pods, Lily stems, twigs, ferns, and ornamental grasses, placed in a small burlap bag, tied with a ribbon. Between the two crafts, tea and sweets were served. After the public workshop, members made outdoor hanging baskets

Joanne Ford



Yvonne Johnstone, 90 years young, shows proper technique



North Sydney Club President Dona Benac demonstrating



Community Members enjoying the challenge of creating Christmas decorations



left to right: Edna Jabalee, Joanne Ford (District 1 Director), Mamie Johnstone, Pat MacKenzie (NSAGC Past Chairperson), Pamela MacLean (NSAGC Vice-Chairperson), Eric Lewis, Dona Benac, Lorna Williams, Ursula Dufore, Gloria Bennett, Margaret and GeriLynn Buffett.

**Inverness Mistletoe Gala**

Inverness Garden Club's annual Mistletoe Gala, held November 20th, 2016. It is Inverness's biggest fund raiser of the year.

Betty Anne Cameron.



Pictured left to right: Betty Anne Cameron, Johanna Ward, Marg Ryan, Eleanor Ryan, Chris MacLellan, Marion MacIsaac, Tom Ryan, Berry Walker, Berry MacKinnon and Darlene Gillis.



A beautiful and crative dessert

**Yarmouth Garden Club**

Program for November meeting of the Yarmouth Garden Club, Tasha, from Every Bloomin' Thing, demonstrated the construction of a Christmas arrangement containing fresh greenery. This beautiful arrangement then became the coveted "Door Prize" which was won by one of our newest members, Joesy Pidbrochynski, pictured below.. Congratulations Joesy! Kathy d'Entremont



### Weymouth Garden Club Winning Christmas Tree

The Weymouth Garden Club worked hard on their Christmas tree they entered in the Community Tree Decorating contest.

They proudly came in second – who could beat the Antler Tree which came in first.

Betty Mullen



Decorators: l to r, Natalie Mazell, Ann Robicheau, Betty Mullen, Loretta Mitchell, Nancy Mc Kenzie, Lee Betts.

### NSAGC's Scotia Gardener

The Scotia Gardener is published in October, December, April and July.

We welcome articles, pictures, notices, items of interest to gardeners. Please send to: Ann Jones, Editor, 429 Lakeside Rd, PO box 167, Hebron, NS, B5A 5Z8

or e-mail to: [annjones@eastlink.ca](mailto:annjones@eastlink.ca).

Phone 902 742 1978 or cell 902 748 5948.

Deadline for the April issue is March 15, 2017

If you would like to place an advertisement in the Scotia Gardener, please contact Don Butler at [butlerdon@live.ca](mailto:butlerdon@live.ca)

*Note: The Editor of the Scotia Gardener retains exclusive control over the content and format of the newsletter. All information submitted for publication will be subject to and will be included or excluded in the newsletter on the sole discretion of the Editor.*

### For those in District 5

Save the date for May, Saturday the 6th 2017. The Mount Denson Garden Club will be having our district meeting that date. Schedule will follow.

Location will be at the #9 Windsor Legion, 35 Empire Lane opposite the Fort Edward Mall and Sobeys.

Note: The building does have an elevator so if you cannot navigate stairs you may still attend. Plenty of parking.

There will be a roast beef dinner with pie, price to attend TBA. If there is a special food requirements please write that on your attending form. Plenty of vendors for your shopping pleasure. Speakers are being confirmed.

If you need a place to stay there are bed and breakfasts, motels and a Super 8, in and around the Windsor area. Hope to see you there.

President Tracey Martin.

### NSAGC Executive

#### Chair, Vicki Willis

902-789-1612, [vwillis53@hotmail.com](mailto:vwillis53@hotmail.com)

#### Past Chair, Patsy MacKenzie

902-674-2374, [sunmoonlink@hotmail.com](mailto:sunmoonlink@hotmail.com)

#### Vice Chair, Pamela MacLean

902-832-7006, [pamela.macleam@gmail.com](mailto:pamela.macleam@gmail.com)

#### Secretary, Susan Hazelwood

902-469-3661, [susan.hazelwood@eastlink.ca](mailto:susan.hazelwood@eastlink.ca)

#### Treasurer, Janet Simpson

902-434-2626, [janetsimp@gmail.com](mailto:janetsimp@gmail.com)

### Committees

#### Awards Committee, Lorna Williams

902-794-2893, [lorna\\_williams640@yahoo.ca](mailto:lorna_williams640@yahoo.ca)

#### Future Projects Committee, Arthur Haskins

902-668-2838, [ahaskins@eastlink.ca](mailto:ahaskins@eastlink.ca)

#### Historian, Dixie Cress

902-538-0741, [dl.cress@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:dl.cress@ns.sympatico.ca)

#### Photo Contest Committee, Andrew Clinch

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#### Tags & Seals, Valerie Despres

902-847-1001, [vdespres@eastlink.ca](mailto:vdespres@eastlink.ca)

#### Scotia Gardener Newsletter, Ann Jones

902-742-1978, 902 748 5948 cell, [annjones@eastlink.ca](mailto:annjones@eastlink.ca)

#### Web Master, Paul Despres

902-847-1001/403-630-7814, [pdespres@eastlink.ca](mailto:pdespres@eastlink.ca)

### Directors

#### Cape Breton District # 1, Joanne Ford, Director,

902-577-0598, [jfxford@hotmail.com](mailto:jfxford@hotmail.com)

#### Eastern District # 2, Sharon Bryson, Director,

902-863-6307, [sbryson@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:sbryson@ns.sympatico.ca)

#### District #3 Central North, Elsie Locke, Director

902-650-2028/902-957-1160, [eandjlocke@gmail.com](mailto:eandjlocke@gmail.com)

#### District #3 Central South, Elizabeth Hill, Director,

902-261-2678, [elizabeth.hill2@bellaliant.net](mailto:elizabeth.hill2@bellaliant.net)

#### Halifax District # 4, Kathy Harvie, Director,

902-435-5768, [emeraldns2001@yahoo.ca](mailto:emeraldns2001@yahoo.ca)

#### Valley District # 5, Debra Carey, Director,

902-825-9035 [nsagc.director5.director@gmail.com](mailto:nsagc.director5.director@gmail.com)

#### South Shore District # 6, Susan Gilmour, Director,

902-644-1375, [happyg3@hotmail.com](mailto:happyg3@hotmail.com)

#### Western District # 7 Ann Jones,

902-742-1978/902-748-5948, [annjones@eastlink.ca](mailto:annjones@eastlink.ca)

### Nova Scotia Provincial Gardening Week

Clubs were very active with many projects to beautify and support their communities First Week of June Every Year! What are you planning for 2017?





**2017 NSAGC Convention Registration Form**  
**Hosted by Cape Breton, District 1**  
**June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
**Inverary Inn, Baddeck**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I am a member of \_\_\_\_\_ Garden Club or Society

**Convention Registration** (includes Friday evening reception, Saturday lunch, nutrition breaks)

NSAGC member \$ 50

Non-member \$ 55

**Saturday evening Banquet** (includes salad, turkey dinner, dessert, gratuities, taxes)

Number of people for Banquet: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$ 50 per person \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate special dietary requirements \_\_\_\_\_

(Please also mention dietary requirements to your server at the time of the meal)

**Optional Tours – Friday at 2:00 p.m.**

Uisage Falls 1.5 km Hike: # of people \_\_\_\_\_ x \$ 10 per person \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Amoeba Sailing Tour (limit 40 people): # of people \_\_\_\_\_ x \$ 25 per person \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Guided Walking Tour of Beinn Bhreagh Estate (A.G. Bells' Historic Summer Home):  
(limit 40 people): # of people \_\_\_\_\_ x \$ 25 per person \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Amount Payable** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration closes on May 1, 2017!!**

Please make cheque payable to: NSAGC 2017 Convention (no post-dated cheques, please).

Mail registration form and cheque to: Lis Jackson, 101 Lakehill Drive, Lake Loon, NS B2W 6C8.

For more information, please contact Patsy MacKenzie at or 902-674-2374 or Dona Benac at 902-794-3197.

**Accommodations**

Please make hotel reservations directly with the Inverary Inn (<http://capebretonresorts.com/our-resorts/inverary-resort> ) The Inverary Inn is offering Convention rates on a variety of room sizes starting at \$115.00 until May 1, 2017. Parking is provided free of charge. Please call 1-800-565-5660 or 1-902-295-3500 or register online. Make sure you specify NSAGC when making your reservation. Many other accommodations are available in the Baddeck area. Please check online for options.

**Floral Competition Theme:** Fascination of Plants