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SCOTIA GARDENER

Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs

Presidents Report - AGM 2016

Hello Fellow Gardeners & welcome.

It is hard to believe that my 2 years as your Chair of NSAGC has passed so quickly!

The NSAGC Executive & Board met in Truro April 29th 30th.

The Action items that we identified in 2014, when I took over as Chair, have all been met. Your Board has worked hard on your behalf & will continue to do so.

- My main Goal as your Chair has been to unify our Province, getting to know each other better, as well as clarifying the role of the NSAGC Board. It is so important that you know that your direct link to your Board is through your District Director.

- There is an ongoing effort to increase membership & PGW has been one of our best ways to help get the word out. Also the Saltscapes Booth this year was another new way to help promote the NSAGC & gardening.

- PGW is a yearly event, always the 1st week of June, that will continue to promote our mandate of beautifying our communities. Each Club can do whatever activity they choose. Big or small, it is up to the individual clubs to promote the way they like. Every community & club is unique. Just make sure that you let your Director know what activities you did so that they can be noted. PGW Activities will be in the June Issue of the S.G. We also have an official Poster to use thanks to Don Butler & Arthur Haskins. I had an Interview with the Cape Breton Post this year to promote PGW & The Victoria Standard in Baddeck. A good way to promote our Association as Convention is in Baddeck next year!

- We have updated & redesigned the NSAGC website. It is very user friendly with lots of "Gardener Related" information..

- NSAGC Facebook site keeps growing. It has proven to be a wonderful way to connect Gardeners across our Province.

- We now have a Flower Show Hand Book that is available on the website to download.

- Our Board Members Hand Book has been updated & clarified as needed.

- As of the AGM, the Tree Planting \$20.00 reimbursement is finished. The Plant Giveaway to each member of NSAGC who has paid their dues, is ongoing. It has proven to be a popular way to unite us as Gardeners over the years.

- The "Outstanding Member Award" remains a positive way to recognize a club member who consistently contributes to Club activities. Your Directors have the Certificates. You are free to present them in a time & manner suitable for your Club. It is important to get the OM names to the Awards Chair so that they are recognized at Convention.

- It is important to note that the deadline for Assessments & Dues is March 1st. This deadline is FIRM! It is so important to have this in on time. Insurance coverage, plant give away #s, etc. are things you will lose if you are tardy.

Our next Board Meeting is in September. Any issues or concerns should be forwarded to your Director so that we can address these items.

I have so enjoyed serving as your Chair these past 2 years. I have met so many "fellow gardeners", formed lasting friendships, & look forward to meeting more of our members across this beautiful Province of ours.



Passing the torch, Past Chair, Patsy MacKenzie to new Chair, Vicki Willis

Let's continue to move forward, beautifying our Communities & giving back wherever & whenever possible.

Patsy MacKenzie, Chair



NSAGC Convention, 2016, New Glasgow

Garden Tours, two Riverboat Cruises, a dazzling and wonderful Floral Design, Musical Entertainment, Vendors, Photo Contest, the Annual General Meeting with a door prize, and Educational Speakers, all greeted 210 gardeners across the province as they attended the NSAGC convention at The Wellness Centre in Pictou County. The



Floating down the River

theme was "Touched by a Garden". The Convention and AGM was hosted by Eastern District # 2 consisting of the communities of Antigonish, Guysborough, Lismore, New Glasgow, Pictou, St. Mary's, and Westville. Planning for the Convention took over a year for planning committee members under the capable direction of Don Butler, Convention Chair. Fifteen vendors sold a variety of very useful products. All participants were greeted with bags of gardening goodies, the Convention program and name tags that could also be used as a luggage tags. From the reaction of the participants' activities, cruises, vendors, food, speakers, venue, tours, silent auction, AGM and door prize, and the annual banquet and awards, the event was enjoyed by all. Special mention and recognition are given to the Advocate Publishing Company for volunteering "in kind" for their advertising materials and production work,

The Friday evening presentation by author, Denise Adams, "Embracing Native and Naturalized Plants" proved that she grows native and naturalized plants from her native dense, and gorgeous area where she lives near Peggy's Cove. Adams gave wonderful tricks of how to grow native gardens that were almost maintenance free and contained no fertilizer or manure but uses seaweed tea for nutrients. She also signed her latest books.

Before the presentation on Friday evening, participants who had signed up early had the pleasure of going on one of the two Riverboat Cruises. Participants were welcomed by member, Priscilla Ewoke and New Glasgow Mayor, Barrie MacMillan, who presented each riverboat participant with the Town of New Glasgow's Pin, "New Glasgow Flourish". Members could also visit the fantastic

gardens of the Allan Park, the residences of Carol and Ken Francis, and Earle and Karen Carson, view and purchase from the vendors, enjoy and vote for your favorite floral design coordinated by Margie Beck and view the



Convention Chair, Don Butler & Master of Ceremonies, Clarrie MacKinnon

photo contest and enjoy the second riverboat cruise. The official opening was delivered by Conference Chair, Don



Chair Patsy & Treasurer Lis

Butler, a special welcome was given by Municipality of Pictou County Deputy Warden, Andy Thompson, and Patsy MacKinnon, Chairperson, NSAGC gave further announcements by Clarrie MacKinnon, Master of Ceremonies for the Convention. After Adams informative and fun presentation, musical entertainment, social time and a cash bar were enjoyed.

On Saturday we started the morning with the NSAGC Annual General Meeting with reports of all the activities of the Association. Professor



Michael Overmars, Philip Ruiz and Dawn Westhaver Randy Lauff was the first presenter. He was a very entertaining and informative speaker. The title of his presentation was "Not all insects in Your Garden Should Bug You". Lauff summed up which insects are your friends and which are not. He gardens organically, does not use pesticides, and uses soapy water as a spray. Professor Lord Abbey, our second speaker, spoke on "Horticulture Therapy -Therapeutic Benefits of Plants and their use, The Past, Present and Future" In Abbey's presentation he spoke on the benefits of relaxation, power of the mind, muscle relaxation, exercise, breathing, visual imagery, posture, spirituality, health of communities, food, soothing the senses, beauty, fragrance, stress management, behavior management and cognitive therapy, art, medicines, improves mental health, concentration and energy and has been used to help autistic children. Our third speaker, Award Winner Gardener,

Dawn Westhaver, spoke on "Sharing My Happy Place and What's New With Milkweeds and Monarchs?" Westhaver explained that it is very important to plant the right kind of milkweed as there are about 110 different varieties. Monarchs have decreased by a large percentage and it is very difficult to divide the milkweed plant. Westhaver had plants for sale as a vendor and she showed very interesting slides as her presentation progressed. Entrepreneur Michael Overmars presented "Experiences of a Beginning Market Gardener". During Overmar's presentation he discussed his crops 'from field to table'. He uses Dwight Eisenhower's quote, "Plans are nothing, planning is everything" when growing his crops. His plans are very extensive and computerized to give him the information he needs to grow his vegetables and to extend their season. Overmars uses permanently raised beds at Bethany, Antigonish, where he gardens. His presentation was very informative. A very dynamic presentation was given by physiotherapist, Philip Ruiz, "Ergonomics for the Garden: Back to Basics". Ruiz stressed the importance of planning, pacing, warming up, body mechanics, and the proper ways of raking, weeding, watering, mowing, and lifting.

At the beginning of the banquet, Evie Fraser, District 2 director spoke to all participants thanking them for their assistance and for attending the Convention.

Special guest speaker at the banquet on Saturday evening was Retired Professor and Director of the Master Gardener Program, Carol Goodwin, whose topic was "Touched by a Garden". Goodwin chose to present a beautiful power point presentation of family, plants and flowers and English Gardens. She discussed each slide as a lover of plants. She has been touched by plants in many ways. She looks at a garden as a place for relaxing the mind and not a place for fear, a place of foresight, of music composition, of joy and whimsy, a place of reflection, of beauty, of peace and quiet leading to feelings of wonder, a place of memories and of having plants in your garden from loved ones. Goodwin talked about the beauty of the English Gardens and the music garden in Toronto. She mentioned how touched by a garden has pulled people out of the darkness of depression. Her message was very inspiring and informative.

Awards were presented, winners of the Floral Competition and Photo Contest were also acknowledged. Closing remarks were given and the Convention next year will be in Baddeck, Cape Breton. We look forward to attending the NSAGC Convention and the AGM in 2017.

John Carter, Planning Committee Member
Photos by Joan Carpenter and Janet Morton

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.

Phone 902 742 1978 or cell 902 748 5948.

Deadline for the October issue is September 15, 2016

If you would like to place an advertisement in the Scotia Gardener, please contact Don Butler at 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.



Silent Auction. Many Great donated items

A Huge THANK YOU to NSAGC 2016 Convention Sponsors:

Municipality of Pictou County
Ah! At Home Magazine, Advocate Publishing
Colin MacDonald of Clearwater, Personal Donation
Cavendish Farms
Central Home Improvement
Pioneer Coal
Town of New Glasgow
Tim Hortons
MacLeod Lorway Insurance
MacLeod Group
Demont's Transport
Northern Pulp
Cowan Street Dental
Groupe Savoie
William Wilgenhof, Personal Donation
MacGillivray Fuels
Highland Ford
Town of Westville
East Coast Credit Union
Marinus Verhagen Demolition

Note: Besides the monetary sponsors listed above, numerous companies supplied items for silent auction, ticket sales and door prizes. Sincere THANKS is extended to them as well.

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

Valerie Despres, NSAGC Tags & Seals

Floral People's Choice Award Competition



I was a bit overwhelmed when Don Butler, of the Lismore Club, Chairperson for the Convention, asked me to oversee the Floral People's Choice Award Competition NS Garden Club Convention June 3rd and 4th, 2016 held at the Pictou County Wellness Centre. When I listened to the fact that there had been a marked drop in the number of entrants during the past years and that they were considering not having this competition, I decided to do my best to rejuvenate this valued part of the conventions.

So with Don's permission, and a desire to make the competition more accessible to entrants, I reworked the criteria. I wanted to broaden the plant material requirement to include succulents and grasses, vegetables, wildflowers, basically any plant materials not purchased from a vendor.

By diversifying the criteria, I hoped delegates and clubs from outlying areas would have a level playing ground so they would be encouraged to enter.

The process was simplified and each contestant checked out the size of their arrangement, was Assigned a number of the entry, placed it on the table and registered their name or club name. I gave each entrant a card with their number and name so they could claim their floral entrant and there would be "no disappearing" bouquets.

Was I surprised!! We had thirteen beautiful entries. What a diverse display! The general public who came to visit remarked how much creativity and imagination went into the beautiful items. Displays included everything from an exquisite rhododendron centrepiece that was fit for a queen to a fairy garden with such imaginative artwork, including a tiny tricycle made from buttons and wire, through all combinations of lilacs, lily-of-the-valley, iris, basket of gold, hosta, to parsley and kale and more. The embellishments included gloves, ribbon tiny porcelain ladybugs and flowers, as well as many other artistic touches.

All delegates were given a ballot as they registered and they voted for their choice. It was "a very difficult decision" was a comment I heard over and over.

At 4:30, after the gardeners had picked up their entry, I asked two other gardeners from the other end of the province, who hadn't made an entry, to help count the ballots. We were pleased at the high per cent of the ballots that were cast.

The results:

First prize (\$25.00):

Doreen Wood from the New Glasgow Club with a wonderful miniature garden, complete with a flower seed pod from a rhubarb plant.

Second prize (\$15.00):

Westville and Area Gardening Club. Their bouquet featured a wide array of spring garden flowers. I pair of children's gardening gloves ensured that the display had a "Touched by a Garden" theme.

Third prize (\$10.00):

Sharon Bryson from the Antigonish Club. What a stunning presentation of rhododendrons and azaleas she created!

Absolutely magnificent!

The three bouquets were on display at the closing banquet.

I received a lot of very positive feedback about the event and I would recommend that we continue to use this year's criteria in the future with the addition of dried materials as a possible plant option. This would allow entrants to have a bit more flexibility when entering, especially those travelling from a distance. I would suggest having a watering can with water to top up the displays when necessary.

It proved to be a fun-filled, light-hearted "competition that brought many smiles to everyone who attended. Gardeners showed not only their creativity but lots of positive outlook despite the fact that our gardens are just beginning to produce. I was pleased to organize this event and would like to say a heartfelt thanks each entrant and the ballot counters. Happy gardening and hopefully, a lot more Entries will appear in the People's Choice Award in Baddeck. See you there and Happy Gardening!

Margie Beck, Committee chair



The 1st place winner was Doreen Wood from New Glasgow & Area Garden Club.



The 2nd place winner was Margie Beck from Westville & Area Garden Club



The 3rd place winner was Sharon Bryson from the Antigonish Garden Club

AWARDS CHAIR REPORT

We are so lucky to have enjoyed a milder winter this time. Spring has arrived early, making it easier to clean up and prepare our gardens for this growing season.

The Awards to be presented at the Banquet are all ready. There are 3 types of Awards presented.

1) **Outstanding Members:** District Directors provide me a list of the members chosen by clubs in their District. I will read out the recipients at our Convention banquet tonight, and post in the Scotia Gardener, for further recognition. If you have any additional names, please get them to me today, so I can add them to my list.

OUTSTANDING MEMBERS chosen by their individual garden clubs - June 2016

District 1 - Westmount Garden Club: Elsie Buck.

District 2 - Antigonish: Pat Smith, Guysborough: Genesta Atkins, Lismore: Carol MacDonald

New Glasgow: Nancy Pettipas, Pictou: Beth Henderson, St. Marys: Sharon Reid, Westville: Donnie & Kim Gordon

District 3 - Central N - Bible Hill: Shirley Webb, Great Village: Patti Sharpe.

District 3 - Central S - Stewiacke: Betty Hewitt, Village: Nancy Doane.

District 4 - Dartmouth: Susan Hazelwood, Bedford: Bernice Hartnett, Eastern Shore: Hannah Dunlevy, Halifax Westmoor: Dorothy Turner, Fall River: Cindy Hutchinson Coffin.

District 5 - No names submitted

District 6 - Basin Gardeners: Lynne Dundas, Bridgewater: Betty Lou Smith,

Chester: Heather MacKinnon, Mahone Bay: Cathy Gregoire, Shelburne County: Brenda & Greg Sutcliffe.

District 7 - Bridgetown Area: Deb Bowes-Lyon, Yarmouth: Alvina Robicheau.

2) **Retiring Board Members:** Three Board members have vacated their positions, but we are not losing them. Each of them is moving up the Executive ladder. Three others have retired from the Board. Also, six District Directors have retired, and have brought new members to the table. Each retiree will receive a certificate, thanking them for their service in that position and an Award of \$15. for their dedication to NSAGC.

President - Patsy Mackenzie, (replaced by Vicki Willis); Vice-President - Vicki Willis, (replaced by Pamela MacLean); Past President - Don Butler, (replaced by Patsy Mackenzie); Treasurer - Lis Jackson, (replaced by Janet Simpson); Tags & Seals - Sarah Cluett, (replaced by Valerie Despres).

District Directors: 1- Dona Benac, (replaced by Joanne Ford); 2- Evie Fraser, (replaced by Sharon Bryson); 3N -



Retiring Board Members - Thank you all!

Patti Sharpe, (replaced by Elsie Locke); 4- Pamela MacLean, (replaced by Kathy Harvie); 5- Paul Despres, (replaced by Debra Carey June 2015); 6- Myra Knight, (replaced by Sue Gilmore).

3) **Club Yearbooks:** We encourage our member Garden Clubs to bring Yearbooks every year for viewing at the June Convention. This year we have Twelve (12) Yearbooks on display, including a lap-top presentation from Antigonish. Each club submitting a Yearbook will be presented with a certificate, thanking them for sharing their activities and recognizing their efforts throughout the year. Hope you take time to have a look at what the other districts are doing.



2015 YEARBOOKS DISPLAYED at NEW GLASGOW CONVENTION, June 2016

District 1- North Sydney.

District 2- Antigonish (the only laptop display); New Glasgow.

District 3N- Great Village; 3S- Hants North Late Bloomers.

District 4- Eastern Shore; First African Violet Society.

District 5- Charing Cross; Nicholville.

District 6- Bridgewater.

District 7- Bridgetown; Yarmouth.

Let's enjoy this time we have set aside to share our passion for gardening!

Lorna Williams, Awards Chair

Mark your 2017 Calendar Now



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



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?

NSAGC Insurance Coverage an important benefit of membership

Recently the NSAGC Board had a representative from Current (formerly Zive) Insurance in to talk to us about our insurance policy and coverage. These are points that we felt should be shared with the clubs.

We have comprehensive general liability insurance which covers \$2 million on any one claim, with a \$5 million aggregate limit per year. (Liability is the same as negligence).

The NSAGC insurance policy covers:

- Lawyer's fees for a claim.
- Supplemental auto insurance if a club member is in an accident on club business.
- Injury to members at an event but not to an individual who causes injury to him/herself.

Clubs should let Current Insurance know about all events outside regular meetings. Our contact is pmackenzie@currentinsurance.ca.

When a facility or venue asks for proof of insurance you will need to complete and submit Request For Insurance Certificate, which may be found on the NSAGC website nsagc.com/zive_form.pdf.

For garden tours of a member's homes, it is suggested that home owner ask their insurance company for an extension of their liability coverage for the time of the tour.

Clubs don't need to post the NSAGC sign to have insurance coverage for events.

Each year the list of NSAGC clubs is checked against the policy and new clubs are added when they join NSAGC. Starting in 2016, the Assessment Form will be changed to add a disclaimer that states that a club is not officially a member of NSA until they have received an email from the Treasurer indicating that they have been added to the insurance policy.

The insurance policy is renewable on April 1st of each year, so it is very important to have your Assessment Forms and Fees submitted by the deadline date of March 1st to ensure that you club continues to have insurance coverage.
Your Executive, NSAGC

THE NSAGC IS NOW ON FACEBOOK

Join the NSAGC Group. We now have almost 1,400 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

Check out our NEW LOOK NSAGC website
www.nsagc.com

NSAGC Executive

Chair, Vicki Willis
902-789-1612, vwillis53@hotmail.com
Past Chair, Patsy MacKenzie
902-674-2374, sunmoonlink@hotmail.com
Vice Chair, Pamela MacLean
902-832-7006, pamela.maclean@gmail.com
Secretary, Susan Hazelwood
902-469-3661, susan.hazelwood@eastlink.ca
Treasurer, Janet Simpson
902-434-2626, janetsimp@gmail.com

Committees

Awards Committee, Lorna Williams
902-794-2893, lorna_williams640@yahoo.ca
Future Projects Committee, Arthur Haskins
902-668-2838, ahaskins@eastlink.ca
Historian, Dixie Cress
902-538-0741, dl.cress@ns.sympatico.ca
Photo Contest Committee, Andrew Clinch
902-847-9464, aclinch@eastlink.ca
Tags & Seals, Valerie Despres
902-847-1001, vdespres@eastlink.ca
Scotia Gardener Newsletter, Ann Jones
902-742-1978, 902 748 5948 cell, annjones@eastlink.ca
Web Master, Paul Despres
902-847-1001/403-630-7814, pdespres@eastlink.ca

Directors

Cape Breton District # 1, Joanne Ford, Director,
902-577-0598, jfafford@hotmail.com
Eastern District # 2, Sharon Bryson, Director,
902-863-6307, sbryson@ns.sympatico.ca
District #3 Central North, Elsie Locke, Director
902-650-2028/902-957-1160, eandjlocke@gmail.com
District #3 Central South, Elizabeth Hill, Director,
902-261-2678, elizabeth.hill2@bellaliant.net
Halifax District # 4, Kathy Harvie, Director,
902-435-5768, emeraldns2001@yahoo.ca
Valley District # 5, Debra Carey, Director,
902-825-9035 nsagc.director5.director@gmail.com
South Shore District # 6, Susan Gilmour, Director,
902-644-1375, happyg3@hotmail.com
Western District # 7 Ann Jones,
902-742-1978/902-748-5948, annjones@eastlink.ca



NSAGC Executive & Directors at work

Bedford Horticultural Society Provincial Gardening Week

Bedford Horticultural Society participated in Provincial Gardening Week. Our goal was to spread the joy of gardening and to promote the benefits of belonging to a garden club. Four of our members stepped up and agreed to give presentations at Scott Manor House and the Bedford Public Library. A big thank you to these four busy gardeners. You did us proud!
Donna Evers



Mr. Danny Nau, a very knowledgeable and experienced gardener, gave a talk on the many considerations involved in garden design. It was followed by a question and answer session.



Mr. Bosko Loncarevic, aka Mr. Tomato Man, gave his very popular presentation on Go Green and Grow Tomatoes. This man really has the answers to all your questions about tomato growing.



Two for the Price of one - on the same evening Pamela MacLean spoke on Growing Herbs in Your garden. In her presentation Pamela showed us not only traditional uses for herbs in our garden but also new and decorative ways to incorporate them in our perennial beds and planters.



Cathy Holman, left and Bernice Hartnett, far right, put their well known flower arranging skills to work and demonstrated container planting at the Scott Manor House. Cathy Baker and Frances Chaisson added support and a critical eye. The planters already look great and they will be real show stoppers come the end of June.



Mr. Dawson Miller gave a powerpoint presentation on Heather. Most appropriate done with an authentic Scottish accent. His presentation included beautiful displays of heather from around the world as well as his own lovely heather bed. After his presentation adding heather to our gardens was on the To-do list.

Hants North Late Bloomers Garden Club
Hants North Late Bloomers Garden Club has donated \$100.00 to the Canadian Red Cross for the Fort McMurray Relief Fund. In photo: Elizabeth Hill, President, presenting the cheque to Art Burton a Canadian Red Cross Representative.

Elizabeth Hill



Coming Events

You are invited!
On behalf of the Atlantic Master Gardeners the NSAGC membership that are welcome to join us in Truro on 7&8 July for the annual Atlantic Master Gardeners Conference. The theme is "Helping Gardeners Respond to Environmental Changes". Accommodation is available at the college and the registration package is available on our website www.atlanticmastergardens.ca It will provide details of the two day program options. Lynn Brooks, President AMGA

Chester Garden Club July 18
This is the opportunity to express your artistic flair. The Chester Garden Club's talented members will be demonstrating how to prepare entries for the July Flower Show, "Gardens Galore". Monday, July 18th, 6:30 for 7 pm. St. Stephens' Parish Community Centre, Regent St., Chester. New members are always welcomed.

Chester Garden Club July 28
The annual Flower Show & Tea, "Gardens Galore", will be held on Thursday, July 28th, at the Royal Canadian Legion, Chester. From 1:30 to 5:00 pm. Tea will be served from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. The competition is open to members and non-members. For information on the schedule, visit www.chestergardenclub.wordpress.com

Valley Weeders
Garden Club
Greetings from
The Valley Weeders
Garden Club., Middle
Musquodoboit. Pictures
of our club's activities
this past year. We are
looking forward to
another busy year!
June Killen

*Many great ideas for
your garden club
activities in the pictures
of these activities*

Editor



A new Sign thanks to some talented club members just waiting for plants By Valley Weeders Garden Club



Valley Weeders Garden Club Entry
Halifax County Exhibition



Flower Show At
Halifax County Exhibition
Put On By The Valley Weeders
Garden Club...



Sun Prints done by club members Demonstration
done by Halifax Public Libraries

North Sydney Garden Club Provincial Gardening Week
Crimson King Maple tree planted (by North Sydney
Garden Club volunteers) at the Field of Hope to celebrate
PGW. (Dona Benac, and Barbara Black in photo)



Valley Weeders doing some transplanting
at Cornerstone Park



Pubnico Garden
Club Pansy
Challenge
Winner
Cheryl Goreham

Eastern Shore Garden Club

It's busy times at the Eastern Shore Garden Club. We have four enthusiastic new members. A notice was placed in our local "Shop the Shore" paper advertising Provincial Gardening Week. Both the District meeting and the Provincial NSAGC Convention were very well attended by our members, and were enjoyed immensely. See photo of some of the members who attended the Convention in Pictou.

In May after Sharon Bryson spoke on Magnolia's some members made a day trip to Annapolis Royal to see the magnolia plantings there. A spring cleanup was completed at our Cenotaph garden and at the Birches Nursing home, where also a new bed has been planted by Darlene Hart and Bonnie Snow for Provincial Gardening Week. See photo. Again our Annual Plant sale was a huge success with many happy customers. Over 900 plants were donated and all those left were given to raise money toward a Fort McMurray relief fund. Last year's surplus plants raised money for the Canadian Cancer Society. Special thanks go to our "friends of the club" for their large donation of plants.

July 8/9 we look forward to "Petals & Paints" our flower show with a twist, held with local artists at the Old School in Musquodoboit Harbour. It will be our 2nd year there and we hope that it will be bigger and better. On July 19th our summer garden tour has been arranged to go to Peggy's Cove and some nearby gardens and greenhouses. Surely by then the weather will have become seasonably warmer and we can look forward to a bloomy summer in our gardens.

Happy gardening everyone.

Cathy Connolly



Members attending the NSAGC Convention in Pictou



Provincial Gardening Week Project - Cenotaph bed at the Birches Nursing Home

BIBLE HILL GARDEN CLUB June 2016

When spring decided to arrive, she came with a bang. Flowers arrived overnight and the grass and dandelions exploded. Almost before we could believe it, spring was here in all her beauty.

The 2016 NSAGC Convention, Touched by a Garden, located in the Wellness Centre, New Glasgow, was a great place to meet old friends, and make new friends, hear old ideas and new ideas, and join in the enthusiasm of those attending. The well planned program made for interesting speakers, prizes, new plants etc. and lots of enthusiasm.

In the Bible Hill Garden Club we have been encouraged by the addition of new members. There is a lot of stress in the world. Gardening is a nice way to relax and enjoy, make new friends, and learn from one another.

In early May, Kathleen Virosteck planted seeds with the children in Pre-School. There was lots of enthusiasm and hopes that a plant would be ready for Mother's Day.

Once again we had a very successful plant sale the last Saturday in May and will have a plant auction in the club in June.

During Provincial Gardening Week, 3 crab apple trees and perennials were planted in the flower bed at the Bible Hill Cemetery. We will be putting a window display at the new Library later in the summer.

Plans are under way and the bus is full for a trip to Mahone Bay and area to visit home gardens and garden centres on June 15th.

IN July there will be a tour of local gardens, and refreshments at a member's home. The club is encouraging entries in the Provincial Exhibition in August.

Speakers included Jane Blackburn telling how to grow Sempervivums and keep them over winter. Steven King's talk about ponds and Charlie Baird, "the Tree Man", showed us how to grow trees.

Barb Morton



Bible Hill Garden Club Provincial Gardening Week Project



At the NSAGC conference - Barb, Peter, Shirley, Joan, Jeannette, Wayne

Brookfield Garden Club

Brookfield Garden clubs 2015 Christmas wreaths were a hit once more, we had a few new additions to the already existing brackets with wreaths adorning the utility poles in our community.

The update on our fall tulip project; we are pleased to say they came up and bloomed with no deer interested in foraging on them. The lovely red and white tulips are a nice show beneath the Welcome to Brookfield sign among the shrubs club members planted during last years NS Gardening week.



The club also made a donation of a bursary to the South Colchester Academy to a graduate interested in attending the Dalhousie Agricultural College for this graduation year.

Our Club gave a donation of \$50. for vegetable seeds which club member Maxine Monk and her volunteer student Beth O'Connell took with them for an amazing project which helps people through Sarapiqui Conservation Learning Center in Sarapiqui, Costa Rica. The seeds go to a farmer and school in an impecunious area of Costa Rica.



Brookfield Garden Club has once again created a fantastic project for NS Gardening week! Club secretary Elsie Locke made a suggestion at a meeting this year that we make and put up a sign from our garden club welcoming folks to our area. Members agreed that was a great idea. During a month of work, the sign was made, the pieces put together, artistically decorated and erected on highway 2 in Brookfield leaving Hilden. The sign sure is visible from a distance at night and super attractive by daylight! Many compliments have come our way! We are all very pleased and proud of our group accomplishment. Have a blooming lovely summer.

Susan Stevenson BGC

Yarmouth Garden Club

A few years ago when the Yarmouth Garden Club sponsored a bench on the Trans Canada Trail. Our bench is at the Prospect St. crossing. We agreed to maintain the area around the bed to keep it clean and perhaps place a few plants. We went out there from time to time then it was sort of forgotten.

Club President, Pauline Rogerson mentioned that maybe the area now needed a clean-up and we could plant some sort of nice bush or nice shade tree for everyone on the trail to enjoy.



BEFORE

Before we did anything I went out to see what the area looked like. A local gentleman walked by and saw me looking at the bench. He commented that the club must have forgotten about the area. It was a mess. I was a little embarrassed to admit that I was a member of the Garden Club but said that I would see if we could do something this summer.

This is a busy area and many people walk and ride this part of the trail. We certainly did need to give it a good cleaning and put new gravel around the bench. It didn't look good to have our name on this bench!



AFTER

We are now proud of our bench, our Yarmouth Garden Club Provincial Gardening Week project.

We sent a challenge other organizations and families who had also been ignoring their benches. To date the Kennedy family bench is now beautiful and the Yarmouth Rotary Club has plans to clean up their bench.



Alvina Robiceau with Kathy D'Entremont and Janice Muise & husband