



# SCOTIA GARDENER

Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs

## President's Report

Hello fellow gardeners and hello rain!

This has definitely been a challenging summer for our gardens and for homes depending on wells. I can see more rain barrels in my future.

As your new chair I would like to thank the retiring board members for their service and to welcome all the new members. The amount of dedication shown to the NSAGC and its promotion of gardening across the province is truly inspiring.

I would also like to express my congratulations to District 2 for the wonderful convention in June. From accommodations to speakers, food and vendors, it was a warm and friendly event. I am looking forward to the 2017 Convention in Baddeck and have been told the details will be in the next issue.

On September 23<sup>rd</sup>, the executive met to plan our strategies for the next two years. Our vision is to continue to increase memberships in clubs as well as to increase clubs in the NSAGC.

To this end we plan to target retirees, vegetable gardeners and young families with information about local clubs, our web site and our Facebook page.

We will create a guide to help new clubs set up by streamlining the red tape of a constitution or by-laws and applying for a Joint Stocks number, for those who are put off by all the paperwork. We will offer to attend meetings to extend advice and expertise. Also we will identify areas of the province without clubs or clubs that have not joined the NSAGC.

As our Facebook page has grown to over 1500 members we will promote its use to highlight more club activities as well as meeting tips and new member retention. It will be utilized to inspire memberships and start new clubs.

To insure a smooth transition with our high number of new directors, a special directors meeting is being called to review the handbook, duties, issues and reports. This meeting will also help form connections within the board to facilitate shared resources and ideas. At the September 24<sup>th</sup> directors meeting it was obvious our board will be hopping with new ideas and energy!

To celebrate Canada 150, the NSAGC will be



Our new NSAGC President  
Vicki Willis

promoting red and white gardens for 2017.

So please share all your ideas with your directors and help us to achieve our goals.

Be sure to have some fun in your garden and your club this fall!

Vicki Willis, President, NSAGC

*Note: This is a copy of the talk Arthur Haskins gave in New Brunswick to the Fundy Garden Club that is trying to organize a group similar to the NSAGC in New Brunswick. We thought some of our Clubs might find this interesting as it gives some NSAGC history and indicates how NSAGC supports member Clubs.*

### NOVA SCOTIA ASSOCIATION of GARDEN CLUBS

The Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs was first established in 1954 and was made up of several Garden Clubs and two Horticultural Societies. Before this time clubs acted independently and there was very little cooperation or even contact between clubs. The provincial Department of Agriculture facilitated a meeting of interested members from these clubs and they decided to form an association. They even arranged to have a Garden Club Convention later that year at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in Truro.

Since that first year the Association has grown into a truly provincial body with approximately seventeen hundred club members, located in fifty-five Garden Clubs and Horticultural Societies and six Specialty Plant Societies. The province is divided up into seven districts. The NSAGC has a Board, consisting of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, as its executive and directors for each district. Chairpersons for various Committees also sit on the Board.

The dues for NSAGC membership is set at \$4.00 per member per year in every club and the club fills in an assessment sheet each year and sends the NSAGC Treasurer the appropriate amount, Specialty Plant Societies pay a flat \$50.00 per year as these organizations are often made up of members from clubs where they already pay dues to the Association and they don't receive the same benefits as Garden Clubs do. The NSAGC does not interfere with the running of any club, they can be set up as simple or as complicated as the members wish.

The province is divided into 7 districts with a director in each one to bring back ideas or concerns to the Board. Each district holds a District Meeting or Rally once a year where all the clubs in a district meet for a combined meeting to exchange ideas and information on gardening. The meeting usually has one or more guest speakers, reports from clubs on their activities and a light lunch or sometimes a pot luck meal. Often local vendors of gardening items or plants are invited to set up a sales station to add extra interest for members. There are usually a few door prizes to entice members to attend. A small charge to members of \$3.00 to \$5.00 covers the cost of the hall and speaker fees.

Every year during the first week of June, the NSAGC Convention is held. The Convention moves around the

province with each district taking turns hosting. This is usually a Friday and Saturday event but some districts put on special garden tours for the Sunday as well. The Convention is packed with events, including a special speaker the first evening, followed by a reception with entertainment, a large selection of vendors selling garden related material, garden tours, flower quizzes, display of winning photos from a members only Photo Contest, display of garden club yearbooks, display of banners from the various clubs, the annual general meeting (1 hour) Saturday morning, coffee breaks to talk to fellow gardeners and a Floral Competition. Saturday evening features a reception followed by the Banquet with a keynote speaker and presentations of awards. Attendance is usually between 200 and 250 depending on the size of the facility holding the convention.

I mentioned earlier that each club member pays \$4.00 per year for membership in the NSAGC, let's look at what that \$4.00 gets you. From a club standpoint the NSAGC provides third party insurance for all your club events in case the public gets hurt at one of your functions, they purchase flower show entry tags and special seals in bulk and sell them to clubs at cost. The NSAGC is registered with Joint Stocks, and as members Garden Clubs can apply for government grants for gardening projects, the NSAGC trains flower show judges and keeps an up to date list of qualified judges and their contacts and makes the list available to clubs. The NSAGC can act as a liaison between local and provincial governments. As an example of the later the NSAGC negotiated with the Province of Nova Scotia to designate the first week of June as Provincial Gardening Week. Individual members receive a membership card that can be used at a number of nurseries for a discount, they gain access to the NSAGC face book page containing lots of gardening ideas and photos, our Web Site with information on district events and club information, access to our Newsletter 'Scotia Gardener' via e-mail or snail mail, a discount on attending the Convention or District Meetings, and a free perennial plant each year. The latest project undertaken by the Association was a booth at Saltscapes Expo this past spring in Halifax. The booth promoted the many Garden Clubs throughout the province and encouraged people to join a club near them to obtain lots of gardening information about their local area. We sold bare root astilbes to help pay for the booth which was a great success and we ended up in the black so there was no cost to the Association for this event. With over ten thousand people passing through the site over the three day event it gave Garden Clubs and the NSAGC wonderful exposure.

In closing, membership numbers in clubs in Nova Scotia range in size from over a hundred to as few as ten, all are welcomed and are viewed in the eyes of the Association as equals regardless of size. There is so much more that can be accomplished when groups band together and act as one large unit rather than smaller individual ones. The NSAGC has 1700 gardeners as members, that makes many people sit up and take notice especially in the horticultural industry. I need to mention again that clubs are not dictated to by the Association, they do their own thing, but by membership they reap the advantages of belonging to a larger group.

I know there are a number of gardening groups in New Brunswick and I'm sure they could realize many advantages by banning together under the umbrella of one Association. Good luck with that venture and the NSAGC would be thrilled to have a similar organization in New Brunswick.

Arthur Haskins

### Eastern Shore Garden Club Enjoys a Great Summer

The Eastern Shore Garden Club hasn't slowed down over the summer. In July we were treated to coastal garden tour on the South Shore hosted by Denise Adams. Each property was unique in its own way with magnificent examples of garden design properly applied to enhance the beauty of our Nova Scotia coastline. The massive white granite rocks were spectacular by themselves and made foundation for the gazebo, outdoor patio and look-off to



appreciate the ocean on a clear day.

The tour began at the property previously owned by Walter Ostrum, with evidence of his friendship with Captain Steele in abundance. The property was laden with exotic trees and plants. Next our lunch break we enjoyed at Denise's beautiful coastal home designed and contracted by her husband. A delightful potting shed highlighted her vegetable garden area and the plexiglas cold frame was an



interesting addition providing protection from the cold winds. Wild chicory bloomed cheerfully among her garden driveway beds and gorgeous magenta rugose roses accented the path to the shoreline. Some of us took advantage of the opportunity to take home a memento and purchased one of Denise's three books she has published.

Next we saw a property designed around an incredible amount of slate-walls and pathways. Seeing believing! An interesting technique of plant layering was demonstrated here.



Tour Group

To finish we saw lovely new home and garden with a long winding driveway of grasses and bright pink catchfly to welcome us. A natural pond complete with gorgeous pink waterlilies in flower wrapped up the tour.

Special thanks to Jennifer Bowers our coordinator, who always does an outstanding job to make our summer tour special; to Denise Adams for arranging and guiding us through the gardens and to the other gardeners for sharing their coastal gardens.

The garden party in August was held at Cathy Connolly's home after being postponed due to cool rainy weather. A small group gathered and a large feast was enjoyed.

Now we are all eagerly anticipating upcoming meetings and the sharing of photos of our events with the new projector purchased by the club.

Harvest time has quickly arrived. Enjoy the moments collections flowers, fruits, vegetables, seeds and all the other gifts that Mother Nature provides for us.

Cathy Connolly

### 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



**Country Garden Club**  
invites you to attend the  
**Central District Meeting**

Saturday October 22, 2016  
Milford Rec Hall  
2288 Highway 2  
(Exit 9 off Highway 102)  
12:00 to 4 p.m.

**Registration: 12:00-12:30 pm \$4.00 per person**  
Guest Speaker: Stephen King

**PLEASE BRING YOUR BANNERS**

Each club is asked to prepare and present a written two minute annual report.  
RSVP by September 30, 2016  
to  
Jennifer MacKeigan - [j.mackeigan@bellaliant.net](mailto:j.mackeigan@bellaliant.net)





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)

**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 December issue is November 15, 2016**  
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.*

### Bible Hill Garden Club September 2016

Now that the leaves are turning color, the flowers are spewing their seeds, and we are putting our garden to bed, it is time to think of fall meetings, and getting back to talking gardening.

Our first meeting of the fall season had a very interesting speaker, Thomas Graham, who described with pictures his work in Africa teaching the people how to make their water safe and in Peru where he worked with communities building greenhouses, and teaching them to grow vegetables.



Shirley and Sue at the afternoon social

The summer was filled first with a very successful bus tour to the South Shore on June 16<sup>th</sup>. By 8am the members were lined up ready to board the bus for the trip to Mahone Bay and area. After visiting home gardens and garden centres and with loads of purchases, they arrived home at 8pm tired and enthused by all they had seen.

There was a big turnout for the planting at the Bible Hill Cemetery. It is looking great and will be completed next spring.

In July thanks to Ken Phillips, a tour of several local gardens was enjoyed. To end the afternoon we enjoyed a social in the gardens of Sue and Don Lafontaine.

As we have done for a number of years, the club members enjoyed a barbeque in August at the farm of Ross and Doris Knight's in Montrose.

A number of club members took part in the Flower Show at the Provincial Exhibition. They worked very hard preparing, clerking and cleaning up after the show.

We are now looking forward to the District Meeting to be held in Milford on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. This was a great time to meet old friends and make new ones. December brings Christmas projects, wreath making, centrepiece worship and a dinner with the Hilden Garden Club which will bring 2016 to a close.

Barb Morton



Bible Hill Club planting tree at the cemetery for Provincial Gardening Week

### Two Great Flower Shows in District 7

I was pleased to attend two wonderful Flower Show and Teas this Summer. The Champlain Garden Club held their event in July and the Yarmouth Garden Club in August. These dates made for very different displays with different seasonal flowers in bloom. Thank you for the invitation. I enjoyed your events. I know the work involved – thank you – they are important events for your communities.

Ann Jones



Wonderful display at the Champlain Garden Club Flower Show and Tea



Owl made of fruit by Buelah



At the Yarmouth Garden Club Flower Show and Tea Eileen Watkins won People's Choice for this arrangement



## Photographic Competition. 2017

**Deadline: Monday, May 8th 2017.**

**Are you a gardener that loves taking pictures?**

**Why not look through your digital images, print the best ones, and enter the NSAGC Photo competition.**

**Look at the benefits:**

- **You will be given access to the gallery displaying all the pictures entered in 2017**
- **You will be able to access two newsletters with helpful tips and information about the prize winning pictures.**
- **You can enter up to 12 separate classes. For example, there is a Fall and a Winter class, as well as a Spring Class, so it is still not too late to plan to spend time with your camera.**
- **For each class entered, you are eligible to win a 1st, 2nd, 3rd place or "highly commended" certificate.**
- **You will have access to comments by the judge**
- **The top three photographers receive cash prizes and recognition by their peers.**



**For more details go to:**

**<http://www.nsagc.com/Photo.htm>**

**To have questions answered,  
email: [aclinch@av.eastlink.ca](mailto:aclinch@av.eastlink.ca)**



Canada  
150  
2017  
Tulip

Plant  
now

Join the  
Celebrate





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 NEEDS YOU!

We need a new Chair for the NSAGC Awards Committee

Come join your Board Team  
We are not only gardeners but a great group of people!

If interested, please contact your President, Vicki Willis  
902 789-1612 [vwillis53@hotmail.com](mailto:vwillis53@hotmail.com)



I made a mistake: In the July 2016 issue of the Scotia Gardener I misidentified the one of the Yarmouth Garden Club Gardeners in this picture. The great guy in the middle is Phillip Lee surrounded by Alvina Robiceau, Janice Muise and Kathy D'Entremont.

### THE NSAGC IS NOW ON FACEBOOK

Join the NSAGC Group. We now have almost 1100 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 Executive

Chair, Vicki Willis  
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Past Chair, Patsy MacKenzie  
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Vice Chair, Pamela MacLean  
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Your 2016-17 NSAGC Board