



2025 NSAGC Convention

Speakers

13 & 14 June 2025



- 1. David Tudor** has been a municipal councilor in Digby Neck/Briar Island for fifteen years and you may have heard him on CBC where he serves as the regular community contact. He has a degree in Religion from Saint Thomas University and has entered studies to become a paramedic. Several years ago David was instrumental in opening the local food bank and continues with a role of managing operations. He is currently experimenting with different ideas to increase local food security. David will share his experience with the food bank, local garden club and community greenhouse, and also provide information regarding local municipal grants and provincial funding opportunities.
- 2. Mandy Saulbach** grew up in northern British Columbia in a homesteading family where she developed a strong relationship with the land. A practitioner and Designer of Permaculture Inspired Resilient Food Systems, Mandy finds herself immersed in helping others in their journey to food security. A newcomer to Nova Scotia, Mandy has been passionate about sharing community knowledge and creating opportunities for over 10 years. Raina MacDonald and her family steward 150 acres of Wabanaki Forest, wild blueberries, and edible forest gardens at their home in Brookland, Nova Scotia. She teaches permaculture design, land stewardship, and seed saving while cultivating regenerative food sovereignty and community building. She is the coordinator of the Scotsburn Community Food Forest project, an edible, medicinal hub of intergenerational knowledge sharing and resiliency. Produce from the Food Forest is offered for free to the community. Mandy and Raina collaborate regularly on many offerings including workshops on pickling, canning, herbal tea making, preserving, and herb growing to name a few.
- 3. Lloyd McLean** - Despite a start in the engineering program, Lloyd McLean graduated from the Nova Scotia Agricultural College with a degree in landscape horticulture. Shortly thereafter Lloyd operated a landscape company for several years in Pictou. An employment change saw him move to Halifax where he worked with interior landscapes. Soon after he returned to Pictou County and managed the Sobeys Garden Centre/Storefront programs for Atlantic Canada for 15 years. He is an avid fan of raised bed gardening and by 2021 he had designed and placed 27 raised beds at his home in Lyons Brook, Pictou County. A recent move with his wife Andrea to the town of Pictou has allowed them to place 20 raised planters on their

new property. Lloyd is excited to share information about his own designs and experiences of raised bed gardening. Andrea Haughan was hired by Lloyd 37 years ago as an employee at his Pictou business, Shady Grove Landscaping. She has been by his side ever since, marrying in 1988. Andrea graduated from the Agricultural College as a Plant Science Technician with a major in Horticulture. She has worked at Halifax Seed and West River Greenhouses for many years before being hired at Central Building Supplies where she ran the garden center and seasonal department which took her to an incredible 20 years in the gardening industry. Andrea and Lloyd are both members of the Pictou and Area Garden Club where they have had the opportunity to partner with the Seeds of Hope Community Garden in Pictou. Here they have installed eight 4 x 8 raised planters for gardeners at the local community garden where they also host educational weekly discussions on all things gardening.

4. Charlie Baird - Located just outside of Truro in the community of Old Barns is one of the best tree nurseries in the province. Operated and owned by Charlie Baird, familiar to most as 'Charlie the Tree Guy', he is known for his vast selection of deciduous trees, evergreens, shrubs, nut trees, fruit trees, and berry bushes. Over 300 varieties are available at Charlie the Tree Guy nursery and Charlie considers it a great challenge to source rare or unusual requests. In keeping with our theme, Charlie will be speaking about nut, fruit, and berry production as it relates to the home gardener. Charlie will draw upon his many years of experience to share knowledge about planting instructions and care to ensure our plants, shrubs, and trees are healthy and productive for years to come.

5. Jessica Miller - After serving as a medical technician and paramedic for 22 years in the Canadian Armed Forces, Jessica Miller retired in 2018 and was looking for a safe space to spend time with other women veterans. Not finding what she was looking for in Nova Scotia, she quickly created that space just outside of Windsor through the purchase of an old farm in the village of Sweets Corner. When she heard about senior veterans in the community facing food insecurities, the idea was planted for the Veteran Farm Project Society. The farm has grown by leaps and bounds since that time and now the Farm provides a safe and enriching space for serving and veteran women along with community members. All the produce and flowers grown on the farm go towards We Care packages and a free donation only Farm Shop. This is accomplished through workshops and volunteering where the women heal, grow, mentor, connect, and learn together. This stigma free space allows people to take what they need and give what they can, supporting core values where nutritious produce and pantry staples are a right and not a privilege.