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*Nova Scotia Association  
of Garden Clubs*

*History Update*

1990 – 1995

*by*

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“The history of gardening reaches back into the dim ages and is part of man’s struggle for survival. In Britain gardening began with the Roman conquest, 300 B.C. When in the fifth century the Romans abandoned Britain, gardening fell into decay. In time, with the spread of Christianity and the establishment of monasteries, the monks revived the art, growing for the most part vegetables and medicinal herbs for their health’s sake. During the reign of Elizabeth I some of the persecuted European Protestants who took refuge in Britain brought with them many new ideas from France, Italy and Holland. The first known garden book, *The Feat of Gardening* by Jon Gardiner, appeared about the middle of the fifteenth century.”

*Quoted from a speech “One Hundred Years of Change” given by Marietta Silver, Historian of the N.S.A.G.C. at the Centennial Year Convention held in 1967 at St. Mary’s University, Halifax. Mrs. Silver died in 1989. This page is dedicated to her memory.*

In preparing a history up-date for 1990 to 1995, it was evident that many changes have taken place relating to gardening. More and more people seemed to be interested in improving their surroundings by landscaping their properties. They wanted to learn the basics of landscaping and gardening and this seemed to be a part of the trend to patio and backyard entertaining. Added to this was increased interest in the environment and efforts to promote composting and other aspects of waste management.

Gardening information has become more available through television and radio shows; for example CBC's TV show Canadian Gardener and the popular gardening phone-ins on Maritime Noon featuring Marjorie Willison and Caye Harris-Allum. Several new magazines and books on gardening have appeared, and much information has been made available on the Internet.

Garden clubs and horticultural societies have continued to provide information to gardeners through talks and workshops, flower shows and plant sales. The number of groups belonging to the Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs increased during 1990 – 1995 to forty-seven.

Other organizations have capitalized on the popularity of gardening by holding workshops and garden tours to raise money for charity.

Much research has been done on organic gardening methods of insect control and reducing the use of chemicals. New varieties have continued to appear, such as Explorer Roses and hardier shrubs. Seed catalogues have displayed an increasing array of beautiful flowers, and choices of seeds for the vegetable garden have included in one catalogue 43 varieties of tomatoes!

In the pages following, I have tried to sketch out some information on the role of the Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs as the umbrella organization to which the members of garden clubs and horticultural societies belong. One of these roles has been to act as liaison between the groups and with the Department of Agriculture. Through the annual meetings, conventions and district meetings, gardeners have met others in the province and learned of their activities and projects.

Each group may have had a different focus for its programs and various objectives, but all have been helping to increase gardening knowledge and assisting with the beautification of the province.

It was not possible to list here the details of many of the items sent to me by gardening groups who form the Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs. Many of these details are to be found in the yearbooks compiled each year by a number of groups.

If there are errors or omissions, in the following pages, I ask your forgiveness.

# *Nova Scotia Association Of Garden Clubs, Horticultural Societies & Garden Clubs*

## CAPE BRETON DISTRICT #1

Glace Bay Garden Club  
New Waterford Garden Club  
North Sydney Garden Club  
Westmount Garden Club  
Middle River Garden Club  
Big Pond  
Sydney Garden Club

## EASTERN DISTRICT #2

New Glasgow Horticultural Society  
Mount Denson Garden Club  
Pictou Horticultural Society  
Westville & Area Garden Club  
Guysborough & Area Garden Club  
St. Mary's Garden Club

## CENTRAL DISTRICT #3

Blanche Forbes Garden Club  
Cobequid Garden Club  
Clifton Garden Club  
Great Village Garden Club  
Hilden Garden Club  
Bible Hill Garden Club  
Westmount Park Garden Club  
Stewiacke Valley Garden Club  
Amherst Garden Club  
Village Garden Club  
Country Garden Club

## HALIFAX DISTRICT #4

Bedford Horticultural Society  
Dartmouth Horticultural Society  
Halifax-Westmoor Horticultural Society

## VALLEY DISTRICT #5

Haliburton Garden Club  
Wilmot Garden Club  
Valley Gardeners  
Charing Cross Garden Club  
Forties Garden Club

## SOUTH SHORE DISTRICT #6

Bridgewater Garden Club  
Chester Garden Club  
Riverport Garden Club  
Shelburne Garden Club

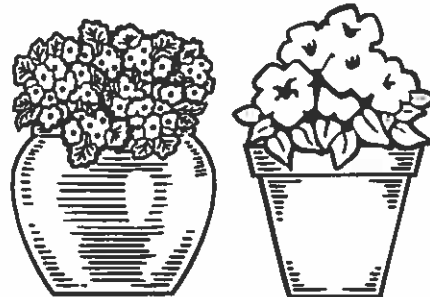
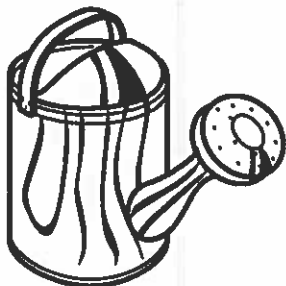
## WESTERN DISTRICT

Champlain Garden Club  
Clements Garden Club  
Admiral Digby Garden Club  
Clare Garden Club  
Weymouth Garden Club  
Yarmouth Garden Club  
Pubnico Garden Club

## AFFILIATED GROUPS

Rhododendron Society of Canada Atlantic  
Region  
First Halifax African Violet Society  
Dahlia Society of Nova Scotia  
Orchid Society

Other groups not members or in transition:  
Head of St. Margaret's Bay Recreation Assoc.  
Lunenburg Garden Club  
Chester Basin Garden Club



## *Changes in Department of Agriculture and Marketing*

There were a number of changes in the staff of the Department of Agriculture and Marketing between 1990 and 1995.

Richard Morton had been Provincial Horticulturist for over 40 years, part of his duties being overseeing the activities of Garden Clubs and Horticultural Societies. Following Dick's retirement in March 1991 his son Jeff Morton was appointed in 1992 to act as liaison between the Association and the Department.

Others who were (and still are) involved with garden clubs were Myrna Blenkhorn and Bev. MacPhail, both located at the Agricultural Centre in Kentville.

In 1990 David Sangster who had been Director of Horticulture and Biology and was keenly interested in the activities of the Association, was transferred to Extension Services, but in 1995 was re-appointed Director of the Plant Industry Branch. He was also involved in the development of the beautiful Alumni Gardens on the campus of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College.

## *Highlights of N.S.A.G.C. Board Meetings 1990 – 1995*

- The Trustee and Advisory Committee (consisting of past and present chairpersons) met at least once per year to make recommendations to the Board. For example, they established a Travel Expense Policy.
- In 1990 a special grant of \$1000 was received from the Department of Agriculture for the purchase of videos for the Program Library.
- Two hundred copies of the History of the Association covering the years 1973 – 1989, written by Marjorie Fowler, were printed.
- A video monitor tape player was purchased for use at District Meetings, Conventions, etc.
- Efforts were being made to establish a list of judges and in 1992 a judging clinic was held at Point Edward, Cape Breton, conducted by Arthur Haskins.
- N.S.A.G.C. membership cards were distributed to Clubs.
- The Constitution and By-Laws of the Association were revised in April, 1991.
- Several questionnaires and surveys were conducted including a letter sent to all clubs by the Great Village Garden Club; the purpose of these was to improve the functioning of the Association and communication with clubs, also to receive suggestions re conventions, etc. It was decided to send out a yearly survey.
- A representative was appointed to the board of the Rural Beautification organization.
- In 1995 the Association made a donation of \$1,000 to Professors Carol Goodwin and Lloyd Maplebeck for work in ornamental plant research they are engaged in at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College.
- A tribute was paid to Richard Morton at the annual business meeting of the Association on June 22, 1990 – the last Convention he was to attend as Department of Agriculture representative. In her re-

marks Freda Robb said, "I would like to express to him our heartfelt thanks for all that he has done for the Association. He has been mentor, friend, advisor, consultant, rememberer of details of events of past years and so much more. He has been a friend of the garden clubs and of the members of the clubs. We all know him and we do hope that he will continue his relationship with us from the status of a private citizen." Many other tributes were paid to Dick at subsequent District Meetings.

- Richard Morton did indeed continue his relationship with the Association, first as Secretary and later as Chairman, and continued to assist in ways too numerous to mention.

## *Conventions and Annual Meetings*

The 1990, 1991 and 1992 conventions and annual meetings of the Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs were held at the Cox Institute on the Nova Scotia Agricultural College campus. Those attending stayed at one of the student residences; meals and the awards banquet were served in the cafeteria.

The format of the conventions changed little during this time. Programs presented by speakers on various topics were interesting and educational; for example, "Insects in the Garden" by Dr. Edith Angelopoulos of Dalhousie University. A continuing feature was "What's New?" by the Halifax Seed Company; this firm was also very generous in contributing prizes. Activities included tours of the Alumni Gardens of the Agricultural College.

The agendas of the annual meetings included approval of the previous year's minutes, reports of the chairperson, treasurer, advisory committee and nominating committee followed by the election of officers for the ensuing year, plus any other matters needing consideration.

In 1993 the convention moved to Keddy's Motor Inn, Truro, and attendance increased to 120. Held there again in 1994, there were several outstanding speakers, e.g., Professor Lloyd Maplebeck and Brian Toms of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, and Bernard Jackson, former head of the Botanical Gardens in St. John's, Newfoundland.

The year 1995 brought a complete change with the convention moving to Digby and Weymouth, hosted by the Western District Clubs. Following registration at Annapolis Royal, a tour of the Historical Gardens, the annual meeting and a visit to the beautiful garden of Alex Muntz (Clements Garden Club), gardeners drove to the Pines Hotel in Digby for the evening program and a delicious dinner arranged by the Admiral Digby Garden Club. Among after-dinner speakers were Jill Cooper Robinson, gardening columnist of The Mail-Star, and MLA Joe Casey who was assisted by the Liverpool Privateers.

Moving on to Weymouth, breakfast and supper, courtesy of the Weymouth Club and lunch provided by the District Clubs, were served at the Weymouth Legion Hall. Talks and displays – all very interesting – took place at the Weymouth Consolidated School. Other convention features were flower arranging contests or demonstrations, displays of Clubs' yearbooks, and the photo contest. Registration was 176 with 10 guests.

In September 1992 a successful mini-convention was held in Wilmot, hosted by clubs in the Valley District.

N.S.A.G.C. members were advised that plans were being made to hold the 1996 convention at the Inverary Inn in Baddeck.

## *District Meetings*

For the purposes of the Association, the province is divided into seven districts: Eastern, Halifax, South Shore, Western, Valley, Central and Cape Breton, each having a director or directors (depending on the number of clubs).

During the years 1990-1995, garden club members continued to gather for District meetings at least once a year, usually in the spring. Some of these were held on Saturday and were day-long events including a noontime luncheon; others were held in the evening.

Whenever possible, the chairperson of the Association was in attendance along with the directors) of the District. In many cases plans for the meetings were made by District Councils consisting of representatives from clubs in the area.

Aside from an opportunity to meet and get to know members of other clubs, these gatherings usually featured speakers or demonstrations on interesting gardening topics. Sometimes displays by nurseries, specialty or other clubs, sales tables, etc., were included. A quiz or other contests were often part of the programs.

## *Landscape News*

Prior to the retirement of the provincial horticulturist Richard Morton, changes at the Department of Agriculture and Marketing resulted in the cessation of their publication, Landscape and Ornamentals (formerly Landscape News). As a result, the Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs began publishing The Association Information Newsletter. In 1990 this short newsletter was named Communicator News, published four to five times a year. Publication was later taken over by Yvonne Johnstone of Bras d'Or and in 1991 the name Landscape News was restored. It was issued four times a year and included news of club activities (if known) and details of awards, contests, conventions, etc. In 1995 the subscription rate was raised to \$7.00.

The Landscape News provided a communication link between the Association and the Clubs as copies were sent to all presidents and secretaries.

## *Awards*

The most prestigious award given by the Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs yearly at the annual meeting and convention is the "Gardener of the Year." The winner(s) must have a garden and demonstrate the ability to grow plants well, promote gardening to neighbors and give talks on gardening, help others get started in gardening, assist with flower shows, plant sales, and take part in things related to the promotion of gardening and beautification."

### *Recent winners were:*

- 1990 Rosaleen MacDonald, Gaspereau (Valley Gardeners Club)
- 1991 Harold Cudmore, Sydney ( Sydney Garden Club)
- 1992 Margaret Arthur, Annapolis Royal (Champlain Garden Club)
- 1993 Eileen Eaton, Great Village (Great Village Garden Club)
- 1994 Emma & Irving Tufts, Middleton (Wilmot Garden Club)
- 1995 Winna Smith, Clementsvale (Champlain Garden Club)





## *Club Anniversaries*

The oldest Society in Nova Scotia involved in gardening probably was the Halifax Horticultural Society formed in 1841 to beautify part of the old South Common, leading to the beginnings of the Halifax Public Gardens in 1867.

The Wolfville Garden Club, the first in Nova Scotia in the 1900's, began the beautification of the Post Office grounds. However, at present there is no garden club in Wolfville.

In 1937 the New Glasgow Horticultural Society was formed and this group celebrated its 55th anniversary in April, 1992. The Chester Garden Club marked its 56th year in 1995, while the Bible Hill Garden Club (formerly Hillcrest Landscape Club) celebrated their 45th in 1992. Also in 1995 the Bedford Horticultural Society celebrated their 45th anniversary by having an anniversary cake cut by their oldest member, Mrs. Eva Fenton.

Many garden clubs and horticultural societies were established in the 1950's under the Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs and celebrated 40th anniversaries: the Blanche Forbes Garden Club (Tatamagouche) in 1990, the Forties Garden Club (New Ross) in 1992, and the Charing Cross Garden Club in 1993. Halifax-Westmoor Horticultural Society (an amalgamation of the Halifax and Westmoor Horticultural Societies) also was 40 years old in 1994.

The Dahlia Society of Nova Scotia marked its 10th anniversary in January 1995 with the reading of a short history and cutting of an anniversary cake. Starting with 10 members, the Society grew to the point where in 1993 the American Dahlia Society voted to hold its 1997 National Show in Halifax.

It is not possible to list the anniversaries of all clubs and societies in the N.S.A.G.C., but all are to be congratulated on achieving significant milestones. The N.S.A.G.C. itself held its 40th annual meeting on June 11, 1994.

## *N.S.A.G.C. Programs and Contests*

### **Programs:**

#### ***Tags and Seals***

Supplying these to garden clubs for use at flower shows has been faithfully handled by Phyllis Selig of Wilmot for a number of years.

#### ***Program Library***

This was taken over by Ann Painter, Kentville, in 1991. Since then new slide shows and videos on various gardening subjects have been added and out-dated slide shows discarded. The Program Library consisted of 29 slide shows and 56 videos, available at no cost.

#### ***Insurance***

The N.S.A.G.C. has a third-party liability insurance policy with Zive Insurance Company of Halifax, essential to cover the liability of clubs holding events in shopping malls.

#### ***Landscape News***

Edited by Yvonne Johnstone, Bras d'Or, this newsletter was published four times a year. In addition to giving gardening hints, it kept members informed on details of contests, convention plans, activities of clubs, etc.

## Contests:

### *Slide Contest*

In 1990 the decision was made to drop the Slide Contest which had been an item on the Convention program for many years. The number of entries had been decreasing steadily.

### *Quiz*

Due to poor health, Wilfred Armstrong of Granville Ferry, who had looked after the Quiz for a number of years, could not continue. It was decided to have the Quiz at the convention only where it formed part of the program.

### *Photo Contest*

This contest became more popular and formed interesting displays at conventions. Ninety-two entries were received in 1995 and the quality of photos submitted was improving.

### *Yearbooks*

These records of club and society yearly activities, officers etc., were judged prior to the conventions and prizes awarded. In 1991, 22 books were received. At a Board meeting in September 1995 a motion "that in 1996 there be no yearbook contest, but that yearbooks continue to be produced for record purposes and put on display at the annual convention" was passed

## *Community Projects, Plant Sales, Etc.*

Community projects have been a large part of the activities of most garden clubs and horticultural societies. Very often the gardeners' energies have been centered on improving and beautifying the local cemetery, town square, memorial, church, library or hospital grounds.

Materials used in these beautification projects were sometimes donated by local plant nurseries, but often members either raised the necessary funds or grew the transplants used from seed.

Some groups extended their activities to local schools where they provided gardening kits or seed packets to students or organized competitions.

Many of the beautification projects qualified for entry in the Rural Beautification Contest, Groups who have won prizes in this competition include the Forties Garden Club; they won first and second place in 1995.

Examples of community projects or activities are:

- Clements Garden Club planted tulips at the Clementsvalle war memorial in honor of the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II.
- Yarmouth Garden Club redesigned, planted and maintained flower beds at the Tidal View home in Yarmouth.
- Champlain Garden Club assisted with the spring clean-up of the Annapolis Historical Gardens.
- Valley Gardeners Club of Kentville were involved in planning and planting of the inner courtyard of the new Valley Regional Hospital.



- Admiral Digby Horticultural Society did plants at the cemetery, senior citizens' retirement home, etc.
- Pictou Horticultural Society did plantings at five locations. They also sponsored a school Junior Gardener Competition.
- Bridgewater Garden Club was planning and planting garden at the South Shore Regional Hospital. Some of their members were also involved in the Woodland Gardens Society which hopes to develop a twenty-four acre park in Bridgewater.
- Weymouth Garden Club planted and maintained ten gardens throughout their village and entered in the Rural Beautification Program.

Unfortunately, it is not possible to list all the projects which were undertaken so enthusiastically by gardening groups in many areas of the province. All these added greatly to the beautification of both public and private properties in the province.

Very often the funds needed for projects or flower shows were raised through plant sales. At these sales the gardening public had access to tried and true perennials grown in local gardens. Specialty societies raised funds by sales held annually for example, the Dahlia Society of Nova Scotia have sold named tubers, the Rhododendron Society propagated and sold various shrubs; the Orchid Society and the First Halifax African Violet Society have held plant sales. Most of these groups also sold plants or flowers at their shows.

### *Bus or Garden Tours*

Tours of gardens in both urban and rural areas were becoming more popular. For example, tours of gardens in the Halifax metro area were arranged by the YWCA during several summers as a fund-raising event.

In August 1995 a relatively new garden club in Yarmouth organized tours of outstanding gardens in their town.

The Pubnico Garden Club also organized extensive tours of gardens in their area.

In 1994 the Great Village Garden Club held its first "Garden Festival" when six gardens were open to the public. Some of these gardens were included in the CBC's "Gardens of Nova Scotia" series on First Edition.

A number of members of the Dahlia Society of Nova Scotia have been opening their gardens to visitors in September when the dahlias were at their best and these events were well attended.

Tours of the Annapolis Royal Historical Gardens were becoming more popular with gardening groups.

The Halifax Public Gardens continued to be one of the major tourist attractions in Nova Scotia.



## *Flower Shows*

Writing in the Halifax Mail-Star in July, 1993, Jill Cooper Robinson, gardening journalist and landscape instructor, had this to say about flower shows:

*"I use flower shows to learn, as botanical evidence of what I don't know stares me right in the eye... so I take my iris or rose or dahlia problems off to the particular experts who grow them well enough to put them in shows... Here you will find a person who has spent maybe 20 years in the field, growing plants for pleasure, nurturing every possible species and variety, and encountering every possible problem, too.*

*The floral displays themselves not only demonstrate the best of the specialty flower but also provide a useful shortcut to viewing suitable companion plants for your iris or rose or dahlia.*

*But the best and biggest reason for going to flower shows is to meet the people who participate in them and lead you to the plant clubs behind the shows. For the serious gardener, plant clubs are true mother lodes of information... joining such clubs is the cheapest and smartest thing you can do to broaden your gardening knowledge."*

Flower shows were being held in many locations in the province during the past five years, ranging from the local community or church hall to shopping malls. In August 1995 the Yarmouth Garden Club held its first annual flower show at Trinity Hall with 181 entries.

Some shows such as those staged by the Admiral Digby Horticultural Society and the First Halifax African Violet Society required the larger spaces provided by hotels. The latter Society hosted the National Show in 1993 at the Holiday Inn in Dartmouth. Other specialty clubs such as the Dahlia Society of Nova Scotia, the Orchid Society and the Rhododendron Society staged large displays and some had competitive shows.

The Provincial Rose Show continued to be staged by the Halifax-Westmoor Horticultural Society, since 1992 at Spring Garden Place, and in 1995 became affiliated with the Canadian Rose Society.

In 1989 and again in 1990, the clubs in the Halifax area cooperated with the Trade and Convention Centre in organizing and staging the "Flowers of the Atlantic" Show. While this was a spectacular show it could not be continued due to financial losses. Also in 1990 the Cape Breton Clubs held a combined show entitled "Flowers of Cape Breton" at Centre 200.

Several NSAGC members exhibited in or attended the World Association of Flower Arrangers' show in Toronto in June 1993; others have exhibited in national shows staged by the Canadian African Violet Society and the American Dahlia Society.

During 1995 the Rhododendron Society of Canada, Atlantic Division, was busy making plans to host the National Rhododendron Show in Halifax in June 1996. The Dahlia Society of Nova Scotia was given the honor of hosting the American Dahlia Society Show in Halifax in August 1997.



## *Special Events*

In 1990 a plaque in memory of former Western District Director Ted Selig was presented to the Wilmot Garden Club by the Forties Garden Club.

In 1991 Margaret Hambleton and Loretta Weldon represented the Halifax-Westmoor Horticultural Society at the "Halifax 1999" conference to discuss future plans for the Mainland North and South Commons areas of the city. Some work has been done since then on the Mainland South project.

In August 1994 a large number of garden club members from the Sydney area formed part of a team with commercial florists to transform Centre 200 in Sydney into a flowerbanked area where Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Phillip attended an inter-faith church service.

## *Gardeners Over Ninety*

A number of members of the Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs achieved notable milestones and were honored by their home clubs.

Frank Jackson, father of Dr. Milford Jackson and a charter member of the North Sydney Garden Club, had achieved his 105th birthday prior to his death in 1990.

Mrs. Freda Kipping, a member of the Glace Bay Garden Club was 90 when her death occurred in 1990.

Among members who have passed their 90th milestones are Mrs. Eva Fenton (Bedford Horticultural Society), and Mrs. Christina B. Oakley (Halifax-Westmoor Horticultural Society). *died winter '97-98 / 500?*

In 1990 Mrs. Horace (Peggy) Zinck of Chester Basin, a life member of the Forties Club, celebrated her 90th birthday.

On October 16, 1993 Annie (Meister) Barkhouse of Charing Cross celebrated her 100th birthday. Her death occurred on January 2, 1994.

Dr. Basil Courtney Silver of Wolfville, who was long associated with the N.S.A.G.C., died October 8, 1991 at the age of 96.

## *New Clubs; Clubs Disbanded*

In 1995 there were 37 garden clubs, six horticultural societies, four specialty societies belonging to the Association, and two clubs in the process of joining. Approximately 1,245 gardeners were members of garden clubs and horticultural societies while a total of 369 belonged to the specialty societies (for example, the Dahlia Society of Nova Scotia).

Clubs disbanded were: Junior League Sustainers Garden Club (Halifax), Chebucto Garden Club (Spryfield) and Debert GC. A number of new gardening groups were organized including Middle River Garden Club (Baddeck), Big Pond Garden Club, Clifton Garden Club (Truro). Stewiacke Valley Garden Club, Village Garden Club (Kennetcook), Country Garden Club, (Elmsdale), Haliburton Garden Club (Windsor), Pubnico Garden Club, St. Mary's Garden Club (Sherbrooke), and Yarmouth Garden Club.

The Amherst Garden Club was re-activated.

The Chester Basin Garden Club and the Lunenburg Garden Club were in the process of joining the Association.

## *Boards of Directors, Etc.*

The following pages list the members of the Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs who have served as directors during the years 1990 to 1995. At each annual meeting a chairperson was elected by a vote of the directors.

### *Those serving in this capacity were:*

1990-1991 - Arthur Henderson, Weymouth

1991-1992 - Arthur Henderson

1992-1993 - Arthur Henderson

1994-1995 - Richard Morton, Truro

Yvonne Johnstone, Bras d'Or, held the post of vicechairperson during those years.

From 1990 to 1994 Richard Morton was secretary of the Association; these duties were assumed by Freda Robb, Sydney, in 1994.

Arthur Chisholm, Great Village, held the office of treasurer.

All these people gave willingly of their time, to attend meetings of the Board of Directors (held at the Harlow Institute, N.S. Agricultural College) in the spring and fall. Each director served in one of the seven districts as liaison with the gardening groups, attending their meetings and assisting in many ways. All these, along with a number of others who have served on various committees, have merited the thanks of N.S.A.G.C. members for their work and dedication.



*Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs  
Board of Directors, 1990-1991*

DISTRICT	NAME
Cape Breton	Mrs. Pat Johnson, Bras d'Or Lorna Doucet, New Waterford Lorena Warnock, Sydney Yvonne Johnstone, Bras d'Or
Central	Percy Ellis, Truro Art Chisholm, Great Village
Eastern	Bill Dewtie, Thorburn Carl Levo, Westville
Halifax	Roma Aiken, Halifax Bob Cooke, Dartmouth
South Shore	Mrs. Agnes Stokes Bridgewater
Valley	Mrs. Mary MacMillan, Wilmot
Western	Arthur R. Henderson, Weymouth

*Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs  
Board of Directors, 1991-1992*

Cape Breton	Yvonne Johnstone, Bras d'Or Mrs. Nancy Lynk, Dominion Mrs. Lorena Warnock, Sydney
Central	Art Chisholm, Great Village Percy Ellis, Truro
Eastern	Bill Dewtie, Thorburn Carl Levo, Westville
Halifax	Mrs. Roma Aiken, Halifax Bob Cooke, Dartmouth
South Shore	Mrs. Agnes Stokes, Bridgewater
Valley	Mrs. Mary MacMillan, Wilmot
Western	Arthur Henderson, Weymouth

*Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs  
Board of Directors, 1992-1993*

DISTRICT	NAME
Cape Breton	Mrs. Yvonne Johnstone, Bras d'Or Mrs. Nancy Lynk, Dominion
Central	Art Chisholm, Great Village Percy Ellis, Truro Dick Morton (Secretary), Truro
Eastern	Carl Levo, Westville Mrs. Anne MacIsaac, Pictou
Halifax	Mrs. Roma Aiken, Halifax Bob Cooke, Dartmouth
South Shore	Vacant
Valley	Mrs. Mary MacMillan, Wilmot
Western	Art Henderson, Weymouth

*Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs  
Board of Directors, 1993-1994*

DISTRICT	NAME
Cape Breton	Mrs. Yvonne Johnstone, Bras d'Or Mrs. Nancy Lynk, Dominion
Central	Art Chisholm, Great Village Percy Ellis, Truro Dick Morton, Truro
Eastern	Carl Levo, Westville Mrs. Anne MacIsaac, Pictou
Halifax	Bob Cooke, Dartmouth
South Shore	Mrs. Pauline Whittier, Bridgewater
Valley	Mrs. Mary MacMillan, Wilmot
Western	Art Henderson, Weymouth



## *Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs Board of Directors, 1994-1995*

DISTRICT	NAME
Cape Breton	Mrs. Yvonne Johnstone, Bras d'Or Mrs. Nancy Lynk, Dominion
Central	Art Chisholm, Great Village Vera Stewart, Brookfield Percy Ellis, Truro Dick Morton, Truro
Eastern	Carl Levo, Westville Anne MacIsaac, Pictou  John MacKamey, Westville
Halifax	Mrs. Alyson Carter, Halifax
South Shore	Pauline Whittier, Bridgewater
Valley	Mary MacMillan, Wilmot
Western	Art Henderson, Weymouth

Following his appointment in 1991, Jeff Morton of the Department of Agriculture and Marketing was named an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors. Marjorie Fowler (Historian) was listed as "ex-officio" and Freda Robb (Secretary) was added in 1994.



This short update of the history of the Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs in no way purports to cover all the activities of the many gardening groups active in the province during 1990 to 1995.

Communities where there were active groups have seen the results of their labors, both in the improvements to public areas and the increasing beautification of grounds surrounding private residences.

If I have omitted any events or given any incorrect details, I apologize.

Many thanks to those garden clubs or individuals who sent me information which greatly assisted me in compiling this up-date.

*Tread the earth lightly and with profound respect, all you who would with one accord seek a lasting and satisfying relationship with the mother of us all.*

*Let us forever be aware that the earth owes us nothing. We are trespassers who often deface and spoil her design by enforcing our own ideas upon her bountiful being.*

*The earth has no need of us. We are as pawns in a game. One unlucky stroke, and we are nothing more than a sigh and a memory.*

*But the earth remains constant. When nature is allowed to go her own way, she, in time, heals manmade scars, covers the trails of his irrational and obtuse wanderings and hides his obscene desecrations behind a mantle of living loveliness.*

*With deference to every cubic inch of soil, let us appreciate the forces therein. With the temerity of serfs, let us pamper, gratify and indulge the good earth with fertilization cultivation and conservation. Sometimes the reward will be a hundred fold.*

*When from our own small patch of ground there spring food to nourish the body and hyacinths to restore the soul, perhaps our eyes will be opened to the mystery and miracle that surrounds us.*

Happy Gardening  
Mary Dauphinee

The above was quoted from Mary Dauphinee's book *Seeds, Soil and Sunshine* published in 1979 by Lancelot Press Limited, Hantsport. She was a well-known gardener who welcomed many visitors to her garden at Second Peninsula, Lunenburg County, prior to her death in November 1985. Mary and my mother were first cousins. This page is in her memory.

– Marjorie Fowler

