

NOVA SCOTIA ASSOCIATION
OF
GARDEN CLUBS

HISTORY UPDATE
2015 - 2019



Compiled by Dixie Cress, Historian

Edited and completed by Pamela MacLean, Historian

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Introduction

Our organization, the NSAGC, is completely run by volunteers. From the district directors to the committee chairs to the board executive, every person volunteers their time, effort and expertise to help the clubs across the province. Our conventions, district meetings, fall rallies and plant sales, Facebook Page, and every Club is run strictly by volunteers. Presidents, vice presidents, treasurers, secretaries, membership persons, program persons, planting projects, publicity persons etc, every person is a volunteer. We're a particular group of people who love plants and love to garden and have respect for the environment. We want to see beauty in our neighborhoods and on our properties. We love the fellowship and community comradery that happens when we share these experiences and attend these events. We make friends, share ideas and experiences and are always learning new ways to garden, what to do with bug and critter infestations, plant sharing and many other things.

Without volunteers, our organization would not exist. Your Garden Club would not exist. Conventions would not be held. District meetings and Fall Rallies would not happen.

We owe it to ourselves to help each other and to help our clubs. In today's world, volunteers have become scarce. Clubs have disintegrated due to lack of volunteers. People are busy with their own lives and aren't as willing to give time and energy to the organizations that they belong to, making it difficult to find folks to help organize and run our clubs. Members need to step up and help out. Others will help you along.

The benefits of being a volunteer are many. Volunteering brings fulfillment and adds a sense of purpose to your everyday life. It promotes good health and helps you to develop new skills and learn new things. Volunteering helps to build self confidence, and build friendships with those who have similar interests as you.

Do something for yourself today and offer to take on a position, or a responsibility in your garden club, in your community, doing something you enjoy that will make you feel like you are accomplishing something yourself. The board of directors is always looking for volunteers as well. Volunteers are what keep us going year after year since 1954.

Let's keep it going. Become a VOLUNTEER.

Many Thanks to our volunteers, You make it happen!

Horticultural Societies, Garden Clubs, Affiliates

Clubs in the NSAGC as of April 1, 2015

<p><u>Cape Breton District #1</u></p> <p>Inverness GC North Sydney GC Westmount GC</p> <p><u>Eastern District #2</u></p> <p>Antigonish GC Guysborough & Area GC New Glasgow & Area Highland GC Lismore & District GC Pictou GC St. Mary's GC Westville & Area GC</p> <p><u>District #3 North</u></p> <p>Atlantic Master Gardeners Association Bible Hill GC Brookfield GC Cobequid GC Great Village GC Hilden GC Parrsboro GC</p> <p><u>District #3 South</u></p> <p>Country GC Hants North Late Bloomers GC Stewiacke Valley GC Musquodoboit Valley Weeders GC Village GC</p>	<p><u>Halifax District #4</u></p> <p>Bedford Hort Society Dartmouth Hort Society Eastern Shore GC Fall River GC Halifax Westmoor Hort Society Hammonds Plains Area GC Mayflower GC Seabreeze GC Prospect Area GC St. Margaret's Bay GC</p> <p><u>Valley District #5</u></p> <p>Charing Cross GC Forties GC Haliburton GC Mount Denson GC Nicholsville GC Valley Gardeners GC Wilmot GC</p> <p><u>South Shore District #6</u></p> <p>Basin Gardeners Assoc Bridgewater GC Chester GC Lunenburg & Area GC Mahone Bay Garden Society Shelburne County GC Queens GC</p>	<p><u>Western District # 7</u></p> <p>Bridgetown & Area GC Champlain GC Clements GC Pubnico & Area GC Weymouth Garden Society Yarmouth GC</p> <p><u>Clubs Leaving NSAGC</u></p> <p>Annapolis Valley Dahlia & Gladiolus Society Debert G C Glace Bay G C Clare G C Riverport G C River Hebert & Area G C</p> <p><u>Plant Societies</u></p> <p>Rhododendron Society Dahlia Society Orchid Society Annapolis Valley African Violet Society The First Halifax African Violet Society Nova Scotia Daylily Society Nova Scotia Rock Garden Club</p>
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NOVA SCOTIA ASSOCIATION of GARDEN CLUBS

The Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs became an entity in 1954 as the result of the work of the Rural Beautification Project Committee. In 1944, the Rural Beautification Committee was appointed by the Honorable John A. MacDonald, minister of Agriculture, to come up with a plan for rural beautification projects. Mr. Nick Jankov, a Landscape Specialist, began working with the Agricultural Representatives, Women's Institutes, Home and School Associations and Service Clubs, to begin formulating a long term plan for Rural Beautification around the province. He assisted groups in getting organized and provided landscape sketches and plans to these groups. Another part of the project was to provide trees and shrubs to groups. The trees and shrubs were grown at the Agricultural College and distributed to clubs for a small fee to help offset the costs involved in developing the project. Over the years, many new horticultural groups and garden clubs were organized and the Rural Beautification Program became a very successful endeavor. By 1948 there were forty three garden clubs and four Horticultural Societies that were actively taking part in projects throughout the province. However all the groups working under the umbrella of the Rural Beautification Project were working by themselves in their own communities and did not know what the other areas were doing. For this reason and in order that one group might learn from another, Mr. Jankov put forth the idea of bringing the groups together through a provincial organization. The Department of Agriculture sponsored a two day conference so that all the groups could send representatives to find out what projects were taking place in other areas and how they could benefit from each other's experience. At this conference, a committee was appointed to plan for another conference in 1955. This committee planned the organization of the Garden Clubs and Horticultural Societies into a provincial body and selected the name "Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs.

The Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs (NSAGC) is made up of garden clubs and horticultural societies from all areas of Nova Scotia. The NSAGC is the coordinating body for organized gardening groups in the province and is guided by an elected board of directors, whose members come from the different districts of Nova Scotia. The district representative, also known as the district director, serves as the link between the individual clubs and the NSAGC board.

The main objective of the NSAGC is to promote the general landscape beautification of the Province of Nova Scotia, by promoting community beautification and encouraging the formation of horticultural groups (garden clubs) which will procure interest in all phases of home gardening and ornamental horticulture in their areas.

The districts in the NSAGC are Cape Breton, Eastern, Central, Halifax, Valley, Western and the South Shore. Within each district, local clubs provide the outlet for budding gardeners, amateurs and professionals alike. There are over fifty local garden clubs and horticultural societies throughout the province.

Each year the NSAGC convention and board meeting is held in one of the districts. The convention is hosted by one of the garden clubs in that district, while the other clubs in the district play assisting roles. The convention brings together enthusiastic gardeners from all walks of life, whether they are professional or just part time amateurs, with the penchant for gardening. The convention program includes guest speakers, presenting their specialty or a general topic, workshops and tours. Other activities at the convention include vendor's tables, plant sales, the floral contest, photo contest, the awards banquet and the annual business meeting. Delegates take this opportunity to meet with gardeners from other areas of the province and discuss gardening issues. It is also a chance to learn new things that may benefit their own gardening efforts, their club's endeavors and further one of the objectives of the NSAGC; the landscape beautification of Nova Scotia, through home gardening.

Club and Membership Data - NSAGC

- 2015-2016: 1669 members and 6 affiliated clubs (the Orchid Society dropped their membership)
- 2016-2017: 1646 members and 6 affiliated clubs
- 2017-2018: 1649 members and 6 affiliated clubs
- 2018-2019: 1694 members and 6 affiliated clubs
- 2019-2020: 1729 members and 6 affiliated clubs

NSAGC BOARD

EXECUTIVE

	<u>2015-2016</u>	<u>2016-2017</u>	<u>2017-2018</u>	<u>2018-2019</u>	<u>2019-2020</u>
<u>Chairperson</u>	Patsy MacKenzie	Vicki Willis	Vicki Willis	Pamela MacLean	Pamela MacLean
<u>Vice Chairperson</u>	Vicki Willis	Pamela MacLean	Pamela MacLean	JoAnne Ford	Kathy d'Entremont
<u>Past Chairperson</u>	Don Butler	Patsy MacKenzie	Patsy MacKenzie	Vicki Willis	Vicki Willis
<u>Secretary</u>	Susan Hazelwood	Susan Hazelwood	Susan Hazelwood	Susan Hazelwood	Susan Hazelwood
<u>Treasurer</u>	Lis Jackson	Janet Simpson	Janet Simpson	Janet Simpson	Vacant

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2015-2016

DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITY

<u>CAPE BRETON</u> District #1	Donna Benac
<u>EASTERN</u> District #2	Evie Fraser
<u>CENTRAL</u> District #3 North	Patti Sharp
<u>CENTRAL</u> District #3 South	Elizabeth Hill
<u>HALIFAX</u> District #4	Pamela MacLean
<u>VALLEY</u> District #5	Debra Carey
<u>SOUTH SHORE</u> District #6	Myra Knight
<u>WESTERN</u> District #7	Ann Jones

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS 2015-2016

Scotia Gardener Newsletter	Ann Jones
Tags and Seals	Sarah Cluett
Historian	Dixie Cress
Photo Contest	Andrew Clinch
Awards	Lorna Williams
Future Projects	Arthur Haskins
Webmaster	Paul Despres

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2016-2017

DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITY

<u>CAPE BRETON</u> District #1	Joanne Ford
<u>EASTERN</u> District #2	Sharon Bryson
<u>CENTRAL</u> District #3 North	Elsie Locke
<u>CENTRAL</u> District #3 South	Elizabeth Hill
<u>HALIFAX</u> District #4	Kathy Harvie
<u>VALLEY</u> District #5	Debra Carey
<u>SOUTH SHORE</u> District #6	Sue Gilmore
<u>WESTERN</u> District #7	Ann Jones

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS 2016-2017

Scotia Gardener Newsletter	Ann Jones
Tags and Seals	Valerie Despres
Historian	Dixie Cress
Photo Contest	Andrew Clinch
Awards	Lorna Williams
Future Projects	Arthur Haskins, Don Butler
Webmaster	Paul Despres

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2017-2018

DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITY

<u>CAPE BRETON</u> District #1	Joanne Ford
<u>EASTERN</u> District #2	Sharon Bryson
<u>CENTRAL</u> District #3 North	Elsie Locke
<u>CENTRAL</u> District #3 South	Elizabeth Hill
<u>HALIFAX</u> District #4	Kathy Harvie
<u>VALLEY</u> District #5	Debra Carey
<u>SOUTH SHORE</u> District #6	Sue Gilmore
<u>WESTERN</u> District #7	Kathy d'Entremont

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS 2017-2018

Newsletter Editor	Ann Jones
Tags and Seals	Valerie Despres
Historian	Dixie Cress
Photo Contest	Pamela MacLean
Awards	Eileen Pease
Future Projects	Arthur Haskins, Don Butler
Webmaster	Paul Despres

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2018-2019

DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITY

<u>CAPE BRETON</u> District #1	Bibianne Lessard
<u>EASTERN</u> District #2	Sharon Bryson
<u>CENTRAL</u> District #3 North	Elsie Locke
<u>CENTRAL</u> District #3 South	Elizabeth Hill
<u>HALIFAX</u> District #4	Kathy Harvie
<u>VALLEY</u> District #5	Debra Carey
<u>SOUTH SHORE</u> District #6	Sue Gilmore
<u>WESTERN</u> District #7	Kathy d'Entremont

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS 2018-2019

Newsletter Editor	Ann Jones
Tags and Seals	Valerie Despres
Historian	Dixie Cress
Photo Contest	Betty Anne Cameron
Awards	Eileen Pease
Plant Giveaway	Not filled
Webmaster	Paul Despres

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019-2020

DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITY

<u>CAPE BRETON</u> District #1	Bibianne Lessard
<u>EASTERN</u> District #2	Sharon Bryson
<u>CENTRAL</u> District #3 North	Elsie Locke
<u>CENTRAL</u> District #3 South	Elizabeth Hill
<u>HALIFAX</u> District #4	Kathy Harvie
<u>VALLEY</u> District #5	Debra Carey
<u>SOUTH SHORE</u> District #6	Sue Gilmore
<u>WESTERN</u> District #7	Deb Bowes-Lyon

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS 2019-2020

Newsletter Editor	Ann Jones
Tags and Seals	Valerie Despres
Historian	Dixie Cress
Photo Contest	Betty Anne Cameron
Awards	Vicki Willis
Plant Giveaway	Geoff MacDonald, Jamie McLellan
Webmaster	Vacant

HIGHLIGHTS OF NSAGC BOARD

MEETINGS 2015 - 2019

- The Board of Directors meet every spring and fall to plan the operation of the NSAGC for the year.
- The NSAGC continues to provide third party liability insurance, tags and seals, training for flower and vegetable judges through an online course offered at the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus in Truro, an improved website with the ability to print off forms for liability insurance, convention registration and membership assessments, information on district happenings like flower shows, plant sales and other events. We now have an improved newsletter and a better distribution system using electronic mailing. The plant give away has continued and has expanded into providing extra plants at a nominal fee to member clubs.
- Reports from District Directors reveal that most clubs are doing well and membership continues to grow with more and more interest in gardening.
- The NSAGC supports National Tree Day by providing a rebate for part of the cost of a club's purchase of a tree each year.
- The newsletter and web site have been vastly improved and provide important communication to all members of the NSAGC.
- The Facebook page is very popular, with many members joining and contributing photos, asking questions, providing answers and discussion involving a great variety of gardening topics.

CONVENTIONS AND ANNUAL MEETINGS

CONVENTION 2015, June 5 and 6

Rodd Grand Hotel, Yarmouth

Theme “Gardening Then and Now”

The 2015 NSAGC Convention was hosted by the clubs of District 7 and was held at Rodd Grand Hotel in Yarmouth.

There were two hundred participants, including the complimentary registrations of Niki Jabbour, guest speaker, and the Honorable Pam Mood, Mayor of Yarmouth. The fifteen vendors were well received, and were very pleased with the sales and the contacts they made during the convention.

Two delegates from Ottawa representing Communities in Bloom attended the convention. They were on an observation trip as Yarmouth made the short list to host the 2018 National Communities in Bloom Conference.

Registration began at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, and from that time until the closing on Saturday evening the Rodd Grand Hotel was a very busy spot. Participants enjoyed the Mayor’s tea, sponsored by the Town of Yarmouth, and held at the Town Hall directly across the street from the hotel. Mayor Pam Mood and some of the Town Councilors were on hand to welcome convention participants. Friday evening’s presenter was David Sollows who spoke on Gardens Then and Now, showing many pictures of historic and modern gardens from the area. Entertainer Barb Gillis followed, singing Sounds of Nova Scotia. The evening program concluded with a ghost walk around town guided by Councilman Ken Langille.

Saturday morning began with the Annual General Meeting with MC Ann Jones and NSAGC President Patsy MacKenzie. This was followed by presentations by Gordon Tingley, Michael Travares, Alice d’Entremont, Allan Banks and Nina Newington. The presentations were well attended and enjoyed by all.

The Saturday evening banquet began with a welcome from Mayor Pam Mood. The guest speaker was Niki Jabbour who gave a wonderful presentation on The Super Productive Vegetable Garden.

CONVENTION 2016 June 3 , 4 & 5

Pictou County Wellness Centre, New Glasgow

Theme “Touched By a Garden”

No convention report was found in the minutes or emails.

Registration started at 1 pm. Directions to garden tours were distributed and some folks had purchased tickets to a Riverboat Cruise. The vendors were open at 2 pm and Floral Competition Designs were in place by 6 pm.

Convention Official Opening began at 6:30 with Convention Chair Don Butler officiating. Honored guest was Municipality of Pictou County Warden Ron Baillie who offered a special welcome. NSAGC Chairperson, Patsy MacKenzie spoke a few words to the attendees.

Denise Adams was the opening speaker and her topic was Embracing Native & Naturalized Plants.

Saturday saw more registrations, vendors, the NSAGC AGM and a special door prize. Activities continued with speakers Randy Lauff- Not All Insects in Your Garden Should Bug You, Lord Abbey - Therapeutic Benefits of Plants and Their Use, Dawn Westhaver - Milkweed and Monarch Butterflies, Marc Gabrieu - From the Garden to the Table, Philip Ruiz - Ergonomics of the Garden.

The banquet speaker was Carol Goodwin - Touched by a Garden. MC was Evie Fraser, District 2 Director. Awards were presented at the banquet.

CONVENTION 2017 June 2 and 3

Inverary Inn, Baddeck

Theme “Fascination with Plants”

This year’s convention was hosted by four Cape Breton garden clubs: Isle Madame, Inverness, North Sydney and Westmount. There were 186 participants. There were three guided tours on Friday afternoon: hiking Uisge Ban Falls, sailing on the Amoeba Schooner and a walking tour of Alexander Graham Bell’s Beninn Bhreagh Estate. The sailing and walking tours were available on Sunday as well. Friday evening’s official opening was delivered by Past-Chairperson Patsy MacKenzie who was also the MC. The Friday evening keynote speaker was Marian Whitcomb with a presentation titled “Fascination of Plants”. Following the presentation was a social time with a cash bar and a bonfire on the beach.

Saturday morning started with the Annual General Meeting. This was followed with presentations by Leonard Vassallo, Gordon Sampson, Maggie English, Tiffany Abbott and Master Gardener Jannet Elsie.

132 participants attended the Saturday evening banquet, and were entertained by guitarist and keyboard player Lennon Jerrod, and singer Rebecca Lewis. Following the banquet, keynote speaker NSAGC Board member (Future Projects) Arthur Haskins gave a slide presentation and talk titled “How to Grow Dahlias”.

CONVENTION 2018 May 31 , June 1 & 2

Days Inn, Bridgewater

Theme “Springing to Life”

Bridgewater and Lunenburg & Area Garden Clubs co-hosted the convention, along with assistance from the other District 6 Clubs of Basin Gardeners Association, Chester GC, Mahone Bay Garden Society, Queens GC & Shelburne County GC.

There was a cross section of vendors, as well as two farm markets and several nurseries in close proximity, to provide lots of opportunity for shopping.

Friday afternoon’s activities included a tour of Freemans Forest, and Charles Berry gave a demo/workshop on “Cleaning & Sharpening Your Garden Tools”. Friday night’s presentation on “Beekeeping” was delivered by Greg Sutcliffe of Chestnut Hill Farm (Birchtown).

Saturday’s presentations included Iain Jack of Fernwood Nursery with “Ferns in Garden Design”, followed by Chris Sanford of Yonder Hill Farm, with a presentation on “Soil Preparations”. After lunch, Chris Sanford gave a presentation on “Planting for Pollinators, followed by a presentation given by a member of the Tobeactic Research Institute, on the Monarch Butterfly. Saturday night’s keynote speaker was Rosmarie Lohnes, giving a presentation on Ecological Restoration.

Garden tours on Sunday included five sites: two in the Bridgewater area, one in Mahone Bay area, one in Gold River and one in Chester.

CONVENTION 2019 June 7 and 8

Louis Millett Centre, New Minas

Theme “Friends in My Garden”

The 2019 convention was hosted by the Garden Clubs and Affiliates of District 5.

Registration began Friday at noon. The vendors were open, and afternoon activities included a workshop by Frances Shilliday on how to grow and propagate *Streptocarpus*, a wine tour to local vineyards or a tour of Harriett Irving botanical Gardens. Transportation for the two tours was provided by bus. Friday evening’s speaker was Ron Neville, CFIA on the Emerald Ash Borer and Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, two destructive invasive species that threaten forests, gardens and the environment.

Saturday included the NSAGC annual general meeting, and the following presentations: George MacPhail on growing and propagating roses, David Currie from the Nova Scotia Bird Society on attracting birds to your garden, Dave Belt on growing lavender in the Maritimes and Tyler Jollimore on Japanese knotweed. There was also the option of attending a workshop instead of a presentation. The morning workshop was by Arthur Haskins on how he grows dahlias. The afternoon workshop was by Patti Vaison on floral design with a Japanese twist. Saturday evening’s keynote speaker was Mark Cullen.

On Sunday, participants could go on their own to a garden tour at Blomidon Inn Gardens, and maybe stop at Blomidon Nurseries for a visit and shopping.

NSAGC PROGRAMS

Outstanding Member Award

This recognition is an award by individual clubs and is an opportunity for them to honour members who contribute over the years to their club. This award doesn't have to be given to the best gardener in the club, but to a member who contributes in other ways such as volunteering for executive positions, providing material for plant and bake sales to raise funds, chairing various committees and just helping.

Tags and Seals

This is a very popular and valuable program of the NSAGC. The tags and seals are used by many clubs for their flower and vegetable shows as well as special programs with schools and 4H youth. Most years see in excess of 2000 seals and 2300 tags utilized by these clubs. The chair of the Tags and Seals committee, Sarah Cluett, continues to provide excellent service to clubs.

Yearbooks and Banners

Many clubs do scrapbooks of their activities throughout the year and are encouraged to bring them to the annual convention to allow other clubs to view what they do in their district. A certificate is given to all those clubs presenting their yearbook at convention in appreciation of the work the club has done in compiling this information.

Website

The new NSAGC website became available in 2015 and continues to be a vital part of the NSAGC communications network. The electronic world is changing quickly and the NSAGC will continue to improve and update the website.

Newsletter

The newsletter is called *Scotia Gardener*. In 2017 it was decided to make the newsletter available in digital form instead of sending out paper copies. This change was due to rising costs of printing and postage. It is easier to make the newsletter available electronically, plus the electronic copy is not limited to space and includes colour photos. The newsletter contains news about garden club activities and events, information about the next convention and advertisements from local nurseries and gardening related businesses. The newsletter is available on the NSAGC website.

Photo Contest

The photo contest was updated in 2018 to accept digital photos. The photo contest is open to all amateur photographers residing in Nova Scotia. Each contestant must be a member of a club that is part of the NSAGC. Photos are judged on originality, composition, proper focus and exposure. There have been a number of chairs of this committee for the past five years and they all have done a fine job of promoting the contest, presenting the photos at convention, keeping track of entries, getting a judge to make the decisions on the winning photos and securing prizes for the winners. Special thanks to all the fine judges who have given their time and expertise to judge the entries and of course all the entrants without whom we wouldn't have a Photo Contest.

Flower Shows

Flower shows play a significant role in the activities of many garden clubs and horticultural societies throughout the province. These shows provide the public the opportunity to see garden flowers grown to horticultural perfection and are often the first place to see new cultivars that have come onto the market. Gardeners get the chance at these shows to flaunt their gardening prowess in a fun way to their fellow competitors but at the same time give new members some of their tips to gain championship form. All districts have a number of flower shows to attend and some clubs even have more than one show a year. There is a Horticultural Show Handbook for Judges and Exhibitors available on the NSAGC website.

Plant Sales

This activity has been a major fundraiser for most clubs in the province, providing funds to support numerous gardening projects in their communities. The plant sale calendar runs from early May until late July with many club members traveling every weekend to take in a different sale, or even several sales on one day. As well as a fundraiser for the clubs these sales help distribute many of the older heirloom perennials to many more gardens, thus ensuring their continued survival. There is a downloadable Plant Sale Guide available on the NSAGC website.

NSAGC Plant Giveaway

This project was first undertaken by the NSAGC Futures Projects Committee in 2008. The purpose of this project was to give something tangible like a living plant to every member of a garden club in Nova Scotia. Certainly one of the benefits of this project has to be that close to three thousand new plants are planted province wide each year in members' gardens and community flower beds.

The following plants were chosen for the plant giveaway during the 2015 to 2019 period: Astilbe 'Delft Lace' (2015), Ligularia 'Othello' (2016), Hosta 'Fragrant Blue' (2017), Astilbe 'Vision' (2018) and Siberian Iris 'Sparkling Rose' (2019).

Garden Club Activities

Garden clubs do a tremendous amount of work in our communities to beautify their own properties as well as planting trees, shrubs and flowers around public buildings, parks, welcome signs, cenotaphs and cemeteries. As well as the many hours put in doing this work, these same clubs support these projects financially. In fact most monies raised by clubs throughout the year is spent on community projects and some is donated towards bursaries to students entering horticultural programs at University or Community College.

Some of the other activities carried out by clubs around the province include placing hanging baskets in their community, planting and maintaining flower beds at hospitals, seniors homes and community centers, decorating community Christmas trees, hosting local flower shows, planning activities to promote Provincial Garden Week, arranging local garden tours, donate to local food banks and other charities, hold seed and plant exchanges, and spring plant sales. These are just some of the many activities by the very friendly and generous, community minded garden club members. We thank you all for your contribution to your communities and province.

Club Programs

Perhaps the most important part of any garden club meeting is the program. Clubs around the province are always looking for new and informative program topics. Some clubs are lucky enough to have professional horticultural experts from different colleges, research stations or universities situated near them, while other clubs recruit club members or friends with expertise in the field of gardening to speak at their club meetings.

Some examples of program topics are:

- Garden photography.
- Sharpening and caring for garden tools.
- Identifying good and bad garden insects.
- Saving seeds.
- Growing your own seedlings.
- Beekeeping.
- Backyard composting.
- Food gardening.
- Water gardens.
- Organic gardening methods.
- Pollinator gardens.
- Native species.
- Attracting birds and beneficial insects to the garden.

Club Anniversaries

Congratulations go out to the following Garden Clubs who celebrated special anniversaries over the past five years. The longevity of these clubs is a testament to the commitment and dedication that their members have to their clubs and communities they serve.

2015

65th Bedford Horticultural Society

2016

70th Shelburne County Garden Club

60th Wilmot Garden Club

30th Halifax Westmoor Horticultural Society

15th Fall River Garden Club

2017

70th Bible Hill Garden Club

65th Great Village Garden Club

45th Musquodoboit Valley Weeders Garden Club

30th Clements Garden Club

30th Guysborough Garden Club

2018

65th Charing Cross Garden Club

60th North Sydney Garden Club

35th Valley Gardeners Garden Club

25th Village Garden Club

2019

80th Chester Garden Club

80th Pictou Garden Club

70th Bridgewater Garden Club

60th Westmount Garden Club

35th Hilden Garden Club

25th Stewiacke Valley Garden Club

20th Mahone Bay Garden Club

20th Eastern Shore Garden Club

15th Hants North Late Bloomers Garden Club

IN MEMORIAM

We have lost some wonderful gardeners and friends in the past five years. We acknowledge their dedication to their clubs and their communities. Some of those no longer with us are:

2015 -

2016 - Dorothy Levo

2017 -

2018 - Carl Levo

- Mary MacMillan

- Ann England

2019 - William "Bill" Wilgenhof

- John Skinner