



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Hello fellow gardeners!

Happy fall. It has been a particularly challenging summer for all of us as we try to conserve water, particularly those of us on well water. Like many of you it has proven to be a challenge to keep my gardens maintained and healthy with the extreme heat and dryness we have been receiving. All this, coupled with the ongoing threat of forest fires, we could only pray for some steady and consistent rain to get us out of the dry spell. This may certainly be a sign of things to come in the future and may mean we have to adapt to changing climate conditions in maintaining our gardens.

As we wrap up summer, our Executive team is in the process of preparing to host a strategic planning session to set our focus on advancing the strategic goals of NSAGC. If you have any input or suggestions, I would love to hear from you! **Contact information** is available on the NSAGC website under the “**Contact Us**” tab. In addition to this, our semi-annual board meeting will be taking place at the end of September where we will be catching up on any ongoing business as well, we will be voting on the selection of the giveaway plant for next year.

As we move into fall, some districts across the province will be hosting fall meetings/rallies. These events are a wonderful way to get out and meet other people in your district or even to attend another district’s rally. There can be interesting speakers and topics, plus it is a fantastic way to network with other NSAGC members. I will be bringing remarks on behalf of NSAGC to my own District 3 rally in October and I am excited to be taking part. If your district would like me to take part in a rally or meeting, please do not hesitate to reach out!

Finally, I want to send a warm welcome out to the newest club to join the NSAGC, **North Mountain Gardening Club** in **District 5!** We are thrilled to have you become part of NSAGC!

Geoff MacDonald
NSAGC Chairperson
secretary@nsagc.com



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SCAM ALERT - NSAGC

Submitted by Susan Hazelwood, NSAGC Treasurer

I was caught up in a **scam** this summer involving an **NSAGC bank account** and one of the clubs that I was trying to e-Transfer grant money to. The municipality that they received the money from does not send to them directly. Instead, they send it to the NSAGC Treasurer who disperses the funds on their behalf. I thought that I was transferring money to the club President, but a scammer had gotten involved. Thankfully, I called the Royal Bank of Canada (**RBC**) who identified that I should speak with their **Security Department**. The **Security Department** representative explained: “*what alerted them that something was not right is that the e-Transfer was in a pending status.*” As I talked with him, he was able to cancel the transaction before the money went to the scammers.

As a result of this situation and the recommendations of the RBC Security Department, I made a motion at the **September Board meeting** that will add security to our bank accounts and our money. The motion was “*that e-Transfers are only sent to board members for approved expenses and trusted vendors (e.g., insurance, plants supplier, web site support). Cheques will be sent to anyone else (e.g., clubs, photo contest judges and winners).*” The motion was **unanimously approved**.

The Security Representative warned me about **sending e-Transfers for online purchases** where the vendor is not known, such as *Facebook Marketplace*. He said that many times, the scammer gets the money and never sends the product. So many of us are now buying online and not thinking about the potential risks involved.

The following is a great free course on internet safety for anyone looking for more information on how to keep themselves and their money secure: [Free Internet Safety Tutorial at GCFGlobal](#) (to access this link while online **hold down the Ctrl key and click on the link**).

I wish you safe money transfers and purchases!

PROTECTING YOURSELF ONLINE

Submitted by Deborah Innes, Editor, Scotia Gardener

Have you had a call from a telephone number that you do not recognize, or have you had an email asking for your credit card information as they could not process your order, and I could go on and on! **Beware** - these calls or emails could be **scammers** at work. If you do not know how to block a call on your phone - call your service provider to learn more or simply do not answer the call or hang up if you are unsure to whom you are talking. Emails have scammers as well – learn what to do, if unsure who the email is from do not open it, if for example it is from your bank call your bank to ask about this email and they may transfer you to their cyber security department and ask you to forward to email to them – I have personally had this happen to me!

Check out the links below for more detailed information regarding **anti spam, cybercrime, online banking, blocking telephone calls, privacy, and security**. This list is by no means complete and if you are aware of another site that you have used please let me know at newsletter@nsagc.com so that I can share it with all of our Clubs and their members.

To access simply **hold down the Ctrl key and click on a link** below to open the website:

[Spam and malware | CRTC](#)

[Bell Support – Security and Privacy](#)

[Scams Alerts: Learn What To Look For - BMO Canada](#)

[Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre](#)

[Working Together to Protect You from Banking Fraud | CIBC](#)

[Scams and fraud - Government of Canada - Canada.ca](#)

[National Cybercrime Coordination Centre \(NC3\) and the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre \(CAFC\) | Royal Canadian Mounted Police](#)

[RBC Alerts - RBC Royal Bank](#)

[How to manage caller ID spoofing and spam calls - Rogers](#)

[Common Scams that Target Your Personal Information | Scotiabank Canada](#)

GARDEN CLUB NEWS

BIBLE HILL GARDEN CLUB (District 3 – Central North)

Submitted by Shelley McCallum and Cathy Fanning

The **Bible Hill Garden Club** has been busy the past several months hosting and participating in a variety of activities. In **May**, we held our **Annual Plant Sale** which was very successful in raising funds for the Club. We were very fortunate to have a **large quantity of seeds** given to the club which were distributed to all elementary and junior high schools, as well as several non-profit organizations in the community. This was followed up by members giving talks to the local recipients. The month concluded with a presentation on **container gardening** at the **Colchester East Hants Library** to a large audience.

In **June**, we invited members from the **Hilden, Brookfield and Stewiacke Garden Clubs** to join us for a **bus tour** to beautiful **Annapolis Valley** to visit a variety of gardens. Stops included the **Kentville Research Station** to view the amazing rhododendrons display, a visit and lunch at the **Harriet Irving Botanical Gardens** at Acadia University, a stop at **Glad Gardens Family Farm Market & Greenhouses** to view and, of course, purchase some of their wonderful assortment of annuals, perennials and shrubs before heading to **Carol Goodwin's Beneath the Boughs Woodland Plant Nursery and Pottery Studio** in Kentville for a tour of her beautiful property. The day ended with a stop in Enfield at The Big Stop for supper before saying goodbye to our friends.

Let it be known that Bible Hill Garden Club has several beauties among its membership, and we have a picture on the front page of the **Truro Daily News** to prove it! On **July 1st**, our Club entered a **float** in the **Bible Hill Canada Day Parade** called "**A Basket of Beauties.**" Several members wearing beautifully decorated floral hats and sitting in a float shaped like a basket adorned with colorful flowers received many positive comments from onlookers. The "beauties" were surrounded by walkers dressed like gardeners who handed out packets of wildflower seeds and candies to the crowd. A fun time was held by all.

An ongoing project for many years of the Bible Hill Garden Club is maintaining the garden at the **Bible Hill Cemetery**. This year our club received two generous donations to assist with the upkeep of the gardens. The funds from the donations were used to purchase a bench, some new shrubs and mulch. Many club members came out to help with the cleanup.

A favourite club event that is held each year in **mid-July** is a **tour of local gardens** followed by a potluck gathering for its members. It is always amazing how many beautiful gardens exist in the backyards of our own community! Each year, homeowners open their private gardens to our club to tour. The gardens vary from formal gardens to more relaxed woodland gardens.

When you are having fun, time seems to fly by and before we knew it **August** was upon us. Our club agreed to host the **Flower Show** at the **Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition** after being absent since 2019. This event required many volunteers since we were basically starting from scratch to secure all the items required to put on a flower and vegetable show. Funds for the show were secured by having a huge yard sale, ticket sales, sponsors from the local businesses in the area, private donations in the form of memorials and government grants. We were very pleased with the number of participants who entered the show in the flower and vegetable sections. An



Group from Steps on Arthur who attended the flower arranging session at the flower show.

Award Ceremony was held on the Main Stage with our club's Executive members, **Central North District #3 NSAGC Director Beate Acker**, and local government officials on hand to present prizes to the winners. There were also garden related talks and children's activities provided daily at the flower show booth. During the Exhibition week, over two thousand spectators attended the Flower Show, and many expressed their gratitude that the show had been revived. We are so grateful to our membership, as well as members from two other garden clubs in the area, who volunteered and worked hard to make the flower show a success.



Young exhibitor proudly showing off her first flower show entry.

GARDEN CLUB NEWS

LUNENBURG & AREA GARDEN CLUB

(District 6 – South Shore)

Submitted by Pauline Morehouse

This summer we were treated to some wonderful **awe-inspiring gardens**. It seems that that cold icy winter did wonders for the gardens. The colors and growth gave way to beautiful, picturesque settings. The first garden was a revisit from last year and a little bit later in **July** and it was gorgeous. It was a lovely garden filled with wonderful shades of



columbine with many being double mixed, eye catching crocosmia Lucifer, sea holly, and phlox to name a few. We then walked over to a garden owned by an **over 90-year-old fascinating woman**. She gardens daily and only has help for heavy lifting. Wandering into her backyard you are treated to an enchanted garden. Her gift for landscaping creates a sense of calm. She has created areas in the garden where you can sit and enjoy. Her unique pieces hang from the odd tree branch. Your eyes are forever catching a new site. It was truly magical.

Later in July we visited the eclectic gardens of **Judy Estey**. Her search for rare and unusual plants has created garden beds of unmasking curiosity. She has designed her beds to have year-round color piers for one.

Not only are you in awe by her flower beds she also has a flourishing green house and vegetable garden. Her knowledge that she so willingly shares is truly inspiring.

Following Judy's, we went to **Dave Jarvis and his wife Karen's** vegetable gardens. They are the founders of **We Feed Lunenburg**. Dave grows all his plants from seed and in spring shares many many young plants with anyone who would like to grow them and all he asks is you share some of the produce with those suffering from food insecurity. To create a larger gardening landscape, he has taken some of his gardens from ground level and has them growing up. He has made tunnels that you can walk through and see the squash and beans of every kind hanging. His raised beds and cloth bags are flowing with carrots, onions, garlic, lettuces, spinach etc. His green houses have rows of tomatoes already ripe and ready to share. He does have flowers here and there and his all-time favorite is Amaranth.



We ended our summer tours with a visit to an evening at the **Exotic Fruit Nursery**. Her many Tiffany lamps, which are family heirlooms, lit up the paths throughout the green house. Many of her plants are fourteen feet high and bearing fruit. She is working on surrounding her gardens with accessible water. She has made a pond with a lovely bridge that you cross to her greenhouse. **Annette's** energy and ability to create such an interesting nursery are worth a visit.

ST. MARGARET'S BAY GARDENING CLUB

District 4 – Halifax

Submitted by Paula Fredericks, Communication Contact

Summer season for the **St. Margaret's Bay Garden Club** has focused on the **Crossroads Garden**, which is centrally found in our community. The garden is a partnership between our club and the owners of the shopping plaza where the garden is located. It gives us an opportunity to create an attraction in our community, enjoy working together, and share gardening skills through both formal workshops and casual conversation.

The summer season is also a pause in our annual schedule as we recharge after a busy spring that included - the **Annual Plant Sale** and **Seedy Saturday**, a daylong event that attracts nearly 500 visitors to visit seed and garden related vendors and speakers on garden themes. Seedy Saturday has been a key contributor to our membership growth in recent years.



Crossroads Garden Clean Up Crew - May 3, 2025

GARDEN CLUB NEWS

MOUNT DENSON GARDEN CLUB

(District 5 - Valley)

Submitted by Beth Sanford, President

It has been an interesting gardening experience for the past two months. With very little rainfall, we have all been quite busy trying to keep our gardens going.

In **July** we held our **Annual Summer Social** at **Meander River Farm & Brewery** and invited members from local clubs to join us for a hot dog BBQ, potluck and plant exchange. We were pleased to welcome members from **Upper Vaughan Garden Club** and **Petals Society Garden Club**. Wonderful evening socializing with a tour of

Brenda's lavender beds.



Lori Reid (left) and Dale Kelly (right)

At the **August** meeting, our **President, Beth Sanford**, presented bouquets, cards and a beautiful cake. **Dale Kelly**, our new **Vice President**, has taken on the role of **NSAGC District 5 Director** and **Lori Reid, Treasurer**, past NSAGC District 5 Director, has accepted the position of **NSAGC Vice-Chair**. We wish Dale and Lori all the best in their new NSAGC positions.

Upper Vaughan Garden Club invited members to join them on a bus tour on **August 24th** to **Revival Seeds** and **Summerland Plant Nursery** with a lunch stop at **The Big Scoop Family Restaurant and Takeaway** – it was a great time!

Praying for a stretch of slow soaking rain to make our gardening endeavors a bit easier for the rest of the season.

DAHLIA SOCIETY OF NOVA SCOTIA – FORTY YEARS AND STILL GOING STRONG

(District 4 – Halifax – Affiliated Club)

Submitted by Arthur Haskins

FORTY YEARS AGO (1985 – 2025) - ten Dahlia enthusiasts met and decided to organize a **Dahlia Society** here in **Nova Scotia**. Small at first but continued to grow every year and still today has a very strong membership. This year, the society decided to hold their **Annual Picnic** at **Acadia Park** in **Lower Sackville** and to celebrate our **40th Anniversary**. The event started with a viewing of the plantings in the park which I should mention is run and maintained solely by volunteers. The Dahlia Society a few years back decided to work with one of our members who is also a volunteer at the park to plant dahlias in some of their flower beds. Through donations of dahlia tubers and rebar stakes from the dahlia society the park now boasts several dahlia beds of which the short Mignon bedding types were in full bloom for our anniversary.

As members began moving inside there were light beverages and an opportunity to talk dahlias with well seasoned growers and those just getting started. Of course, the big topic was how dry it was and how it has delayed the growth of our plants. Everyone felt we needed a few days of soaking rain! Then it was time to eat, and the tables were filled with a wide variety dishes thanks in part to the Society's diverse membership. Hot dishes, several different salads, Indian meat pastries, fresh fruit and homemade desserts rounded out the meal and us.

At the close of the event, current **President Krista Gill** introduced the **President** of the very first Dahlia Society of Nova Scotia meeting forty years ago, **Arthur Haskins**. Before cutting the Anniversary cake, Arthur paid gratitude to all the great dahlia growers and workers who have kept the Dahlia Society viable for all these years and then he threw in a few funny stories and memorable events that happened over the last forty years.

The society then handed out t-shirts and ball caps celebrating our **40th year anniversary**.



Arthur Haskins, first president of the Dahlia Society of Nova Scotia.

GARDEN CLUB NEWS

PARRSBORO GARDEN CLUB

(District 3 – Central North)

Submitted by Georgie Hebb



New for us this year – we entered a float in the Homecoming Parade!

On Wednesday evening, **July 9th**, Parrsboro held its **Annual Homecoming Parade** to kick off the start of **Old Home Week**. This year a few dedicated members spent many days working on decorating a float so we could participate. Giant pool noodle flowers and lots of pollinator gardening displays, which was our theme for the float. On the day, we had four members on board – two gardeners and two butterflies, two driving ride on mowers – one bee and one beekeeper, and one expertly driving our huge float behind a pickup truck. We had a great round of applause all through the parade route - safe to say it was a huge success! We are already talking about next year!

Social visit to Exchange Garden Stories

On **July 23rd**, a few of us had a lovely visit with a woman who has been tending the **Cenotaph garden** for many years during summer visits to Parrsboro. We enjoyed treats and refreshments while enjoying a gorgeous view of the aboiteau and exchanging gardening stories. Our hostess volunteers at the **Royal Botanical Gardens** during her winters in **Ontario** and told us all about the different gardens and how they have evolved to feature mostly native plants in many of the gardens there.



UPPER VAUGHAN GARDEN CLUB

District 5 – Valley

Submitted by Mark Kehoe

June was a busy month for the **Upper Vaughan Garden Club**. Our **Annual Plant Sale**, as well as, the ticket sales/draw were held on **June 14th** and both were very successful. Money raised from these two fundraising events goes to maintaining and building our community flower gardens, workshops, field trips and operating costs.

Our club now maintains four public gardens at the **Vaughan United Church**, **Upper Vaughan Baptist Church**, **Southwest Fire Station**, and at the **Upper Vaughan Community Hall**. We also participated in the local farmers market selling bouquets and garden plants. Our **District 5 Director, Dale Kelly**, attended the **July** monthly meeting and presented the club with their **NSAGC One Year Achievement Certificate**.

On **August 6th** our members enjoyed **two garden tours** hosted by next door neighbors - **Mark & Alison Kehoe** and **Shirley Walker**. Following the garden tours, everyone gathered at **Nancy Maxner's** cottage for a summer potluck and social.

On **August 24th** our club organized it's first bus tour. We invited members from the **Haliburton Garden Club** and the **Mount Denson Garden Club** to join us. With a full

bus we visited **Revival Seeds** in Middleton, **Summerland Plant Nursery** in Wilmot and enjoyed lunch at **The Big Scoop Family Restaurant and Takeout** in Middleton.

We are looking forward to fall and plan to keep busy with guest speakers, workshops and our community gardens.



Presentation of NSAGC One Year Achievement Award to our Club.



Garden Tour in Upper Vaughan.



Bus tour group at Revival Seeds in Middleton.

GARDEN CLUB NEWS

QUEENS GARDEN CLUB

(District 6 – South Shore)

Submitted by Chris Radimer

The **Queens Garden Club** had a lot of activities this summer to keep us inspired after the last meeting for the year was held in late May.

First up was a fascinating visit to Lunenburg's **Exotic Fruit Nursery**. Club members toured this incredible facility where everything from bananas to kiwi fruit to pomegranates could be found in their custom-built greenhouses. Our host took us through a veritable jungle, and members were amazed at the variety of hot-weather fruit and other plants that they have been able to grow in Nova Scotia. The visit concluded with a tasting of dry fruit and teas from plants in the greenhouses.



Club members gathered for our first cleanup assist.

Our next event was new program being developed by the club where each year we gather to help a member with garden cleanup or upgrades. This year we started with a perennial garden that forms part of **Mary White's** amazing and extensive property. Mary guided members through some of the plants, discussed her plans for the beds, and we got to work to thin out some of the beds. The group cleared out some of the perennials left by a previous owner of the property that had been getting out of hand (Sweet Pea!). A great turn out by members made short work of the maintenance and we were soon able to switch to digging into snacks and lemonade.

Twenty-five years ago, Liverpool resident (and former Mayor) **Christopher Clarke** initiated a project to encourage the planting of flowering dogwood trees and make Queens the dogwood capital of Nova Scotia. Several garden club members now host these trees on their properties and were pleased to be able to add them to a tour map that gave visitors a chance to see 134 of these beautiful trees that were in full bloom during the festival in **late June**. It is hoped that the festival will become an annual event in the area.



A fascinating visit to the Exotic Fruit Nursery in Lunenburg County.



The 25th Anniversary of Queen's dogwood project highlighted colours across the region.

Our final event of the summer was a **tour of two members gardens**. The group started in the community of **Eagles Head** at the immaculate garden of long-time member **Nancy Wentzel** and then carried on into **Liverpool** to visit the garden of our club's past-president **Karin Allen** that had been started by her parents. Attendees were able to experience two very different approaches to gardening in two unique settings. Thanks very much to our hosts for the inspiration, lemonade, and advice.



With summer's end close at hand, our members will soon be returning to the **Thomas Raddall Library** for a new season of club meetings and activities. When we do, we will be greeted at the library entrance by several planters created by our club's outreach team. A very nice addition to a wonderful new facility.



2026 NSAGC CONVENTION

Host: District 1 – Cape Breton Island
Date: June 5th – 6th
Where: Inverary Resort, Baddeck, NS
Theme: Culture, Rhythm, Roots

GARDEN CLUB NEWS

BRIDGEWATER GARDEN CLUB

District 6 – South Shore

Submitted by Heather Dominique

On July 19th the **Bridgewater Garden Club** hosted our **Annual Flower Show & Tea** with an abundance participation in all classes. In total there were almost 80 submissions to be judged.

Our club volunteers worked hard on delivering another delicious sandwich and dessert selection, with fancy teacups and tea pots brought in especially for the event. It was a full house of fancy flower dresses, the occasional fascinators, and overall, a lovely joyful afternoon of buds and blooms and high tea.

Our event MC **Jennifer Naugler** announced the following winners:

Best in Show	Sue Gilmour
Diane Hay Memorial Award for best specimen	Peter Wagner
President's Choice	Sue Hymers
Kay Hume Award	Candise Cook
Margery Dykeman Memorial Award	Barb Battise
Peoples's Choice	Heather Dominique



On a rainy **June** Saturday, a few club members also headed to the valley on a shopping and lunch excursion. We stopped and shopped at a few nurseries and loaded up our trunks with new shrubs and flowers, most likely to be in next year's arrangements and specimens. It was a lovely outing and hopefully on track to be an annual tradition.

We are looking forward to a Fall season filled with more club meetings of fun, laughter and learning.



Busy in the kitchen are volunteers: Heather Dominique, Donna Joudrey, Sue Hymers and Wendy King.



Barb Battise - winner of the Margery Dykeman Memorial Award.

VALLEY GARDENERS

(District 5 – Valley)

Submitted by Karen Marsh, President

This spring the **Valley Gardeners Club** began rejuvenating the gardens at the **Valley Regional Hospital**. In particular, the **courtyard garden** needed weeding, pruning, and mulching. Members of the Valley Gardeners Club designed and installed the original garden in **1995**. It has been a wonderful experience to review the old design plans and planting list to uncover what is still in the garden. Over the years several of the shrubs and trees have matured beautifully in this space.

A few members have volunteered to work in the gardens on a weekly basis. The work has included not only the courtyard but also the gardens at the main entrance and the gardens at the rear entrance by the dialysis unit. It has been a hot and dry summer, but the volunteers have done an amazing job keeping the areas weeded and looking neat and tidy.

Members came together for one morning to complete the cleanup and mulching of the courtyard.

I would like to thank our amazing members: **Sue Taylor, Wendy Collins, Allan Ferguson, Janet Alsop, Lorraine Miller** who have joined me working throughout the summer. A thank you, as well, to **Sue Rouleau** and **Annette Wray** who joined us for the Courtyard cleanup.

We look forward to continuing with the upkeep this fall and planning for new plants in the spring.



GARDEN CLUB NEWS

ANTIGONISH GARDEN CLUB

District 2 – Eastern

Submitted by Ruth MacEachern, Secretary

Antigonish Garden Club had a busy spring, dominated by preparations for the **2025 NSAGC Convention**. We missed the June newsletter deadline (same day as Convention) so are adding the spring details here.

In **April**, our theme was **“What Worked”** - a fun and interactive session inviting for members to share their successes, ask questions and provide advice.

The **May** meeting featured two speakers. **Julia Frean** spoke briefly on her volunteer role as a **Butterfly Ranger**, seeking to encourage the creation of pollinator gardens. Then we welcomed local gardener **Adrian VanBerkel**, whose entertaining talk **“Growing Vegetables”** discussed his productive family garden, experiments, and notable successes. A tour to his farm is being organized for late September.

Our **Annual Plant Sale** took place on Saturday, **May 24th**, and was an immense success. Members generously contributed hundreds of plants, and keen gardeners were waiting at the door with half the plants gone within 30 minutes of opening. This event was also an effective way to raise the Club's profile, and we attracted several new members on that day.



Also in spring, **Heather and Tony Blackburn of Heather Hill Farm** offered our members **free “waste” tulip bulbs**. These bulbs had the flowers cut for sale, so they will not bloom in 2026 but should make a good show the next year. Happy members collected about 500 free bulbs.

The big focus for **June 13th - 15th** was hosting the **NSAGC Convention**. In addition to the excellent presentations and quality vendors, we were also impressed by the variety of silent auction offerings. Our **Club's Floral Display** entry, crafted by **Ayami Briggs**, won third prize. During the Convention it was wonderful to renew and/or make new acquaintances with so many friendly and generous fellow gardeners from other clubs.



A popular item from the Convention Silent Auction.

Later in the summer, we enjoyed a summer barbecue hosted by **Jane**

Palmer at her home in St Andrews.

In **July/August**, we organized three garden tours for members and their friends. **Fran and Steve Baldner's**



Rob MacNeil's Arboretum.

beautifully designed town garden shows what can be accomplished in a smaller space over 30+ years, including flowers, herbs, vegetables, and shrubs. **Rob MacNeil's** gardens and arboretum at Mahoney's Beach showed the results of 40 years' experimentation with raising native and exotic trees on a former farmstead. About twenty-five visitors admired many unexpected species including magnolias and paulownias. At the **Old Barn Galleries and Gardens**, we had a good turnout for this tour, enjoying **Carol Rivoire's** beautiful gardens in Pomquet, as well as her art galleries. We were too busy admiring and asking questions to take photos!

Sadly, due to the drought we cancelled our plan to visit Alan Bank's Harbourside Nursery in mid-August, and we hope to reschedule this for next year.

The drought had a significant impact on many members' gardens, and our **September 15th** meeting was a members' forum covering coping strategies and results. There was a lot of interest in self-watering planters and rain barrels, so we hope to arrange a presentation in the spring 2026 on the use of pots, barrels, and accessories. We are also planning to promote and support a local rain barrel

fundraiser to benefit volunteer fire department and other first responders whose roles have been so prominent this summer and fall.

As we complete our meeting schedule for the rest of 2025, we are considering a few winter weekend workshops to keep our spirits up as we plan our gardens for spring 2026.



GARDEN CLUB NEWS

DARTMOUTH HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY (DHS)

District 4 – Halifax

Submitted by Jennifer McNeil, President

This summer, while our regular meetings took a pause, members of the DHS enjoyed a wonderful lineup of garden tours and our much-loved annual summer potluck. It was the perfect chance to connect, explore, and celebrate the abundance of the season.

Garden Tours: Inspiration All Around



Our **July** and **August** garden tours gave members the chance to explore an inspiring range of spaces, from sweeping oceanside landscapes to cozy backyard havens. We saw everything from shade gardens and pollinator-friendly beds to climbing plants, mini flower farms, and bountiful vegetable patches. Each visit showcased the creativity and care that members bring to their gardens, sparking innovative ideas and offering fresh perspectives. The season was still rich with opportunities to learn, connect, and appreciate the many ways gardens can flourish.



DHS Volunteers at Cole Harbour Farm: Growing Community

This summer, several dedicated members of DHS lent their time and expertise at **Cole Harbour Farm**. From planting and weeding

to harvesting and arranging flowers, our volunteers helped the farm flourish while also learning new skills and connecting with fellow gardening enthusiasts. Their efforts not only supported the farm's operations but also strengthened our community, demonstrating the spirit of collaboration and care that defines the DHS. Special thanks to all who contributed their energy and creativity - your work makes a meaningful difference!



Summer Potluck: A Feast of Friendship

On **August 11th**, members gathered for our annual summer potluck hosted by **Lis Jackson**. The evening was blessed with beautiful weather, plenty of laughter, and tables full of delicious dishes featuring ingredients grown in members' own gardens. A big thank-you to Lis for organizing and hosting this cherished tradition, and to the team of volunteers who helped with set-up, food coordination, and cleanup. It was a true celebration of community and friendship.

Looking Ahead: Meetings Resume

We are excited to gather once again as regular monthly meetings resume in **September**. We are pleased to announce that **Ginny Clark-Druhan** and **David Graham** have stepped forward as our **new Program Co-Coordinators**. Together they will guide the planning of engaging talks and workshops for the year ahead. Our thanks go to **Makayla Cole** for her outstanding service in this role and for helping with the handover to ensure a smooth transition.

With fresh energy, new leadership, and plenty of gardening inspiration from summer, we look forward to an exciting fall season with the **Dartmouth Horticultural Society**!



GARDEN CLUB NEWS

PROSPECT AREA GARDEN CLUB

District 4 – Halifax

Submitted by Tara Moore, President

This is the 25th Anniversary of the Prospect Area Garden Club.

This summer club members enjoyed a road trip to the South Shore on July 11th. We visited Cosby's Garden Centre – Concrete Creations, Dave Veinotte of Reo Nursery, Oceanview



Home and Garden and lunch at The Blarney Stone Restaurant.

Dave Veinotte (pictured left) provided an informative tour of his gardens. He highly recommended *Stewartia Pseudocamellia* for its multi season colour and beauty. During our road trip members picked up some new plant treasures for each of their gardens.



Cosby's Garden Centre and concrete creations.

On August 2nd our Annual Daylily Social was held in members Ron and Joan Cleaveley's beautiful garden. The weather was fabulous and as usual the potluck, discussions and daylilies were amazing!! Many of the potluck dishes were created from things grown in our gardens such as gooseberry fool and radish/cucumber salad.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

I hope that you enjoy this issue of the Scotia Gardener Newsletter.

I was waiting for some additional information on "protecting yourself" while online and when using your landline or mobile phones but will have to share this in the next issue. We are all experiencing some extra stress these days with what is happening world-wide and keeping ourselves safe at home is so important. I am hopeful that Susan Hazelwood's article and my list of websites will help to make everyone more aware of how you can protect yourself when using the devices we are so attached to! I am guilty – *I have too many* – LOL!

Planning has started for the December Newsletter with two interesting articles confirmed. If you have suggestions for future articles/interviews, etc. that you would like to see in the newsletter, please contact me at newsletter@nsagc.com (hold down the Ctrl key and click on the link). Submission deadline for the December 2025 Scotia Gardener is November 15th.

You can tell fall is here with the colder mornings and late afternoons! I even had to put a fire on to keep myself and the dog nice and warm last night. Despite that, fall is my favourite time of the year!

Enjoy your gardens while preparing them for the Winter and stay safe,

Debbie

Editor, Scotia Gardener

PS: You may have already received your fall newsletter from your District Director, but I discovered that I had left out one submission for the **Prospect Area Garden Club** and have subsequently added it to this issue.



SORRY! I could not stop myself for inserting another beautiful picture of the float created by the **Parrsboro Garden Club** for the **Annual Homecoming Parade** on July 9th.

Editor, Scotia Gardener

PS: Bible Hill Garden Club – I would like to have a picture of your float for the next newsletter if you have one.

Thanking you in advance.

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Scotia Gardener – Editor's Discretion

Please note that the Editor of the **Scotia Gardener** has exclusive control over the content and format of the newsletter. All information submitted for publication will be thoroughly reviewed by the editor and will be included or excluded in the newsletter at the sole discretion of the editor.

The preference is that the pictures in the newsletter are original. Pictures will be credited on the page where the photo appears.

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