

Bittersweet Muse



Lennox & Addington Horticultural Society Newsletter, Winter 2011/12

This Year's Slate of Officers



This year's officers had their photo taken when they were sworn in by Harold in November. In the back row (from the left) are Kevin Kell and Harold Bentley. In the front (again from the left) are Hildegard Dorosh,

Carolyn Reynolds, Kim Hay, Florence Bell, Magi Marlow, Mary Lockhart, Susan Withers and Larry Davy. Thank you for being our officers.

Our new meeting place at the firehall

We have a new home! The Greater Napanee Fire Services Headquarters (also known as the firehall) at 66 Advance Avenue near the intersection with Snow Road in Napanee has a meeting room where we will now be holding our meetings.

There's lots of parking around the back. Go in the back door of the firehall and our room is the first door on the left. The meeting room is large and has a couple of blackboards for messages. There's even a kitchen we can use if we feel peckish.



Gardening Hints

Bittersweet Muse would like to introduce a new segment, entitled Gardening Hints. Hildegard has sent in a few hints to get us started. Please send us yours!

Your coffee grounds and tea leaves (bag included) make good additions to your compost.

Coffee filters, dryer sheets (used) help prevent soil leaking out of holes in flower pots. Broken crockery can go on top of the sheets.

Addition of diatomaceous earth, (fossilized shells that can be found in some plant stores) deter some soil

pests like ants and slugs. This is a poison-free approach on a small scale (pots and containers).

Your old window shades may be assigned to a second life as plant labels. Cut them in 6 inch strips for outside use and use

a permanent "sharpie" to write the name of your plant. In case of fading (permanent does not always mean light-fast) write the name a second time on the underground part of your label. Pencil may work as well.

Lennox & Addington Horticultural Society Executive

President: *Hildegard Dorosh*
Past President: *Harold Bentley*
Vice President: *Mary Lockhart*
Treasurer: *Kim Hay*
Secretary: *Florence Bell*
Newsletter: *Gail Knowles*
Webmaster: *Kim Hay*

<http://www.gardenontario.org/site.php/lennox>

Bittersweet Muse is the newsletter of the Lennox & Addington Horticultural Society. It is produced four times per year.

To express your opinion or submit a story or photo, please send an e-mail to the newsletter editor at gknowles@rightype.com, or call 613-352-9972.

Member of District 3 of the



**ONTARIO
HORTICULTURAL
ASSOCIATION**

President's Message



Hello, gardeners (inside and out).

Have we had winter yet? I looked at my little larkspurs (1") that insisted on sprouting after frost had established its right over the garden. Maybe they do this every year and that's why I have to replant them every spring. But now they are alive even though I tried to protect them with spruce branches.

What will the weird weather do to our efforts in the garden? Collect your stories and share your surprises with us. Maybe we'll be lucky and have an abundance of seedlings and perennials.

That reminds me: I want to remind you to think about our plant sale which will be totally supplied by our own members. The cooperation with the "Greenhouse Project" as you know, did not work out this year. Therefore we're relying totally on all of you, your generosity and help. The sale most likely will take place on the Napanee Market. The date still has to be worked out and communicated to you. We will make this event the best ever, meeting our neighbours at the market and interesting more

members of the community to join our happy gardening club and society.

If you have ideas and wishes for presentations and events at our meetings please let us know. Better yet, give us a hand with organizing successful presentations. We need an organizer/researcher this year for events in the following year. Take the challenge?

Indoor gardening can be done on most window sills. Bring some of your success or concerns to the Question/Answering sessions. Together we will try to share our ideas and knowledge. That's what we're here for!

Hildegard, President

Thinking Cap Time

Here's a question for you: Last year Society volunteers took more than 20 bushels of tomatoes grown at the community garden to the Salvation Army Food Bank. If there happens to be a surplus this year, should we try to sell our extra produce at the Saturday market in downtown Napanee as a fund raiser?



Upcoming Society Events

February 15 – Tonight our president, Hildegard Dorosh, will tell us about succulents and cacti at our regular meeting in the firehall at 7 pm.

March 21 – One of our members, Warren Wright, takes photographs whenever he is on a vacation. Tonight he will show us a few slides from his travels at our regular meeting in the firehall at 66 Advance Avenue, starting at 7 pm.

April 18 – Kevin Bergevin is working on his Master Gardener certificate. He will be on hand to tell us about flowering shrubs and trees at our regular meeting starting at 7 in the firehall.

May 16 - This will be our first garden tour of the season and Henry Nyman has kindly invited us

to have a look at his garden. If you would like to carpool, please be at the firehall about 5:30 pm so we can be at Henry's about 6.

June 20 – this is the night of our pot luck suppers, held this time at Macpherson House on Elizabeth Street in Napanee at 6 pm. Don't forget to bring your favourite edible, your plate and cutlery.

July 18 – Judy Bullock of Odessa has kindly invited us to her garden for a visit to show us her collection of hostas. Her neighbour has a big vegetable patch and might be persuaded to show us around too.

August 16 - This is our annual barbeque supper. Would you like to be this year's host? If you would, please contact Hildegard.

Plant Sale News

Our Society's Plant Sale

A couple of dates and locations have been suggested for our plant sale this year but the most popular date seems to be May 26 and the market square beside the Napanee City Hall is the likely spot.

If you happen to be starting any plants or dividing perennials, is there any way you could plant or divide a few extras for the sale? Any plants or herbs would be gladly accepted. Thank you.

Macpherson House Plant Sale

Jane Scott, who is from the historical society, attended our January meeting to talk about the plant sale at Macpherson House this coming spring.

Macpherson House is thinking of planting culinary herbs in the garden this year. At the moment they are planning to hold their sale either May 12 or 19. Jane mentioned they're hoping to have a chef on hand who would talk about how to use culinary herbs.



Who can forget our plant sale last spring? If cold and wet doesn't jog your memory, the photo above, sent in by Norma, says it

all. From the left are Steve Roantree of the greenhouse program at the high school, Barbara Gibson, Gail Knowles, Kim Hay,

Caroline Reynolds, Norma Godden-Wiseman and Larry Davy. Thanks for the picture, Norma.

The Bicentennial Rose



There is a special 1812 rose for sale at this year's Ontario Horticultural Association convention in honour of the bicentennial of the War of 1812.

The rose is a scented floribunda called Korcasima, a new variety with long lasting red flowers and attractive foliage. It has good disease resistance, grows into a 2 to 3 foot bush with abundant repeating flowers.

Potted plants are \$20 and bare rooted plants are \$15. The deadline to order rose bushes is March 15, 2012. They are shipped April 16. If you'd like to have an 1812 rose bush, please talk to Florence Bell before March 15.

By the way, District 9 is hosting this year's Convention, from August 17 to 19, 2012 at the Agricultural College's Niagara-on-the-Lake campus. The theme for the Convention is Gardening Then and Now, 1812-2012.

Photos from Our Annual Christmas Party



Our Christmas party was a wonderful success. Lots of people came (top photo), and the food was delicious, as usual. Everyone brought presents to share (to the left) and Jean did a beautiful job at the piano playing for our sing-along. That's Jean to the right.



Down the (grassy) garden path ...

I have a patch in the garden that never grows any grass no matter what I do, so I went to the feed store and asked the owner, "Do you have any suggestions?"

The owner said, "ask that gent over there, he's a farmer."

After a very pleasant conversation, I paid for my grass seed and as I'm leaving the farmer said, "Do as I do. Give your lawn some beer in the fall and it should be half-cut by springtime."

Thanks for sending that in, Luzy