

Bittersweet Muse

Spring 2013

Newsletter
of the
Lennox &
Addington
Horticultural
Society



Is it Planting Time Yet?

This is always an exciting time of year. While the garden snoozes, we can dream of the upcoming season, egged on by the full colour photos of flowers and vegetables in the seed catalogues. No bugs, no humidity and no sore muscles. Just the difficulty of trying to choose between our absolute favourite plants and the ones we just can't live without.

In this edition of *Bittersweet Muse*, we hear from Mary, our new president, read Hildegard's note about what we did last year, and learn about the challenges facing people who wish to add a plant or two to the Napanee rock cut on Highway 2, from Larry.

It is with sadness that I report that Simon Rayer passed away at home on February 3, 2013 after a lengthy illness. Our heartfelt condolences go to Shirley and all of the family.

Gail

Our Officers and Directors for 2013



Here are the officers and directors of the Lennox & Addington Horticultural Society for 2013. From the left: Walter McGee, Assistant Director of District 3 of the Ontario Horticultural Society, Treasurer Kim Hay, Vice-President Kevin Kell, Directors Larry Davy, Maggie Marlow, Norma Godden-Wiseman and Secretary Florence Bell. Seated are President Mary Lockhart and Past President Hildegard Dorosh. Carolyn Reynolds is also a Director but she was unable to be at the meeting. Congratulations and thanks for your dedication to the Society.

President's Message

by Mary Lockhart

First *Bittersweet News* of the New Year, the perfect opportunity to thank everyone for their support of our Horticultural Society.

First, to Hildegard for shepherding us for two years. We had some excellent pot lucks and interesting programs ... you can relax now.

Next, to all the directors and the volunteers who help set up for our meetings and plant sale, thanks.

Thanks to everyone involved with the Urban Forest, the library gardens, the community garden, and especially our newsletter editor who keeps us all in touch.

Pollinator Patches



The Ontario Horticultural Society would like us all to have bee-friendly gardens and is encouraging gardeners of Ontario to create Pollinator Patches. These are small colonies of native plants either in private gardens or in unused public spaces that provide pollen, nectar and nesting places for native bees and other pollinators.

Bees look for two things in a flower, nectar and pollen. Nectar is loaded with sugars and provides bees with energy. Pollen provides a balanced diet of proteins and fats.

Here are a few things to remember when planning a garden for bees:

- * don't use pesticides or insecticide treated seed
- * native plants attract native bees, exotic plants attract honeybees
- * bees are especially attracted to flowers that are blue, purple, violet, white and yellow in clumps of four or more feet in diameter
- * include flowers of different shapes like ones with open cup-shaped blossoms or small tubular flowers and try to have something in flower all season
- * have a source of water nearby like a shallow dish with a few exposed rocks and water
- * plant in an area that's attractive to bees, like a sunny area sheltered from strong winds
- * consider building a bee house or buying one from a seed catalogue like the one from Vessey's Seeds



For more information go to www.ontariobee.com.

This Year's Plant Sale

Our plant sale will be held on Saturday, May 18 at the Napanee Town Hall. All plant donations are more than welcome. Please try

to pot anything up as early as you can. Seeds are available to anyone participating in the Plant-A-Row • Grow-A-Row program.

The Year in Review

by Hildegard Dorosh



We started the new year in a new location, the Napanee Fire Hall at 66 Advance Avenue. Larry showed a video to get us over the winter blues at this first meeting of the year.

In February, Hildegard gave an overview of cacti and succulents, their identification and care. She brought in and discussed a number of specimens from her own collection. (This was also a sneaky attempt to inspire members to bring in and talk about their own plants.)

The March meeting featured a slide show by Kim and Kevin on how they renovated their shed and their garden last year.

In April we invited Kevin Bergevin to attend our meeting. He showed us slides of a marvelous selection of flowering shrubs. It made us want to start all over with our landscaping.

In May our group went to admire Henry Nyman's garden in Bloomfield in Prince Edward County. We admired elegantly swinging rows of named rose bushes and many other plants.



For our plant sale that month our members put together an exciting array of perennials and annual vegetable plants, which we sold together with other vendors at the market in downtown Napanee. We were pleased with our funds raised: \$1,038, the best in a couple of years.

June brought us together for a potluck supper. The community garden in Napanee was in full swing with the help of our volunteers as well as other groups. During the summer drought our garden was supported by water supplied by the local fire department. In the meantime one of our members, Shirley and her family, started a similar project in Deseronto with good success.

In July, Judy Bullock opened her garden and surprised us with masses of different hostas and heucheras in her front and back gardens. We then were guided to her daughter's garden, a sprawling wooded garden with a creek and quirky surprises in corners and on tree trunks.



In August we had our annual BBQ at the Bourdon's home along the South Shore Road. The hosts' garden tour with sunset over South Hay Bay was very beautiful. August was also the month of the Napanee Fair and a number of our members exhibited their plants and won ribbons. The Society donated \$42 as prize money for the children section.

September was show-and-tell and seed exchange. Then, in October, Nancy Cole gave us a virtual tour of her trip to Holland's public gardens and ones in southern England.

The Lennox & Addington Horticultural Society is involved in many community activities. For example:

As an ongoing project, rotating crews have been working on restoring the flowerbeds and landscaping around the Napanee Library.

The Urban Forest Project continues to supply and monitor the success of newly planted trees in the southern part of the county. The project had a considerable setback this year with trees not leafing out after being planted and cared for. The causes are still unclear; the drought was not the main suspect. Some 20 bare-root trees have been maintained in pots at the Lamoine Point nursery. About 50 trees are expected to arrive and be planted this year. This also establishes a link to the Stewardship Council.

Another ongoing activity is our Society's constitution which should be approved soon. As well, a number of members volunteer their time and energy to plant and maintain a community garden, now in its third year with the produce going to the local food bank.



Napanee Rock-Cut Anyone?

by Larry Davy

Hildegard recently presented us with a question: could something be done to improve Napanee's Highway 2 rock-cut?

About three years ago Susan Withers and I discussed this very thing. We concluded it is an awkward area in which to plant. It is very steep in many places, close to traffic in others, lacking in soil cover, watering is next to impossible, and it is BIG. It presents many challenges.



The more accessible areas of the rock-cut are the shoulders leading up to the steeper cliff areas. Even on the shoulders a great deal of construction work has turned any soil into rock and rubble.

Yet all is not lost! Possibilities do exist. Perhaps an interested few might develop a plan to get some core areas started and a few plots might be enlarged into green success.

Everyone is welcome to add plants to the site. If you were thinking of dividing plants the rock-cut might provide a good home for them. Here are some plants which might do well in this area:

various sedums (autumn joy, dragons blood, etc.), iris, alpine ground covers, shrubs, small bulbs (crocus, species tulips, etc.), hardy cacti, yucca, garlic chives, butter and eggs, etc.

Below are a few more seed catalogues you might like to have a look at:

Seller's Name	Web Site	Telephone
OSC from Waterloo (Ontario Seed Company)	www.oscseeds.com	519-886-0557
T&T Seeds from Winnipeg, good hardy varieties	www.ttseeds.com	204-895-9964
Terra Edibles of Foxboro, organic heirloom seeds	www.terraedibles.ca	613-961-0654
Thompson & Morgan of Windsor	www.thompsonmorgan.ca	1-800-274-7333
Garden Import of Richmond Hill, seeds and plants	www.gardenimport.com	1-800-339-8314
Wildflower Farm near Coldwater	www.wildflowerfarm.com	1-866-476-6453
William Dam Seeds of Dundas	www.damseeds.com	905-628-6641

Upcoming Events

February 20 – Tammy from Flowers by Barbara will share her ideas and helpful hints for buying and arranging fresh flowers at our regular meeting at the Napanee Fire Hall at 66 Advance Avenue starting at 7 o'clock

March 20 – Come to the Fire Hall in Napanee at 7 pm to hear Mr and Mrs Paul of Paul Ridge Berry Farm tell us about the cultivation of strawberries and raspberries and how to make fruit jams and jellies.

April 17 – Using native perennials and naturalizing them in your garden is the topic of tonight's meeting at 7 in the Fire Hall. Peter Fuller of Fuller Native

and Rare Plants on the Airport Road in Belleville will be the guest speaker. Mr Fuller will be bringing plants for sale at the meeting.

May 15 – This is our first garden tour of the season and tonight we go to Sandhurst Shores to see a no-lawn backyard garden design and see how to welcome and feed butterflies and birds. If you would like to carpool to the gardens, please be at the Fire Hall by 6:30. Directions will be provided closer to the time.

June 19 – This is the evening for our first pot luck supper of the season. Don't forget to bring something to eat, your plate, cutlery and mug.

Gardening Questions & Answers

Q I bought a package of wildflower seeds. Should I wait and plant them in the Spring?

A Dirk Berghout of Florabunda Seeds replies:



I would wait until early spring to plant wildflower seeds. You could start some of your seeds indoors but only if you want to. Otherwise, sow them directly in the ground in late April or early May. Keep an eye on them and if there isn't any rain, water them gently until they are 3-4" high. After that, unless there's a severe drought, they should be okay. If you want to sow more in the fall, September is the best time to do it. For more info, write contact@florabundaseeds.com.

At our annual meeting in January, Kim presented Hildegard with a past-president pin from the Ontario Horticultural Society. It was our way of saying thank you to Hildegard for being our president and to show her our appreciation for all her hard work on our behalf over the past couple of years. Thanks, Hildegard.



The Eastern Ontario Hosta Society

by Judy Bullock

Announcing the formation of the Eastern Ontario Hosta Society (EOHS) with our first Executive meeting on January 13/13. EOHS welcomes members across eastern Ontario.

If you grow Hosta or want to start, have questions or need information, please join us to exchange ideas, learn about Hosta

culture and share the passion with like-minded Hosta-holics.

Our next meeting is scheduled for April 6 at 2 pm for Executive, new members, and interested Hosta lovers.



Contact Judy at 613-386-3814 or Judy.bullock@bell.net for more information about EOHS and upcoming events.

Lennox & Addington Horticultural Society Executive

- President: *Mary Lockhart*
- Past President: *Hildegard Dorosh*
- Vice President: *Kevin Kell*
- Treasurer: *Kim Hay*
- Secretary: *Florence Bell*
- Newsletter: *Gail Knowles*
- Webmaster: *Kim Hay*

Member of



**ONTARIO
HORTICULTURAL
ASSOCIATION**

District 3