

Brantford Garden Club

Submitted by Max Byerlay

Photographers are: Carol Sterkenburg, Cathy Clarkson, Robin Brennan and Max Byerlay

The Brantford Garden Club has had another busy year. This is our 172nd year and we have been officially declared the oldest Horticulture/Garden club in Ontario. Shown below are just a few of this year's events. Beyond these programs, we offer 3 scholarships, have started a youth program and have become a very active club of 250 members. You will see more of us in future issues of the Trillium.

Award Presentation

At our May meeting, Alison Huhtala was presented with the **Ontario Horticulture Association Judging and Exhibiting Certificate**. This award is given for many years of leadership, guidance and excellence of Judging and Exhibiting in floral competitions. Our club appreciates all Alison does and has done over the years.



Alison Huhtala

2024 Ontario Volunteer Service Awards

Each year the Province honours volunteers from local organizations. This year they recognized 6 members of the Brantford Garden Club at an awards ceremony held on Wednesday, May 29. These members were recognized for continuous service and dedication as a volunteer to our club and were presented with a lapel pin and a certificate.

Bev Hutton	50 years
Dorothy Caskenette	30 years
Wendy Bowman	25 years
Alison Huhtala	25 years
Max Byerlay	20 years
Pat Veale	15 years



(l to r) Max Byerlay, Pat Veale, Dorothy Caskenette and Alison Huhtala. Absent: Bev Hutton and Wendy Bowman

Hospice Garden

This garden is part of the beautiful Stedman Community Hospice Garden. Half of our garden grows cut flowers for the residents' tables, rooms, hallway, etc. and the other half provides vegetables for use in the hospice kitchen for the residents' meals.

John Anderson and his team were busy this spring. First, our growers were watching over their seedlings while John (with help from Ed Hewitson) was busy building a fence and gate around one quadrant to protect the smaller veggies from critters. As John says "Peter Cottontail will have to hop down a different bunny trail this year if he wants some nice greens for dinner." This portion of the garden is small, only 7' X 7' but once the fencing was completed, a small team then weeded, prepared and planted lettuce, chives and beans, etc. John then assembled a group of volunteers to weed and prepare the other 3 quadrants in preparation for the planting of the annual seedlings for the cut flower garden and also the tomatoes and other veggies for the vegetable section.



After a couple of sessions of weeding and planting, the garden was ready for the growing season. Now we watch it grow and continue weeding and watering. The hospice kitchen is already enjoying the lettuce.



Lions Park Garden

For many years, the garden club maintained a Waterwise garden at Tranquility Hall. The city eventually closed the garden because the building was to be demolished and the property repurposed. This past November, the city advised that, if we wanted any remaining plants, we should take them, so a small work group dug as many plants as we could handle and then stored them under a blanket of leaves for the winter. There was also a granite bench donated by a recently passed club member (Phyllis

Kitchen) and an obelisk. A few weeks ago, we dug up the remaining daffodils.

Some time ago, we approached the city to seek permission to start a much smaller garden at our meeting home, Lions Park, using these items. We received permission and the garden was started. The bench and obelisk were repositioned here by the city.

The garden was prepared and a group of volunteers inserted plants that we removed from the original Waterwise garden. More recently cedar mulch was added. Considering it has only been a couple of weeks, the plants are all looking great.

Here is a pic of our new garden and the volunteers who helped with the startup: Sherry Mercer, Lori Barkans, Linda Cox, Max Byerlay, Herman Sterkenburg and taking the picture, Carol Sterkenburg.



Volunteer Recognition Awards

At our February meeting we were privileged to present a number of volunteer pins and membership pins. Membership pins are awarded to any member with continual membership for 20 years or more in 5-year increments.



This year, OHA pins were presented to (from right to left): Keith Lazenby 25 years, Terry Newstead 25 years and Bev Hutton 50 years. Absent Rita Crow 25 years.

We also presented volunteer pins to members who have made volunteer contributions to our club. These are not membership awards but instead they recognize volunteer work and are also in 5-year increments.



This year's recipients of OHA pins are (from right to left): Wendy Schmidt 5 years, Marlene Graham 5 years, Anne Marie Brown 10 years and Mark Meloun 10 years.



A 15-year pin was presented later to Pat Veale.

Another Successful Plant Sale – Despite the Rain!

We are always overwhelmed by the support and generosity of our club members and the plant sale on Saturday, May 25th was no exception! The executive couldn't organize this sale every year without the help and support of our membership.

There were over 20 volunteers who assisted on the Friday, taking plant donations, sorting and pricing. There was another group of more than 20 volunteers who came bright and early on Saturday morning – some who had also been there Friday for set-up and some volunteers who were new to help out with sales, etc. Of course there was SO much food... generously donated by club members to feed all the volunteers (sandwiches, squares, cookies)... so many delicious goodies to keep the volunteers fuelled!

We also appreciated the loan of wagons and carts, boxes and trays to help people carry their treasures to their cars. Despite a good turnout, we had plants left over and Lin Matheson generously offered to have a follow-up sale in her driveway. Many people helped transport plants over to her house as well and she had a successful sale on the Sunday!





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Volunteer Appreciation Celebration

At our new event, the April Volunteer Celebration, members were asked to stand if he/she had done any volunteer work for the club this past year. Opportunities to volunteer are numerous including Baking for our social time, Greeter, Welcome table, Kitchen helper, Hospice garden, Plant Sale, Library, Plant Table, Facebook, IT, Judging, Bus Trip, Members' garden tours, Raffle, Waterwise garden, to name just a few! Over 3/4 of members attending the meeting rose to their feet, (approx 75 out of the 100 members in attendance). It is incredible to see how generous members are with their time and talent. Each and every one of them make the club a success!

The event was fantastic with a beautiful, delicious cake prepared by Board of Directors member Carrie Anne Delane.



There are 14 members who are not on the Board and volunteer every single month. These hardworking members were recognized with a certificate and plant. Thank you to member Brody Sharland who donated the beautiful anthurium plants for this event!



Members who volunteer every month include:

- Welcome table – Dorothy Caskenette, Toni Whibbs
- Plant table – Mary Thorne, Bruce Thorne
- Library – Sherry Mercer
- Raffle – Ruth Lowe, Janet Bernard
- IT/Facebook – Pete Byerlay
- Audio system asst – Herman Sterkenburg
- Newsletter – Wanda Pheiffer
- Hospice Garden Coordinator – John Anderson
- Horticulture and Design Competition Judges – Wendy Bowman, Alison Huhtala
- Snack time - Karen Proulx