



APRIL 2021

### **SARNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**

The purpose of a Horticultural Society is to increase interest in horticulture by encouraging private and public gardens, by holding meetings, exhibits, plant sales and field trips.

#### **PRESIDENTS MESSAGE**

Spring has come. It is so good to see the spring flowers coming out and buds on the trees and bushes. We can get outdoors and enjoy our gardens again. The yellow daffodils and yellow forsythia are signs of hope. Mother Nature works in her own time. Nature does not hurry, but everything gets done. Covid has stopped us from doing so much and it is important to stay in communication. Hope you are able to enjoy our Zoom presentations.

When our society was in its initial year of 1921, the world was in a post pandemic period after the Spanish flu. The world did move forward and we will again in time.

Marilyn Rawson, President

## **IN MEMORIUM**

A new column will be added to our newsletter. We have lost a couple of members in recent months.

Nick Palumbo- Nick was an educator and landscape designer who volunteered at our College Avenue garden.

Sue-Elin Lumsden (known formerly as Sue-Elin Rawson) – Sue-Elin was an active member and contributed a lot to our plant sales. She had a tragic death. The board has decided to make a donation in her memory. We have contacted the Humane Society (where she was an active volunteer) and a bush or shrub will be planted there in her memory.

In the future, if you have names to contribute, please send them to the editor, Jackie Spearman.

## **PLANT SALE by Diane Dorgeloos**

It's that time of year again where we are out in our gardens cleaning up, splitting and moving plants. Hopefully this year you will once again think of our Hort society's plant sale. We missed doing it last year due to the pandemic and even though it is still going on, we are hoping to have a sale this year on a smaller scale, at a different location. So we will once again appreciate donations.

The location is 1515 Lakeshore Road (just east of Modeland Rd.) at the home of Martin Borrow. The sale will take place Saturday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, 8am to 1 pm. Intake will be from Wednesday, May 26<sup>th</sup> until Friday, May 28<sup>th</sup>.

This sale will be open to Horticultural Society members, family and friends. Drive-bys and people who hear by word of mouth will also be able to shop at the sale. We will not be advertising in the paper this year. We will be controlling the number of people going in at one time, depending on the covid rules at that time. Masks must be worn, even though we are outside.

Hopefully all will remain stable and the sale can be held. Nurseries are open, so here's hoping we can also have our sale.

## **GARDEN QUESTIONS by Marilyn Rawson**

Whether you are a beginner gardener or have been gardening for several years, there are questions you ask. These can be grouped together as the W's of gardening, WHY, WHERE, WHAT and WHEN.

WHY? - Why grow a garden (whether it be vegetable or flower)?

Why will it benefit me and is it continuing to be a benefit?

Why join a garden society?

WHERE? - Where do I put certain plants and trees? (sun or shaded areas?)

Where can I purchase garden items?

Where can I get ideas for my garden and where do I turn for help and landscape ideas?

WHAT? -What garden zone am I in and what can grow in that zone?

What methods of planting are used for sun plants and shade plants?

What plants are good together?

What grows best in sandy soil and clay soil and how can the soil be enriched?

What are the advantages of mulch and fertilizer, and how frequently should they be used?

What should I grow so I have colour all season and what enhances the garden?

What new plants are available each year and what are ways I can save?

What do I need to do to propagate plants and obtain seeds?

What plants are invasive?

What do I do to control weeds?

What resources are available?

What should I do to look after my tools?

WHAT DID I DO WRONG and how can I fix it??

WHEN? - When do I plant bulbs and seeds (whether inside or outside)?

When do I prune?

When do I divide plants and how do I replant and repot them?

When do I clean up my garden?

Now see if you can answer these questions!

### **GARDEN INFORMATION by Marilyn Rawson**

When you want help answering your garden questions, use resources available. Many of us have several garden books on our shelves. John DeGroot has had a weekly newspaper column for years which can be enjoyed in the Sarnia Observer or online. The Garden Ontario website has a lot of information. Two of our Zoom presenters were Denise Hodgins, who publishes in the London Free Press, and David Hobson, a garden humorist who publishes in the Waterloo Region Record. Denise can be accessed online with Diggin Dirt Designs. David writes that a gardener must be able to laugh with their garden. Laugh while you garden and you'll live forever.

Mark Cullen can be followed in the Toronto Star. London Master Gardeners has a website, Pinterest has many garden ideas, and there is the website [gardenillustrated.com](http://gardenillustrated.com). There are many more – you can do your own exploring.

During the Covid times, I have explored many virtual garden tours around the world and informative shows. English gardens are spectacular. Tour Toronto Botanical Gardens and Whistling Gardens on YouTube and Canadian gardens from coast to coast.

Laura LeBoutillier from Ontario, Oregon has many garden videos. She gives garden advice and tours, and showcases Proven Winners.

Jack Barnwell is a landscape gardener based on Mackinac Island. Let yourself enjoy touring many of the island's gardens that were filmed last year. Gardening

on Mackinac is a unique experience. His videos also offer advice and showcase Proven Winners.

Dirty Business has a series of videos on yard makeovers filmed in the Toronto area.

A backyard is an extension of what's going on inside your home. It is usually more colourful, casual and fun.

## **YEAR OF THE GARDEN**

The Canadian Garden Council has proclaimed 2022 Canada's Year of The Garden. This is the centennial of the Canadian Nursery Landscape Association. In 2020 Canadians took up gardening in record numbers. The association believes gardening and gardens will be an important factor in the post-Covid recovery. There could be no better time to celebrate Canada's garden culture. Gardening is a shared passion from coast to coast in Canada. This centennial celebration from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> will commemorate Canada's rich garden heritage, celebrate today's vibrant garden culture, and create legacies for a sustainable future. The garden council is working to invite all Canadians, corporate Canada, and various levels of government to join this celebration. Become amazed and inspired by visiting their website for plans and ideas. It will be an exciting year.

".....and into the garden I go to lose my mind and find my soul."

## **HOPE IS GROWING GARDENS**

"Hope Is Growing" is Communities in Bloom's theme for 2021. They are encouraging us to plant Hope Gardens in yellow, the colour of hope, to share our optimism in gardening. In his article in The Toronto Star, Mark Cullen wrote that it is a refreshing theme after a difficult year. Canadians are ready to start looking up and that includes gardeners. From coast to coast, the goal is to create front yards, boulevards and playgrounds brimming with yellow flowers, foliage and vegetables. The top six suggestions for a yellow theme garden this season are:

- 1) Forsythia, a yellow shrub flowering in early spring. Cuttings root easily by pushing the bottom third of the cutting into damp soil.

- 2) Sunflowers indicate sunny days ahead. Plant from seed in early spring.
- 3) Black Eyed Susan, a native perennial, growing bright yellow flowers from late summer into autumn.
- 4) Jerusalem Artichoke, a native plant relative to the sunflower.
- 5) Golden Delight Summer Squash, or yellow zucchini.
- 6) Marigolds. There are several varieties and the flowers are even edible.

### **NEW PERENNIALS AVAILABLE AT DEGROOTS by Lynn Baarschers**

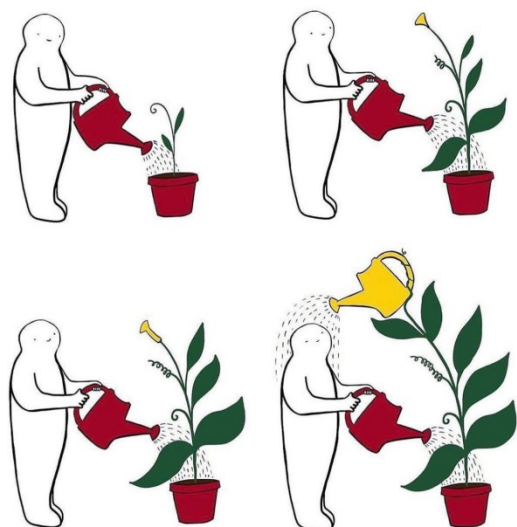
Hibiscus varieties: Blackberry Merlot, Ballet Slippers, Berry Awesome, Candy Crush, Cherry Chocolate Latte, Cranberry Crush, Dark Mystery, Evening Rose, French Vanilla, Holy Grail, Mars Madness, Midnight Marvel, Perfect Storm, Spinderella, Starry Starry Night, Summer Carnival, Summer Paradise, Vintage Wine.

Phlox varieties: King Fuchsia, Opalescence, Ultraviolet.

Salvia varieties: Pink Profusion and Violet Profusion.

Dianthus: Paint the Town Fuchsia, Paint the Town Magenta, Paint the Town Red.

### **GARDEN HUMOUR**



## **DISCOUNTS**

Several area businesses give Hort Society members 10% off purchases of garden materials. The businesses are listed on the back of the membership cards. Be sure to show the card before your purchase is processed.

## **NEWSLETTER ARTICLES**

Newsletter articles can be sent to:

Mary Rastall [rastalls@gmail.com](mailto:rastalls@gmail.com)

Jackie Spearman [jackiespearman018@gmail.com](mailto:jackiespearman018@gmail.com)

Marilyn Rawson [mrawson1@cogeco.ca](mailto:mrawson1@cogeco.ca)

## **MEMBERSHIPS**

Memberships can still be obtained. Call Jan Casbourn at 519-337-9139 or email her at [jcas@cogeco.ca](mailto:jcas@cogeco.ca).