



FALL 2019

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.

NEW LOCATION FOR MEETINGS

The Lochiel Kiwanis Community Centre located at 180 College Ave. N. (by Lochiel St.) in Sarnia. Meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7 pm. Door prizes are appreciated. Support the 50/50 draw.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE by Marilyn Rawson

I trust everyone has had a good summer and enjoyed their garden. The weather has certainly been up and down. As the fellow at Cuddy Gardens told us, the growing seasons are changing. For a while, we didn't need to water, and the weeds sure grew. As I write this note in mid-August, I am enjoying my Rose of Sharon, Echinacea, Lilies, Coreopsis, Brown Eyed Susan's, Phlox and I still have a couple of rose bushes blooming. Take an opportunity to view our park on College Avenue. I appreciated the garden tours in July and August arranged by Mary and Lyn.

Next year 2020 will mark the 100th anniversary of our horticultural society. It is a time to reflect back on all the people who have been active through the years and the work they have done. They worked together, cared and respected one another. They have set an example for us to follow.

NEW MEETING ROOM FOR SEPTEMBER by Jan Casbourn

The new venue for our September meeting is a lovely old building in south Sarnia that has a wonderful room that is more than large enough for our needs.

Why are we leaving “the green room” at DeGroot's after so many years you may ask? Surprisingly and fortunately the membership has increased and members are wanting to attend the monthly meetings to hear the interesting speakers and enjoy some social time. We are busting at the seams most nights! Also finances played a part as the rental fees in the fall of 2018 increased substantially.

Extensive searching for a venue began in the spring of this year by me, Jan Casbourn, Marilyn Rawson and Pam Hansen. Inquiries and visits were made to many possible choices which included sixteen churches, community centres, and the school system, as well as Parks and Rec venues. We had to reject many as the rent was the same or more, no availability for the night we required, rooms were not large enough, and lastly inadequate parking.

The decision to make the move was made by the board members after hearing the research and seeing the Lochiel Kiwanis Community Centre.

So in closing, please find your way to our new home and we hope you like it!

Lochiel Kiwanis Community Centre
180 College Avenue N.
Between George and Lochiel Street.
Handicap accessible, elevator.

SEPTEMBER IN THE GARDEN by Marilyn Rawson

September is a time to reseed our lawns, also prepare the garden for seeding, and collect and store seeds.

Plant spring bulbs beginning late in September allowing 4-6 weeks before the ground freezes.

Plant nursery stock, and hang flowers for drying.

Plant plants, transplant and divide plants.

September weather is perfect for moving hostas, peonies, day lilies, irises and phlox, just to name a few.

Consider which plants you can keep over the winter for our plant sale in May.

PLANT SALE by Diane Dorgeloos

Another successful plant sale! We had a wide variety of plants this year which was really good to see. Can we do it again next year? Let's do our best. As our summer is coming to a close and we are thinking of splitting up our plants, think of next year's sale by potting up, labelling extra plants and over wintering either by putting against a fence in a shady part of the yard, and covering with leaves or putting pots in the ground for the winter. Both methods should work. If you have specialty hostas that can be split, perhaps split one or two for the sale. Let's get everyone involved next year. The more that will share plants (donate), the bigger the variety of plants, and the more successful the sale.

Thanks to all who donated and/or helped out this past May, making it such a successful year.

OHA CONVENTION Windsor, July 19-20-21, 2019 by John and Ann Vandenhoven

We had the pleasure to attend the Convention this year, along with Marilyn & Jan, plus 300 other OHA members from all over Ontario.

Prior to the convention we were engaged in Sarnia's assignment to fill the goodie bags with 23 items from the 14 District 11 Societies. We accomplished the task with many of the Sarnia Horticultural Society members as follows:

Anne-Marie Slegers created and gave 200 stone art cards.

Sarnia-Lambton Tourism gave area maps and literature.

TD Bank donated the goodie bags.

BMO Bank gave pens.

Sarnia Horticultural Society members decorated 300 wooden Christmas ornaments.

Our grandchildren bagged and helped deliver the bags to the Convention hall.

There were business meetings Fri/Sat/Sun from 9-10:30 am, and after that we had the morning speaker until 12 pm.

On Friday morning, we had an excellent talk on the Chatham-Kent agricultural economy with many new opportunities including the greenhouse industry. In the afternoon we had a bus tour to the Sculpture Garden and to a private “Lily Garden in Puce”, which was absolutely fantastic. In the evening after dinner, we had the Rum Runners Orchestra and Singers entertain us with 1920’s music. Many members were dressed in Flapper costumes (lots of fun).

On Saturday we had a great talk on advances in the greenhouse industry. Tomato plants grow up to the ceiling and tomatoes are harvested at ground level, the plant is rolled up to 50 feet long as the fruit is harvested. New greenhouses cover 30-100 acres and are fully automated, costing 1 million dollars per acre. In the afternoon we had a most interesting talk by Louis Fiorino on butterflies and associated plants, especially the Monarch. Louis has spent time in Mexico studying their habitat.

We recommend that Sarnia members attend the OHA convention next year.

HISTORICAL TIDBITS OF OHA by Marilyn Rawson

Recently, I was asked how many societies there were when the OHA was formed in 1906. Not all societies joined initially, but there were 57 with a membership of 6,367. The Ontario Horticultural Society was formed on November 9th, 1906, with the first annual report being published that same year. It had been in the planning stages for a couple of years and societies had been under the Agricultural Society. The first convention was held in Toronto. The Toronto Society is on record as starting in 1834. Membership rapidly grew over the next several years. Twenty new societies were formed in 1920 with Sarnia being one of these. The growth and work of the OHA in the early years is interesting and more information will follow in future newsletters, along with

stories of our local group. Visit the webpage of OHA at gardenontario.org to learn more. Also read the newsletter, The Trillium, which is published several times a year.

CUBAN GARDEN CULTURAL TOUR 2020

January 4th to 23rd 2020 in Eastern Cuba

Tom Robertson has organized 24 garden cultural tours to Cuba. The tours are small with about 20 people. It is a chance to learn about plants, flowers, gardens and the nature of Cuba. You will discover the people, culture and history of Cuba. Contact Tom Robertson at Square Travel. www.cuba1tours.com

SARNIA PARKS AND RECREATION SEED DAY by Rob Harwood

Seed day is on September 28th this year, from 8 am to 1 pm.

Three knowledgeable staff members will be on site at the Germain Park Gardens to provide names, bloom times and other pertinent information for the variety of seed chosen. Seed collected will be predominantly from annual plant varieties but some perennial and tree seed will be available. We are encouraging people participating in the program to bring containers for the seed collected.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, September 18th, meeting at 7 pm at the new location, Kiwanis Center by Lochiel Street, Sarnia. The speaker is Marg Dudley with a presentation of the Keukenhof Gardens in the Netherlands.

Saturday, September 28th, Seed Day At Germain Park, 8am-1pm.

Wednesday, October 16th, meeting at 7pm at the Kiwanis Center. Larry Cornelius will speak about attracting birds to our gardens.

Saturday, October 19th is the fall advisory meeting of District 11 being held in Watford at Trinity Anglican Church.

Sunday, October 20th, 1-3 pm is fall cleanup at our College Avenue Park.

Monday, November 4th, a Board Meeting from 1-3 pm at Village on St. Clair on Front Street.

Wednesday, November 20th at 7 pm is our annual meeting and social time, with the presentation TBA.

2020–100TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

Wednesday, January 15th, meeting at 7 pm at the Kiwanis Center. Our speaker is Eva D'Amica who will give a presentation about Native Plants.

Board Meeting, date TBA

Wednesday, February 19th, meeting at 7pm. at Kiwanis Center. Holly Chaytor will speak about seeds.

Stratford Garden Show is usually the end of February. Dates TBA

March 11-20th, Canada Blooms is on at the Enercore Centre in Toronto. The theme is "It's A Party".

Wednesday, March 18th, meeting 7 pm at Kiwanis Center, speaker TBA.

Wednesday, April 15th, meeting 7 pm at Kiwanis Center, speaker TBA.

Spring cleanup at College Park, date TBA

District 11 Annual meeting at the end of April, date TBA

Bus trip in May or June, more information later.

Saturday, May 9th, Plant Sale

Saturday, June 4th, Cuddy Garden Open House and plant sale.

July and August are our garden tours.

July 17-19th, the 114 annual OHA Convention to be held in London, hosted by District 10. The theme is "Inspired By Nature- Learning, Growing, Blooming".

Fall events will be announced later as will special events planned for our anniversary year.

We have social time after each meeting and draws for door prizes. Everyone is asked to contribute to the door prizes. You could win.

LAMBTON WILDLIFE

Many of our members belong to Lambton Wildlife. They have both an indoor and outdoor program. The speakers for the coming months are:

Sept 30, Oak Savana Habitat, butterfly species at risk and recovery

Oct. 20, Bat Initiatives at Pinery Park

Nov. 25, Ferguson Farm, 183 acres of Carolinian Forest with a variety of native species trees

Look up their website for more information. www.lambtonwildlife.com

GARDEN THOUGHTS

Nature does not hurry, yet everything gets done.

There are no gardening mistakes, only experiments.

Children, marriages and flower gardens, reflect the kind of care they get.

A weed is a plant that has mastered every survival skill, except for learning to grow in rows.

Knowledge is knowing a tomato is fruit, Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad, Philosophy is wondering if that means ketchup is a smoothie.

You know you're a gardener when everything you see becomes a planter.

SARNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY CONTACTS

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