

Mount Hamilton Horticultural Society

Annual Report 2018

We entered our 91st year as a horticultural society strong as ever. We have 143 members, and we are still growing. With our Society's commitments, we hope to go forward into the community and encourage environmental awareness thru horticulture.

January

The Society's Executive Committee welcomed new President Kathryn Spiwak, 2nd. Vice President Rob Howard and Treasurer Heather Giglia. Nancy Gordon was welcomed as the Growing Green Coordinator and her 'Garden Blogs' were thoroughly enjoyed throughout the year.

February

Diane Naiker, George Winchester, Kathy Spiwak and Claire Kostyshyn represented our Society at Seedy Saturday, February 3rd. Together, they worked hard to entice as many people as they could to attend one of our General Meetings.

The Brown Bag Contest was very successful. There were 13 spectacular entries which made voting very difficult.

March

At the March General Meeting, Stephen J. Kostyshyn gave us a wonderful tour of "MOSAICANADA 150, GATINEAU 2017" with a fabulous slide presentation. Ruth Mills and Ica Smith, once again, did a wonderful job of selling all but one of the 20 pansy flats that were supplied for the society's members.

April

Three members of our society were among the many citizens in the Hamilton area who were recognized by the Ontario Government for their volunteer service in the community. Volunteer Service Awards were presented to Helen MacPherson, five years, and Marjorie Cooke, 10 years, for their many years of volunteering with the tutoring program that Neighbour to Neighbour provides in mountain schools. Eva Kuehlem was presented with an award for 10 years of volunteer work with the Master Gardeners.

Kathy Spiwak, Stephen J. Kostyshyn, Nancy Gordon and Claire Kostyshyn attended the 2018 District 6 AGM that was hosted by the St. George Garden Club, the Glen Morris Horticultural Society and the Lynden Horticultural Society. Nancy Gordon participated in two flower show categories and came third in both.

Our first Vesey's fundraiser went very well. We generated \$372 for the society. Despite the unusual winter weather in mid-April, and the lack of flowers in the garden, our mini flower show was still successful.

Kathy Spiwak, Claire Kostyshyn and Stephen J. Kostyshyn represented the Society at the District 6 table at the Royal Botanical Garden's Plant Faire.

May/ June

The rainy weather did not hold back the Society from having a very successful May Plant Sale. For the first time in many, many years the Plant Sale was held indoors.

The Society celebrated the coming summer in June with a wonderful Strawberry Social and mini Flower Show. Art Ward gave the Society a wonderful bird photography presentation.

July/August

The Society competed in the newsletter competition at the OHA convention in July and came first for the best newsletter in Class 13: Cover graphics primarily computer generated. Great work everyone!!

Stephen and Claire Kostyshyn, along with all the other members who contributed were gratefully thanked for all their hard work.

Members car-pooled to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Garden Tour and brought home many new ideas. Eleven MHHS members represented the Society at the Hamilton Spectator Open Garden Week. Laminated signs were given to those members to display with their garden tour signs in hopes of encouraging community members to join.

In August, a few members attended the kitchen garden tour at Dundurn Castle, but the event was, unfortunately, hampered by rain.

September

Nine members participated in the Major Flower Show, 'Nature's Harmony'. Although the number of participants was seemingly low, there were 115 entries.

It was noted that the RBG passes supplied by the Society were used on a regular basis by our members.

October

The fall mini flower show 'Trick or Treat' was enjoyed by all as was Paul Knowles' talk on 'The Odd and Eccentric Truth about Gardeners'.

It was at this meeting that we announced to our Society members that, after almost 20 years, we would be relocating our meetings to another church, Immanuel Christian Reform Church, just a few kilometers east, at 61 Mohawk Rd West.

November

Our Annual Dinner & Awards Presentation was held November 30 at the Emmanuel United Church on Upper Ottawa St. Other than our 90th Anniversary dinner, this was the first time in many years that we have had our banquet at another church. The church's Ladies Auxiliary are noted for their hot roast beef dinners, and they prepared a wonderful buffet for us. The Silent Auction raised a surprising \$570. Thank you to all the members who donated prizes and thank you to those who bought tickets for the auction.

The President's Award was presented to Claire Kostyshyn, and the Volunteer Appreciation Award was given to long-time member Marjorie Cooke. We decided to give the second Volunteer Appreciation Award to a newer member who started contributing and volunteering shortly after joining. This year's recipient was Maryann Botts.

A special thanks is due to Stephen Kostyshyn for the uncountable hours he has researched and archived the history of our Society. He has also been the sole member contributing photos of our events. Without his hard work, the history of this society would have eventually been forgotten.

Submitted by
Kathryn Spiwak
President

Flower Committee

Feb 16th -Brown Bag Contest – 13 Entrants (6 in 2017)
-judged by Society with marbles

March 16th -Expressions of Creativity - 22 entries (10 in 2017)

April 20th-‘Spring Tide’ Mini flower show – 10 Entrants (8 in 2017)
 - 6 Hort, 8 Design, & 4 Photo entries (16 in 2017)
 - Judge Connie Bilj

June 1st - ‘Scents of Summer’ Mini flower show
 – 5 Entrants; 10 Hort.

, 4 Design, 2 Photo entries
 -Judged by Lizzie @ no cost

Sept 28th -‘Nature’s Harmony’ Major flower show
 – 9 Entrants; 115 total entries
 -Judge “no show” - non-participating executive judged

Oct 19th-‘Trick or Treat’ mini Design flower show
 – 6 entrants; 5 Design, 4 Photography (6 entrants/13 entries in 2017)
 -judged by Society with marbles

Nov 17th-‘Cup of Cheer’ mini Design flower show
 – 7 entrants; Judged by Lizzie @ no cost (6 entrants in 2017)

of Members who participated in 2018 (excluding expressions of creativity) = 25 (24 in 2017)
 Total # Entries for 2018 = 173 (179 in 2017)

Award Winners: Martha Novoselac won the Keith Anderson Trophy for accumulating the most points in all divisions combined. Division leaders for the entire year were:

Horticultural Division	Design Division	Photography
1 st prize – Martha Novoselac	1 st prize – Nancy Gordon	1 st prize – Nancy Gordon
2 nd prize – Kathy Spiwak	2 nd prize – Martha Novoselac	2 nd prize – Martha Novoselac
3 rd prize – Marjorie Cooke	3 rd prize – Dini Balych	3 rd prize – tie between Stephen J. Kostyshyn and Patti Grodecki

Submitted by Martha Novoselac and Maryann Botts
 Flower Committee Directors

Programs

The program committee met 5 times in 2018 to discuss ideas for speakers, to book speakers and to organize events for the regular meetings. We bought thank you gifts for installation and gift baskets at the pansy sale. We organized a seed exchange, indoor plant sales and found objects to sell. We organized two summer events: a car-pool to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Open Garden Tour and a tour of the Dundurn kitchen garden. We coordinated with the social committee and put on the strawberry social in June. We notified the caretaker before each meeting on how we would like the tables set up. This was a rewarding year, and we are looking forward to another year of exciting events in our new home.

Submitted by Diane Naiker
 Program Committee Director

Plant Sale

Our annual Plant Sale was held on May 19th and was a huge success. Due to the rainy weather, it was held inside and this resulted in much less work for our many volunteers. We were able to do the final set-up on Friday evening. Although we did worry that this would mean fewer customers, it proved to be a great sale anyway. Thanks to the sales promotion suggested by Rob Howard, many new members signed up. All leftover plants were taken by several members to the N2N centre for

their use and for their clients. Thanks to all of our members who kindly volunteered by donating plants, sorting, pricing, setting up, manning the sales tables and offering garden expertise. As always, your efforts made this day a success.

Submitted by Dini Balych and Anna Miller
Co-chairs, Plant Sale Committee

Social

Another satisfying year from Social. Thank you to all those generous and talented folks who contributed goodies to the break table and to those who helped set up before and clean up after the breaks. Again, a special thank you to Joyce Shanlin for co-ordinating the donations, making the follow up calls and helping in the kitchen. After several years of generously giving us so much, Joyce is passing the clipboard to Terry Erickson....welcome to Social, Terry, may your sign-up sheet be ever full!

Submitted by Jeanette Zavitz
Social Committee Chair

Outreach

Many thanks to the 20 volunteers who worked throughout the summer at Jason's House providing weekly maintenance, weeding, dead heading and trimming the front garden, and who participated in the Spring and Fall clean-up. Thank-you also to the 10 members who maintained the garden at the Chedoke Presbyterian Church. The Society donated \$500 to the Green Angels program at the RBG as well as \$250 to the Hamilton Victory Garden. There was a total of 194 hours of work put in by the Outreach members.

Beautification Committee Report

The Beautification Committee had intentions to finish its work at the Norman 'Pinky' Lewis Parkette on Sanford Avenue N. in 2018, but renovations to the Norman 'Pinky' Lewis Recreation Centre meant that our water supply was cut off. Plans to plant hydrangeas along the fence on the north side of the parkette had to be postponed until 2019.

The city very generously sent a water truck to water the site during the summer of 2018. Consequently, most of the plants survived except for a couple of Dwarf Golden Barberries (*Berberis thunbergii* 'Aurea Nana') that will have to be replaced. At least one Compact Andorra Juniper (*Juniperus horizontalis* 'Plumosa Compacta') was quite damaged. It looks as if it may have been walked on more than once so a new one will have to be purchased. And, it appears as if sticky fingers may have resulted in the loss of one Dwarf Black-Eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia fulgida* var. *sullivantii* 'Little Goldstar'). Three of the four full-sized Black-Eyed Susan's (*Rudbeckia fulgida* 'Goldstrum') did not survive the first winter.

Maintenance did continue in 2018. Ridding the site of bindweed, which appears to have been introduced to the area via the City's soil donation, continued to be a major problem. So much bindweed had been dug out in the Fall of 2017 that new brown-hued mulch was put down in the Spring of 2018. Dozens of hours were spent weeding the bindweed during the Summer with only partial success. Finally, an herbicide was tried, and it seemed to help. The Spring of 2019 will reveal how well it worked. Because there was so much soil disturbance, another layer of mulch was applied in the Fall of 2018. Those of you who have never visited the parkette should check it out. It still looks pretty good in the winter, and it will look even better next summer.

Submitted by
Stephen J. Kostyshyn
Beautification Committee Co-Chair

In Memory

John Roxburgh Smith left us on 6 December 2018. John was a lifetime member of our Society and was its longest serving member, having joined in 1958. John was president in 1962 and 1963 and again in 1985 and 1986. John is one of only two former members of the MHHS who went on to become president of the Ontario Horticultural Association (1969). In 2017, during the Society's 90th anniversary year, a new award was established that will honour members, both present and from the past, who served the Society with distinction for a period of no less than twenty years. That award was named the John R. Smith Award.

The Society is also sad to announce that we lost two other valuable members, Joan Dyer as well as a sister, sister-in-law and cousin to a number of members, Lorraine Langham.