



DECEMBER 2020

**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.

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** by Marilyn Rawson

Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to us.

We started 2020 with 2 great presentations in January and February about butterfly gardening and native plants and growing from seeds. We even had an anniversary cake in January. Then with the worldwide pandemic of COVID coming in March, we were unable to get together for meetings and events.

As nature is dormant during the winter, so are we now. This too shall pass. Our roots are still there and have been well nourished for the past 100 years. We will rise again. Plans were made (seeds planted) and we will celebrate later.

Thank you to board members, communication people and those who worked in our garden this past year.

Wishing everyone a blessed, healthy Christmas season. All the best in 2021.

## **COLLEGE PARK** by Heather Ashe

Teresa and I are thanked by many visitors passing through the SHS garden. A



favourite is Ken, who we have known for several years. Some years he picks Serviceberries to make jam. One year he made tarts and gave Teresa and me one each. This year he made jam.

## **SUNFLOWERS** by Marilyn Rawson

Sunflowers turn according to the position of the sun. In other words, they “chase the light.” You might already know this, but there is another fact that you probably do not know!

Have you ever wondered what happens on cloudy and rainy days when the sun is completely covered by clouds? This is an interesting question, isn't it? Perhaps you think the sunflower withers or turns its head towards the ground. Is this what crossed your mind? Well, that's incorrect! This is what happens: they turn towards each other to share their energy.

Nature's perfection is amazing. Now let's apply this reflection to our lives. Many people may become low-spirited, and the most vulnerable ones, sometimes, become depressed. How about following the example of the beautiful sunflowers i.e. “Supporting and empowering each other”? Nature has so much to teach us. Wishing everyone a “Sunflower” trait of turning towards each other on their cloudy and gloomy days. Spread goodness..... it will come back to you!



### **COLLEGE AVENUE PARK ANNIVERSARY BENCH**

The board decided to install a bench at the College Avenue Park for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A tree will also be planted at Canatara Park.



### **ONE OF OUR OLD FAVOURITE TREES WAS CUT DOWN** by Heather Ashe

In 1967 to celebrate Canada's centennial year, the Sarnia Horticultural Society planted four Almey crab apple trees at the society's College Avenue garden. We think that they were planted close to the four corners of the property. Three died before 2010, leaving one at the southeast corner, near College Avenue. It has been declining for several years and had many suckers.

This year it became apparent that 2020 would be the tree's last. Fortunately I know a carpenter who enjoys cutting down dead and dying trees and making use

of the wood. Tom surveyed and photographed the tree in mid-October. A few days later he and his helper Dave arrived, cut down the tree, removed the limbs and bundled up the small branches. The site was cleaned up and now the area looks so big and bare! Tom knows that the society would like to receive discs cut from the limbs to use as souvenirs and prizes.



We wanted to kill the root so that suckers wouldn't sprout again. Frank Van Delft drilled deep holes in the 2-inch stump. I filled them with Epsom Salts (magnesium sulfate) and covered the stump with a sheet of plastic. This is supposed to kill the root in about 3 months.

If you have a dead or dying tree, please consider contacting Tom Bourque ([bourque59@hotmail.com](mailto:bourque59@hotmail.com)). I heartily recommend him and his team.

### **WINTER GARDENING** by Marilyn Rawson

Our gardens are looking bare now. Leaves used as mulch is all that is left of the gardens. Mother Nature has put things to rest in the dormant stage. The trees are bare of their leaves although coniferous trees remain green

all year and some bushes too. If you have a greenhouse, things are prolonged. Think of ways to enhance your garden and help nature. Those coniferous trees provide shelter for the birds. Add a birdhouse to attract the birds even in winter. You may already have trees with berries for the birds. Add decorations to your lane ways, lined containers and window boxes. Use evergreen boughs and berries from your yard or purchase at a nursery. Your flower urns have a winter use also when decorated. Pine cones are great for decorations and wreaths. There are 20 different pine cones worldwide. Coniferous trees have both male and female cones. In winter, the cones close their scales to protect the seeds from cold temperatures, wind and even animals that might try to eat them. The seeds are released in warmer temperatures to germinate. The cones can stay on the tree for up to 10 years. In the fall when the branches lower, the cones will fall to the ground. Cones are a symbol of luck. Red and gray squirrels will eat them and certain types of birds - the woodpecker and crossbill. Gather the cones in fall or early winter. Add scent to the cones and paint them if desired.

Enjoy your houseplants. Winter plants such as Christmas Cacti, Cyclamen, Amaryllis, and Poinsettia are all colourful. Educate yourself during the winter, look through seed catalogues, and plan what seeds you want to start growing indoors. Take stock of your garden tools. Plan any changes and landscaping you want to do to your garden. Plan whether you might want to add features such as a pond, fountain, birdbath, arbour or trellis to your yard, maybe a new shed.

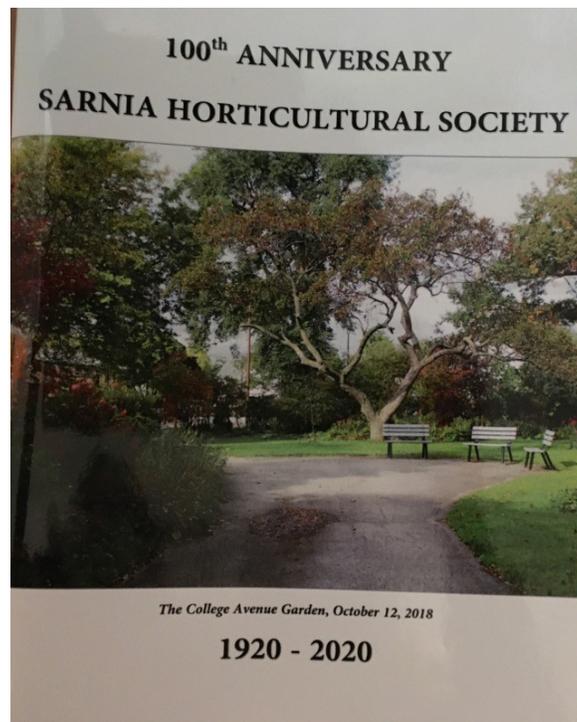
Remember that when spring comes, the bulbs you planted this fall will bloom. Mother Nature will be at work.

### **COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM**

Recently CIB in Sarnia announced they were disbanding. The group has been active in Sarnia for many years. Some of us in the horticultural society were on the board over the years - John Vanden Hoven, Pam Hansen, Barb Toye, and Marilyn Rawson. The group was affiliated with provincial, national, and international categories. Awards were won at provincial, national and international levels. The competition was based on cities of

the same size. Judges also gave us recognition for special projects and endeavours. Return the Landscape was one such project deserving recognition. Besides encouraging beautification of our area, the group promoted environmental issues, culture, sports, recreation and entertainment. This was part of the judging process. The group published a yearly book and provided banners, flower urns and signs at Centennial, Germain and Canatara Parks. An electric sign at the Christina Street entrance to Canatara Park was the latest edition. Let us strive to maintain the beauty of our city

### **100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sarnia Horticultural Society Book**



### **100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY BOOK**

If you haven't already purchased a copy of the Anniversary book, call or email Heather Ashe to order your copy.

Heatherashe115@gmail.com 519-336-5714

**GARDEN QUOTES** from famous people

We can complain because rose bushes have thorns, or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses. Abraham Lincoln

Earth laughs in flowers. Ralph Waldo Emerson

Gardening is learning, learning, learning. That's the fun of them, you're always learning. Helen Mirren

Do not spread the compost on the weeds. William Shakespeare, Hamlet

To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow. Audrey Hepburn

Look deep into nature, and you will understand everything better. Albert Einstein

Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you. Frank Lloyd Wright

### **SUBMITTING 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 FOR 2021**

Memberships are still available from Jan Casbourn with a self-addressed envelope and cheque made out to the SHS. Due to COVID, we are scratching our heads to come up with a way to have memberships payable in person some time in the new year, hopefully by March. This would allow members to use their discounts at the nurseries. One idea is to have dedicated times to drop off a payment, since many members pay with cash, not with a cheque. We will keep you updated on this matter.

The membership form is on the next page.

**SARNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM 2021**

Jan. 1, 2021 – Dec. 31, 2021. Single membership \$12, double membership \$20.  
Please complete the following information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please include your email to receive e-newsletters, updates and meeting reminders.

Submit to: Jan Casbourn, 559 Lakeshore Rd., Sarnia, ON, N7V 2S6  
519-337-9139, [jcas@cogeco.ca](mailto:jcas@cogeco.ca)

If you would like your membership card mailed to you please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope.