

A WORMS EYE VIEW
FERGUS & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
JANUARY 2022



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Virtual Monthly Meeting Jan.19th, 2022

online, see below!

President's Message January 2022

January and a lovely calm descends, certainly heightened these days as we hunker down in our homes, avoiding the scourge “who shall not be named”! We have garden books, magazines, nature documentaries, any number of pleasant ways to while away these winter months. A small flurry of activity ordering, and eagerly awaiting, the new seed catalogues. Then the dreams of Spring, soil warming in our hands, birds and butterflies returning, Hellebore's blooming.

Randy brought home an Aero Garden a few weeks ago, a tiny hydroponic system. We are growing one of the many vegy's I miss in the winter, lettuce. It is working out splendidly, clipping leaves just 2 weeks after starting the seeds. We've added a few basil plants to add to our weekly pizza. The greenhouse has parsley, kale and lettuce, all looking a bit peaked today in the minus 21 weather. We have a soil heater and lights in the winter months to keep everyone happy.

As your new President, I am looking forward to the possibilities of 2022 ... a return of the Plant Sale? In-person meetings at the Fergus Legion? The Garden Tour will be a go this year and we will continue with Zoom meetings, if nothing else. Thoughts on new initiatives are always welcome. Check out the Board and committee member list below to see who to contact with your ideas. Contact Karen or Claire if you would like to see the minutes of a board meeting. Looking forward to seeing *faces* this year! Take care all.

Karen Eddie



If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need. Cicero

The Alec Calder Award

The Alec Calder Award is offered annually to each of the two local high schools, to graduating students who are enrolled in further education courses in the fields of horticulture, agriculture, or arboriculture/silviculture (relating to the care of trees).

The Centre Wellington District High School (CWDHS) delayed its 2021 Commencement Ceremony for graduating students until October 29, 2021, due to Covid-19 restrictions. By that time, many graduates had already left the area for college locations, and some students weren't notified of their awards until later in the year, which is why this report is relatively late.

The CWDHS recipient of the Alec Calder Award for 2021 was Kenny Skerritt, of Fergus, who is now attending Confederation College in Thunder Bay, and is enrolled in the Forestry Technician: Ecosystem Management Program. This is a two-year co-op diploma program to prepare students for a career in all aspects of forest management, conservation, and protection.

The Emmanuel Christian High School was unable to nominate a recipient in 2021, since they had no graduating students enrolled in the qualifying courses.

The awards will be offered again, to both schools, in 2022.

Membership Dues

This is a reminder for all members who have not yet paid their \$10 membership dues for 2022. Payment may be made by cash or cheque (Fergus & Dist. Horticultural Society) and mailed to membership coordinator Helen Lacroix at 380 Brock Ave. Fergus ON N1M 2T7. Alternatively we now accept e-transfers at fergushorticulture@gmail.com. No security question required, however please note which member(s) the payment is for.



Greetings from the Mayor



It is a pleasure for me to officially thank the Fergus & District Horticulture Society for all your hard work and dedication in planting and maintaining our flower gardens!

I know it has been a difficult couple years for the Society not being able to meet in person for your monthly meetings, but I thank you so much for your resilience in continuing to look after our community gardens through your "Diggin' in the Dirt" activities.

Since 1857, the Society has been dedicated to preserving the horticultural heritage in Fergus, and the dedication of your members has not wavered despite a global pandemic!

On behalf of the Council and residents of Centre Wellington, I am pleased to extend our thanks for your dedication to beautifying our community! We look forward to seeing the results of your hard work in the 2022 gardening season!

If there is anything that I can do to support you this upcoming year, please do not hesitate to let me know. Please invite me to come out and help again this year!

Mayor Kelly Linton
Township of Centre Wellington

Notice from the Association of Psychiatrists

**Dear citizens,
During the quarantine it is considered
normal to talk to your plants and pets.
Kindly contact us only if they reply.**

Thank you

Zoom Coffee Tuesday mornings

It's Winter and it's Covid. Why not join your Society members for a coffee break in a casual Zoom meeting every Tuesday morning? The zoom meeting starts automatically at 10am and lasts up to an hour. You can join by clicking on the link below or by using the meeting code/passcode.

Join Zoom Meeting : <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82480129803?pwd=UUpjcHVmNG9LQ0d2T0VYOHEvbkZYz09>

Meeting ID: 824 8012 9803

Passcode: 152388

You can also click on this link to automatically add this to your calendar so that you don't have to search for it: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZYpf-mprDliGtewoAL_JYy75W9vG-czVkUG/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGqqjMqG9acuBmERpwQBoqgc-vzplhHjbdYixDELx95WxqhY9UbJJUyE8Lm

We look forward to seeing you for coffee!

Online Meetings and Presentations via Zoom

Upcoming programs for the next 3 months include:

- **January 19th, 7:30PM** a Zoom presentation with Claire McKay displaying our Terry Fox peonies.
- **February 16th, 7:30PM** , a Zoom presentation with Robert Pavlis on garden myths
- **March 23rd, 7:30PM**, either a Zoom or *in person* presentation with Randy McLean on maple syrup production

Zoom meeting invitations will be sent out to the membership the week before each meeting.



2022 Board of Directors

President (2022-2023)

Karen Eddie kareneddie22@gmail.com 519-856-9881

Vice-President (2022-2023)

Ken Johnston kenjohnstonjohncie@gmail.com 226-838-9768

Secretary (2022 -2024)

Claire McKay cd.mckays@gmail.com 519-787-9341

Treasurer (2022-2024)

Joyce Giddings joycegiddings1@gmail.com 519-843-6244

Past President (2022-2023)

Connie Di Pisa cdipisa@xplornet.ca 519-843-4866

2021-2022 Directors

Doreen Broome doreen.broome@gmail.com 519-843-2845

Larry Broome larry.broome5@gmail.com 519-843-2845

Jennifer Johnson thistlebrae146@gmail.com 519-843-3083

Helen Lacroix mycrystalwaters@hotmail.com 519-843-3131

2022-2023 Directors

Greg Boland gboland@uoguelph.ca 519-846-9458

Michelle Goff cmichellegoff@hotmail.com 519-821-8139

Bernie Siegmund bernie.siegmund@gmail.ca 519-843-6870

Cheryl Yuill cyuill@wightman.ca 519-843-4443

Board meetings are typically held at 10:30 am on the 2nd Monday of each month (except July & August). Meetings are held in-person at the Fergus Legion or virtually via Zoom

2022 Committees (names in bold are the Board reps)

Standing Committees

Civic Beautification (Diggin' In The Dirt)	Bev Dawson, Marilyn and Bert Peel, Greg Boland
Meeting Committee	
Door Prizes	Lesley Mallett
Greeters/Door	Rotate amongst the membership
Greeters/Name Tags	Julie Kron, Darlene Tremblay
AV Technician	Bob Dawson, Ken Johnston
Room Preparation	George Kron, Bert Peel, Allan Jamieson
Social Convenor	Doreen Broome , Mary Epoch, Wendy Jamieson
Membership	Helen Lacroix , Meg Walsh
Newsletter	Randy McLean, Krista Hall, Karen Eddie
Program	Jennifer Johnson, Cheryl Yuill
Publicity & Media	Ken Johnston
Webmaster	Claire McKay , Krista Hall
Card Convenor	Betty Knight

Ad Hoc Committees

Budget	President, Past President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer
Bus Trip	Bernie Siegmund
Constitution	President, Past-President, Secretary and 1 Society member
Garden Tour	Bert Peel, Bev Dawson, Marilyn Peel, Greg Boland
Grand Gardens	Ken Johnson
Mother's Day Pansies	Susan and Jüri Niit
Nominating	Past-President and 2 Society members
Plant Sale	Michelle Goff , Kathy Bouma, Randy McLean
Pot Luck & AGM	Lesley Mallett, Social Convenors
Seedy Saturday	Fred Mallett
Shows	Kathy Bouma, Sharon Oughton, Allan Jamieson, Ted Vanderveen, Meg Walsh, Larry Broome
Special Projects	Randy McLean, Larry Broome , Graham Oughton, Nico Vandersluis
Yearbook	Claire McKay, Bernie Siegmund , Krista Hall, Kathy Bouma

BEAR THOUGHTS

Some tiny rodents spent a great deal of time building a tiny stick structure inside my cave.

Did you know you were allowed to do that?

I did not. The thought of doing so had certainly crossed my mind before. I had, on numerous occasions, considered building tiny structures within my cave (which is, itself, a kind of structure). I figured it was not allowed, though. Who would let such strange things happen with absolutely no consequences at all? Certainly, there had to be some rules on this matter.

It turns out there are no rules on this matter. Or any matter, that is. Not in the forest, anyway.

After I accidentally slept on the rodents' tiny structure (again, not against the rules but I am sure someone (probably the rodents) frown upon it), I decided I needed to try to understand the do's and don'ts of the forest. After all, what if I was breaking forest rules, upsetting whoever created those rules (likely trees but a council of raccoons definitely seemed plausible as well).

I went exploring for answers.

I had no idea where to begin, so I just started doing what I like to do when I do not understand something: ask local squirrels and just sort of shout out my questions until someone or something answers them or I get sleepy and nap wherever I am standing.

My search was mostly fruitless.

Rob (the squirrel) (from whom I often seek perspective on various subjects because he thinks so differently compared to most things that think) said that there were no rules anywhere, that the word was meaningless, and that I should do whatever I please all the time until I die because that is all there is. Then he bit me and ran.

I suppose it would be nice to do anything I wanted forever and always, but I did not like Rob (the squirrel) biting me, and it would have been nice had there been a rule against that.

This was a complicated matter. What can you do in the forest? What can you not do in the forest? Who decided such things? Did I get any input on these decisions?

I still do not have the answers. I do my best to do what I think bears can do (eat grass, nap, stare at things, etc.) while trying to avoid what I think bears probably cannot do (get along with deer, fly, not nap, etc.).

It is intimidating to think I have to be my own rules compass, but if the forest cannot provide a set of rules for me and other creatures to follow, what am I to do?

Honestly, I just hope I am doing it right.