



FALL NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2023

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.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT August 2 2023

Here we are with a hint of fall in the air and having started the growing season on a dry note and then receiving the opposite with too much rain at times and severe thunderstorms with damaging winds. It appears that climate change is upon us and the rest of the world. It was just announced that July was the warmest on record for the whole world.

One of the storms blew down our showpiece flowering crabapple tree and we are now in the process of trying to dispose of it. It is a real shame as it was a beautiful tree and so gracious as you walked into the garden.

The plant sale in May was a huge success as we doubled our sales from the previous year. Many thanks to our hosts Martin and Maggie Borrow and to all those who contributed plants and to all the volunteers who contributed to the success.

We also took part in a Health Unit initiative in June on Milton St. on World No Tobacco Day. Several booths were set up on a very hot day and approximately 145 people attended. Thanks to the volunteers who made our day a success. This may become an annual event.

Our new handout pamphlet extolling the virtues of the club has been completed and is inspiring. Thanks to Jan and Barb for the many hours they put into the design and printing of it.

Garden tours have taken place in July with wonderful gardens being showcased. From what I can ascertain close to 100 members and guests participated and the gardens were wonderful. A big thank you to all the hosts and Mary and Lyn, the organizers.

Three tulip trees have been planted in parks by the city on our behalf. This is a program which we started recently and we plan to continue. We ask for only native trees to be planted as they contribute the most to the natural environment.

We look forward to the fall meeting schedule starting in September and I am sure that Barb has some wonderful speakers lined up.

My departing quote is as follows, "If you have a garden and a library, then you have everything you need. " Marcus Cicero

Regards to all,
David

UPCOMING EVENTS

Meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7pm at the Canadian Naval Hall, 1240 Lougar Avenue, Sarnia

-Wednesday, September 20, 7 pm- speaker is Cheryl Rosch, topic is The Garden in Season and Cleanup.

-Sunday, October 15, 1-3 pm- fall clean up at College Ave. garden

-Wednesday, October 18, 7 pm- speaker is Denise Hodgkins from London, topic is Plant Math 101. How to add, subtract and divide plants.

-Wednesday, November 15th- year end social.

FYI- Degroots nursery is having several workshops in November and December on making centrepieces.

2023 THE TORNADO AND OUR GARDEN by Heather Ashe

Our crab tree had quite a history. In 1966, to celebrate Canada's upcoming centennial year, a Royalty crab apple tree was planted in the center of the property. The Royalty crab had been selected by the Ontario Horticultural Society in 1964 as the "centennial tree. " Over the years, photos of children, grandchildren, weddings and friends had been taken next to that tree. The

distinctive fork was a favourite spot for children. In recent years the tree had started to look its age, but this year it was looking very fine.

On July 20 a line of violent storms moved quickly across southern Ontario and arrived in Sarnia about 4:00 p.m. The storm didn't last long, but was exceedingly violent. Many trees were snapped and uprooted and power lines were damaged. Cleanup continued for weeks.

The next morning I was shocked and nearly cried when I arrived at the College Avenue Horticulture Society garden and saw our favourite crab apple tree on its side. It had seemed so permanent, so strong. Over the next several weeks, many people walking through the garden expressed their sadness and related memories.

The tree was uprooted and fell towards College Ave. A friendly neighbour and his daughter saw the damage the evening of the storm and the next morning, used an old family handsaw to remove small branches and moved them to the College Ave. curb. Over the following days, small pieces of the limbs were cut off and left (for me I think). Mary Rastall sent a notice to society members saying they could take pieces if they wished (some did). All that was left was the trunk and about 5 foot lengths of the two attached limbs.

A couple of days later I noticed that a single branch of a serviceberry bush in the berm had been almost twisted off about 18 inches above ground. The bush is located directly behind the crab apple, suggesting that a small, violent wind passed through the berm aimed directly at the tree.

City workers arrived the morning of August 11 to remove the tree. I asked them to cut slices of the trunk as souvenirs for the society. When one limb was being lifted into their truck, a large length broke off due to deep rot at the fork. The root was left in place for excavators to remove a few days later.

The slices are being stored in a safe dry place to dry. A person experienced in wood working has been asked for advice on how to finish the pieces.





Garden Tour July 2023 by Mike and Nelly Tanner

When visitors to the Tecumseh Pool glance across Russell St, they cannot fail to notice the magnificent Chestnut towering over the two storey red brick home. A few steps further down Kintail the exuberant bed of Coneflowers and Black eyed Susans flashed with Scarlet Crocosmia spills over the sidewalk. The Martell's garden, thirty years in the making leads the visitor into a charming brick patio flanked with a handsome trellis, a soothing pond and fountain, and spilling perennials. Vegetables lurk in a hidden corner; the drive has been cleverly repurposed as a patio, bright Fiesta ware plates dress the dividing fence. A wrap around lawn flanked with sprawling hostas, a lime green Sumac and splashes of Oak Leaf Hydrangea completes this inspirational oasis.

Lincoln Park Avenue is a typical mid-city street, until you arrive at the rough pine planked country home of Jim and Barb Cain. Orange Day Lillies sprawl across the boulevard, a split rail fence defines the Perennial packed front garden, with tall and vibrant Asiatic Lillies taking bragging rights. Tagged “The little Country Home in the City”, this garden exudes rustic charm. We follow the meandering paths between Perennials and Vegetable beds with nary a blade of grass in sight. The garage/workshop wall is adorned with license plates from distant states; surplus from Jim’s once sideline of building tin roof bird houses.

The curb appeal of Darryl and Lisa’s garden on Fairlane is apparent from the coiffed lawn and dramatic Island with Cutleaf Maple and dry stream bed. This is merely an appetizer for the rear landscape; grass and stone paths meander through the splendid trees, shrubs and perennials. Texture, colour and form are carefully curated, with eye catching accents. The attention to detail is appealing, especially when viewed from the stone patio or four season addition. Each bed is a garden in miniature with its own colour palate. Their garden shed is crafted with care and style which belies its prosaic purpose.

Diane’s home on Windermere will be familiar to many as she frequently hosted the Horticultural Society’s plant sale. On this warm July evening we are greeted by a curb to door garden bursting with colour from the shrubs and Perennials, and patio with orange accented rocker with matching Clivia. Her whimsical style carries through to the Wisteria draped patio, and back lawn rising to a Pergola, where she draws inspiration for her summer art. The rambling beds burst with colour, and thoughtful wooden plaques; “Give a weed an inch and it will take a yard” gets a nod from every gardener.

How do you garden in a yard dominated by towering shade? Mike and Susan’s home on Hunt St rises to the challenge with a stunning display of fluffy white Annabelle Hydrangea, and curving Hosta bed smirking under the vast maple. Grandson Clark greeted the visitors with a warm welcome, and mention of treats. An immense Spruce dominates the rear, but raised beds and graceful grassy paths lead to the surprise portal to Len Park, whose grassy knoll is home to many a winter toboggan slide. A cleverly roofed Pergola with sturdy hammock is a worthy feature, and the generous curves of the patio perfectly accent their leisurely approach to life.

Each garden on the tour showcased different styles of garden, and reflected the gardeners personality. Diane's one sign sums up their collective passion "This is my Happy Place".

TREES by Marilyn Rawson

Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote that the creation of a thousand trees is in one acorn.



National tree day in Canada is on Wednesday, September 20th during National Forest week. Trees capture carbon, improve air quality and take action on climate change.

In 2020 a National Climate Initiatives solution was announced. The 3 initiatives were 2 billion trees, smart nature climate solution fund, Canada food agriculture program. For the tree program, the government of Canada is committed to planting an additional 2 billion trees within 10 years as an approach to native based climate solutions. This is above the legally required post harvesting and includes support for targeted indigenous projects, forest habitat restoration, and projects that contribute to community resiliency, while creating jobs in both rural and urban areas. This summer the government announced that they were on

target with the 2 billion trees project. Also, due to the widespread forest fires throughout Canada this summer, \$63.9 million from the 2 billion tree budget will go to planting 33 million trees to restore wildfire scorched trees and reserve lands damaged by wildfires.

To learn more about these projects go to the website “2 billion trees and the national greening program.

MEMORY GARDENS by Marilyn Rawson

Did you consider your garden a garden of memory? In my garden, I have plants from friends and relatives who have shared their joy of gardening. Included are my grandmother’s lily of the valley, my grandfather’s peonies, my aunt’s Shasta Daisies, Rose of Sharon and the Royal Standard Hosta planted 70 years ago by my dad. It has been divided many times. They are all hearty perennials. Many of those who gave me plants are now no longer alive, but when I view the garden their memory is rekindled. Many communities have memorial gardens and people create their own spaces in their yards. In planning, consider the following;

- a private peaceful area that gets sunlight
- incorporate water
- use solar lights, lantern or candles to enjoy the area at night
- include seating
- make it symbolic of something they enjoyed and add angel ornaments and bird feeders
- add engraved rocks. People also add rocks for favourite pets
- if a small space add wind chimes
- plant wildflowers and forget-me-not or a favourite flower of the person you want to honour

Consider planting a memorial tree in your yard or public area. Since 1988, MacKenzie and Blundy Funeral Home has arranged to have over 7,000 memorial trees planted. The two areas are Wawanosh Wetlands and Perch Creek Management area.

IN MEMORIAM

John Malcolm McNeil- April 2023

Dolores Serafin Berzins – August 28, 2023

Dolores passed away peacefully at home two days after her 92nd birthday. She was a longtime member of the Horticultural Society and took care of membership for several years prior to Jan Casbourn taking over that job.

FALL IN THE GARDEN by Marilyn Rawson

Charles Dickens wrote that nature gives to every time and season beauties of its own. Purple has been the colour for 2023. You can enjoy purple this fall with chrysanthemums, asters, purple salvia (night sage), hydrangea, verbena, monks head and phlox.

In September, move plants that need a new home and divide perennial plants. Consider plants to give to the horticultural sale next May, and keep them over the winter.

Plant blooming mums, ornamental kale and tall grasses to welcome the next season. Collect seeds, plant trees for shade and other larger plants. Plant grass seed. The morning dew will help.

The fall equinox arrives on Saturday September 23rd. The sun crosses the earth's equator moving from north to south.

Around us trees and plants are ending this year's cycle of growth. Perhaps they are responding with glorious autumn leaves or the last burst of bloom before winter comes.

Continue your fall work in the garden. Some people clean up their gardens in the fall while others wait until spring. Trim your bushes and enrich the soil. When raking the leaves, use them as winter protection mulch in the garden. Plant bulbs before the frost comes. Consider the added colours for spring. Decorate your urns for the winter with dried flowers and greenery. Clean your tools before putting away.

Now relax.

Winter in the garden has its own beauty.

MEMBERSHIPS

The issuing of SHS memberships for 2024 will be available starting in October. Memberships are \$12 (single) and \$20 (couple). If you wish to pay using e-Transfer the address is monikadeleersnyder@yahoo.ca and then you will receive your card by mail. The previous practice of mailing or drop off at Jan Casbourn's will continue.

SARNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MEMBER DISCOUNTS

Country Lane Greenhouses (Wyoming) – 10% discount on plants - Open April to mid-June

Canadale Nurseries (St. Thomas) – 10% discount on everything – Open 7 days a week year round

Canadian Tire – 10% discount on plants

MasFrankc Garden Centre (Parkhill) – 5% discount on annuals and perennials – Open April to November

NB Sipkens Nurseries (Sarnia) 10% discount put toward a society project

Westland Nurseries (Grand Bend) – 5% on everything – Open year round

Windover Nurseries (Petrolia) – 10% discount on plants, but not annuals

The discounts apply

to regularly priced items.

The membership card must be shown at check-out.

card must be shown at

