



# The unflower

*The Smiths Falls Horticultural Society Newsletter!*

Volume 18

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October 2023

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*The Smiths Falls Horticultural Society meets every third Tuesday of the month through the months of February to June and From September to November. The meetings are held at the Smiths Falls Civitan Club located on 12468 Highway #15, Smiths Falls at 7:00pm.*



## **Quote of the Month:**

"And then the sun took a step back, the leaves lulled themselves to sleep, and autumn awakened."

-Raquel Franco

Hi Everyone

I hope everyone had a lovely Thanksgiving weekend. The weather sure put one in the spirit for a big dinner and relaxing with family and friends. It would have seemed "out of place" having turkey dinner in 28C weather.

Finally, we've finally had some much-needed rain. At the beginning of the month, I saw that my perennials were fading. At first I thought it was normal fall dieback, but upon looking closer they were fading because of lack of water. So on October 1<sup>st</sup>, I found myself watering all of my gardens – "unprecedented" (a word that we've been hearing way too often in these past few years).

Be sure to remember to keep seeds from your favourite flowers and veggies this year. My most successful zinnias this year, were grown from seeds that I saved 2 years ago (and were directly sewn into the garden this spring). I've saved tomato seeds for a few years now and this year I used green bean seeds saved from last summer's crop. You might also consider taking cuttings from your annuals – I grew some lovely coleus this year from cuttings "babied" over last winter. It's a great way to get the plant varieties that you want and might not be able to find next year. Just remember, seeds may not always be true to the mother plant – so there may be some surprises!

The Food Bank garden is one of our Society's most successful undertakings over the past few years. Thanks to Steve and the team for ensuring its success this year. See the next page for more.

Join us on the 17<sup>th</sup> for our October meeting and a talk on Bonsai – a mixture of art and horticulture to create the appearance of a mature tree in a pot. Also consider participating in our "fun flower show" by bringing in your best fall flowers, or use your imagination to create a floral design representing "Halloween". The delayed frost this year, should enable a great variety of entries!

Happy Gardening!

## Society News

### Food Bank Garden

*Big THANK YOU to everyone that helped with the Food Bank Garden this year, from growing the plants, planting them, watering, delivering & clean-up. This really was a huge help. We delivered 705 pounds of fresh, healthy produce. I'm sure that we helped a lot of families in need. What a Great Club.*

*My favourite saying is: What are friends for if you can't use them?*

*Thanking you - Steve Svarckopf*

The Food Bank has also recognized our Society on their Facebook page:

*We would like to send out a huge THANK YOU to the [Smiths Falls Horticultural Society](#) for growing over 700lbs of various vegetables for the food bank! Every few days we received a beautiful array of tomatoes, zucchinis, cucumbers and more. We appreciate all the hard work that went into this garden and I enjoyed meeting the different members! Thank you all so much!*

A big “thank you” to Steve and his entire team for the dedication they’ve shown to this project. A very worthwhile effort during these difficult times.

### September Flower Show

Participation in our flower shows is growing. The tables were crowded with 35 colorful entries in the various classes. Congratulations to **David Archer** and **Aline Hicks** for placing multiple times, in multiple classes. **Shari O’Driscoll**, continues to marvel the judges with her entries. For the third time she placed first in the novice category. She also placed first in the mass design class!

Below are some of the lovely entries.



## Next Meeting – October 17<sup>th</sup>, 7pm

Our meeting will be held at the **Smiths Falls Civitan Club**, located at **12468 Highway 15**. The venue provides us with easier access – no stairs and a large parking lot.

Join us at this month for a presentation by **Owen Marsh** on **Bonsai** – showcasing the various styles of Bonsai and the techniques required to create Bonsai in our Canadian climate. Owen is the vice-president of the Ottawa Bonsai Society. He has been practicing Bonsai for 8 years. During this time, he has grown his collection from a few tropical trees to a collection of over 100 hardy and tropical trees.

We will also introduce our nominees for the Garden Hero award.

## October Fun Flower Show

We are bringing back our popular fun flower shows. The winners of each class will be determined by a vote of the attendees at our meeting. The rules are more relaxed - actually there really aren't any, except that in the horticultural class, the plant material must be grown in your garden. Entries should be placed about 15 minutes before the meeting.

### HORTICULTURE

Class 1 – Garden's Last Hurrah      single stem

Class 2 – Fall Bouquet              a bouquet from your garden

### DESIGN

Class 3 – “Halloween”              your interpretation

## Photo Contest:

Congratulations to **Christine Nigelsky and Carol Stanley** who tied for first place in last month's photo contest. The theme for the month was “Sunflowers Galore”. **Anita Frigan** took third.



Carol Stanley



Christine Nigelsky

The theme for our **October** meeting is “**An Autumn Tree**”.

Photos must be first time entries, taken by the member, and submitted without visible ID. If you can't attend the meeting but would like to enter a photo, the entry can be submitted by a friend.

## **Upcoming Events**

### **November Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

Our meeting on November 21<sup>st</sup> will be a turkey dinner and our Society's AGM. It is always a great evening – there will be a silent auction, a table centerpiece competition, and elections to the Board.

The dinner will be held at the Civitan, with doors opening at 5pm for “happy hour” (cash bar). Dinner will be served at 6pm and will cost \$20 per person. There will be a sign-up sheet at our October meeting and payment for the meal will be required at that time.

There will also be a sign-up sheet for those wishing to create a floral centerpiece for one of the tables. These will be auctioned off at the end of the dinner.

A sign-up sheet will also be available for those wishing to donate an item to the Silent Auction. This is a great money maker for our group and it's always fun to see what is donated.

Finally, we will elect and install our Board for the following season. We are always looking for fresh ideas and folks that are willing to help guide the direction of our Society. The Board meets on the first Tuesday of each month for about an hour or so. If you'd like to join us, let one of the Board members know.

### **District 2 Fall Advisory**

Our Society is hosting the D2 Fall Advisory on October 21st at the Smiths Falls Civitan. This is basically a business meeting for the district leaders and two representatives from each of the District's societies. We will need a few folks to “man” the kitchen and others to provide refreshments for the morning break. If you are able to spare a few hours to help out or if you'd like to provide some baking (to be dropped off at 8:30am), there will be sign-up sheets at our upcoming meeting.

## **Communication**

Have you checked out our Facebook page “Smiths Falls Horticultural Society”? **Bonita Lucas** is taking over ownership of updating our site this year. The postings cover a wide variety of garden topics, both for “newbies” and more experienced gardeners. You can also find notifications of our monthly meetings and other events throughout the region. <https://www.facebook.com/sfHorticulturalSociety/> Be sure to “share” this information with all your Facebook friends to spread the word about our group. *(Did you know? You don't have to belong to Facebook to access the information on the site!)*

Our web site is: <https://gardenontario.org/society-listing/entry/283/> Here you can share tips on gardening, leave messages to SFHS, access our local District 2 website as well as the Ontario Horticultural Association website. Thanks to **Jess Dahl** for keeping our website up to date.

Please contact our President, **Laura Hunter** at 613-485-4206 for any information you may require about our horticultural society.

## 2023 Program

Month	Topic
<b>February 21</b>	Movie Night – <i>The Gardener</i>
<b>March 21</b>	Edible Trees and Shrubs
<b>April 18</b>	Colour Through the Seasons
<b>May 16</b>	Summer Bulbs
<b>June 20</b>	Ask a Master Gardener and Summer Social
<b>July</b>	NO MEETING
<b>August</b>	NO MEETING
<b>August 15</b>	Garden Tour – Perth
<b>September 19</b>	Bringing Your Houseplants Indoors
<b>October 17</b>	Scheuermann Vineyard and Winery
<b>November 21</b>	Annual General Meeting
<b>December</b>	NO MEETING
<b>January 2024</b>	NO MEETING

## SFHS 2023 Executive

Name	Position
<b>Laura Hunter</b>	President
<b>Debra Bellevue</b>	Vice President
<b>Debra Bellevue</b>	Treasurer (Interim)
<b>Ruth Anderson</b>	Secretary/Membership
<b>Madeline Archer</b>	Flower Shows
<b>Jess Dahl</b>	Garden Ontario Website
<b>Anita Frigan</b>	Newsletter/Bursary
<b>Kathleen Lang</b>	Director
<b>Gale McCormack</b>	Programming
<b>Steve Svarckopf</b>	Foodbank Garden