



The unflower

The Smiths Falls Horticultural Society Newsletter!

Volume 18

Issue 8

November 2023

In this Month's Edition:

Editor's Note

Society News

Upcoming Meeting

Photo Contest

Upcoming Events

Other News

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:

"In November, the trees are standing all sticks and bones. Without their leaves, how lovely they are, spreading their arms like dancers."

Cynthia Rylant

Hi Everyone

Another gardening season has been "put to bed".

Mother Nature gave us some extra time to get our gardens cleaned up this year. The delayed hard frost also resulted in some surprises in my garden.

I have a beauty berry bush that is a zone 5 shrub. It grows okay here, but I've never seen it at its full maturity, with petite lilac-coloured berry clusters covering the stems. The frost has always shut the plant down before the berries ripened. This year however, the berries had a chance to ripen, and the bush was lovely. I also have a Japanese Forest Grass which has done well in its spot for a number of years. Last week I noticed delicate seed heads on the plant – likely given a chance to develop due to the delayed frost. While the effects of global warming are catastrophic, there are a few small things that might pleasantly surprise us.

Our last meeting of 2023 is next week. We will be holding our Annual General Meeting, and as is customary, it will begin with a turkey dinner. We will also have a winter floral arrangement demonstration by **Marietta Jones**, owner of Fiori Row in Perth. It will be a busy evening! Details further on in this newsletter.

Our newly elected Board will be meeting in December to discuss plans for next year. If you have topics you'd like presented; know of a speaker you think the group would enjoy; or have any ideas on how to make our meetings and activities more meaningful, pass them along. Better yet, join the Board!

This is the last newsletter for the season. A big "Thank You" to everyone who helped organize and participated in our activities this past season. Many hands make light work!

Enjoy the upcoming holiday festivities and use the warmth of this last summer to help you get through the upcoming winter!

Take care!

Society News

Fall Advisory

Our Society hosted our District's annual Fall Advisory on October 19th which was a business meeting for the 19 societies in the District. Our own **Debra Bellevue** was confirmed as the new District secretary. She did a fantastic job in setting up the zoom call for those who could not attend in person and kept everything running smoothly and on time. Our president, **Laura Hunter**, shared with the group on how to go about asking for a venue free of charge, as many societies are paying for a place to meet. The minutes from this meeting are attached to the email accompanying this newsletter.

A big "thank you" to **Steve** and **Linda Svarckopf** and **Shari O'Driscoll** for managing the kitchen. Thanks too, to all who contributed food to the event. Everyone was most appreciative!

Awards were also given out. Our own **David Archer**, a Perth & Smiths Falls Horticultural member, was placed on the OHA Honor Roll; **Anne Harbord**, our D2 Director, received the Silver Award which is the highest OHA award given; and David Archer presented **Roger Harbord**, our D2 Treasurer, with an award for his great work at the July Convention in Kanata (see photo below).



October Flower Show

The lack of a hard frost this year resulted in a number of beautiful entries into our October Flower Show. Congratulations to **David Archer**, **Madeline Archer** and **Linda Svarckopf** for their first place entries.

Below is a photo the winning entries:



Our Society in the News

The Smiths Falls Record News published an article about our successful Food Bank Garden initiative. Thanks to Laura Hunter for submitting it.



Gardeners finish up their work

Smiths Falls Horticultural Society members recently gathered behind Heritage House to winterize their vegetable garden patch which supplied the town's food bank with more than 700 pounds of

fresh produce. This summer it took very few experienced gardeners to keep the tummies of many full. The members of the garden project take time for a souvenir photo.

Photo Contest:

The theme for our October contest was “An Autumn Tree”. Congratulations to **Christine Nigelsky** for submitting the winning photo and to **Shari O’Driscoll** and **Anita Frigan** for tying for second.



Christine Nigelsky



Shari O’Driscoll



Anita Frigan

We are still establishing the full slate of photo themes for the 2024 season, but the February theme is “**Winter in Black and White**”.

Next Meeting – November 21st

We will be holding our AGM at this upcoming meeting at the Civitan. Happy hour starts at 5pm; dinner is at 6pm and the meeting will be held at 7pm. A busy evening is planned:

- Member created centrepieces will adorn the tables. The attendees will vote for their favourite arrangement. The winner will be able to choose which of the centrepieces he/she would like to take home and the rest will be auctioned off by Steve Svarckopf.
- The silent auction will progress throughout the evening with the chance to bid on items donated by our members. Thanks to Lorna Stewart for organizing this activity.
- The members of the Board will be elected and installed by Anne Harbord.
- The winner of the Garden Hero Award will be announced. Thanks to everyone for their vote.
- The overall winners of the flower show categories and the photo contest will be presented with their trophies.
- The financial statements for our past fiscal year will be reviewed. In our treasurer’s absence, Lenore Kennedy (our incoming treasurer) will provide the overview.
- Finally, Maryetta Jones will demonstrate the creation of 3 winter themed arrangements. The arrangements will be auctioned off at the end of the evening. A copy of her bio is attached to the email accompanying this newsletter.

A reminder, only paid members may vote at the meeting. Also, if you can’t make the supper, you are welcomed to attend the meeting portion of the evening (and participate in the auctions) – just arrive around 7pm.

Upcoming Events

Seed Exchange

It's in the very early planning stages, however our Society will be holding a seed exchange in the early spring. So, if you have any extra seeds, don't throw them away and consider donating them to our event. If they are purchased seeds from this past season, just store them in the refrigerator over the winter and they should still be viable for next year. More details regarding the event in the new year.

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

SFHS 2023 Executive

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