

GANANOQUE
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY

2024 YEARBOOK



CONTACT THE SOCIETY

gan.hort.soc@gmail.com www.gardenontario.org

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COVER DESIGN BY BRITTANY BARBER
PHOTO BY JOAN MACKINNON

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A NEW YEAR, A NEW START to all those wonderful things we enjoy about gardening. We have much to celebrate about this year. Our beautiful gem of a park at 21 Main St was deeded to us 100 years ago. The Park grows in its beauty every year. Our members who volunteer their time do an amazing job of keeping it looking stunning. I look forward to joining you in the Park to celebrate. Come join us for a “Stroll in the Park”. We are using a “Stroll in the Park” as a theme for our shows with titles that harken back to 1924 when the Park came under our care.

We hope that people who have never exhibited before will join in. We have members who will gladly help you with the ins and outs of entering a competition. Come join Floral Arts and learn about floral design from our experts.

As winter moves along we will be gearing up to fill the seed library. The community has certainly flocked to our little garden library box so much that we really have trouble keeping it stocked. I can't help but think that social media and technology, which Covid pushed us to embrace, has really been a silver lining.

This publication is a celebration in itself as we recognize all we have achieved this past year. Despite mother nature's ongoing microbial onslaught, we have most activities back to what is the new normal. St. Andrew's continues to be our new home for the upcoming year. The Board is working hard and has a great list of speakers all lined up for your enjoyment. Spread the word about us with your neighbours and friends. Community beautification and education are two key mandates we strive to achieve, and the more ways we can connect with the community the better. The Board always welcomes new ideas that will help us reach others. We also recognize that without the volunteer spirit that is clearly shown by our members, we could not achieve our goals. A sincere thank you to all.

Happy gardening, *Penny Stewart*



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Acknowledgements

The Gananoque Horticultural Society is indebted to its officers, directors, conveners, coordinators and its many other members who give so generously of their time, skills and knowledge to ensure that the Society continues to be an important contributor to the community of Gananoque and area.

Businesses, organizations and individuals have contributed in many different ways to the work and success of the Society. The Society expresses its sincere thanks to the following:

- ❖ Canadian Tire Gananoque
- ❖ Carveth Care Centre
- ❖ Forman Farms
- ❖ Gananoque Reporter
- ❖ Gananoque Home Hardware
- ❖ Let it Grow Greenhouse
- ❖ Made in the Shade
- ❖ My FM 99.9
- ❖ Nancy Mabee - Nancy's Greenhouse
- ❖ Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
- ❖ Pine Street Pilates
- ❖ Running's Auto Service
- ❖ Tennant's Welding
- ❖ Town of Gananoque
- ❖ Gananoque Lions Club
- ❖ Gananoque Rotary Club

We encourage our members to support those local businesses and yearbook advertisers that assist our society in our ongoing community service.



The Gananoque Horticultural Society is affiliated with the Ontario Horticultural Association (Garden Ontario) and a member of District 3.



2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Name	Position	Phone #
Penny Stewart	President	613-583-1033
Vacant	1st Vice-President	
Vacant	2nd Vice-President	
Joan MacKinnon	Past President	613-463-9406
Joan MacKinnon	Recording Secretary	613-463-9406
Rita Carpenter	Treasurer	613-382-4923
Jennifer Greer	Publicity	613-382-9832

2024 DIRECTORS

Name	Current Term	Phone #
Diane Hall	2022-2024	647-267-5741
Danuta Sedkowski	2022-2024	416-709-0255
Elaine Davidson	2022-2024	613-382-3772
Lynda Pilkey	2022-2024	613-382-8021
Nadia Worthington	2022-2024	343-364-7300
Adrienne Rose	2022-2024	613-382-2259
Jennifer Greer	2022-2024	613-382-9832
Howard Hunter	2022-2024	613-382-6070
Elaine Collins	2023-2025	613-382-1098
Ruurd van de Ven	2023-2025	905-955-4856



2024 COMMITTEES & CONVENERS

Get involved! We're always looking for volunteers. Email us at gan.hort.soc@gmail.com

FINANCE

Convener: Penny Stewart
Rita Carpenter
Joan MacKinnon

REPORTING & GRANTS

Danuta Sedkowski
Penny Stewart

MEMBERSHIP

Convener: Jennifer Greer
Adrienne Rose
Jordan Greer

PUBLICITY

Public Reminders: Jennifer Greer
Website: Penny Stewart
Videography: Jordan Greer
Brochure: Joan MacKinnon
Social Media: Diane Hall,
Joan MacKinnon

JUDGES

Convener: Penny Stewart

FLOWER SHOW SCHEDULE

Penny Stewart
Joan MacKinnon
Lynda Pilkey
Cliff Byrnes
Elaine Collins

COMPETITIONS CONVENERS

Chair: Penny Stewart
June: Penny Stewart
September: Joan MacKinnon
Outdoor: Penny Stewart
Photography: Diane Hall

PLANT SALE

Convener: Ruurd van de Ven
Joan MacKinnon
Penny Stewart

GARDEN TOUR

Convener: Elaine Davidson
Danuta Sedkowski
Lynda Pilkey
Elaine Collins

SOCIAL CONVENERS

Convener: Penny Stewart
Lynda Pilkey
Maureen Byrnes
Danuta Sedkowski

YEARBOOK

Editor & Publisher:
Diane Hall
Proofreaders:
Joan MacKinnon
Pam Welbourn

TRILLIUM AWARD

Convener: Lynda Pilkey
Julie Taylor
Adrienne Rose

CHALLENGE PLANT

Betty Peirson

BURSARY COMMITTEE

Convener: Joan MacKinnon
Rita Carpenter

NOMINATIONS

Convener: Joan MacKinnon

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Convener: Penny Stewart

CONSTITUTION

Penny Stewart

1000 ISLANDS & RIDEAU CANAL GARDEN TRAIL

Convener: Joan MacKinnon
Penny Stewart

CARVETH CARE CENTRE PALLIATIVE GARDEN

Convener: Pam Welbourn
Suzanne Guiney
Jennifer Greer
Melanie Steers

The Palliative Garden at Carveth Care Centre

By Pam Welbourn



Members of the Gananoque Horticultural Society help with designing, planting and caring for a very special garden at the Carveth Care Residence. This secluded little garden is adjacent to the home's Palliative Care room and well-visible from the window.

Many of the plants are donated by Nancy Mabee, of Nancy's Greenhouse in Gananoque. The garden was started many years ago by Nancy's mother-in-law, Metje Mabee.

"My mother-in-law used to tell me someday she might be looking at the garden," said Nancy Mabee when asked about the donation. "You have to give in life."

For many years, care of the garden was led by Julie Taylor, who still works in an advisory capacity, particularly choosing the annual flowers. Currently a small committee of Jennifer Greer, Suzanne Guiney, Melanie Steers and Pam Welbourn take care of it. With a mixture of flowering shrubs, perennial and annuals, there is hardly ever any bare space in the garden and we strive for continuous colour over the seasons. ❀

— IN MEMORIAM —



Margaret Bernice Spence 1927 - 2022

Margaret Bernice Spence passed away on November 10, 2022 at Fox Run Retirement Residence in Gananoque at the age of 94. Bernice and her husband Thomas lived on a farm on Sand Hill Road, north of Gananoque. Born January 29, 1927, Bernice was a quiet woman who raised three children. Bernice entered the Horticultural Society houseplant competitions, and had a winning variegated miniature rose. Bernice was known for the delicious treats she brought to meetings. She was made a GHS Life Member in 2012.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATIONS BY DIANE HALL





2024 PROGRAM OF EVENTS

Save the dates! Mark your calendars with our speaker series, infamous flower competitions, garden tour, plant sale, and expert-led workshops. Plus, you're invited to a summer picnic event to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the GHS Park.

Our meetings start at 7:00 p.m., and are held at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church (Sydenham and Stone St.) unless otherwise stated. Use the Sydenham St. doors to get to Gracey Hall.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2024 - SPEAKER

A Passion for Daylilies, 7:00 p.m.

Joan MacKinnon will discuss many aspects of this varied and beautiful flower species.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2024 - SPEAKER

Pruning Hints, 7:00 p.m.

An experienced arborist, Ruurd van de Ven will explain the hows and whys of pruning. Just in time for spring.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2023 - SPEAKER

Heirloom Tomatoes 7:00 p.m.

Pam Hudson will give us some tips on growing. These older varieties are very flavourful tomatoes and are making a comeback.

MONDAY, APRIL 22, 2024 - WORKSHOP

Floral Arts, 7:00 p.m.

A chance to learn more about Floral Design. Explore new techniques in a welcoming learning environment. Contact us at: gan.hort.soc@gmail.com for details.

SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2024 - FUNDRAISER

Plant Sale, 8:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Location: Gord Brown Arena, Recreation Centre, King St. E. Dig up your extra plants to donate then come find something new for your garden. Free advice and great prices.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2024 - SPEAKER

Dahlias & Summer Bulbs, 7:00 p.m.

These beautiful and colourful flowers, grown just for the summer, are the theme of Cliff Byrnes' presentation.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2024 - SPEAKER

Monarchs & Host Plants, 7:00 p.m.

Sue Flinders-Adams will provide information on growing milkweed for these endangered butterflies.

SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 2024 - COMPETITION

June Flower Show, 1:15 - 3:30 P.M.

Exhibit and share flowers from your garden. Free entry to all. Location: St. Andrew's Church Hall, Sydenham entrance. All entries due by 9:30 a.m. Saturday, June 15. Design/Special Exhibits requires registration by 8:00 p.m. Friday, June 14. Contact: gan.hort.soc@gmail.com for details.

**JULY 01 - 05, 2024 - OUTDOOR
COMPETITION**

Outdoor Competition Awards for gardens in the Gananoque area, with many categories. Entry deadline: June 28. Contact Penny at: pssloves2garden@gmail.com for details. Show off your garden!

SUNDAY, JULY 07, 2024 - EVENT**Garden Tour, 12:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

Visit a variety of beautiful and interesting gardens around Gananoque. Tickets are \$15.00 at the Visitor Centre or call Lynda at 613-382-8021.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11, 2024 - SOCIAL EVENT**Celebrate the Centennial of the Park****1:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

Location: Horticultural Society Park at 21 Main Street. Celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Park and the Society's 104th anniversary. Bring a contribution to a picnic lunch and your lawn chair. Refreshments and youth activities.

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2024 -
COMPETITION****Flower & Vegetable Show, 6:30 p.m.**

Entries due by 4:00 p.m. Show opens at 6:30 p.m. Let's see what you grew this summer! Our experts will be available to answer all your flower show questions. Free entry to all. Contact us at: gan.hort.soc@gmail.com.

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2024 -
WORKSHOP****Floral Arts, 7:00 p.m.**

A chance to learn more about floral design. Explore new techniques in a welcoming learning environment. Contact us at: gan.hort.soc@gmail.com for details.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 09, 2024 - SPEAKER**Wetland Preservation, 7:00 p.m.**

Calder Schweitzer of the Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust on the importance of preserving our wetlands.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2024 -COMPETITION

Deadline for Photo Contest entries. Submit to: dianephall@gmail.com

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2024 -
SPEAKER****Hostas, 7:00 p.m.**

A wonderful plant for the shade – Laura Tattersall, owner of Made in the Shade, will keep us up to date on what is happening in the world of Hostas.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2024 -
WORKSHOP**

Celebrate the Season A hands-on workshop to make a Holiday Decoration. Pre-registration required. There is a fee to participate.

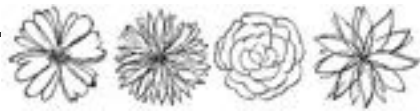
Pre-register by November 12. Contact us at: gan.hort.soc@gmail.com.



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@ganhorticulturalsoc on Instagram and Facebook • Gananoque Gardeners on YouTube

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2024 FLORAL ARTS WORKSHOPS

Explore the basics of floral design and different styles of arrangements.

What is Floral Arts all about? It's an opportunity for anyone to come and learn all about the creative use of flowers. No experience is needed, there's no need to be artistic, just an interest in learning. We are very fortunate to have within the Gananoque Horticultural Society a wealth of experienced and knowledgeable people who love to work with flowers and are keen to help others.

We have two sessions, Spring and Fall. Come find out what it's all about. Learn the ins and outs of using flowers, pick up ideas and tips. We will explore some of the basics of floral design and look at different styles of arrangements. It's all about FUN with flowers. There may be a small charge for floral materials.

Please mark these dates on your calendar. Questions or for more information, please contact Penny Stewart at 613-583-1033 or email: gan.hort.soc@gmail.com

Spring Floral Arts is Monday, April 22, 2024 ☘ Fall Floral Arts is Monday, September 23, 2024

Floral Arts will be held at St Andrew's Church in Gracey Hall, start time 7:00 p.m.

ILLUSTRATION BY FREEPIK



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26 Hwy 2 is 4.5 km east of Joyceville Rd (exit 632) south of the 401
or 8 km west of the Gananoque Gate

COMMUNITY REPORT

By Penny Stewart

We continued in 2023 with our community-focused programs to provide educational outreach, community beautification, and encourage gardening as a healthy lifestyle.

☼ In 2023, after two years of Covid restrictions, we resumed in-person meetings and once again, we were able to hold two in-person Flower Shows, enjoyed the annual Gananoque Garden Tour, had a very successful Plant Sale (best on record), and hosted our 103rd Anniversary Celebration in our park with a good old fashioned summer picnic.

☼ We have continued to have virtual rather than in-person board meetings as we continue to be concerned with the health of our Board members. We held in-person monthly general meetings starting in February, hosting many local and regional guest speakers.

☼ Our social media continues to be our method of reaching out to the community. We have about 500 plus followers on Facebook and Instagram. We have 58 YouTube videos available on a range of topics.

☼ On YouTube, the Society has 551 followers and our videos have had 75,000 hits. In 2023, despite Covid-19, our members gave a total of 1524 volunteer hours.

☼ Our community beautification projects included upgrading our Park with a much-needed watering system. Our beautiful display gardens in the Horticultural Park at 21 Main St. are an oasis for all. Keeping the garden watered will no longer be a chore.

☼ A severe summer storm caused damage to the beautiful old red maple in the Park and resulted in immediate emergency repairs having to be done.

The effects of climate change on the severity of the weather means we must be more vigilant in the maintenance of the trees in our Park.

☼ Once again this year, our Seed and Book Library has been a tremendous success. We gave away over 1000 packages of free seeds. By providing free seeds and advice, we encourage people to garden, grow food, and create their own places of beauty. Once the season for distributing seeds was over, we kept our lending library stocked with free books and magazines on all manners of gardening.

☼ Our Horticultural Society Park, in conjunction with the Town's Confederation Park/Sculpture Park, is part of the 1000 Islands and Rideau Canal Garden Adventure, an initiative of Leeds and Grenville Counties. As part of this provincially recognized Garden Tourism Trail, the Park must be very well maintained for the entire growing season. For the main flower bed, we used plantings of bright "Bubblegum" Petunias – Petunia being the emblem of the Town and our organization - and added other annuals for additional visual impact to the perennial beds. The Garden Adventure Trail provides a wonderful opportunity both to showcase the Horticultural Society Park and the Confederation Park/Sculpture Park gardens, and to bring additional tourism dollars to the Town of Gananoque. The produce from our four-square garden was shared and enjoyed. Our Anniversary shade garden, added in 2020, has filled in nicely, and is a good example to demonstrate how to garden in, not only shade, but dry shade. The



plants grown in this area are all viable in our local Gananoque climate. In addition, in 2023, we have equipped our park with four educational signs - one for each of the following park's feature gardens: the Pollinator, 4-Square, Daylily Garden, and about using leaf mulch in our flower beds. The Park has had 450 beautiful spring bulbs added and will be a spring delight.

☘ We were privileged to be selected by the Noel Bullock Estate to receive one of Noel's sculptures, which has been located in the upper garden. Noel was a Canadian contemporary artist who lived here in Gananoque just down the street from our park and who enjoyed our park. An official ribbon cutting will take place in the spring of 2024.

☘ Our Educational Bursary of \$500 was awarded to an area student graduating from Grade 12 who is continuing education in Environmental Science.

☘ We changed our way of distributing our Challenge Plant Program. Each year we select a plant, either a flower or vegetable, and purchase seeds for distribution to our members. Each member gets a packet of seeds to take home. This year we moved the seed handout to March and the selected seed was an unusual bean. Members shared what they grew as part of our September Flower Show. We ran two full-scale in-person Flower Shows in June and in September. Photos of the Shows were posted on Facebook, Instagram, and

our website. Once again, we received incredibly positive feedback not only from our members but others in the community. Everyone enjoyed seeing what we were growing. Social media continues to be an important means to keep people connected.

☘ In July, the Society participated in the Carveth Long Term Care Centre Family Day festivities, hosting a craft table for the children taking part in the event. We also maintained the Palliative care garden at Carveth.

☘ Our Trillium Garden Award was given out to a garden in the North Ward this year. In addition to this award, we honoured town gardeners, both residential and commercial, with "Curb Appeal Awards" for those who had colourful, beautiful front yards and gardens. Twenty-four award certificates were placed in gardens, with photos of the award winners and their gardens posted on Facebook for the community to see. Beautiful plantings create a positive environment that we feel has been a benefit in the current times of stress and uncertainty.

☘ We are finishing off our year with our Raffle, which had been postponed by COVID. Another very successful year. But no President's report is complete without a huge thank you to all our members who volunteer their time to all our programs. Volunteers make it possible to do all that we do in the community and for our members.



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Rita and Penny checking out perennials at the Plant Sale



The Seed Library



Lynda, Joan and Penny helping with the Rotary cleanup



Penny and Dee selling raffle tickets



The Four Square Garden



Jen digging holes for bulbs



Joan, Lynda and Dee at the Volunteer Fair



Making Door Swags



Joan and Diane at the South Alley Holiday Market

PHOTOS BY JOAN MACKINNON



CENTRE GARDEN IN SPRING; PHOTO BY JOAN MACKINNON

The Gananoque Horticultural Society Park Turns 100 Years Old

By Joan MacKinnon

OUR PARK TURNS 100 YEARS OLD IN 2024! The story of how the Gananoque Horticultural Society came to be owners of a park is an interesting one. William Stone Macdonald, the last Macdonald owner of the impressive family home, Blinkbonnie, died unexpectedly on May 18, 1923 at age 61. His widow, Louise Davies Macdonald, immediately started selling off the Macdonald properties in Gananoque, including Blinkbonnie and its furnishings, Maplecroft Farm in the east end of Gananoque and a piece of property that included Lots 608 and 610 at the corner of Mill and Main Streets. The recently created Horticultural Society had already been involved in developing gardens on this property, with work bees held there in late April and early May 1923. So it seemed logical that these two lots be turned over to the Society.

On January 22, 1924, three Trustees for the Gananoque Horticultural Society signed an Indenture transferring ownership of the two lots to the Society for the sum of \$1.00. These three Trustees were John C. Linklater, teacher and principal for whom Linklater School was named, and the President of the Society in 1924-1925; Andrew Edwards, a real estate agent and former cabinetmaker, and Society President from 1926-1932; and Josephus T. Green, a Society Director and Town Postmaster.

The Park was initially planted with a combination of annuals and perennials, with an early photo showing hollyhocks bordering the edges of the Park and a few small trees. A Memorial Stone commemorating the history of the Park, where the first store and post office in the town of Gananoque had been located, was unveiled by Isabella Macdonald on August 7, 1924 as part of Old Home Week. However the stone was expensive, and its cost put the Society in the red for the only time in its history. A small Town grant helped offset the cost of the Memorial Stone, but to economize in those early years, the Society made every effort to use donated plants in the Park. Two peonies were given to the Park following the Prince of Wales' 1927 docking in Gananoque, and were planted on either side of the Memorial Stone. However, the Society found care of the gardens in the Park time consuming and expensive, given that its members were also caring for numerous other plots around town as well as gardens at the new East and West Gates. In 1928, when Leeds Motors was built just east of the Park, the owner, Bruce Showler,

proposed that the Society allow the company to create an access road across the upper Park, and in return the company would care for the gardens in the Park. This arrangement lasted until 1952, and photos taken about 1950 show a well-kept and attractive Park. From 1952, when Leeds Motors was sold, until the beginning of the 21st century, the Park was primarily a green space, with small gardens around the Memorial Stone, and a number of trees and benches. Over the last 25 years, the Park has been transformed into a series of gardens, with colour throughout three seasons of the year.

This past year saw a significant addition to the Park. Although water has been available in the Park since 1976, keeping the gardens adequately watered has long been a challenge. On July 24-25, Down Under Irrigation installed an irrigation system with 5 watering zones, designed to run in the very early morning as programmed. The watering system provides excellent coverage of the gardens, and will make it easier to create lush gardens, especially in the upper garden and along the south edges of the Park which have often been very dry.

Another new feature is four laminated signs explaining features of the Park – the Four Square Garden; the Pollinator Garden; the Daylily bed; and the use of leaf mulch. These signs answer some of the questions frequently asked by visitors to the Park.

In early August, a second sculpture was installed in the Park, in this case in the upper garden. The untitled, solid brass sculpture by



local artist sculptor Gaye Noel Bullock was donated to the park by his estate. Noel was a founder of the Gananoque Arts Network, and was known for large outdoor public sculptures, as well as paintings in various mediums. He passed away from lymphoma in June 2021.

“

[Noel] loved Robbie Burns and insisted that on each anniversary a glass of Scotch should be toasted to him. He was thrilled when the Town of Gananoque appointed a poet laureate ...

-Otis Tamasauskas, friend of Noel Bullock

”

The Seed library was well used again this year. Starting in mid-April, after the danger of heavy frost was over, seed packages were stocked in 4 boxes, divided into Annuals, Perennials, Vegetables and Herbs. Approximately 1000 packages were made available during a 3 week period and by early May had all been claimed by eager gardeners. Subsequently, approximately 100 magazines and 75 books were stocked in the library and taken by interested gardeners. This fall, we added 450 bulbs to the gardens to bring additional colour to our early spring landscape. We planted 250 ‘Pickwick’ crocuses in clumps around the Pollinator Garden, plus 100 pink/red shaded

‘Hemisphere’ tulips, 50 ‘Martha Stewart’ and 50 ‘Pink Charm’ Daffodils in the upper garden.

A major limb broke off the large red maple on August 4, falling between two of the benches on the south side of the Park. Fortunately, no one was in the Park at the time the tree limb fell. Sideline Tree Services came out quickly and were able to remove the tree limb, which was estimated to be in the 400 kg (900 lb) range. On November 28, staff from A Better View did major work on the tree, with one staff member climbing the maple tree and doing significant pruning, while others fed the trimmed branches through the chipper.

Estimated visitation in the Park was significantly higher this past year, as tourism in Gananoque surpassed pre-Covid levels. Visitors from town and around the world enjoyed brief walks through the Park, or more extensive examination of the gardens, resting on the benches and having meals at the picnic table. An estimated 80,000 visitors enjoyed the Park this season.

Many thanks to all our enthusiastic garden volunteers. We had at least two helpers every week from mid-May to early October. Their work makes such a difference in keeping the garden tidy, attractive and relatively weed free. Everyone who visits the Park enjoys it, which makes our hard work in creating a beautiful Park so very gratifying. ❀

Images on opposite page - clockwise from top right; Ruurd doing birch tree maintenance; pollinator garden; brass sculpture by Gaye Noel Bullock; lilacs blooming in June.
PHOTOS BY JOAN MACKINNON





Spring Park Cleanup



Magnolia in bloom



The Park in June



Installation of the watering system



Bella, our Park supervisor



The Park in July



Nadia and her assistant



Pruning the maple tree



Mary Ann doing Park cleanup

PHOTOS BY JOAN MACKINNON



GARDENING MEMORIES

By Pam Welbourn

A SIMPLE PLEASURE that I have come to enjoy is gardening. Maybe not always so simple, when Mother Nature rebels against our careful planning! Gardening is indeed an endless battle with nature, but in so many ways is a pleasure. As Susan Glickman in a Globe and Mail 'First person' article wrote, gardening is "restorative both physically and spiritually".

The fun of planning, which can be done during the long and sometimes dreary winter months, is aided by the clever commercials and catalogues with which we are bombarded during those winter months, proves material for dreams and excitement for the season ahead.

Then there's the satisfaction and physical work of 'spring cleaning', removing the debris and dead plants that didn't make it over the winter (or that we should have dug out but ran out of time for in the fall) and eagerly looking for signs of life in the early spring bulbs. Some spring flowers are old friends from previous years and others were planted last fall and remain to provide surprises (shocks?) in spring. Snowdrops are the first harbingers of spring and often stay in flower for many weeks. Snowdrops are typically followed by crocuses, which are fragile and short-lived and often succumb to the battering wind and rain. But being ephemeral seems to add to their gift.

Wordsworth said all that needs to be said about the pleasure that daffodils can give, and his were naturalized in fields, while for most of us in North America, daffodils are in flower beds. Daffodils fade as May comes in and are replaced or sometimes joined by tulips. Tulips are so different from

daffodils and other Narcissus, in their rather stiff forms, and quite honestly are not at the top of my list of favourites, but they do come in an amazing array of colours and forms. The biggest drawback is that squirrels love tulips, both bulbs and flowers (in contrast to daffs which squirrels don't touch), so one is constantly doing battle, re-planting the corpses, applying blood meal and trying other devices (mostly useless) to protect tulips.

Soon comes the planting of seeds, or of seedlings of annual plants purchased from nurseries and other stores, providing tasks for the spring. In fact, starting seeds indoors in March, perhaps too tedious and messy for some, is for many of us one of the earliest of simple pleasures.

Then there are the weeds. As my dad taught me, they are all wild flowers, but in the garden there is no denying that some of these are unwelcome. As I remove them, I sometimes marvel at the strategies that they have developed, which makes them so successful as weeds. Examples are the extensive series of rooted runners that Creeping Charlie uses to invade lawns and flower beds, and the prolific wind-borne seeds of the dreaded dandelions.

The whole cycle of gardening is a dynamic process, which adds to its charms, as well as its (very occasional!) frustrations. Sitting quietly in the garden may seem like a passive or contemplative activity, but in truth it never is. One cannot avoid seeing things that need attention, and it takes a lot of self-control not to be leaping up, getting one's un-gloved hands and nails dirty, to tackle something that needs immediate attention. But it's all pleasurable. ❀



All-America Selections 2024

There is only one national, non-profit plant trialing organization, the All-America Selections (AAS). The organization tests new, never before sold varieties primarily for the home gardener. The trials are held anonymously for a year by volunteer horticulture professionals, then the top performers are awarded the AAS winner designation for their superior performance.

Geranium Big EEZE Pink Batik – is sure to impress gardeners with its stunning pink petals, with pink and white striations. The plants are very floriferous, are well suited to container growing and are heat tolerant. The variety is available as plants only, not as seeds.

Petchoa EnViva Pink – This Petchoa (a combination petunia and calibrachoa) is stunning, with fuchsia pink petals and yellow throat. It retained its colour throughout the season, is heat tolerant and the flowers bounce back after a rain. The plant has a mounding habit. Petchoa EnViva Pink is only available as plants.

Pepper Red Impact F1 – a long red Lamuyo type pepper that is easy to grow. It is sweeter than other varieties and loaded with fruits for high yield. The Red Impact F1 pepper is early maturing and very deep red.



Challenge Plant - 'Moody Blues' Nigella

This eye-catching annual 'Love-in-a-Mist' features double flowers in varying shades of blue, from very pale to delphinium. The plants are 70 cm (28 inches) tall, and can be sown directly in your sunny beds. The flowers are followed by attractive seed pods.

BURSARY WINNERS

Our Horticultural Society Bursary was first awarded in 2008, and we have been pleased to present a \$500 bursary to local area students every year since, except for 2021. In the height of the COVID pandemic, there were no applications that year, but we have given bursaries in both the years since.

Applicants must be completing their secondary education, accepted as full-time students at a post-secondary institution in subjects related to horticulture, and must have obtained an average of 65% or higher in their graduating year. The Bursary application form may be found on our website.

Please encourage students who would meet the criteria to apply. **The due date is June 4, 2024.**

YEAR	NAME	HIGH SCHOOL	PROGRAM	ENROLLMENT SCHOOL
2023	Sarah Kilby	Rideau DHS	Environmental Science	Trent University
2022	Kayla Horne	Rideau DHS	Conservation Biology	Trent University
2020	Morgan Taylor	GISS	Environmental Science	Memorial University
2019	Cody Jackson	GISS	Agriculture	Ridgetown College
2018	Cody Jackson	GISS	Agriculture	Ridgetown College
2017	Samuel Brodie	Regiopolis HS	Environmental Chemistry	Trent University
2016	Kyle Griffin	GISS	Forestry Technician	Sir Sanford Fleming
2015	Bennett Wagar	GISS	Forestry Technician	Sir Sanford Fleming
2014	Alex Mitchell	GISS	Agriculture	Ridgetown College
2013	Morgan de Kroon	GISS	Environmental Engineering	Queen's University
2012	Zac de Sala	GISS	Environmental Science	Queen's University
2011	Cody Burns	Rideau DHS	Fish & Wildlife Biology	Sir Sanford Fleming
2010	Ashley Scullion	Rideau DHS		University of Guelph
2009	Kylie Dobbs	Rideau DHS	Concurrent Education	Brock University
2008	Brock Webb	Rideau DHS	Architectural Technologist	Loyalist College

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RAFFLE WRAP UP

CREATIVE PRIZE DONATIONS ❁ \$2,040 FUNDS RAISED ❁ FOUR HAPPY WINNERS

In 2020, the Board made plans to hold a raffle, partly in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Society, and partly as a fundraiser. Then, in March 2020, the onset of the COVID pandemic closed everything down. The raffle prizes went into storage for three years until it became possible to get out, interact with people and start selling tickets. The Society had 1000 new tickets printed, set up a dedicated bank account and began selling tickets to members and the public in April 2023. Several Board members manned a table at the Farmer's Market for a number of Thursdays to sell tickets, and in the fall, a door to door campaign around town helped push sales to 950 tickets. Total sales came to \$2040, which covered the expense of trimming the maple tree in the Horticultural Park.

The draw for the four prizes was held on November 14, with District 3 Director James Kimmerly drawing the winning tickets. The prize winners were as follows:

FIRST PRIZE

Lap quilt, featuring petunia fabric by Kaffe Fassett, made by Joan MacKinnon –
won by Denise Wood

SECOND PRIZE

Pink, white and green afghan made by Kay Garland – won by Pat Lalonde

THIRD PRIZE

Painting of the islands and pink petunias by Debbi Burns Morrison – won by Kim Dahm

FOURTH PRIZE

Basket full of garden goodies donated by Penny Stewart – won by Paula Haynes





TRILLIUM AWARD WINNERS

2023 saw our 17th year of awarding deserving local gardeners. We had a two-year absence due to Covid in 2020-21. The purpose of the award is to encourage all residents of the town to keep their street-facing gardens attractive throughout the growing season.

The Gananoque Trillium Award is presented to the most attractive, well-maintained and planned gardens as viewed from the street. A different ward is selected each year and the judges travel up and down all the streets by car selecting gardens of particular merit. This judging is done on three different occasions so that the gardens are judged throughout the growing season. There is a drive by, first in the spring when spring bulbs and shrubs are in bloom, then in summer at the height of the growing season, and finally in the fall to view fall colour and fall annuals and perennials. Winners are notified and are invited to our awards session to receive their awards and recognition. The 2023 Winners were from the North Ward.

FIRST PRIZE - Arlette O'Hara, 215 North Street

SECOND PRIZE - Regina McLean, #1- 111 Charles Street North

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR TRILLIUM AWARD SPONSOR GANANOQUE HOME HARDWARE



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CURB APPEAL AWARDS

GARDENS THAT MAKE GANANOQUE A BEAUTIFUL PLACE TO BE

‘Curb Appeal’ continues to grow in Gananoque. Over the course of the summer, the Gananoque Horticultural Society presented award signs to 23 deserving home owners, plus the proprietors of one boutique hotel, who have beautified their front yards by planting attractive gardens that can be enjoyed by all passersby. Some of the gardens are in established areas of town, while others are in newly developed sections. It is particularly gratifying to see these newer areas made more appealing by the addition of attractive and colourful gardens. Every year it is easy to find additional gardens to present a Curb Appeal Award to, with many more gardens noted as possible winners in future years.

Gananoque is truly becoming a garden town! Thank you to all the gardeners who put in such fine efforts to make our Town so much more attractive!

JULY

Rita Fortier
Chris McDonald
Elaine Delaney
Daria Hamilton
Colleen Jarvis
Janice Nault
Pam Welbourn
Katherine Scott

AUGUST

Arlette O’Hara
Aaron Mconie
Lynda & Jim Garrah
Sarah & Bill Allinson
Leslie & Peter Jarrett
Karen Hall
Elaine Davidson
John Nagy & Steve Campey
Woodview Inn

SEPTEMBER

Randy Abbott
Karen & Paul MacDonald
Richelle Leck
Tony Calderaro
Arlene Funnell
Teresa Andress
Teresa Andress
Debby Lloyd





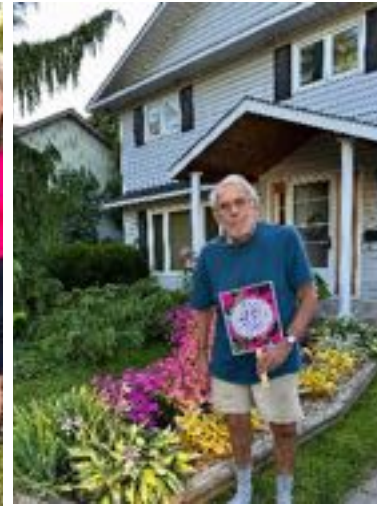
Curb Appeal Winner - Pam Welbourn



Curb Appeal Garden on North Street



Curb Appeal - Sarah Allinson; presented by Joan MacKinnon



Curb Appeal - Chris MacDonald, John Street



Garden Tour - Charles St. S.



Garden Tour - Linda Breckenridge



Garden Tour - Church Street



Garden Tour - Diane Hall and Gerry Brown, Charles St. S.



Raffle 1st Prize - Lap quilt won by Denise Wood



Raffle 2nd Prize - Afghan; won by Pat Lalonde



Raffle 3rd Prize - Painting won by Kim Dahm



Raffle 4th Prize - Gift basket won by Paula Haynes

PHOTOS BY JOAN MACKINNON, PENNY STEWART AND DIANE HALL



Spring Show - Peony Cultivar Class



Spring Show - Cactus and Succulent Classes



Spring Show - Rose Collection Class



Spring Show - Clematis Classes



Spring Show Design - "Night Skies"



Spring Show Design - "Horizon" Pavé



Spring Show Design - "Debonair" Nosegay



Spring Show Design - "Tidal Wave"



Fall Show - Hydrangea Classes



Fall Show - Vegetable Collection



Fall Show - Miniature Design



Fall Show - Dahlia Classes

2023 INDOOR EXHIBITION AWARDS

INDOOR AWARDS RESULTS 2023	WINNER	INDOOR AWARDS RESULTS 2023	WINNER
Exhibition Grand Champion - Gananoque Reporter Plaque	Joan MacKinnon	Most Unusual Floral Design - Ethel M. Latimer Trophy	Cliff Byrnes
High Points Novice - James F. McGuire Trophy donated by Mrs. Roy Goodfellow	Dee Dadkowski Diane Hall (tie)	Best Rose of Show - McMahon Trophy	Joan MacKinnon
High Points House Plants - Godfrey Trophy in memory of Mrs. W. V. Bulloch	Cliff Byrnes	Best in Show in June Show - Special Exhibits	Cliff Byrnes
High Points Annual/Perennial - Eldon K. Staebler Trophy	Joan MacKinnon	Best in Show in June Show - Container-grown Plants	Joan MacKinnon
High Points Hosta Classes - Fred Pense Trophy	Joan MacKinnon	Best in Show in June Show - Perennial Flowers	Penny Stewart
High Points Rose Classes - Simpson Sears Ltd Trophy	Joan MacKinnon	Best in Show in June Show - Annual Flowers	Cliff Byrnes
High Points Design Division - Dr. A.H. Mabee Trophy	Penny Stewart	Best in Show in June Show - Design	Cliff Byrnes
High Points Vegetable Section - Violet Armstrong Trophy	Lynda Pilkey	Best Canadian Rose in June Show Lucille McDonald Award	Penny Stewart
High Points Tomato Classes - George Scott Memorial Trophy	Betty Pierson	Best in Show in September Show - Container - Grown Plants	Cliff Byrnes
High Points Junior A (11 and under) - GHS Award	Angus Kisman	Best in Show in September Show - Design	Penny Stewart
High Points Junior B (12-17) - Key Trophy in Memory of Elizabeth Key	No entrants	Best in Show in September Show - Annual Flowers	Betty Peirson
Best Display of Petunias - Gananoque Horticultural Society Floral Exhibit Trophy in Honour of Pat Stephenson	Penny Stewart	Best in Show in September Show - Perennial Flowers	Betty Peirson
Best Wild Flower Arrangement - GHS Society - donated by Eldon K. Staebler	Lynda Pilkey	Best in Show in September Show - Vegetable/ Fruit Classes	Rita Carpenter
Best Dried Design - Cat's Paw Creations - donated by Ms. Carmine Tedesco-Wood	Penny Stewart	Annual Challenge Plant Award - Taggia Bean	Jordan Greer



2023 OUTDOOR EXHIBITION AWARDS

OUTDOOR AWARDS RESULTS 2023	WINNER	OUTDOOR AWARDS RESULTS 2023	WINNER
Best Home and Garden - Gananoque Rotary Club Trophy	Penny Stewart	Container Garden, Single Unit	Julie Taylor
Rose Garden - Mrs. George Gilbert Trophy	Penny Stewart	Container Garden, Multiple Units	Penny Stewart
Garden Featuring Complementary Shrubs, Trees and Flowers - Gananoque Lions Club Trophy	Penny Stewart	Shade Garden	Penny Stewart
Best Vegetable Garden - Gananoque Kinette Trophy	Adrienne Rose	Herb Garden	Joan MacKinnon
Seniors Porch/ Patio Planter	Lynda Pilkey	Flower Bed	Joan MacKinnon
Seniors Porch/ Patio Planter - Seniors Resident	No Entrants	Best Garden, Viewed from the Street	Julie Taylor
Best Container from Local Area Business	Gananoque Brew Club	Any Other Type of Garden - Named	Bonnie Higgins
Hanging Basket	Joan MacKinnon		

PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

PHOTO CATEGORY	FIRST PRIZE	SECOND PRIZE	THIRD PRIZE	BEST IN SHOW Penny Stewart "Bees Knees" a close up of a plant, fruit or veggie that includes a bee. See page 24 for first prize photos.
"Bees Knees" - a close up of a plant, fruit or veggie that includes a bee.	Penny Stewart	Julie Taylor	Mary Ann Maruska	
"Pinstripe" - a striped houseplant you enjoy growing.	Joan MacKinnon	Penny Stewart	Mary Ann Muruska	
"Petunia Town" - an eye-catching outdoor container that features petunias.	Joan MacKinnon	Mary Ann Maruska	Julie Taylor	
"Night Skies" - A "Garden View" at dusk or after dark.	Mary Ann Maruska	Penny Stewart	Melanie Steers	
Under 18s (age 11-17)	No entrants	No entrants	No entrants	
Under 11s	No entrants	No entrants	No entrants	

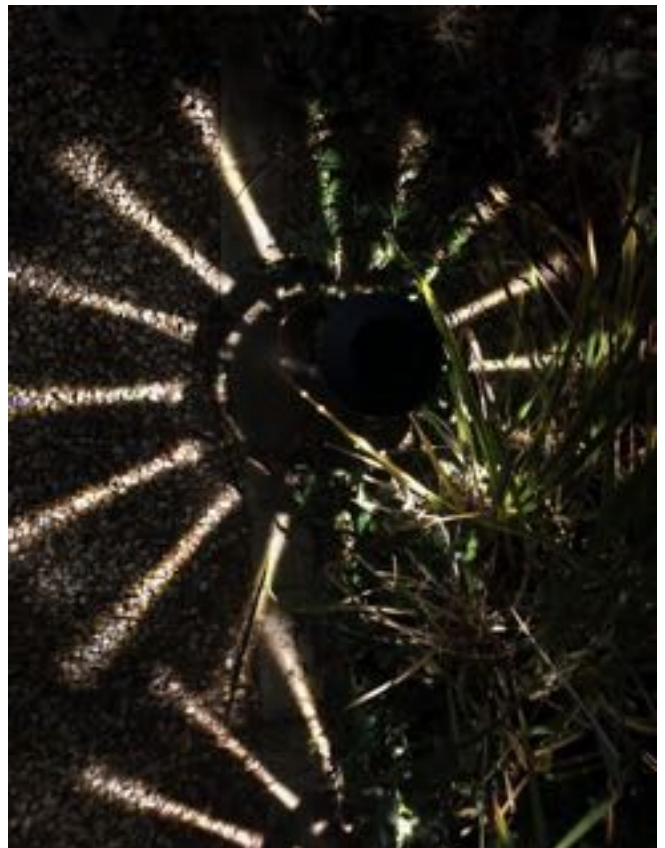


Photo competition 1st prize winners, clockwise from top left - "Bee Knees" by Penny Stewart plus **Best in Show** winner; "Pinstripe" by Joan MacKinnon; "Night Skies" by Mary Ann Maruska; and, "Petunia Town" by Joan MacKinnon.



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