

Merry Christmas, 2012



Stratford & District Horticultural Society

134th Anniversary

Annual Report

Stratford & District Horticultural Society

134th Annual Meeting
Griffith Auditorium, Spruce Lodge

November 26, 2012

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Introduction of Special Guests
4. Reading and approval of the 2011 Annual Meeting minutes
5. Reports: Treasurer
Auditors
Committee Reports
6. President's remarks
7. Motion to approve the actions and decisions of the Board
8. Nominating Committee Report
9. Election and installation of Officers
10. New Business, Announcements
11. Motion for adjournment
12. Adjournment

Stratford & District Horticultural Society Annual General Meeting, November 28, 2011

The roast beef dinner, prepared by Spruce Lodge was begun with prayer offered by Donna Hinz. Following the meal, the annual general meeting was called to order at 7:35 by president Darlene Irwin. Darlene thanked Larke Turnbull and Louise Spandler for arranging the dinner. She also thanked Bub Kelly and Bernice Barratt for the wreathes they brought to decorate the wall. It was moved by Penny Keegan, seconded by Ryan Bedford to approve the agenda as printed in the annual report. Carried.

Darlene introduced our guests: Elaine Stephens, assistant director for Perth County for the Ontario Horticultural Association, Anna Peterson, Past Director of District 10, Kelly Walker, our speaker for the evening; Quin Malott from the City of Stratford , and Melissa McKerlie. It was moved by Jinny Macdonald, seconded by Wanda Tuer to approve the minutes as presented in the annual report. Carried.

Darlene explained that the treasurer's report had not been audited due to time constraints, and was included in the annual report for information purposes only. There will be an audit before the January meeting at which time the members will be able to vote on the treasurer's report.

Committee Reports

Darlene thanked everyone who is involved with the horticultural society. She stated it is a very positive experience to work with so many willing volunteers. For example, in regard to the donation to Goderich, \$250 was given and the board matched this amount for a total of \$500. She read a thank-you note from the Goderich Horticultural Society. Darlene asked members to put their survey results in a container at the back of the room or mail them in soon. She explained that the request for signature and phone number was to create a volunteer bank to help in the spring.

The library expressed thanks for the lovely urns.

Darlene suggested a Horticultural Society membership would make a nice Christmas gift. For \$15 we receive 9 speakers and workshop opportunities. We had 28 new members in 2010 and 60 in 2011. Of the 28 from 2010, 16 returned.

It was moved by Anna Peterson, seconded by Mildred Rose to approve the actions and statements of the board of directors for 2011. Carried.

Darlene thanked the board members who are retiring for their service. Elaine Stephens took over the meeting to install the board of directors for 2012.

Darlene announced that there is a prize for the most total points won at our three flower shows. Third place was won by Bub Kelly; second place was won for Don Farwell and Bernice Barratt won a \$50 gift certificate from Anything Grows as the first-place winner. There will be a five-week course beginning April 18-May 16 in basic design for \$65. There is a sign-up sheet on the back table.

There was a 50-50 door prize draw and draws for three cyclamen plants.

At 8:55 it was moved by Dorell Brightwell, seconded by Bub Kelly, to adjourn the business meeting. Larke Turnbull introduced our speaker for the evening, Kelly Walker. Kelly was thanked by Kevin Hulley.

The meeting was concluded at 9:15. The next meeting will be January 30 with Antony John speaking. Birthdays at this time of year included Anna Peterson and Flo Bowman.

Respectfully submitted,

Jinny Macdonald, Secretary

President's Report

Reading the Committee Reports in these pages, I think you'll agree that the Stratford & District Hort. Society has very little 'down time'. We don't lack interesting ideas, just the time, and that usually can be solved with a little extra volunteer power. And we certainly have that, because this year members have donated 2714 hours.

The most conspicuous volunteers are the Board members and Committee chairs.

They attend meetings, ooze enthusiasm, wake up in the middle of the night with ideas, are fast to volunteer to help whenever they can. They love being a member of the Hort. Society, and they reach for every opportunity membership gives them.

They're so keen that problems aren't daunting, merely challenging.

No one wants to shoulder all the responsibility, or do all the work. We're fortunate that no one has to. At the Board, there is reciprocal support and, beyond that, we have Committees and a generous membership to draw on. Whatever the event, and whatever is needed, someone always steps up and says "I can help". Yes, there are occasions when you wonder when that offer will be made, but it does always come! And that's why I've enjoyed being President for two years. It's all about the people--the friends that I've met by being on the Board and serving on Committees, and the members, new and long-standing, that I look forward to seeing at every meeting.

Now, I'm looking forward to sharing the President's role with Henry McVey, who has previously taken on just about every other role for the Society. Thank you, Henry, for 'digging in'!

We're going into 2013 with a Board which provides continuity, and also welcomes the expertise and perspective of new members.

Two Board members are stepping away from the monthly meetings. Dorell Brightwell and Vivien Harding joined the Board in 2008; they leave with my gratitude for their hard work and their commitment. Heather MacDonald has been Treasurer for four years; although she is handing over the chequebook, she will continue to help as a director.

Next year will be the Society's 135th anniversary; no volunteer organization in Stratford has such longevity. And none contributes more to Stratford's reputation for beauty. There is no doubt that we have a Society to be proud of. Thank you to every member for your participation. If you haven't been asked personally to get involved, please step forward and offer – after all, it's the only way we can keep 'growing'.

Submitted by Darlene Irwin *To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow*

Stratford and District Horticultural Society (NOV 1, 2011 – OCT 31, 2012)
Statement of Receipts & Disbursements – Operating Fund

REVENUE	2011/2012	BUDGET
Civic Beautification		1,000.00
Crafts	390.00	300.00
Donations	475.00	500.00
Youth		200.00
Floral Design	869.00	1,000.00
Flower Shows	Luncheon 400.00	1,000.00
	Draw 221.00	
Garden Festival		
Garden Tour		
Tickets	3129.69	5,500.00
Silent Auction	290.00	
Sponsor	400.00	
Grants		10,500.00
Provincial	1500.00	
City	9000.00	
GST Rebate	887.00	
Interest	902.80	1,400.00
Membership Dues	3055.00	3,100.00
Open Collections – Draws	463.94	500.00
Open Collections – Visitors	125.00	150.00
Plant Sale	1494.80	1,200.00
Program	184.00	
Special Projects		
Library	200.00	200.00
Pergola		
Sundry (revenue from AGM Dinner)	771.00	1,400.00

	24,758.23	27,950.00
DISBURSEMENTS		
Civic Beautification	11056.89	12,000.00
Crafts	413.02	300.00
Education	289.05	800.00
Floral Design	819.89	1,000.00
Flower Show	2075.72	1,000.00
Garden Festival	1229.67	800.00
Garden Tour	676.41	950.00
Membership	105.03	300.00
Newsletter	483.50	600.00
Office	719.51	500.00
Plant Sale	190.26	100.00

Program	550.51	2,500.00
Program Speaker	875.00	
Publicity	979.51	1,200.00
Rent	1017.00	1,000.00
Special Program		
Library	189.34	
Pergola 72.89		
Sundry – Auditors	200.00	200.00
AGM (includes AGM dinner)	1095.43	1,400.00
Awards	153.50	200.00
Conferences	208.79	800.00
Dues	1131.60	1,300.00
Other (i.e. memorial donations/OHA Fundraiser, Allan Watts gift) 326.00		

	24858.52	27,950.00

Loss for 2011-2012 of \$100.29

Submitted by Heather MacDonald - Treasurer

Stratford & District Horticultural Society

Report of the Auditors

November 15, 2012

To the Board of Directors of the Stratford & District Horticultural Society:

We have audited the balance sheet of the Stratford & District Horticultural Society as of November 15, 2012 and the statement of receipts and disbursements for the year ending October 31, 2012.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Society on October 31, 2012 and the results of its operations for the year then ended.

We wish to commend the Treasurer of the Society for her diligence in maintaining complete records of the transactions audited.

Stratford, Ontario

November 15, 2012

Eleanor Kelly



Nikkie Priestap



Civic Beautification

Once again it has been a busy year for the Civic Beautification group. We successfully planted our Annual beds at the Dutch memorial/ Lions Pool and Mornington Streets on a day in the Spring when the rain held off. Many thanks to the volunteers who helped that day. After that we held our collective breaths as the rain stopped- but the city watered the annuals well over the long hot and very dry summer, and those beds flourished.

The perennial beds were more of a challenge as the drought did stress those beds considerably, and some plant materials were lost. The Library bed faces many watering problems due to water pressure problems within the building, but we made do. The Iris bed project of placing a path leading up to the large dedication rock and river rock around it was completed and many new donated iris plus several Stratford Iris plants purchased from the R.B.G were planted. We worked hard to keep that bed weeded and tidy as although the plants didn't like the drought conditions the weeds sure did- they flourished and were tenacious! We did some erosion control work at the Centre Street bed; some of you may have noticed the new stone and river rock in the seating area and the dry stream bed. Usually that bed faces erosion problems due to the slope, but this year erosion was the least of our problems! Some plants had to be hand watered to keep them alive. We started a "clean-up" project at the bed in front of the Christian School- the Bonnie Richardson Memorial bed was looking a bit neglected on close inspection, although from a distance it appeared O.K. Much of it was overgrown and several plants needed dividing and cutting back. This bed, along with Churchill Circle will be our focus in 2013. Many thanks go out to Harry Brightwell, and my fellow committee members: Henry McVey, Dennis Rawe and Mike Matthews, also to those of you who donned gloves and lifted spades to keep our gardens beautiful this year.

Submitted by Louise Spandler

Exhibit and Floral Design Committee

CELEBRATION OF FLOWERS was the theme chosen for the 2012 flower shows. We had much work in logistics as a committee since there were many new things to decide.

The May Flower show was eliminated and the June show moved to earlier in June. This meant looking at the schedule through new eyes as different flowers bloom at that time. Knox Presbyterian Church was chosen as our new venue due to availability and turned out to be a wonderful choice. A new floor plan had to be created for the setup to accommodate all aspects of the show. We still have some "bugs" to work out and all suggestions submitted have been thoughtfully considered by the committee for next year.

In an effort to encourage more exhibitors we reduced the work load for the tearoom and under Joan Byer's competent leadership the new menu for a dessert tea went very smoothly.

The response from our members was wonderful! We had one student and 24 adult exhibitors, 9 of which were novices! There were a total of 154 exhibits recorded and 47 of these were designs, including 6 special exhibits! It certainly was a Celebration of Flowers!

Anna Peterson won three trophies for her gorgeous designs for Best Design, President's Choice, and Most Points in Design. Gayle Tribick won the trophy for Best Design by a Novice. Darlene Irwin won the trophy for Judge's Choice in Design. Bernice Barratt won the two rose trophies awarded for roses including the rose bowl. (Two rose trophies were not awarded due to no entries in their categories.) Margery Leggott won the trophy for Judge's Choice, Other Than Roses, for her gorgeous yellow tree peony.

Gayle Tribick won the beautiful planter donated by Sebringville Garden Centre and the Gift Certificate from Chapman's Iris Garden for the Best Iris. Anna Peterson won the gift certificate for most points in the Special Exhibits category. Courtney Louwagie won the student's Todd Award of Best Design and the student draw prize for her lovely design.

The theatre tickets donated by the Stratford Festival Theatre were won by Verna Strathdee.

Congratulations to all our winners and to all exhibitors for their fine work and the effort taken to make this a truly memorable show. We did have a reasonable number of "walk in" visitors considering the wet day, and again, great support from the membership. As a "first time" in a different venue we thought this was a very respectable flower show. One of our goals for next year is to have the schedule on the website as well as in booklet form.

The flower show in September had only 8 exhibitors with a total of 23 entries; 7 designs and 16 horticultural exhibits. Jim Fitzgerald won the Moss Green Cup for his lovely green peppers, Bub Kelly won the President's Choice for her gorgeous design with dahlias, and Bernice Barratt won the Judge's Choice for her vegetable and floral design.

In October there were three entries in the "Just for Fun" category.

Thanks to all of our members for their support in the flower shows and a special congratulations to those first time exhibitors! Keep up the good work! Flower shows are a great place to get feedback and improve your skills in the area of floral arranging. I also want to thank our committee for their amazing work and enthusiasm in setting up our Celebration of Flowers. Submitted by Bernice Barratt and committee: Dorell Brightwell, Joan Byer, Lois Fitzgerald, Mary Hoffman, Linda Murray and Henry McVey

Garden Festival Committee Report

This year the Stratford Garden Festival celebrated its 12th year with the theme being "Celebrating our Roots" referring to our Canadian roots, our local roots and ties to the land, our musical roots, the roots of the Stratford Garden Festival, and, of course, the literal roots of plants and trees. The idea was that each garden is inspired by a particular Canadian song or musician. For our display garden we used the song Photograph by Nickelback. With the chorus of the song being "Every memory of looking out the back door" our garden gave the illusion of looking through a back door into a beautifully landscaped back yard.

To create such an awesome display garden various members greatly contributed their time and expertise. A big thank you goes out to the volunteers that helped set up and take down. Also, to the volunteers that helped look after the booth and spreading the word about what our society does, Thank You!

A special thanks goes to Steve Coxon of Sebringville Garden Centre Ltd. for providing us with all of the plant material for our display including the spring bulbs and tropicals. Once again the Stratford Festival Warehouse allowed us to borrow various props for our display.

It is already time to put our thinking caps on for next year's festival. The theme is "Reflections". The event takes place February 28 – March 3, 2013, at the Stratford Rotary Complex. Members are invited to share their suggestions and ideas for next year's display. We are always looking for committee members. If being a committee member interests you please contact us.

Submitted by Mary Hoffman & Ryan Bedford, Garden Festival Committee Co-chairs

Spring plant Sale

The spring plant sale was held the 12th of May at member Wanda Tuer's home on Vivian Street once again. Revenue was almost \$1500, an increase over the previous year. Expenses were minimal, being photocopying posters and the purchase of potting soil. The soil was used when many members met at Wanda's on the Thursday and Friday, prior to the sale, to divide the largest plant donations. On plant sale day, the weather was beautiful -- encouraging good crowds and many volunteers.

Submitted by Maureen Cocksedge

Web Master Report

The acting web master was able to update the Stratford portion of the OHA site with events and to post the newsletters online.

Issues and Future plans:

It is difficult to use the OHA site. Someone with good online skills is needed.

The local society does have a facebook page. This might be an additional way to update local members.

It would be helpful to record Society work with images posted online, especially in our 135th year.

There is a need for members who are skilled in online communication to come forward.

Submitted by Maureen Cocksedge

Newsletter Report

Traditionally the society newsletter, The Gardener, has been issued three times per year. However, members no longer rely on the printed copy to keep them informed. Most of our members receive The Gardener electronically, and communication with those members often happens several times a month. E-mail enables horticultural societies, garden clubs, the OHA, University of Guelph, the RBG, and others to keep us informed of their activities. Notification of events beyond our own community has been a real incentive for members to sign up for e-mail correspondence. The instant communication is invaluable, and a 'bottom line' bonus is that it reduces our printing and postage costs.

Submitted by Bruce Wilkinson

Workshops

In the spring, a Basic Floral Design workshop was offered, led by Ann Diebel of Kitchener. This was a five-week course, attended by eleven members who learned design principles and elements, as well as techniques to enhance their enjoyment of floral design.

Submitted by Bub Kelly

Garden Chats 2012/Adult Education

Garden chats were held from January to May in the conference room. Henry McVey started off the year showing us what could be done with market bouquets of flowers. Seed starting, mini hostas and container gardening were the other topics covered this year. Attendance remains strong. A thank you to members of the Master Gardeners for leading the group. The second plant exchange was held in October with increased participation. Please remember to contact me if you have any ideas of topics that would be of interest for our chats.

Submitted by Penny Keegan

Library front beds and urns

In the past few years plant material has been added in front of the wall at the library to add interest to this area. Dennis Rawe, Henry McVey and Penny Keegan have been responsible for purchasing and or moving plant material with Dennis making sure that the beds get enough water.

Bub Kelly is responsible for planting the urns that flank the library doors. A big thank you to her for her willingness and creativity.

Submitted by Penny Keegan

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Members: Darlene Irwin, Penny Keegan, Henry McVey,
Heather MacDonald, Jinny Macdonald

Our sincere thanks to retiring Board Members Dorell Brightwell and Vivien Harding

The proposed slate for the 2013 Board of Directors is as follows:

Executive:

Co-Presidents: Henry McVey & Darlene Irwin

Past President: Penny Keegan

First Vice President: Bernice Barratt

Second Vice President *open*

Two-Year Directors

Virginia Macdonald, Secretary

Glen Querengesser, Treasurer

Maureen Cocksedge

Michael Matthews

Shelly Meyers

Larke Turnbull

One-Year Directors

Ryan Bedford

Margery Leggott

Heather MacDonald

Dennis Rawe

Louise Spandler

Submitted by Darlene Irwin, Chair