



the gardener
Spring 2013

135 Years!

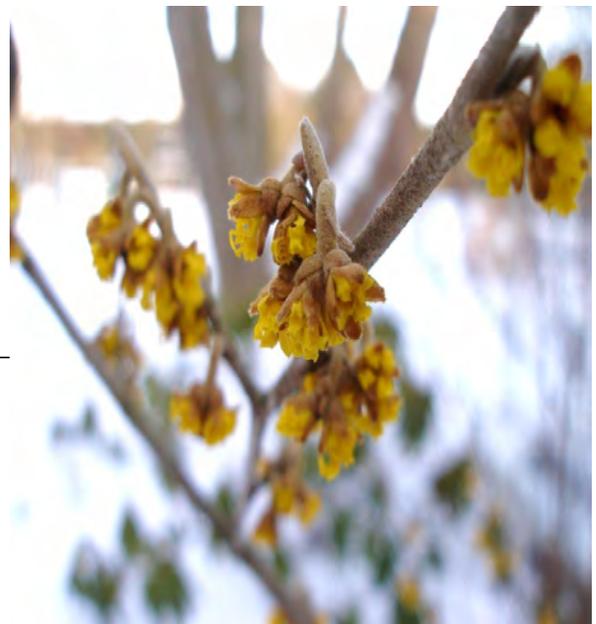
P.O. Box 21032, Stratford, ON, N5A 7V4
<http://www.gardenontario.org/site.php/stratford>

Spring? Really? Really!!

In mid-April, a small group from Stratford attended the annual meeting for OHA District 10. It is almost guaranteed that day will be sunny, and we'll bemoan our choice to be indoors instead of cleaning up our gardens. But this year, we drove through mini blizzards and shared tales of the damage done by the ice storm. A reminder to appreciate our usually benign weather, but don't take it for granted.

Back to the AGM...Tavistock hosted over 200 people from 24 societies, the highest attendance in the province. Power had not been affected there, so we entered a warm and brightly lit auditorium decorated with cheerful daffodils everywhere. The organization was exemplary, as was the friendliness of the many volunteers. Community sponsors rallied for the day, and the Tavistock Gazette gave the event a page.

Henry and Darlene entered the flower show and were pleased to bring home ribbons. What makes this annual gathering so satisfying is discovering new ideas from other societies as part of the table displays and the oral report each society gives. Our fellow societies in District 10 are always supportive and willing to share.



April 22, 2013 "Witchhazel in the snow"

*Darlene Irwin, & Henry McVey, **Co-presidents.***

Garden Festival Committee Report

On behalf of Mary Hoffman and myself we would like to thank all of the volunteers that helped man our display garden spreading the word about what our society does in the community. The theme of our garden was "Reflections of Gardening Past". Our garden was filled with various antique gardening tools and a wide array of spring bulbs as well as promoting our 135th anniversary. A special thanks goes out to **Sebringville Garden Centre** for supplying the flowers and **The Stratford Festival Warehouse** for loaning us the antique tools.



SDHS display at the Garden Festival, photo by Ryan

Ryan Bedford & Mary Hoffman
Co-Chairs, Garden Festival Committee.

Plant Sale Around the Corner



This year's plant sale is to be held on Saturday May 11th and we need your extra plants and your time to make this another successful sale for the Society. As soon as you are able we would ask that you divide and pot up plants for the sale. You can deliver your potted plants after 4:30pm, Friday May 10th to Wanda Tuer's at 4140 Quinlan Road. If you cannot get to Wanda's that day, you can drop off your plants at 122 Devon Street anytime between May 1st and May 9th.

For something new, we are also coordinating the dividing and separating of plants in selected community garden beds. Stay tuned, we will announce dates, locations and times at our April 29th meeting to ask for your help to dig up these beds for the plant sale.

Lastly we need a total of about 10 - 15 volunteers to help out the day before and the day of the sale. Please call Maureen Cocksedge (226) 921-0885 or Shelly Meyers ([519\) 273-1920](tel:5192731920) if you would like to volunteer for any of our Plant Sale activities.

Maureen Cocksedge & Shelly Meyers **Plant Sale Co-ordinators**

Eileen Rae, Past President

In February, Mrs Eileen Rae died. She was President of the Society in 1972; at the Garden Festival, you may have seen her in one of the photos planting trees below the Stratford Festival Theatre. In 1972 the Society had an overseas tour to Spain and the Canary Islands! A few years later, Mrs. Rae was involved with the project to plant a Lilac Dell on McLagan Drive. By 1975, 163 lilacs had been planted!

Thank You

April is Volunteer Appreciation month, and an appropriate time for the Board to sincerely thank all of you who volunteer. There are so many exciting and worthy opportunities for the Society to participate in the community. Thank you for 'signing on' and representing the Society so generously.

Membership

If you haven't purchased your 2013 membership, don't delay! You won't want to miss out on the newsletter or other members-only features, such as the upcoming rose garden trip, workshops, and merchants' discounts.

The Society receives a \$1500 provincial grant, provided we have at least 200 fully paid for members. That money goes immediately into our beautification efforts, so every membership counts in many ways!

Gardeners' Bus Tour

Roses and **Hostas!** Friday, June 14th, 8:00 a.m. To 5:30 p.m.

Cost is \$40 for members, lunch included!

The highlight of this delightful day is a visit to Rosehaven, the private garden of Roland Craig, our District Director, and a William Saunders rosarian with more than 600 roses! We'll also have an exclusive tour of the gardens at Cuddy Farms. And yes, there will be opportunities to shop!

Call *Nancy Lupton* at 519-271-2739

Nincompoop

Sales are fast and furious for the **Nincompoop** our Society is offering as a fund raiser. According to the garden gossip, members who have used the product are VERY happy with the results... and even happier with the special price being offered...\$ 8.00 per bag. Many members are ordering 10, 20 even 25 bags! Take advantage of bulk pricing. The cost of 12 bags is \$90, 20 bags is \$150. You can order by phoning **Maureen at 226 921 0885**, by dropping off a cheque at 122 Devon St. or by cash or cheque at the April 29 Hort Society meeting.

No orders after April 29.

Delivery / pick up at Tom's Eldon Landscaping from May 11. One of our members has kindly volunteered to deliver to anyone who is unable to pick their order up at Tom's. Let us know when you order.

Unique flowers in the Downtown City Flowerbeds

Every year we try to use some new and unique flowers in the city's flowerbeds. Here is a description of 3 of them to keep an eye out for this summer!

Tired of the same old begonias year after year? Well, this new variety will definitely make a splash in your garden this year! Beautiful bronze foliage with bright orange blossoms will bloom non-stop right up to the fall when the blooms will turn a shade of yellow. It is very versatile as it will grow in full sun to full shade and moist to dry soils. Growing to a height and spread of 15" (40cm) "**Sparks Will Fly**" is well suited for planters, baskets and in flowerbeds. You can see this plant growing in Tir Na Nog as well as in some sidewalk beds this summer.



A black flowering Vinca? Yes, it's true!. This new drought and heat loving annual now comes in the colour black. "**Blackberry**" Vinca is a 2012 All-America Selection's winner that will bloom all summer in full sun. Great for flower beds and planters that tend to get neglected, this plant is as tough as nails. The black colour will also offer great mix opportunities. Try mixing it with hot pink and white vincas for a wonderful contrast. "**Blackberry**" Vinca will grow to a height of 14-16" (35-40 cm) You can see this plant growing along with pink and white vincas at Tir Na Nog and on Erie St. in front of the Stratford Hotel.



Although this is not a new variety of canna, "**Stuttgart**" canna is a very unique variety with variegated foliage. Growing to a height of 6' this canna will make a very dramatic focal point in a large planter or flower bed. It will even survive in the pond! It produces an abundance of yellow-orange blooms that with regular deadheading will bloom up to frost. The unique leaves can also be used in flower arranging having a long vase life. This particular canna is best suited in a spot with dappled shade and fairly moist soil as the leaves will tend to brown in the hot afternoon sun. Tubers can be lifted in the fall and saved for the following year. Look for it in some of the planters around downtown.



Ryan Bedford, Board Member & Parkskeeper, City of Stratford

Horticultural Society Website

The Stratford & District Horticultural Society's website has been updated for the new year. Check out the site at www.gardenontario.org/site.php/stratford where you can find links to our [Event Calendar](#) as well as information on [upcoming guest speakers](#) for the monthly meetings.



SDHS QR Scancode

Archived copies of the Society's newsletters are always available on line and don't forget to review activities of other District 10 Societies for [featured events in the region](#) that might be of interest.

Make sure you bookmark the site and check back often as updates on future events will be posted regularly.

Shelly Meyers, Website Coordinator.

Exhibit & Floral Design

Our flower shows' theme this year is based on the thought that gardeners are very creative and do their artwork using flowers. A flower show is similar to an art gallery where the artists' palettes are made up of plant material instead of paint. Welcome to **Gardeners' Palette.**

This is your invitation to exhibit at this year's flower shows; and to come out and enjoy a cup of tea surrounded by a beautiful indoor garden!



The show schedule can be picked up at the open meetings in April or May or viewed online on our SDHS website below.

http://www.gardenontario.org/docs/Flower_Show_Schedule_2013_SDHS.pdf

Bernice Barratt 519-273-2955 **Chair, Exhibit & Floral Design**

Stratford & District Horticultural Society		
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	Shelly Meyers	273-1920
	Dennis Rawe	273-6798
	Louise Spandler	305-0104
	Larke Turnbull	273-3144

The Stratford & District Horticultural Society invites you to a...

Garden Tour

Sunday, July 7th 2013
10 am - 4 pm

EIGHT PRIVATE GARDENS
PASSES \$15.00 or 2 FOR \$25.00

Passes available beginning June 3rd at:

Tom's Eldon Landscaping & Garden Centre
Catherine Wright Designs
Sebringville Garden Centre
and the day of the Garden Tour, passes are available at City Hall from 9 am til 1 pm

www.gardenontario.org

Sponsors

-----Detach Here-----

2013 Membership Renewal and/or Request to E-mail "the gardener"	
I hereby give my permission for the Stratford & District Horticultural Society to send the newsletter with full colour photos and other information of horticultural interest to my e-mail address. It is clearly understood that this address will not be shared or used for any other purpose.	
Name:	
Address:	
E-mail address:	
Signature:	Tel:

Please fill out & clip this form and bring it to a general meeting.
You may also **RENEW** by mailing this form with your payment (\$15) to

Stratford & District Horticultural Society, P.O. Box 21032, Stratford, ON N5A 7V4
Memberships may also be purchased at **Laura Barker Designs**, 48 Wellington St. 273-7703