

Stratford & District Horticultural Society
Annual Report



November 24, 2014

Stratford & District Horticultural Society
136th Annual Meeting

Griffith Auditorium, Spruce Lodge, November 24, 2014

Call to Order

Approval of Agenda

Introduction of Special Guests

Reading and approval of the 2013 Annual Meeting minutes

Reports

Treasurer

Auditor

Committee Reports

Presidents' Remarks

Motion to Approve the actions and decisions of the Officers and Directors since
2013 Annual Meeting

Nominating Committee Report

Election and Installation of Officers

New Business, Announcements

Motion for adjournment

Adjournment

Stratford & District Horticultural Society Annual Meeting, November, 2013

Donna Hinz began our potluck supper with a beautiful prayer. Following the meal, Darlene Irwin welcomed everyone to the AGM at 7:40. The unique and lovely greeting cards made by our craft ladies were available from Wanda Tuer. A card for long-time member Mildred Rose was circulated. It was moved by Mary Hoffman, seconded by Shelly Meyers to approve the agenda as circulated in the annual report. Darlene introduced our special guests, Roland Craig and Anna Peterson from the District 10 OHA. Roland brought greetings from the OHA. Darlene explained that our past presidents were being honoured with carnation boutonnieres. It was moved by Jinny Macdonald, seconded by Ryan Bedford to approve the minutes of the previous AGM. Carried. Glen Querengesser commented on the financial statement as presented in the annual report. Auditor Dorell Brightwell reported that she and Linda Evans had examined the books and certified that the treasurer's report was correct.

It was moved by Bub Kelly, seconded by Nancy Lupton to approve the reports of the committees and board in the annual report.

Bernice Barratt reported that Don Farwell had won the award for the total points in floral shows in 2013.

It was moved by Anna Peterson, seconded by Nikki Priestap to approve the actions of the Board of Directors for 2013. Carried.

Darlene presented the Nominating Committee report. She reported the recommendation of the Nominating Committee to approve Dorell Brightwell and Linda Evans as auditors. Roland Craig conducted the elections. There being no nominations from the floor, the slate was elected by acclamation. Roland installed the new board. Darlene gave Bernice Barratt the president's pin. Bernice gave Darlene the past-president's pin. Bernice thanked Darlene for her three-year tenure. She also thanked Bruce Wilkinson for his faithful work on the attractive newsletter, his on-line AGM report, his creation and printing of membership cards, and updates on events.

Bernice thanked Franklin Hinz for his many contributions.

It was moved by Franklin, to adjourn the meeting. Carried.

Larke Turnbull introduced Marsha Goold, Music Director of St. John's United Church, who sang, played the accordion and told a story to connect her musical presentations. She was thanked by Jinny Macdonald.

Door prizes were awarded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Jinny Macdonald, Secretary

Stratford and District Horticultural Society

Financial Report - Nov. 1/13 to Oct. 31/14

Revenue

Churchill Circle Project	40.00
Crafts	440.00
Donations	485.00
Floral Design	855.00
Flower Shows	920.25
Garden Tour	5,022.00
Grants	11,703.72
Interest	893.21
Membership Dues	3,555.00
Programme	614.00
Plant Sale	1,937.00
Travel	57.95
	26,523.13

Expenditures

Civic Beautification	11,137.33
Crafts	346.41
Floral Design	1,384.45
Flower Shows	1,272.95
Garden Festival	714.40
Garden Tour	842.24
Membership	116.06
Newsletter	63.28
Office	393.94
Plant Sale	208.60
Programme	1,317.65
Publicity	789.45
Rent	1,565.01
Sundry - Annual Meeting	349.73
- Auditors	200.00
- Awards	109.30
- Conferences	783.14
- Dues	1,038.60
- Education - Fall Fair	200.00
- United Way/Library Urns	172.87
	23,005.41

Profit **3,517.72**

2014 Presidents' Report

As another year draws to a close we are pleased to review the 136th year of service to our members, our community and partnership with Parks and Forestry.

We always look forward to the Lung Associations' Garden Festival in the early spring to get the juices flowing, don't we? Again this year Ryan Bedford assisted by Mary Hoffman did us proud with a beautiful garden display. Thanks to dozens of our member volunteers, it was a huge success. Wanda Tour was delighted to report a complete sell-out of all the committee's stock of beautiful cards plus: two new memberships. Finally, a special thank you was received from the Lung Association for our huge commitment to the event.

Mike Matthews was in the driver's seat for Green Week in April. Lots of positive exposure for our society made all the volunteer hours worthwhile. Mike made a potting bench out of recycled material for his display that drew lots of attention and Louise Spandler entered the decorated garbage can event. Louise won. The beautifully decorated "swan" can may be admired at the Churchill Circle gardens. Mike later donated the potting bench for a draw prize at the June Flower Show and because of the wonderful response, he made a second one for the Garden Tour. Well done, guys!

A first-ever membership drive was organized for two Saturdays late April and May at our garden centre sponsors. I am pleased to report twelve new memberships were obtained for 20 hours of volunteering. Thank you: Elizabeth Ainslie, Marg O' Reilly, Louise Spandler, Darlene Irwin, Bruce Wilkinson, Penny Keegan, & Bernice Barratt.

The annual plant sale on May 10th was blessed with good weather. That plus an enthusiastic organising committee, volunteers & all the donors resulted in over \$1800 in sales for the half day event. The best ever result sets the standard for us to beat in 2015.

Nancy Lupton stepped up to the plate again this year with a superbly organised bus tour on July 11th to Whispering Gardens. The trip included a guided tour by owner Darren Heimbecker, a musical interlude composed by Darren controlling tiers of fountains and waterfalls. A garden lunch buffet, & specialty plants for sale. The memorable day beckons return visits. Thank you Nancy.

Congratulations and our thanks also goes to Larke Turnbull for her excellent job in organizing our lineup of speakers for the General meetings. It has been a good year!

Submitted by Henry McVey, Co-president

2014 President's Report

The Stratford and District Horticultural Society has had a very busy year as you can see by the annual reports. At the time of this compilation our members have logged 3013 volunteer hours. A huge THANK-YOU goes out to everyone who has contributed in this way! Board members and chairs of committees generally lead the way in this endeavour but every organization is only as strong as its members. As the continuing co-president, I look forward to another year of getting to know more of you and working together on the many activities we tackle in the coming year!

It is with our sincere thanks we say goodbye to two very hard working, long time board members; Darlene Irwin and Penny Keegan. Their calm wisdom, support, friendship, and encouragement in the midst of panic attacks, have been a real comfort to me personally. They have certainly earned the break! We are entering 2015 with the continuity of remaining board members as well as welcoming the expertise and perspective of new members. We enjoy a long history of gardening in and around Stratford while heading into our 137th year!

There have been ups and downs but as we all work together, each doing a part, however small, we can accomplish what we envision! There is much to learn from each other and we have the advantage of expert gardeners, Master Gardeners and a network of friends and friends still to meet as we "grow together".

Submitted by Bernice Barratt, Co-President

Garden Chats Annual Report 2014

The garden chats, held in the conference room at 6:30 before the general meeting, continue to be popular with an average of 20 attendees each month. A big thank you to the Master Gardeners who facilitate the chats.

The topics this year were: *January* – Michael Murray talking about unusual seeds he has grown, *February* – taking cuttings & seed exchange, *March* – seeding and seed exchange, *April* – pruning basics, thank you Shelly Meyers, *May* – mini hostas, thank you Anu-MacIntosh-Murray. New ideas for chats are welcome.

Submitted by Penny Keegan, Chair of Education

EXHIBIT AND FLORAL DESIGN COMMITTEE

The theme for the 2014 June flower show was "Summer Dreams" and the September theme was "Dream's Reward". It was our response to the long winter and our dreaming of summer days to come!

The June Flower Show was again held at Knox Presbyterian Church in their wonderful banquet hall. We unfortunately chose a very busy weekend for many people, with four major events happening in the city. Attendance was down as was the number of exhibitors and exhibits. There were only 13 exhibitors with 78 entries. Of these, 49 were cultural, 26 were designs and 3 were special exhibits. With the board's approval we eliminated the rose section because it is just too early in June to expect roses. Roses were included in the summer flowers section in the event that there might be an early summer.

The Sadie Partridge Memorial Trophy for cultural other than roses was won by Linda Murray for her amazing allium specimen. She also received a gift certificate from Tom's Eldon's. Linda Hawker won the George and Aileen Lamont Trophy for Best Design in the Design division for her impressive tall design entitled "Stairway to Heaven". Linda Hawker also received a gift certificate from Catherine Wright Designs. Our novice exhibitors were a bit shy so we had no entries in this class but many expressed interest in trying next time! Bernice Barratt won the City of Stratford Trophy for the President's Choice award with her miniature design called "Moonbeams and Fireflies". The Perth Regiment Chapter IODE Trophy for the highest number of points in the design division was also won by Bernice Barratt.

A very colourful hanging basket of purple petunias, donated by Sebringville Garden Centre, was the draw prize for adult exhibitors and it was won by Bernice Barratt. Bub Kelly won the John Brown Memorial Award, a gift certificate from Chuck Chapman Iris Garden, for her lovely golden brown iris. Anna Peterson received a gift certificate from Sebringville Garden Centre for her exquisite dish garden entry in the Special Exhibit class entitled "Enchantment". The tiny orchids truly were enchanting!

Lois Fitzgerald was very excited to win the draw for two theatre tickets, donated by the Stratford Festival. There were no student exhibitors this year. The Stratford Camera Club's People's Choice Award for garden photography was a tie win for Doug Bingham and Peter Luke. Congratulations to all our exhibitors and award winners.

The tearoom is always a big hit at the June Flower Show and this year was no different! Sandwiches, carrot cake and fresh fruit along with coffee and teas from Distinctly Tea were served and brought in \$415.53! Thank-you also goes out to all the members who donated 28 items for the draw table; ticket sales raised \$300.00. Stratford Master Gardeners had a display table with very useful information and handouts, free to all. We thank them for their ongoing support at our flower show! There was also a display about our horticultural society and what we do in the city, specifically the huge amount of work done by the Civic Beautification Committee.

A Basic Design class, taught by Charmian Patrick, was held for six weeks in April and May and was attended by 11 students. It was well received and everyone learned a great deal about specific traditional designs. Charmian taught with a view of encouraging participation in flower shows as a tool to improve on what we have learned. We had a flower show every week; it was wonderful!

We also had three workshops specific to designs listed on our show schedule. Anna Peterson taught two workshops; one on an Oriental influence ("Konnichiwa") and the second on different styles of a bride's bouquet ("Shower of Flowers"). Darlene Irwin taught our third workshop on water viewing designs ("Midnight at the Oasis"). All three were very informative and the "hands on" aspect very helpful.

The judge was very impressed with our September flower show "Dream's Reward". She felt our exhibitors did some impressive designs and the cultural entries were very well presented.

We had a total of 49 entries from 14 exhibitors; 40 of these were cultural and 9 designs. This is an increase from last year.

We created a separate class for summer bulbs, corms and tubers and the potted plants class was divided into indoor and outdoor grown plants to be more inclusive for members who are "apartment gardeners". The cultural entries were set up in the auditorium and designs in the foyer. This proved to be a good move as there was much interest and viewing before the meeting as well as after; minus the congestion of the board room! We did need to ask people to give the judge some room to finish her work but she was very accommodating.

The trophies and awards were presented as follows.

The Moss/ green Cup for judge's choice in cultural, and the gift certificate (\$15 from Tom's Eldon's) was won by Linda Murray.

The Judge's choice in design and gift certificate (\$20 donation from Flowers on York) also was also won by Linda Murray. The Lingard Trophy for president's choice in design was awarded to Bernice Barratt.

A huge THANK-YOU goes out to the committee of Elizabeth Ainslie, Joan Byers, Lois Fitzgerald, Linda Hawker, Nancy Lupton, Jane Marie Mitchell, and Linda Murray. Altogether, with the extra volunteers on show days, our committee logged 226 volunteer hours.

Submitted by Bernice Barratt, Chair

Civic Beautification Committee Report

This year has been a challenging one for us as the weather never truly supported our efforts to work effectively in the garden beds. Additional challenges arose as our efforts to enlist more volunteer helpers willing to commit hours on a regular basis throughout the year were unsuccessful. We did have a few "work parties" that waged the ongoing war on weeds at the Queensland, Churchill Circle, and Centre Street beds, but those darn weeds just will not give us a break!

Therefore, we found ourselves forever trying to play 'catch-up' this year and by the end of the season the planned work at all of our beds fell far short of what we had hoped to achieve. The second quadrant at Churchill Circle did not get any plantings this season and the bed is about a month behind schedule, with very little hope of much more being accomplished before the snow flies.

We were also unable to get any plants cleared out of the third quadrant at Churchill this year, so we will be behind the eight ball come Spring as that work will need to be done in addition to the usual Spring clean-up jobs in all of our garden beds.

The bright spots this year were a trip to Whistling Gardens early in the Spring to purchase some unusual specimens for Centre Street and Churchill Circle; plus we also had Jim Fitzgerald attend one of our meetings to give us advice on a variety of matters. (We would love to have at least one Master Gardener on our team. Hint, hint!) We obtained a "development plot" at Franklin Gardens to store our plants that were purchased for quadrant two, and some plants which will be in the next plant sale. The rock which we had asked to be moved from the City bed on Downie Street near the train station was finally moved to a new home in the Centre Street bed. The Downie St. bed has now been grassed over as it was very neglected over the years since we declined to maintain it.

We encountered some outside interference in the Queensland bed early in the year when a "neighbour" decided to move some small trees and a shrub we had planted to locations he thought were more appropriate! We also had some plant pilfering incidents at quadrant one at Churchill Circle this summer when thieves removed three lovely specimens... a vibrant patch of Crocosmia was removed, a beautiful red Echinacea then followed, and lastly a fine yellow flowering Butterfly bush flew the coop!

On the bright side our finances were tracked efficiently by Mike Matthews. We have a wonderful record keeping system on computer which enables us to account for all expenditures in several ways: for example we know our expenses for each individual bed by expenditure type and we are able to keep a running record of the "cost" of each bed.

Our New Year wish is that next year the weather works with us rather than against us, and that we will have many more volunteers willing to help make up for the time lost this year! We are so envious of the Grand Bend H.S. that has 50 of their 200 members regularly helping throughout the summer to maintain their gorgeous gardens and planters.

Yours in gardening,

Louise Spandler, Mike Matthews and Dennis Rawe

Garden Tour Annual Report 2014

The committee members this year were: Penny Keegan, Sharon Macdonald, Louise Spandler, Joy Miles, Larke Turnbull, Ron Nichol, Shelly Meyers and adjunct members Felicity Sutcliffe and Stella Farwell.

The Garden Tour this year was held on July 6, 2014 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The prices this year were the same as last year \$12 each or 2 for \$25. There were 310 tickets sold for a beautiful, warm but breezy and sunny day. The gardens were well received and we were able to add over \$4000 to the treasury. Our event garden was held at the gardens of Tea Leaves on Erie Street, the home of Karen Hartwick. We are so grateful to the homeowners who so enthusiastically offer their gardens for our enjoyment. Our guests enjoyed violin music, refreshments and a draw prize table with 6 prizes from our sponsors, members and interested others. Mike Matthews made another beautiful potting table from pallets with a donated sink. It was won by members. Thank you to the many members who donated cookies for the day. We also appreciate the Master Gardeners who are at each garden for the day to help answer gardening questions. Many local businesses have sponsored our event for the past several years and that helps with the expenses of the day. Please think of our sponsors when shopping locally. Together with the committee's hours and those of the volunteers for the day we contributed 458 volunteer hours. CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL AND A HUGE THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATED IN ANY WAY.

Respectfully submitted, Penny Keegan, Chair

2014 Plant Sale Report

The Plant Sale was another smashing success. We saw a significant increase in donations of plants from our members and it may have been the widest variety of specimens seen at the plant sale ever. The weather cooperated leading up to and the day of the plant sale which may have helped contribute to the overall success of the event. Many volunteers were on hand to help organize prior to and on the day of the sale. The numerous attendees at the sale were pleased to find a large selection for their gardens.

Financially the Plant Sale exceeded the budget as well as prior year results. One inventive idea introduced was to prepare a few dozen canna lily rhizomes for sale which were graciously cared for by fellow members. These canna were sold at slightly higher prices than bare roots and hopefully also showed how easy it could be to grow a canna from a rhizome.

This year's event also marked the last year we will be holding the Plant Sale at 4140 Quinlan Road; stay tuned for our new location for 2015. Wanda Tuer has been wonderful to accommodate our annual event over the past few years and a big thank you goes out to her for her generosity.

	2014 Actual	2014 Budget	2013 Actual
Sales	\$1,937	\$1,500	\$2,023
Expenses	(209)	(400)	(500)
Profit	\$1,728	\$1,100	\$1,523

Respectfully submitted, Shelly Meyers, Co-Chair

Membership Committee Report

This year we have 236 paid members, 2 life members, and 13 complimentary (from the 2013 garden tour) for a total of 251.

Thanks to my husband for helping at the door.

Thanks to Bruce Wilkinson for keeping the computer part of the records again.

I have completed my 6th and final year as membership chair. I appreciate all the assistance I have received throughout the years.

Linda Neeb, Membership Chair

Horticultural Report Bus Trip July 2014

We had 26 guests travel with us to Kerry's Hostas in Wilsonville, Whistling Gardens and Bonnie Heath winery and Lavender Farm.

On a sunny morning we travelled south on a wonderful adventure for our annual bus trip. First stop was at Kerry's Hostas where we meandered through the lovely hostas gardens, filled with full grown specimens to see. Kerry had many hostas to choose from for purchase for very reasonable prices. Lots of smiles as we tucked our treasures under neath the bus for safe keeping.

Our next stop was Whistling Gardens where we all enjoyed a guided tour from Darren the owner. He explained and pointed out the individual gardens and there unique characteristics. His warm and welcoming personality and his great sense of humour made our morning very enjoyable. He then made us all comfortable as we sat and enjoyed the dancing water show accompanied by wonderful music. Lunch of salads, sandwiches, wraps, desserts and drinks was enjoyed by all. After lunch we had free time to explore the gardens further or shop in their sales area.

Our final stop of the day was at Bonnie Heath Winery and Lavender Farm. It was a beautiful place where we enjoyed a wagon ride, wine tasting and a talk on how the lavender is processed. A lovely little gift shop was full of treasures with lavender products.

All our hosts for the day donated draw prizes for the way home. Games and friendly visiting made for a fun time on the bus.

A special thank you to all our members and new members who supported our trip this year.

Submitted by Nancy Lupton, Chair

	2014	2013
Actual	\$2,937	\$2,073
Budget	\$1,500	\$2,073
Excess	(1,000)	(200)
Profit	\$1,728	\$1,253

Respectfully submitted, Shelly Meyers, Co-Chair

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee members: Bernice Barratt, Darlene Irwin, Henry McVey, Marg O'Reilly, Jinny Macdonald.

Our sincere thanks to our retiring board members: Penny Keegan, and Darlene Irwin. It has been a pleasure to work with you both.

The proposed slate for 2015 Board of Directors is as follows:

Executive:

Co-Presidents: Bernice Barratt & Mike Matthews

Past President: Henry McVey

First Vice: *open*

Second Vice: *open*

Two Year directors:

Virginia Macdonald, Secretary

Glen Querengesser, Treasurer

Ryan Bedford

Marg O'Reilly

Louise Spandler

Larke Turnbull

One Year Directors:

Elizabeth Ainslie

Dennis Rawe

Shelly Meyers

Leslye Glover

Karen Hartwick

Submitted by Bernice Barratt, chair