



Page 2 Message from the President

Page 3 Call for Volunteers & THANK YOU

Page 4-6 All about the Gardens

Page 7-14 Committee & Program Reports

Page 15 Fiscal Report

A Message from The President:

In the AGM Report, 2020, your Board wrote the following:

“There is little doubt that all of our members have been affected by this virus that has come upon us. We know that at times it seems that everything that was taken for granted has been taken away. Well, luckily for us, we know better. If there was ever a group that believed again, and again that great things can and do come from very little - it's us. We know that if you plant it, it will grow.”



Due to the pandemic, new interest in horticulture led to an increase in sales at garden centres and seed companies, with a resulting shortage of supply and rising prices. Our members benefited from the free exchange of seeds and seedlings as well as two “give what you can” plant sales.

Our 2021 membership increased by 13%, thanks to extraordinary efforts of the membership Committee and the ability to purchase membership by e-transfer. We hope the forty-five 2021 members who chose NOT to renew will come back in 2022. We look forward to seeing our 70 new members at upcoming meetings and events and encourage new members to renew for 2022. We look forward to many new faces volunteering at events and on Committees.

Efforts in 2021 to adapt to the new pandemic norms resulted in offering 5 Garden Chats and 5 Speakers by zoom, thanks to Susan Kurtz who spent hours online to learn the new technology.

Once restrictions were lifted, we held Board and Committee meetings outside and offered 6 “Garden Strolls” in private gardens. By September, we were able to return to in person monthly meetings, following Health Unit requirements for proof of vaccination.

We are optimistic that 2022, the Canadian “National Year of the Garden” will be better than ever. In so many ways we are like plants; growing and adapting in ever-changing conditions... Read on to discover our plans for this celebration.

- President Maureen Cocksedge

Volunteers needed

We urgently need more “techie” persons to step forward to help with the computer and projector at any of our eight in-person meetings and to record meetings by zoom for those members who are not yet comfortable to attend. Please email sdhs1878@outlook.com if you can help us with this.

Thank you

Every year, member volunteers join in, change volunteer positions, move away to other pursuits or retire. We usually thank them and acknowledge that the Society could not function without the support of all 234 members. This year, however, we want to acknowledge some extraordinary members who have contributed so much to our Society and Community, but who have chosen to move away from a more active role. Please thank:

Darlene Irwin and Bruce Wilkinson for maintaining Queensland and Bonnie Richardson gardens as well as leadership roles with the Society.

Dennis Rawe for maintaining the library garden and long-standing Board membership.

Owen Switzer for maintaining the pergola garden and his Board work as Recording Secretary and other key roles.

Henry McVey for the design and maintenance of the pergola gardens as well as past leadership roles with the Society.

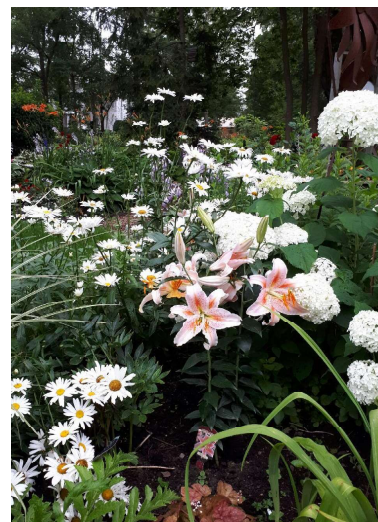
Bernice Barratt for floral design expertise and long-standing Board membership. Bernice has moved to District 10 as Regional Floral Convenor and Assistant Director, Perth and Lambton Shores.

Doug Reberg for long standing Board leadership; he is the first to step up for many roles.

The Move

In September 2021, the Board chose to move meetings to the Army Navy Hall. The Army Navy offered a much larger room, allowing double the capacity. Our members may also avail the food and beverage offered before or after our meetings.

Submitted by Maureen Cocksedge



*Iris Garden
Photos submitted by
Sheila Phillips*

The Gardens

Garden Stratford (Stratford and District Horticultural Society) maintains the following Public Gardens.

The Annual beds at the Dutch Memorial corner
The Perennial bed in front of the Library
The Urns in front of the Library and United Way Center
The Iris garden on McLagan
The Catherine East shrub garden off John St.
The Bonnie Richardson garden on Queensland
The Queensland Garden The Centre St, Garden
The Churchill Circle
The Pergola Garden on Lake Victoria

Feature report: Churchill Circle Q4

The Q4 Churchill garden team members are: Jan Saul, Dot and Dean Carr, Barb Laflamme, Ron Nichol and Nancy Burnett.



Overall, it was a great year for the garden. We added more annuals in 2021 to create pops of colour throughout the year with zinnias, cosmos, snapdragons, geraniums and purslane.

Good snow cover in 2020 meant some snapdragons self-seeded and chrysanthemums came through the winter. We had a beautiful display of lupines in the spring which was followed with a massive aphid infestation. This resulted in removal of most lupines in Q4. We transplanted zinnias which provided a colourful display. We planted more Cosmos Sensation from seed. The foliage filled in the gaps and they bloomed in the fall. It was awesome to see the *Veronicastrum virginicum*, Culver's root, covered in pollinators or to watch the bumblebees crawl inside the flowers of *Chelone lyonii*, Pink Turtlehead, to pollinate.

Visitors to the garden commented how lush and full everything looked this year in all quadrants. Thanks to all team members for their contributions to the garden's success.

-Submitted by Nancy Burnett

Other Gardens

The Queensland Garden this year received the benefit of some serious evergreen pruning and pathway improvement. Our new caretakers of this garden have done a stellar job. The Center Street Garden thought it lost the weeping crab tree when it became completely defoliated only to have a full regrown from the gypsy moths. At the Pergola Garden, new caretakers kept the mature garden in check and added several new Hostas to the shade areas. The Iris Garden maintained by a strong team was spectacular in bloom in its season but has also received all season compliments. The Churchill q1, 2 and 3 showcased their own personalities this year more than ever with a strong show of colour and texture.

-Submitted by Susan Kurtz

Feature report: Library Garden in transition



Lorrie McFadden, Catherine Byvelds and Marlene Pomeroy have had a very exciting season in the Stratford Public Library Garden. The SDHS Board decided the garden was in need of a makeover and a 2 Year Renewal project began. This little seed began an interesting journey for the prominent Stratford Public Garden and one that required a strategic plan.

A Stratford Library Garden Renewal Committee was formed and met throughout the winter, spring, summer and fall, working closely with the maintenance team. It has really been a community effort, with many great helpers assisting us when needed.

Our team completed a mapping and plant identification to record and often research current plants, trees and shrubs. This would assist in determining which could be rescued and those that would be included in a fall plant fundraiser, which was held on the Library grounds.

We continued to weed, water, prune and deadhead throughout this year. We discovered new plants, and the bare spots were populated with plants from the SDHS spring sale. It was very much an effort to keep things tidy and fight off the Japanese beetles.

A big dig was held September 21st and many volunteers stepped up to rescue plants which are now over wintering until spring. Work has already started in preparation for the hard landscaping

scheduled for this fall and next spring. We are excited to see the new pathways, plants and sitting areas develop. The struggle with the ivy garden will be no more! Watch this space.

We hear the garden sighing with the fading light, and regardless of the unusual challenges of this gardening season, it has given pleasure and healing for many and will continue to do so in the promise of a 'new spring' in 2022.

- Submitted by Marlene Pomeroy & Lupines Photo Don Carr

Library Garden Background

The library has been in its present location since 1903, and the garden has been looked after by

SDHS volunteers since the mid 1960's. In particular, Darlene Irwin, Bruce Wilkinson and

Dennis Rawe have been dedicated gardeners in the library garden

The last full refurbishment of the Library Garden was carried out 30 years ago.

The Stratford Public Library is a busy, dynamic institution and plans to use its outdoor space for

a wider range of activities than it does now. The Renewal Committee has considered the views of all the parties involved in the planning with funding coming from multiple sources.

-Submitted by Susan Kurtz



Lupines Photo Don Carr, Monarch Photo Ron Nichol



Bonnie Richardson Garden

Volunteer contributions:

Another year in the Public Gardens at Stratford with unusual heat and rain creating a banner year for plant material and in some cases bugs.

Our garden volunteers, currently a core of about 30, work in teams by garden. They each contribute as and when they can and take great pride in their accomplishments. Consider joining this group next year for some outdoor exercise and comradery.

Public Garden volunteers put in **1169.5 hours** in the public gardens this year.

Another 322 volunteer hours were contributed to the Library Renewal project planning

The gardens we are trusted with to maintain are at different stages of maturity. These gardens have the benefit of good bones given great original design by past captains and teams.

However, every few years our society undertakes a larger renewal project, this year /next is the Library Garden.

For this year's report I have included two focus reports as follows plus some interesting facts about the Library Garden.

- Submitted by Susan Kurtz



Centre Street Garden

Committee & Programs Reports

Membership Report 2021

This year has been remarkable with membership sales totaling 234 (72 new and 162 renewed.) I did note that many long-time members brought in new members. **THANK YOU TO YOU ALL!** Also, big thanks again to Flowers on York and Stratford Blooms who really increased our sales and again will be selling 2022 memberships. Information on where and when to buy will be noted in emails. As always, discounts for members will continue at our current 8 merchant locations.

Should you wish to help out with membership sales/recruitment we can always use more help. Contact me email: marihoffman@cyg.net

Again, I ask that you do renew your membership and encourage family, friends, and neighbours to join our great and very knowledgeable Society.

- Submitted by Mary Hoffman, Membership Convenor

Yearly memberships remain a bargain at the price of \$15.00 each. You can purchase 2022 memberships now!

4 OPTIONS TO RENEW:

1. *NEW EMAIL* e-transfer to sdhsmember@wightman.ca

In the message box write **new** or **renewal** and **your email address**. The box is limited to 40 characters, so you can email sdhsmember@wightman.ca your **address, city, postal code and phone number** if new member or a change

(On receipt of the e-transfer, Mary will mail your membership card.)

Or 2. mail a cheque to Box 21032 Stratford N5A7V4

(include a self-addressed envelope)

Or 3. e-mail marihoffman@cyg.net (to arrange curbside drop-off cheque/pick-up of your card) **please include address, city and postal code**

Or 4. In person at Flower shops:

FLOWERS ON YORK – CASH ONLY

27 York St., phone 519 273-7777

STRATFORD BLOOMS – CASH ONLY

59 Albert St., phone 519 814-5000

Seedy Sunday

We were planning on holding a smaller outdoor Seedy Sunday event at the Community Garden beside Dufferin Arena in April however it was cancelled due to the last lockdown. Here's hoping the event will return in '22 in some format.

-Alice Mainland

The poster is for 'SEEDY SUNDAY' in Stratford on April 11, 2021, at the Dufferin Park Community Garden & Edible Forest. It lists a suggested donation of \$2, the time 10am-12pm, and activities like seed sharing, workshops, and sandwiches. A large diagonal watermark reads 'Cancelled due to Lockdown'. At the bottom are logos for 'the local community food centre' and 'Stratford & District Horticultural Society'.

STRATFORD SEEDY SUNDAY
11 April, 2021
@DUFFERIN PARK COMMUNITY GARDEN & EDIBLE FOREST (BEHIND DUFFERIN ARENA PARKING LOT)
Suggested donation (to Seeds of Diversity) \$2
Drop by between 10am - 12pm
Learn more about seed saving! seeds will be scarce this year
community groups • virtual gardening • workshops • PWYC sandwiches •
take a socially distanced tour of Dufferin Park Community Garden and Edible Forest!
Contact Lucas: lucas@thelocalcfc.org, 519-508-3663 ext 1002 or Alice Mainland at amainland@quadro.net
the local community food centre www.thelocalcfc.org 612 Erie Street, Stratford, Ontario N5A 2P1
STRATFORD & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Seed Distribution Project

Stratford & District Horticultural Society – Great Seed Giveaway!

The "Great Seed Giveaway" is here! We have a great catalogue assortment of seeds which were collected and/or donated by our members. These seeds are free to members and non-members located in Stratford or St Mary's area. **Offer ends April 4th.**

Note: Some seeds are limited - so it is "first come first serve" and additional information is inside catalogue on how to place an order.

Garden Stratford volunteers will deliver the seeds to your doorstep - for those who live in Stratford or St Mary's area.

Email amainland@quadro.net for a copy of our seed catalogue. Once you have selected your seeds please send us your list including the seed number along with your name and address



We sent a copy of our 2021 seed collection event(s) catalogue out via email, on our Facebook page, and in Doug Reberg's monthly newspaper column offering free seeds to the community. With this method of distribution we were able to deliver 554 packages of seeds to a total of 69 participants.

Thanks to all of those who helped out with seed harvesting, cleaning, packaging and delivery activities. Our clubs' members made light work for this fun project.

Do you have seeds you would like to share during this spring give away please email amainland@quadro.net

Workshops/Education

Our first workshop of the year was held Sunday February 28th. The topic was on Indoor Seed Starting and the instructor was Maureen Cocksedge. We had a total of 12 participants who were introduced to how to get our seeds off to a good start for spring.

Our second workshop of the year was held March 14th. The topic was on how to make a Mini Cold Frame for \$10.00 or even for free with found objects in your recycle bin. This was a fun workshop where we talked about how to start veggies, herbs and flower seeds (both annual and perennial) in various types of containers and how to maintain starting in January or February through until spring. It is a quick and easy way to get your garden off to a great head start or grow greens throughout the cold season.

Making Small or Mini Cold Frames:

SDHS Hands on Workshop Via Zoom - follow along at home making a bottle or mini Cold Frame during the workshop

Registration: email amainland@quadro.net

Date: Sunday March 14th 2021

Time: 2:00 PM until 3:00 PM

Via Zoom

Materials needed

Mini Cold Frames: Empty Plastic jugs - water, milk, juices, pop bottles

Small Cold Frame: Clear Plastic Totes at least 9" to 12" tall

Paint marker (permanent marker may fade)

Plant labels

Duct tape or Masking tape

Seed Starting Soil

Tools

Watering Can

A utility knife

You will need a 2021 SDHS membership to participate. Details will be provided upon registration

Note: You do not need to participate; you can just watch the workshop instructions



Our 3rd and 4th workshop of the year was held on Sept 25th & again on Oct 06th: The topic covered was Saving Annuals for Annual Savings. Both workshops had the same information shared during our September General meeting presentation, however, the workshops were more hands on.

-Info & Photos Submitted by Alice Mainland

Plant Sales 2021 AKA Give Get & Grow / Pay What You Can

This year, COVID again presented challenges to our mandate to make plants available to people in order to beautify our community.

However, thanks to extra efforts from many volunteer members, we were able to hold two plant sales, following COVID protocols. We called the spring event “Give Get and Grow” and the Fall event “Pay what you can” and people were very generous.

The spring sale was conducted on a “contactless” basis, with people ordering from an online plant list, available by email and on Facebook. Volunteers then phoned or emailed customers to arrange pickup times at three locations. Over 100 varieties of annuals, perennials, vegetables and herbs were on offer. Kudos to Athlone, Willow and Devon homeowners who were on duty for the distribution!

Thanks to loosened COVID restrictions, the Fall event was in-person at the public library, partnering with the library’s “Garden Culture Day”. Over 150 people attended, purchasing plants and gaining valuable horticultural information from the Master Gardeners on hand to help.

Where did the plants come from? From you, our members, of course! For the spring sale, you raised seedlings, split tubers and rhizomes and dug mature plants from your gardens. There was one notable plant rescue thanks to Ann P. Special thanks for giving multiples of plants goes to Ann P, Anna, Barry, Bernice, Doug, Jane M, Jim, Larke, Nancy and Paula.

Unlike the spring sale, plants for the fall sale were dug from the library garden, which is undergoing renewal. As well, the Plant Rescue group, Don, Janet, Jinny, Kathy, Lorrie, Mike and Susan dug hundreds of shade plants, mainly hosta, ferns and astilbe from a generous donor, whose garden which was to be repurposed. Thank you also to those who watered and transported those plants to the library.

Total volunteer hours, for the planning, advertising, digging, potting, tending, transporting, selling, set up and clean up at both sales was a whopping 532 hours!

Revenue from plant sales was 81% over target, totalling \$4,296.00.

Your Plant Sale Committee

Alice, Barry, Dorothy, Doug, Jinny, Julia, Kathy, Lorrie, Maureen



In photo SDHS member Marlene digs plants from the Library Garden for Sept. 25 Plant Sale at the Library.

- Submitted by Maureen Cocksedge

OHA Convention 2021 and Drone Video

The pandemic caused the 2020 and 2021 Conventions, planned for London in July, and hosted by the 22 Societies in our District, to become a virtual event. As for our part, Garden Stratford designed a "Stratford" page on the web platform. This included videos provided by the Stratford Festival and Tourism Stratford (Destination Animation). As well, we provided door prizes of Convention "hoodies".

Thanks to the generosity of Andrew and Jeff at LittleBig Creative, our page featured a [drone video](#) of all [Stratford public gardens](#).

Five of your Board members represented our Society at the virtual AGM.

Communities in Bloom

Bary Krauter's garden was selected as one of the Stratford Communities in Bloom gardens for 2021. They were very surprised when Cindy Carlton arrived at their door with a sign and a certificate recognizing the number of native and pollinator plants in the garden as well as the many annuals and perennials which Barry grows from seed. They noted Barry's generosity in sharing both seeds and plants with friends and neighbours.

Barry hosted a late summer Garden Stroll for club members and "undergardener" Bev Symons' many roses were also in beautiful bloom. Hint: Barry's seeds will be available at the 2022 seed exchange.

-Info & Photos submitted by Bev Symons



Program Committee

Our 2020 AGM was held in November by zoom, with guest speaker Dr A Mok from London Orchid Society
In 2021, General Meetings were held, with 5 by zoom then two in person, once restrictions were lifted.

Generally, around 50 people registered for zoom and 50 attended in person at the Army Navy Hall in September. Kudos to Susan Kurtz who learned zoom and hosted all the virtual talks as well as Board and Committee meetings. Recordings of speakers were not always possible, due to copyright, storage capacity and technical issues.

Featured Speakers were:

All American Selections: People, Plants & Places - Connie Bijl, Wm Damm Seeds

Gardens of Scotland - Heinke Thiessen

Going Native to Restore Diversity - Elizabeth Spedaliere, Master Gardener

Growing Veggies in Small Spaces - Cheryl Losch

An Introduction to Rain Gardens - Vanni Azzano Upper Thames Conservation Authority

Saving Annuals for Annual Savings - Alice Mainland

The Fall Garden and Winter Interest - Julie Dorssers London Master Gardeners

Garden Chats moved to Wednesday evenings, by zoom, until May 2021. Thank you to Stratford and London Master Gardeners:

Bee, beaver, oak, and seastar: What could they have in common? –Leslye Glover

Gardening Advice from a Bumblebee – Carolyn Schmidt

Time for the Veggie Garden – Jim Fitzgerald

A Walk in the Woods Don Farwell

Who's there? Under Stories - Leslye Glover

Harvesting Cannabis...legally - Julie Dorssers

- Submitted by Maurren Cocksedge

Planned 2022 Event Schedule (dependent on Covid restrictions)

Jan or Feb: Seed starting

February: Seedy Sunday (potentially this event could be postponed until April)

Feb or Mar: Propagation

March: Seed starting & Propagation at the Local (Dependent on COVID restrictions – Live Facebook event)

May 28: Plant Sale

Summer: Special Event for National Year of the Garden

July: Garden Tour

September: Local Foraging tour or garden demonstration



-Submitted by Alice Mainland

**From meager beginnings in spring can lend
itself to a strong fall finish if given the chance!**

Garden Tour Annual Report

After cancelling the Stratford Garden Tour for the past two summers, we hope to be able to organize a tour for July of 2022. We believe some of the home owners who would have been on the tour in 2020, before we had to cancel, will be willing to participate in 2022. We need to finalize the date but it will likely be early in July and will be on a Sunday. More details to follow. We will need to be flexible in our preparations as there is a good chance that Covid-19 protocols could still be in place. If all goes well, we hope to be able to present a tour of about 8 Stratford properties in 2022.

-Ron Nichol for the 2021 garden tour committee



Exhibit and Floral Design

There were no activities due to COVID. We hope to have a design workshop in 2022 but need a **volunteer** with design expertise to take the lead. Please email sdhs1878@outlook.com if you can help us with this.

Bursary Program Committee

There were no applicants for 2021 bursaries. This may be due to covid but we will hope for the best for next year.



District 10 Report

Garden Stratford is a member of District 10 of the Ontario Horticultural Association. As hosts, District 10, cancelled the 2021 in person Convention / AGM in London due to COVID. Instead, a virtual Convention was held in July. Every Society had a web page to feature gardens in their area, there were six online bus tours and 16 notable speakers. The presentations were available to registrants for 6 months after the event, which was hosted by Western university Conference Services. Kudos to the organizers for this first-of-its-kind virtual event.

- Maureen Cocksedge

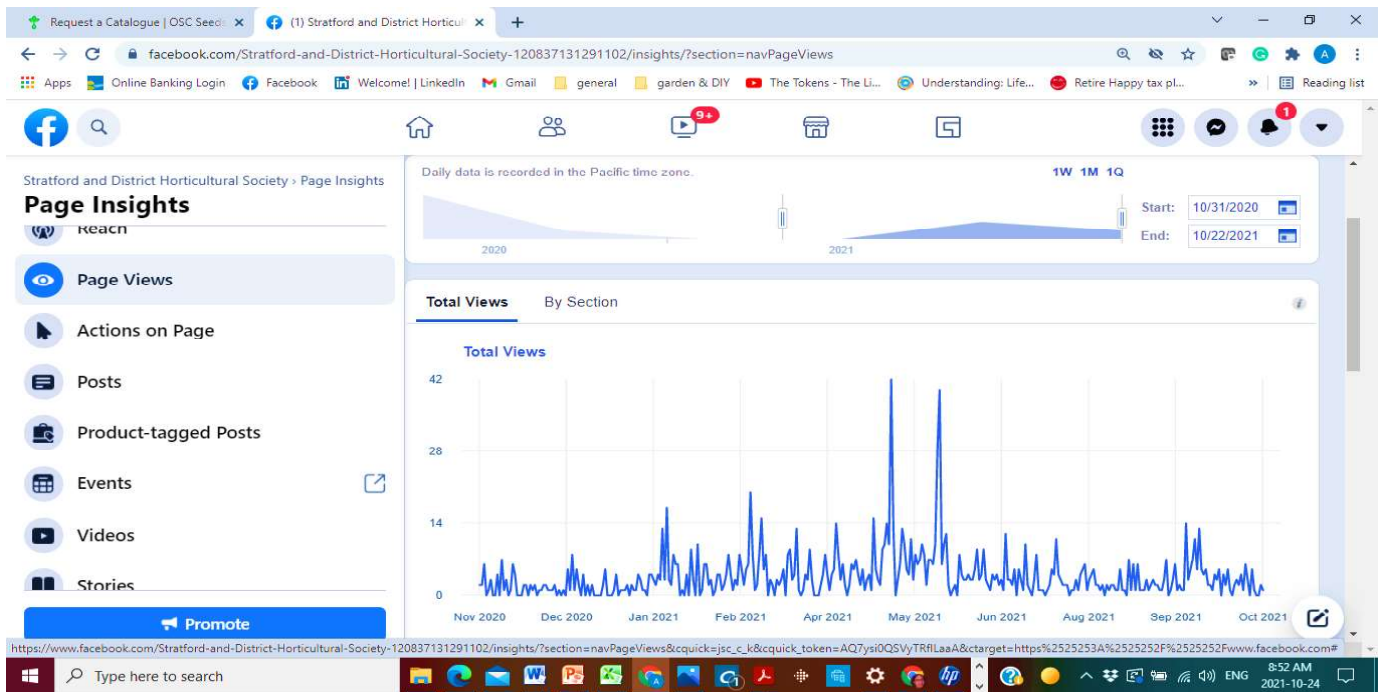
Social Media - Members Only - SDHS Garden Stratford Plant Exchange

This Facebook group started in 2020 and now has more than 50 members. It allows members to share and exchange plants and plant related ideas. Photos of plants and gardens are also welcome. So far, a variety of plants have found new homes through members exchanging them.

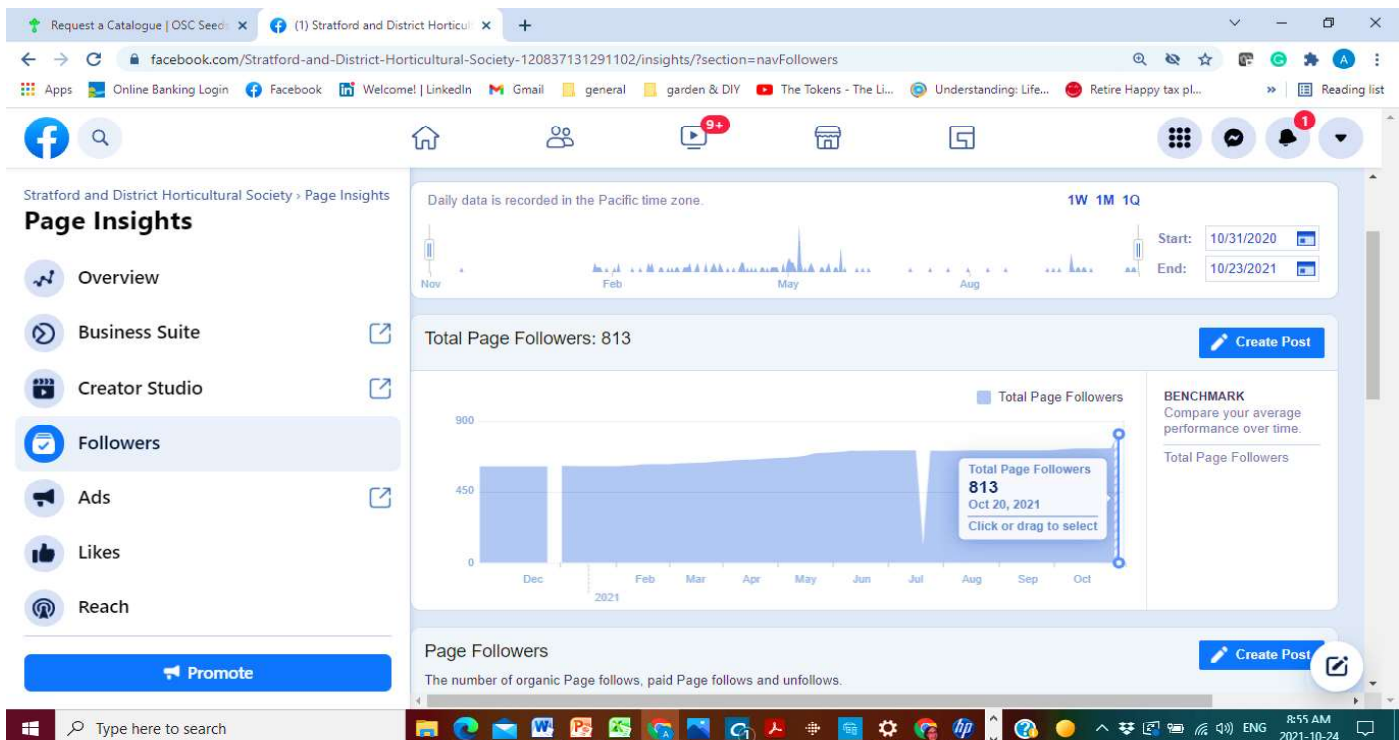
-Dorothy, facilitator of Members only group

Social Media - Public - SDHS's open Facebook page

We did not have as much traffic on our Facebook page this past year however there was a reasonable amount of activity. The majority of the page views happen in February to March for our free seed giveaway, then next during our Plant Sale event "Give Get Grow" in May and the next most active posting was during the Libraries Garden Culture days and the plant sale by donation held this past September.



Our page now has just over 800 followers compared to close to 600 followers in 2020. The majority of our new followers joined during the plant sale's "Give Get Grow" event.



Nominating Committee Annual Report

Karen Van Baren and Doug Reberg were Garden Stratford's 2021 Nominating Committee.

Marty Clarkson, Doug Reberg and Owen Switzer will retire as Board Members at the end of 2021. Lorrie McFadden will join The Board.

Our search continues for at least two new board members. The office of Recording Secretary is currently vacant. The Board extends its thanks to Jinny Macdonald who came out of retirement to serve as Recording Secretary *pro term* in later Board meetings of 2021.

- Respectfully submitted by Karen Van Baren & Doug Reberg

Board Membership:

Our thanks to Marty Clarkson, Doug Reberg, and Owen Switzer for their time volunteering with the board.

Our warmest welcome to Lorrie McFadden.

Continuing as Board members in 2021 are Karen Van Baren (Treasurer), Dorothy Van Esbroeck (corresponding secretary), Susan Kurtz, Sheila Phillips, Maureen Cocksedge, Barry Krauter, Alice Mainland, & Julia Hardy.

