



the gardener
Winter 2013

135 Years!

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

Co-Presidents' Message

And another year begins. A pleasant one for me, sharing the role of president with Henry, whose enthusiasm for gardening and for Stratford is endless!

135 years ago, the Stratford Horticultural Society was formed. We have so many plans for the future, and we anticipate dozens more anniversaries to celebrate. Still, we do want to acknowledge our history and the significant role we have always played in Stratford. So, from time to time this year, we'll applaud our Society – with due modesty, it is well earned!

A huge thanks is due to retiring Board members Dorell Brightwell, Vivien Harding, and also retiring Treasurer Heather MacDonald who will continue on the Board as a director. You will see two familiar faces on the executive: Glen Querengesser and Bernice Barratt. After an interval, they have once again joined the Board as Treasurer and 1st Vice President.

Darlene Irwin, Co-president.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all the very best for 2013. As the year begins, I look forward to my first Co-Presidency with some excitement and anticipation. I know it will be a pleasure working and learning the ropes with Darlene. Already we have discussed numerous ideas to make your year a more pleasurable experience and hopefully, one in which you will enjoy getting involved.

2013 will be a big year for Louise Spandler's Civic Beautification Committee as we complete plans for major renovations to the Churchill Circle gardens (opportunities for helping with plant material and/or work parties). We are exploring the possibility for one or two workshop meetings as well as car pool or bus day trips to name just a few. To top it off, our Board welcomed two new members, both already making their marks with their skills and enthusiasm.

Yes, I feel confident it's going to be a very good year for all of us.

Best Regards, *Henry McVey* **Co-president.**

Garden Festival Committee Report

Are you getting sick and tired of all this cold weather we are having? Can you hardly wait to see all the spring flowers blooming? Well, you don't have to wait much longer!! You will soon be able to walk through beautifully landscaped gardens at the Lung Association's **Stratford Garden Festival** Feb. 28- March 3, 2013. Once again this event is being held at the Stratford Rotary Complex and will feature professionally landscaped gardens, unique vendors and an amazing speaker series.

We are once again honoured to have been chosen to have a display garden in this year's festival. The theme of the festival is "Reflections". In our display garden we will be displaying antique gardening tools depicting gardening practices from yesteryear. We will reflect on the past **135 years** of the Hort Society by displaying various photos of past activities over the years.

If this sounds exciting to you, why not consider volunteering at our garden. We are in need of people to stand at our garden and hand out pamphlets to spread the word about what our society does in the community for 2 hour shifts Thurs-Sun. As an added bonus you will receive free admission into the festival.

Please contact Mary Hoffman at (519) 271-2246 if this would interest you.

*Ryan Bedford &
Mary Hoffman*

**Co-Chairs,
Garden Festival Committee.**



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.



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.

Winter Warmth: Damascene Lentil Soup

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 cup green or brown lentils | 1/4 cup olive oil, don't skimp |
| 7 cups of water | 1 large onion, chopped |
| 2 tsp. salt | 1/2 cup minced cilantro or parsley |
| 1 tsp. each: black pepper, cumin | 4 cloves garlic, minced or pressed |
| 1/8 tsp cayenne | 2 cups of bread cubes |
| 3 tbsp lemon juice | vegetable oil |



Rinse lentils and place in 3 litre saucepan with the water on medium high heat. Bring to the boil then reduce heat to simmer, cover and cook 'til soft, 40 min. Add salt, pepper, cumin & cayenne. Stir in the lemon juice. Set aside covered. Heat the olive oil in a skillet on medium. Lower the heat and add the onion. Fry 10 minutes or until the onion is light brown. Stir the onions into the lentils.

In the same skillet, add vegetable oil, 1/4" deep and fry the bread cubes 'til golden. Reserve the cubes in a serving dish.

In a small serving dish, mix the cilantro (or parsley if you prefer) with the garlic. Reheat & serve the lentil soup in wide bowls. Each diner adds bread cubes and cilantro mix to taste.

Editor's note: I add more salt and chilli flakes at table. I also toast the cumin until fragrant. It tastes less "green".

Exhibit & Floral Design



Underwater Design, Ann Diebel, 2008

Good News for Floral Designers!

Ann Diebel, who demonstrated beautiful Christmas-themed designs at our October meeting, is going to teach a five-week Intermediate Design Course this spring! If you have taken the Basic Design Course, you might be itching to learn something new; this course will give you the opportunity to create more beautiful designs in a variety of styles under Ann's tutelage.

The course will be held the evenings of April 9, 15, 23, 30 and May 7. The maximum class size is 20.

To register, and for more information, get in touch with,

Bernice Barratt [REDACTED]
Chair, Exhibit & Floral Design

Floral Design Supplies

OASIS Uglu™ adhesive dashes are for sale in strips of 60 for \$3. They are stored in the Craft Group cupboards at the Kiwanis Centre, so stop by on a Wednesday afternoon to make a purchase. They are very easy to use and they're effective, so you'll use them often.

Things to do

When you can't bear another gray day, a visit to a greenhouse will always lift your wintry spirits. A little out of the ordinary is Belgian Nursery. Their Cactus Festival in February is interesting and exotic, and there will be sales!

<http://www.belgian-nursery.com/cactus.htm>

Coming Events

International Home & Garden Show

Feb 21st -24th ,2013 at the International Centre,

Hall #3, 6900 Airport Road, Mississauga. Free Parking!

CACTUS FESTIVAL Jan. 24 to Feb. 24 Lots of CACTUS SALES

- SALE CACTUS OR SUCCULENTS **\$2.49** (Reg. 3.49)
- SALE CACTUS OR HAWORTHIA **\$4.99** (Reg. 5.99)
- SALE ALOE VERA **\$2.79** (Reg. 4.99)
- SALE MONEY TREE **\$24.99** (Reg. 39.99)
- SALE CACTUS GARDENS **\$14.99** (Reg. 16.99)
- SALE EUPHORBIA SPIRAL **\$4.99** (Reg. 12.99)
- SALE EUPHORBIA Lactea Compacta **\$8.88** (Reg. 12.99)
- SALE PRIMULA **2nd 4 for 10⁰⁰** (10 or more 2.00 each)
- HOUSE PLANTS • BONSAI • ORCHIDS • 1000'S of Pots IN THE POT SHOP **\$28.99** (Reg. 39.99)
- REPTILES LIZARDS and snakes **Feb. 9th & 10th 11am to 4 pm**
- GARDEN SEEDS • POTTING SOIL

Belgian NURSERY LTD.
2615 Victoria St. N. Breslau (On Hwy. 7 between Kitchener & Guelph)
www.belgian-nursery.com 519-648-2608

HOURS: OPEN MON TO SAT 8-5 SUN 10-5



Don't miss an outstanding display as avid gardeners from across the province compete in Canada's Largest Floral Design & Plant Competition!! Check the links below.

<http://www.internationalhomeandgardenshow.ca/garden/ontario-horticultural-associations-floral-design-plant-competition/>

And it includes the *Successful Gardening Show*.

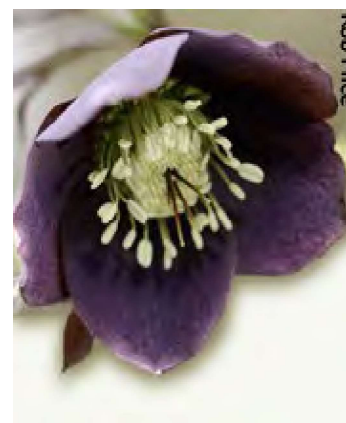
<http://www.internationalhomeandgardenshow.ca/garden/successful-gardening-show-highlights/>



17th Annual Canada Blooms March 15-24, 2013

Glorious gardens in full bloom
Toronto Flower Show Design, Horticultural & Floral Competition
Seminars and Demonstrations
Workshops...and much, much more.

<http://www.canadablooms.com/index.html>



Stratford & District Horticultural Society Board of Directors 2013

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Executive | | |
| Co-President | Darlene Irwin |  |
| Co-President | Henry McVey | |
| Past President | Penny Keegan | |
| 1 st Vice-President | Bernice Barratt | |
| Secretary | Jinny Macdonald | |
| Treasurer | Glen Querengesser | |
| | | |
| Board Members | | |
| | Ryan Bedford | |
| | Maureen Cocksedge | |
| | Margery Leggott | |
| | Heather MacDonald | |
| | Michael Matthews | |
| | Shelly Meyers | |
| | Dennis Rawe | |
| | Louise Spandler | |
| | Larke Turnbull | |

-----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