



## the gardener Winter 2014

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

### **THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF OZ**

This year is the 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our memorable trip to Australia. We arrived in the beautiful city of Sydney as January drew to a close. Surprises awaited us, the flower beds in the parks were empty. The botanical gardens were the same, lots of greenery and awesome ferns but no flowers except in the greenhouses. The water we take for granted is a serious problem in the Aussie summer. A day trip to the Blue Mountains was such a discovery. The blue haze is caused by tens of thousands of Gum trees that exude a moisture haze. There are more than seventy varieties of Gum trees but only three are the staple diet of the Koala bears. On our 1100 km drive south to Melbourne we saw many stands of Gum trees that were charcoal burned all the way up the trunk, but lo and behold they were alive with leaves on their branches. Would you believe these Gum trees rely on fire to split open the seed nuts to propagate? So many things are stranger than fiction in OZ.



*Rosella on my hand*



The birds are nothing short of absolutely magnificent. We saw flocks of Cockatoos, gorgeous Rosella parakeets that looked like they were hand painted with blues, greens & reds & Major Mitchell parrots in soft grey and pink. In a rain forest in Victoria we were graced with Rosellas joining our picnic lunch landing on our hands to accept a snack & I saw a brilliant tiny Blue Fairy wren that took my breath away.

Hope you enjoy these reflections,

*Henry McVey*  
**Co-president.**

# W I N T E R

The very word conjures up many images, emotions and memories. I'd like to encourage each of you reading this to reflect back to the joys of childhood winters! Perhaps you recall skating for miles on a frozen river or an afternoon hockey game on "The Pond". Have you ever gone snowshoeing or cross country skiing through a silent forest? Maybe the thrill of downhill skiing or tobogganing was your preference. Did you ever go on a sleigh ride over farm fields under a brilliant full moon, while listening to bells ringing on the horses' harness and the swish of sleigh runners over squeaking snow?



We Canadians tend to romanticize winter. Let's face it; it's a coping mechanism!

Winters are also a time to relax, after clearing the driveway ... again! As a gardener don't you just love sitting in a comfy chair with a hot cup of tea, or whatever, and the latest seed catalogue? The best, the most beautiful, the most perfect: weed free, insect pest free, squirrel and rabbit free gardens are right there, while sitting in

that comfy chair! An imagination is a wonderful thing! Planning ahead for the next growing season makes long winters pass quickly. Seed catalogues are one fuel for those fired up dreams. Books, magazines and garden talks are other encouragements we can enjoy while we wait.

So, bundle up and take in the Stratford Garden Festival, talk to other gardeners, buy some seeds or flowers and dream on! The winter of 2014 will be remembered for days of brutal cold but also for brilliant sunshine. How many of you have stood at the window, bathed in sunshine, and marveled at the scintillating beauty of frozen glitter dancing on the other side of the glass?

"Seed-time and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night" all of life is a balance and the one opposite follows the other. Strive to live in the moments you are given, and remember that spring will come again ... it always does!

*Bernice Barratt*  
**Co-president**

## ***Exhibit & Floral Design Committee***

Last November, the Exhibit and Floral Design committee hosted a table centrepiece design workshop held on the Saturday before our AGM. There were 16 attendees and all went home with a lovely floral arrangement. Several designers volunteered their creations to be used as decorations for the annual dinner meeting and extras were donated as door prizes. A fun time was had by all! I do want to take this opportunity to thank Nancy Lupton and Linda Murray, publicly, for their helpful suggestions and assistance at this event; it was much appreciated.

*Bernice Barratt* XXXXXXXXXX  
**Chair, Exhibit & Floral Design**

## Green Week



Green Week was initiated to inform people not only of what is being done to reduce or eliminate those things and actions that are harmful to nature but also those that are beneficial. The result is an environment that can be enjoyed by us and future generations. As you can see our Horticultural Society shares these values. Even our motto "*To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow*" echoes these ideals. Our participation is an opportunity for us to show the public that we can express these values in beautiful and creative ways, and have fun doing it.

With this in mind, we will have a table set up in the Festival Mall from opening Monday April 21, 2014 to closing on Saturday April 26, 2014. We are planning to have items of a horticultural nature that are made from recycled or re-used material. We will have colouring sheets to give out to the children and we are looking into having flower seed packets to hand out also. We may have some sort of demonstration going on in the busiest evenings depending on volunteers. We are also going to enter the Garbage Can Decorating competition. We will create a garden design and paint it on a 45 gallon garbage can which will then be placed at an appropriate location in the city. If you have any questions, comments or ideas please contact me. If you would like to volunteer a couple of hours or have a theme-appropriate item for display call me or send me an e-mail at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].

This will be fun! *Mike Matthews.*

## Essential Oils ( From the Internet )

An essential oil is a concentrated hydrophobic liquid containing volatile aroma compounds from plants. Essential oils are also known as volatile oils, ethereal oils, aetherolea, or simply as the "oil of" the plant from which they were extracted, such as oil of clove. An oil is "essential" in the sense that it carries a distinctive scent, or essence, of the plant. Essential oils do not form a distinctive category for any medical, pharmacological, or culinary purpose. They are not essential for health. Essential oils are generally extracted by distillation, often by using steam. Other processes include expression or solvent extraction. They are used in perfumes, cosmetics, soaps and other products, for flavouring food and drink, and for adding scents to incense and household cleaning products.



Essential oils have been used medicinally in history. Medical applications proposed by those who sell medicinal oils range from skin treatments to remedies for cancer and often are based solely on historical accounts of use of essential oils for these purposes. Claims for the efficacy of medical treatments, and treatment of cancers in particular, are now subject to regulation in most countries.

As the use of essential oils has declined in evidence-based medicine, one must consult older textbooks for much information on their use.

Researched by *Dennis Rawe*

## ***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!

### **Dahlia Mystic Series**

Last Year was the first year that I have used this series of Dahlias in the flowerbed, with great success. The Mystic Series of dahlias come in a variety of colours including yellow ('Illusion'), pink ('Dreamer'), red ('Wonder') and orange ('Enchantment'). This dark leaved variety will get up to 3 feet tall and is covered in large single blooms that continue right up to fall. They require full sun and are somewhat drought tolerant once established; no staking is required. They will form tubers that you can store in the fall for the next season. You many have noticed them blooming in *Tir Na Nog* this past summer.



Keep an eye out for them at Battery Park across from the YMCA and downtown in front of Mercer Hall this summer.

### **Angelonia Archangel Raspberry**



Are you looking for a great plant that is drought tolerant and blooms non-stop all summer? Then why not try Angelonia. We started using this plant a few years ago in place of salvia. Angelonia comes in many different colours from blue to white to pink and blue/white bicolor. Flowers are produced on spikes giving it the look of a snapdragon. It prefers full sun and reaches a height of 12-18". New last year was 'Archangel Raspberry' which has beautiful dark pink flowers that will be sure to impress. You can see this plant in various flowerbeds around the city this summer including on Downie St. across from Hudson's Department store.

### **Begonia Dragone Series**

The Dragone series of begonias are a 'Rieger' style of begonia that have been bred for use in outdoor applications. They have dainty frilly flowers that come in shades of pinks, reds and oranges which sit above the bright glossy green leaves. They get to a height and spread of about 12" and prefer part sun being sheltered from the hot afternoon sun. It prefers a moist soil. This will be our first year using this plant. Look for it blooming this summer at Battery Park across from the YMCA and in various downtown sidewalk beds.



*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](http://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.*



## ***Fryfogel Arboretum Update...2014***

The Stratford Perth Heritage Foundation's environmental project at Shakespeare is now in its 4th year. We have planted well over 350 trees and shrubs all of which are indigenous to South Western Ontario. This year we are undertaking a new and crucial installation of "POLLINATOR PLANTS". They will be planted as "plugs"... live plants .... which fare better than seeds. In North America our obsession for manicured properties has almost eliminated so many necessary plants which all insects must have to thrive, not to mention our economic need for the pollinating of many of our crops !



*The Fryfogel Tavern*

We will continue to improve the aesthetic look of the park-like setting of the area surrounding the historic Tavern so that we continue to attract our community members as well as the passing public. We now have three flag poles giving the property a new presence we have never had, and, for the first time we had a lighted Christmas display, created by your and our Ryan Bedford.

*Reg White, Past President & Life Member S&DHS*

## Coming Events



### Bus Trip

Hi everyone! We will be having another bus trip in late June early July this year. It will be a fun filled day with lots of plants, trees, architecture, and much more. Details to follow.

Thanks, Nancy Lupton.

### International Home & Garden Show



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

And it includes the *Successful Gardening Show*.

**March 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014,**

Metro Toronto Convention Centre  
North Building, 255 Front St. W. Toronto

Check the links below.

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

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

### From Mike Matthews:

A fascinating, short (22 minutes) video from Allan Savory on his lifetime's observation of grasslands climate change and the solutions he has discovered. Follow the link below.

[http://www.ted.com/talks/allan\\_savory\\_how\\_to\\_green\\_the\\_world\\_s\\_deserts\\_and\\_reverse\\_climate\\_change.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/allan_savory_how_to_green_the_world_s_deserts_and_reverse_climate_change.html)

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

Direct Energy Centre,  
Exhibition Place  
100 Princes' Blvd.  
Toronto, ON M6K 3C3  
416-263-3000

<http://canadablooms.com/>



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***Beguiling Bergenia*** by Todd Boland

Please enjoy this article at *Dave's Garden* website. The author, as you'll read, gardens in a challenging part of our world. The website and their weekly on-line newsletter are always a delight, even if we all don't live in Zone 10. Editor



<http://davesgarden.com/guides/articles/view/2742/>

About Todd  
Boland



I reside in St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada. I work as a research horticulturist at the Memorial University of Newfoundland Botanical Garden. I am one of the founding members of the Newfoundland Wildflower Society and the current chair of the Newfoundland Rock Garden Society. My garden is quite small but I pack it tight! Outdoors I grow mostly alpines, bulbs and ericaceous shrubs. Indoors, my passion is orchids. When not in the garden, I'm out bird watching, a hobby that has gotten me to some lovely parts of the world.

# Stratford & District Horticultural Society Board of Directors 2014

New Board Member, **Marg O'Reilly** introduces herself. Welcome her, please.

My husband, Dave and I have lived in Stratford for 43 years. We are fortunate to have eight children (adults now) and seven grandchildren who keep us well entertained.

I am thrilled to be a part of the Board of The Stratford and District Horticultural Society. My interest in gardening began as a child when we helped my parents plant and tend a large vegetable garden. The magic of planting those little seeds and watching them grow into large edible plants and tasting the wonderful fresh produce less than one hour out of the earth had me hooked.

We didn't have as much time for gardening as I would have liked for many years while raising our family and both working (Dave in sales and myself in nursing). I still consider myself a "gardener in training" and love to spend time with other gardeners. They have so much knowledge to impart and for the most part are a patient lot.

I am happy to be a part of this organization which brings so much beauty to our city and will do my best to enhance this work.

A Persian Proverb

*"If you have two loaves of bread, sell one and buy hyacinth for the soul."*

<b>Executive</b>		
Co-President	Henry M'Vey	██████████
Co-President	Bernice Barratt	██████████
Past President	Darlene Irwin	██████████
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President	Position Vacant	
Secretary	Jinny Macdonald	██████████
Treasurer	Glen Querengesser	██████████
<b>Board Members</b>		
	Elizabeth Ainslie	██████████
	Ryan Bedford	
	Penny Keegan	
	Michael Matthews	
	Shelly Meyers	
	Marg O'Reilly	
	Dennis Rawe	
	Louise Spandler	
	Larke Turnbull	

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

<b>2014 Membership Renewal</b> and/or Request to E-mail "the gardener"	
<small>I hereby give my permission for the Stratford &amp; 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.</small>	
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