

the gardener

ABOUT US - FOR US - BY US

FEB 2019

P.O. BOX 21032, Stratford, ON, N5A7V4

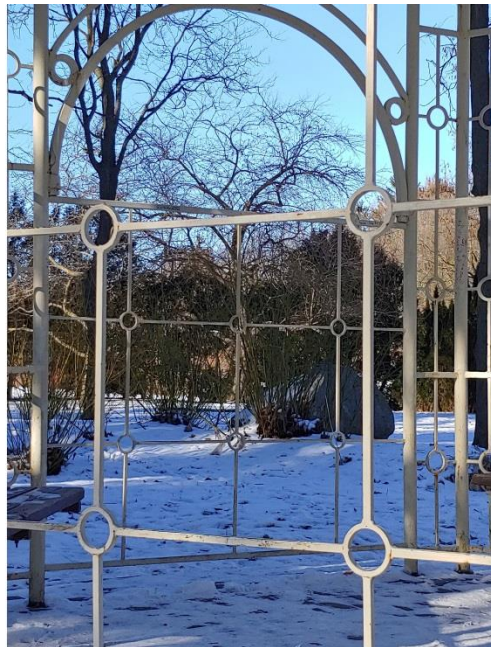
<http://gardenstratford.org/>



“To plant a garden, is to believe in a better tomorrow.”

Don't Forget to Purchase your 2019 membership!

PRICE: 15\$ → See next page for discount & purchase details.



Our Society: What is New & Coming up?

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2019 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER



In the near future we'll be looking forward to spring and buying lots of gardening things but ... you must remember to take along your 2019 Membership card.

It's time to renew your **memberships** if you haven't already. Yearly memberships remain a bargain at the **price of \$15.00** and can be **purchased at all General Meetings at the Festival Inn, Flowers On York, 25-27 York St. and Stratford Blooms, 59 Albert St.**

Current memberships continue to give discounts at 9 of our previous local merchants and recently, we have the pleasure of announcing a new merchant who will also give 10% discount – **INDOOR FARMER**, specializing in Hydroponics Equipment, located at 485 Romeo St. S., tel: (519)(273-0400 for more info.)

Memberships are a great gift for family, friends and neighbors!!!

For some reason the past few years are membership enrolment is dropping. Your membership fee helps provide for maintaining many City gardens, meeting space rental, speakers and more. The Society needs 200+ yearly memberships to qualify for a substantial grant provided by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture.

Finally, I would like you to consider volunteering to assist us in selling memberships at general meetings and various other Society activities. It is a great way to get to know the members and get involved!

AGAIN THANK YOU FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT!

Contact: sdhs1878@outlook.com



UPCOMING: MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS, & EVENTS

FEB 25TH @ Festival Inn : 1144 Ontario St., Stratford, ON N4Z 1A5

6:30 Garden chat : Seed Starting

7:30 General meeting & Speaker : Prof. Amy Turnbull Fanshawe College “**Get the Latest Dirt on Soil**”

FEB 28TH- MAR 3RD @ Stratford Rotary Complex (<https://lungontario.ca/stratford-garden-festival>)

GARDEN FESTIVAL - 353 McCarthy Rd, Stratford, ON N5A 7S7

THURS Feb 28th- 12-5pm <> FRI Mar 1st : 10am-5pm <> SAT: Mar 2nd: 10am-5pm <> SUN: Mar 3rd 11am-5pm

MAR 25th @ The Local CFC: 612 Erie Street., Stratford, N5A2P1

8am-1pm **Members Grow Plants**

-Perennials, annuals, herbs & vegetables, native & pollinator plants, get free advice from expert gardeners
contact: sdhs1878@outlook.com to join in/help out

MAR 25th @ Festival Inn

6:30 Garden chat : Propagation/Cuttings

7:30 General meeting & Speaker : Cheryl Losch “**Gardening in Small Spaces, Balconies and Containers**”

Stratford Public Library – Stratford and area Master Gardeners 6:30-8:30pm

WEDNESDAYS : 19 St Andrew St, Stratford, ON N5A 1A2

MAR 27th - 6:30-8:30pm **GARDEN BASICS**

APR 3rd - 6:30-8:30pm **Vegetable Gardening**

APR 10th -6:30-8:30pm **Pollinators & Native Plants**

APR 17th -6:30-8:30pm **Container Gardening**

<https://stratfordmastergardeners.ca/upcoming-events/>

can also email samastergardeners@gmail.com for Questions.

APR 29th @ Festival Inn ~ VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION ~

6:30 Garden chat : Container Gardening

7:30 General meeting & Speaker : Jacqui Empson Laporte “**Gardening for Nature- OMAFRA**”

MAY 25th @ The Local CFC

8am-1pm **PLANT SALE** -Perennials, annuals, herbs & vegetables, native & pollinator plants, get free advice from expert gardeners – **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** – contact sdhs1878@outlook.com

MAY 27th @ Festival Inn

6:30 Garden chat : Milkweed and Monarchs

7:30 General meeting & Speaker : Tina Dorrans “**Garden Photography**”



UPCOMING: VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Feb 28-March 3rd Garden Festival

Get into festival for FREE, 2 hour standing shift. To do: Talk about the Society and our Booth to visitors. Hand out bookmarks for Society upcoming events. Give out membership brochures to local visitors who show an interest in joining the Society.

May Plant Sale (prior)

Needs volunteers for a planning committee to make plant markers, put up posters and street signs throughout town, advertise on the internet and pot plants **PRIOR** to May 25th.

May 24th Plant Sale (prior)

Needing volunteers in afternoon & evening to setup tables, set out plants and pricing.

May 25th PLANT SALE 7:30am- 11 & 11-2:30pm

Volunteers needed for setup, sorting & selling plants, give plant purchase advise and assist with check-out, parking, & take down.



If you are available to help out, please contact sdhs1878@outlook.com to arrange your shift for events. Volunteer opportunities pop up year-round. April there will be Public Gardens Clean up. Throughout the summer **emails** or calls often go out asking for help with tending to our public gardens or for specific events. Positions are also typically brought up at the monthly general meetings.

Did you know?

There are several special interest groups in the SDHS.

The “**Seedy Sowers**” exchange seedlings every spring

The “**Plant Rescue**” group digs mature gardens (on request), using the plant material for the plant sale or public gardens. In autumn, this group holds workshops to collect seeds and cuttings from public gardens. The seeds are given to the Local or the public library “Seed Library”.

The **Iris group** meets weekly at the Iris Bed. See Marg or Sheila

The **Public Gardens** groups tend community gardens - see Mike Matthews

The “**informal**” **garden tour group** arranges carpooling to visit gardens in the area.

To be added to the email list for any group, fill out an “interest form”, email sdhd1878@outlook.com

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT!

FEBRUARY 4th

6:30PM: Garden Chat (hosted by Master Gardeners). Invasive Plants.

Many listed plants such as: burning bush, gout weed, periwinkle, yellow flag iris, Russian olive, Himalayan balsam, Japanese honeysuckle, phragmites, Norway maple, Giant Hogweed, wild parsnip, common buckthorn, Japanese knotweed, Dogs strangle vine and certainly a few more I missed.

What to do when finding an invasive species in your yard?

Research the best way to avoid spreading, removing & dealing with the plant. NEVER throw it in the compost.

What do you do if you find someone is selling an invasive plant?

You can let them know they are selling one and simply not buy it!

You can find more information @ <https://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/> & <https://www.stratfordcanada.ca/en/livehere/fs-invasiveplants.asp>

7:30PM: Speaker: Don Farwell. Gardening For The Birds.

What did we learn?

It started with garden layout. To attract birds to your yard comes from building them a good habitat. This would consist of layers: plants, trees, and grasses for birds to hide or perch in. If you want to attract a particular type of bird try to provide their favourite type of food. Plant vegetables and flowers that are around spring to fall to attract insects. In the winter birds will use plant materials for nests or food. Feeders & water fountains are also great attractors. Use native plants as much as possible! For example: Birds do not know how to build a nest in Norway spruce trees.

Tips:

- Keep bird feeders and houses at least 7m from windows (or glass panes) OR, for the bonus of watching, put them close to your window. You can put them up from mid-March-May so birds can establish their home.
- If glass & bird injuries are a concern or issue for you there are window dot products out there that are virtually invisible to humans but seen by birds.
- Cut trees down in the winter to not destroy nests.

Stratford's Seedy Sunday has passed, **February 17th**, and despite the ice on the ground there was a great turnout. A great family day weekend outing with a café, vendors & bee house building! Hopefully more about this in our next newsletter!



If you missed our event, London's seed sale is March 2nd and St. Mary's Seedy event is March 6th.



INTERVIEW WITH: Master Gardener Lorraine Kuepfer

1. What do you enjoy most about gardening?

Gardening is never static. Every day there is something new happening, something new to observe, something new to do. It provides hours of "free exercise" and brings pollinators and song birds closer to you. Gardening keeps you grounded, both physically and emotionally. Gardening lets you appreciate the natural world and expands your knowledge of how it works. Gardening reminds you that nothing lasts forever and helps you adapt to change. I love both the physical and creative aspects of gardening.

2. What is your favourite plant (local or exotic) and why? (Bush, flower, tree, etc)

So many plants to choose from, but if I could only grow one plant it would be hyssop. It is easy care, native to this ecoregion and the best bumblebee magnet. It smells divine and blooms from summer to frost. Its pollinator value is rated very high and it has a nice upright growth.



Photographed by Society Member Sheila Phillips

Horticultural Society's garden tour for even more inspiration. Take in learning sessions, watch webinars and search out mass media garden sites. Start small and learn by doing. If nothing else, plant a tree. Over the years your plant choices will change as your knowledge increases. Think of why you want to garden: for aesthetics, to attract pollinators, to grow your own food, to add privacy, etc. Best advice is to not get too attached to any plant as nature rules, no matter how much we think we can control it.

Questions: from Editor (for now)

Answers from : **Lorraine Kuepfer, Stratford Master Gardener, Bee City Stratford's volunteer ambassador, Bee City Canada's Board of Directors**

3. What is your most/least favourite insect and why?

My favourite insect is the bumblebee. I love the variety of bumblebees that appear in our yard, the fact that they have been in this area for millenia, having coevolved with native plants, their gentleness and the fact that they are superstar pollinators. They are fascinating creatures that aerodinamically should not be able to fly.

4. If you could add another Stratford garden, where would you put it?

The Churchill Circle flowerbeds are amazing and the ones I hear others speak about the most. Making gardens is fun and easy, but finding volunteers to maintain public gardens is not so easy, therefore I would not add more. On the other hand, residential front yard gardens should be encouraged to help sequester carbon much better than turf can in these days of climate change.

5. What advice would you give to someone who is starting to garden?

The advice I would give a new gardener is to walk around this fair city and see what appeals to you. Join the

SUBMIT YOUR Q'S FOR MASTER GARDENERS- THEY COULD BE INCLUDED IN THE NEXT INTERVIEW newslettersdhs@gmail.com

From the History Books:

PERSERVEREANCE

“Perseverance is the word that can epitomize the work of the Stratford and District horticultural Society during the years of their long history.

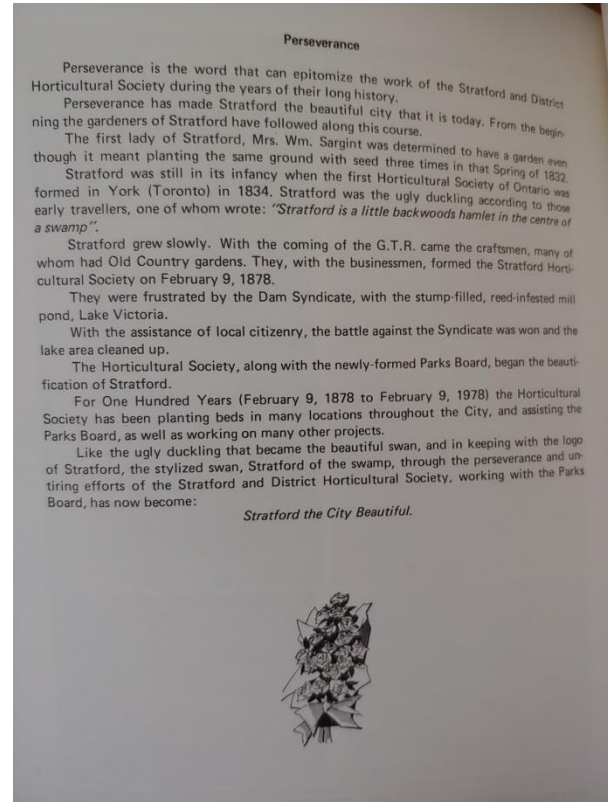
Perseverance has made Stratford the beautiful city that it is today. From the beginning the gardeners of Stratford have followed along this course.

The first lady of Stratford, Mrs. Wm . Sargint was determined to have a garden even though it meant planting the same ground with seed three times in that spring of 1832.

Stratford was still in its infancy when the first Horticultural Society of Ontario was form in York (Toronto) in 1834. Stratford was the ugly duckling according to those early travelers, one of whom wrote: **“Stratford is a little backwoods hamlet in the center of a swamp.”**

“Stratford grew slowly. [...] They were frustrated by the Dam Syndicate, with the stump-filled, reed-infested mill pond, Lake Victoria. With the assistance of local citizenry, the battle against the Syndicate was won and the lake area cleaned up. The Horticultural Society, along with the newly-formed Parks Board, began the beautification of Stratford. [...] Like the Ugly duckling that became the beautiful swan... through perseverance and untiring efforts of the Stratford and District Horticultural Society, working with the Parks Board, has now become:

Stratford the City Beautiful. “



History of Stratford and District Horticultural Society book



"Old Fashioned 'lawn mower'" From Dennis Rawe

← **“Old Fashioned Lawn Mower”**

This is sure a part of History but I am not sure this technology existed in Canada. Perhaps it inspired some of our agriculture anyway!

Submissions/Articles:

Your story reminds me of a veggie garden I had long ago on a friend's farm. I had read about using plastic mulch to prevent weeds, and since I was going to be away for several weeks I decided to cover rows with black plastic. I poked holes in the plastic, planted stuff (lots of tomatoes, as I recall), and weighted down the plastic mulch with some discarded tires which, for some reason, lined the garden area. Then I went away for about a month. The veggie plot looked great, and I left mystified about why people think gardens are so much work.

I returned to quite a sight. The mulch didn't prevent weeds. In fact, weeds flourished under the plastic mulch, and as they grew the mulch puffed up like tents. The tires I'd used to weight down the plastic were lifted up in the process, and they were all standing at rakish angles. My tomato plants were in there somewhere.

I remember my friend who owned the farm coming up behind me. "You know," he said, "I thought about doing something, but I decided it was really quite interesting and you should see it!"

No photo, unfortunately.

Lesson learned: There's a big difference between landscaping cloth and black plastic.

-In Conversation with Society member: Doug Reburg



To whichever God you may follow. Prayer submitted by member Dennis Rawe. Photograph taken by the editor.

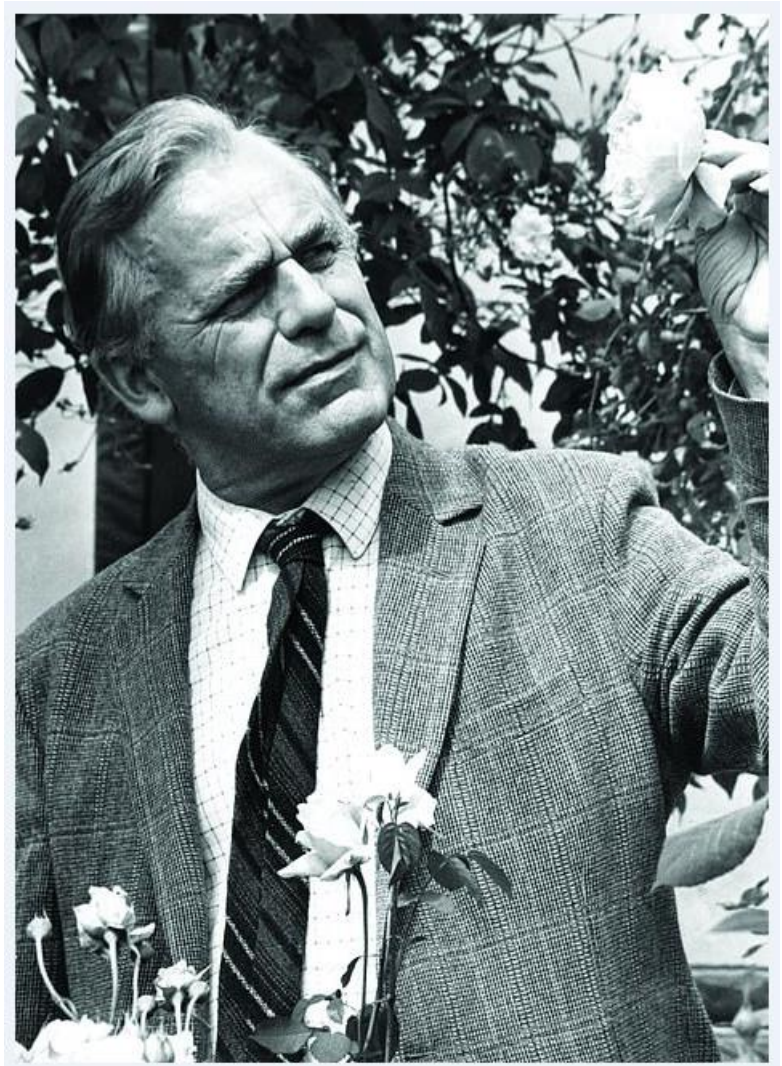
Also Submitted:

“Along the Garden Path ~ David Austin, Roseman
Godfather of the English Rose' David Austin who spent 75 years creating new breeds in his quest for the ultimate bloom died 12 December 2018 aged 92

- Farmer's son David Austin bred more than 230 roses after developing interest in them as a teenager
- Mr Austin was determined to create specimens with more colour diversity and the ability to repeat flower
- Won gold standard accolades at RHS Chelsea Flower Show, and an OBE for services to horticulture in 2007

A horticulturalist known as the 'Godfather of the English Rose' after he spent 75 years creating new breeds in his quest for the ultimate bloom has died aged 92. Farmer's son David Austin bred more than 230 roses during his extraordinary career after developing an interest in the flowers during his teenage years. Mr Austin was determined to create specimens with more colour diversity and the ability to repeat flower, which emerged as a collection called English Roses. [...]"

-Article and Photo submitted by Society Member Dennis Rawe.



The Poinsettia Christmas Display at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Stratford
(Photo: Doug Reberg)

“Poinsettias At Christmas (And Maybe Year-Round?)”

“...poinsettias have a reputation of being poisonous. Several cat and dog owners have told me they avoid buying them, concerned their pet might be poisoned by sampling a leaf.

Ms. Ang Janmat, Registered Veterinary Technician with Stratford's Coventry Hospital, described poinsettia's reputation for toxicity as greatly exaggerated. Yes, pets' contact with poinsettia sap can cause skin irritation and yes, nibbling can cause some gastric distress. Fortunately, [they] have a truly terrible taste,... so the likelihood of pet or person eating enough to cause serious problems seems pretty close to zero.”

-Selection from article posted in the Beacon Herald Dec 19th 2018, Written by Doug Reburg

RECIPES:



Chicken and Rice with Cumin and Cilantro



Prep
30 m

Cook
53 m

Ready In
1 h 23 m

Recipe By: Jacques Pepin

"Chicken with rice, or arroz con pollo, is a staple at our house. This dish is highly seasoned with cumin, ginger, garlic, and a great deal of cilantro. We like it best when it is made with chicken wings."

Ingredients

2 tablespoons olive oil	1 1/2 tablespoons ground cumin
20 chicken wings, tips removed and sections separated	2 1/2 cups water
2 1/2 cups coarsely chopped onions	2 cups chopped cilantro stems, divided
1/4 cup coarsely chopped garlic	1 (14 ounce) can diced tomatoes
1/4 cup chopped peeled ginger	1 tablespoon sriracha sauce
2 cups long-grain white rice	2 1/2 teaspoons salt

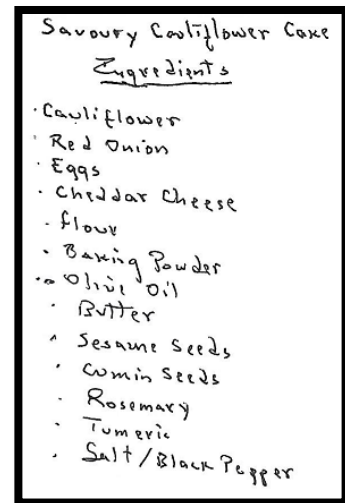
Directions

- 1 Heat olive oil in a pot large enough to hold chicken wings in a single layer. Add chicken wings; cook until browned, about 8 minutes. Turn wings with tongs; cook until second side is browned, about 8 minutes more. Transfer to a bowl using tongs.
- 2 Stir onions, garlic, and ginger into the drippings in the pot; cook until fragrant, 2 to 3 minutes. Stir in rice and cumin. Add water, 1 1/2 cup cilantro stems, tomatoes, sriracha sauce, and salt.
- 3 Return wings to the pot. Bring broth to a boil. Cover, reduce heat to low, and simmer until rice and wings are tender, about 30 minutes. Garnish with remaining 1/2 cup cilantro stems.

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Chicken and Rice Cumin and Cilantro:

<https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/257598/chicken-and-rice-with-cumin-and-cilantro/print/?recipeType=Recipe&servings=8&isMetric=false>



Darn Good Chocolate cake

Ingredients:

Pam for misting pan
Flour to dust pan
1pkg plain devil's food or dark chocolate fudge cake mix
1pkg chocolate instant pudding mix
1 cup sour cream
1/2 cup vegetable oil
1/2 cup water
4 eggs
1 & 1/2 cup chocolate chips

1. Preheat Oven to **350°C**, Lightly mist a 12c Bundt pan with pam. Dust with flower. Shake out excess flower and set pan aside.
2. Place cake mix, pudding mix, sour cream, water, oil and eggs in a large mixing bowl. Blend with an electric beat on **low speed for 1 minute**. Scrape down bowl. **Blend on medium for 2-3mins**. Batter should be thick and well combined. Fold in chocolate chips. Pour into prepared pan and place in oven.
3. Bake approximately **55-60mins** until cake springs back when lightly pressed and is just starting to pull from side of the pan. Remove and place on cooling rack for **20 mins**. Run sharp knife around edge of cake, invert on a rack for **20mins** to cool completely.
4. Prepare icing & prepare cake on serving place and pour warm icing on top. Let cake rest another **10mins** before slicing.

A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Growing up in “the country” meant my upbringing was very much surrounded by farm and agriculture, corn and cows, large trees and home gardens. My mother tended to a garden of flowers, fruits, herbs, vegetables, as well as adding a waterfall & pond to strengthen garden ecosystems. I enjoyed being able to watch tadpoles turn into frogs, eating fresh berries and taking photos of the flowers- and bugs, if I could. We once had a monarch butterfly migration land in our mature pine trees on the property and WOW... what a sight!

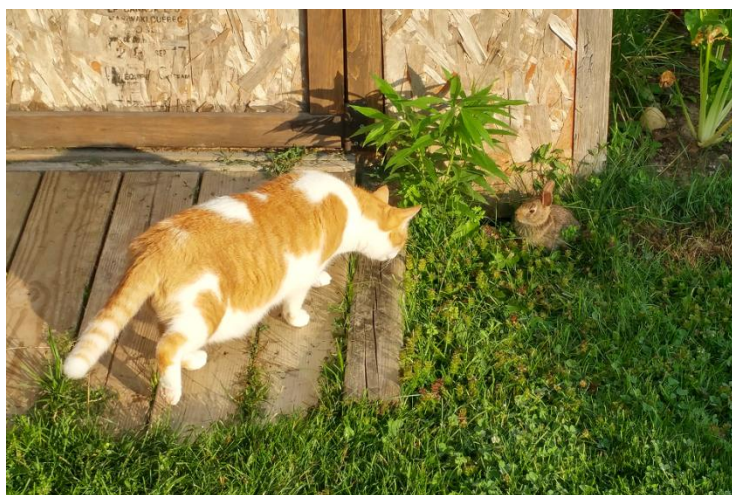
Similarly to those butterflies, I had to migrate. This meant moving to the city for my post-secondary schooling which also meant living in apartments and smaller, temporary spaces thereafter while dealing with new experiences. Walks on forest trails and dying house plants were my exposure to anything garden related at that time. This was a sacrifice of nature in my life.

I continue to learn and regrow my appreciation for what I would call the “Art of Nature”. The symmetry and science in something that can grow with or without human intervention, the way a morning glory catches the sun and even the symbiotic relationships that occur within a garden.

Nature is a real masterpiece.

Creating a garden is like constructing one’s own interactive work of art. One can incorporate colour, texture, depth, even- aroma, sound, and taste! It really is a delight to the senses. A masterpiece one can “grow” forward & continue to nourish with help from the society.

Cheers to the New Year and the continuation of cultivating our community!



← Ginger’s Garden Bunny Friend.

Hard to see and impossible to catch!

(Notes and photos non-credited are written or taken by the editor. I PREFER YOUR CONTENT: related to your garden, the society & events!)

P.O. BOX 21032, Stratford, ON, N5A7V4

<http://gardenstratford.org/>

Society email: sdhs1878@outlook.com

Newsletter email: newslettersdhs@gmail.com



INVITATION - 2019

There are many opportunities to get involved with your Society. Please check all your areas of interest.

Join the Board - 9 meetings a year, first Mondays

Public Gardening - which garden _____

Help at Events / Workshops

- Stratford Garden Festival -March
- Plant Sale - last Saturday in May
- Garden Tour -July 7

Help at Meetings

- Hospitality Welcoming Display boards
- Set up Sell Draw Tickets Swap Table
- Publicity - place notices online

Join an Interest Group

- Floral Design Interest Group - Design of the Month
- Plant Rescue / Seed Collection

Behind the Scenes - Join the team

- Membership Photography Archivist
- Program / Education / Workshop Planning
- Social media / Website administration
- Newsletter Posters Garden Design

Do you have **information or expertise to offer? Pls explain.**

What **workshops / trips** would you like to have?

What **topic** would you like at regular meetings or garden chats?

Can you **recommend any speakers?**

Please give contact details

Would you like to car pool to nearby horticultural events?

Yes / No

Suggestions:

Is there something you really want to know or information you want to share?

As members we have a wonderful opportunity each month to speak with Master Gardeners in person. Sometimes we have multiple things on the go- if you have an interview question for one of our members or master gardener send it to the newsletter and it may be included in an article.

If you attend an event please take photos and try to share your experience.

You may send me your; notes from meetings, ideas, photographs, garden stories-funny or not, lessons learnt, how you use your garden bounty, and your questions so that the Newsletter can provide the information & content that you want to see & read.

In keeping the previous editor, Michael's, mantra the newsletter is:

About US - For US - By US

THANK YOU!

newslettersdhs@gmail.com

Please hand this in at any meeting, give to any Board member or email to sdhs1878@outlook.com

Thank you for taking the time to help us learn more about member wants and needs.