

the gardener

ABOUT US - FOR US - BY US

MAY 2020

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

<http://gardenstratford.org/>



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



Provided by Ann Pedley

Pg 2... Message from the Board

Pg 3... Great Garden Giveaway

Pg 4... Events Summary

Pg 5... Local Garden Stores

Pg 6... Membership & Seed Success

Pg 7... Community Gardens

Pg 8... Spring Tonic

Pg 9... Garden Pages

Pg 10,11.. Native Plants & Resources

Pg 12,13... Pergola: Then VS Now

Pg 14,15... MG & Hummingbirds

Pg 16,17... Articles & Extras

Pg 18 ... Board Information/Contacts

Pg 19... Garden Bingo

A Message from the Board:

During these unprecedented times, the SDHS Board is working to help our gardening community. This is indeed a challenging time for all of us.

Meetings and Events (see more page 3)

We have cancelled Monthly General Meeting meetings until fall.

Our Garden Tour is cancelled. The Board has tried Zoom, an internet remote conferencing service, to hold Board meetings. Our websites and Facebook page continue as normal.

We will continue to keep our members informed via Facebook notices, email and phone calls as this virus condition impacts your 2020 Program.

Membership (see more page 6)

If you have not renewed your membership for 2020 (the PINK card) please send a check for \$15.00 to PO Box 21032 Stratford N5A7V4 with a stamped self addressed envelope. This gives you your discounts and also allows the Society to be eligible for OMAFRA's grant to keep us afloat. Membership also makes a lovely Mother's Day gift!

Gardens

Our members must fully comply with the government and health officials' recommendations and directives, which for now means all City gardens are closed. According to Quin Malotte, City of Stratford, it may not be possible to plant our Annual beds. We will honour our commitment to our suppliers....so there may be annuals available to members. We do not yet know about the perennial garden beds, but **are seeking members to join the iris bed group and the Queensland team.**

sdhs1878@outlook.com

****The Great Garden Give Away**** - (see MORE PAGE 4)

Given the success of our free seed delivery, the Plant Sale Committee is working hard to figure out a way to safely distribute the hundreds of perennials and seedlings we currently have available. Yes, the Board has approved the Plant sale be a "give-away" this year, as our gift to the community. Please do pot up your extra perennials as usual. This year, however, we encourage you to offer more vegetable seedlings - many people in our community will need to grow food as a necessity.

Fortunately, we are at a time in the year when the snow has left and the spring flowers are clearly popping up. Quarantine is softened by cleaning up your garden, planning what to plant and where. Talking with and writing to your gardening network helps to keep us connected. Keep well.

- ***Your SDHS Board***



Provided by Ann Pedley

GREAT GARDEN GIVEAWAY!!!

(formerly called the SDHS annual Plant Sale)

May 23 - May 24 2020

Various locations throughout Stratford

What is it?

The Garden Give away is a two-day opportunity to share plants throughout Stratford.

Members can safely distribute their extra perennials and seedlings during the give-away weekend.

It is our gift to the community!



How does it work?

Members who have plants available would place them at the end of the driveway. Those who want to get plants, will arrange to pick them up. Alternately, for those who cannot get around, we have a few volunteers who have offered to deliver.

Do you HAVE plants?

If you have plants, please fill in a **FORM** listing what you have between **May 1 and May 19.**

This Form will be emailed **May 1.**

If you need help to do this, please call 226 921 0885 and we will do it for you.

Do you WANT plants?

The complete list of available plants will be emailed to members on **May 20.** Choose what plants you want, then directly contact the member who has the plants to make arrangements for curbside pickup.

What about non-members?

Anyone can be given the list. Anyone can pick up plants.

Please encourage non-members, or those who want to make a donation, to join the Society for \$15.00. Email sdhs1878@outlook.com for SDHS addressed envelopes.

What support is provided to those who need supplies?

- **Signage** will be provided to all those who are offering plants.
- **Empty Pots** (1/2 and one gallon sizes) are available at 122 Devon St.
- **Plant Labels** – email sdhs1878@outlook.com

Questions? sdhs1878@outlook.com



EVENTS SUMMARY:

CANCELLED ::: Monday, April 27th :: Garden Chat & Speaker

CANCELLED ::: Saturday, May 23rd :: Plant Sale

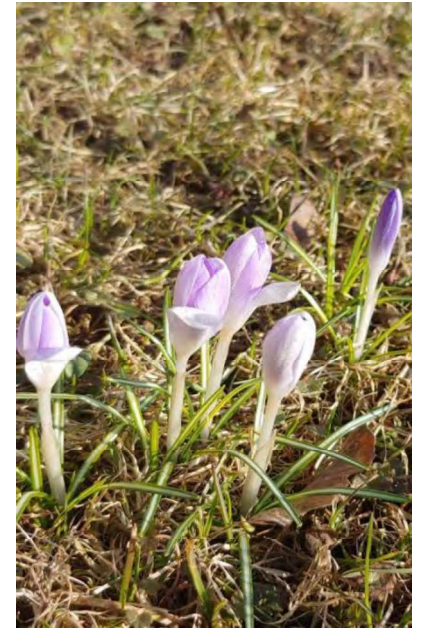
**CANCELLED ::: Saturday June 6th :: St. Mary's Horticultural Society
23rd Annual Garden Fair**

CANCELLED ::: Monday, May 25th :: Garden Chat & Speaker

CANCELLED ::: Sunday, July 5th :: Stratford Garden Tour

Due to the uncertainty surrounding public gatherings and events the 2020 Garden Tour, scheduled for July 5, is cancelled for this year. At this time, all of the property owners who planned to participate in this year's tour have agreed to be on the 2021 Garden Tour. Many thanks to the volunteers and garden tour committee members for their efforts and we hope for a very successful event next year. *– Garden Tour Committee*

CANCELLED ::: October 17th :: Master Gardener Workshop



POSTPONED ::: TO JULY 2021 :: 2020 OHA CONVENTION

HOSTED BY DISTRICT 10 @The Lamplighter Inn & Conference Centre, 591 Wellington Rd. South, London, ON



^ HOLD THE DATE ^

“Although we are heartbroken over the decision, the health and safety of our members, sponsors, vendors, speakers, and volunteers are our top priority. With many health-related concerns, the financial uncertainty many are facing, and the uncertainty of the longevity and other effects related to the global COVID-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak, we felt it was best to err on the side of caution and announce the cancellation of our 2020 Convention at this time. While we are disappointed with this decision, we believe this is the most responsible decision for the organization and our members.”

More info @ <https://gardenontario.org/convention/>

The OHA -- Who We Are - <https://gardenontario.org/about/>

The Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA) is a volunteer charitable organization that encourages interest in gardening and related environmental issues with horticultural societies and like-minded organizations by providing leadership and education. We inspire Ontarians to promote and share gardening.

Our goals will:

- Provide recognition, awards, and grants throughout Ontario.
- Develop and support programs for all ages encouraging gardening, community beautification, environmental enhancement, and conservation.
- Provide resources for horticultural societies.
- Encourage the development of new horticultural societies.

Local Garden Stores

ALL ARE CURBSIDE PICK UP OR DELIVERY

COZYN'S GARDEN CENTRE: Phone: 519) 393-6661

Email: cozynsgg@quadro.net + Facebook /Instagram - plant list /
<http://cozynsgardengallery.ca/>

KLOMP'S HOME & GARDEN: Phone: 519) 271-3090 / 519-272-0126

Email: mail@klomps.net + Facebook/Instagram - plant list /
<https://www.klomps.net/>

SEBRINGVILLE GARDEN CENTRE: Phone: 519) 393-6131

Email: sebringvillegc@quadro.net /online plant list:
<https://sebringvillegardencentre.square.site/>

INQUIRIES: Mary Hoffman / 519-271-2246 / email: Mary.Hoffman@cozyn.net



A note from Cozyn's provided by Ann Pedley

We are still busy growing in the greenhouses so that we are ready for all our avid gardeners!

Our e-commerce site is up and running at cozynsgardengallery.com and we are adding products daily for all your gardening needs! Once you place your order, we will process it and contact you when it is ready. Please bear in mind that due to the volume of orders and the reduced number of staff we are working with, this process could take a number of days.

When your order is ready, it will be placed on a cart with your name on it.

We will contact you that it is ready and it will be placed out front of the store.

When you arrive, look for your name, pull up to your cart and load your vehicle. Easy, contact-free pick up!

It is still too early for most flowers and vegetables, so please check back periodically until they are available to order from the online shopping site directly.

As in past years, we will still take orders for hanging baskets, tropical plants (ie. Mandevilla) and ferns to be tagged for purchase and pick up by the end of May. Please call the store at 519-393-6661 or email us at cozynsgg@quadro.net to place these orders.

We are NOT taking pre-orders for bedding plants and annuals to hold for later pick up. All plants have their own requirements for water and light. Grouping several different plants together in one area, would make it impossible to maintain plant quality. All plants will be available to purchase from our online store once they are ready and the weather is favourable.

Due to Covid-19, many of our nursery suppliers are behind on their deliveries. We are also having to make tough decisions as to how much product to bring in, and may not have the complete selection of items as we would normally carry. We will have nursery products and perennials later in April. Again, we will enter these items as quickly as possible and have the available product selection up on our e-commerce site for you to choose from.

Please be aware that these policies and procedures remain fluid in response to the changing circumstances of the virus, the volume of orders and our ability to develop new and streamlined processes.

Thank you for your support. Your understanding and patience are both greatly appreciated during these trying times. While Cozyn's Garden Gallery is well recognized business, it is staffed by a small group of dedicated people and we are doing the best we can!

Stay safe, stay healthy, stay calm; Cozyn's

2020 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER

DO YOU THINK IT IS DONE SNOWING YET?

The tulips are on their way regardless!

Please BE REMINDED to purchase your 2020 MEMBERSHIP.

Memberships can be purchased by mailing a cheque for \$15.00 made out to SDHS and also include a self-addressed stamped envelope to our P.O. Box 21032, N5A 7V4

Yearly memberships are a bargain at the

price of \$15.00!

Current memberships continue to give discounts @

Cozyn's Garden Gallery 10% reg. priced products

Flowers on York 10% reg. priced products

Indoor Farmer Hydroponics 10% reg. priced products

Klomp's Home & Garden 10% reg. priced products

Klomp's Landscaping/ Hot Tubs 15% bulk soil/mulch

Sebringville Garden Centre 10% reg. price plant material

Stratford Blooms, 59 Albert 10% loose flowers/greenery

County Brick Company 10% landscaping material

^ Discounts show on the back of membership card! ^

Reminder: Mention your membership card before purchase!

Membership fees help 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.

AGAIN, THANK YOU FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT!

For Memberships Contact: [REDACTED]

SEED GIVE AWAY SUCCESS!

Our seed giveaway was a great success.

The society was able to distribute free seeds to over 50 people! These seeds are no longer available as we move into our next phase of focus; that Great Garden Giveaway.

All of the left-over seeds will be donated to the Public Library when it reopens.



Tri-

**** Helpful Hint;** To tell whether a seed from previous years is OK - place seed (s) on a wet paper towel, it will sprout if OK. – Mary Hoffman

Community Gardens

There have been extensive adjustments for all this past month.

Changes happening around the clock, some good, some bad.

“Life as we know it” is not and will not be the same.

However, just as a garden grows, adapts, and changes, we shall too.

On March 30th the Canadian Government listed Community Gardens to be closed, deeming gardening a ‘recreational amenity’. While that may be purely true for some this is not the case for everyone. A petition circulated obtained over 7000 signatures and tens of thousands of emails and letters were written to the government in response.

SUCCESS!!!

“The province of Ontario has re-opened community gardens and declared them an "essential source of fresh food" for people, including those who are facing food insecurity, during the COVID-19 pandemic.”

info from Liny Lamberink- CBC News- Posted April 25th 2020

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/ontario-community-gardens-essential-1.5545115>

This is very NEW news so please check with your local community garden to see if they will be in operation and specific social distancing guidelines/applicable rules.

For a reference to Ontario’s ‘Community Garden Network’ website view here:

<https://sustainontario.com/initiatives/community-garden-network/>



KEEP CALM AND GARDEN ON

Planting and working with soil can be very ‘grounding’ and therapeutic.

A way for the mind to escape while enjoying the garden in all senses possible. A way to create your very own space.

It is also a way to provide for yourself. To be closer to self sufficiency can help deter stress. It simply feels good to not HAVE to rely on others.

To know they are there to help when needed is so amazing.

To be faced with emergencies with unpreparedness just results in an overstock of toilet paper.

“Lamb's Ear” may make a good, natural, replacer. Looks soft enough! Haha

“These are important days for community gardens” – Mark & Ben Cullen 4/16/20

<https://www.thestar.com/life/homes/2020/04/16/now-is-the-time-for-community-gardens.html>

Garden Pages

Arriving in Stratford seven years ago, I had high hopes for our piece of hard packed clay. Dreams can come true with sheer dogged determination and a lot of help from my friends. The help from the members of the SPHS has fuelled my passion for gardening. Meetings and workshops have given me a great source of local knowledge.

With the heavy lifting and hard landscaping finished, a garden emerged from one lonely Rose of Sharon, which has proudly taken centre stage since the 50's. After years of learning, truck loads of compost, and mistakes, the garden has taken on a life of its own and I am relaxing into it. Plants landed in the wrong places, were moved and babied, but through it all the beautiful Hosta plants generously gifted from friends and family, have taken me on an unexpected journey.

The Hosta is a hardy, bold sculptural species with versatility, from the first shoots unfurling in the spring to the last slimy frost-bitten leaves in the fall. They have taken me on a rare journey through each of our challenging seasons.

Spring comes on slowly, and my eyes search for the emergence of this season's fresh green shoots, pushing



through the cold spring soil. The complete retreat of the plant from the surface makes you think they never existed. Patience.

The fresh shoots in the spring are similar to asparagus but have a milder taste. I was a wee bit nervous to taste my first spiral sautéed shoots. Of course, eating all the shoots wouldn't afford me the leaves for my paper making. In mid summer I enjoy the lovely scented flowers which are a haven where birds and rabbits snooze. It is a restful time for sitting and sketching in the garden.

As a book artist and paper maker, I stumbled upon the fact that Hosta are good specimens with interesting texture and colour. It excites me to create something from my own garden which I can use in my bookbinding. To plant, to watch, and then create something that continues to live, treasured forever in the pages of a book, reminds me of Monet's garden, where he planted only what he wanted to paint.

The paper making season begins in the summer with a bubbling pot of green Hosta leaves on the BBQ. The paper is a lovely shade of sap green. The heat of summer, and the chill of autumn produce a less than appetizing aroma. The question of what's for supper has come up from time to time.

Waiting until after the first frost allows nature to do the retting for you (no cooking required). These leaves produce a soft yellow sheet of paper. By mid October the slippery fibres left behind fill the freezer with bags of mushy leaves. Food what food? There was once a close call in the soup pot! The lovely slimy fibres were thawed during the cold dark month of February and pulped into slurry for the vat, where the wooden screens were dipped. The sheets are then couched onto felts, pressed and hung to dry. They will become pages in my books and cards. The smell permeating from the paper studio keeps the gardener's heart buoyed up until the spring.

There is no waste in this plant. Any slurry at the bottom of the vat after papermaking goes into the compost to return once again to nature and begin the next seasons rotation. The non-native plant is not invasive, so I relax about moving towards a naturalized garden. The semi-annual splitting of the Hosta provides more fibres and compost. Needs must.

The garden also provides, lily of the valley, iris and grasses for my paper fetish. My garden in profusion, as I call it, provides pure artistic pleasure. Whatever happens, it's always an interesting journey with lots of surprises and joy. The fresh shades of summer greens and the warm autumn yellows promise beautiful paper when all else has faded away. The memories of four seasons. – **Article & Photos Marlene Pomeroy**



Plant Diversity in Your Garden

Why Does it Matter?

Diversity, simply defined, means variety or variability. Plant diversity, and biodiversity in general is the foundation of healthy ecosystems which can better withstand and recover from events such as fire, flood, climate change, wind and disease.

Every facet is interrelated.

Plant diversity = insect, bird, animal, micro-organism diversity = soil health = better sustainability = opportunities for medical discoveries, economic development = health of humans; and so, it goes.

Many species of plants and animals are at risk in today's world, due to human destruction of habitat and climate change. We may not be able to personally protect the rosy periwinkle (*Catharanthus roseus*) of Madagascar, which provides the chemicals used in the treatment of Hodgkin's disease and acute lymphocytic leukemia *, but each of us can foster biodiversity in our gardens.



If you plant a native perennial such as Black-Eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*), it will attract at least 8 species of bees for pollen and nectar. Butterflies, flies and beetles, which are all food sources for birds and small animals will visit, too. Wild Lupine (*Lupinus perennis*) is a larval host plant for 7 butterflies, including the endangered Karner Blue and provides pollen for multiple bees and flies. This is only the beginning of what can be an opportunity for each of us to sustain the environment.

Plant at least 3 of any native you choose, to give insects the best opportunity to see it and to forage. You may want to expand your beds and shrink the monoculture of your lawn to add a greater variety of plants. More suggestions can be found at:



<http://ontariowildflowers.com/>
<https://www.ecobeneficial.com/>
<https://www.audubon.org/>
just to get you started.

Also, the website <http://www.stratfordmastergardeners.ca/> under the tab Gardening Tips contains an article titled "Consider Planting Native Plants in Your Garden" and another - "Resources: Gardening for Pollinators and Using Native Plants".

We are still "locked down" due to Covid 19. However, the Horticultural Society is hoping to have some form of plant exchange/giveaway in the future. This could be a source for variety in your garden. Here is a native plant nursery which will deliver to your door: <https://onplants.ca/>

- **Leslye Glover**, MG April 21, 2020

**E.O. Wilson, Biological Diversity: The Oldest Human Heritage. The New York State Museum, 1999*

Native Plant Resources

Southwestern Ontario Nurseries that Sell Native Plants, Trees & Seeds

The following southwestern Ontario nurseries sell some or specialize in locally native plants. Some sell only trees and shrubs, while others have a wider range of herbaceous plants available. List compiled by UTRCA staff, updated April 2019.

Name & Address	Phone & Website	Plant Types Carried	Retail / Wholesale
B - Sweet Honey Nature Company 4182 Sideroad 20 South, Puslinch	519-763-0370 www.puslinchnaturallynativetrees.ca	Trees, shrubs, vines, butterfly larval plants	Retail
Baseline Nurseries 9084 Elviage Drive, London	519-657-1265 www.baselinenurseries.ca	Some native trees and shrubs	Retail – Wholesale
The Blooming Bog 22049 Hyde Park Road North, Ilderton	519-666-0132 www.bloomingbog.com	Some aquatics, herbaceous	Retail
Heavenly Earth 29816 Zone Road 4, Bothwell	519-692-4714 www.heavenlyearth.ca	Trees, shrubs	Retail
Heeman's 20422 Nissouri Road, Thorndale	519-461-1416 www.heeman.ca	Some native trees and shrubs	Retail
V. Kraus Nurseries Ltd. 1380 Centre Road, Carlisle	905-689-4022 www.krausnurseries.com	Trees, shrubs	Wholesale
Little Otter Tree Farm 203924 Keswick Road, Tillsonburg	519-688-4771 www.littleottertreefarm.com	Trees, shrubs	Retail + Wholesale
Moore Water Gardens 4683 Sunset Road, Port Stanley	519-782-4052 www.moorewatergardens.com	Some native aquatics	Retail
Ontario Native Plants Hamilton (online only)	www.onplants.ca	Trees, shrubs, grasses, herbaceous	Online Retail
Ontario NativeScape (division of Rural Lambton Stewardship Network) 6890 Baseline Road, Wallaceburg	519-809-5759 www.ontariolivescape.com	Herbaceous, seeds	Wholesale
Ontario Seed Company Ltd. 16 King Street South, Waterloo	519-886-2990 or 519-886-0557 www.oscseeds.com	Herbaceous seeds	Retail
Orange Dog Native Plants Forestville (online only)	www.orangedognativeplants.com 416-704-3971	Herbaceous, wetland, trees, shrubs	Online Retail
Return the Landscape 100 Christina Street North, Samia	519-464-6544 www.returnthelandscape.com	Non-profit specializing in growing native plants, ecological restoration and landscape design, environmental education	Retail + Wholesale
Sloan's Tree Farm 30718 Zone Road #8, Bothwell	519-695-3525 www.sloansnursery.com	Trees	Wholesale
St. Williams Nursery & Ecology Centre 885 Highway 24 West, St. Williams	519-586-9116 or 1-866-640-8733 www.stwilliamsnursery.com	Herbaceous, seeds, trees, shrubs	Wholesale
Verbinnen's Nursery Ltd. 1504 Brock Road, Dundas (Hamilton)	905-659-7072 www.verbinnens.com	Trees, shrubs Herbaceous	Wholesale
Windover Nurseries 3662 Petrolia Line, Petrolia	519-882-0120 www.windovernurseries.com	Several native trees, shrubs, plants	Retail + Wholesale

Additional Information at www.thamesriver.on.ca

- Recommended Native Wildflowers & Grasses for Naturalization Projects in the Upper Thames River Watershed
- Tallgrass Prairie Plant Species Native to Middlesex, Oxford & Perth Counties
- Gardening with Native Plants
- Aggressive Non-Native Plants
- Butterfly Larvae Host Food Plants

Helpful References

- *Grow Wild: Native Plant Gardens in Canada*. Lorraine Johnson. Random House.
- *Newcomb's Wildflower Guide*. Lawrence Newcomb. Little, Brown and Company.
- North American Native Plant Society. www.nanps.org
- *Planting the Seed: A Guide to Establishing Prairie and Meadow Communities in Southern Ontario*. Environment Canada, 2000. Kim Delaney, Paul Morris, Gail Rhynard, Lindsay Rodger and P. Allen Woodliffe. www.tallgrassontario.org

UPPER THAMES RIVER
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Upper Thames River Conservation Authority
(519) 451-2800 • info@thamesriver.on.ca • www.thamesriver.on.ca

- Submitted By: Lesley Glover

Pergola Garden: From Then to Now: History in Pictures

1932



Do you have our garden in any photos from years past?



Please email them to:
newslettersdhs@gmail.com
Provide photographer name and year of the photograph(s)

Pergola Garden: From Then to Now: History in Pictures

2019



Q & A:

*"...We bought a new property a couple of years ago, where the yard was pretty well a blank slate. I'm trying to build gardens that will attract **hummingbirds**. I'm still looking for plants/shrubs that will attract them.*

*Best Regards,
John"*

Here is what Don Farwell had to say on the topic:

"Everyone enjoys watching hummingbirds. Their ever-changing colours in the sunshine, their acrobatic talents and their aggressiveness in chasing even much larger birds are a delight to watch. There are over 300 species of hummingbirds worldwide.

They play an important role in ecosystem services such as seed dissemination, regeneration and dispersal of pollen. Some 75% of flowers rely on pollinators including hummingbirds.

Most people do not realize that like elephants, and wolves, hummingbirds are a keystone species. That means they play a key role in their habitat that no other species can play. There are a number of plants worldwide which have trumpet shaped flowers so deep that no other animal can pollinate. Hummingbirds have evolved along with these plants so that they are able to reach deep into the throat of these flowers. These plants would not exist were it not for the hummingbirds' ability to pollinate them.

The ruby throated hummingbird is the only one of its family that is native to Ontario. It weighs in at 3.1 grams. That is half the weight of one Canadian Loonie. They need to eat about half their body weight every day. Many of them fly 600 miles nonstop across the Gulf of Mexico on their migration twice a year.

They nest in dense brush and build their nests of twigs, plant fibers, and leaves all tied together with spider silk. A variety of fibers are used such as willow catkins, fuzz from lambs ear, silks from milkweed and clematis.

They feed on a wide variety of flowers. It is important to have blooms available throughout the season. Some of their favourites include Virginia bluebells, cardinal flower, bleeding heart, lupine, zinnia, beebalm, salvia, butterfly bush, nicotiana and butterfly bush. They are attracted to red, yellow, purple, pink and orange. They eat arthropods such as insects and spiders in addition to nectar from flowers.

You can supplement their diet by using a good quality hummingbird feeder. It should be placed in a shady area to prevent the sun from fermenting the liquid. Mix one-part sugar and four parts water with no dye for colour. The feeder needs to be kept clean. Use vinegar rather than bleach as it rinses off more completely and will not be harmful.

Enjoy these amazing creatures."

- Don Farwell



Photo: Herman Veenendaal

"... There seems to be quite a lot of Garlic Mustard around this spring, both in our garden, and patches around town. Has anyone else noticed an increase? Or is it normal?... Background: Garlic Mustard is an invasive weed, European origin."

[CONT' NEXT PAGE]

Q&A: Here is what Lesley Glover had to say on the topic:

This intrepid reporter has noticed exactly the same thing and was especially distressed to notice huge clumps of GM along the Avon, behind William Street. It's also in flower beds and waste areas everywhere.

Garlic Mustard *Alliaria petiolata* is an introduced, alien (can also be called a non-native) species of plant, probably brought from Europe in the 1800's as a food. It is high in vitamins C and A.

It was a welcome early season green for salads and stews. Not surprisingly, it has a mild garlic smell and taste.



The problem with Garlic Mustard, as with all invasive species, is that it has no predators or diseases in North America and thus grows rampant, crowding out natives. It has successfully spread into the forest understory, leaving no space or sunlight for other plants. It is allelopathic, "which means that its roots produce chemicals (including gluconates, sinigrin and cyanide) that change soil chemistry and prevent other species from growing nearby. Some of these chemicals are also present in the leaves, which deter herbivores from eating the plant".

(<https://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/>)

These compounds also disrupt mutually beneficial relationships between plant roots and certain fungi in the soil, known as mycorrhizal associations. Like many of its close relatives, garlic mustard does not establish mycorrhizal associations. These fungi are used by most North American forest ground layer plants and are critical for nutrient and water uptake in many trees.

There are 2 species of butterfly, including the rare West Virginia White which lay eggs on native garlic. They are fooled by this invasive, lay eggs on it, but the larvae perish, since they cannot eat it.

OK, so we know that GM is bad. So, why so much of it this year?

Garlic Mustard is a biennial (two-year life cycle). In its first year, the sawtooth edged heart-shaped leaves appear in rosettes. They look similar to Creeping Charlie. Don't get me started on THAT. The first year GM plants overwinter, then bolt to flowers in mid spring of year two. I believe that the past winter, having been so mild, has favoured the year one garlic mustard plants. A high percentage have survived. That is why we are seeing so much as we take our daily walks.

The white flowers on stalks can stretch up as high as metre, all the better to spread the seeds from the seed pods, later in the season. The leaves on the stalk differ somewhat in shape from the rosettes - more elongated.

The seeds generally germinate within 2 years but can remain viable for 5 to 10.

Manual removal of garlic mustard is the best way to control it. Remove all the roots to prevent re-growth. Don't let it flower! Don't compost it. Clean your footwear and tools to avoid transferring bits of root or seeds to other areas.



- Leslye Glover - Master Gardener- April, 2020. Photos from Google free images

[Some other info on garlic mustard: https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/eating-garlic-mustard-a-tasty-way-to-fight-invasive-plants-1.3074137](https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/eating-garlic-mustard-a-tasty-way-to-fight-invasive-plants-1.3074137)

A Snippet: Back to The Garden

“Left unattended, many Rose of Sharon varieties will grow to over 3 metres (10 feet).

That would far too tall for my space, so trimming is a spring ritual that, fortunately, is not difficult. Blooms develop only on new growth, and promising sites for new growth are easily identified by slightly swollen bud nodes.

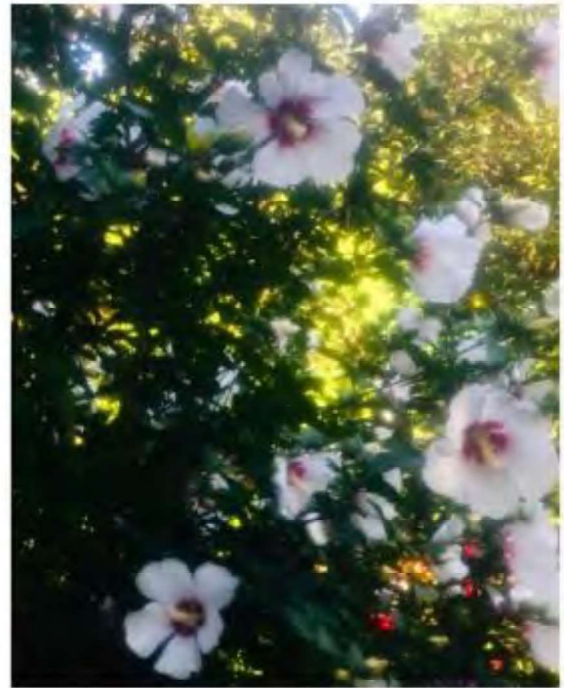
Cutting above a node encourages development of new branches to produce flowers which emerge when other flowering shrub have finished for the season.

Rose of Sharon is easily propagated by simply inserting clippings in soil and keeping them moist. I read an account by one gardener who used a pruned branch to support a potted clematis. By season end the branch leafed out and produced a bonus flower.

It probably doesn't work every time, but it worked for him.

Turning to other garden news, (fanfare and drum roll, please) the winners of the **2020 Snowdrop Watch draw**: Stratford's Benjamin and Keila Roesner. Congratulations! ... Thanks to all who entered.”

- From Doug Reberg's April Beacon Herald



Rose of Sharon.

(Photo: Doug Reberg)



The Stratford and Area Master Gardeners

invite you to visit their website:

<https://stratfordmastergardeners.ca/>

You'll find gardening tips, answers to frequently asked questions, advice, book reviews and a "contact us" tab. You can email your questions and we'll do our best to provide knowledgeable answers.

- Lesley Glover

“And now for something completely different...”

“Watching the deterioration of the river and adjacent parkland was a man described as “a bushy-haired, twinkley-eyed, nature-loving dentist who bore a striking resemblance to King George V of England. Dr. Edward Henry Eidt was also called “one of nature’s gentlemen, a crusader, a conservationist and, to a large extent, a forecaster.”

Eidt’s office was on an upper floor in the Gordon Block, so he was able to monitor the park’s downward slide on an almost daily basis. And he did not like what he saw. Well-known, he was first elected to city council in 1897 as one of three aldermen representing Falstaff Ward.

By 1903, the provincial government had enacted the Ontario Parks Act, designed to assure the preservations of parklands. That act gave rise to the establishment of parks boards. While such boards were municipal entities, the board members could appeal to the province in the event of a dispute over land jurisdiction. Stratford councils had periodically discussed the creation of a board of park commissioners, which might have led to some long-term planning for the city’s parklands, whose presence had gone from a thing of beauty to abysmal. But those discussions led nowhere.

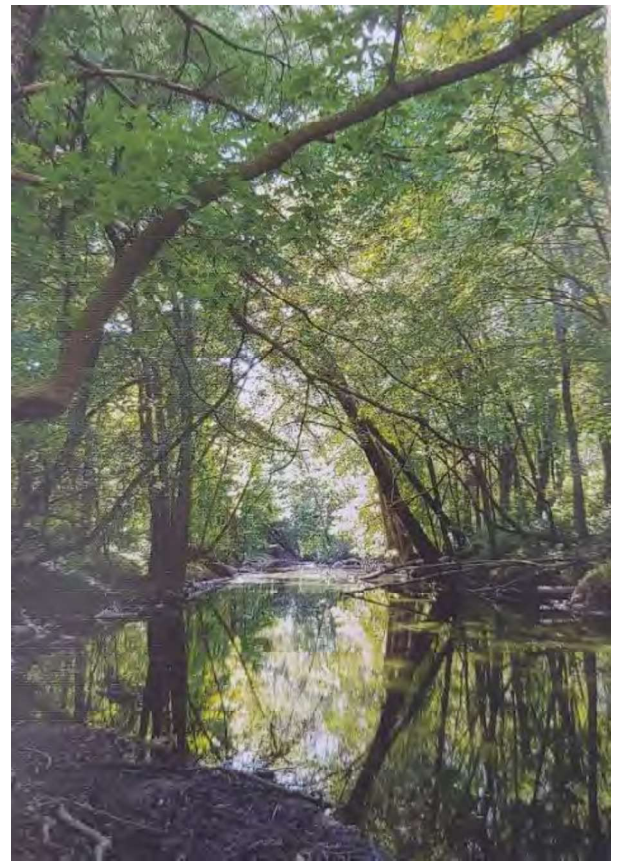
Henry Eidt was determined to change that state of affairs and breathe new and lasting life into the Stratford parks system. He sought information from Brantford and Kitchener, where parks boards had recently been established. He won the support the local trades and labour council, but found his own council colleagues far less accommodating. Nevertheless, he pushed on. He collected the 500 signatures needed before his fellow aldermen would agree to put a bylaw before the electorate. He pushed back on their contention that a parks board would be expensive and require increased taxation.

In the January 1904 municipal election, the parks board bylaw proposal was endorsed with a 546-vote majority. The city allowed Eidt to choose the first members of the Stratford Board of Park Management, and they were: John Reed (experienced in municipal matters), Daniel Dempsey (professional nurseryman), H. M. Johnston (horticulturalist), Alfred J. Roberts (horticulturalist), J. George Hess (Conservative representative for Perth North in the Ontario legislature from 1883 to 1890), and R. Thomas Orr (architect). Mayor William Hepburn was a member of the board in an ex-officio capacity.

The board members faced a busy and tumultuous road, but they persevered and won more battles than they lost. They hired Frederick Todd, a landscape architect from Montreal, to help remake their park system. They repaired the dam, removed stumps and assorted other debris, shored up the bank of the river, created flower beds and built a stone-walled lookout in what they called Lakeside Park.

The board borrowed \$10,000 from the city and bought the Victoria Lake holding company, which included the dam and water rights as far east as Front Street. In 1907, from the Canada Company, it bought the land and water rights between Front Street and the railway tracks for \$600. In July 1912, the commissioners opened their new boathouse, on the north side of the river, just east of the dam, in front of what is now the Park Towers apartment building.

More problematic for the board was purchase of parkland from private owners, which began in 1909 and stretched over the next 12 years . . .



T.J. Doolan Natural Area Photo on Canvas

. . . In time, the board initiated by Edward Eidt re-secured, reunited and rejuvenated a series of parks stretching from Avondale on the city’s western boundary to Queen’s Park at its eastern limit, about 850 acres in total, all of them sharing a relationship with the variously reviled and revered Avon River.

The four men most responsible for developing the park system that Stratford enjoys today were Thomas J. Dolan, a newspaperman and member of the parks board for 35 years; George McLagan, a leader in the furniture industry in Stratford and beyond; R. Thomas Orr, prominent businessman, original and long-term member of the parks board; and Dr. E. Henry Eidt, the nature-loving dentist who became the father of the parks board. In recognition of their civic contributions, there came to be the T. J. Dolan Drive and the T. J. Dolan Natural Area; McLagan Drive; and the R. Thomas Orr dam. To date, the city has not honoured Eidt in such fashion.”

- An Excerpt from **“Not the Last Waltz, and other Stratford Stories” – Dean Robinson**

“Also, in that book is a lengthy piece on Tom Dolan, a man whose friendship I valued, and a man whose name has long been known to you and your SDHS colleagues.”

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 -contact 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

Board of Directors:

Past President: Mike Matthews

President: **vacant**

Vice president: **vacant**

Recording Secretary: Owen Switzer

Treasurer: Karen Van Baren

Directors:

Alice Mainland

Bernice Barratt

Julia Hardy

Dennis Rawe

Doug Reberg

Malcolm Shute

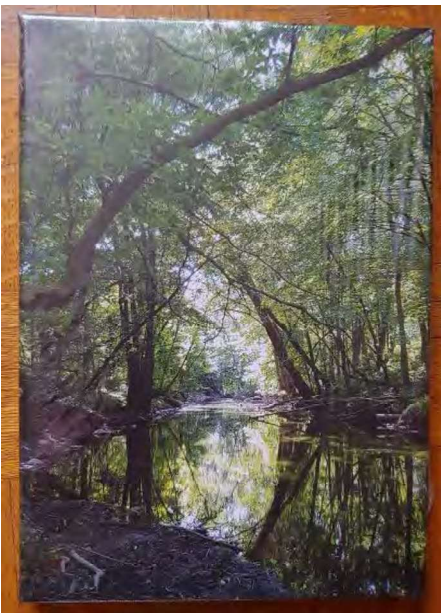
Maureen Cocksedge

Sheila Phillips

Susan Kurtz

Dorothy Van Esbroeck

Barry Krauter

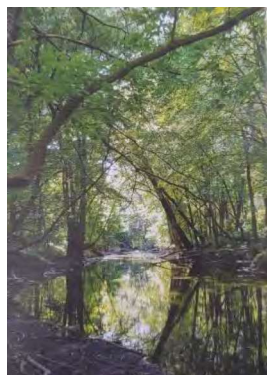


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To Enter Email: newslettersdhs@gmail.com

Names will be entered into a draw, One winner;
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GARDEN

BINGO

 <p>T-SHIRT WEATHER</p>	 <p>BLUE JAY</p>	 <p>PHOTO</p>	 <p>POTTED PLANT</p>	 <p>SIT IN GARDEN</p>
 <p>LEARN NEW SKILLS</p>	 <p>GATHER SEEDS</p>	 <p>ROBIN</p>	 <p>WEEDED</p>	 <p>SEE A BUNNY</p>
 <p>GAVE GARDEN GIFT</p>	 <p>COMPOSTED</p>	FREE SPACE	 <p>TRIM/ CUT PLANTS</p>	 <p>GARDEN DISCUSSIONS</p>
 <p>ROSE BLOOM</p>	 <p>ORDER SEEDS</p>	 <p>CUT OR ARRANGE FLOWERS</p>	 <p>FOUND PEST</p>	 <p>CARDINAL</p>
 <p>GARDEN GEAR</p>	 <p>STARTED SEEDS</p>	 <p>ENJOY GARDEN SOUNDS</p>	 <p>HARVEST</p>	 <p>TULIPS</p>