



WELCOME TO THE WINTER EDITION OF OUR GARDENING CLUB NEWSLETTER!

The objective of the Gardening Club is to help create a more beautiful Bath and to foster a culture of learning among members and our greater community, as we work with the challenges often posed by our environment. We are extremely proud of the work that we do, well over 1000 hours of volunteer participation per year. We welcome new ideas, new members and participation from all. Everyone has knowledge or a skill to share. We need people who can garden, but also those who can bake, set up tables and chairs, make coffee, provide contacts for interesting speakers etc. We know that with greater participation, we will become a more vibrant Club and community.

We are proud to have four media platforms that we can use to help communicate who we are and what we do. In addition to the newsletter that is published 4 times annually, we have: our website, bathgardeningclub.ca, which contains our history and constitution; information about membership; Minutes of meetings; current projects and activities; previous newsletters and many valuable gardening resources.

Our Facebook page, **Bath Gardening Club and Horticultural Society**, opens up a world of pictures highlighting our members and their involvement in our latest projects and activities. Our Facebook also advertises upcoming events, so feel free to “follow” what we are up to.

Specific to our Sunday Market, our new Facebook page, **Sunday Market in Bath**, was created this year as an opportunity for vendors and the community to better communicate our Market news and offerings.

Membership Update: Our Club currently has 80 + members. We welcome the following new members: Aline & Hubert Denelzen, Linda Jameson, Angela Kurc, Michelle Smythe, Nancy Wilkie, Mike & Elaine Nicholson, Herb & Lori Petras and Berno Wenzl.

New Executive and Board of Directors

Our new Executive and Board of Directors were installed at the October meeting by James Kimmerley, Director of District 3 of the Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA). We thank all of the volunteers who have stepped up to the following leadership roles on behalf of the membership.

Executive

President – Sylvia Whalen

Vice President – vacant

Treasurer – Laurie Minorgan / Joanne Pearce

Recording Secretary – Marion Janssens

Membership Secretary – Diane Nolting

Publicity Secretary – Jeri Love

Program - Vacant



Janice Firth and Sylvia Whalen at Memorial Grove Grand Opening

Board Members

Val Behm

Marnie Brough – Village Planting

Linda Cohen

Jane Ledingham – Bath Sunday Market

Sandra Lowman – Webmaster

Joanna Spernick – Hospitality

Janice Firth – Past President

We are presently looking for anyone who is interested in working as a member of a team to develop programs for our monthly meetings. Based on member input, this could involve inviting speakers, coordinating workshops, arranging outings, etc.

We are also looking for someone who is willing to serve as the Vice-President. Having a Vice-President in an active Club such as ours is critical. The Vice-President works directly with our President, Executive and Board on current and future initiatives at the local and District levels. The Gardening Club prides itself on a team approach, so the old adage, “many hands make light work” is alive and well and makes leadership positions and responsibilities less daunting.



BATH GARDENING CLUB HOSTS THE DISTRICT 3 MEETING

A bit of background from Wikipedia: The **Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA)** was established in 1906 and incorporated by the Government of Ontario in 1924 via an Act in the Ontario Legislature. This Act split the **Agricultural and Horticultural Societies** into the **Ontario Agricultural Fairs Association** and the OHA. The founding motto of the OHA is "Keeping Ontario Beautiful".

Membership to the Ontario Horticultural Association is granted to those horticultural societies or clubs that satisfy the requirements of the Ontario Horticultural Societies Act. Each local society (or club) may become an affiliate member of the OHA upon remittance of an affiliation fee, and each receives an annual grant based on paid memberships.

The OHA consists of 19 Districts comprising autonomous local societies in its region. The Bath Gardening Club is affiliated with District 3.

In early November, our Club hosted the District 3 Fall meeting. Approximately 41 people attended from 12 of the 13 clubs/societies within the District. The group reviewed and provided input into the draft of the Constitution and the Code of Conduct for the District’s Board. This work will continue at the Spring meeting. The budget for the upcoming year was approved.





Updates were provided from the OHA, and each society shared the highlights of the past six months for their area. The meeting concluded with a fundraising auction of items donated by each of the societies. Kudos go out to Janice Firth, coordinator, and all of the BGC volunteers that made this day such a success!

A little bit of trivia: Did you know that there are 278 Gardening Clubs (or societies) operating in Ontario!

For a wealth of information about gardening across the province, check out the OHA website:

<https://gardenontario.org/about/>.

The provincial newsletter, The Trillium, that is published 4 times annually is also found on this site. Our Gardening Club contributes an article to The Trillium in each newsletter so, be proud! Our gardening efforts are known across Ontario!



MEMORIAL GROVE AND POLLINATOR GARDEN GRAND OPENING

In September, a wonderful project came to fruition with the official opening of the Memorial Grove and Pollinator Garden. Inspired by Wendy O'Neill in 2017, the Bugtel and Pollinator Garden are a safe haven for insects. This area, since its inception, has been maintained by volunteers who have spent countless hours planting, weeding, fixing the Bugtel roof and base structure, and watering. Located at the Memorial Grove and Pollinator Garden site is a pallet art collage painted by the late Bonnie Fredenburgh depicting the flowers growing in the garden. The Club was honoured to have Bonnie's husband Kent, present for the opening.

Adjacent to the Pollinator Garden is the Memorial Grove. Through a generous donation from LaFarge Canada, native Serviceberry saplings were purchased and were then planted by Loyalist Township personnel to create the Memorial Grove. A bench was also placed in the area by the Township. We were pleased that Lyndsay Tee and Amber Meyer, employees of the Township, were able to attend. A huge thank you to Cody Allan from LaFarge Canada for his support on the project.





A special thanks to Rob Turner of Rob's Creative Craftings who created a beautiful wooden sign that reads: LaFarge Memorial Grove and Pollinator Garden. Thank you, Adam Bryant, for unveiling this sign.

24 people attended the opening and cake was enjoyed by all!



THE VILLAGE GARDENS ARE PUT TO BED!

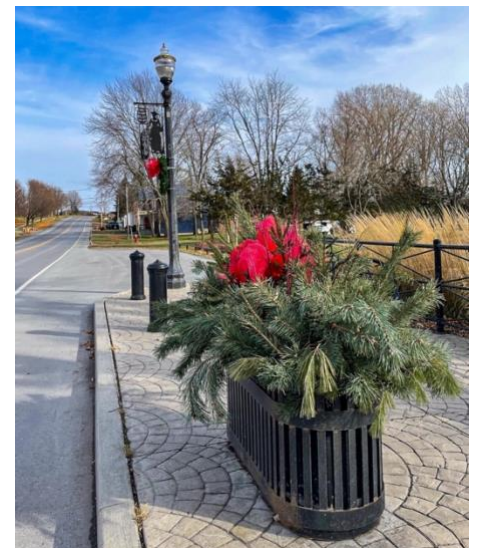
Our flowers lasted until after Thanksgiving again this year. Thank you, planters, weeders, and Flourish Garden Care for watering! Everyone worked with great diligence all season from beginning to end. Even when it was time to clear out the barrels and clean up the gardens, Club volunteers and Township personnel came out and had a good time.





NEW PLANTERS ARE ON THE WAY!

Thanks to an idea started by Dawn Ford and later pursued by Jane Ledingham, Marnie Brough and Laurie Minorgan, the streets of Bath will begin to enjoy a new face-lift in 2024. Older barrels that have housed many of our flowers for years will gradually be replaced by a mixture of round and oval wrought-iron planters. Donations from LaFarge Canada, the Township and our own fund-raising efforts have allowed the Club to begin this process. We hope to have 9 planters installed for the 2024 planting season. Stay tuned!





AND NOW FOR NEXT SEASON'S FLOWERS...



The 2024 growing season is very much on our minds even though winter has not yet arrived. Marnie Brough, Val Behm and Pat Chown, our Planting Coordinators, will be meeting with SunHarvest Nurseries in early December to choose, what we hope will be glorious flowers that will burst forth and bloom heartily along Main Street. We had some real winners this year in our gardens! Cannas will return in our planters and barrels. White begonias were very robust as were scaevola, cleomes, geraniums and impatiens. Colour? We learned at the November District 3 meeting that the OHA has declared “orange” to be the colour for 2024. Here in Bath, we presented a lot of yellow and orange last year. So, we will change it up a bit. Yes, we will have some orange flowers, but also some red, white, violet, lime green and yellow.



REPORT ON THE BATH SUNDAY MARKET - BY JANE LEDINGHAM

This year the market ran for 24 weeks from May 7 to October 15. Total revenue for it was \$5250.00 and entertainment costs were \$590.00, so the net revenue for the year was \$4660.00. More than 40 different vendors attended the market, with an average of 17 vendors present each week.



Sylvia Whalen and I have established good relationships with the vendors and built a solid core of regular vendors. Linda Cohen did a great job of booking a wide variety of entertainers to draw customers to the market. For next year we have established a new Facebook page for the market entitled Sunday Market in Bath to replace the one still being used by our former manager. We also want to increase the number of entertainers to draw more people to the market. We hope to recruit some more members into helping us manage the market, which contributes so much to our Club and to Bath.



NOVEMBER WORKSHOP: BUILDING A SUET BIRD FEEDER

Over 30 people attended an evening workshop lead by Linda and Avi Dishy. A big ‘thank you’ to both presenters for supplying drilled out logs, and all of the material needed for participants to leave at the end of the workshop with a feeder ready for hanging. The ingredients of the suet recipe used at the workshop is:

Peanut Butter Suet Recipe

- 1 cup peanut butter
- 1 cup lard
- 2 cups quick cooking oats
- 2 cups of bird seed mix
- 1 cup of yellow cornmeal
- 1 cup of flour

Directions: Melt peanut butter and lard over low heat. In a large bowl, mix quick oats, birdseed mix, yellow cornmeal and flour. Stir melted ingredients into dry mix. Once cool, press into molds and refrigerate.



Note: During the workshop a discussion ensued about how attractive the suet would be to hungry squirrels lurking in the area. It was suggested that a dash of cayenne pepper added to the mix might be helpful in keeping our furry four-legged friends at bay.

Like humans, not all birds favour the same meal. Check out other suet-making ideas at the following site:

<https://www.familyhandyman.com/article/homemade-suet-recipes-and-suet-feeding-tips-for-birds/>



DRESSING UP THE VILLAGE FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

Whether it involves putting up lights, filling our gardens with boughs, or making huge red bows for our outdoor wreaths, once again our many volunteers happily take part in creating a festive and welcoming ambiance, so we can all enjoy a more beautiful Bath.



We invite you to join us for the beginning of our village winter festivities: Merry Little Main Street sponsored by local Bath entrepreneurs and the Carol Sing in the Centennial Park Gazebo sponsored by the Bath Gardening Club

When: Thursday, December 7

Merry Little Main Street activities: 5:00 - 8:00pm

Carol Sing at the Gazebo: 6:00 – 7:00 Hot Chocolate and cookies provided



Our next Gardening Club meeting will take place on Monday, January 15 at 2:30pm in St. John's Hall. Hope to see you there!

