

BATH GARDENING CLUB NEWSLETTER – FALL 2025

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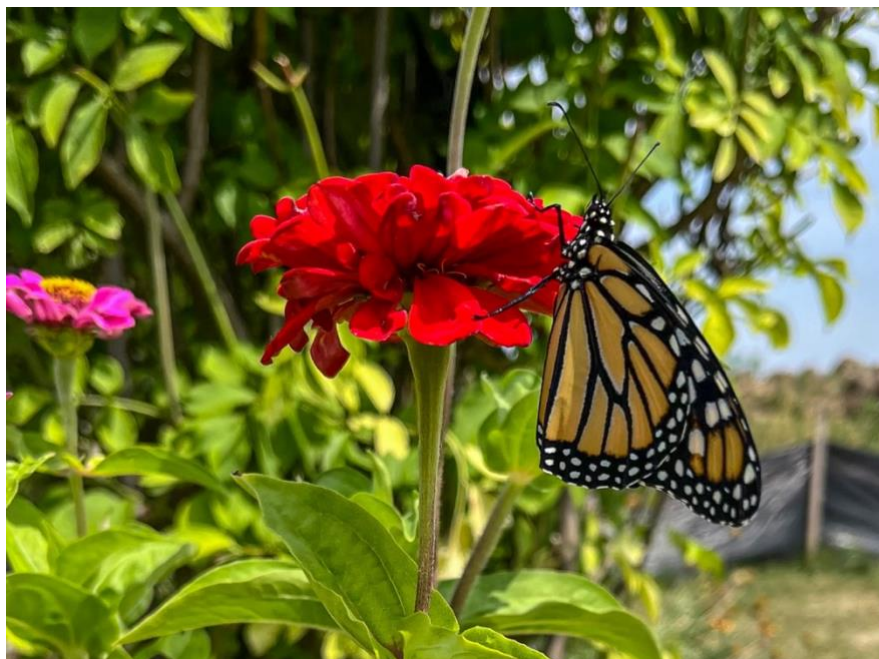
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*Written by: Patricia Chown, Kim
Bonner, Carol Cartier, Laurie
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Edited By: Laurie Minorgan
Photography: Don Taylor, Amber
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WELCOME BACK! AS THE SEASONS CHANGE, SO DO WE!



This is the time of year when our Gardening Club celebrates its year end and welcomes a new season with the installation of a slate of officers at the Annual General Meeting. The Club recognizes the incredible work completed by so many of our volunteers over the past year. Our Club, like our Bath community, is vibrant and excited about new opportunities to help create a more beautiful Bath, a place where we can learn and work together as a community.

Our thanks to the 2024-2025 Executive:

President: Sylvia Whalen

Secretary: Diane Nolting

Membership Secretary: Joanna Sperinck

Publicity Secretary: Jeri Love

Treasurer: Joanne Pearce and Marjory Brunsdon

Past President: Janice Firth

Executive at Large: Val Behm, Linda Cohen, Kim Bonner, Sandra Lowman

In addition to the Executive, the Club recognizes the volunteers who took the lead for many of our activities and on-going projects.

Village Gardens: Val Behm and Elaine Nicholson:

Pollinator Garden: Kim Bonner & Carol Cartier

Sunday Market in Bath: Linda Cohen

Programme and Special Events: Janice Firth

Hospitality: Dawn Ford

Website: Sandra Lowman

Newsletter: Pat Chown and Laurie Minorgan

Photographer: Don Taylor

Gazebo Christmas Carol Singing: Pat Chown, Don Taylor and Paul Jepson

Earth Day Bath Clean-up: Pat Chown

Fertilizer Mixing and Sales: Diane Nolting

In addition, our thanks to Laurie Minorgan for her assistance with grant writing and leading the village Christmas Decorations Team.

We thank Martha Silmser at St. John's Hall and Talia Boucher of the Loyalist Golf and Country Club for welcoming us to their facilities for our Club meetings.

We are grateful to our partners who help and support us achieve our goals: Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA); Loyalist Township; Amrize (formerly Lafarge); Ontario Power Generation (OPG); Free Flow Petroleum (Fast Freddy's); Naturally L&A; Flourish Landscaping; Village Lifestyle Real Estate Team

Kudos to the Bath residents for taking the time during their walks to provide positive comments to our village planters and weeder. This year has been particularly challenging as we try to keep the flowers in the village planters, barrels and gardens alive in what can be described as “drought conditions”.

Opportunities for all our Club Members to volunteer for Executive and Lead positions for 2025-2026:

Vice-President (VP):

The Vice-President's position is critical. The Vice-President works as part of a team with the President, Sylvia Whalen, and the members of the Executive. The Vice-President would be expected to take over the Presidency in a year. The Past President provides a new President support and mentorship. The team effort does not disappear once the VP becomes President. If you are interested in learning more about the role of the VP and Presidency, please contact Sylvia at president@bathgardeningclub.ca

Programme and Special Events:

The Club is looking for a volunteer who will work with Janice Firth on the Programme and Special Events dossier. The Gardening Club prides itself in being a learning organization so programme offerings and workshops need to be robust and respond to the needs of the members interests that have been expressed in past surveys. If you are interested in more information, please contact Janice at janice_firth@yahoo.ca



SUMMER GARDEN TOURS IN MAITLAND

In July, 12 of our club members participated in two garden tours in the Maitland area. The Maitland Garden of Hope owned by Colleen O'Connell and David Cybulski is a private 1.5-acre garden. Colleen and David have organized their garden into a variety of themes: "a wildflower garden, orchid walk, woodland garden, numerous perennial gardens (approximately 5,000 perennials) with native species, and a rhododendron and azalea garden".



New plants and themes are being added as their gardens evolve. Their mission is "to provide a garden habitat that will aid in the conservation and enjoyment of our native butterflies, birds and honeybees". In addition to being a gardener, Colleen is a mixed media artist and sculptor. Her sculptures can be found through the gardens.





Van Berlo Gardens, owned by Mary Ann Van Berlo, a retired Master Gardiner, is an impressive 2.4-acre garden overlooking the St. Lawrence River. Mary Ann's front yard is all plants, all thriving in the sun! The backyard is a magnificent property overlooking the water and provides a home for many varieties of shade plants. Mary Ann installed a vegetable garden a few years ago and has been adding trees and shrubs throughout her property.



When asked about this year's growing conditions, Mary Ann used the words "in drought". That being said, she does not water her plants. She feels that they will need to adapt to whatever environmental conditions we experience.

Thank you to Janice Firth for organizing these tours and for choosing a great place in Brockville for us to enjoy lunch.





CANADA DAY! BATH GARDENING CLUB IS IN THE PARADE

Written by Laurie Minorgan

After missing out on last year's parade, Club members were determined to be part of the 2025 Bath Canada Day celebration. Diane Nolting and Laurie Minorgan were joined by a talented, enthusiastic team: Roxanna Beddington, Kim Bonner, Heather Campbell, Carol Cartier, Heather Douglas, Sue Nilsson and Diana Wilkinson.



The theme "Thirty-Five and Still Growing" honoured the Club's 35th anniversary and was highlighted with participation of twelve children and their parents pulling decorated wagons behind the float. Special thanks go to Diana Wilkinson and Jeremy Howarth for offering their driveway to decorate the float, Dave and Adam Bryant for pulling the float, Keith McIlwaine for providing the hay and Sun Harvest Greenhouse for lending us the evergreens.

Everyone involved agrees this was one of the best parades yet. We were proud to represent the Bath Gardening Club... so much so that plans for next year's float are already underway!





VILLAGE GARDENS: EARLY RAINS FOLLOWED BY DROUGHT-LIKE CONDITIONS...OUR WEEDERS NEVER FLINCHED!



A huge thank you to Val Behm and Elaine Nicholson, our Village Garden Co-ordinators for leading us through a tumultuous growing season. Bravo to our team of weeders who did their best to keep our village barrels, planters and gardens thriving during our difficult summer: Valerie Behm, Marnie Brough, Marje Brundson, Pat Chown, Ted & Cyndie Eedson, Betty Elliot, Janice Firth, Ann Johnston, Jeri Love, Sandra Lowman, Marilyn Martin, Lynne McDonald, Donna Mills, Elaine Nicholson, Wendy O'Neill, Monica Parry, Michelle Smythe, Joanna Spornick, Sheri Wenzl and Diana Wilkinson.





KINGSTON: A LEADER IN SUPPORTING NATURALIZED YARDS

Joyce Hostyn, a Master Gardener from the Thousand Islands area, has written an interesting and informative article about a new by-law that came into effect in Kingston beginning August 14, 2025.

Here are some of the highlights of Joyce Hostyn's article.

Kingston's new by-law removes the height restrictions and "vague, culturally biased, aesthetically-based terms such as 'overgrown', 'unsightly', 'weeds', 'messy', and 'heavy undergrowth' that prevented people from naturalizing their yards in support of biodiversity and climate resilience. Turfgrass is defined and continues to be regulated with a height restriction of 20 cm."

With the new by-law, Kingston has become a Canadian leader in supporting naturalized yards.

An appendix to the bylaw contains a short list of plants that are prohibited due to their risk to our urban ecosystem or to human health.

The plants listed include: *Buckthorn*; *Dog-Strangling Vine*; *Japanese Knotweed*; *Garlic Mustard*; *Phragmites*; *Purple Loosestrife*; *Poison Ivy*; *Canada Thistle*; *Wild Parsnip*; *Ragweed*

The link below, which contains the entire article, was previously sent out to the Club's membership but the article may be of interest to those who missed opening the link, the first time.

<https://1000islandsmastergardeners.ca/2024/07/29/prohibited-plants-in-kingstons-new-bylaw/>

Another interesting link by David Suzuki [*It's time to ditch the lawn and go natural*](#)



BATH GARDENING CLUB SUNDAY MARKET UPDATE



Kudos to Linda Cohen, Market Co-Ordinator and Tarra Williamson, Market Manager for an amazing Sunday Market season. On average 25 vendors participated, an increase from previous years. Music and activities for the children and families added to the wonderful Market experience. The Market is due to close for the season in late October. Check out one of the sites below for details. Don't miss out on the fresh vegetables that will soon be harvested.

Thanks to Tarra for creating the following three sites to keep us up to date with Market news.

Website: <https://sundaymarketinbath.com>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/sunday_market_bath

Facebook: Sunday Market in Bath <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61558249633305>



HARVEST TIME AT THE BROAD'S AND ELLIOT'S GARDENS!

In our Summer newsletter, we interviewed Ross and Betty Elliot, Bill and Michele Broad about their newly developed vegetable gardens. As promised, they are delighted to share the results of their labour. When asked about the growing season, Bill commented that the lack of rain proved problematic especially with the tomatoes and cucumbers. Even so, their harvest was successful and they look forward to next year!





POLLINATOR PARTNERSHIP'S BIOBLITZ: JUNE 16-22, 2025

Written by Kim Bonner and Carol Cartier

When we read about the Pollinator Partnership Organization's Bioblitz - a community-based science event where people work together across North America to find and identify as many species of pollinators as possible – we decided we wanted to get involved!



Our observations, once uploaded to the software called iNaturalist, would not only contribute valuable data for scientific research and conservation efforts¹, but would also tell us what kinds of pollinators and minibeasts were checking into our very own Bugtel.

Since we had never taken an inventory before, we had no idea which pollinators would come to visit, if any! Would they be attracted to the 25+ native plant varieties in the Pollinator Garden (PG) and leave with their bellies full of nectar and their furry bodies laden with pollen? Would they

inspect the logs we drilled for them to see if they were the right size for their offspring, and then fill them up with larvae and food?

Please read on to find out more about the pollinators and minibeasts who came to visit. We'll continue to find and identify more over the summer months as various flowers come into bloom at our Pollinator Garden.

To see our pictures and observations, please go to this link on iNaturalist:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/bath-pollinator-garden-and-bugtel-2025>

If you'd like to take and contribute pictures from the PG, please send a message along with your iNaturalist ID to info@bathgardeningclub.ca and we'll add you to the project.



To see pictures taken across North America during the Bioblitz, go here:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/pollinator-week-2025-pollinator-bioblitz>

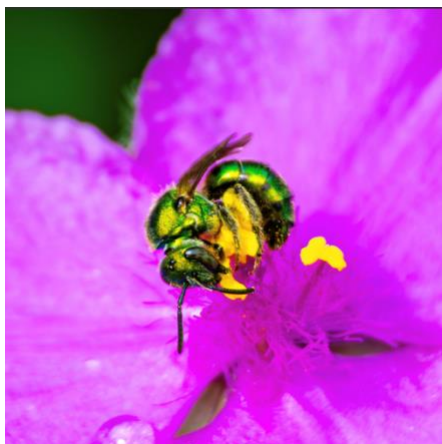
¹ More than 6,500 observations in iNaturalist have been used in scientific papers.



BENEATH THE BLOOMS

Written by Kim Bonner and Carol Cartier

Can you figure out what these beautiful bees have in common, apart from dining on nectar and pollen at our club's Pollinator Garden? They're all bees that use their jaws or front legs to tunnel deep into soft patches of ground where they live in secret homes, beneath the blooms.



- 1 Bi-coloured Sweat Bee on Catmint (Don Taylor)
- 2 Augochlorine Sweat Bee on Virginia Spiderwort (Don Taylor)
- 3 Hairy-banded Miner Bee on Ohio Goldenrod (Kim Bonner)

When most people think of bees, they picture honeybees buzzing away in their hives, visiting flowers, and busily making honey. But did you know that here in Ontario, 90% of our native bees are solitary in nature, and 70% of those are living secluded lives in tiny burrows beneath our feet?

Yes, we are buried beneath your feet, please be careful where you step.

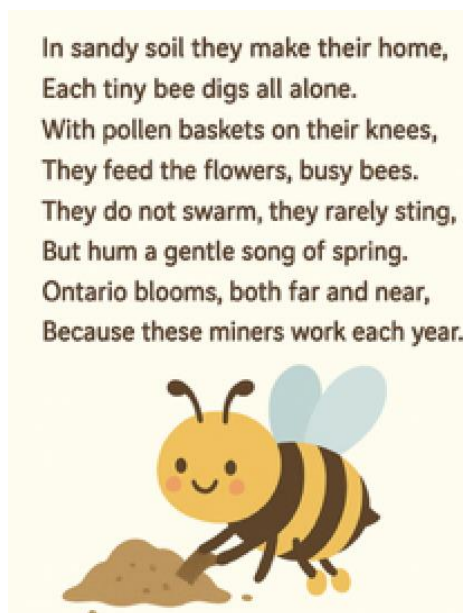
We are solitary and gentle because we don't have a hive to protect. We dig our tunnels and chambers where we lay our eggs. If you see small holes in patches of soil, sometimes with a tiny mound of earth around them, that's a clue that one of us is living there.

We are hardworking pollinators. We move from blossom to blossom, collecting pollen and nectar. We support Ontario's ecosystems, farms, and your backyard gardens.

How can you help us? Please leave some areas of soil bare and undisturbed in your garden. Do not use pesticides and choose a variety of native plants that bloom throughout the growing season.

We may be small and overlooked, but we play a massive role in keeping your landscapes vibrant. Please help protect us and celebrate our existence!

We'll leave you with a poem we created with a little help from ChatGPT. Help spread the word about us to a child, grandchild or anyone who's young at heart!



“Feeding bees, butterflies and the future”



LOOK! IT'S A MONARCH IN STRIPED PYJAMAS

Written by Sue Nilsson

In early July, I had the opportunity to participate in “Exploration Days “sponsored by Loyalist Township and held at the Bath Museum. Several members of the Bath Gardening Club - Kim Bonner, Carol Cartier, Laurie Minorgan and I were available with presentations on pollinators and displays related to food, shelter and nesting habitat.

We had fun activities for the young ones attending including rock painting, butterfly puddlers, and Monarch life cycle sensory pasta.

Of particular interest, near and dear to my heart, is the Monarch Butterfly!

I was lucky enough to have found three eggs on my milkweed at home and washable to show newly hatched Monarch caterpillars as well as an egg to our captive audience.



Folks in attendance as well as our Club members were mesmerized. I volunteered to send out progress pictures of the “Monarch in Striped Pyjamas” to the participants as the monarchs progressed on their 30-day journey toward maturity.





For those of you who have not had the experience or viewed my previous presentation, above are some pictures of their growth and subsequent evolution.



SECOND ANNUAL LOYALIST RECREATION KICK-OFF

Written by Sue Nilsson

On Saturday, June 7th, 2025, the Bath Gardening Club, for the second year in a row, was asked to participate in the Loyalist Recreation Kick-off Event. This Event provided an opportunity for community groups to highlight the variety of activities available to residents within Loyalist Township.

The Gardening Club chose to highlight Club activities at our Bugtel and Memorial Garden location behind Bath Public School.

Carol Cartier set up a pollinator display with a scavenger hunt available for those who wished to find various pollinator flowers and other items such as a butterfly puddler, toad abode, and slug snug etc.





Sue Nilsson provided an informative presentation of the life cycle of Monarch Butterflies and the need to plant milkweed for this species to survive. Information was also available on Swallowtail butterflies. In addition, Sylvia Whalen helped young enthusiasts prepare and make seed bombs filled with milkweed seeds and dill weed, a favourite of the Black Eastern Swallowtail. Participants were even encouraged to sing along with Sylvia as the balls were being formed.



New this year, was the installation of a Photo Poster Board, a fun opportunity for people young and old to have their picture taken with bee pollinators and flowers.



Thank you to Brian Nilsson who put his carpentry expertise to work to create the poster board and to Sue Hewko who completed the board with her design and painting skills.

Our participation in the Kick-off Event proved to be very successful with approximately 75 people, adults and children of all ages, “checking out” what we had to offer.



CLIMATE CHANGE: THE LINK BELOW IS WORTH A LOOK!

Citrus trees in Canada? New plant hardiness map shows a shift in growing zones! | CBC News
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/science/canada-plant-map-1.7594348>



TICKS ARE ALIVE & WELL! HERE'S HOW WE PROTECT OURSELVES

Many of us have been a victim of these miniscule creatures or are familiar with someone who has been “ticked”. For those who have been affected, we quickly become aware that if ticks are not removed in a timely fashion, the result can lead to Lyme Disease. Ticks are a reality! As gardeners and lovers of the outdoors, we need to understand the danger connected with ticks and to be informed of how best to protect ourselves as we enjoy our outdoor activities.

Many of us do not realize that ticks are lurking about all year! They are especially active in the spring, summer and early fall but even during winter months if temperatures are above freezing, they can be active. They are small, about the size of a poppy seed and as a result they are difficult to see.

Blacklegged ticks prefer places that are “moist and humid at ground level, such as in tall grass, and bushy, wooded, and forested areas”.

Preventing tick bites is the key to preventing Lyme and other diseases carried by ticks.

The following link provides useful information about ticks, how we can protect ourselves and how to remove a tick. <https://www.kflaph.ca/en/health-topics/lyme-and-tickborne-diseases.aspx>

Do ticks ever hide in our gardens? Yes! If ticks can find areas that are moist and humid, they can be found in various shrubs and low growing plants. Before purchasing plants and shrubs, be informed if they are tick attractors!

Despite the hot summer, autumn will probably arrive. Here are some ideas for preparing your gardens for cooler temperatures.

1. Six to eight weeks before the ground is expected to freeze, plant your bulbs. Seeds of native perennials that require cold stratification can also be sown.
2. Leave perennials untrimmed (if the plants are healthy) until spring after air temperatures have increased for a spring clean-up. “Also, some plants produce seedheads that are attractive to overwintering birds and these can be left standing until early spring, at which time they can be pruned back”.

3. Remove diseased foliage and plants. Put these in the garbage, not compost in order from preventing the disease re-surfacing the next year. Once diseased plants or foliage have been removed, wash any tools that were used in the process.
4. If dormant perennials have become too large, it is time for them to be separated and transplanted. Make sure that they are planted deeply and mulched to help them weather winter frost.
5. Often the ground is still warm enough for new root systems to develop. Fall can be a good time to plant new shrubs or plants.
6. Continue to water trees and shrubs well into the fall so that they are well hydrated before the ground freezes.
7. Leaves can be used to compost lawns or if placed in your gardens, leaves can become habitats for insects during the winter.
8. If new trees are planted, make sure they are staked, covered and mulched. Taking care of new trees is especially important if wind is prevalent.
9. Applying mulch can protect gardens from temperature fluctuations. In order to best meet the needs of your plants, check out the different varieties of mulch that are available. Applying compost over the vegetable garden is helpful. The compost can be mixed into the soil in the spring.
10. Fall is the time when the birdfeeder could be placed in the garden. It is important to empty and sanitize the birdfeeder every couple of weeks to reduce the spread of disease.

For more details, check out the following link:

<https://www.natureconservancy.ca/en/what-we-do/resource-centre/conservation-101/10-ways-to-get-your-garden-ready-for-fall.html#:~:text=In%20early%20fall%2C%20the%20ground%20is%20still%20warm,will%20be%20well%20hydrated%20before%20the%20ground%20freezes.>





WE WELCOME YOU TO CONNECT WITH US!

Bath Gardening Club welcomes all newcomers and visitors to our village. If you have recently taken up residence in Bath, we invite you to check us out on Facebook, Instagram and on our website. We are not expert gardeners; we learn from each other, we form friendships, and we laugh a lot. We would love to connect with you.

Our next Gardening Club meeting will take place on September 18 at St John's Hall. We are changing our meeting day and time this year to Thursdays at 1:30. The following month, in October, the Club will hold its Annual General Meeting (AGM). The time, date and location will be confirmed on our Facebook Page, Instagram and website.

Our website: bathgardeningclub.ca

Our Facebook Page: Bath Gardening Club and Horticultural Society

Instagram site: [bathgardeningclub](https://www.instagram.com/bathgardeningclub)

We are 35 years and still growing!

