

A WORMS EYE VIEW
FERGUS AND DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
JANUARY 2019



Happy New Bear!

Wednesday January 16

You are invited to Movie Night, Members show and Tell
Slide shows by Bernie and Randy
Photo Competition Display
Come celebrate the Society's Memorable Events of 2018

Victoria Park Senior Centre
7:30 p.m. Doors open at 7 p.m.

Please join us for a night of fellowship and fun
For more info please contact Kathy Bouma at
519-843-7703 kebouma@gmail.com

President's Message for January Happy New Year!

May we all enjoy peace, health and happiness in 2019and of course.....beautiful gardens and good weather.

I am honoured and privileged to take on the role of your new president this year. I am grateful to have an excellent Board of Directors with new and fresh ideas, as well as a diverse and talented membership to help me on this new adventure. I know I can rely on you all for guidance and advice as I navigate my way. I will enjoy meeting and getting to know more of our members at our monthly meetings and other events.

Our January meeting is always a fun and social event and a good time to get to know each other better. Maybe you will meet new friends or reconnect with ones you haven't spoken with in awhile. We will also be enjoying presentations by Bernie and Randy, a little laughter from Vic and Bob and of course yummy treats organized by Bev and her crew. So please come out and join us on January 16.

Our photography results will be on display and yearbooks will be available with your \$10 membership. In it you will find info on our speakers, events and show schedules for 2019.

Please bring your questions, comments and suggestions along again. Last January we were pleased to receive your input and ideas. The board reviewed and acted on many of them. We intend to continue this year and will report on what we've been able to accomplish. We are privileged to have such an active membership that work hard together for the beautification and enjoyment of our community. And we always enjoy a darn good time together as well! I anticipate another busy and enjoyable year ahead.

Together, our whole membership determines our success. All the best in 2019!

Connie Di Pisa

2019 Board of Directors



President Connie Di Pisa Vice-President Karen Eddie Secretary Juri Niit
Treasurer Fred Mallett Past President Kathy Bouma Directors Larry Broome Bev
Dawson Graham Oughton Nico van der Sluis Bert Peel Randy McLean Linda
Murray Ken Johnston

John Carter – Remembers the Society

John Carter passed April 25, 2018 at 95 years of age but he did not forget the Fergus Horticultural Society of which he had been an active member and Honorable Vice-President for so many years. In his Will, he left to the Society a sum of \$3,480.25 which was a part of his Life Insurance policy. Many of the groups, Societies and organizations that he had been involved with over the many years of his long life were recipients of his thoughtfulness.

The monetary gift has been deposited in the Society account. No plans have been made yet as to whether a special project or event will be held in his honour. Any suggestions from members are welcome.



Neighbours of John have already planted a tree in his remembrance on St. Patrick Street to replace a recently removed tree. This planting was coordinated with the Township as they have been replacing and planting many trees this past year. A plaque will be placed by this tree and the tree will be maintained by the neighbours.

Photo supplied by Debbie D.
(John's house in background)

Monday January 21 - 7:30 - 9:00 at Elora Centre for the Arts

Neighbourwoods Winter Tree Talk:

The Mennonite Central Committee: Reforesting for Hope and Change in Haiti by Fred Redekop

Cost - \$5.00 or Free for Neighbourwoods members

Society's President Award



Mary & Vic Reimer



Sharon & Graham Oughton



Susan & Juri Niit

Rose Bowl Trophy
Harry Conklin Rose Award



Matilda Parsons

Pioneer Trophy



Claire McKay
(accepted by Dean)

Royal Bank Award



Linda Murray

Bristow Trophy



Kathy Bouma

John Carter Trophy



Kathy Bouma

Colwyn Trophy



Michelle Goff

Scotia Bank Award



Kathy Bouma

Joanie's Gift Certificate



Susan Niit

Mabel Reid Memorial Trophy



Colleen Pearse

Photo Competition



Randy McLean

25 Year Service pin and Lifetime Membership



Christine Whitehead

Lifetime Membership



Darlene Tremblay

10 Year Service Pins



Paul Binning Sharon Oughton Graham Oughton
Millie Cumming Lloyd Laugheed

2018 Photo Competition Winners

Pick Your Own Margaret Asbury

Gentle Waves Juri Niit

Tranquility Randy McLean

Prickly Phil Kidston

Landscape Cathy Kidston

Farm Implements Margaret Asbury

Pollinators in the Garden Bernie Siegmund

Field of Dreams Bernie Siegmund

Fergus & District Garden Recognition Program

Are there local gardens which you often admire as you pass by, or gardens which trigger a hint of jealousy due to their beauty and originality? Perhaps one of your neighbours has such a garden, or perhaps you have simply spotted one as you walked or drove by.

The Society Board of Directors has held preliminary discussions about launching a program to recognize and honour such local gardens of particular beauty or interest. These would be gardens which contribute to the beautification of our community by providing an outstanding display of flowers, shrubs and trees. Unusual garden design and layout may also be factors in recognition. Recognition would come in the form of a plaque, prominently displayed in the front of each qualifying garden. Elora-Salem, Harriston, and several Toronto-area Horticultural Societies already have similar programs under a variety of names.

Purposes of the program are several-fold:

- Recognition of the effort and dedication involved by the homeowner.

- Public recognition in the form of a plaque bearing the name of the Fergus & District Horticultural Society.
- Raising public awareness of the Horticultural Society and its work.
- Adding homeowner incentive to become a Horticultural Society member.
- Possibly inspiring other homeowners to raise the level of their gardening “game”.

At present, this is simply an idea under development, but help is needed in the form of more involvement by the general membership of the Society. First off, a small volunteer group is needed to fully develop the program, in terms of the rules, program name, and judging of gardens. The Board is too large a group to run the program, and a smaller, dedicated committee is needed.

On a more widespread level, all members need to be alert to identifying notable gardens which might qualify, and to turn in nominations to the program committee.

If any members are interested in helping to get this program under way, please make your willingness known to any Society Board Member. Names and contact information can be found in the 2019 Yearbook, to be distributed at the January Members’ Meeting. Thank you.

Membership to our Society is now available.

This is a reminder that your yearly membership fees are due in January. Once again the fees remain at ten dollars per member. The membership committee will be available to collect your dues at 7:00 pm, before our January meeting starts

You will be given a sheet with your contact information on it, and you will be asked to check that everything is correct. You will also be asked if you do, or do not wish to receive emails from the Fergus and District Horticultural Society. You can circle “yes” or “no”, sign the form and hand it back. You will receive your new membership card and your yearbook.

Tuesday Coffee
at
Randy and Karen's
January 1 2019



Lavender is an aromatic experience for gardeners and farmers alike

The following is a reprint of a past article by former Society member Ron Stevenson who passed away on January 4, 2017. With greatest respect to Ron, we have not edited his writings. Accordingly, some references to weather, dates, etc., may not be correct for current times. Ron's vast knowledge of Horticulture, his detailed research and his gardening advice are timeless.

Ron Stevenson, Fergus Horticultural Society

My first recollection of lavender comes from a country fair where "Old English Lavender" was on offer. A recognizable scent lingered in the air. Small basket-like sachets were to be placed in dresser drawers and closets to give clothes a "clean" scent. Also, they were hung on bedposts for a relaxing soothing sleep. Those ideas were customary to the times.

In reality, lavender has an extensive history. In ancient Egypt, lavender was found in the tomb and sarcophagus of Tutankhamen. During mummification, the King's body was wrapped in lavender-dipped shrouds. In Greece, it was used to cure insomnia and insanity. During Roman times, the herb scented the water in public baths. Lavender was also used as a perfume, flavouring and insect repellent. In medieval Europe, it was spread over castle floors to deodorize and sanitize them. It was considered a valuable medicine especially during the Great Plague of the 17th century.

The English word lavender is derived from Old French *lavandre*, and Latin, *lavare* (to wash), referring to the use of the plant. Lavender (*lavandula*) is a member of 39 flowering plants in the mint (*lamiaceae*) family. It's native to southern Europe, Africa, the Mediterranean, Asia and India. Many members of the group are extensively grown as ornamental plants, garden herbs or for the extraction of essential oils.

The group includes annuals and herbaceous perennials. Generally, flowers are violet, lavender, lilac or blue but occasionally blackish purple or yellow can be found. It should be noted that the hue lavender got its namesake from the plant. Similar to other large root perennials, it's not easily transplanted. Gardeners wishing to grow lavender should consider two important points when choosing a location for the plant. It does not perform well with wet feet. Do not choose a location where water will accumulate. Lavender requires full sun, although, a minimal amount of shade is tolerable.

At a meeting of the Fergus Horticultural Society, members were introduced to essential oil plants grown at the Flowers to Fragrance Lavender Farm. The farm is on highway 89 between Harriston and Mount Forest. In a slide presentation, Nick Morris focused on the facets of his parent's farming practices. In the 1990s, Shirley and Aubrey Morris were grain farming in Manitoba. After many disappointments, they began to consider diversification. After much consultation and research, the family decided to venture into essential oils. Essential oils are extracted from aromatic plants. The captured concentrated oils have a variety of therapeutic, medicinal and culinary uses. Originally, Morris acquired half an acre of hybrid monarda propagated cuttings from the Morden Research Facility. Also known as wild bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*), it is an extremely fragrant, perennial herb that grows up to 1m in height.

Monarda is included in the mint family group in which lavender is part. Flowers range from pink to purple. Deciding to move to Ontario, Morris settled near Fergus. He decided to expand his farm's plant varieties which included four varieties of lavender. In 2006, Morris decided to further expand the farm's operation by purchasing an essential oil distillation unit. Briefly, the distillation apparatus uses water to create steam which releases the essential oils. As the water boils, steam passes through plant material, vapourizing the volatile compounds. Then vapours flow through a tube, where they condense back to liquid, which is then collected.

There are approximately 700 varieties of essential oil plants. The farm sells a variety of essential oil products. Soaps, shampoos, conditioners, body washes, deodorants, moisturizers and specific essential oils and hydrosol.

Gardeners who wish to harvest lavender or other aromatic plants should do so before the flowers open. They will stay tightly closed and fragrant for many months. Take advantage of lavender's long lasting scent, by cutting the entire stem and flower. In lavender, the essential oil is found in the flowering buds. As with others scented flowers, the fresher the blossom the stronger the fragrance will be. Unlike simulated or artificial varieties, quality fragrances, flavorings, incense, cosmetics and health and beauty products all use essential oils.

Presently, the Morris farm has 20 acres of 10 different types of lavender plus monarda, hyssop, lemon balm, chamomile, marigold, calendula and orange mint. The blooming fields are visually outstanding with an unforgettable aromatic experience.

BEAR THOUGHTS

Sudden and unexpected forest encounters are... well... actually quite expected. As a forest dweller, I have become accustomed to random encounters in the forest and all the confusing and sometimes upsetting effects of them. Even though they happen often, I still get taken aback by these encounters. Even when I happen upon a sort of creature I have seen time and time again, I still find myself jumping and running and losing my composure.

The last time I saw such a common creature, I had a realization. I found a raccoon. I was going through a wonderful dumpster when I decided to check under it. Sometimes I find interesting sauces and bugs under dumpsters that sit on blocks on mutilated trees, so I was excited to look around.

My snout was met with a tiny vicious paw.

The culprit was a tiny raccoon who was scared and angry and hissing. I had found the little beast. Not on purpose. It surprised me and I ran until my paws hurt and the moon took place of the sun. It was a difficult evening.

But as I thought about the situation, I thought about the raccoon. I had found the tiny creature, but had the raccoon found me? It had to have found me. What was it like for the raccoon? Did the raccoon hear my heavy steps? Did my curious snout startle the raccoon? That would explain its violent reaction. I felt awful. That experience had to have been as traumatizing for the raccoon as it had been for me.

I went back to the dumpster to check on the raccoon. The creature was gone, and I was sad about that. I wanted to ask the raccoon about our shared experience. I wanted to know more about the raccoon. I do not blame the raccoon for running, but I wish I had the opportunity to see me through raccoon eyes. Maybe I can be more aware of myself in the future, and maybe that will lead to some raccoon coming to check on me when I run off into the forest, terrified.

Maybe