

Feb 23, 2019 Breakfast Meeting Connon's Nursery Waterdown

Host Flamborough Horticultural Society

Attendance -112

1. 8:30 am Breakfast

- 2. 9:15 am Welcome Kari Bennett**, Flamborough President, thanked Arie Vanspronzen, the set-up crew, the welcome staff, all food providers, those who created table centrepieces for share the wealth, Van Damn Seeds, and Connon's who set up all the tables, and provided the venue.

Cor Vanderkruk, owner of Connon's Nursery, gave a history of the nursery. It was built in the late 1800's to entertain gardeners, hold dinners and other community events. In 1886 a ledger of members was started (now an antique book) Major John Connon, British army, built the original nursery in Winona. The nursery was surrounded by lemon and orange trees. Connon's still sells lemon and orange trees today. The nursery went bankrupt in 1906. Also, in 1906, a florist shop was incorporated in the east end Hamilton. In 1928 Connon's relocated to Highway 5 in Waterdown, on the site of an old train station. The three Connon brothers split the business and rolled over \$5M into three farms. Case and Mark Vanderkruk run the company today. To date, five generations of Vanderkruks have worked in the business. Leann, Cor's daughter now runs the greenhouse. Of the six Connon children, all are still in a gardening related business. John Connon was a seed man and at the time no nurseries existed in the area. He took cuttings, shipped in sand by sea, that were off loaded to the nursery. Some of the original 100 rose bushes still exist.

Cor's message to the District 6 Horticultural societies: "Be more instrumental in your communities. Groups need guidance to pick and plant the correct plants. Get involved."

Cor also announced a 10%-off sale, special to members attending this District meeting. Connon's is planning a plant swap March 23 10 am - noon. Plants, pots, and cuttings can be brought in to trade. Connon's also offered 50% off on their "Grower Direct" membership card for anyone attending the meeting.

- 3. 9:30 am Catherine McGill, District Director**, greeted the meeting, introduced district secretary, Marie Decker and district treasurer, Bob Wilt. She announced that the district is looking for a new treasurer.

- 4. Minutes** of Sept 29 meeting at Paris Fairgrounds were moved accepted by Marie Decker, seconded by Barb Bell, and carried. Marie also asked each District 6 society to send in their "In Memoriam" list as soon as possible, deadline being April 213, 2019.

5. Bob Wilt presented the interim **treasurer's report**; the official year-end report will be given at the 2019 Annual General Meeting in April in Burlington. The auditors (Lee Vanspronken and Trudy Bleidung, have completed the review. The district ran a deficit of \$860.00, half the deficit is due to the very low attendance of 106 at the fall dinner. Current bank balance: \$13140. Moved by Lianne Krane, seconded by Gord Roberts, the report was accepted. Carried

6. Upcoming meeting and event dates:

2019

2019 AGM Saturday, April 27, Burlington East Plains United Church 8:00 am. Elizabeth Schleicher, AGM flower show chair, asked members to participate in the flower show, pre-registration is required for design and special exhibits. The niche for the class "Dancing Under the Stars" was shown, an explanation of design class names appears the back of the program. Entry tags available. Elizabeth suggested we list entries the night before to ease the entry process. A package of AGM materials, including the program, was handed out to each District 6 society.

All executive position will be open at the AGM. The District needs a new treasurer. Nominations from the floor will be accepted at the AGM or if you are interested in joining either the executive or taking on an Add position please let Cat know. cat@rogers.com

New ADD's stepping up in April at the AGM

Marion Heil - Stoney Creek

Elizabeth Chapple - Stoney Creek

Sandi Remedios - Burlington

District Auditors: The District needs two new auditors for 2021. They can be from the same society but not from the same household.

Trudy and Lee have agreed to do the year 2020.

Plant Faire at RBG, Saturday April 27, 2019- we have a table there. Please attend.

2019 Fall Breakfast Meeting - Sept 14, Oakville, St. Simon's United Church, Trafalgar Road
8:30 am

2019 Fall dinner Acton, Nov. 23 Acton Legion

2020

Spring Breakfast meeting - Bronte HS (Oakville)

AGM - April 18, Georgetown, Gellert Centre

Fall Breakfast Meeting - Simcoe

Fall Dinner - Haldimand

2021

Spring Breakfast Meeting - Flamborough

AGM - no host yet

Fall Breakfast Meeting- Stoney Creek

Fall Dinner - Haldimand

7. Garden Ontario - the logo has a new look highlighting the name GardenOntario instead of the Ontario Horticultural Association

GardenOntario website - the update will soon be completed, testing is in the final stages and the opening date will soon be here.

OHA Convention - District 11 - Windsor

July 19-21, Best Western Waterfront Hotel and St. Clair College for the Arts

“Come to the Deep South where Everything Grows”

8. Society Constitutions and By-laws: These should be updated every five years and looked at every two years. It is important that these documents remain current for every society.

9. Gardening-related Events

Canada Blooms March 8 - Sunday 17, Toronto Enercare Centre Exhibition Grounds (Garden Clubs of Toronto)

Tri-ennial Show - Garden Clubs of Ontario “Music in Bloom” RBG May 29, 30

Marie has a schedule if anyone would like a look or to sign up. The schedule is available on line at www.gardenclubsoftoronto.com or look up Triennial Show, Music in Bloom

10. Awkward subjects _ marijuana. e.g., - It is legal so you can have a speaker on this topic.

People need the information. Marijuana is a good pollinator plant (feeds larva), hemp rope, hemp fabric, and hemp paper are renewable resources, while wood is not a sustainable product. Hemp is good solution.

11. Passing of news - E mails from the District Executive, Assistant District Directors, the OHA Trillium newsletter and the District Dirt newsletter must be passed on to all members, not just to local society executives!!! Send them out by email. We are all connected, and all information should be shared. Cat is now using Mailchimp for sending out the newsletter. Easy and free.

12. Membership Challenge "Did you Know?"

There is a \$100 cash prize available to the Society with the largest percentage turn-out to the AGM. Get your Members interested, car pool or bring a bus.

13. Are You (Is your Club) welcoming? - This makes big difference to strangers and new members. You need someone at the door, a welcoming committee, or a buddy system to pair up with new members. These ideas all work well. You will lose members if you appear cold or unwelcoming. Take this back to your executive. You need a smiling face at the door or registration table!!!

14. Certificates and District Awards- Do We Need Them? Whether we hand out physical awards or not a record of all awards bestowed will be kept by the District secretary. Individual societies should keep their own awards records as well.

15. Ozikuri Mum display at Gage Park

Ozikuri Mum - Bob Wilt was in Singapore 10 times over the last year. At "Garden of the Bay" greenhouse, Bob attended a sunflower exhibit showcasing 5" tall chrysanthemums. These mums were grown using the Ozikuri method of growing mums. This one plant had 500 blooms. Longwood, Pennsylvania, has developed an Ozikuri mum that has up to 1000 blooms. Since Hamilton has a Fall Mum show every year, District 6 is considering if they should have an Ozikuri mum. 2020 would be the ideal year to do this as it is the 100th anniversary of the mum show. We are exploring the cost to be part of a group that would acquire this mum for Rodger Tschanz and the Hamilton Mum Show at Gage park. Ancaster Horticultural Society has offered \$1000 to help finance this mum.

TBG has a gardener that has undergone the three-year learning period to grow one of these mums and would consult with gage park Nursery and Trial Gardens. We need a group (a 250 bloom-plant takes about 9 months to grow.) Financial assistance is requested from individual horticultural societies to bring this project to fruition. District 6 has agreed to donate between \$500 and \$1000. This question will come back to the AGM in April. In the intervening month each society will be asked if they want to pledge some money toward funding the plant. The mum, plus \$1500 staff hours. equals an approximate \$30,000 cost. The bulk of the cost would be covered by Gage Park, the Trial Gardens and the nursery.

16. District Fund Raisers

Bio-degradable Oasis for sale at \$3 a block. The last of what we have is here today. SOLD OUT
1 license plate cover left. SOLD OUT

The Province of Ontario Environmental Resource book - is being rewritten, new cost will be \$5.
The old book is on sale for \$2.50. Main upgrading is just a new cover.

OJES Ontario Judging and Exhibiting Standards - new book is printed and available from Cat at \$10 per copy if you pay for at this meeting, books ordered later will include shipping costs. Pick-up will be at the AGM.

17. Other Announcements

Dave Usher - speaker from the United Kingdom will be visiting Canada in the fall of 2020 and available for bookings. Visit his FaceBook page. He has both garden talks and topic talks.

Awards, OHA =. Deadline is the end of Feb

Hamilton and Burlington Rose Society, Sunday March 31, 2:00 pm - Speaker Jill Whitehead "Growing Roses for Cut Flowers"

Fashion Show, Fri Apr 12 in Caledonia - Pyramid, easy wash and wear clothes. New spring line. \$10 entry to Haldimand (Fund raiser). Tickets available today 250 Argyle St N 7pm

Haldimand@gardenontario.org

18. Whistling Gardens has been nationally acclaimed as:

- the largest private botanical garden
- having the largest peony collection\
- a collection of over 2000 conifers
- the botanical garden is a great success story for Norfolk County

Due to a Town mistake in paperwork, the proper policy was not in the books when the documents for Whistling Gardens were approved. Therefore, diversified activities at the gardens could now cost huge fees and the gardens would lose their current 5-year business permissions. We can help correct this oversight if we support their re-instatement. Norfolk County and the 38,000 OHA members can send a request to the government by asking for re-instatement of the garden's 5-year previously approved business permissions.

To go about doing this, please send out the letter in Addendum 1, from your society to support Whistling gardens. The letter should be sent to Whistling Gardens for their use in correcting this error.

Whistling Gardens

698 Concession 3 RR #1 Wilsonville ON NOE 1Z0 E: info@whistlinggardens.ca P:
519.443.5773 F: 519.443.4141 www.whistlinggardens.ca

Please see addendum 1

"Whistling Gardens - Letter of Support to Re-instate Diversified Garden Activities"

10:25 am Break

11:00 am Speaker Marilyn Cornwall

12:00 pm Thank-you from Cat to Kari, Flamborough HS, members who helped, all who attended.

1:00 - 3:00 pm FaceBook Workshop, Cat McGill and Veronica Heiderich

19. New Business

Guelph and Wellington Master Gardeners "A Day in the Garden" - Sunday Feb 24, 9-4

Haldimand Seedy Sat March 30. 9 am -2 pm. The day includes:

- speaker - Frankie Flowers,
- photography with Art Ward,
- gardening events for children
- Cat will be running café
-

Website /FaceBook - horticultural like or comment on the posts. This makes an algorithm that sends it out to a bigger audience.

20. Awards:

Share the wealth - \$269

Pictures donated by Marilyn Cornwell were won by Joan Paris - Oakville, Cathy Johnston - Flamborough, Anne Neuton - Bronte and Dorothy VanDamm - Brantford.

Meeting declared adjourned by District Director, Cat McGill.

Face Book workshop followed the meeting.

Addendum 1 - see next page

Addendum 1

January 15, 2019

Dear Sir or Madame,

RE: WHISTLING GARDENS - LETTER OF SUPPORT TO REINSTATE DIVERSIFIED GARDEN ACTIVITIES

Whistling Gardens is national award winning, internationally acclaimed and one of Canada's only privately run Botanical Gardens. It was recently voted as one of Canada's Best Botanical Gardens with over 20 acres where you can view 4,500 different plants, including North America's largest public Peony Collection, as well as their fall planting addition of over 1,200 varieties, making this a true destination in Norfolk.

Whistling Garden's Conifer Collection now surpasses 2,000 different species, hybrids and cultivars. This collection is the largest in North America on public display, with many specimens in the collection being the only ones in the country, and also features one of the rarest plants in the world.

Norfolk County should be promoting Whistling Gardens for all that they bring to the area, including tourism and economic development. Whistling gardens should be looked upon as a success story for Norfolk County, showcasing how new ventures can bring extraordinary value, not only to the Norfolk area, but to Canada.

The Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA) has recently learned that Whistling Garden's previously approved 5-year business permissions were recently removed due to a policy review and for no other reason.

On behalf of the Association's 278 societies and nearly 28,000 members, we are offering our support to Whistling Gardens, with a request to restore their previously approved 5-year business permissions to offer common Canadian Botanical Garden activities - limited special

events, live entertainment/concerts - as part of their garden festivals and light hospitality garden receptions. These permissions are ordinary business functions of Canadian Botanical Gardens and represent continued economic growth in Norfolk County.

Sincerely,

Kathy Smyth

Ontario Horticultural Association President