



# 'Through The Garden Gate'

The monthly newsletter of the Englehart and District Horticultural Society  
August 2016



**Englehart and District Horticultural Society was formed in 1956.**

**General meetings:**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of most months at 7:00 p.m. in the Presbyterian Church basement

- \*Speakers, workshops, demonstrations
- \*Civic Improvement
- \*Youth Involvement
- \*Displays and Competitions
- \*Environmental Stewardship

President: C. A. Field  
Bulletin Editor: E. Fisher  
**Website:**  
engleharthort.weebly.com

## A Word From The Editor

I have very strong memories from my childhood of the excitement in our house come flower show time. My mother would go out daily, two or three times a day as we got closer, to check on what was blooming and what she hoped would be ready in time to enter. I remember, also, the joy I felt getting my few entries ready...a dish garden, a marigold (I'll always associate the smell of marigolds with the flower show), maybe a small arrangement of my own flowers. It was the highlight of our summer. I also remember the fear of frost and going out in the evening to cover something precious, just in case. And, yes, there were frosts in the third week of August sometimes. Yikes! I remember my mother sorting out her containers and making sure they were clean, many days in advance, planning what flowers would go in which container to show it to its best advantage. I remember her using chicken wire in her floral designs, as we had never heard of oasis or floral foam back then. She would take me around with her as she was getting ready for the show and I learned so much in those precious days spent with her. Do you have a child, a grandchild, a neighbour's child, who you could encourage in the same way my mother did? Inculcating a love of living things in the young is one of the best ways to ensure we produce happy and healthy citizens for our country's future.

## Mark It On Your Calendar:

**August 16:** Set up for show (Tuesday)  
**August 18, 19:** Festival of Flowers

## Looking Back to 1975



*To the right: Award winners from the 2015 show*

**(left)** Winning awards at the 1975 Festival of Flowers were (left-right): Vida Digulla, Helene Persoon, Eileen Fisher, Elsie Elyea, Phyllis Kearns



### Looking Ahead:

It's almost Festival of Flower time and we are certainly getting excited about it. It's our 60<sup>th</sup> official flower show, but could be counted as our 61<sup>st</sup> if you count the first unofficial one held at the home of Ruby and Syd Bryan. I hope that we'll have a record attendance for this special occasion. We're hoping to have many past presidents of the Society attending the opening ceremony, which will be a very special one for us. Hope you'll be there as well.



### Talking About Tomatoes

Here are 3 good hints for tomato growers: **1.** Know your type (not variety, but type). Are your tomatoes determinate or indeterminate? Up here in the north, we should be growing determinate plants. These are plants that have a predetermined height and once they reach that point, put their strength into producing blossoms and fruit, instead of continuing to grow stems and leaves. **2.** Tomatoes prefer to be watered from the ground...try to avoid overhead watering and give them a good soak with a watering can or soaker hose once or twice a week, more in hot weather.



**3.** Keep the plants up off the ground. Many people find that the tomato cages available at hardware stores are simply not strong enough for a well-grown tomato plant. You may want to include wooden stakes inside the cage or simply invest in some good tall tomato cages which are available (I've seen them on line). Whatever method you use, try to keep the leaves and fruit up off the ground, ensuring good air circulation around the plant to avoid diseases and rot from contact with damp earth.

### Reports from Your Directors:

**Programme:** As this is the month for our annual flower show, the Festival of Flowers, there will be no general meeting this month. We'll meet again on September 21st. Our September meeting will feature our 'Jaded Gardener' competition, so remember to bring along your jade plant received last year from Deb Murray.

**Social:** Convenor Mary Schippers reminds everyone that we will need all hands on deck for the social aspect of the Festival of Flowers. Claudette Black has graciously volunteered to handle the Tea Garden at the flower show and will be looking for all the help she can get. I hope that if she calls, looking for a pan of squares, some cookies, or a couple of hours from you to help in the Tea Garden, that you will say yes.

**Festival of Flowers:** This being our 60<sup>th</sup> flower show, we really hope to make this show a special one. The theme, 'Celebrating Our Journey', is appropriate, as we have come a long way from our first show as a fully formed society in 1956. We really hope that all members will participate, either by entering some classes, by helping at the event, or, at the least, by attending. Our Thursday night official opening will be lots of fun, as we hope to have as many Past Presidents in attendance as possible. We will also be having a delicious and beautiful cake for all to enjoy that night, in addition to the Tea Garden. Don't forget, there are classes for fruits and vegetables, cut flowers, floral designs, houseplants, photography, and youth. Maybe your African violet is in bloom...enter it. Perhaps your tomatoes are at their best- show us. The slugs have left your marigolds alone and they are beautiful...bring them along on Thursday

morning to enter them. Got some good photos- perhaps there's a class for them. Make sure you get your show book from Secretary Bonnie Warner. Even if you have nothing to enter, we sure would appreciate your help setting up the show on Tuesday, August 16 (leaving the Wednesday free for you to get your entries ready!) If everybody pitches in, it will be a great show! Special thanks to Carol and Rick Heaslip for volunteering to convene the Silent Auction! Thanks also to Jean Bott and her committee for making the lovely bookmarks to give away at the show.

Don't forget that you can pick up your entry tags at the Legion on Tuesday at set up or Wednesday evening from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., or by contacting Secretary Bonnie Warner.

Don't forget that there are also youth classes for our young gardeners to enter.

**Website/Facebook Page:** Rick Heaslip reports that we have had 2640 hits on our website to date, and Eileen reports that our Facebook Page now has 78 members.

**Membership:** Convenor Ginny reports we now have 78 members to date.

If you didn't make it to the July 20th General Meeting, you missed a great time. Mother Nature provided us with a perfect evening for being outdoors and President Carrie Anne's yard and gardens were amazing. The potluck supper was superb, thanks to the delicious food brought in for sharing, the barbecuing skills of Skip, and the organizing skills of our Social convenor, Mary. Yours truly ran a small but successful fun auction, raising over \$200.00 from donations from the members present.

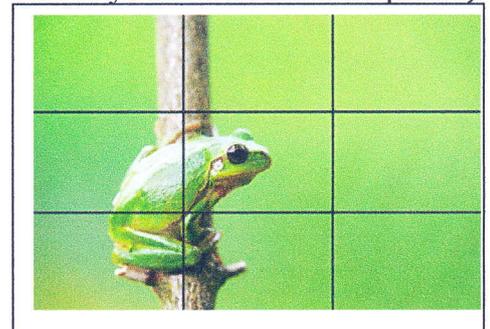


**News from the Directors' Meeting:** The Englehart Museum will be sponsoring an Autumn Festival on October 22. There will be kids' activities, a possible cake decorating contest, a home decoration contest (with prizes) and other fall activities planned. We voted to help with prize money for the home decoration activity and hope that our members will get involved in this fun day! More info will follow in September or on the website/Facebook page.

### *Give Photography a Try*

Photographing nature is a great hobby...challenging and fun. Now, with digital cameras, it is also more affordable as you only have to print your best shots. If you think you have some good photos, perhaps you can enter some in the Photography Section of the Festival of Flowers. You still have a couple of weeks to sort through existing photos or take some new ones which would fit into the categories for this year's show. First things first- read the rules/suggestions in the prize list. Make sure you follow those rules so as not to have your entry excluded or marked down by the judge, for instance- no enlargements unless called for. Make sure your photo is appropriate for the class. Get your mounts (the stiff paper on which you will attach the photo) ready ahead of time, making sure they are the correct size.

With regard to the picture itself, try to make your photo interesting. Don't always place your focal point in the centre of the shot. Use the rule of thirds by placing the focal point about one-third of the way in from the frame, using a grid as in the picture to the right. Photographers will also call this 'the sweet spot'. Try to find new ways to make your photos interesting, perhaps by shooting from a new angle, such as looking up from below or getting in close, concentrating on one aspect of the composition. Give it a try and good luck!



### Plant of the Month

Monarda/ Bee Balm/ Bergamot

This pretty perennial is hardy to our area and does well in almost any soil but does prefer moist, acidic soil. It will grow in full to partial sun and prefers to have some winter mulch as it sometimes will lift itself up in the soil. It ranges from medium to tall and grows in a range of reds, pinks, and corals. Butterflies and hummingbirds love this plant, as do bees, as evidenced by its common name. The shaggy petals eventually fall, leaving an interesting seed head behind. It can become a 'spreader' but is easily controlled simply by digging out the older parts of the plant and sharing with others. Some people use it as a herb, in potpourri, and will often make a tea from it.



### Our 17<sup>th</sup> President: Bruce Wilson



1995-96

2005-06

2013-14

Bruce, like several of our Presidents, had been very involved with the Agricultural Society, and brought with him many organizational skills when he joined us. He quickly became a Director, convening various

committees before moving through the Executive positions. Bruce served our Society as President for three terms, while also serving on the District 12 executive, including several years as District Director. As well as representing his own district at Ontario Horticultural Society meetings, Bruce became involved in O.H.A. committees, such as the Newsletter and Internet committees. In 1999, Bruce was elected to the position of Second Vice-President and was elected as President of the Ontario Horticultural Association in June 2001, a position he held until June 2002. He was responsible for organizing and overseeing all of the Ontario Horticultural Association's meetings and programmes during his term, including the planning of the Annual Convention in Sault Ste. Marie in June 2002. Bruce has received the Society's Service Certificate, the District Service Award, and the highest honour awarded to men by the Ontario Horticultural Association, the Silver Fir.

### Poetry and Prose

#### Midsummer Joys

*Give me the joys of summer,  
Of Summer Queen so fair,  
With wealth of lovely flowers  
And fruits and sun-kissed air!*

*Talk not to me of winter  
With ice and frost and snow,  
Nor changing spring and autumn  
When howling winds will blow.*

*No, I will take the joys  
Of Summer every time,  
So to this Queen of Seasons  
I dedicate my rhyme.*

*Winifred Sackville Stoner*

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