



# 'Through The Garden Gate'

The monthly newsletter of the Englehart and District Horticultural Society  
February 2018



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:** R. Campbell  
**Bulletin Editor:** E. Fisher  
**Website:**  
englehartort.weebly.com

## Tips for Your Amaryllis

Many of us purchase or are given an amaryllis bulb around Christmas time. It blooms beautifully, the blossoms die and we're sad and want more. I've been asked about making an amaryllis bloom again and have to admit that I have rarely been successful. However, I came upon an article by Sonya Day in her column 'The Real Dirt'. She had some suggestions which might be worth trying. Sonya says:

1. You get what you pay for. The bigger and healthier the bulb, the healthier the plant will be, making it more apt to be strong enough to rebloom. Don't forget- to produce those multiple huge blooms takes a lot of strength from a plant. It will take time to rebuild that strength in the bulb. Sometimes those cheaper bulbs purchased at a hardware store just don't have it in them to rebloom...but sometimes you might be lucky!
2. The classic amaryllis, with the tall stems and one solid colour, are more apt to rebloom. The newer hybrids, such as the ruffled/bicolours/miniatures may not make the best bulb for blooming again. (Enjoy their beauty while you can...but don't give up on them!)

## Mark It On Your Calendar:

February 21: General Meeting

## This Month's Programme: 'Wild About Nature'

The Programme Committee, headed by Bonnie Warner, has met and planned a variety of monthly programmes for the Society. Our general meeting this month will be a great one. We are lucky enough to have Sue Nielsen of the Temiskaming Speaker to be our guest speaker. Sue is a very experienced and award winning photographer and will be sharing hints/tips on how to improve our photography. Please pass on the information to friends and don't be afraid to bring a visitor along to see what fun we have. We also plan on having a mini competition at this meeting. You are able to enter 1 photo (4"x6") per class. It should be mounted on white Bristol board or paper (5x7), with a tag attached. Tags will be available at the meeting. Classes are:

1. **For the Birds:** a photo of a bird/birds
2. **Going Buggy-** a shot of an insect/insects
3. **Floral Fantasy** – a picture of a single bloom or flower head
4. **The Wonders of Water-** water in any form.

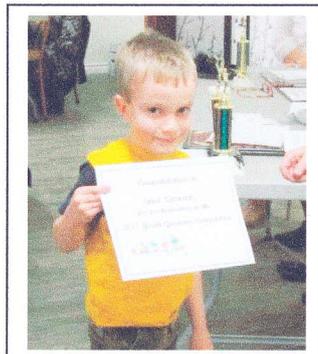


## Annual Meeting News

Our Annual Meeting was a busy and interesting time. Deborah Murray did a great job as hostess of the meeting. The potluck supper was very successful, with a wide variety of delicious food. President Rosemary Campbell delivered her report and remarked on the importance that the Society has had in her life. Secretary Bonnie Warner had prepared the annual report booklet, which outlined the work done by the Society in 2017. This is a huge job and we thank Bonnie for her hours of work. Treasurer Ginny Montminy presented the annual Financial Report and we discovered that we really did spend a large amount of money in the community last year! Thanks to these three women for all their efforts. Jean Bott delivered the Nominating Committee report and Twyla Wilson ran the elections for the coming year. Thanks, Jean and Twyla. The Directors of the Society are elected each year and we are pleased that two more members chose to join us. We welcome **Evelyne Nemcsok** and **Barbara Curran** as our new Directors. The presentation of prizes to the Youth Garden Competition winners was the highlight of the evening, followed by the presentation of money prizes from the adult and children's competitions. We then enjoyed a slide presentation by Carrie Anne Field, who took us to four European countries. Thanks, Carrie Anne. All in all, it was a very successful Annual Meeting.



We all enjoyed a delicious potluck supper



Steve Nemcsok JK-Sk gardener



Annalee Robertson Gr. 4-8

## Reports from Your Directors:

**Social:** We are trying something new this year- we aren't having a Social Convenor. Directors are asked to sign up for a month as host/hostess, with responsibilities for making the tea and coffee, bringing milk and some juice, and tidying up after the meeting. Bruce Wilson will ensure that there are enough supplies for each meeting. Joyce Smith is the hostess for February and Bonnie Warner brings the gift for the free draw. As this is a potluck snack, members are asked to bring along something small for sharing.

**Membership:** Convenor Ginny Montminy reports that we have 40 members who have paid their 2018 memberships. Please contact Ginny about paying your annual dues of \$10.00. A cheque made out to the Englehart and District Horticultural Society will ensure that your membership will continue. Our address is on page 1 of the bulletin.

**Bulletin:** Just a reminder that if you change your address (mailing or email), please let either Ginny Montminy or myself know so we can ensure that you don't miss getting your monthly bulletin.

**Programme:** In order for this group to remain relevant and interesting, it is essential that we continue to offer interesting programmes to our members. If you yourself are able to offer to present a programme on a horticultural/nature theme or know someone who could, please let Bonnie know. It does not have to be an onerous job- just a 30 minute demonstration/talk/slides, and we would all appreciate it.

**Website/Facebook:** Rick Heaslip reports that our site experienced 420 unique visits and that he has updated the site for 2018. Check it out- it's great. We now have 144 members on our Facebook page- lots from out of town and even out of the province. It's nice to share information about our Society and plants.

### *Some Good Advice From Past Bulletins*

While looking back through old bulletins, I came across an excellent article from January 1983. Thanks to then editor, Jean Wallace, I can share this excellent advice with you now:

#### **Give Your Houseplants a Holiday**

“When your holidays are over, it is time to give the houseplants a holiday with a bath and a feeding!”

Take a close look at the leaves of your plants. You’ll probably see a lot of collected dust that needs to be removed. Most plants love an occasional shower of lukewarm water. A sprinkler head attached to a greenhouse hose is ideal. If you don’t have a greenhouse, moisten a soft cloth or sponge and wipe the leaves gently. If your plants need watering, set them all in a shower, turn on the warm water, and do two jobs in one.

Avoid sprinkling the leaves or crowns of plants like gloxinias or African violets. When leaves of these plants become dusty, wipe them carefully with a damp cloth.

Humidity will help keep your plants happy. If you don’t have a central heating and humidifying system, a portable unit can be used. It is also good to group plants. Set the pots on trays of wet vermiculite, perlite, or pebbles. Frequent misting helps humidity-loving plants to get moisture from the air. Leaves can also tell you if your plants are getting the right amount of fertilizer. Look for signs such as soot and wilting, which often indicate too much fertilizer. Yellowing and death of lower leaves is usually a sign of nitrogen starvation.” (Thanks, Jean, for this helpful blast from the past.)

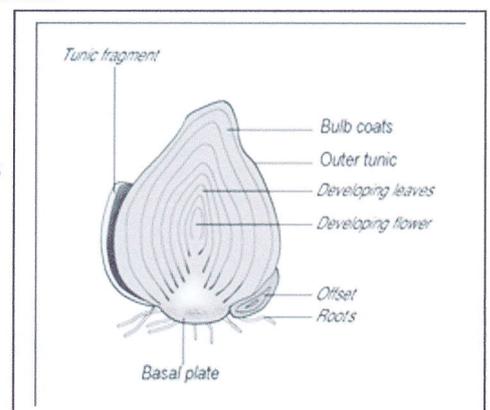
### *Plants Can Be Confusing!*

A lily by any other name...unfortunately, the word *lily* has been ‘borrowed’ and given to plants that are not lilies. Not all plants with the word lily in its name belong to the ‘Lilium’ family. True lilies can range from the towering Tree Lilies (which have been bred by crossing various lily types) to plants as small as the Trout Lily, or Dog-Tooth Violet. All true lilies grow from a **bulb**. Some plants called lilies, but which aren’t, include *Canna Lilies*, *Daylilies*, *Calla Lilies*, *Lily of the Valley*, *Lily of the Nile (Agapanthus)*, *Water Lilies*, and *Sword Lilies (Gladiolus)*. I hope the following article (over the next few bulletins) will help our understanding.

### *Bulbs/Corms/Tubers/Rhizomes*

#### **What Is A Bulb?**

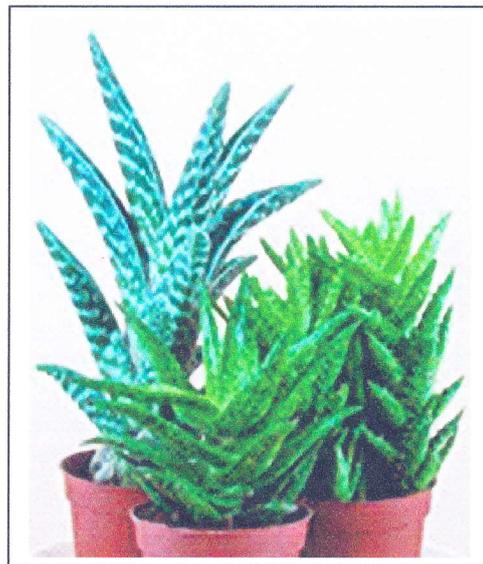
All true bulbs share the following characteristics: They’re more or less rounded, narrowing to a point on the top; leaves and flower stems appear from this point. Many bulbs, such as tulips and onions have a papery outer skin, called a ‘tunic’. With or without a tunic, true bulbs have a flat part, called a **basal plate**, at the bottom. It is from here that roots grow and also where shoots and **scales** are attached. If you cut true bulb in half horizontally, you will see the rings, which are actually the scales (think onions). True bulbs have new bulbs, called offsets, which form from the basal plate. When they get big enough, these offsets, or daughter bulbs, produce flowers on their own. Cut apart a true bulb, such as a hyacinth, at the right time of year, and you can find a miniature flower inside, just waiting to begin growing. Perennial true bulbs add new rings each year, from the inside. Old rings on the outside are used up, but the true bulb itself persists from year to year.



## Plant of the Month

### Aloe

The aloe is an easy-care succulent which has distinctive elongated leaves that fan out in a vase shape from a central base. They can grow up to 3' tall and wide but in our houses we tend to grow smaller varieties such as aloe vera. Aloe varieties are easily incorporated into cactus gardens, and prefer bright light such as south or southwest windows, 65-75°F temperatures, and moderately dry soil such as cactus soil or regular potting soil amended with sand and perlite. They cannot tolerate standing in water. The aloe vera sap is very useful as a topical remedy for burns and sunburns, cuts, and other skin irritations. You can grow aloes from a leaf cutting but the most successful way to reproduce is from a pup or an offshoot of the main plant.



## A Favourite Fruit/Vegetable: The Tomato

Whether you consider the tomato a fruit (which it is) or a vegetable (which we treat it as), this plant is an important crop for many vegetable gardeners, offering a high yield even in a small space. Deciding what type and variety of tomato to grow isn't easy however, particularly when you consider that there are literally thousands to try! There are four main factors to consider when choosing tomatoes.

**1. Your local climate:** Gardeners in cooler climates should choose cool-climate tomatoes. Because these varieties mature earlier they are more likely to produce a crop even in short growing seasons. Late maturing/heat-loving varieties will need to be grown in a greenhouse or tunnel where the extra warmth will help extend the season. However, you may take a look at some of the more modern varieties with improved heat tolerance. These 'heat-set' tomatoes can set fruits at temperatures far higher than traditional varieties can. Many heat-set tomatoes will also grow well in cooler weather.

**2. Sowing Tomatoes:** Sow tomatoes six to eight weeks before planting, working back from your last frost date. Sow the seeds individually into pots or trays of damp seed-starting mix. Cover them over with a fine layer of potting soil, water carefully and place a clear plastic bag over the top of the pot to create a humid microclimate. When the seeds germinate, loosen the plastic somewhat to prevent diseases. Keep the pot in a warm location out of direct sunlight. A temperature of about 70 F. or 20 C. is ideal. When the seeds have germinated, move them into a bright location. Turn windowsill seedlings regularly if they start to lean towards the light. Grow lights can give an early boost and promote upright growth. I like to water my seedlings by soaking the entire pot/box in a shallow tray of room temperature water.

## Poetry and Prose

*Nature looks dead in  
winter because her  
life is gathered  
into her heart.  
She withers the plant  
down to the root  
that she may grow  
it up again  
fairer and stronger.  
She calls her family  
together within  
her inmost home  
to prepare them  
for being scattered  
abroad upon  
the face of the earth.*

*Hugh Macmillan 1871*

Published 11 times a year  
Englehart & District Horticultural  
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Secretary: Bonnie Warner  
Treasurer: Ginny Montminy  
Editor: Eileen Fisher  
Copying: Ginny Montminy  
Mailing: Joyce Marie Smith

## Results from our January 2018 Annual Meeting

At our Annual Meeting held on January 17<sup>th</sup>, Executive Members and Directors were elected. These people will be the Executive Members and Directors in 2018:

### **Executive**

### **Directors**

**President:** Rosemary Campbell

Claudette Black

Barbara Curran

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:** Jean Bott

Eileen Fisher

Rick Heaslip

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:** Kelly Brownlee

Marg McMurray

Evelyne Nemcsok

**Secretary:** Bonnie Warner

Bruce Wilson

Mary Schippers

**Treasurer:** Ginny Montminy

Ruth Webb

Joyce Marie Smith

**Auditors:** Twyla Wilson/Darcy Hebert

### 2018 Convenors

*Christmas Workshop:* C. A. Field

*Facebook:* E. Fisher

*Youth Competitions:* E. Fisher/B. Warner

*Bulletin:* E. Fisher

*Website:* R. Heaslip

*Civic Planting:* C. Field/K. Brownlee

*Social:* Committee of Directors

*Programme:* B. Warner

*Membership/Cards:* G. Montminy

*Prizes and Awards:* G. Montminy

*Plant and Bake Sale:* J. Bott/B. Curran

*Horticultural Week:* Kelly Brownlee E. Nemcsok

*Constitution:* B. Wilson

*Nominating:* C. Field

*Service Certificate:* C. Field

*Publicity:* C. Black



The potluck supper was delicious.



Sierra Denomme gets her award.



Nate Hamilton – super gardener.

