



'Through The Garden Gate'

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



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

General meetings:

3rd 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

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A Season's Reflection

Winter's here, it will always come
A frozen silence with a building hum
The snowfall silent but the winds go wailing
Promised thoughts of spring go sailing
Footprints covered without a trace
Frozen fingers, toes, and face
Blinding sunlight reflected white
Days are brilliant, oh, but the night
Temperatures drop and our hearts do too
Quiet outside but so much to do
The bustle of Christmas to start the season
By March even the air is freezing
But spring will come with its new start
Warmer days and warmer hearts
If I could have the choice of just one season
Autumn's glow is the most pleasing.

Rosemary Campbell

Mark It On Your Calendar

January 17: Annual Meeting/Potluck Supper

This Month's Programme

Welcome to 2018 with the Englehart and District Horticultural Society. We will start off the new year with a great Annual Meeting. It will be a potluck supper so please bring along your favourite dish...main course, dessert, hors d'oeuvres, etc., and enjoy a great meal. We will have a short business meeting with the presentation of the Annual Report booklet, and the election of our Executive and Directors, followed by presentation of awards from the past year's competitions, and the Youth Garden competition. Then, purely for our enjoyment, Carrie Anne Field will show us slides of her recent trip to Europe. You'll love this presentation! Please come out and support the Society. We need to have your presence and input into how we are going to proceed during the coming year.



Looking Ahead:

2017 was a very busy and successful year for our Society. We were very active, with interesting and innovative meetings and events. We have incorporated new ideas into our club as we evolve to meet future challenges. We look forward to continuing to provide our membership and our community with interesting activities and positive leadership in horticulture. To do this, we need your input. Please let us know what it is you would like to see happen in the coming year...do you have a topic you would like to see discussed, a new project we could consider, something we could improve? We will continue to reach out through our monthly bulletin, our website, and our Facebook page. Feel free to reach out to us in return.



Looking Back

What a great year of competitions we had in 2017. Because we did not have a flower show last summer, we decided to hold mini competitions at four of our regular meetings. The first one wasn't well entered but people caught on and the last three were much better. There were classes for children in two of the competitions and the MacPherson children did a fine job with their vegetables in September. The committee will be meeting again this month to plan competitive classes for 2018. If you have any ideas or would like to work on the committee, please let secretary Bonnie Warner know. The picture to the right shows Makayla and Aiden MacPherson with some of their entries.



Reports from Your Directors:

Social: Mary Schippers reminds Deb Murray and Judy Eastman that they are the hostesses for the Annual Meeting and Deb brings the gift for the free draw. The potluck supper starts at 6:00, in the Presbyterian Church; set up begins at 5:30. Feel free to come early to help set up. All directors are asked to attend if possible.

Nominating: Head of the Nominating Committee, Carrie Anne Field, has contacted members, and will present the report for the new year's proposed Directors and Executive members at the Annual Meeting. If you are interested in taking on a position or becoming involved as a Director, please contact Carrie Anne Field. We welcome all comers! We would ask that all Directors please attend our Annual Meeting.

Facebook/Website: Our Facebook page now has 178 members who are sharing and learning about a wide range of horticultural and society activities. Please check out our website for the latest pictures and information from the Society as well.

Bulletin: I continue to ask for input into the monthly newsletter. You may have noticed that the monthly programme is now reported about on the first page rather than under the Reports from Directors. This is because a member suggested that more people will see the upcoming programme quickly... a great suggestion! So feel free to make suggestions and to send me questions you would like answered, interesting articles, self-written or not, etc., that you would like to see in the *Through the Garden Gate*.

The foolish person seeks happiness in the distance. The wise one grows it under their feet.



Christmas Workshop

Once again our Society enjoyed a very successful Christmas Workshop. Convenor Carrie Anne Field and her committee of Bonnie Warner, Joyce Marie Smith, and Eileen Fisher met several times to plan, gather, and organize materials for this year's craft, a Yule Log. Special thanks to Len Fisher for the hours he spent cutting and drilling candle holes into the birch logs. The committee had the materials bagged and ready and on the tables for the guests. Eileen Fisher demonstrated the steps to making the log and other members assisted the busy crafters. We had people from as far away as Kirkland Lake and Latchford that evening. Thankfully, the weather co-operated with us. Many thanks go to President Rosemary Campbell for the wonderful gift which was won by Pat Cousineau. Thanks also to Mary Schippers, Twyla and Bruce Wilson for their work with the lunch, and we are grateful to all who donated the food we enjoyed. Thanks also to Len for the donation of a lovely bird house, which was won by Sandra McDonald. Below are a few photographs from a very enjoyable evening.



The Community Garden

The Community Garden started as a wild idea that came to fruition with the help of our amazing community. The garden portion had a late start but it was enjoyed by many. Our Girl Guides unit was able to pick and donate vegetables to the local food bank a few times. The flower planter looked lovely and helped add colour to the park. The fruit trees had a great start, thanks to Mary Schippers taking the time to water them weekly. In addition to the garden, we have installed a Little Free Library and a multi season stand. In the summer it will be a great place to hang planters. In the cold weather it is being used as a "Warming Tree" where hats, mitts, and scarves of all sizes are donated for those that could use a helping hand. All in all, it has been an amazing learning experience. We look forward to next year. Thank you everyone for your participation! The picture to the right shows busy hands helping out at harvest time. As a Society, we also extend our thanks to Ashley Fehr for her time and effort with this programme and inspiring our youth to 'get their hands dirty'!



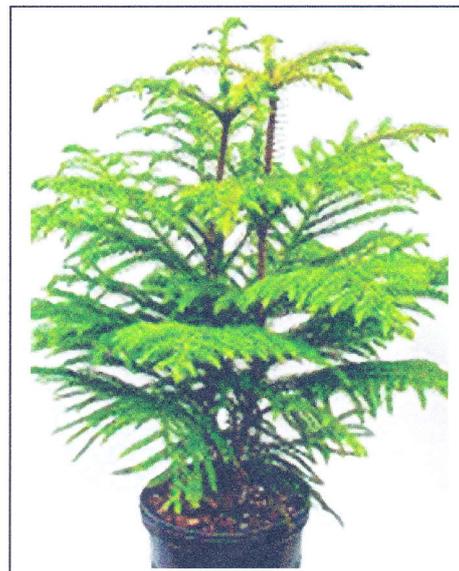
Horticultural Latin

Time for a Latin lesson- you may come across these words in seed catalogues or on name tags in plant pots and knowing the meaning may help you understand your plant better: *contorta*- twisted; *globosa*- rounded; *gracilis*- graceful; *maculate*- spotted; *magnus*- large; *pendula*- weeping or hanging; *alpinus*- alpine; *Canadensis*- Canada or Canadian; *montana*- mountains; *purpurea*- purple; *alba*- white *aurea*- gold or chartreuse

Plant of the Month

Norfolk Island Pine

Norfolk Island Pines (*Araucaria heterophylla*) are native to Norfolk Island, near New Zealand, and are commonly seen here in stores around Christmas time. They look similar to Christmas trees but they are not pines. They are not hardy and require care more like an orchid or other tropical plants. Norfolk pines, being tropical, require high humidity. This is very important in the winter when our homes are dry. Keeping humidity high around the tree will help it thrive. This can be done by either using a pebble tray with water under the pot, using a humidifier in the room, or weekly misting of the tree. Norfolk pine trees prefer several hours of direct, bright light, such as the type of light that can be found in a south-facing window, but they will also tolerate full indirect, bright light as well. Water your Norfolk Island pine when the top of the soil feels dry to the touch. Fertilize your Norfolk pine in the spring and summer with a water soluble balanced fertilizer, such as 15 15 15, but you do not need to fertilize in the fall or winter. It is normal for Norfolk Island pine trees to have some browning on the bottom branches, but not higher up the plant.



Poetry and Prose

House Plant Conundrum

*Houseplants reproach me,
and show drooping stems
and mottled leaves.
Death cannot be tolerated
Even at this level.
But then again,
I'm far too lazy to do
anything about it.
Conundrum.*

Mary Oliver Rotman

Our 9th President, Gwen Colquhoun

The Society was saddened to learn that Gwen Colquhoun passed away in December. Gwen was our 9th President and was active in our Society for many years. She convened many committees and could be counted on to work hard in all areas of the club. She also was involved in many other organizations, such as CGIT, Englehart Area Artists, the Englehart and Area Museum



Mrs. Gwen Colquhoun demonstrates the making of a hanging decorator ball for Christmas beauty.

Board, the Englehart and District Library, and many more. Englehart has lost a great citizen. Rest in peace, Gwen.

"One kind word can warm three winter months. "

This Japanese proverb is so true for us here in the north, so let's try to test it visit an old friend; take something homemade to a shut-in; volunteer in a school, a hospital, a nursing home; run an errand for someone; take a cutting or some flowers to someone who needs a lift. It'll make you and they feel better.

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