



'Through The Garden Gate'

The monthly newsletter of the Englehart and District Horticultural Society
January 2019



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

General meetings:

3rd Wednesday of most months
at 7:00 p.m. in St. Paul's
Emmanuel Community Church
basement

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

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A Word From The Editor

"Gardening is about enjoying the smell of things growing in the soil, getting dirty without feeling guilty, and generally taking time to soak up a little peace and serenity." Lindley Karstens

The following is an excerpt from a note from longtime member, experienced gardener, and friend, Jean Wallace...

"Whatever level of gardener you may be, truly one of the greatest pleasures comes not from nurturing your creation, but from sharing it with others. Gardeners are by and large a generous lot, and among my most favourite people in the world. They throw open the gates and invite you inside to explore. When you crow your delight over some spectacular specimen, often they send you away with a piece of your very own, or at least the promise of a 'slip' when the time is right. The pleasure is as much theirs for the giving as yours for the receiving."

Jean was so right. If you truly love gardening, you will love sharing that love with others. In this busy world these days, gardening is more and more about providing an oasis of peace for yourself and others. It doesn't have to be a large show garden. A small sitting area with some lovely potted plants can be just as welcoming and relaxing as a large show garden. It's what you do to and in your garden that provides both the peace and the stimulation we all need.

Mark It On Your Calendar

January 16: Annual Meeting (In the St. Paul's Emmanuel Community Church basement) across from the post office.

Programme

This month's meeting is our Annual Meeting. This is a potluck supper and Secretary Bonnie will present the booklet of reports from all of the committee convenors. This is an important aspect of our year's work as the booklet provides a record of the work completed by each committee of the Society and is a very helpful resource for incoming members. Thanks in advance to Secretary Bonnie who put the book together. Our entertainment and speaker for the evening will be Jeff Warner of Aitie Creek Gardens who will be speaking to us about growing pumpkins and his famous corn maze. Jeff is always an entertaining speaker so make sure to be there! It'll be a great way to start of the new year.

Our gratitude is also extended to our Executive of the past two years: President Rosemary Campbell, Vice President Jean Bott, Secretary Bonnie Warner, Treasurer Ginny Montminy, and to all who took on the responsibility of convening one of our committees. Without you, nothing would get done. We ask that all members try to make it to this important meeting to help us plan for the upcoming year and to support the incoming executive and directors.

Looking Ahead:

The past few years have been difficult for our little town. We have lost our own Society's annual Flower Show, the Fall Fair, the CIBC, to name a few. Our Society has worked hard to make itself visible and attractive to new members. The Directors and Executive of the Horticultural Society work so hard to plan meetings and other events that benefit our members and our community, but we can't do it without help from you. This seems to be a common situation amongst most local organizations. We want to continue to offer our services to the citizens of the area but can't do it without input and help from our members. Please remember the work we do, the activities we sponsor, and the fun we have, and consider joining us as a Director when asked...or just volunteer! Please come out to the Annual Meeting on January 16th. It'll be fun! If you can't make it to the meeting but are interested in joining us as, please contact Secretary Bonnie for information.



Blooming Houseplants

Some of you may have bought or received a blooming plant at Christmas. Keeping that plant blooming is sometimes difficult. Three things may shorten the length of time that you'll be able to keep flowers on your plant: bloom age, ethylene gas, and heat. The best ways to enjoy your blooms longer are to: **1.** Buy as fresh as possible. (Look for lots of buds on a plant you are going to buy) **2.** Keep the plant away from ethylene gas (given off by ripening fruit). **3.** Keep plants away from heat sources (vents, fireplaces, south facing windows). Good luck with those beautiful plants!

Reports From Your Directors

Social: Claudette Black is the convenor this month and Marie Scott brings the gift for the free draw.

Nominating: Chairperson Carrie Anne Field, along with committee members Bonnie Warner, Bruce Wilson, and Eileen Fisher, met in December to work on a list of people interested in assuming positions in our society. Carrie Anne's report can be found in the Annual booklet available at the January meeting or from Secretary Bonnie Warner.

Christmas Workshop: Convenor Carrie Anne reports that the workshop was a success, even though we only had 37 in attendance. However, all of the kits were eventually sold and all of those in attendance went home happy with their beautiful swags and full from the wonderful snack provided by members. See page 4 for more info and pictures.

Bulletin: I'm always looking for interesting ideas/articles for the bulletin and would love to have you send your ideas to me. My email is efisher1951@gmail.com or just pop it in the mail or give me a call (544 8074).

Face Book and Website: We began 2018 with 178 people using our Facebook Page for information and to share their ideas and experiences. We now have **230** members on our page from as far away as New Zealand and Zimbabwe. Please feel free to use the page for information and perhaps join so you can share your ideas and experiences with the rest of us. Webmaster Rick Heaslip reports that the problem with posting photos on our site has been fixed. Check out the website for more pictures of the fun-filled Christmas workshop evening as well as lots of other information about horticulture and our Society.

Gardening Advice

I recently came upon an interesting article by a horticulturalist/author named Julie Dimakos. I thought this would be very helpful for someone either planning their first garden or thinking of changing or enlarging an existing garden. It may seem odd to begin this in January but it is a fairly intensive article and will take some months to share it all. It also might brighten up our long winter months.

Planning Your Vegetable Garden

Whether you're just building your first vegetable garden, or thinking of changing or expanding on an existing vegetable garden, there are certain factors that need to be considered when thinking of how to plan your vegetable garden. Where do you begin? Don't start by chipping away at the ground, hoping for a plan to formulate as you go. Start with a plan. Write down all your garden "must haves" first. Then begin to draw out the layout of the garden, followed by what you would like to see in there. There are 10 factors you should consider when planning your vegetable garden. This plan will save you time and frustration in the garden, helping you to get back to what you enjoy doing most, gardening and reaping the rewards of a great harvest. Where do you begin? The following 10 questions will help create a foundation for your vegetable garden and help you design a plan. I recommend using a journal to document all your thoughts, plans, ideas or anything else that comes to mind. Record all 10 questions in your journal then answer each one. After all 10 questions have been answered, you will have a better understanding of what you want out of your vegetable garden. Then use these answers to draw out your future vegetable garden on a grid.

STEP 1: Where will your garden be located? This step only applies if you don't have a vegetable garden. You've been wanting to build a garden, but haven't yet. The first step is to decide on the best location for your vegetable garden. Things to consider: Is it close enough to your kitchen or back door for easy access or do you need to walk a distance? Distance is important because you want it to be convenient for easier access. What if you're in the middle of cooking and need to grab an additional ingredient? A closely situated garden makes it easy and convenient for you to run out, harvest that ingredient and pop back into the kitchen to continue cooking. A garden that is far from the kitchen may be inconvenient to get to, making gardening inconvenient when time is short. (continued on page 4)

Going Green

According to the National Zero Waste Coalition. Canadians are among the biggest food wasters in the world. We try our best to get optimum harvest from our gardens. We can, freeze, pickle or ferment and we're always careful with our procedures, (especially with canning), and then our prepared food is ready for us in the off season. There's no "best before" date written on the label because we know when it was done and when it will be used. Seldom do we waste food we have "put down" ourselves. But there are other items on store shelves which come with a "best before" date. This can not only be confusing, it can be downright misleading. **Best Before** is a manufacturers/producers way of protection. Best before, **not bad** after. Best-before dates refer to food quality, not safety. Many products that carry the dates don't even need them. Consumers have no idea of what it is they're looking at. A product might say 'best before 1/3 and it's not clear whether that's January 3rd or March 1st. That means good food ends up in the kitchen garbage bin and the grocery store dumpster. To many people, seeing 'best before' means if they eat it afterwards, there's going to be a health problem. That's simply not true. Don't toss that yogurt cup even if it's a few days past its best-before date - it's still good weeks after. All this fear results in tons of wasted food.

Plant of the Month

Schefflera

The Schefflera is a popular houseplant and comes in many varieties. They may have solid green or variegated leaves. One of the reasons the plant is popular is because it is relatively easy to care for. Schefflera plants need bright but indirect light. Too little light and your plant will get leggy and floppy; too much will burn the leaves. Wait until the soil in the pot dries out and then thoroughly soak the soil when you water. Yellow leaves that fall off the plant are a sign that you may be watering too much. Your schefflera may also need to be pruned occasionally, especially if it is not getting quite enough light. Pruning a schefflera is simple. Just cut off what you feel is overgrown or leggy, back to a size or shape you like. You do not need to fertilize your schefflera, but if you would like to, you can give it a half solution water soluble fertilizer once a year. Schefflera plants are not often bothered by pests or disease, but spider mites or aphids may be a problem.



Planning Your Vegetable Garden Part 1 (con't)

This step may also apply when wanting to expand on an already existing garden. Perhaps you already have a vegetable garden, but would like to build another one? If your garden is far away, consider creating a smaller cooks or kitchen garden near your back door, with several key crops, like herbs, cherry tomatoes and salad greens. Use the further garden to grow larger vegetable crops like squash, pumpkins, zucchini and corn. Location is a very important factor to consider when planning out your vegetable garden.

Christmas Workshop 2018

Convenor Carrie Anne Field was pleased with the outcome of the workshop this year. 37 kits were sold that evening and those who attended seemed to go home happy with their lovely Christmas swags. Carrie Anne wishes to thank her hardworking committee for their help putting the kits together, setting up the hall, and helping the evening of the workshop. Once again our members brought in a wonderful spread of snacks for the after-craft lunch. Carrie Anne also wants to thank Len Fisher for his generous donation of a bird-house which was raffled and won by Evelyne Nemcsok and Rosemary Campbell for the gift which she donated and was won by Lynn Peeling.



Poetry and Prose



*Winter is the time
for comfort,
for good food and
warmth, for the touch
of a
friendly hand and
for a talk beside the
fire...*

It is the time for home.

—Edith Sitwell



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