



'Through The Garden Gate'

The monthly newsletter of the Englehart and District Horticultural Society
March 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

President: R. Campbell
Bulletin Editor: E. Fisher

Website:

engleharthort.weebly.com

Facebook: Englehart and
District Horticultural Society

Several weeks ago, several of us were asked to judge the grade 5/6 Public Speaking Competition at EPS, which is sponsored by the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 104. We were all very impressed by the speech by a young lady, Alexandra Deleeuw and we would like to share it with you here.

People of Englehart and surrounding areas- On this day I need to ask you, do YOU come to the advertised and planned events in the town of Englehart? Judges, ladies and gentlemen and fellow classmates. I need all of you to listen and consider how you can support our little town with the big heart by changing your plans throughout the year to attend more events right here in our own town of Englehart. Hopefully my personal experiences will help you remember or think about the wonderful experiences you have had or could have. I will highlight different opportunities that are organized for you and your family that you might not even know about and finally, I will share some of the important reasons we all need to think about so we can support our community.

Let me start off by sharing a story and a worry about one of my most favourite things to do right here in Englehart. Over the years I have attended many of events, including the Fall Fair. When I first started going to the fall fair there were tonnes of different activities that appealed to everyone and displays that covered the entire floor where the ice surface goes! I loved going to the fair because everyone in town, such as organizations like daycare and schools, families, friends and local talent groups went there to have fun. Fast forward to the year 2017...my beloved fall fair had dwindled to include only two activities I could do and the competition displays fit in the upstairs of the arena. Let me tell you, it didn't feel like my fair and it really made me wonder why people stopped supporting it like they used to. So many of the activities we used to enjoy like bouncy castle and rides, face painting and concerts were no longer there for us all to enjoy. We used to get to see and learn about things we never would have otherwise because of events like the fair. Like how bees create honey, but now because there aren't enough people coming out to support this event, there isn't enough money to keep it going like it once did. (con't. on page 3)

Mark It On Your Calendar

March 21: General Meeting (Presbyterian Church basement)

"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant; if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome." ~ Anne Bradstreet (perfect for the first full day of spring!)

Looking Ahead- March Programme

We are lucky enough to have one of our newest Directors as our speaker at our March meeting. Evelyne Nemcsok will be speaking to us about 'Starting Seeds Indoors'. Come on out for this great evening!

Hints to Help Your Amaryllis Rebloom (cont. from February's bulletin)

3. Planting in clay pots may help as they allow the roots to breathe and being heavier, may prevent your plant from tipping over. It is also advisable to insert a wooden dowel into the pot when you plant the bulb, so you can tie the stem to the stick. Tie it loosely, so as not to damage the stem.
4. Amaryllis aren't fussy about soil. Any good potting mix will do. Make sure the pot isn't too big- no more than an inch (2 ½ cm) of soil should be between the bulb's 'shoulders' and the pot and ensure that the bulb's shoulders aren't covered with soil.
5. Make sure your amaryllis gets lots of light- full sun is fine but once the flowers open, they will last longer in a cooler spot.
6. After it blooms, cut the flower stalk down but leave any leaves which may have grown. Begin to fertilize your plant once a month with a 20-20-20 fertilizer. The leaves should grow thicker and longer...and remember- it is the leaves which will feed the bulb and give it the strength to flower again, so don't cut them off! During the summer it is fine to place the pot outside in dappled shade/sunlight- continue to water or ensure they get rain. Continue fertilizing once a month.
7. When frost threatens, bring the pot in, cut off the leaves, and place in a cool, dark room, such as a 'cold-room' or a dark basement. Do not water. Leave it alone for from 6-8 weeks. Don't put it into the fridge- it needs to be in complete darkness. The plant should be allowed to rest as it prepares to bloom again.
8. Around late November, bring out the bulb, and either repot in fresh soil or carefully lift the bulb up, remove some of the old soil and replace it with fresh soil, working it carefully around the roots. If the roots are a long tangled mess, carefully trim the roots back by about ½, making sure the large roots have the little 'hairs' or rootlets on them. You may choose to fertilize at this time but it is not necessary. Any fertilizer with a high middle number is what you should use if you fertilize.
9. Water well, but don't let the soil stay soggy. Water carefully after this when the soil feels dry to the first knuckle of your finger.
10. If you are lucky, a stalk or two could appear. If the flowers are a bit small, it may be that the plant didn't get enough fertilizer in the development stage. This is Sonya Day's recipe but she says you may have to tweak the instructions for your own success. Good luck and I hope your amaryllis will bloom again for you!

Reports from Your Directors:

Social: A reminder that we enjoy a shared snack and tea/coffee/juice after the meetings. Please bring along something small to share- some cookies, crackers, small sandwiches- whatever you feel like sharing.

Membership: Convenor Ginny reminds everyone that **this will be your last bulletin** if you have not renewed your membership for 2018. Please see Ginny or drop a cheque in the mail to Box 677. We don't want to lose you! We are standing now at 40 members for 2018, which means quite a few of you will need to renew asap.

Website/Facebook: Rick Heaslip continues to update our website. Please check it out for information about the Society and photos from past events. Rick reports that in February we had 358 unique visits for a total of 770 for the year so far. Eileen Fisher reports we have 190 people who use our Facebook page. You don't have to be a member of our Society to use the page (although we do encourage them to join us) but we are pleased to continue to spread information about horticulture and our group to the public.

Plant and Bake Sale: Don't forget that the Plant and Bake Sale is coming in May. If you are starting any seeds, why not plant some extra seedlings for us? Taking cuttings of houseplants? How about potting up a few for the sale? Mark the date on your calendar now- Saturday, May 19, at the Legion Hall.



Looking Back

Our programme in February was a very interesting and informative one, although we do wish more people had attended. The topic was **'Wild About Nature...How to Improve Your Photography'** with photo journalist Sue Nielsen. Sue was an excellent speaker, speaking both about her experiences in the area with wildlife and methods and hints she incorporates into her own photos. She also brought along samples of her work with the Temiskaming Calendar project she began. As a result of her work ethic and her wonderful photos, she has been able to donate almost \$9 000.00 to the Cobalt/Latchford Food Bank. A few of her hints to incorporate into our photo taking are: **i.** Know your subject- know when and where the animal will be active or the plant is in bloom **ii.** Be adaptable- be willing to change time, equipment, etc. **iii.** Be patient – you must work on Mother Nature's time. **iv.** Keep a safe and respectful distance from wildlife- you are in *their* territory. **v.** Sharpness of focus in a shot is most important. **vi.** Obey the No Trace rule: take nothing but a picture, leave nothing behind. **vii.** Use the Sport setting on a digital camera for moving animals. **viii.** check out Youtube video courses **ix.** Watch for wires and other distractions in shots. **x.** Leave room around an animal in a photo to allow for the feeling of movement . **xi.** When incorporating people into a shot, make sure to include their feet. Sue's advice to us was to **"Get out there and click!"** Many thanks to Sue for driving up from the Tritowns in February to share her knowledge and experience with us. Sue's calendars are out in December- great for gifts and the money goes to a charity.



Plant Names Can Be Confusing Part 2: Bulbs/Tubers/Corms/Rhizomes

In February's bulletin, we learned that not all plants called lilies are true to the name. It is relatively easy to tell true lilies from the impostors. A true lily sends up a flower stalk from an underground bulb. The stalk is encircled all the way up its surface by the plant's short leaves. By contrast, daylily flower stalks have no leaves and are often multi-branched. The leaves push up straight out of the ground and are longer than the leaves of true lilies. Moreover, the plant emerges from a tuberous root system, not from a bulb. Canna lilies grow from a rhizome (a swollen root) while glads grow from corms. Over the next few bulletins, we will learn more about the differences in the terms bulb, corm, rhizome, and tuber.

(Alexandra's speech continued from page 1)

This year, I heard people complaining about the lack of things to do and see at our Fall Fair and I wondered, "What are they doing to actually help make things better? Do they attend events that are put on in our area?" I began to worry that this would eventually happen to other events in our little town if people don't start supporting them more. There are also more events including The Englehart Annual Winter Carnival or in the summer "The Day In The Park". These events are all wonderful, with a lot to do. The events in Englehart are held for you to come and when you don't come to the events, the town of Englehart loses money and they can't hold this event anymore because people don't show up. The responsibility of the events is all in the hands of a group of hard working volunteers but they also take a lot of time away from their family to plan the events. I know this because my dad is one of the volunteer and he gets very disappointed when people don't come.

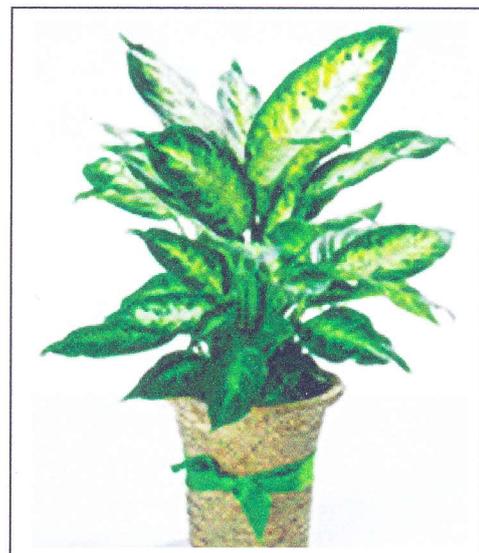
I really hope by now you have thought about my worries. Could you please, I ask you, could you please come to the town of Englehart's events? If you don't have time to attend the events, don't worry because there are a lot of events spread out throughout the year. Please don't say there is nothing to do in the town of Englehart.

What a wonderful speech with such an important message! Thanks , Alexandra Deleew.

Plant of the Month

Dieffenbachia

There are several varieties of dieffenbachia which produce cane-like stems with fairly large foliage, variegated in green and white. You can grow one by itself to for a tree appearance or several together in a single container for a shrubby look. One of the plant's common names, dumb cane, comes from the effect of the toxic sap that if eaten causes swelling and numbness in the mouth and throat. The dieffenbachia prefers low to medium light and a normal household temperature. It prefers to be kept out of direct sunlight. Keep this plant evenly moist for best growth. The dieffenbachia can grow up to 6 feet in height and up to 3 feet wide. Very important: All parts of this plant are poisonous and can cause severe irritation of the lips, tongue, and throat if eaten or chewed by pets or children. This is the reason this plant is sometimes referred to as Dumb Cane.



A Favourite Fruit/Vegetable: The Tomato

(continued from February)

3. Which types of tomato? Tomatoes come in all shapes, sizes and colors. Cherry tomatoes range from pea to cherry-sized and are the sweetest to taste, making them ideal for children. Standard round-fruited types are high yielding, while plum, or 'paste' tomatoes are excellent for cooking because they contain plenty of flesh for sauce making. Beefsteak varieties bear large and often irregular-shaped fruits. These chunky, quirky fruits have an outstanding taste and texture that's ideal for tomato salads. Other tomato varieties include heart-shaped oxheart types, hollow cavity tomatoes for stuffing, and early-to-mature pear tomatoes. There is a rainbow of colors to choose from: classic blood red, sunny yellow, antioxidant-packed purple or black, striped – the choice is yours!

4. Pricking Out/Potting On a Tomato Plant: Move your seedlings into their own pots as soon as they start to form their first adult leaves. Prepare potting soil-filled pots by dibbing holes ready for the seedlings. Remove the seedlings from their nursery pot then, handling them carefully by their leaves to avoid damaging the delicate stems, lower each seedling into its hole. Gently feed the roots down into the hole, and bury the seedlings right up to the first leaves to produce a much sturdier plant. Grow your tomatoes on at about 60 to 65 degrees Fahrenheit, or 15 to 18 degrees Celsius. Night time temperatures can drop a bit lower than this and will help to encourage stronger plants. If the roots fill their pots before it is time to plant them out, simply pot them on into a larger container using fresh potting soil.

Poetry and Prose

*"Spring passes and one
remembers one's
innocence.*

*Summer passes and one
remembers one's
exuberance.*

*Autumn passes and one
remembers one's
reverence.*

*Winter passes and one
remembers one's
perseverance."*
(Yoko Ono)

Published 11 times a year
Englehart & District Horticultural
Society
Box 677, Englehart, ON P0J 1H0
President: Rosemary Campbell
Secretary: Bonnie Warner
Treasurer: Ginny Montminy
Editor: Eileen Fisher
Copying: Ginny Montminy

Competitions for 2018/ 2019

April 18 House Plants

Class 1: One African Violet
Class 2: One foliage Plant

Class 3: Flowering plant (no violets)
Class 4: One cactus or succulent

June 20 Specimens

Class 1: Iris- 1 bloom
Class 2: Peony- 1 bloom, include foliage
Class 5: "Spring Into Summer"- a floral design

Class 3: Any Other Perennial- 1 specimen
Class 4: Blooming Shrub- 1 branch

September 19

Vegetables: Adult Classes

Class 1: Pumpkin (1)
Class 3: Carrots (3)
Class 5: Any other vegetable (1)

Class 2: Squash (other than pumpkin) (1)
Class 4: Potatoes (3)

Youth Classes

Class 1: Pumpkin (1)
Class 3: Beets (2)

Class 2: Carrots (2)
Class 4: Fantasy creature made from fruits and/or vegetables

October 17

Class 1: Wreath (any (any material/occasion)
Class 3: Photograph- 'Fall Beauty'

Class 2: 'Everlasting' a dried arrangement

February 20, 2019 Photography

Class 1: "Waiting For Spring"
Class 3: "A Snowy Day"

Class 2: "Winter Wonderland"
Class 4: "Winter Wild Thing"- bird/ mammal, etc.

Tags will be available at the meetings. Prize money will be awarded in January.