



# 'Through The Garden Gate'

The monthly newsletter of the Englehart and District Horticultural Society  
November 2017



**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:**  
engleharthort.weebly.com

## Our Next Meeting

This month's meeting is being held a week later than usual. It will be our annual Christmas Workshop and it's going to be a good one. If you can bring along a pair of wire cutters and a pair of secateurs (clippers), it will be very helpful. There will be lots of assistance available to those who aren't very 'crafty' and the evening always ends up with a most delicious luncheon. There will be only 50 kits available, the doors open at 6:30, so don't be late or you'll be out of luck. Our next meeting will be the Annual Meeting in January, as we don't meet in December.



## A Word From The Editor

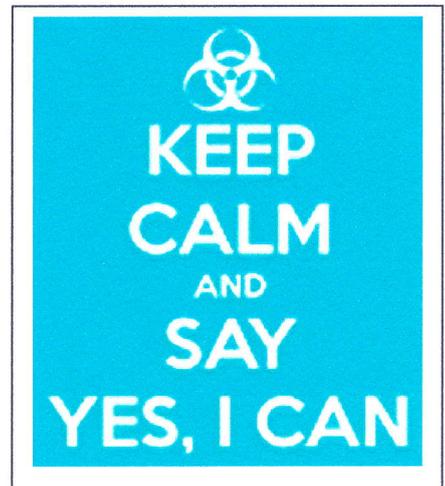
At the District 12 Fall Planning Meeting, all of the delegates spoke of the same problem being experienced, that being how to attract young people to their Society. What can we do to keep our Society viable and active in the community? We would like to know what type of programming and activities we should offer and are asking for your input.

## Mark It On Your Calendar:

November 15: Christmas Workshop  
January 17: Annual Meeting

## Looking Ahead

The general meeting this month will be the last for 2017. It's hard to believe our next bulletin will be in 2018! This means, however, that all committee convenors are asked to write their annual report, describing their committee's activities (including their volunteer hours!). This needs to be in as quickly as possible to Secretary Bonnie so she can put together our Annual report and have it ready for our meeting in January. We hope, also, that when the Nominating Committee contacts you, you will say a big YES when you are asked to be a Director. We need and welcome 'fresh blood' in the society so we can remain relevant and active.



This will be our last bulletin before 2018. Please make sure that you contact Ginny Montminy, our Treasurer and Membership convenor, to ensure you continue to receive the monthly bulletin. The Annual Report will be presented at our January annual Meeting, so committee chairs are asked to remember to get your reports in to Bonnie. We will also receive any prize money we won in any of the competitions held this past year, as well as enjoy a potluck supper.

### Looking Back

Our meeting in October was a jam-packed evening of fun. We had great competition entries, with classes for wreaths, dried floral designs, and photos. Congratulations to all who entered and to those who won prizes: **Wreaths:** 1<sup>st</sup>: E. Fisher 2<sup>nd</sup>: Claudette Black 3<sup>rd</sup>: Jean Bott. **Dried Floral Design:** 1<sup>st</sup>: Ginny Montminy **Photo (Fall Beauty):** 1<sup>st</sup> Eileen Fisher 2<sup>nd</sup>: Jean Bott 3<sup>rd</sup>: Marie Henhoffer. We also had a very creative presentation and slide show by Bonnie Warner and Joyce Marie Smith entitled 'Pumpkins Galore'. We learned that a pumpkin isn't always a pumpkin, indeed! We also enjoyed the final Jaded Gardener Competitions, with some very creative entries! Thanks to Deb Murray for her work with this interesting and fun-filled project. Winners in the Jaded Gardener Competition were: 1<sup>st</sup>: Deb Murray 2<sup>nd</sup>: Claudette Black 3<sup>rd</sup>: Amelia Minard. Congratulations to all winners and participants and thanks for making the meeting more interesting with your efforts.



Bonnie Warner



President Rosemary Campbell with Amelia, Claudette, and Deb



### Reports from Your Directors:

**Social:** This month's hostess is Social Convenor Mary Schippers and Rosemary brings the gift for the free draw. Mary asks all members who volunteered to provide something for the evening's snack to remember to bring it in.

**Facebook/Website:** We are up to 169 people who are enjoying our Facebook page. Rick Heaslip reports that he has updated the site and that we have had 4527 unique visits to date this year. Check it out for all the latest EDHS news.

**Civic Improvement:** Thanks to all who helped to put the Society's gardens to bed. The Legion, the cenotaph, and the two Centennial Park gardens looked great this year, due to the hard work of our society members.

**Programme:** Looking ahead to the January meeting, the committee has planned an interesting evening, beginning with a Pot Luck Supper, followed by a short business meeting, and then Carrie Anne Field will take us on a trip around Europe with a visual presentation.

**Finances:** Treasurer Ginny Montminy will soon be beginning to work on our account and asks that people with any bills to please get them to her asap.

**Nominating:** If you are interested in becoming a Director or Executive member, please contact Nominating Chair, Carrie Anne Field. We need people to bring in fresh ideas to keep our Society viable and interesting.

## Hints and Tips

### Sharpening your Shovels and Spades

November is a good time of year to check out/repair/sharpen our gardening tools, as we are probably finished using them in our gardens. Shovels are tools valued for their usefulness when performing numerous tasks throughout gardens, yards and other landscapes. A spade shovel generally features a rectangular blade and ideally has a sharp edge, although blades normally become dull with use and are sometimes sold dull as a safety precaution. Keeping a spade appropriately sharp reduces time and effort spent digging, minimizes trauma to plants when roots are severed and extends the life of the shovel's blade, especially when conditioning is performed in conjunction with sharpening.

- 1 Clean rust and dirt off of the tool's blade using steel wool or a wire brush.
- 2 Locate the side of the spade with the bevelled edge, as this is where you will file.
- 3 Clamp the spade in place with a vice or C-clamps, keeping the side with the bevelled surface accessible. If no vice is available, hold the spade handle firmly in your lap or have another person hold the tool securely in place.
- 4 Run a flat file down the spade's blade or up into it, whichever is most comfortable, using the existing angle of the bevel as a guide. Press the file down hard on forward strokes, using the entire length of the file, and use minimal downward force on the backstroke. Orienting the file so that the file's teeth are moved at a 45-degree angle to the edge helps to sharpen it evenly. As a general rule, sharpening a spade so that a shine appears in an area that extends about 1/4 inch back from the edge of the blade creates a sharp but appropriately durable edge. Continue running the file across the edge of the blade until you create a shiny area of this size and there is a burr on the blade, if you can feel it.
- 5 Rub 300-grit or similar sandpaper across the edge on the surface of the blade opposite the filed side to scrape off any burr created with the filing. A burr occurs when the edge of the spade is too thin to withstand the pressure of the file. When you gently rub your hand across the blade using a motion perpendicular to the edge of the blade you should feel no remaining burr. Continue to sand the blade until no burr remains. If no sandpaper is available, very lightly and carefully pass the file over the face of the blade opposite the filed side.
- 6 Rub a thin layer of oil lightly onto the blade. This conditioning prevents the formation of rust.

**Things You Will Need:** Safety glasses, work gloves, wire brush/steel wool, vice or C-clamps, flat file, sandpaper, oil, rag

**Tip:** A bucket filled nearly to the top with sand and half a quart of oil can serve as a shovel stand and keep the tool conditioned. Simply dipping the blade in and out of the mixture several times after each use allows the sand to clean the spade's head and the oil to coat it and prevent rust.

**Warnings:** Wear safety glasses and work gloves when cleaning and filing metal tools, as pieces of dirt or metal can fly unpredictably. (information from Home Guides)

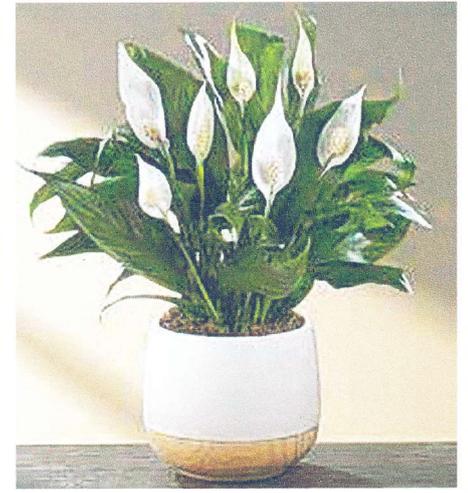
## Membership

We are up to 19 members for 2018. Please don't forget to renew your membership so you will continue to receive the bulletin and we will receive our grant from the OHA, which is based on our membership. *Benefits of membership in our club include:* the ability to attend meetings; to receive the monthly bulletin (which I hope is helpful); to listen to interesting speakers and attend workshops; to visit others' gardens on garden tours; to participate in competitions if you choose; to enjoy the camaraderie from getting together with like-minded people (especially during our long winters!); to learn and share new ideas, to name a few. Come out and join us!

## Plant of the Month

### Peace Lily

A member of the Spathiphyllum family, the peace lily is an excellent houseplant for the home or office. Usually these plants have dark green leaves and white “flowers.” But what most people think of as the flower is actually a specialized leaf bract that grows hooded over the flowers. The peace lily prefers medium to low light. Medium light results in more blooms. Avoid overwatering. If the soil is still damp, the plant does not need to be watered. Peace lilies do not need frequent fertilizing. Fertilizing with a balanced fertilizer one to two times per year will be enough to keep the plant happy. Peace lilies need repotting or dividing when they outgrow their containers. Move to a pot at least 2” larger.



## The Tradition of Mistletoe at Christmas

Mistletoe is a plant that grows on willow and apple trees. The tradition of hanging it in the house goes back to the times of the ancient Druids. It is supposed to possess mystical powers which bring good luck to the household and wards off evil spirits. It was also used as a sign of love and friendship in Norse mythology and that's where the custom of kissing under Mistletoe comes from. When the first Christians came to Western Europe, some tried to ban the use of Mistletoe as a decoration in Churches, but many still continued to use it! York Minster Church in the UK used to hold a special Mistletoe Service in the winter, where wrong doers in the city of York could come and be pardoned.

The custom of kissing under Mistletoe comes from England. The original custom was that a berry was picked from the sprig of Mistletoe before the person could be kissed and when all the berries had gone, there could be no more kissing! The name mistletoe comes from two Anglo Saxon words 'Mistel' (which means dung) and 'tan' (which means) twig or stick! So you could translate Mistletoe as 'poo on a stick'!!! Not exactly romantic is it! Mistletoe was also hung on the old English decoration the Kissing Bough.

Mistletoe promotes wildlife! Although it's poisonous to people, it provides a great source of food for many animals. Birds rely on the plant and butterflies lay eggs on it and use the nectar. Bees also get pollen from mistletoe.

(Why Christmas.com)



## Poetry and Prose

*My favourite time in the garden  
would never be the spring,  
My pots are scattered in the yard, I  
cannot find a thing.  
The summer is no better, with no time  
to plant or weed,  
The fall at least is quieter with  
everything gone to seed.  
The snowballs and the lilacs provide  
colour for a while,  
But after summer's drought and heat,  
only sedums bring a smile.  
I enjoyed a lovely garden but my  
neighbour's was the best,  
My thumb isn't quite as green, it  
really was a test.  
My favourite time in the garden is  
during winter's frosty glow,  
At least at that time of year it's  
covered back with snow.*

*Rosemary Campbell*

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Englehart & District Horticultural  
Society  
Box 677, Englehart, ON  
PoJ 1H0  
President: Rosemary Campbell  
Secretary: Bonnie Warner  
Treasurer: Ginny Montminy  
Editor: Eileen Fisher  
Copying: Ginny Montminy  
Mailing: Joyce Marie Smith  
Labels: Rick Heaslip