



JANUARY 2014

Save the Date

Jan 27, 2014
Board Meeting
7:00pm Northview CC

Feb 10, 2014
Garden Club Meeting
Spring Care of Perennials

May 3, 2014
District 17 AGM
www.gardenontario.org

May 24, 2014
OGC PLANT SALE

√ *The list of Speakers for 2014 and the list of Board members can be picked up at the meetings*

We encourage you to submit ideas, articles, comments, environmental tips or more to the Greenleaf
greenleaf@rogers.com
NEXT DEADLINE Feb. 3

Check out the webpage
www.oshawagardenclub.ca

President's Message

My name is Gloria McRae and I am delighted to be the new Garden Club President. The city of Oshawa has been at the heart of my life, as I was born and raised in Oshawa. I raised three children here and taught for the Durham School Board. I am so happy to be able to give back to our community through volunteer work with the Garden Club.

My interest in gardening developed early, as I played in my aunt and uncle's beautiful garden on Arlington Avenue as a child. Ethel Rose, my aunt, was a member of this Garden Club (then the Oshawa Horticultural Society), when it met at Northminster Church. Later, they moved down the street from my family and I watched them build a whole new garden literally from the ground up. It was in the late 50's that they won the Horticultural Society's prize for the best flower and vegetable garden over 3000 square feet and the McLaughlin Challenge Trophy for the best rock garden. After the passing of my parents and my uncle, I continued to help my aunt with her garden.

It became a bond between us. Under her tutelage, I started a garden at my first home.

Gardening spanned generations in my family as my sons and daughter helped in both of our gardens. I'm proud that this interest in gardening was passed on. I remember my aunt as I see my children growing their own gardens and families. My daughter is still living in Oshawa, and is also a member of this Garden Club.

As a member of this club, I am continually inspired by the expertise of our members, the speakers at our meetings, and the activities our club undertakes. I am excited by the possibilities ahead and I know that together, we can achieve our vision of beautification, community building, and sustainability within our city. I encourage all of you to come out in 2014, take advantage of these opportunities and see what a positive change you can be in your community.

Gloria McRae

Christmas Social 2013



The hall was not decked with boughs of holly... but instead with sparkling Christmas trees evergreens Christmas cacti and smiling faces that lit up Lviv Hall at the OGC Christmas Social. President Gloria McRae was the emcee for the evening.

The tables literally groaned under the weight of all the scrumptious food and it was a feast for all. We have amazing cooks in the club and we heard many recipes being requested.

To round out the evening, the table groups were enticed to play some "reindeer games". Six festively attired attendees were awarded for their efforts. Next, to tease our brains, the tables were asked to decipher the titles of Christmas Carols.

(For those who requested the link for the quiz to share it with your families, it is http://www.ornamentshop.com/xmas_trivia/xmas_games.asp?game=NAMETHATCAROL .)

For the grand finale, groups were challenged to use their inner artists and make a human snowman using 2 rolls of toilet paper and any items that they had brought with them. The results were hilarious and very creative! There was lots of laughter and even tears of joy as imaginations inspired some very unique snowmen. At the end of it all, Table 2's creation was deemed the winner.

As a close to the evening a draw was held for the winter gift basket and a chocolate sleigh kindly donated by Barb Colley. Marney Carroll was the winner of the winter gift basket, and Sue Vanderkwaak won the chocolate sleigh.

We would like to thank all those who attended for joining us and bringing such amazing food, those who helped with set up or take down and of course the committee who made it all happen: PatA CathyB MarneyC IrisL JaniceM PennyT and LindaW. Everyone's participation made the evening a huge success. What a wonderful way to end the year!

MEMBERSHIP AWARD

Linda presented the Membership Award to two of the four recipients. Anne Sewell, George McCormack, Beth Sheyan and Judy van Gent will share the plaque over the next year.

The Membership Award is presented annually to the Garden Club member that brings to our Club, *the most new members*. This year we had a four-way tie. We encourage you to bring your friends and neighbours to OGC! ...and if you bring the most new members, you have an opportunity to receive a free membership for the next year...and we will make a fuss over you at the Christmas Social. (We are starting 2014 with 275 members.)



Tonight's Speaker

ASK AN EXPERT
Durham Master Gardeners will answer all your questions

Lobby Greetings

THANK YOU to tonight's greeter
Cathy Brown

January Treats

THANK YOU to Vera Abela
Caroline Kipling Gail McCarroll
Joyce Shannon Lynnda Bryan

New Members

We are pleased to WELCOME
Doreen Durrant
Jenny-Lynn Gasperek
Georgina Hughes
Neil Love
Jane MacKenzie
Rosie Riviera-Lopez

OHA www.gardenontario.org

District 17 will be holding their AGM in Newcastle on Saturday May 3, 2014. We encourage you to attend, as it will be a very interesting day. The deadline for sign-up is April 22. Registration is done through our club. Please pass your cheque for \$30.00 to LindaW at the membership table, by the March 10 meeting.

Imagination Station

On November 11, the theme was the use of leftover Halloween Pumpkins.
Judy Lambert, first place with her pumpkin basket of flowers.
Val Foster took 2nd place with her white pumpkin and 3rd with the three pumpkineers.
Debi Foster won Honourable mention with her Ghouling Pumpkin.

Tonight's design is Vision in White

The only accent colours allowed are green or black

February's design is "A Sweet Tooth."

The design must contain chocolate!

Good luck and keep on designing.
Val Foster

Environmental Table

REUSE REPURPOSE RECYCLE
New focus at the Environmental Table

We all have stuff that no longer serves any purpose around the house, but we still have trouble getting rid of it. Maybe it's "still OK", or "might come in handy" or holds some sentimental value, but with a little creativity, you can help the environment by finding a "new life for old things." One member has asked us to collect old venetian blinds to use as plant markers at our sale. Many of us have seen plants growing out of rubber boots / work boots / coffee cans and more. A more complex project would be re-working an old window frame, as garden art.

The Challenge: We would like you to bring your ideas or your projects to the Environmental Table in February. Sharing these ideas will inspire us all to be good stewards.

Environmental Tips

We encourage you to share your environmental tips with all our members through the newsletter. Please send them to greenleaf@rogers.com





OSHAWA GARDEN CLUB SCHOLARSHIP AWARD November 28, 2013

Written by: Marion Neven, OGC member

Representatives of the Oshawa Garden Club (OGC) were on hand to personally congratulate the first recipient of the Oshawa Garden Club Scholarship at the Durham College annual scholarship ceremony. It was an evening honouring students for their outstanding academic achievements while providing an opportunity for them to express their gratitude to the donors.

The scholarship was established in 2011 to provide financial assistance to a student in the new Horticulture Technician program. Marion Neven, secretary to the Board of Directors from 2009 - 2011, and a Durham College employee, requested that her annual honorarium, provided for this position, be used to establish a scholarship. Durham College was set to launch a new program for horticulture students and as the saying goes, "Timing is everything". Subsequently, the Board approved the inclusion of Marlene Magi's honorarium, the treasurer at the time, and agreed to commit to continuing the scholarship for four years.

Melissa Meisinger was delighted to have been chosen as the first recipient. Joining her at the scholarship ceremony was Debi, Gloria, Barb, Marion and Irma. The following is Melissa's thank you letter.

"I am writing to thank you for helping me attend Durham College. For the past 9 years I have been a stay-at-home mom. Last year I decided to do something for myself and pursue my passion for gardening. One day I aspire to be a Master Gardener. In the meantime, I am working diligently to increase my technical knowledge and improve my horticultural skills.

Currently, I am a second year student in the Horticulture Technician program. In addition to my studies I am mom to two wonderful boys; Keegan aged 12 and Grayson aged 10; a Whitby Scout Leader and a new member of the Brooklin Horticulture Society.

Your generous gift is greatly appreciated! I am both honoured and humbled to receive the Oshawa Garden Club Scholarship. Thank you again for making a difference in my life. I hope to meet you at the upcoming Scholarship Ceremony.

Sincerely,
Melissa Meisinger"

I would like to personally thank the OGC Board of Directors, Bonnie White and Irma Dus, for supporting this important initiative. The value of financial support for students can never be underestimated. It is an honour and a privilege to be a member of such a dynamic, community focused organization.

Thank you.

Therapeutic Gardening

Our OGC Volunteer: Ann Couch

What is Therapeutic Gardening?

This therapy uses plants, gardens and natural settings to improve the client's thinking process and physical skills and social interactions.

How does working with plants help?

- Gardening brings nature to us and inspires patience and contemplation and a respect for living things.
- It boosts self-esteem
- It fulfills the client's need-to-be-needed
- The projects can provide needed exercise for painful joints.
- It is a mental workout. For example, the client learns new skills by assessing the amount of soil vs pot size
- Working with a group promotes sharing and increases personal interactions
- The sensory feedback from gardening relieves stress
- Plants provide shape, colour and texture and this inspires the client to be creative.
- Many clients suffering with mental health issues, anorexia, and problems with emotional and spiritual well-being, respond to working with plants
- It promotes an awareness of time and seasonal events
- When clients take a plant back to their room, it promotes a sense of pride and accomplishment

Would you like more information?
Are you looking for a rewarding activity and would like to sign-up?
Send an email to greenleaf@rogers.com and we'll get you the information you need.

Do we have any Therapeutic Gardening programs in Oshawa?

Therapeutic gardening is provided by VOLUNTEERS in our own Club. This program was started in 2010. Originally, the program was on the stroke rehabilitation floor at Lakeridge Hospital, but it is now starting a third year at Hillsdale, a long term care facility in Oshawa. Generally the program has 8 – 12 residents. When the program started, the volunteers would collect the clients from their rooms. Now the residents are ready and eager and waiting in the activity room. Ann has about 20 people on her volunteer list and they attend as their schedules allow.



"Gardening is fundamentally an act of enormous hope because everything you do in The garden is for the future." Barbara Frum, Canadian Broadcast Journalist 1937-1992



Getting to Know You: John and Patricia

Member Interviews by Merle Cole

This is a new feature of Greenleaf to help members new and old to get to know fellow members better. This was a recent suggestion from John himself so we thought that it would be only fitting to feature him and his wife Patricia in this first interview. Like the plants that we all love and admire, the OGC flourishes because of its well-established roots. John and Patricia are part of that strong root structure that for them goes back to the early 90s. John was initially invited to be a presenter at a club meeting to share his experience as a local nursery operator, especially relating to the cultivation of shrubs and trees. John felt very welcomed by the club and liked what he saw decided to attend some meetings and then, eventually to become a member himself. The club was much smaller then and focused mainly on presentations from guest speakers.

Patricia complemented John's broader focus on landscaping stock through her interest in propagating perennials. Customers at their nursery quickly spotted her attractive perennials and asked to buy any surplus that she had in her gardens. What she initially grew for her own needs quickly became popular with customers and became an integral part of their business. When John and Patricia eventually began scaling back their nursery business they turned their focus towards propagating plants to meet the needs of the Oshawa Garden Club so that they would have affordable plants for their annual plant sales. Together John and Patricia have supplied over 6000 plants over a 5-year period.

John also joined the Board of the OGC and served as a director for 6 years, including serving as club treasurer. To quote John, "We took things far too seriously in those days." He much prefers the more laid back nature of the Club and its board now. Both John and Patricia have enjoyed the social aspects of the club, the social events, the garden tours and now the social half-hour that precedes the main meeting. They feel that part of the key to success for the club is building a greater sense of community and belonging for all members. They would like to see more opportunities for members to work together on projects, small events and activities and to get to know each other by working and playing together.

When you see John and Patricia at the club meetings feel free to chat with them and to pick their brains. They are more than willing to share their knowledge and love of gardening and look forward to getting to know more of their fellow gardeners through club events and activities. John assures me that he will keep the suggestions coming and looks forward to continuing to grow our collective sense of community and camaraderie.

Next month: Getting to know our new Greenleaf Editor.