



The Ladyslipper



Perth & District Horticultural Society

www.perthhortsociety.com

Est. 1984

November 2024

President's Report 2024

Here is a recap of the events of PDHS over the past year. It is the 40th Anniversary of the PHDS, so first of all, Happy Anniversary to us.

We started off in February with a Zoom meeting. Our speaker was Paul Gellately, The Tattooed Gardener and he spoke on Daylilies. Some of the daylilies that Paul has hybridized are amazing. This was a very colourful way to start off the new year.

March marked our first meeting at the Lion's Hall. Dale Odorizzi spoke to us about Gardening on the Cheap. Dale took us through the process of starting plants from seed and then how to divide plants to move around or donate to our plant sale or friends gardens.

In April, Laurie Bachand, from Stoneridge Gardens & Nursery took us through an array of draught tolerant plants to put in our gardens.

May 4th, we hosted the District 2 Annual General Meeting at Glad Tidings church. We had 100 guest in attendance. The main speaker was Lorraine Johnston and she spoke about Native plants in the gardens. Our raffle auction was a success and the event overall was well received by everyone who attended. I would like to thank all PDHS volunteers for helping to showcase our society.

At our May meeting, Owen Marsh, from the Ottawa Bonsai Society, gave a talk on Introduction to Bonsai. He came with many wonderful samples of bonsai which made the talk more interesting.

We had a great Q&A session with the Lanark Master Gardeners in June along with a fabulous flower show and dessert social.

In September, Brittany Lepage, the Dahlia Darling, gave an enthusiastic talk on the care and storage of dahlias.

At our October meeting, Janet Johns, from the Ottawa Orchid Society gave a talk and demonstration on Orchid care. It was very enlightening and enjoyed by the membership. We also had a mini flower show with many entrants.

Our Membership coordinators, Caroline Bolduc and Muriel Hopper represented PDHS at Seedy Sunday in March and had a great time meeting people and getting new members to join, along with some renewals.

We held our annual plant sale at the Crystal Palace. David Archer and Robin McIntosh spearheaded the hugely successful plant sale.

Many junior gardeners came out to take home their own new plant specimen. Thanks to all who participated in donating plants for the sale and volunteering their services on sale day.



Janet Johns, talk on Orchids
photo by Linda Bartlett



Sylvia's 4th Line Florals
photo by Janette Wood

There was an organized tour of Sylvia's Fourth Line Florals in Dewitts Corners in July which was well attended by the membership.

We also had a tour of Richard Catchpaw's daylily and hosta gardens as well as Janette and Max Wood vegetable and flower gardens. Thank you to these dedicated members on opening up their gardens for our members. We had about 30-40 members who enjoyed the tour.

I would like to thank the Board of Directors for all of their dedication and hard work on keeping the society running smoothly.

Again this year, Perth & District Horticultural Society has a decorated Christmas Tree at Crystal Palace for all to admire throughout the season. A huge

thank you to Robin McIntosh, Catherine Stephen-Dunn, Nancy Kelly and Sandi Sissons. Great job on the tree.

We appreciate our Community Garden volunteers. Over 450 hours were put into the gardens our society maintains for the Town. David Archer headed up the Flag Garden team, Cheryl Moss and Rita Gobin coordinated the schedule and volunteers at Inge Va. Robin McIntosh took care of the Cenotaph and Pollinator Gardens. Judy Buehler and Doug Smallwood lead the PDHS team at Matheson House Museum Garden. Please read the reports on Matheson House Museum and Inge Va Gardens.



PDHS Xmas Tree at Crystal Palace
Nancy, Sandi, Catherine, Robin, Linda
photo by Linda Bartlett

Another great team of volunteers who are very much appreciated are the Junior Gardeners program volunteers. Robin McIntosh did a great job organizing this program for the society and the schools. I think it is one of the most important programs that our society does in our community. On that note, Robin will step down as coordinator of this program and hand it over to someone new, so please consider this as we would like this program to continue. We have included a description of the coordinator's functions in this newsletter. It is a great opportunity to grow and learn along with the students.

Linda



Matheson House Museum 2024 Gardening Report

Prepared by Judy Buehler and Doug Smallwood

Photos by Rita Godin and Lynda Haddon



It was hot, it was rainy, it was dry, it was sunny. It was summer in Eastern Ontario and the Museum Gardens in Perth looked lovely no matter what.

Starting on May 7, the Perth and District Horticulture Society volunteers spent 154 hours helping Mother Nature in the gardens. These dedicated gardeners were Rita Godin, Connie Batoff, Elaine Scott, Kim McPherson, Richard Catchpaw, Wenda Veldman, Ellie Szakacs, Mary Dixon, Suzanne Baron, Lynda Haddon, Judy Buehler and Doug Smallwood. Not only did they show up to work at the Museum but many of these folks also volunteered at the Inge Va gardens!

The season started out with a few hiccups. Tim McCullough, Manager of Parks and Facilities, Town of Perth, was buying the annuals that we requested. He was having communication issues with the supplier which added stress to his life and uncertainty to ours. All worked out eventually, but this is something that will need to be discussed for 2025.

On a positive note, we ordered spikes as the centrepiece for our barrels and were given *Cyperus Prince Tut*. As this grass grew throughout the summer it became more spectacular!

Improvements

As Tim and his crew had a very busy summer, some improvements were made thanks to our volunteers.

Doug built a large planter in the Courtyard Garden for our scarlet runner beans that he and Rita donate each spring.

Elaine Scott and her husband gave us some large patio stones to put in front of the garden shed. This made it much more attractive, not to mention safer than uneven ground covered in bits of foliage. Doug Smallwood did the grunt work laying the stones and did a very professional job!

The slope in the Courtyard Garden is dangerous for the volunteers and improvements were on our wish list for 2024. As professional landscaping was not possible, we ordered several bags of bark chips and Doug laid it along the sloping bed. Not only did it make the garden more attractive and safe, it also kept the soil moist and free of weeds.

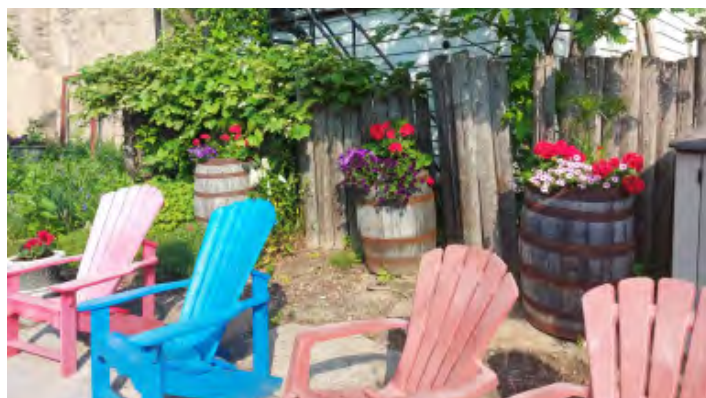
While Judy was off in August, Lynda Haddon kindly stepped in. Lynda also donated several loads of compost to put on the gardens...wonderful well composted leaves. While she was working in the Heritage Garden, she noticed that the pathways were almost devoid of gravel.

Planning for 2025

Looking ahead to next year, Lynda Haddon suggested we plant more tulips to replace the ones that had disappeared. Richard and Judy donated to the cause. If the Town budget allows, we'll be spreading fresh gravel on the walking paths in the Heritage Garden.

Over the years the practise has been to plant heuchera or hosta in the cement planters in the Heritage Garden and then transplant them to a shady area in the fall. This has worked very well but we're getting an overabundance of these plants in our shady areas. For 2025 we'd like to see some different perennial shade plants, possibly light pink or white astilbe or Jack Frost brunnera plants that will look good in the planters over the summer and add interest to the shadier parts of the garden when planted permanently in the fall.

We're open to suggestions, and divisions, from society members!



Inge-Va 2024 Gardening Report

Prepared by Cheryl Moss

2024 was filled with challenges at Inge-Va. From monsoons, sweltering heat and humidity, voracious insects never experienced in the past, absence of volunteers, to restoration of Inge-Va's buildings, our small and devoted group persevered finishing on October 30.

The weather did encourage magnificent blooms from the Rose Garden. As well, two old shrubs were identified by way of their own stunning blooms. A *Kolkwitzia amabilis* (Beauty Bush) and a *Deutzia scabra* (Fuzzy Deutzia). Both shrubs, now app. 8' tall, have been at Inge-Va for 50+ years.



We were thrilled when removing scrub brush from a front area to find another Fuzzy Deutzia!

It is now free to enjoy sunshine that will no doubt entice it to bloom in the following years.

Due to its rarity we will be taking cuttings in 2025 to ensure its future.

We would be remiss in not acknowledging the Town of Perth staff who came to our rescue during a water issue in May. Along with their additional assistance during the season we couldn't do what we do without your support. Thank you Cathy, Tim and their cheerful team!

There are a few gardeners who went above and beyond to make a huge difference to Inge-Va. Thank you Doug and Kathy for hauling water from their home to Inge-Va to keep a freshly planted bed watered before Town staff arrived and also to Doug

for his trimming expertise. As well, to Janette Wood who gifted us a significant number of perennials from her garden. And to Suzanne Baron who walked over with a spare wheelbarrow for us to use. Thank you.

We also enjoyed the presence of a family of Merlin Falcons who nested at Inge-Va. The two parents raised a brood of four and kept the mice and vole population down.

Hours worked this season were 277. Our small group of dedicated gardeners who volunteered their time and knowledge during interesting conditions were Connie Batoff, Richard Catchpaw, Rita Godin, Lynda Haddon, Cheryl Moss, Suzanne Noonan, Doug Smallwood, Wenda Veldman, and Janette Wood. Thank You!



JUNIOR GARDENER COORDINATOR

- ▶ Set up and organize the Jr. Gardener program in area schools on behalf of the Perth & District Horticultural Society (PDHS)
- ▶ This includes coordinating with participating schools and PDHS volunteers.
- ▶ Collecting and organizing program supplies and distributing to volunteers.
- ▶ Ensure all volunteers have current Society memberships and valid criminal record checks.

Please contact Robin McIntosh by email at robinmcintosh435@gmail.com if you would like more information.