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Issue One

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Keeping Ontario Beautiful

The Iris

**Gilford & District Horticultural
Society**

<http://gilfordhort.org>



Greetings from the President

I know with all the snow we have had this winter that we are all anxious to get out in the garden and play in the soil. We have reread all the garden magazines from the past year and have studied the seed catalogues to find out what is new. Perhaps you have even ordered some of the seeds for that vegetable garden you are going to try this year.

2014 is the 35th anniversary of the Gilford & District Horticultural Society so mark your calendars for June 7 when we will gather for a special celebratory dinner. The committee has been working on making this extra special and we request your support.

It is also our turn for the annual garden tour in July and gardens are needed to be shown this year. Please contact me if you are interested or know someone in your neighbourhood who would like to participate. We have some excellent speakers lined up for the year and to start things off on March 10 is Lorraine Mennen, owner of Pathways to Perennials in Pottageville. Lorraine will be speaking to us on using colours in our garden and, where and when to use each one. Bring a friend and introduce them to a wide range of topics.

A big thank you to all my hard working executive, I could not do it without your help.

Until March 10, keep well and I'll see you all at the meeting.

Marilyn Elliott

An Excerpt from Mark Cullen's January Newsletter

"Gardening is as much a sport as hunting or fishing. Maybe a more civilized one at that, after all we are not killing our play-things but rather planting and nurturing them, for the most part. And yes, at the end of the day, we can eat the spoils of our sport too. In this regard gardening is the ultimate outdoor sport. Gardeners need winter to recharge, like any other sport-people.

It is hard for the non-gardener to appreciate the creative juices that are invested in the efforts of gardening. It is, after all, not like we just wander out to the yard some Saturday morning and start digging. There is an enormous amount of planning that goes into this endeavour.

We have to know, in our minds eye, what the garden will look like each year, what vegetables and fruits it will produce, where the kitchen herbs will be planted.

Winter is not just 'down time' [while it is that] it is also a time when the urgency is gone. There are no weeds begging for their heads to be chopped off or beans that need picking on this very day.

There is nothing we love more than getting together to compare notes, pictures, gardening travel stories and to brag about the size of our tomato crop.

And finally, there is the amazing garden of tomorrow: the one that does not exist yet in reality but does in our brain. Winter is our time to think about the changes that we are going to make to our garden."

Upcoming Events

The GDHS first meeting of 2014 will be on March 10 at the Churchill Community Centre at 7:30 pm. Please come a little early to renew your membership.

April 11-13 Peterborough Garden Show

11th 5-9 pm

12th 10-6

13th 10-4

Held at the Evinrude Centre at 911 Monaghan Rd. Fee is \$7.00

April 14 GDHS meeting at the Churchill Community Centre 7:30 pm
Speaker is Karl Kohnen on 'Grasses for the Garden'.

April 26 is the district 16 annual general meeting hosted by the Tottenham HS and to be held at the Tottenham Community & Fitness Centre, 139 Queen St. N.
The sign up sheet for the Tottenham venue will be available at the March meeting with payment due no later than the April meeting. The presidents of the district 16 societies have voted to hold all future events (after Tottenham) at a central location, rather than being hosted around the county. Tangle Creek Golf and Country Club will be our spring and fall venue commencing November 8 for the fall seminar. Note this is a week later than usual.

May 12 GDHS meeting at the Churchill Community Centre at 7:30
Speaker is Dugald Cameron on 'Everything You Need to Know about Clematis'.

Canada Blooms

This year the theme is 'Wild!' and Canada's largest gardening show runs from March 14-23 at the Direct Energy Centre in Toronto.

Cheer



Sympathy:

Craig & Sheila Allen
(mother)

Lila Bell (husband)

Verna Sawyer (brother)

Sharon Wice is now looking after Cheer and if you know of any members that would appreciate a 'Get Well' or 'Thinking of You' card, please contact her at 705-456-3316 or sharonwice@hotmail.com

Dr. Ives Bursary Fund

Kathy Barraclough who has been the chair of this bursary committee, has submitted her resignation effective April 26, 2014. During Kathy's time as chair, she has raised the awareness of this Bursary amongst both students and the High Schools and will be missed. If you would be interested in applying for this position please contact Ron Nelsons, ronandbetty@rogers.com, the D16 Board representative.

During the extreme cold temperatures of December you may have heard loud booming noises and felt your house shake. They were a rare occurrence called frost quakes. Localized seismic events happen when a sudden drop in temperature freezes the groundwater, which then expands and cracks the soil and rock. The crack will release a sudden burst of explosive energy, resulting in a loud noise and the shaking of the ground. The strange ups and downs of our weather continues. Keep warm!