

Feb. 2015

Mona Rea
Newsletter Editor/Designer
mona.rea@gmail.com

the Fris

Gilford & District Horticultural Society
www.gilfordhort.org www.southinnisfilarboretum.org
www.facebook.com/gilfordhort



President's Greeting

As the winter slowly becomes a passing memory, and with spring just around the corner, we know that you are all anxious to start a new growing season.

By trading cuttings with fellow gardeners or starting fresh, we all have the same goal, to get out and enjoy the sun and fresh air.

We do hope you enjoy our speakers this year which include Tower Gardening, Photography in the Garden, and controlling pests not only in the garden but the home as well. We also have a special outing planned for our September meeting with a tour of Dickey Bee Honey Farm.

Our Garden Tour will be June 27, 2015 so if you are interested in having your garden on the tour please contact Marilyn Elliott at 705-436-5141 or elliottmarilyn@yahoo.ca for information.

Your executive is here for you but we need all your input for a successful Society, so please keep involved.

Our first meeting will be Monday March 9, 2015, so till then Happy Gardening.

Lucy Valente

Community Allotment Beds

For those of you who may not know, there are allotment beds available at the old Knock School for local gardeners who would like to grow vegetables but don't have the room on their own properties to do so.

John Crow and Judith Rogers our local Master Gardeners along with Marilyn Elliott of the G&DHS, and members of the Painswick Society brought this project to fruition last year. It was a great success and, 225 pounds of unneeded vegetables were donated to the food bank.

Water is supplied from a tank on the premises. The regular beds are 4 feet by 8, and the raised beds for the physically challenged are narrower at 2 feet by 8 feet. The cost to reserve a regular bed for the season is \$20. and the raised beds are \$10. Don't be disappointed, anyone interested should call John Crow starting March 20th at 705.436.5292 and leave your name and phone number.

Enjoy the pleasure of growing your own food, your own way, and help your community at the same time.

Seed Exchange

A seed exchange table is planned for the first few meetings this year. So, if you have seed packets leftover from previous seasons you don't need or you have been collecting seeds from your own plants, bring them along. All we ask is that collected seed be labeled with type and growing information and packaged in envelopes.

Preparation for the Plant Sale 2015

It is not too early to start thinking about what plants you would like to divide, or dig to donate to our Plant Sale at the Arboretum on May 30th. If you need any help with anything, including digging and dividing please let Judith Matchett know at 705.456.3299.

It is best for the appearance of the plants that digging and potting is done well in advance of the sale so that plant shock is not a problem. No one wants a wilted looking plant! Please don't leave donated pots at the Arboretum. If you have unneeded pots call Judith Matchett at the number above.

Since the town took over the maintenance of the Arboretum last summer there is a new plan in place for those who reserve a spot. Anyone who is not a member will get a reservation if they buy a \$20.00 family membership. This way we have no concerns with insurance as all members are covered by the Ontario Horticultural Association coverage. This is to protect us from liability. The up front cost will therefore remain the same. Table rental will stay the same at \$5.00. The bonus for us is that we gain some new members! To reserve call Judith Matchett.

As usual we will be needing donations of home baking, rhubarb, preserves and the like for our bake sale. It would be a good idea to start thinking about what you will donate this year.

Here's wishing for a successful fundraising sale! It is more important than ever as we no longer collect tree donation's to add to the kitty.

Keeping the Weeds Down

We have all heard the old saw about 'Low Maintenance Gardening'. This does not mean zero

Events of Interest

- Mar. 9** **G&DHS General Meeting** – Churchill Community Centre, speaker Natalie Amos on lawn care.
- Mar. 5-8** **The Lung Association Presents the Fifteenth Annual Stratford Garden Festival** – Stratford Rotary Complex, 353 McCarthy Rd, Stratford – Admission: \$9. at the door. Children 12 and under free directions on website: www.stratfordgardenfestival.com
- Mar. 13-22** **Canada Blooms** – at Direct energy Centre, 100 Princes' Blvd., Toronto, information 416.447.8655, www.canadablooms.com, Online tickets: Adult \$17., Senior \$14., Students \$13., Children free. Tickets purchased at the door cost 3 dollars more. If you are interested in going give your name to our President Lucy Valente 705.456.3747 in case there is a bus going with another society.
- Apr. 2-4** **Peterborough Garden Show** – Evinrude Centre, 911 Monaghan Rd., Peterborough, ticket \$7., 12 and under free.
- Apr. 8** **Floral Design Workshop** – at the home of Jenni Murrell. If interested call at 705.456.3163. The cost will be \$10. plus bring your own fresh flowers and materials.
- Apr. 12** **The Ontario Hosta Society Presents the 5th Annual Hosta Forum** – at Glencairn Golf Club, 9807 Regional Rd. 25, Halton Hills, 3 speakers, lunch & snacks, draws & prizes, live & silent auctions, Members: \$55., Non Members \$60., Pay by cheque to: Ontario Hosta Society c/o Norm Limpert, 11174 Sixth Line, Acton, ON L7J 2L7, please include return address, email & phone # so tickets can be mailed to you. To pay by credit card phone Sandra Shrieve-Mahoney at 1.866.742.7155.
- Apr. 13** **G&DHS General Meeting** – Churchill Community Centre, speaker Laura Mills on Photography in the Garden
- Apr. 25** **District 16 Annual General Meeting & Flower Show** – at Tangle Creek Golf Club, Barrie
- May 2** **Lakeview Gardens Spring Preview Greenhouse Tour** – 1712 Killarney Beach Rd. Lefroy
- May 11** **G&DHS General Meeting** – Churchill Community Centre, speaker Edith George on Heritage Trees
- May 16** **G&DHS Spring Flower Show & Tea** – at Churchill Community Centre
- May 30** **Giant Tailgate, Plant Sale, Bake Sale and BBQ** – at the South Innisfil Arboretum

On the next page you will find the G&DHS Membership Registration Form. Fill out and bring to any meeting or mail with a cheque to the address provided.

maintenance! If only that were so. Even with the use of mulch, weeding still must be done, but with fewer weeds, as most of the light that encourages germination is kept out. Also the soil doesn't dry out so quickly, which makes immature weeds easier to uproot. Nature is very determined however, and a neglected garden will soon be overwhelmed.

A method that does help is to weed an area, then use several layers of wet newspaper, and top this with mulch. Take warning, if you want to plant something new you will have to carefully move the mulch aside and then make a hole in the paper, being sure to reserve the soil from the hole in a container. Spreading soil around on top of the mulch will defeat the purpose. Check for weeds regularly and remove when they are young and refresh the mulch before it breaks down. Large chunks of bark will usually last for a few years, finer mulch needs topping up more often.

This method is really only useful for perennial beds, with annuals it is more sensible to amend the soil and weed regularly.

Gilford & District Horticultural Society
20__ Membership Registration Form

- Single Membership \$15.00
 Family Membership (Up to 3 at same address) \$20.00
 Life Membership (FREE)
 Youth Membership (FREE)

Name:

2nd & 3rd
Family Members

Address:

City: Postal Code:

Telephone: ()

Email :

Please fill this form in and bring it to the next general meeting or
mail with your cheque to:

Gilford & District Horticultural Society,
PO Box 73, Lefroy, ON
L0L 1W0

Membership List

Cash

Cheque