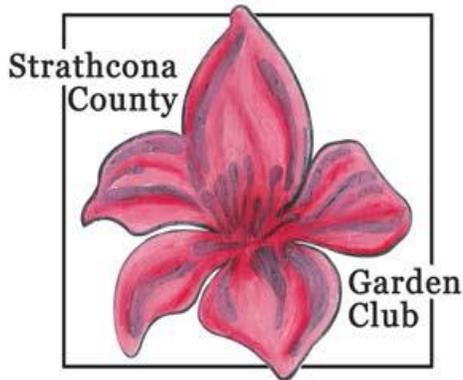


October 2020



The Strathcona Gardener

Growing with the Community

www.strathconacountygardenclub.ca

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President's Message

Greetings to Strathcona County Garden Club members! For me, this time of year is a bitter-sweet situation. **Bitter** because the gardening season is coming to an end. **Sweet** because of the harvest that comes out of the gardens and the opportunities that creates to explore new recipes. It has been a bountiful harvest for me. My carrots are humungous! My fridge is full, and I still have a 15 foot row to dig. I will be exploring a new method for storing them with peat moss as recommended by one of the writers at Lee Valley. I am still picking zucchini and Sunburst squash, and I picked my last cucumbers and Snow peas less than two weeks ago. All the produce has encouraged me to explore new recipes. A favorite this growing season has been zucchini crisps, a simple recipe that my husband has embraced and now calls his own. The only ingredients are small zucchinis sliced into ¼ inch slices and freshly grated Grana Padano cheese and a hot oven. Yesterday, I used my freshly harvested carrots, celery, parsnips, onions, and Honey Crisp apples to make a delicious Mulligatawny soup. It could be my all time favorite! My poppy pods have been drying for several weeks, and yesterday I worked for two hours to empty the pods. The end result was 2 cups of poppy seeds, ¾ cup of which soon became a poppy seed cake that tasted even more delicious since the seeds came from my gardens. I am including three photos: the dried pods, a bowl of the seeds, and the end result.



Over the next 9 or so months, each of the board members will be offering to share a favorite garden-related recipe which will be published in our newsletter. This month Andrew, our Vice President, will share one of his.

Our October the 8th AGM and Speaker Presentation will be held at the Agora in the County Building. We will have lots of space, and tables will be set up with 4 attendees to a table. We may need to set up some extra chairs. We will ask everyone to sign in, especially since the meeting is our Annual General Assembly. Pat will be supplying each signee with his or her own pen which then becomes our small gift to each member. We will all be required to wear masks, sanitize our hands, and maintain the recommended distance. Masks will be supplied if you do not bring one, as will disposable gloves and hand sanitizer. I am sure that we all know the drill. Unfortunately, we will not be able to offer coffee or snacks. The AGM will include the election of 6 board positions: Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Coordinator, Phoning Coordinator, Newsletter Editor, and Fundraising Coordinator. If you are interested in learning more about these positions because you would like to become involved with our club at the board level, please feel free to contact me. (I am a pretty good arm-twister!) Our club member, Richard Perry, will be chairing the election part of the AGM. Thank you, Richard! The AGM will be followed by our speaker for the evening, the lovely Myrna Pearman, who, in 1987, was offered a dream career as Biologist and Site Services Manager at Ellis Bird Farm. Our club had the excellent opportunity to visit the Ellis Bird Farm several years ago, a visit I would highly recommend.

Unfortunately, due to the restrictions being placed on a gathering of people, the SCGC Board has decided to cancel our annual November Christmas pot luck since we would not be able to hold a potluck dinner. I will miss Pat's holupchi and Andrew's punch and all those incredible salads and desserts. Hopefully ...next year. In place of this, Brenda, our Speaker Coordinator, is trying to organize a Christmas related activity, again at the Agora. I am keeping my fingers crossed.

Now, a quick review of our September perennial plant sale at Smeltzer House on September 12. It was a great success! Thank you very much to all of you who donated plants. There were many of them! And, we brought in the largest sales in my memory - \$528.00. Thank you for all the help Brenda, Andrew, Bud, Susan, Dorothy, Pegi, Sylvia, Cathee, Cathy, Rose, and Terry. You are incredible! I am not sure if our members realize that after the sale, there are usually quite a few plants that do not get sold. It would break my heart to throw them away so last year, they were given a home in the City of Morinville. This year, there were quite a few unsold ones, and again what to do with them? I packed my car and Andrew packed his car...pretty full! We were minutes from leaving to drop them all off on my driveway!!!! Then suddenly, a truck drives anxiously into the parking lot. Two ladies exit and offer to buy all the remaining plants for \$40.00. I cannot exaggerate the swiftness with which those plants were transferred from our vehicles to their truck!!! It was a great relief!!!

Even though our club has been faced with challenges holding our meetings these last six months (although the two Zoom presentations were excellent), and we had to cancel two events, our club membership grew with the addition of two new members. Welcome, Linda and Sue!

My best wishes to all our garden club members! Take care! Donna



Next Meeting

- October 8** **1. Annual General Meeting**
- 7-9 pm** **2. Myrna Pearman, Biologist and Site Manager, Ellis Bird Farm**
- “Ellis Bird Farm – Garden and Research”**
- This meeting will take place in the Agora at the Community Centre with all safety protocols in effect. We are unable to offer our trademark coffee, snacks, or raffle. Sheila Flint will be in attendance to process your forms and fees for Oldman Creek Community Garden plots for 2021.**

Upcoming Meetings

2021 Regular Meetings

January 14, Feb 11, March 11, April 8, May 13, June 10, July 8, Sep 9, Oct 14. These are the dates to note for our 2021 Regular Meetings. Your current 2020 membership is automatically extended to cover 2021. Pat will mail out our membership cards as the New Year approaches. The November newsletter will provide information on upcoming speakers and topics.

2020 Special Events

Nov 26 **CANCELLED** Christmas Potluck Social

The Board is hoping to offer a Christmas workshop.

Election 2020 – At the October 8 Meeting

While our election is not as big a deal as some others, it is still vitally important to the ongoing success of the Strathcona County Garden Club. We have diverse positions to be filled, duties to commence in January 2021 for a 2-year term:

Treasurer Membership Coordinator Phoning Coordinator
Fundraising Coordinator Newsletter Editor Snack Coordinator

Please contact Donna or attend the meeting or both, if you wish to consider joining our Board of Directors. New Board members are always welcome

Oldman Creek Community Gardens

The following message is from Sheila Flint and is directed to all Oldman Creek Community Gardeners.

Well another gardening season out at Oldman Creek Community gardens is sadly coming to an end. However, the weather for the month of September has been beyond marvellous! This will give all the gardeners plenty of time to get the plots cleaned up, weed free...ready for spring.

It has been a very trying year for everyone and my heart goes out to anyone who has been affected by COVID. Even if it is something as not being able to hug, which is the worst for me, down to not seeing friends and family.

Thank goodness we were able to garden at OMC as that was a saving grace for many of you. I want to thank all the gardeners for adhering to the safe distancing rules and using the designated parking areas. This certainly made things flow more freely and safely.

To those of you who took it upon yourselves to mow some of the areas around the shed...thank you. Please go one step further everyone and bring the empty water barrels to the shed as that would be greatly appreciated.

As you all know there is an Annual General Meeting on October 8, 2020, from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. at the Agora and I will be there accepting renewal forms, payments and signed Rules and Regulation forms at the beginning of the meeting. Please ensure that all forms are filled out to ensure there are no bottlenecks in the line-up. We must maintain a safe distance and move things along as quickly as possible for safety reasons. Forms are included as separate attachments with this Newsletter

Please inform me by October 10, 2020, to confirm your plots for the coming year and let me know if there are any changes.

All beds must be cleaned up and weed free by October 13, and failure to do so may affect whether your plots will be assigned to you for next season.

The same rules for COVID will apply in 2021 until we hear differently from AHS or the City of Edmonton.

I want to commend everyone for the fantastic gardens out there this year and even though I did not have a garden there, which I missed terribly, a few people have offered me some veggies and I can't thank you enough. My heart just sings when I go out to the gardens and it really does a body good to see the community spirit and friendship that is so very evident whenever I go out.

Please everyone, be safe and be kind and 'get pickling'!!!!

Warm regards, Sheila Flint



This Board is Cookin'!

Roasted Squash Soup

This recipe was submitted by Andrew Davison, Vice-President

1 1/2 pounds butternut squash, seeded and halved
1 acorn squash, seeded and halved
1/2 small spaghetti squash, seeded and halved
3 tablespoons butter
1 large onion
3 cloves garlic
1 tablespoon minced ginger
1 teaspoon curry powder
2 granny smith apples, peeled, cored and cubed
2/3 cup sherry
5 cups vegetable broth
salt and pepper to taste



Preheat oven to 400° F

Bake squash cut side down on baking sheets until flesh is soft, around 45 minutes. Scoop out flesh into large bowl.

Melt butter over medium heat in saucepan. Saute the onion, stirring frequently until tender. Stir in garlic, ginger and curry powder and cook for a minute. Add apples and sherry and simmer until apples soften, around 10 minutes or so.

Puree batches of squash flesh and broth in a blender and transfer to a large saucepan. Puree apple mixture and stir into pureed squash.

Heat over medium heat and season with salt and pepper. Cayenne can be added for an extra bit of heat if desired.

Membership Perk\$

Present your 2020 Strathcona County Garden Club Membership Card at the following establishments for possible discounts on your purchases. Contact information and more details may be found on the Club website. **Please note this information has not been updated vis-à-vis the Covid 19 issue.**

Apache Seeds Arch Greenhouses Kuhlmann's Greenhouse Garden Market Cannor Nurseries

Aspen Ridge Greenhouse Cal's Grower Direct Cal's Whitemud Garden Centre Arrowhead Nurseries

Salisbury Greenhouse All Seasons Garden Centre BMR Greenhouses & Water Gardens

Millcreek Nursery Ltd Jils Landscape Supply Ellerslie Gift & Garden Sunstar Nurseries Ltd.

Estate Gardens Greenhouse South Cooking Lake Greenhouses

Strathcona County Garden Club Contacts

Board Members	Name	Contact
President	Donna Reimche	
Vice President	Andrew Davison	
Past President		
Treasurer	Bud Milsom	
Secretary	JC Lindberg	
Special Events Coordinator	Brenda Brooke	
Membership Coordinator	Pat Komarniski	
Advertising Coordinator	Cindy Garneau	
Phoning Coordinator	Dorothy Gilbey	
Fundraising Coordinator	Susan Robblee	
Snack Coordinator	Andrew Davison	
Newsletter Editor	Marlene Exner	
Support Volunteers	Name	Contact
Membership Assistant	Pat Barker	
Facebook Administrator	Marlene Parish	
Phone Volunteers	Pat Barker	
	Pegi Gunn-Graham	
	Marj Kennedy	
	Pat Komarniski	
	Sherri McCormick	
	Carol Moos	
	Shirley Radmanovich	
	Gerri Schmidt	
	Audrey Zmurchuk	
Oldman Creek Gardens	Sheila Flint	587 990 9935; smayflint@gmail.com

**Happy Thanksgiving.
Celebrate Safe!**

