



Special Issue April 2020

The Strathcona Gardener

Growing with the Community

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President's Message

Dear Garden Club Members

I hope that you are well and at ease and anticipating the venturing out into your gardens. There has been a roller coaster of activity and speculation on my part, especially concerning community gardens. I have always valued my privilege to grow vegetables for the four or so months of the year. No store-bought broccoli or tomatoes will ever rival my own. And in the fall, I can use those tomatoes to make stewed tomatoes, tomato soup, tomato sauce, and ketchup. I have the most delicious ketchup recipe that I would be happy to share.

As you should be aware, all garden club activities have been cancelled until, at least, June 15. We will keep you informed of further developments. There is good news, though, for those of you who have community garden plots in Strathcona County. The County has approved community gardens for this year. However, there will be restrictions and agreements to be signed before anyone can venture to their plots. For those of you who are Old Man Creek Community Garden plot holders, we have good news, as well. The City of Edmonton has approved community gardens under its jurisdiction, including Old Man Creek Community Garden. There will be many restrictions for the safety of all gardeners which will have to be followed precisely. Agreements will need to be signed. The consequence of breaking these agreements? No gardening at OMC for any of us! Our OMC coordinator, Sheila Flint, will keep you informed as we work out details over the next few weeks. So, please, do not go to OMC until Sheila gives us all the okay! I was heartened to read in the Edmonton Journal this morning from the interim city manager, Adam Loughlin that: "Food production is an essential service. Community gardens are an important mental health outlet and source of community pride". Thus, the city is promoting local food sourcing by adding more community gardens for those without space in their land.

I spoke with Corine Hutlet this morning about orders and pickup for tomatoes and other vegetables with **Green Thumb Kids**. Everyone is working hard at **Green Thumb Kids**. They have been processing many online orders for tomatoes, and many tomatoes are still available for pre-order. However, this year the family decided not to have online orders for the herbs, cucumbers, and squash. Instead, they have planted more of these than usual so the customers can choose when they arrive for pickups. Their plant sale runs May 7, 8 and 9, but will be extended to May 11, 13, 14, and 15. Opening times are 12 pm to 6 pm each day. Customers' comfort level with shopping is very important to Corine. Sales will be drive-by, as Corine describes it. If you have a pre-order, it will be easy for you to pickup. The kids will be there to help. However, the rest of the plants will be organized at the end of the Hutlets' driveway and parking will be on the road, just outside their acreage. At this time, buyers will be able to choose plants from what is available. If so, please respect the safety of others. However, the kids will be available to choose for you and add the plants to your order and even carry the plants to your car. **Green Thumb Kids** can only

accept cash for payment. Very unfortunately, the Hutlets cannot invite anyone to visit the animals this year.

I also contacted **Salisbury Greenhouse** today to learn of news there. The greenhouse is not open to the public at present, although they are accepting phone-in and online orders with curbside pickup. If the phone-in orders continue to increase, they many have to cancel this option. Some bedding out plants may be available for phone-in and online orders. However, the greenhouse will be re-opening on May 1. Check on their website for shopping restrictions: homepage to fresh news to shopping guidelines.

Greenland Garden Centre is open to the public now, Monday to Sunday from 10 am to 6 pm. Curbside pickup is available, as is online shopping. Day to day decisions are being made regarding store safety restrictions.

And finally, there is **Arch Greenhouse** in Edmonton. Effective April 20, special consideration is being given to seniors. The greenhouse is providing a weekday shopping hour for seniors from 10 am to 11 am. Cash transactions will only be accepted for seniors. For the rest of you, regular hours are from 11 am to 5 pm and only with credit card or debit. If you go to **Arch's** website, you will see a list of all the safety measures they have established. A few stand out for me. In addition to limiting the number of customers being able to enter at one time, they are limiting customers to one person per group. Social distancing markers have also been set. Ordering by email or online is also an option.

These are the only greenhouses and garden centers that I did some research on. If I missed a favorite one of yours, I apologize.

I am thrilled to be able to welcome a new member to the club. Welcome, Marvin! I hope all of our members enjoy the offerings Marlene has presented in this newsletter. A few of you emailed Marlene and me after the last message I sent. I want you to know that I appreciate the opportunity to connect with you on an individual basis. Thank you for your suggestions.

My best wishes to all. Donna Reimche

Upcoming Meetings

May 14, June 11 and July 9

CANCELLED

2020 Regular Meetings

October 8 Myrna Pearman, Biologist and Site Manager, Ellis Bird Farm
"Ellis Bird Farm – Garden and Research"

2020 Special Events

Nov 26 Christmas Potluck Social
5 – 9 pm Log Cabin

Summer in the Winter?

Hi all,

Want to have summer in the winter? How about flowers in Jan/Feb? I can and do!

The secret is to take cuttings of your favorite plants in the early fall before it gets too cold. You can take cuttings from just about any plant. I've done geraniums, million bells, bacopa, petunias and verbena to name a few. I've even heard of people taking tomato cuttings that do great. Some plants are a bit harder to root than others but that just makes it a challenge to overcome! You do need some type of extra lighting for the cuttings. Over the years I have bought shop lights from the hardware stores (on sale usually \$20) and use regular fluorescent bulbs in them: one warm and one cool bulb. It's reasonable in price and works for me!

I say the fall, but you can do cuttings anytime of the year. I learned how to take cuttings at Salisbury Greenhouse at one of their spring classes. A bonus is that you save yourself some money. I originally started my geraniums for \$3.75 for the seed package. Right now, I have 17 geraniums from cuttings. In the spring geraniums sell for around \$3 a plant. Do the math! That's just the geraniums. I start plants from seed then take cuttings. Win all the way around! Plus, I love the challenge!



Take a 1 ½" – 2" cutting with only a few leaves. The bigger the leaves the fewer you should have. No less than 2 though. After I cut them, I dip the cuttings in insecticidal soap to prevent any bugs. I didn't one year and lost all my plants to aphids! Geranium cuttings need to form a callus before they are planted. Let the cuttings dry for at least a couple of hours. I've even forgot them overnight. They were limp but they rooted just fine! Next dip in rooting hormone. I find fall cuttings need that extra boost because you're rooting them out of season. Prepare small plugs filled with soil, watered and holes poked in the soil. Place the cuttings carefully in the hole trying not to knock off the rooting hormone. Firm around the cutting. Place the plugs in a container, cover with a clear plastic lid and place on heat. The heat really makes a difference. Once a day I spray with a very dilute (just enough to color the water) fertilizer solution. You want enough humidity to keep the plants green and soil moist but not enough to cause the cuttings to rot. It's kind of a balancing act! It'll take a couple of weeks for most plants to start rooting. Don't let the soil dry out so water if the misting isn't enough. If it gets too wet crack the cover open a bit. When you have good roots repot into bigger pots.

Voila, you will have flowers in the winter! At Christmas I had blooming million bells as a table decoration!

These are some pictures of my plants.

Brenda



Garden Tools

S	H	O	V	E	L	L	L	E	E	D	G	E	R
S	E	H	T	E	R	G	L	O	V	E	S	C	L
E	M	M	S	H	E	A	R	S	E	R	S	H	A
R	W	N	O	L	R	N	O	H	G	S	R	A	W
E	R	L	M	E	R	E	I	H	S	O	S	I	N
W	R	E	S	R	E	R	N	E	O	R	S	N	M
O	A	E	L	T	B	B	O	U	R	S	B	S	O
L	O	R	H	E	R	R	W	A	R	R	E	A	W
B	L	E	R	R	W	I	U	L	O	P	E	W	E
F	M	S	H	E	E	O	M	S	O	E	K	A	R
A	O	O	F	F	E	E	R	M	H	E	K	A	T
E	P	H	O	S	E	P	R	T	E	C	K	R	S
L	S	P	R	I	N	K	L	E	R	R	K	E	E
R	S	R	K	G	V	O	U	A	L	H	R	W	E

SHEARS
 HOSE REEL
 BRUSH
 PRUNER
 CHAINSAW
 LAWN MOWER
 GLOVES
 FORK
 HOSE
 LEAF BLOWER
 SHOVEL
 STRIMMER
 TROWEL
 RAKE
 EDGER
 SPRINKLER

Play this puzzle online at : <http://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/40/>

Strawberry Blonde Sunflower



Does anyone have, or know where to get, seeds for this gorgeous blonde?

Plant Names and their Legends

Match the plant name to its fascinating origin or history.
Answers at bottom of page; no peeking!

1. the plant celebrated in architecture, used by the Greeks to adorn the caps of Corinthian columns	a. Dodecatheon
2. ancient herb found in a 60,000 year old Neanderthal burial site in Iraq	b. Acanthus
3. plant said to cure the plague, as revealed to a monk by an angel	c. Hypericum
4. from the Greek for hand and flower, referring to these carried in the hand as a bouquet	d. Achillea
5. from the Greek for twelve, Pliny relating this to the twelve Olympian gods perhaps because the flowers sometimes appear in twelves	e. Cheiranthus
6. said to be named by Linnaeus after Helen of Troy, whose tears upon touching the ground gave rise to these flowers	f. Angelica
7. placed above an image in a house to ward off evil spirits, when flowers were in bloom in late June during the festival of St. John	g. Paeonia
8. one of the oldest plant names, Latin for the name of a Greek nymph who was turned into this herb	h. Passiflora
9. named after the physician to the Gods in Homer's Iliad, who used this plant to heal the wound that Hercules inflicted on Pluto	i. Mentha
10. parts of this flower are said to represent various aspects of the life and crucifixion of Christ, as the corona the crown of thorns, the ten petal-like parts the 10 faithful apostles	j. Helenium

Answers:

1. b, bear's breeches 2. d, yarrow 3. f, angelica 4. e, wallflower
 5. a, shooting star 6. J 7. c (St. John's wort) 8. i, Helen's flower
 9. g, peony 10. h, passionflower

Did you Know...

that humans share half of our genes with mushrooms? When I first heard that, I thought of someone who might have shared even more than half....

Co-Vid 19 Jokebook

I used to spin that toilet paper like I was on Wheel of Fortune. Now I turn it like I'm cracking a safe.

I need to practice social-distancing from the refrigerator.

Half of us are going to come out of this quarantine as amazing cooks. The other half will come out with a drinking problem.

PSA: every few days try your jeans on just to make sure they fit. Pajamas will have you believe all is well in the kingdom.

Homeschooling is going well. 2 students suspended for fighting and 1 teacher fired for drinking on the job.

I don't think anyone expected that when we changed the clocks we'd go from Standard Time to the Twilight Zone

This morning I saw a neighbor talking to her cat. It was obvious she thought her cat understood her. I came into my house, told my dog..... we laughed a lot.

So, after this quarantine.....will the producers of My 600 Pound Life just find me or do I find them?

Quarantine Day 5: Went to this restaurant called THE KITCHEN. You have to gather all the ingredients and make your own meal. I have no clue how this place is still in business.

My body has absorbed so much soap and disinfectant lately that when I pee it cleans the toilet.

Day 5 of Homeschooling: One of these little monsters called in a bomb threat.

I'm so excited --- it's time to take out the garbage. What should I wear?

I hope the weather is good tomorrow for my trip to Puerto Backyarda. I'm getting tired of Los Livingroom.

Classified Ad: Single man with toilet paper seeks woman with hand sanitizer for good clean fun.

After years of wanting to thoroughly clean my house but lacking the time to do so, this week I discovered that wasn't the reason.

Day 6 of Homeschooling: My child just said "I hope I don't have the same teacher next year".... I'm offended.

Better 6 feet apart than 6 feet under ...

If schools remain closed for too long, parents are gonna discover a vaccine before the scientists do.

*Day 7 of the quarantine
My wife took up gardening but won't
tell what she's going to plant*



**I'm not self-medicating with
chocolate. The lady at the shop
wrote me a prescription...**



**Well, she called it a receipt.
Whatever.**

**Put 1 gallon of bleach
and 1 gallon of dish soap
in the washing machine...**



**I disinfected the entire
house in 10 minutes**



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
Aspen Ridge Greenhouse Cal's Grower Direct Cal's Whitemud Garden Centre
Cannor Nurseries Salisbury Greenhouse All Seasons Garden Centre
Arrowhead Nurseries BMR Greenhouses & Water Gardens Millcreek Nursery Ltd
Jils Landscape Supply Ellerslie Gift & Garden Estate Gardens Greenhouse
South Cooking Lake Greenhouses Sunstar Nurseries Ltd.

Strathcona County Garden Club Contacts

Board Members	
Position	Name
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	
Position	Name
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Facebook Administrator	Marlene Parish
Phone Volunteers	Pat Barker
	Dian Davies
	Pegi Gunn-Graham
	Marj Kennedy
	Pat Komarniski
	Sherri McCormick
	Carol Moos
	Shirley Radmanovich
	Gerri Schmidt
	Audrey Zmurchuk
Oldman Creek Gardens	Sheila Flint

