



January 2023

The Strathcona Gardener

Growing with the Community

www.strathconacountygardenclub.ca

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Message from the Past President

Greetings to Fellow Club Members and Gardeners! The Garden Club Board of Directors has not, as yet, appointed an interim president. In the absence of a president, I am taking on the task to write a message to our members. First of all, I want to wish each and every one of you my best wishes for 2023, wishes for good health, maybe a little wealth, lots of love, wonderful family, wonderful friends, lots of sunshine for growing plants and reasonable amounts of rain for maintaining their growth, and good fortune, and maybe a subscription for a Spring Fling from Blooms on 7 (a gift from someone who loves you). As I write this message, I am inspired to start growing! Plants, that is! Definitely not height! Those days are far gone! Waist? Hopefully never! I think I am going to be lugging my grow light up the basement stairs to the dining room to set up lights for lettuce and basil. Last year my basil grew exceedingly well under the grow lights! So well, that I was giving lots of plants away. Hopefully, the lettuce will do well, also?

For those of you who are new or fairly new to our club, in addition to offering you speaker meetings and events, we also offer you our [Website](#) and our [Facebook](#) presence. Anyone can log in to our Website for all sorts of information about the club, including our plans for speakers in 2023. You will also find a Membership Form for membership renewal, if you have not done so already. As a member of our club, you also have the opportunity to sign in to our Facebook page, administered by Marlene. On our Facebook page, you will find our members sharing helpful information about plants and gardens and celebrating with lots of photos. It is a garden-centered and supportive environment.

I have to admit...I am not an indoor plant (ie. house plant) enthusiast. My house plants consist of a hoyo, which has a family history, two Christmas cactus (given to me by a special lady who is no longer living), and an orchid, given to me when my cat died. I also could not resist a Jewel of Jerusalem which Leesa donated for a raffle prize and a Passion Fruit plant which Natasha started from seed and donated to the plant sale last September.

They are all in desperate need of transplanting and consequently, suffering. So I am very much hoping that our January speaker, Grace Salaysay, will inspire me to take better care of these indoor plants. The topic of indoor plants was initially inspired by our previous club president, Andrew, who said that he had seen this excellent speaker on one of the cable networks. She was interviewed and shared her knowledge on house plants, but he did not have a name. So when I began searching for speakers on indoor plants, I googled that topic. That google lead me to Botaniful Plants in Edmonton on 137 th Avenue. There, I, by good fortune, met Grace who, I soon discovered, has a passion for plants and had been interviewed three times on Global News. Since then, also on CBC Radio with Jessica Ng. So, our meeting was beyond coincidence! I hope you all join me for Grace's presentation on January 12. Grace tells me that, once started, she simply cannot stop talking about plants. Her enthusiasm has no bounds!

I would also like to say, once more, how grateful I am to all club members who have served on our Board of Directors. And, I very much look forward to working with the 2023 Board: Susan, our secretary, who is super efficient and effective; Allison, our treasurer, who is also super efficient and very detail-minded in keeping track of our financial affairs; Cindy G, also super efficient, at keeping our presence known in the community through various media. (Cindy took the initiative to arrange to have Marlene Exner's article on long-time club member Pegi Gunn-Graham published in the January 5th Sherwood Park News in the "Never Been Better" section. I hope you all have a chance to read it?); Lori, also super efficient at organizing our snack program and encouraging a greener approach. I look forward to Jana's first newsletter and getting to know her. I know Cindy K will greet you all with much warmth when you trade your dollars in for raffle tickets. (However, she will not be able to begin in her fundraising position until February. Susan has graciously offered to look after the raffle on the 12th of January.) Finally, Elaine who, in addition to maintaining strong membership records, already has ideas for speakers...quite a few actually!

Finally, I would like to welcome three new members: Kim, Kyla, and Hugh. Our garden club has much to offer: speakers, connecting with other gardeners, sharing ideas, special events, bus tours, community garden plots, Facebook. My advice...take full advantage of what our club has to offer!

I look forward to meeting many of you at our meeting on Thursday, January 12th. Thank you for being part of this club and continuing to support it.

Donna, Past President



**Happy New Year Garden Club
Members!**

Next Meeting

Jan 12 **Grace Salaysay, Fresh Space by Grace**
7-9 pm **“Indoor Plants”**
Council Chamber, Community Centre
401 Festival Lane, Sherwood Park

Grace is an Interior Plant Consultant. She specializes in creating and maintaining indoor plants in commercial spaces through her business **Fresh Space by Grace**. The purpose of her company is to enhance feelings of happiness and well-being through the addition of living plants in indoor environments. She has appeared in three interviews on Global News and one on CBC Radio with Jessica Ng.



Bring your own mug for a chance to win a Tim’s card. There’s no inflation at our snack table. A loonie still gets you a beverage and a selection of amazing snacks. Another loonie gets you a raffle ticket. A donated item for the raffle gets you a smile and a thank you!

This month’s main raffle prize is an Apoballis Red Sword (8” pot) purchased at Greenland Garden Centre.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Feb 9 Ian Sprague, Meika’s Bird House
 “Backyard Birds”

March 9 Tim Moreland, Aspen Ridge Greenhouses
 “Good Buying vs Bad Buying”

April 13 Natasha Stairs, Master Gardener & Club Member
 “No-till Gardening and Preserving Moisture in Soil”

Have you renewed your membership?

If you have not yet done so, please take a moment to renew your membership so you don’t miss out on news and perks! Fill out the complete form attached to this newsletter and return with your payment. Note the fee increase for 2023.

Fresh Greens Wreath Workshop – Dec. 7, 2022

The wreath making workshop was offered again this year and held at Greenland Garden Centre. It was another smashing hit, which sold out. There was an abundance of greens to work with and excellent instruction from Greenland's Joanne. Adding an additional creative touch, Brenda shared a photo of her final piece – completed at home with some handy poinsettias and ribbon!



2023 Membership Cards

As part of the garden club's ongoing efforts to respect our planet, be responsible financially and embrace technology, we will be sending out the 2023 membership cards via email. Upon renewal of your membership or when you sign up for a new membership, you will receive an email with a PDF of your 2023 membership card. From here, you will be able to print your membership card or save it to your phone. Please remember to update your email address with us if it has changed. If you do not have an email address, alternate arrangements will be made to get your card to you.

As in previous years, your card will include Strathcona County Garden Club along with your name and the year it is valid. New to the card this year will be a list of current businesses that offer a discount to our members. This is one of the wonderful benefits we get as members of the Strathcona County Garden Club. For me, that means I can buy 10% more plants for my garden!

If you have any questions, please contact myself, Elaine Vandermeulen, at (780) 417-6980 or evandermeulen@shaw.ca.

Upcoming Strathcona County Library Events

In our efforts to support Strathcona County Library, we are announcing two gardening related presentations that our members might be interested in.

Jan 24 Edmonton Native Plant Society
7-8:30pm "Local Native Plants for the Home Gardener"
Community Centre Meeting Room 3 & 4

Participants will be introduced to a selection of local native plants suitable for growing in urban gardens. Learn about the significant benefits a few native plants can bring to your immediate surroundings, and beyond our fence line. If viewing this newsletter in PDC, click [here](#) to register.

Mar 14 Dora Berry
7-8:30pm "Spring Greenhouse Growing"
Community Centre Meeting Room 3 & 4

Learn from expert gardener Dora Berry, how to maximize the use of your greenhouse this Spring. From direct seeding to seed starting, you can get growing sooner. Dora will be sharing her experiences and tips with enjoying her greenhouse year-round! If viewing this newsletter in PDF, click [here](#) to register.

*****For both Library events, advance online registration is required*****

Membership Perk\$

Present your 2023 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.

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
President	Vacant
Vice President	Vacant
Past President	Donna Reimche
Treasurer	Allison McKinnon
Secretary	Susan Robblee
Speaker & Events	Donna Reimche (Interim)
Membership	Elaine Vandermeulen
Advertising	Cindy Garneau
Fundraising	Cindy Khan
Snacks	Lori Hawrelak
Newsletter Editor	Jana Chouinard
Support Volunteers	Name
Membership Assistant	Vacant
Facebook Administrator	Marlene Parish
Old Man Creek Community Garden	Sheila Flint