



March 2023

The Strathcona Gardener

Growing with the Community

www.strathconacountygardenclub.ca

strathgardenclub@gmail.com

Message from the Interim President

Greetings to fellow SCGC Members! There is a gardening program on PBS Television called Growing a Greener World that I have recently come to watch. In a February episode, the host interviewed Paul James who was a pioneer on HGTV years ago and became a TV garden legend. One quote from Paul James resonated with me: We garden to live a memory. How true those words are for me. My mother was a farm wife, and many of my childhood memories relate to the garden she grew each year – never flowers, only vegetables. I remember that she grew poppies for seed, which she saved for baking. Because of my Ukrainian heritage, poppy seeds were essential. While I vaguely remember the incredible poppy flowers, I remember most clearly the harvesting. After a thorough drying in a shed still filled with the lingering smell of chicken hatchlings from the early spring, my mom and I sat on the floor of the shed while she broke open the dried pods, and I shook out the seeds, making a large pile. I was maybe six at the time. It has only been in the last three years that I have grown poppies for seed, usually only enough for one poppy seed cake. I found Gigantemum at West Coast Seeds. The flowers are beautiful to behold, the pods very large, and, of course, there is always a poppy seed cake to look forward to. When I shake the seeds out of the pods, I celebrate my mom, who died over 50 years ago. What memories do you hold that shape your gardening approaches, your gardening decisions, and your gardening experiences? Please feel free to write and send to me. With your permission, I would like to share some in my April message.

Again, I am happy to welcome 11 new members to our club and gardening community. My best wishes for many wonderful gardening experiences and adventures to Teresa, Leanne, Eleanor, Bert, Wendy, Violeta, Kyla, Mary, Art, Anne, Chrissanna, and Bill. Come to our meetings and listen to our excellent speakers who always have much to share, including Tim Moreland from Aspen Ridge Greenhouse, our March speaker. Come with us in June when we visit Lisa Harding who plants 6,500 heads of garlic each year. Donate plants for our annual plant sale and/or come to buy healthy plants at unbelievable prices. Attend our November Christmas potluck: the food is always beyond amazing. Volunteer in

all kinds of activities, such the very recent Everything Gardening Exchange event organized by Sylvia Hertling of the Strathcona County Library. Many thanks to Lori, our Board Member, who organized our participation and all the Club members who volunteered to support our club and answer gardening questions as garden partners. Also, volunteer to bring snacks to our monthly meetings.

As I mentioned earlier, I look forward to introducing Tim Moreland from Aspen Ridge Greenhouse who will speak to the club on March 9, 2023, at 7 pm at the Council Chambers. The last time I bought geraniums was from Aspen Ridge. I try to save my geraniums from year to year, but have had varied success. In the fall, I pull them out of my pots, sometimes not too carefully, and plop them into a large box to store until March. If I am fortunate to have perfect conditions, I will open the box to find new growth beginning on still green stems. I am pleased to say that this is the second year the geraniums originally bought at Aspen Ridge have survived, and I will be potting them soon. That is a testament to Aspen Ridge's healthy plants. Tim has declined an honorarium, but we will be donating a fee, on his behalf, to Sherwood Care for use in their gardens.

Lastly, I would like to remind you that in addition to our April speaker, Natasha Stairs, we will be holding our AGM during our April meeting. In addition to reports by the President and the Treasurer, we will be holding our election for 4 Board positions: President, Vice President, Speaker and Events, and a new position, Member at Large. An April AGM is new for us and because of the change, we have had to find a way to transition Board Members whose terms will be completed by December 31 of this year. A Member at Large will not have specific responsibilities, but will be able to learn about the Club and the Board of Directors, get involved with many of our activities, and perhaps take on one of the other Board positions in a year or two. Please consider letting your name stand for one of the positions up for election. Feel free to contact me if you would like information about the Board and the responsibilities for these positions.

Thank you to all for being members of our Club! My best wishes!

Donna, Interim President and Speaker and Events

Old Man Creek Community Gardeners

Planting season is just around the corner out at Old Man Creek! This is just a friendly reminder that all plot holders must renew their memberships **and** sign the OMCCG Responsibilities and Obligations form attached to this newsletter before planting of your plot can begin. Please complete the **Membership form** and read, sign and date the **OMCCG Responsibilities and Obligations Form** and return them at the monthly meeting on March the 9th or by sending it to Elaine at the address on the bottom of the membership form. If you have already completed your membership we just need your completed **OMCCG Responsibilities and Obligations Form**.

Next Meeting

March 9 **Tim Moreland, Aspen Ridge Greenhouses**
7-9 pm **“Good Buying vs Bad Buying”**
 Council Chamber, Community Centre
 401 Festival Lane, Sherwood Park

Tim Moreland is the owner of Aspen Ridge Greenhouses—a family business. Have you heard about their “Basket Hold Program”? It’s exactly what we never knew we needed:

“Every plant lover is excited to get their baskets and planters out onto their patios and porches, and Aspen Ridge wants them looking their best when they get there. To that end, every basket and large planter purchased includes the option of being placed under our Basket Hold Program. This is a complimentary service in which our staff, with years of experience between them, will care for, water, prune, and fertilize your plants so that they are vibrant and blooming when the time comes to put them on display.” <https://www.aspenridgegreenhouses.com/>

Listen and learn from Tim as he shares his tips on good buying for your garden this season. Aspen Ridge Greenhouses is located #7, 52257 Range Road 231 in Sherwood Park.



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 a \$25 gift card **plus** this beautiful Italian terracotta window box!

It Is Time To Renew Your Membership

If you have not already done so, please take the time to renew your membership. This will ensure that you don’t miss out on the April Newsletter and other club perks. Please fill out the complete **Membership form** attached to this newsletter and return it with your payment. This can be done at the next monthly meeting on March 9th or by sending it to Elaine at the address on the bottom of the form.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

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

- May 11 Speaker & Topic TBA
- June 8 Joe Gadbois, Perennial Department Manager, Greenland Garden Centre
"Underused Perennial Winners"

2023 Membership Cards

As you may have heard already, 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 if it has changed. If you do not have an email address, alternate arrangements will be made to get your card to you. In previous years, your card would include Strathcona County Garden Club along with your name and the year it is valid. New to the card this year is a list of current businesses that offer a discount. This is a great benefit that we get as Strathcona County Garden Club members. Don't forget to take advantage. Growing season is right around the corner.

If you have any questions please contact Elaine Vandermeulen at 780 417 6980 or evandermeulen@shaw.ca

Everything Gardening Exchange

Thanks to the Strathcona County Library our Strathcona County Garden Club was invited to participate in the Everything Gardening Exchange on Tuesday, Feb 28th. It was a very busy evening with well over 100 community members (seniors to little ones in strollers) wandering through, visiting with the eight different vendors, picking up some free vegetable/flower seeds and chatting about "tricks of the trade".



Thanks to Carolyn De Franceschi, Sylvia Charuk, Maureen MacMaster, Karen Reiter-Stecyk, Pat Baker, Sheila Flint, Elaine Phelan, Cindy Khan & Wendy Leach for volunteering at this event and showcasing all the great things about our club. We gave away potted green onions, handed out our membership forms, shared pictures/a

slideshow and even had a draw for a free one year membership. The winner of this was Chrisanna Gillis (mom with two future gardeners we hope).

It is always great to meet new people, learn new things and share with veteran and novice gardeners. Here's hoping this becomes an annual event, so those who missed it this year can attend in the future and we can continue to GROW our membership (along with our veggies & flowers).

Submitted by Lori Hawrelak
SCGC Snack Director

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	Donna Reimche (Interim)
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