

April 2023

The Strathcona Gardener

Growing with the Community

www.strathconacountygardenclub.ca

strathgardenclub@gmail.com

Message from the Interim President

Greetings to Garden Club members! In my March message, I asked you to consider memories that influenced your growth as gardeners and your connections to gardening. I am thrilled that two of our Garden Club members sent me lovely descriptions, and I have their consent to share them here. Elaine Phelan writes,

I can certainly relate to threshing with my Mom who just turned 95 yesterday; however, we were harvesting the dry white beans we serve at Christmas. Could that be why the bean recipe, Kalocheni Fasali, is still one of my favorite dishes at Christmas? One has to wonder...

And E. Hill writes in **Chotka's Garden**,

I grew up in a small town in northern Alberta, and like most families at the time, we had a large garden.

Whenever I think of gardens, though, I think of my aunt and the garden she grew on their farm. This garden was their lifeline and it was HUGE. I remember on many occasions being recruited along with the cousins to bring pails of water up from the dugout to water young seedlings. Her garden was a necessity, but her flowers were her passion. In front she had an enormous flower garden, and in back, an assortment of trees and berry bushes. Varieties that grew in the Peace area were more limited then. What amazes me when I think of her is how she weeded, watered, and maintained everything without running water or electricity.

She was generous about sharing whatever she grew with anyone that visited. Strangers would be treated to a tour. She was well known to come home after trips with some seeds or clippings tucked away in her pockets of something new that had caught her eye.

She and her gardens in the country are long gone, but the memories remain. In later years, they moved into town into a very small house, but, of course, it had a large garden. Vegetables? Yes, but everything interspersed with a variety of flowers, including, of course, poppies, that essential ingredient of Ukrainian cuisine.

Thank you, Elaine and E., for sharing these memories. Consider yourselves **published!**
P.S. I haven't heard the words **chotka** or **Kolacheni Fasali** in a very long time!

And now, about the **Annual General Assembly**. We will be holding our AGM at 7:00 pm on Thursday, April 13. The AGM Agenda, the Minutes of the 2022 AGM, and the Auditors' Reports have been sent to you. Please take some time to read and review them as motions will be made for membership approval for all. We will also be holding our elections at this meeting. These positions are open for election: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Speaker and Events Director, and Member at Large. Please note that one of our Club members has offered to allow her name to stand for Member at Large, and we are thankful! However, we are still asking our membership to consider one of the other positions. If you have the desire and/or the skills to help our club out, please put some serious thought into this request? Either contact me or ask another Club member to nominate you at the AGM.

Following our AGM at or around 7:30 pm, we will have our coffee/tea and snack break. Thank you greatly to those of you who are contributing to our delicious snacks. This break also gives you an opportunity to buy one raffle ticket or more? Our main raffle prize this month is this incredible set of long sleeved gardener's gloves, especially ideal for working around junipers or raspberry canes. Many thanks to our Fundraising Chair, Cindy Khan, and her raffle assistant for the evening, Deanne Wilson. Also, many thanks to our Club members who donate more prizes, over and above the main raffle prize. And, thank you to all the Club members who buy the tickets to support the club in so many ways. The sale of 100 tickets is more than enough to cover the rental of Council Chambers for one evening or to cover all or almost all of the speaker fee for the evening.

After snacks, we will be introducing our speaker - Natasha Stairs. Natasha is a member of our Club and a plot holder at Old Man Creek Community Garden. Natasha is very much about respect: respecting the soil, respecting the natural habitat, respecting the insects, respecting the pollinators, respecting water. She has recently become involved in a **Pollinator Stewardship Program** with the goal of becoming a **Pollinator Steward**. For her, it is a great privilege to be able to garden her plot at Old Man Creek, and so it is her responsibility to give to the soil, even as she takes from it. She has many ideas for how to protect the soil as simply as possible. If you have a plot at Old Man Creek Community Garden, it is a must to attend this meeting. And for everyone else, I promise you that you will learn something you had not considered before.

At this point, I enjoy welcoming new members. If I welcomed you in the March newsletter, please forgive me, but consider yourself welcomed twice! So, welcome to our Garden Club:

Yvonne, Cori, Jacqueline, Sue, and Christie. This Club offers you the opportunity to learn but also to share.

Take care to all, and I hope to see you at our meeting on April 13, 2023.

Donna, Interim President

Old Man Creek Community Garden

Gardening season is almost upon us! Don't forget to sign your Responsibilities and Obligations form. This form is required to be signed before you can start working on your plot at Old Man Creek. Please print your name on the form as well. You can find the form attached to this newsletter. It can be signed and returned to Elaine Vandermeulen at the next garden club meeting or to her address 19 Braeside Cres, Sherwood Park, T8A 3M9 or to her email evandermeulen@shaw.ca.

Next Meeting

April 13 **Annual General Assembly**
7-9 pm ***followed by: Natasha Stairs, Master Gardener & Club Member***
“No-till Gardening and Preserving Moisture in Soil”
Council Chamber, Community Centre
401 Festival Lane, Sherwood Park

Natasha is a master gardener and member of our very own SCGC. This month, Natasha will share with us about experimenting with no-till gardening and the thing we may all be worried about...preserving moisture in soil. Not only is Natasha a plot holder at Old Man Creek, she is also a Board Member with the Edmonton Native Plant Society.

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 one pair of soft supple 100% cowhide leather long garden gloves which protect your hands and forearms when pruning roses and prickly berry bushes.



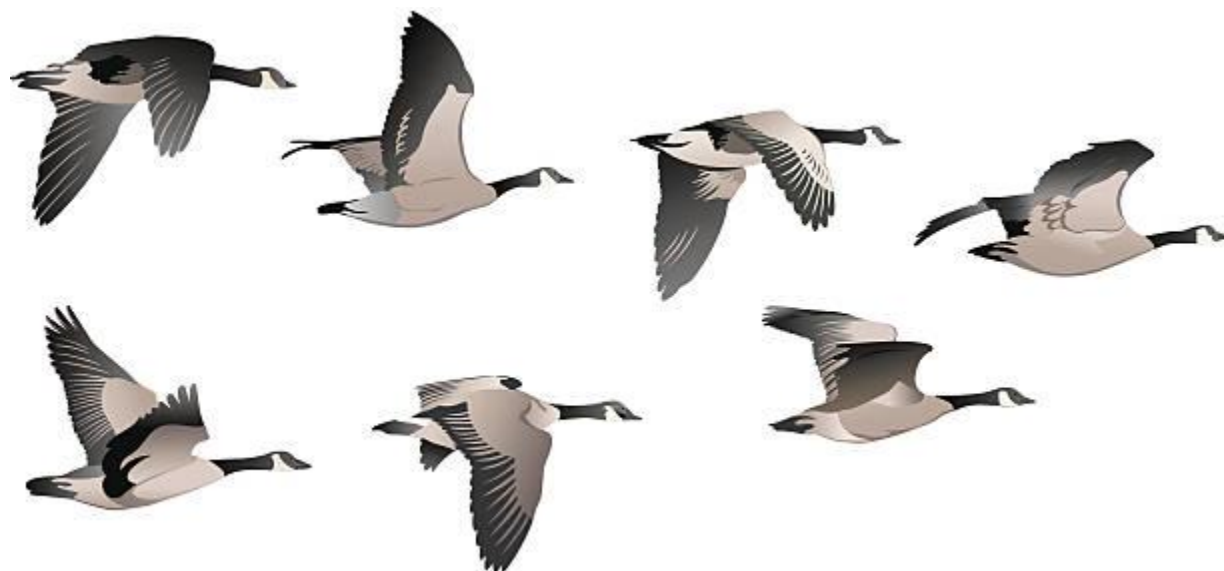
Upcoming Meetings and Events

- May 11 Becky & Mike Newhook, Owners/Operators, Vertical Roots
 “In the Business of Growing Hydroponically”
- June 8 Joe Gadbois, Perennial Department Manager, Greenland Garden Centre
 “Underused Perennial Winners”
- July 13 Wanda Vannatta, Master Gardener
 “Everything! Everything! Gardening: One Woman’s Passion”

More Exciting News:

Blooms on 7 Flower Farm will be offering SCGC members a \$5 discount on U-Pick flower bouquets this spring and summer when you show your membership card.

Cutting Exchange - April 13, 2023 @ AGM Inspired by Tim Moreland, Aspen Ridge Greenhouse. Bring cuttings from indoor or even outdoor plants: spider plants, ivy plants, succulents, potato vines, geraniums, etc. Consider bringing them in a container of water or wrapped in damp paper towels.



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

OLD MAN CREEK COMMUNITY GARDENS - RESPONSIBILITIES & OBLIGATIONS

2023

1. * Everyone gardening at Old Man Creek gardens **must** remain constantly aware that we are on an active oilfield/gas pipeline Right of Way, and as such, are subject to the terms of the legislation governing these areas: It is imperative that **no excavation should exceed 12" (30cm.) in depth**. This includes stakes, structures or cultivation.
2. **All gardeners at Old Man Creek must be members of the Strathcona County Garden Club and pay a Club membership of \$25.00 and an additional fee of \$30.00 per plot per season.** Please make all cheques payable to the Strathcona County Garden Club. Please contact Elaine Vandermeulen at 780-417-6980 regarding memberships.
3. All gardeners are to be **Water Wise** and only use what your plants require. Be considerate to others and only water as necessary.
4. The water barrels that are provided at the gardens are all **'communal'** and do not belong to anyone specific. All water in the barrels is for use by everyone.
5. No motorized water pumps are to be used to pull water out of the barrels. Water by hand please.
6. Gardeners who have weedy or un-tended plots will be notified in writing and asked to remedy the situation. If the problem persists you will forfeit your plot for the following season.
7. Gardeners are to keep the pathways surrounding their plots weed free. The use of wood mulch is discouraged unless you lay down a thick fabric beforehand.
8. Gardeners must take weeds, debris and litter home to be disposed of. Do not dump garden waste in the common area.
9. If for some reason you are unable to fulfill your commitment to taking on a plot, you will be held responsible to maintain the plot in a weed-free state.
10. Please do not use straw/hay bales as we find it encourages mice/voles/rodents to the site.
11. Gardens must be planted no later than the first week in June (weather dependent.)
12. Under the guidelines of the City of Edmonton, the gardens must be totally organic with no use of herbicides or pesticides, and only organic fertilizers.
13. Well-mannered and leashed dogs are allowed in the garden and always pick up after your dog.
14. Due to the on-going problem with potato beetles, no potato plants are allowed!
15. Gardeners cannot give their plot to someone else without permission from the Community Garden Co-ordinator (Sheila Flint 587-990-9935).
16. Seasonal and temporary garden structures such as trellises are allowed if they do not encroach on paths, community spaces, or neighboring plots. Be considerate of your neighbors and orient your structures and planting to avoid casting shade on other plots.
17. If you are away or un-well, please ensure that you have a friend maintain your plot.
18. **DO NOT** drive on to the site if it is wet or raining. You will be responsible for any reparations needed to your vehicle or the roadways.

Please contact Sheila Flint for more information at 587-990-9935, smayflint@gmail.com or Elaine Vandermeulen regarding membership at 780-417-6980 evandermeulen@shaw.ca

PLOT HOLDER SIGNATURE _____ Date _____

PLOT HOLDER LAST NAME _____