

HORTICULTURAL HERALD

The Newsletter of the Alumni Association of the
Niagara Parks Commission School of Horticulture

May 2012 Vol. 40 Issue 1

Congratulations to the Class of 2012!

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Look for the Alumni Association on Facebook and the Web.



Introducing the most recent graduates of the NPC School of Horticulture!

Back row: Jordan Albers, Dylan Muileboom (Valedictorian), Telesphore Marie, Justin Clarke, Chris Bemke. Front row: Garret Van Santen, Laura McCaul, Kasia Zgurzynski, Cindy Maxwell, Jachyn Van der Heyden, Maryanne Davies.

2012 School of Horticulture Graduation:

On March 31, 2012 eleven horticulturists graduated from the Niagara Parks School of Horticulture. The late afternoon ceremony was well attended and was followed by a reception at the Butterfly Conservatory.

The Chair of the Niagara Parks Commission, Ms. Janice Thomson welcomed the audience the Graduation Ceremony and congratulated the graduates on their achievements as well as thanking them for their contributions during their three years. Chair Thomson also shared the exciting news that a generous private donation has been made to The Niagara

Parks Commission's (NPC) School of Horticulture to further enrich the educational experience and opportunities available to teaching staff and students.

The Chair of the Niagara Parks Commission, Ms. Janice Thomson presented the graduates with their diplomas; Mr. Kim Craitor, MPP presented certificates of congratulations from the Province; Melissa Spearing, President of the Student Association thanked the graduates for their involvement in the Student Association, and Charles Hunter NPD 95, President of the Alumni Association, welcomed the graduates into the alumni family. Other notable guests in attendance included Gershom Moyo, Acting General Manager of the Niagara Parks Commission, George

Officers for 2010/11

Honourary President Bill Snowden '58
President - Charles Hunter '95
Past President - David Hunt '03
Vice President - Zenia Buzanko '03
Secretary - Becky Murphy '05
Treasurer - Karen Michaud '84

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Web Site, Facebook - Liz Pelt '97, Jon Peter '04
Legacy Garden Administration and Treasurer - Kristin Montoya '09
Student Liaison - Melissa Spearing

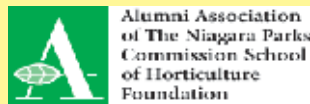
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Deadline Date July 15

The Horticultural Herald is published 5 times per year and is the newsletter of the Niagara Parks Commission School of Horticulture Alumni Association. It is published for the benefit of Association members. Views expressed are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of its Officers or Board members. We welcome letters on any horticultural or Alumni issues. Submissions may be edited for length and readability.

Foundation Board



President, John Dick '85, Russ Boles '68, Charles Hunter '95, James Smith '98, Aaron Fox '98, Justin Leack '99, John Lococo '97.

Alumni Association of the Niagara Parks Commission School of Horticulture Foundation, P.O. Box 263, Niagara Falls, Ontario, L2E 6T3

THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF THE NIAGARA PARKS COMMISSION SCHOOL OF HORTICULTURE MISSION STATEMENT

The Alumni Association is a diverse team of graduates and friends who celebrate their affiliation with the Niagara Parks Commission School of Horticulture through a variety of programs and services designed to support its members, the School and the highest professional standards of horticulture.

President's Message



Well it's spring, summer or winter, what is it!? Dear Alumni, I am writing to you on a day that has the earmarks of being summer: its balmy, it's sunny, I'm in shorts and golf shirt...

and it's the second week of March! Let us hope that this seasonally odd year will find some form of constancy and provide an excellent year for business. Well that's how the season started. It is now almost two months later and you must be wondering what is going on in the Association. Well quite a bit actually and in fact we're presently in the middle of multiple transitions which have delayed this newsletter. The transition of publishers for the Horticultural Herald, the first meeting of the Legacy Garden Committee, graduation of the Class of 2012 and the Class of 2015 has started, the Alumni Foundation has an executive change, and the Botanical Gardens & School of Horticulture has filled two positions.

So to start with, this will be the last issue completely the work of our team Zenia Buzanko (Editor) & Michelle Goff (Publisher). Michelle is completing her work with the Herald, which I'm sure you all agree will be the toughest act to follow. We've seen our newsletter move to its most professional versions to date and we've become quite accustomed to a level of quality and personality that has resonated with so many of us. Michelle's unassuming role and undeniable patient service to the Herald will be greatly missed. Thanks Michelle!

As I continue to sit here contemplating the season before us and writing to you, it isn't difficult to reflect on the past 12 months and remember where we were a year ago at this time as an organization, fervent with activity and planning for the

75th anniversary. A true success that can be measured in so many ways but none more than one which reflects the genuine appeal of social activity that our association was founded upon. You will find in this issue a statement by the new Legacy Garden Project Committee, which includes representation from all parties required to complete the project. Graduation day inevitably brings back to life in each of us our own memories of that day; warm thoughts of family, friends and classmates mingled with pride, success and hope for the future. This year's ceremony like so many others was observed on a picture perfect day with bowers of flowers. On behalf of the Alumni Association I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the graduates of 2012 and welcome you to the club.

The new first years have also arrived at the School of Horticulture. Please find in this issue an introduction to the Class of 2015 through their classmate Dean Rhunke. On behalf of the Alumni Association we wish them well as they embark on their new journey. Additionally our Student Liaison Committee member will be Melissa Spearing, Student Association President or in her absence Sarah Burt, Student Association Vice President. The NPC as of late has seen much change and it's still difficult to interpret where and when the changes will stop. With the retiring of Tom Laviolette (Director of the Botanical Gardens & School of Horticulture) and the departure of Judy Colley (Greenhouse Instructor) last June; there has been a vacancy...perhaps even more profound than most might realize unless you are at the school on daily basis. But fortunately replacements have been found and indeed a new role has been created; Lorne Fast has been appointed the new position as Botanical Gardens Manager. Lorne brings a plethora of experience previously as Taxonomist, scientist and someone I would definitely consider a great plants man. We wish him well in this new role.

continued next page

President's Message

The Greenhouse Instructor position has been filled by Suzette McDonnell NPD 94. Suzette has been reunited with the School and its students; her genuine nature and calm assertion is greatly appreciated!

Since the completion of Fay Booker's appointment as General Manager of the Parks Commission this past winter, there has been no further news as to the fate and adoption of the Cullen's Garden Miniature Village. The Parks Commission is now in possession of the pieces and is assessing the best appropriate actions to complete the installation. Presently there is no further news as to when it is expected to unfold. This project has perked up a few ears and generated some interest within the association and so we will continue to keep an eye on the development and inform you of any news as it unfolds.

Our website development; I know I've been promising since December, be that as it may we had encountered a few potholes which initially slowed us down, but we are ready to debut. Please ensure you check your emails, the new address will be coming to you shortly. The work that Liz Pelt and Jon Peter completed has not been without challenges to be sure, but they have been steadfast in their pursuit to create and provide the most up to date, state of the art service. You're going to love it! For moment by moment coverage of the daily goings on with our members please be sure to check out our Face book page; as a point of interest Jon has informed me that we now have over 89 participants.

Our social calendar will be quite light until autumn. We are however able to introduce this year another BBQ. This time however, the meal will be hosted by the Student Association at the School of Horticulture. The date is set for Sept 15th. Our goal is to get the Alumni Association, Foundation, Past Presidents and Students all together on the same day. The Student Association President, will be sending an invite to you all shortly, with the particulars of the day. We are also still interested in a hockey/curling sort of event next winter.

As we move forward, please continue to participate, especially in the form of news...hint, hint...wink, wink! Additionally, please also continue to support Zenia as she develops the new Horticultural Herald Publishing Team.

I hope this letter fuels some interest for those of you to get involved. We, your alumni executive, are ready to take on the challenges and make changes with your feedback and participation. We need your responses to make this year a success and ask that you keep in touch so that we can make it happen. Contact us through our email address found in this issue.
Happy Spring!!

Charles Hunter NPD 95

2012 School of Horticulture Graduation *continued from page 1*

Mel Dell, NPD 69, Russ Boles NPD 68, Tom Laviolette NPD 81, retired Director, and John Dick NPD 85.

Congratulations to the graduates of the Class of 2012:

Jordan Albers
Chris Bemke
Justin Clarke
Maryanne Davies, Honours
Telesphore Marie, Magna Cum Laude
Cindy Maxwell, Honours
Laura McCaul, Honours
Dylan Muileboom, Honours
Jackie Van Der Heyden, Honours
Garret Van Santen, Honours
Kasia Zgurzinski, Honours

The Guest Speaker selected by the graduating class was Lorne Fast, Manager of the Botanical Gardens. The Valedictorian was Dylan Muileboom, selected by his classmates as being someone who exhibits leadership and fellowship among students. Dylan's genuine sincerity was thoughtful and appreciated by his classmates and the audience. James Smith provided closing comments on behalf of Debbie Whitehouse, Executive Director of Parks for the Niagara Parks Commission.

The graduation ceremony continues to focus on honouring the graduating class as the awards ceremony was limited to graduate awards presentations. A separate awards luncheon will be held in early September to honour the success of all other students and as a launch to the new academic season. We expect this event to be well attended by the Alumni Association, Foundation, and the many friends and industry associates of the School whose continued support of students is greatly appreciated.

Submitted by James Smith NPD 98



Support your Alumni Association

Graduate Awards

THE NIAGARA PARKS COMMISSION SCHOOL OF HORTICULTURE AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS 2012

Graduate Practical Proficiency Award • Telesphore Marie

Awarded to the graduating student who has achieved the highest mark in third year practical horticulture training.

Niagara Parks Commission General Proficiency Award • Telesphore Marie

Awarded to the graduating student willing to help fellow students and made significant contributions to the School program while maintaining high overall academic and practical achievement.

James Allan Award • Garret Van Santen

Awarded to the graduating student with the highest mark in the Computer Aided Design course.

Graduate Recognition Award • Cindy Maxwell

Awarded to the graduating student who exhibited the greatest amount of personal growth and achievement in the academic and practical program over three years.

Plant Health Care Award • Jaclyn Van Der Heyden

Awarded to the graduating student most dedicated to plant health care over 3 years

Niagara Parks Commission Landscape Design Award • Garret Van Santen

Awarded to the graduating student who achieved the highest total cumulative mark in:

Landscape Design I - Drafting, Landscape Design I - Plans, II & III

Western Ontario Golf Superintendents Award

• Telesphore Marie

Awarded to the graduating student with the highest total combined mark in the third year academic and practical training programs.

Barnsley-Pierce Memorial Scholarship

• Katarzyna Zgurzynski

Awarded to the graduating student who exemplifies a love and respect of horticulture and a passion to share that love and respect with the community at large.

Niagara Parks Commission Botany Award

• Telesphore Marie

Awarded to the graduating student who achieved the highest total cumulative mark in: Botany, PID I, II, III, IV, V, VI and Plant Propagation.

G. C. Duke Equipment Award - Turf • Laura McCaul

Awarded to the second year student with the highest mark in Principles of Turfgrass Management

Ontario Parks Association Student Award of Recognition • Katarzyna Zgurzynski

Awarded to the graduating student committed to the protection of parks and environment and dedication to horticulture by respect for green space and natural heritage.

Randy Lidkea, NPD '67 Canadian TREE Fund Scholarship • Telesphore Marie

Awarded to the graduating student who achieved the highest combined marks in Arboriculture I and Urban Forestry, Practical Tree Maintenance, Principles of Soils and Advanced Horticultural Soils, and Plant Identification IV, V, and VI.

C. H. Henning Award • Telesphore Marie

Awarded to graduating student who achieved the highest total cumulative mark in PID I, II, III, IV, V and VI.

Presented by Melissa Spearing, President, Student Association

Class of '82 Fellowship Award • Garret Van Santen

Awarded to the graduating student who has contributed greatly to school spirit and the general fellowship throughout their stay at the School of Horticulture.

Norman E. McCollum, NPD '69 Scholarship

• Telesphore Marie

Awarded to the graduating student who achieved the highest mark in Landscape Irrigation.

Knut Mattais Broman Award • Telesphore Marie

Awarded to graduating student with the highest total combined mark in the third year academic and practical training programs.

Edward J. Hill NPD '48 Memorial Scholarship Award

• Telesphore Marie

Awarded to the graduating student who achieved the highest combined mark in Arboriculture I, Urban Forestry, PID V, VI.

Seymour Howard Schott Memorial Award

• Telesphore Marie

Awarded to the graduating student who achieved the highest mark in Horticultural Seminars

Beatrice Catharine Martin Scholarship • Telesphore Marie & Katarzyna Zgurzynski

Awarded to two second year students who each have the highest combined mark in Commercial Production Greenhouse and Tropical Plants.

Frank N. Schier Award • Telesphore Marie

Awarded to the second year student who achieved the highest total combined mark in Principles of Soils and Advanced Horticultural Soils.

Support your Alumni Association

Graduate News

Congratulations is extended to **Brooke Starke '01** and **Russ van Wijngaarden '02** who welcomed into this world their first child Alice Charlotte born Jan 16. We wish them all good health and happiness.

In Memoriam

John Lamoureux NPD 47



photo from the internet.

We are sorry to inform members of the passing of John Lamoureux NPD 47 who passed away September 15, 2011. John was 91 at the time of his passing. In addition to attending the School of Horticulture John was also a graduate of Macdonald Agricultural Collage in Montreal and from a McMaster/RBG

Conservation and Recreation Planning programme. After graduating from the Conservation and Planning programme John was hired by the RBG where he worked from 1952 to 1984. In the recent publication Paradise Found spring issue there is a great tribute to John and all of his contributions to the Royal Botanical Gardens. John contributed to over 70 RBG publications and the very first technical bulletin published by RBG was John's *Aquatic Plants for Fish and Wildlife* that was extensively used by land management agencies. The extensive trail and boardwalk system and nature interpretation centre can be attributed to John's vision for opening up the natural lands at RBG for public access. John helped develop many educational conservation projects such as the prairie demonstration, plant succession exhibit, geology exhibit and the first public maple syrup exhibit in Ontario. RBG will honour John's vision and contributions by naming a newly planned boardwalk and trail later this year after him.

We are also sad to announce the passing of **George Riley NPD 50** who passed away October 16, 2011 he is survived by his wife of 61 years Eileen. Our condolences are extended to his family.

Worlds Tallest Flower Growing at the Niagara Parks Floral Showhouse

The Niagara Parks Commission's Floral Showhouses is excited to have two of the world's tallest flowers growing on site. The *Amorphophallus titanium* or the **Titan Arum**, is a massive bell-shaped flower that can grow 3 m or 9ft in height and is one of the fastest growing plant the Niagara Parks has ever had. It grows an average of two and a half inches per day. The dormant corms were donated by Louis M. Ricciardiello of Gilford, New Hampshire and were planted January 6, 2012. The corms have been looked after enthusiastically by greenhouse staff three of whom are School of Horticulture Grads. Wayne Hoeschle NPD 97 is the tropical plant expert who is looking after the plants and Sue Stoll NDP 94 is a Greenhouse Display Gardener and Mark McDonell NPD 91 is a Greenhouse Grower.



Images and content used with permission by Joan Cornelius from the Niagara Parks Commission blog.



May 5, 2012 - the first plant has finally bloomed! Wayne Hoeschle, caretaker of the *Amorphophalus* Plant, stands beside the massive flower.

The plants have been growing steadily since signs of life emerged March 26 and the first corm started to bloom May 4 where in a matter of hours it was in full bloom. The bloom was expected to last 3 days and then will be followed by a single leaf that will be the size of a small tree roughly 6m tall and 5 m wide. It should be noted that it is rare to see this plant flower, until 1989 there were only 21 flowerings recorded to have occurred in botanical gardens world wide. You can follow the progress of the plants on the NPC blog at <http://blog.niagaraparks.com/news/photo-album-worlds-tallest-flower/> to see up to date pictures. *At the time of printing the second flower has finished blooming.*



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Liz Klose appointed Director of Memorial University Newfoundland's Botanical Gardens

Liz Klose has been appointed as the Director of Memorial University Newfoundland's Botanical Gardens (MUNBG) for a one-year contract. With Liz's extensive botanical garden, education and industry experience, she will be overseeing the operations of the botanical garden. She will lead their team in embarking on their 2010 Strategic Plan for expansion and new garden development and the implementation of their 2011 Operational Review recommendations. Liz will remain as Landscape Priorities Manager, retain some of her key projects, attend Landscape Canada Committee conferences calls and will also oversee the Landscape Priorities Co-ordinator. Another one of Liz's projects will be to assist in developing the Landscape Horticulturist apprenticeship programme with the College of the North Atlantic (CONA), the industry and MUNBG during her time in Newfoundland. Liz 'commutes' out there in 8 week stints returning back to Ontario for a few weeks. We wish Liz all the best in this role helping out the green industry in Atlantic Canada.

We are sorry to announce the passing of **Wolfgang Oehme** this past December 15, 2011. Many members will remember him speaking at our Alumni conference some years back. He was a very unassuming man that most definitely loved his grasses and perennials. He had a special connection to the School of Horticulture having visited there many times. You can find great tributes to him on the web, his son Roland has put a touching tribute to his father and can be viewed at www.wolfgangoehme.com. There are also various articles in the Baltimore Sun on Wolfgang's landscape influences as well as this link from the International Review of Landscape Architecture and Urban Design. <http://www.toposmagazine.com/blog/a-painter-with-a-modest-plant-palette-on-the-death-of-wolfgang-oehme.html>

Lost Alumni

The following are a list of Lost Alumni that we to clarify contact information for. If you see your name or know of a member on our list could you please contact our Executive Secretary Karen Michaud to have your information updated. We want to keep in touch with all our Alumni. Karen can be reached at npcsha@gmail.com or by phone 519-249-0381.

Anderson Leslie NPD 92
Bailey John NPD 59
Baxter Tristan NPD 11

Biggins Darryl NPD 05
Blanchard Conway NPD 46
Boot John NPD 09

Brown Andrew NPD 95
Brown Richard NPD 40
Byrne John NPD 50
Cachia Eugene C NPD 51
Cameron James David NPD 63 B
Church John A NPD 56
Coshever Alfred NPD 47 B
Crawford Maxine NPD 98
Crysler Andrew NPD 79
DeLazzer Blair NPD 09
Dennis Lynn NPD 69 B
Dew Arnold NPD 51
Duke Matthew NPD 93
Dukeshire Scott NPD 88
Eadie Ken NPD 75
Ernst Tim NPD 97
Emlyn Michael NPD 11
Frank Shelley NPD 06
Gasperetti Rick NPD 96
Gillie Douglas NPD 60
Gilmore Chris NPD 98
Goodwin Richard NPD 61 B
Graham June E NPD 87
Grandin Paul D NPD 74
Griffin Gerald NPD 65
Griffith Douglas W NPD 56 B
Gross Mark K NPD 77
Hamilton Jim NPD 92
Hamilton (Lowe)
Debbie NPD 91 B
Irwin James NPD 66
Kowalczyk Joanna NPD 06
Leighfield William NPD 72
Lutes Reginald A NPD 40
MacDonald Tom R NPD 97
MacLean John H NPD 98
McCallum James NPD 52
McFarlane Stephen NPD 06
McLaren John NPD 03
McMeekin Josh NPD 06
McQueen Alan G NPD 72
Misner Lesley NPD 09
Nichol Noah NPD 07
Norris E. Bruce NPD 73
Ovsenek Peter NPD 85
Perras Maurice NPD 75
Pfeiffer Sue NPD 08
Pye Brian NPD 79
Reid Robert E NPD 60
Robertson D. Dean NPD 40
Rooke Gregory NPD 09
Sauve Denis NPD 74
Scafe Robert NPD 86
Schmahl Michael NPD 90 B F
Sebastianelli Dena NPD 99
Serbina Luke NPD 11
Shickluna William NPD 40
Spence Russell NPD 89
Vanderzwet (Mann)
Gerry M NPD 81
Wagner Ian NPD 97
Wallis Laura NPD 06
Winkel Martin NPD 90
Wright Eric NPD 06
Zerbes Bryan NPD 90

Winner of Greenroofs.com's 2012 "Love the Earth, Plant a Roof!" Earth Day Photo Contest is...

Congratulations to **Patrick Biller NPD 10**, who recently submitted Toronto City Hall in the yearly "Love the Earth, Plant a Roof!" Earth Day Photo Contest put on by Greenroofs.com. The goal of the contest is simply to have fun by creating interest in all kinds, styles, and sizes of beautiful living architecture, all while highlighting some outstanding designs.



photo Patrick Biller

Support your Alumni Association

Graduate News

Patrick, who hails from lovely Toronto, said in his entry: "Toronto City Hall is an extremely important historical building in the city, and is also the city symbol. This is the first time since the opening of Toronto City Hall in 1965 that the podium roof is a functional, beautiful public space. Although originally envisioned as a public gathering place, it never lived up to that billing due to the 120,000 sq ft of interlocking pavers without a shred of vegetation. This \$2.3-million green roof, which at 3,400 square metres is the largest in Toronto, is part of a \$42.7-million plan to redo Nathan Phillips Square, set for completion in 2012. The Nathan Phillips Square green roof was constructed with the LiveRoof brand hybrid modular green roof system. It contains a combination of 6" deep and 4" deep LiveRoof Standard Modules. It has everything from ornamental grasses to perennials, sedums, trees, benches for the public, a state of the art irrigation system, and advanced LED lighting. This roof has become an important urban park and is enjoyed thoroughly by tourists and residents of this beautiful, vibrant city every day. Visit <http://www.greenroofs.com/projects/pview.php?id=1121> for more info on the project and more photos."



photo Patrick Biller

Reprinted with permission from Greenroofs.com
Linda S. Velazquez, GRP, ASLA Associate, LEED AP
Greenroofs.com Publisher & Design Consultant

LEGACY GARDEN PROJECT COMMITTEE

Project Chair Hans Loewig
Donations & Sponsorship Tom Clancy
Design Darren Schmahl, Aaron Fox Designer
Alumni Association President Charles Hunter
Ontario Parks Association (Representative to be named)
Niagara Parks Commission James Smith, Lorne Fast, NPC
engineering as required

The Fund Raising Committee for the Legacy Garden would like to thank all the donors for their generous donations to the project.

We have reached \$105,900.97 including some "in kind" donations. We hope to reach \$120,000 to develop the garden to its potential.

The Steering Committee met recently and has appointed Hans Loewig as Chair to lead the committee in its task of guiding the development of the garden as it is constructed. Work on phase one will begin in early fall.

If you would like to donate, contact Tom Clancy at candtclancy@rogers.com and he can arrange for the donation and a tax receipt.

Legacy Above \$10,000 Specimen Plant \$6,000-\$9,999

Sharon & Tom Laviolette Molok North America Ltd.

Lezlie & Bob Murch

Gateman Milloy ~ Mike Milloy

Roots \$3,000 - \$5,999

Niagara Parks School of Horticulture Alumni

Ontario Parks Association

W H Reynolds ~ Brad Thomson

Turf Care ~ Ron Craig

Plantation Irrigation ~ Mark Hilmeyer

Landscape Ontario

Trunk \$1,000 - \$2,999

George Dalby

Cecile & Tom Clancy

Jerri & Hans Loewig

Harold Brain

Liz & Gerald Klose

Mike Pascoe

Melissa McKerlie

NPC Class of 1980

Frank Anderson

Ans Merten ~ Winklemon nurseries

Main Branches/Limbs \$500 - \$999

Stan Kochanoff

William Snowden

City of Brampton

City of Cambridge

City of Guelph

City of Windsor

City of Niagara Falls

Gauld Nursery

Leno Mori Nursery

Mel Dell

Norm McCollum

Van Noort Bulbs

Bruce Savage

Susan & Al Higgs

NPC Class of 1965

Mary Battaglia

In Memory of Dave Gower

Ian Bruce ~ Bruce Tree Service

Leaves \$99-\$249

Amy Doan

Lorna & Arthur Haight

Niagara Saw

John Russell

Alana & Ian Tapper

Cornelius Unger

Carrie Zimmerman

John Morley

Kaarina & Martin Moore

John Deere Premier Equipment

Sheridan Nurseries

Hughes/Peacock Garden -NOTL

In memory of C. H. Henning

Niagara Falls Horticulture Society

Hugh McCracken

Alf Savage

Braun Nurseries

Anonymous

Branches \$250 - \$499

Aldona Satterthwaite

Janice Thomson

Tessa & Ryan Smith

Garden Club of Niagara

Fay Booker

Gerry Hutchinson

Harold Crawford

Anonymous

Gord Rendell

Kathy & Vic Hergott

Marg & Dan Costea

Chris Ziemski

Ella & Buddy Andres

Cathy Swain

Anne & John Hannah

Blair Abraham Delazzer

Kim & Russ Boles

Madeleine & Jay Kivell

Judie & Dave DeShane

John Curtis

Paul Misner

Audrey & Frank Purkis

Gary Moore

Lloyd Syer Anonymous

Donate today to the Legacy Garden Project !

From the desk of the Executive Secretary

I recently sent out by mail and email your 2012 membership form and the blue book contact information form. Even if you are not paying your membership at this time, please take a moment to fill out your current contact information so we can keep our records up to date.



If you did not receive your mail let me know.

I have received some response from my “Plants that Horticulturists Hate” comments from the last Horticultural Herald, so you will see a new column appear in this edition. If you want to be heard send me a letter or email with your list of favourites. This should be interesting, as plants that are pests in some areas are loved in others.

If you have had a change in your life, a new job, a move, a new baby, or perhaps you know of a fellow graduate who is celebrating an exciting honour, please contact me and I will direct the information to the appropriate board member. As well, don't forget our friends who are ill.

Karen Michaud '84 Executive Secretary
8 Hahn Avenue Cambridge ON, N3C 2X9
519-249-0381 phone and fax
npcsha@gmail.com

From the Archives



The visitors reception centre mentioned in opposite article nears completion.

Plants that Horticulturists Hate

I have had some response to my “hated plants rant in the last herald”

I received a reply from John Curtis '68 .

John is a Horticulture Ranger in Victoria Australia.

His most hated plants are weeds where he lives and have all been introduced.

English Ivy - *Hedera helix*
English Holly - *Ilex aquifolium*
Common Blackberry - *Rubus sp*
Sycamore Maple - *Acer pseudoplatanus*
Laurestinus - *Viburnum tinus*
Wandering Jew - *Tradescantia albiflora*

The worst is the English Ivy when it climbs up indigenous trees and strangles them. These pests thrive in this climate with an average rainfall of 1250mm per year and a long growing season with temperatures from -2 C to 44C. Control varies with each species and timing is important.

Good luck with your extermination John. It certainly is difficult for us in Canada to picture Wandering Jew as an invasive species.

Karen Michaud '84 Executive Secretary
8 Hahn Avenue Cambridge ON, N3C 2X9
519-249-0381 phone and fax
npcsha@gmail.com

Alumni Association Receives Donation from the James N. Allen Foundation

Recently our association received a donation from the James N. Allen Foundation. James Noble Allen was a former Chairman of the Niagara Parks Commission from January 1967 till May of 1968. Mr Allen was a former Mayor of Dunville, also a member of the provincial government being elected in 1951 where he went on to hold a total of 5 Cabinet portfolios till his retirement in 1968. During his time as Chairman of the NPC numerous improvements to park facilities were made including the first visitors centre at the School of Horticulture (now food concession), construction of a marina, new picnic facilities and band shell at Queenston Heights and Old Fort Erie, renovating Oak Hall and turning it into the Administration Headquarters for Park Staff are just a few of his many accomplishments. In 1984 the Ontario Legislature honoured Mr. Allen by renaming the Burlington Skyway the Burlington Bay James N. Allen Skyway. A complete write up on Mr. Allen's contributions to the Niagara Parks Commission can be viewed in Ontario's Niagara Parks, 100 Years: A History at Niagara Parks Commission by George A. Seibel, 1985.

Support your Alumni Association send in your Dues today.

Membership 2012

Thank you to all who have paid their 2012 dues. Your support provides funds for our ongoing projects: publishing the Horticultural Herald, events, facebook and the new, soon to be launched, Website- all ways to keep you, our members, better connected to fellow Alumni. Dues also contribute towards School awards and projects. If you would like to see your name on this list there is still time to pay.

McCracken Hugh NPD 39 B
 Huether Rev. John NPD 47 B
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 MacDonald Sandy L. NPD 85
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 Fitzgibbons (Burns) Leslie K NPD 91 B
 Foulan Adam NPD 91 B
 Cank-Thatcher Debbie NPD 92
 Misner Paul NPD 92
 Thatcher Debbie NPD 92
 Thatcher Jay NPD 92 B F
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 McDonnell (Visentin) Suzette NPD 94
 Zimmerman Jason NPD 96
 Bax Jeff NPD 97
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 Fox Aaron NPD 98
 Hunter Dan NPD 99
 Montoya (Berry) Kristin NPD 99
 Nurton Bryan NPD 99
 Rosnak (Reilly) Shannon NPD 00
 Russell (Dingwall) Kelly NPD 00
 Vandersar Dave NPD 00
 Rosnak Brad NPD 00 B
 Burkett Mark NPD 01
 Galajda Rob NPD 01
 Nurton Robin NPD 01
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Botanical Gardens and School of Horticulture Update:

submitted by James Smith NPD 98

Botanical Gardens Staffing Changes:

I am pleased to share the exciting news that Lorne Fast has accepted the position of Botanical Gardens Manager and has now been in this role for several months. As most of you know, Lorne has been an integral part of the NPC team for several years and has worked in various capacities in the Botanical Gardens and School of Horticulture. Most recently, Lorne has been in the position of Curator of Collections/Taxonomist as well as in an instructional capacity within the School. Lorne is now responsible for day to day management of the Botanical Gardens and will provide oversight into the hands-on training component of students enrolled at the School. I am confident that we can look forward to continued success for the Botanical Gardens and School of Horticulture with Lorne in his new position. Congratulations Lorne!

Last summer, the Gardens and School said goodbye to Judy Colley, after several years of providing guidance and leadership to students during her time at the Floral Showhouse, Butterfly Conservatory, Botanical Gardens and School of Horticulture. Judy is pursuing an exciting career with Plant Products and continues to have a great relationship with Niagara Parks in her new role.

We were excited to welcome Suzette McDonnell back to our team last fall. Suzette has comfortably returned to her former position and has brought excellent experience she gained from working in the greater Niagara Parks system for the previous five years. Students are fortunate to have such a great team player and contributor the Gardens and the School.

Botanical Gardens Updates:

Due to the unseasonably warm weather earlier this year, there was significant media interest regarding the impact on plants and gardens: articles focusing on the Botanical Gardens in this regard appeared in the Niagara Falls Review, Welland Tribune, St. Catharines Standard, Niagara This Week, Bullet News Niagara and a reference in the Toronto Star and other Ontario newspapers; also interview on CKTB (St. Catharines).

Due to our ongoing requirement to mitigate damage to our collections, new deer fencing for the rose garden was sourced and installed at a cost of approximately \$9800.00. The intention is to leave the fencing around the rose garden throughout the summer, as last year there was an increasing tendency for the deer to feed on the roses in the garden. The old fencing used around the rose garden is being used to protect the arborvitae (Thuja) and rhododendron collections.

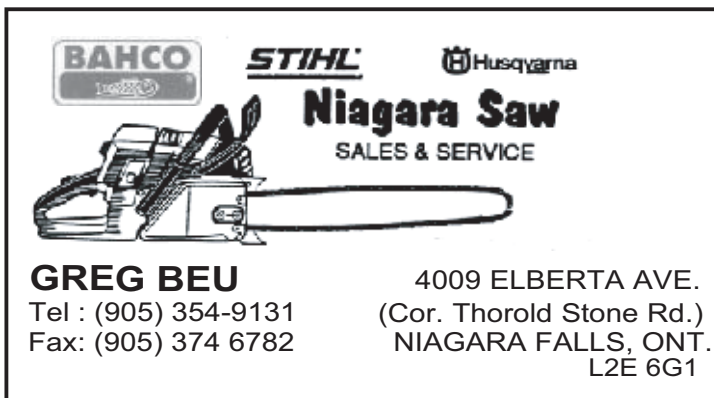
Student winter projects were completed including seasonal bedding design: theme for 2013 will be The Cosmos; also, design for the new wheelchair ramp (s. of Lecture Hall) was completed with the intention of planting in spring 2013 (plant acquisition fall, 2012).

School of Horticulture Updates:

Last year the School of Horticulture adopted a new on-line application to enhance communications with students and to better facilitate information exchange related to academic courses. A Google application for education was made available to the School at no charge that provides an excellent resource for students and staff. This program will now allow for students to have full access to important academic and school related files and information from anywhere at any time and has replaced our former 'shared' network drive.

All students are now required to have their own laptop computers, thus allowing for a transition of our computer lab to a more useable classroom space. Students now have the flexibility to use their computers when and where needed with full wireless internet available in residence and the lecture hall.

Curriculum updates continue and the difficult transition period of reallocating the terms when classes are delivered has now been completed. Courses are now more equally distributed between all years and all terms, and several new curriculum updates and processes have been put in place. The result of this is that several courses have moved to different time periods with the three year program based on an assessment of the learning sequence required for student success.



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The Niagara Parks Commission Receives Donation For Teaching Students Legacy Fund

Couple's donation of \$60,000 to foster education at School of Horticulture

As announced at the Graduation Ceremony, the School of Horticulture is excited and honored to have received a generous private donation made to The Niagara Parks Commission's (NPC) School of Horticulture to further enrich the educational experience and opportunities available to teaching staff and students.

The Commission has gratefully accepted a donation of \$60,000 from an Ontario couple who wish to remain anonymous. In keeping with the donors' wishes, a Teaching Students Legacy Fund has been established to assist full-time instructional staff at the school to increase their expertise through professional training and development. The fund will also cover the costs of electronic equipment needed to facilitate the educational needs of students with learning disabilities.

"The School of Horticulture is already well known for providing a leading-edge educational experience to our students," stated NPC Chair Janice Thomson. "We are extremely appreciative of this donation and excited to see this fund utilized to further the education of our students and instructors. This investment in our school will pay dividends for years to come."

Under an agreement with the donors, \$50,000 from the fund will be used to help cover professional development and training for full-time instructional staff in areas that apply directly to their current teaching responsibilities. A total amount of \$3,000 will be allocated annually, plus an additional \$500 to retain professional speakers to visit the school. The remaining \$10,000 is to be used to help students with learning disabilities that may benefit from the assistance of electronic equipment to record lecture content orally and in a written format.

A plaque recognizing the donation will be placed in the School of Horticulture's administration building.

The Norman E. McCollum, NPD '69 and Melvin H. Dell, NPD '69 Bursary

I am pleased to announce the recipient of this year's Norman E. McCollum, NPD '69 and Melvin H. Dell, NPD '69 Bursary is Andrea Weddum, Class of 2013. Andrea is a deserving recipient who is currently completing her internship at RBG Kew.

Established in honour of the 40th anniversary of the

Niagara Parks Commission School of Horticulture Class of 1969, this bursary is designed to provide funds to assist covering third year academic expenses for a deserving student successfully completing their second year of studies that require financial assistance to support their horticultural education at the Niagara Parks Commission School of Horticulture.

Congratulations Andrea and thanks to Norm and Mel for their continued support and generosity.



Mel Dell NPD 69, Andrea Weddum Class of 2013, Norman McCollum NPD 69.

Spring: Out With the Old and In With the Class of 2015

By Dean Rubnke.

As all you horticulturalists know, spring is a time of renewal, especially at Niagara Parks School of Horticulture. As the School sent a new group of horticulturalists out the door, they welcomed a new collection of budding horticulturalists on March 19th, 2012.

The class of 2015 arrived with a great breadth of experience and very diverse backgrounds from all across Canada and the World. We can safely say that the first four or so weeks of school have been not only amazing but also eye opening. We have safely navigated our way around the Gardens, from the Flower Clock and back, to swimming through a pond or two, but learned a great deal as well. From our first month of Taxonomy and Plant Id. to pruning the rose garden, we are very grateful to have fantastic, enthusiastic teachers and wonderful upper years as mentors. We have had copious amounts of safety training from Plac and Charles Hunter regarding

continued next page



Welcome to the class of 2015! Pictured above we have sitting left to right: Jenny Kuri, Heather Skrypnik, Dean Rubnke, Tracy Qiu. Standing: Rayne Wildwood, Emily VanderDeen, Hunter Beamish (back), Holly Halsey, Andrew Donaldson, Bryn Luckhardt, Colin Mayer.

equipment and proper posture for kneeling and weeding, respectively. We all agree that the next three years is going to be fun, will go extremely fast and we are going to be like *Colocasia* or *Taxodium distichum* and soak up as much as possible, from the School and each other.

Without further ado, the Class of 2015, the first entire class to pass and receive the IPM technician's spray license on the first writing:

Bryn Luckhardt (St. Marys, ON): I enjoy playing the guitar and singing, and restoring classic cars. I chose the SOH because of the intensity of the academic and practical programs along with the small class size and the reputation that it has in the trade. The reason I chose SOH is that it provides learning experiences in many different areas of the field such as design, installation, maintenance, and irrigation as well as nursery production. Knowledge in these areas is a key to today's horticultural world. Having such a broad focus of course material takes you as a professional to the next level. My most favourite group of plants is deciduous trees because of how they can be used in many different ways in a landscape, whether

they provide spring or fall colour, they can make or break a landscape. In the future I see myself owning my own company specializing in landscape design and construction. My favourite horticultural tool is my Silky hand saw because of the speed it provides for pruning trees.

Rayne Wildwood (Toronto, ON) : My name is Rayne Wildwood and I am most definitely a plant enthusiast. I hail from Toronto where I've been working and studying horticulture for over a decade. My work history has lead me from landscape green roof construction to garden maintenance and vegetable farming all the way from home to France and B.C. I chose the S.O.H. as I have a passionate desire to learn and this school's reputation for excellence, and its ability to open doors leading to new and exciting potential career directions attracted me. My favorite tool would have to be my secateurs as I end up feeling naked without them when I'm outside. I have many favorite plants, but the Pohutukawa tree *Metrosideros excelsa* in New Zealand holds a special place in my heart from hours spent under its sweet smelling red flowers gazing out over the ocean.

Jenny Kuri (Toronto, ON): With an arts background I have always looked toward nature as my guide. The colour harmony that you find on some plants or in a spontaneous grouping in the wild is always an inspiration. Nature is always the best teacher for your eye to understand what shapes and forms work in a composition. It isn't hard to say that I am excited by garden design and am learning to replicate the special rooms and spaces that Mother Nature creates so gracefully.

With my persistent desire to create, my indoor plant collection and seeding bench is always full. I look forward to having a greenhouse a stone's throw away and knowledgeable instructors and students as a resource. I also enjoy taking care of gardens utilizing healthy, sustainable techniques, and watching them evolve throughout the years.

Tracy Qiu (Toronto, ON): I can't quite say I have one favorite plant, but I'm a fan of big trees, little succulents, edible weeds, and the *Ranunculaceae* family. I chose the School of Horticulture because it's a double dose of academics and work experience, and I discovered it through two of its graduates, both of whom are working great jobs in the field of horticulture. My favorite tool is my own hands, there's just nothing better than getting dirt under your nails. I've come to this school with a broad spectrum of interest, and I hope by the time I graduate, I will have found my niche in this field.

Emily Vanderdeen (Aylmer ON): I love to work in the gardens and try my hand at something new. I chose the SOH because of the practical experience it offered. I also liked that the students are fully immersed in the field of horticulture. One of my favorite plants is the sunflower (any variety), because it is so common, yet so cheery and beautiful. My favorite tool is my hori hori knife because it is a tool I never knew about before coming to the school. I hope that this course will give me a better insight on what horticulture area I would like to pursue in the future.

Colin Mayers (Niagara Falls ON): I love playing my guitar and going for bike rides around the grounds in my free time. My favorite plant is the Dawn Redwood because it is a living fossil, it's from a different time and because of that it's so unique. The reason I choose the SOH is because it is a great opportunity to expand my knowledge of plants and the impacts plants have on our everyday lives. When I graduate, I would like to own a landscape company or teach horticulture for high school or post-secondary schooling. My favorite tool would have to be the hori hori.

Andrew Donaldson: I'm from Brantford Ontario and I have graduated the two year Horticulture Technician program from Niagara College. I have chosen the SOH to further my plant knowledge and become a better grower. Favourite tool is Felco #2 and when I graduate I want to travel the world seeing exotic plants in hot places. My favourite plants at the moment are annuals for their instant colour and show. My goal is to have a successful horticulture showcasing business.

Holly Halsey (Niagara Falls, ON): Holly (along with classmate Colin) comes to the School fresh from the Niagara Catholic District high school program at SOH and is a Red Seal certified technician. Favorite plant: Holly finds she is currently very interested in mosses. Favorite tool: the Dutch hoe. Holly has been a dedicated volunteer for many organizations, an activity that will be put on hold while she is at the School.

Heather Skrypnyk (Winnipeg, MAN): Heather learned of the School of Horticulture from the Head Gardener of the Province of Manitoba. She enjoys the program so much that she even likes working in the rain! Favorite plant: lily-of-the-valley. Favorite tool: trowel but also Dutch hoe. After graduating she hopes to travel to Europe especially Germany.

Dean Ruhnke (Pembroke ON): I love the outdoors. Whether in my overseas travels or canoe trips or hiking in parks, you'll most likely find me outside doing some obscure sport or enjoying the sounds of silence. I chose the SOH because after 17 years of working in the industry, there is a lot more I need to formally learn. Plus, I wanted to live in res again. My favorite plant, is anything without thorns

Hunter Beamish (ST. Thomas ON) Hunter greatly enjoys sports, the outdoors and working in the horticulture field. He feels that the SOH rises above the rest because the students eat, sleep and breathe horticulture. He also appreciates the importance of the program, learning in a hands on way. Hunter is from St. Thomas where he was raised into horticulture through the family business. This only furthered his love and curiosity for the field. When he graduates he intends on being an arborist for the risk and the art of pruning. His favorite plant is *Acer palmatum* the Japanese Maple for its deep colouring and ornamental structure. His newly found favorite tool is the the Hori Hori knife for its wide variety of uses, and who doesn't love to say Hori Hori?

PLANET Student Career Days

Team Canada Visits Kansas for PLANET Student Career Days

Submitted by: Darrell Bley, Coach and SOH staff member for the 2012 team.

The NPC School of Horticulture once again attended PLANET (Professional Landcare Network) Student Career Days. This year the international event was held at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas, approximately two hours west of Kansas City. This was the third and the largest NPC SOH team that has attended this annual event. Due to the size of the team, we were able to participate in many more events and diversify our experiences. Each student can enter five events and there are limitations on how many students per school can enter certain events. We were able to compete in 21 events out of a total of 28. This allowed us to maximize our efforts while still maintaining the balance between studying, preparation and competing.

This year, we were fortunate to send a large team thanks to generous financial support provided by the Niagara Parks Commission, the Alumni Foundation, Alumni Association, the Students Association (who provide full funding for one student) and other generous donations we have received to support this exciting trip. For the students, PLANET Student Career Days is a once in a lifetime opportunity to attend one of North America's largest gathering of students and industry to support learning, competition and foster relationships with others in horticulture.



Laura McCaul, NPD '12 and Ryan Fousert, third year student work on completion of paver and stone wall installation.

The team (Laura McCaul '12, Chris Bemke '12, Class of 2013 students Ryan Fousert, Chris Bourgeois, Chris Puhach, Ben Buchmuller, and Class of 2014 students Sarah Burt and Kara Wolowidnyk) arrived in Manhattan on Wednesday March 21. Unfortunately, the package of tools did not as these were left on the tarmac at Chicago O'Hare airport. Thankfully, they arrived two days later undamaged and ready for the competition. From the time the team touched down until the day of the actual competitions,

which was March 24th, the members were busy attending workshops, qualifying for events, attending debriefing meetings, looking for classrooms, searching out event locations and studying. There were some social activities as well in which all the various school teams participated. On the day of the competitions the team was up at the crack of dawn. They worked hard, they competed diligently and they all did their very best. They displayed professionalism and teamwork, encouraged each other and encouraged students from competing teams. They reinforced friendships from past events and made many more connections which will again be strengthened in the future. Team Canada put an excellent effort into the school cheer and the Canadian beach balls and Frisbees were a huge success throughout the competition.



Left to Right: Third year students Chris Bourgeois, Chris Puhach and Ryan Fousert prepare for tree planting.

The team had to depart early in order to catch their flights but the Canadian Beach ball made it to the closing ceremonies with the help of our friends from the University of Michigan. We placed competitively in all the events and improved in our scoring in many previously entered events. There were several top 10 finishes with one student placing 37th overall in a field of 769 students. As a team we have moved up 21 positions over last year's overall school ranking. We need a big team in order to place well in the overall school ranking so it is evident what a team of eight dedicated students can do.

We are gearing up for next year when our team is heading to Mississippi State University. A special thanks to Griffin Mangrove, Class of 2014, who worked very hard in preparing for the event but was unable to attend.

There are many excellent websites related to the event that can be viewed in which our students and the now famous beach ball are featured. Try 'googling': "Planet student career days 2012" to see more information.

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Jacobsen names G.C. Duke Equipment as North American Dealer of the Year

Burlington, ON March 13, 2012 - Jacobsen, a Textron Company, named G.C. Duke Equipment of Burlington, ON as "North American Dealer of the Year" during the company's annual Dealer Meeting held in conjunction with GCSAA show in Las Vegas.

This annual award is presented to recognize outstanding performance in sales and customer service. G.C. Duke Equipment is a four-time winner of this award since becoming a Jacobsen Dealer in 1999. Nolan Duke, Dick Raycroft and Neil Beech accepted this prestigious award from Jacobsen's President David Withers, Vice president - Ric Stone, Regional Manager - Tony Whelan, and Territory Manager - Barry Larson.

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The Niagara Parks Commission School of Horticulture

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Please check this box if there are no changes to your information.

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NOTES:

1. There are limitations on the space available for each item so the Association may use abbreviations or otherwise edit your information.
2. Note that there are two categories for last name. "Previous Last Name" is for your name used as a student at the NPC School of Horticulture (e.g. maiden name).
3. Includes past or present member.
4. Includes degrees, other diplomas, professional certifications and any other post secondary education
5. Specify your job, title, or field of expertise. Provide this even if you are retired, including the word "retired"
6. If you were a veteran, please indicate years of service and regiment. **The use of the poppy symbol has been approved by the RCL Dominion Command and it will be placed beside your name.**

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