



2015 Annual Business Meeting
Alumni Association
Niagara Parks Commission
School of Horticulture
Lecture Hall

February 7, 2015



**Saturday February 7, 2015
Niagara Parks Commission School of Horticulture
New Lecture Hall**

- Agenda** **Master of Ceremonies – Jon Peter NPD 04**
- 8:30am** **Registration - Karen Michaud NPD 84**
- 9:30am** **Opening Remarks – Alumni President Zenia Buzanko NPD 03**
- 9:45am** **Speaker – Sean James NPD 91 *Fern Ridge Landscaping, Milton, Ontario***
- 10:30am** **Annual General Meeting – Alumni Association**
- 11:30am** **Annual General meeting – Alumni Association Foundation**
- 12:00pm** **Association Luncheon (Pre-registration required)**
- 1:15pm** **Presentation – SOH Third Year Class Study Tour**
- 1:35pm** **Speaker – George Scott *Niagara Beeway***
- 2:15pm** **Demonstration – Cooking with Lavender, Melissa Achal, *Niagara Essential Oils & Blends***
- 2:45pm** **Closing remarks and Raffle**

Day is free with exception to the meal (\$20). For those wishing to participate in the fundraising luncheon pre-registration is required no later than Wednesday, February 4th. Please contact Zenia Buzanko zenia.buzanko@sympatico.ca

Annual Business Meeting

Agenda

Date: February 7, 2015 Location: Lecture Hall Start Time: 10:30 a.m.

- 1. Call to Order – Welcome and Introduction of Board**
- 2. Moment of Silence in remembrance of those who have passed away:**
 - Doug Fluhrer 55**
 - Rev, J. Huether 47**
 - Norm McKenna 59**
 - Alf Savage 52**
 - Don Schaff 61**
 - Bill Campbell – Honorary Member**
- 3. Minutes from AGM 2014**
- 4. Business arising from minutes**
- 5. President's Report (Zenia Buzanko'03)**
- 6. Executive Secretary Report (Karen Michaud'84)**
- 7. Treasurer's Report, Year End, Budget (Karen Michaud'84)**
- 8. Committee Reports**
 - a) Special Events (Kasia Zgurzinski'12)**
 - b) Associates Membership (Rob Jacob'11)**
 - c) Blue Book (Karen Michaud'84)**
 - d) Historian (Dylan Muileboom'12)**
 - e) Membership (Karen Michaud '84)**
 - f) Employment Report (Karen Michaud '84)**
 - g) Horticultural Herald (Melissa Spearing'13 Anne Van Nest '83)**
 - h) Publicity/Promotion (Rob Jacob'11)**
 - i) Digital Media (Jon Peter'04)**
 - j) Student Association Liaison (Heather Skrypnyk Class of 2015)**
 - k) Legacy Prairie Garden (Tom Clancy '61)**
- 9. Business arising from reports**
- 10. 2015 Budget – review – changes – acceptance of budget**

The Alumni Association of The Niagara Parks School of Horticulture

Annual General Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2014

Held at The Niagara Parks Commission Botanical Garden and School of Horticulture

Alumni Association Executive Members Present

- Charles Hunter, Zenia Buzanko, Karen Michaud, Rob Jacob, Melissa Spearing, Ben Stormes

Welcome

- Charles Hunter, President, welcomed all those present and thanked them for their support
- A moment of silence observed for John Kernahan, Honourary member

Review of Minutes of 2013 AGM

- Motion to accept by Jay Todd, seconded by Lorne Fast with all in favour.

Business arising from the minutes

- No New Business Arising

Presidents Report

- Charles spoke to the challenges to the lack of participation within the Alumni, and we have tapped much of our available resources.
- We require continued content contribution for publications, assistance with events, and input on the overall operations of the association. Charles urged us to participate in this in whatever way we can.
- A very strong, hard look at a new approach to the alumni association to keep it moving forward is likely needed. Mark Dykstra has also echoed this urgency for support and movement on the issue.
- Charles thanks the board for their efforts, especially Zenia and Karen. They are role models for future executive members. Also, a thank you to all the members of the executive.

Treasurer's Report

- Bank balance of \$4,873.06, GIC value of \$5040.00, petty cash of \$116.60
- An invoice of \$203.04 was received for yearly hosting charges for the website
- Alumni Association watches have arrived with an invoice of \$1403.07
- It was indicated that Hort Herald distribution entails approximately 90 hard copies in print, the remainder are delivered electronically.
- Membership is decreasing, and Karen urged us all to encourage members to pay dues
- Melissa suggested an online electronic transfer of funds option be looked into, Karen will follow up on this.
- A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Russ Boles, seconded by Charles Hunter with all in favour.

Executive Secretary's Report

- A motion to accept the Executive Secretary's report was made by Jay Todd, was seconded by Tom Clancy with all in favour.

Special Events

- Charles gave an update on some of the special events of 2013
- The BBQ was a success, but would like to get to the point where we are making profit on these events. However, quality over quantity is important, and Charles drew attention to the benefits of even the smaller events.
- Charles encouraged those from outside the Niagara region who wish to organize local events to move forward on these and the Alumni Association will provide support in whatever way they can. Charles suggested the notion that the Regional model be looked at to increase activity in the Alumni Association.
- Charles expressed the need to have some fun with the graduates through the alumni association, and the importance of establishing a relationship with the alumni of the school early on.
- Tom Clancy proposed that we have something that involves travel as an option to the meetings, something like a study tour but for the Alumni. Melissa said something similar is organised by LO, and this could be looked at as a model.
- It was agreed that connecting the current students with the Alumni is the most effective way to begin fostering interest in the Association.

Association Membership Report

- Presented by Rob, as Trevor is unable to be here
- 11 associate members currently, but one of the challenges is posing just what the benefits of becoming an associate member are. Just what is it that they are getting for their money? This has been challenging, with not a lot of positive feedback from the existing members.
- Rob and Trevor indicated that industry suppliers are probably a better target for associate membership.
- It was suggested that associate members be invited to produce content for the HH beyond their conventional advertising.

Blue Book Report

- Jay Kivell indicated that the Blue Book is continually 'in progress', and is it never truly 'done'.
- Karen urged all those present to update their information, and to encourage others to do the same.
- There is a hope that eventually the Blue Book content can be made writable in some way online, and members can update their information independently in real time.

Historian

- Nothing to report

Hort Herald

- The Hort Herald has been undergoing some changes this past year, including new writers and editors, new software, and the inclusion of new approaches to content.
- Some of the issues were late coming out, but this was generally due to a lack of content coming in on the requested deadline.
- All are encouraged to think of how they may contribute content to this publication. It is an avenue for all Alumni to express their ideas, share their experiences and connect with one another.

Publicity and Promotion

- Russ Boles asked about the SOH booth at congress. Charles replied that while we don't get the applicants directly from the booth, it is successful in that it puts us there with the rest of the educational community and the industry at large. The challenge has always been the time requirements from the school through planning, execution, and manning of the booth. Charles also indicated that the Niagara Parks is also on board for rebranding and imaging of the NPCBGSOH.

New Business

- IT was suggested that there be a two tier system for advertising in the HH were associate members have one price and non-paying members have a second. Look at this from three avenues: Members, Associates, and Non-Associates.
- Karen opened the floor for nominations for the position of President of the Alumni Association
- NO NOMINATIONS. CLOSED BY KAREN MICHAUD.
- Al asked if we have the power to appoint if nobody steps forward. Charles indicated yes, we do.
- Russ suggested that that with 6 applying for the foundation, whoever is not successful gets appointed to the position of president.
- Jay Todd forwarded a motion that Zenia Buzanko take the role of Acting President, motion seconded by Russ Boles with all in favour.
- Charles has asked Bill Snowden as acting president to assist seeking nominations for future President.

Zenia Buzanko moved that we adjourned the meeting, seconded by Charles Hunter with all in favour.

Meeting adjourned at 3:10 pm

President's Report

- After 10 + years on the Board of Directors, in various capacities, this year was definitely a learning experience, from the perspective of President. I've seen quite a few changes in this Alumni Association, we've had to let go of how we were in the past, while trying to figure out how to move forward so as to best serve our membership and keep the Association dynamic.
- As President this year my goals were to revisit the roles each director is responsible for and clarify those positions to enable everyone to do their best while enjoying their participation and contributions. Also this was a year to rebuild connections that may have floundered recently, so we worked together with the Foundation, the School, and the NPC as much as possible to reconnect and strengthen the dynamic between us. We worked closely with the Foundation this year. We had joint meetings, and worked together to plan this year's events. It seemed to be beneficial to share each other's business, concerns, and meeting times.
- Being President is not a stand-alone job. I couldn't have moved one inch forward without the assistance of the Board of Directors, our Foundation Board, Charles Hunter as Past President and Superintendent of the School, the Niagara Parks Commission, School of Horticulture staff and students, and the support and messages from Alumni. I'll say it again, we did it all together! Thank you. It was a pleasure working with you.
- Stepping down from the Board this year Trevor Swance'04 , Rob Jacob'11, and Ben Stormes'09. We'll miss you and appreciate all you have done. Thank you.
- There were three stand-out activities this year.

First, we were determined to plan a great Grand Opening for the Legacy Prairie Garden, our 75th anniversary present to the School. We worked closely with the Foundation, the School, and the Student's Association. Then we were assisted by the NPC and the OPA and as a group we made it happen. This new garden is a beautiful and ecologically dynamic new feature of the Botanical Gardens, an endlessly resourceful teaching aid for the students and visitors, and is now completely paid for! This is a gift we can be proud of and continue to foster with future projects and developments. The Legacy Prairie Garden will continue to provide an opportunity for Alumni to contribute and be part of the Legacy. Projects such as the stone bench, Moon Gate, Living Wall, Apiary, more signage are still to be considered.

Second, while all this was going on, we came up against a big wall with our Horticultural Herald. Publication was delayed, came to a full stop, but the outcome was that we now have a team producing our newsletter and the future looks bright again. It is a big job, requiring many hours in front of a computer, too much for just one person. Now we are very fortunate to have Anne Marie Van Nest'83, Melissa Spearing'13 and myself working on it.

Lastly, a perennial problem - Alumni support by way of attendance and payment of dues. A lot of this comes down to communication. This year we worked hard to improve our frequency of communication, be more timely, and reach more people whether members, students, friends, SOH staff, or NPC. Many people fall through the cracks; emails/Hort Heralds don't arrive, and/or don't get read. A privacy issue in more recent times, protection of identity, means no sharing info with the School. It is up to the individual to make sure we have their most recent info. We are looking to our website to remedy this situation so watch for developments there. Thanks to Jon Peter and his work with digital media we are connecting with more people and using the technology to our advantage. 2014 showed an all-time low in paid membership. We have looked at this closely and we have new ideas for both addressing and rectifying this problem that we will be working on in the new year, again with the help of our website and new technology. What else is ahead for the Association and its Directors? We are looking forward to the 80th anniversary of the School of Horticulture in 2016! Party time again! More opportunities for fellowship, education, and working together! This is a lot of interest to once again hold a Conference. This will be a major focus for the Boards this coming year so watch for news of that. **Of the utmost importance are your feedback, participation, and support.**

Respectfully submitted, Zenia Buzanko NPD 03

Executive Secretary's Report:

As Executive Secretary, I am kept busy with correspondence, mostly by email on a daily basis.

- Alumni changes entered into data base and Blue Book , and emails to Zenia Buzanko
- Welcomed a new group of graduates to our Membership in March.
- They were presented with Alumni Watches
- I forward employment opportunities to Jon Peter to post on our website and facebook page
- Send out condolence cards, get well cards, and new baby welcome cards
- When a member of our Alumni family passes away, a \$50.00 donation is made in their name and Forwarded to the Alumni Foundation
- Forward G.H. Travelling Scholarship information to students.
- Leslie Van deVen applied for, and was granted the Scholarship this year.
- Forwarded donations for the Legacy Garden to the Alumni Foundation.
- The list goes on...but always happy to hear from you

Respectfully Submitted: Karen Michaud NPD '84

Treasurer's Report

A summary of receipts and expenses
December 2013- November 30, 2014

Receipts:

Membership: Paid membership has been slowly decreasing (see membership report)
Conference: lunch receipts \$320.00
Horticultural Herald Ads: \$700.00
Special Events/raffle: raffle proceeds went to the Foundation
Promotions: 5 tumblers sold \$50.00
Interest: \$43.99, rolled into GIC
Miscellaneous: NSF charges paid back \$30.00
Donations to Legacy Garden: Total donation \$1625.00
Donations to Alumni Association: \$230.00
Donations to Alumni Foundation: \$1055.00 (including J.Allen donation)
Garden Books: 5 books sold \$65.00 - \$13.00 each
Foundation Garden Book profit - \$2.00 for each book sold \$10.00
Garden Book Postage paid - \$3.00

Expenses:

Conference: food -\$163.44
Horticultural herald: printing and postage -\$2315.93
Administration: phone and postage, printing etc. -\$807.49
Executive Secretary: \$150.00 per month \$400 Dec. bonus- \$2200.00
Blue Book: hard copy printing and discs and mailing- \$749.97
Publicity and membership: \$0.00
Promotions: \$1413.07 watches, \$338.19 tumblers
Historian: \$0.00
Gifts and Awards: frames for awards -\$153.30, GH travelling Scholarship \$500.00
Special Events: advertising for Legacy Prairie Garden opening \$98.98
Visa Charges: total for year -\$600.86
Mastercard Charges: total for year- \$81.00
Bank Charges: \$4.95 per month (plus NSF charges) - \$64.40
Memorials to Foundation: \$200.00
Transferred to Foundation: J. Allen Donation received donation for \$1000.00,
Foundation donation \$55.00
Garden book profit -\$10.00
Misc. \$0.00
Insurance: \$1104.84
Web Site: \$203.40
Board Expenses: \$0.00
Legacy Garden: transferred to Foundation for deposit \$1625.00

GIC: came due at the end of November, renewed for another year \$5083.99
Petty Cash: \$2.40

Expenses were over Receipts by \$3331.88

**Net Worth at the end of the 2013-2014 year is \$9374.66
down by \$3370.44 compared to the previous year \$12,748.55**

Submitted by: Karen Michaud NPD '84

Niagara Parks Commission School of Horticulture Alumni Association 2013-14 year end

			proposed
REVENUE	Year End '14	Budget '14	Budget '15
Membership Graduate	\$3,917.74	\$7,500.00	\$5,700.00
Membership Fellowship	\$255.00	\$240.00	\$300.00
Membership Associate	\$800.00	\$1,400.00	\$1,000.00
Membership prepaid	\$175.00	\$700.00	\$1,500.00
Membership prepaid	\$990.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Membership prepaid	\$70.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Blue Book mail HC	\$51.75	\$100.00	\$25.00
Blue Book mail HC	\$5.50	\$0.00	\$0.00
Conference	\$320.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Conference-student sp	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Horticultural Herald Ads	\$700.00	\$450.00	\$750.00
Special Events/ raffle	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$100.00
Promotions-Advertising	\$50.00	\$500.00	\$100.00
Interest	\$0.00	\$5.00	\$0.00
Miscellaneous	\$30.00	\$43.00	\$111.00
Donations to Legacy G	\$1,625.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Donations to alumni	\$230.00	\$720.00	\$350.00
Donations to Foundation	\$1,055.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Historian Garden book	\$65.00	\$130.00	\$130.00
Foundation GB profit	\$10.00	\$0.00	\$4.00
postage garden book	\$3.00	\$30.00	\$30.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$10,352.99	\$12,318.00	\$11,100.00

EXPENSES

Conference	\$163.44	\$0.00	\$200.00
Horticultural Herald	\$2,315.93	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Admin/Phone	\$807.49	\$1,500.00	\$800.00
Executive Secretary	\$2,200.00	\$2,200.00	\$2,200.00
Blue Book	\$749.97	\$900.00	\$900.00
Publicity/Membership	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Promotions	\$1,751.26	\$1,500.00	\$500.00
Historian	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Gifts & Awards	\$653.30	\$500.00	\$500.00
Special Events	\$98.98	\$150.00	\$150.00
Visa Charges	\$600.86	\$590.00	\$600.00
M/C Charges	\$81.00	\$110.00	\$100.00
Bank Charges	\$64.40	\$70.00	\$70.00
Memorials to Foundation	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Donations trans to Found	\$1,055.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Garden book profit	\$10.00	\$12.00	\$12.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$74.67	\$77.51
Insurance	\$1,104.84	\$1,104.84	\$1,134.00
Web site	\$203.40	\$800.00	\$500.00
Board Expenses	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$50.00
Legacy Prairie Garden	\$1,625.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Planet donation	\$0.00	\$106.49	\$106.49
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$13,684.87	\$12,318.00	\$11,100.00
Revenue over/under ex	(\$3,331.88)		
Opening Balance	\$7,623.60		
Closing Balance	\$4,291.72		
GIC	\$5,080.54		
Petty cash	\$2.40		
NET WORTH	\$9,378.11		

Special Events:

I began my term as the special events coordinator during the summer, and am looking forward to taking it into the new year. It's an excellent opportunity to maintain connections between Alumni, and the current staff and students. We have such a rich resource within our experiences, stories and opportunities. It is my pleasure to take part in facilitating this bond

The LPG (Legacy Prairie Garden) Opening Ceremony was the main focus as I began my term. There were over 100 Alumni present, which was unique and wonderful to see. This event had been much anticipated by staff, students, and donors, because it represented an ecologically significant contribution to the collections of the Botanical Gardens. The rain lightly came and went throughout the day, and did not stop everyone from coming out and enjoying the unveiling. To top off the event, a number of articles were printed in the Horticultural Herald January 2015 issue, outlining more specific details.

This coming year, we plan on bringing back the hockey tournament (for 2016) and the conference. We recognize the value of engaging more actively in trade fairs, such as Landscape Ontario, and will be using these occasions as ways to promote attendance at the Alumni events. Suggestions are always welcome for events, and speakers.

Submitted by Kasia Zgurzynski '12

Associate Membership Advertising in the Horticultural Herald:

Company 2014-15	AD	Date	Amount
Master's Turf	business card	May '14-May '15	\$ 150.00
JVK	business card	May '14-May '15	\$ 150.00
Fast Forest	business card	May '14-May '15	\$ 150.00
Landscape Ontario	¼ page	Sept. '14- Sept '15	\$ 250.00

Associate Membership.

Currently there are (9) paid Associate members. These are: All Treat Farm, Connon Nurseries - Neil Vanderkruk Holdings, G.C. Duke Equipment Ltd, Fast Forest, Gro Bark Ltd, JVK Ltd, Landscape Ontario, Master's Turf Supply Ltd., M.K. Rittenhouse. Currently 4 of them advertise in the Horticultural Herald. Unfortunately we were unable to increase our Associate Membership base in 2014. However I was pleased at the response that we did receive from our existing members to renew memberships and also renew their Horticultural Herald Advertisements. We have had difficulties showing potential Associates the benefits of becoming a member despite attempts to show how their business's could benefit from our Alumni's knowledge base and depth within the industry. Further development of Associate Memberships is required.

Trevor Swance '04, Rob Jacob '11

Blue Book Report

The 2014 Blue Book was finished and went to print both in hard copy and CD and was distributed by the Executive Secretary (Karen Michaud). The very large hard copies are expensive to print and ship. The disc copy of the Blue Book is very inexpensive at less than \$2.00 to replicate.

Each year before the graduating class graduates, the graduates should send in their contact information. Privacy legislation prevents the School of Horticulture from giving the Alumni Association their contact information. When they have a change of address or new job, they should please that information. We want to keep them "In the loop".

The executive strives to keep the Blue Book current and are always looking for lost and deceased graduates, changes in jobs, current addresses, phone numbers and email addresses. We can only communicate with each other if your contact information is current.

Respectfully submitted

Karen Michaud '84

Historian Report

My first year volunteering as historian, was rewarding. I missed the comraderie of being a student at the school of horticulture, this was a way to involve myself again. The history at the school of horticulture is very intriguing; we come from such diverse backgrounds but are bound together by a passion for the culture of plants.

As historian, I researched and located photos from the alumni archives of the recently deceased to be featured in the Horticultural Herald. I also photo documented the events put on by the alumni. In the future I am looking to go through the archives to organize them and make an easy to use database.

Overall I had a great time being the historian this year, and am looking forward to an even better 2015. I would like to take a moment to express the value of our alumni, one of the biggest assets of the school of horticulture. To be an active member and participate in the events, gives graduates the opportunity to make and maintain relationships with our fellow alumni, to make connections and be a part of something larger than ourselves and to improve the connections between the students and graduates.

Finally I would like to take a moment to honor those alumni that have passed away this past year with a moment of silence.

Sincerely,

Dylan Muileboom NPD 12

Graduates Associates and Fellowship Membership Report:

Honourary Life: 14

Honourary members: 9

Paid Alumni: 79

Class of 2014: 11

Fellowship Members: 3

Associate Members: 9

Membership	Sept										
Year	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
Hon. Life	14	12	12	12	12	12	10	10	10	10	10
Honorary	10	9	8	10	11	10	9	9	9	10	10
Alumni	79	93	122	124	120	147	169	173	180	157	176
Associates	9	10	9	12	12	14	13	10	15	23	23
Fellowship	3	2	3	3	3	5	7	7	10	11	12

As the years go on we increase the number of Graduates and decrease the number of paid members.

Paid membership by Membership years includes Honourary Life Members:

1939-1, 1947-3, 1948-2, 1952-1, 1954-1, 1955-1, 1956-1, 1958-2, 1959-2, 1961-2, 1963-1, 1964-1, 1965-2, 1966-2, 1967-5, 1968-4, 1969-1, 1970-3, 1974-1, 1975-3, 1976-2, 1977-3, 1978-2, 1979-2, 1981-3, 1982-1, 1983-4, 1984-5, 1985-3, 1986-2, 1987-1, 1988-3, 1989-2, 1992-2, 1994-1, 1995-2, 1997-2, 1998-1, 1999-1, 2000-1, 2001-2, 2002-1, 2003-4, 2004-2, 2005-2, 2008-1, 2009-2, 2012-2, 2014-11

Karen Michaud NPD 84

Employment Report:

I received 32 job opportunities in 2014. Most are forwarded from the School and the rest are direct offers from employers. The jobs are forwarded to appropriate graduates, and/or posted on our website.

Occasionally I have special employment offers that I sent out to Graduates that I think may be interested.

A reminder: all paid up Alumni Association members have access to this service.

We welcome job postings from Alumni and Associate members.

Karen Michaud '84

Horticultural Herald

Three issues of the Horticultural Herald Volume 42 were published in 2014 during January, May and September. Each issue was between 24 and 28 pages in length. Two versions of each issue were produced. A version was produced that was in full colour for the website and email distribution and for printing and mailing purposes another was created that has black and white images in the interior. For budget reasons the printed version has colour only on the first 2 and last 2 pages and is limited to 24 pages.

Major activities covered in the 2014 Horticultural Heralds included an introduction of the Class of 2017, graduation of the Class of 2014, Legacy Prairie Garden, Ben Stormes '09 tree dedication, Mike Pascoe '87 Kenya trip, 2014 AGM highlights, new Board introduction, BC chapter reunion, Norm McCallum '69 receiving the Order of OAC, bench dedication by the Class of '93, Archive Sorting Party, and Mosaicultures Internationales 2013. The Horticultural Herald also reported the passing of Doug Fluhrer '55, Rev. John Huether '47, Dan Buzanko, and Ron Andrews '55. As well, each issue covered Board News, Job Postings, and recognition of Associate Members.

Looking forward, the 2015 editorial deadlines are March 15, June 15, September 15, and December 15. The issue is planned to be published during the month following the editorial deadline.

The Horticultural Herald continues to be enhanced though the use of integrated email and website links for those that receive the emailed version.

Thanks to everyone who submitted articles, images, story ideas and leads, as well as those people who provided fact checking and proofreading services. Publishing each issue is a big team effort and all who contribute deserve a huge and heartfelt thanks. The more contributions from members that are made to each issue the better each issue becomes. Please remember to share your news and views; the Horticultural Herald is a vital link holding our Alumni together. Let's keep it strong!

Melissa Spearing '13 and Anne Van Nest '83

Publicity and Promotions:

In the Spring of 2014 a budget of \$300 was set aside for publicity of the NPC Alumni Association, specifically to make an attempt at satisfying the demand for merchandise. After much deliberation it was decided that clothing would be too costly to try to supply enough sizes to be able to accommodate all Alumni, and so the decision was made to purchase travel mugs with an Alumni logo. There were 38 mugs purchased in the summer and these will be for sale at all Alumni events for \$10. Goals in the future will be to increase our merchandise to include pens and hats and shirts.

Trevor Swance '04

2014 Year-End Report – Digital Media

Direct Link to Facebook Page:

www.facebook.com/Alumni.Association.NPCSOH

Direct Link to Website:

www.http://alumninpcsoh.com/

Significant progress has been made in 2014 in Digital Media. Please refer to the above links for more details of what has been happening online in our Alumni world.

Email addresses have been set up through our website for the following board positions and which can be passed down as board members change.

- President – president@alumninpcsoh.com
- Executive Secretary – executivesec@alumninpcsoh.com
- Horticultural Herald – hortherald@alumninpcsoh.com
- Digital Media – alumni@alumninpcsoh.com
- I would like to continue to set up new email addresses for the remaining board members in 2015.

Digital Media has worked with other board members to create digital posters for event publicity. I think we should continue to strive to utilize a consistent theme or brand throughout our communications including reports, meeting minutes and everything that our members see.

Website Report:

- Employment opportunities have been posted regularly to the website.
- Horticultural Heralds have been made available on the website going back to the December 2010 issue.
- Overall organization and content of the website has improved. There is always a need for content to continue progression. Please share your content to aanpcsoh@alumninpcsoh.com.
- Currently making progress on Phase 2 of the website development. I am working with Chris Steingart of QT Webdesigns to build and manage a password protected portion of the website which will cost \$395.50 for software plugins, build & training. This portion of the website will only be accessible by paid members and will include:
 - Bluebook data & updates
 - Employment opportunities
 - Horticultural Herald issues
 - Membership renewal and dues payments
 - Alumni Association and School digital archive?
 - Any other items that should be included, please share your thoughts!

Facebook Report:

- We currently have 155 ‘Friends’ on Facebook. An increase of 16 followers since year-end 2013. An increase of 62 followers since year-end 2012.
- Numerous ‘Posts’ have been made to Facebook throughout 2014. The number of people seeing each post has increased considerably since 2013. On November 5th, 2014 one post reached a total of 1377 people. This popular post was a link shared via the Niagara Parks blog titled “Unique new garden at Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens” – an article about the opening of the Legacy Prairie Garden. Thank you to those that participate with our page and share our postings, it definitely helps get the word around. Please continue to share our page with interested people and especially Alumni who are not currently involved.
- Posts have included 12 employment opportunities, 17 ‘Plant I.D. of the Day’ photos, and 9 other posts including Student Plant Sale, interesting articles and alumni news.

- Posting Statistics:
 - Total Posts in 2014 = 86 up from 57 in 2013
 - Total Events Posted = 17 up from 7 in 2013
 - Total Job Opportunities Posted = 35 up from 34 in 2013
- Friends Gender Breakdown:
 - 48% Female
 - 50% Male
- Friends Country of Origin Breakdown:
 - Canada = 129
 - United States = 15
 - France = 3
 - Japan = 2
 - Six countries tied = 1
- Friends City of Origin Breakdown:
 - Niagara Falls, ON = 18
 - Toronto, ON = 8
 - St. Catharines = 6
 - London, ON = 5
 - Victoria, BC = 5

Submitted 2/3/2015
Jon L. Peter '04

Student Liasion:

- * New first years arrived in March
- * 14 Students represented the school at PLANET in Colorado, Denver
- * Ben Stormes left to further his education at Cornell University –
 We planted a *Cedurus deodara* “*Karl Fuchs*” at the sign bed in his honor
- Anne Van Nest stepped in to help out in the OSA/Herb Garden and Weathervane until the new staff were hired
- Jessica Bond and Jason Leavens joined the instructing staff
- Dan Johnston retired and we planted an *Ulmus Americana* ‘*Jefferson*’ in the OSA in his honor
- First year study tour in Toronto
- Secon year study tour in California
- Legacy Prairie Garden opening lunch
- School Field Trip to St. Williams and Backus Woods
- Book silent auction
- Staff Appreciation dinner put on by the Students’ Residence
- Student Association Elections

Heather Skrypnyk '15

OPA/NPC LEGACY PRAIRIE GARDEN ~ PHASE ONE COMPLETE

Report to NPC Alumni and OPA Membership

After formerly turning the Legacy Prairie Garden over to the Niagara Parks Commission in September, and with the resolution of the HST and final payments to GatemanMilloy Incorporated, we can now close the books on Phase one of the Legacy Prairie Garden. This project is the result of the legacy of the 75th Anniversary Celebrations of the Ontario Parks Association and the Niagara Parks School of Horticulture which were both founded in 1936 by several of the same people.

The Prairie Garden continues to impress with its' sustainable horticulture approach and the many excellent features that are incorporated into its' design. The permeable soft asphalt pathways that allow the water to flow through and be captured underneath and then drained into the pond is an outstanding feature. The various types and species of prairie plants that attract butterflies and bees are a very nice collection with many colours and timing of blooms and are rapidly growing in and will continue to improve as they age. This has turned out to be an excellent legacy project from the beginnings of two organizations that continue to make an impact on horticulture in Canada.

The next phases for the garden's development will incorporate the Council Circle Bench that should be constructed in the spring and a Bee Demonstration area which is very timely with the impacts on bees and the public interest due to their pollination roles for fruit and vegetable crops. Funding is in place for the Council Bench project and a joint project with students and volunteers should see it get completed by June.

The Canadian Wildlife Federation's donation to the garden will see them working on various interpretative signage so visitors to the site can understand the complexities of what they are seeing.

The Bee Demonstration area requires negotiations with the local and provincial bee keepers associations and with all the public interest in the decline of the bee populations, is timely to get that completed for a resource that the public can see, and understand the immensely important role bees play in agriculture.

Outstanding projects include the Moon Circle Entrance feature at the north end of the site leading to the Arboretum. It is a feature that fits well with the concept of the project and hopefully can be constructed.

A huge thank you to all the donours who stepped forward and believed in the project enough that they provided enough funds to accomplish Phase One. We cannot thank Mike and Donna Milloy enough for their significant donations in addition to constructing the garden in spite of formidable hurdles, completed their excellent work in seeing the project through. A big thank you to the Ontario Parks Association and particularly Shelley May for taking on the handling of funds, paying the bills while providing tax receipts and claiming the HST back over a three year period.

We will still have to raise funds to be able to finalize the concept and consider the projects outlined above and whether we can take on the Living Wall feature that provides challenges but would be a significant feature within the garden. Should you have donours or wish to make a contribution, the NPC Alumni Foundation and Chair Russ Boles will handle funds and tax receipts on behalf of the project. We also need members to step up and help finalize the remaining projects. So if you are even slightly interested, put your name in and get involved in the success of this excellent project.

Submitted by Tom Clancy

2015 Board of Directors Nomination Report

In accordance with the bylaws of the Constitution of the Alumni Association of The Niagara Parks Commission School of Horticulture, Article VII: The Board of Directors shall consist of the immediate Past President, and nine Directors elected from and by active members at The Annual Meeting. Therefore, following the intent of the bylaw the following people are nominated to stand for election to the Board of Directors for the year 2015. Nominations must be entertained from the floor until such time as a motion is made to close nominations.

Nominees for the 2015 Board of Directors (nine positions):

1. Zenia Buzanko NPD 03
2. Jon Peter NPD 04
3. Karen Michaud NPD 84
4. Cindy Maxwell NPD 12
5. Dylan Muileboom NPD 12
6. Kasia Zgurzinski NPD 12
7. Kyra Fowler NPD 02
8. Andrea Weddum NPD 13
9. Kyle Berwick NPD 14

Respectfully submitted: Zenia Buzanko, NPD

