

# OVER THE GARDEN GATE

The Newsletter of the Valley Gardeners Club

November 2017

Page 1

Note: This is the promised (sort of) abbreviated newsletter for November. Articles will begin again in January. A reminder that I am still looking for people to form a Communications Committee. It is not onerous, more a discussion group. Please contact me (sparrowsong@eastlink.ca) if interested. D.

## LEST WE FORGET

November is a time of reflection. As the dark days of November are upon us and we put the garden to bed, we have time to think about what we did and what we should have done. Our gardens are a reflection of our lives. As Soren Kierkegaard said "Life can only be understood backwards but it must be lived forwards." So it is that we should take a bit of time to think of those who went before us and what they went through. Most of us have lost at least one member of our family to war and we honour them. But fading into the background of history are the sacrifices and struggles of those who remained at home: those who struggled to bring up families and put food on the table while waiting for their loved ones to come home. And those whose loved ones did not come home and they had to face those struggles alone. Those who perhaps dug their hands in the very soil where you do. We should learn from other peoples struggles and losses. We can only do it on a personal level and gain strength from the past as wars and conflict seem to be a permanent part of the world in which we live. How lucky we are that we have the privilege to sit in our garden with life, love and laughter. Lest we forget.

## BOOKS

Two books on great gardens which suffered the effects of war:

***The Lost Gardens of Heligan*** by Tim Smit. 1997 The story of the death and rebirth of one of the great gardens in England.

***Garden Glory*** by Ted Humphris. 1979 The story of the life and death of the garden at Aynhoe Estate through the eyes of the long time head gardener.

## MASTER GARDENER TRAINING

The Master Gardener training program at Dal Ag caters to participants who have a passion for gardening, wanting to expand their knowledge in the horticulture field, or wanting to become a Master Gardener! The training program consists of four independent-study classes available online and a one-week, on-site summer school. Participants have the opportunity to take one course or all courses.

The cost is \$375 for each course. For more information copy the following to your browser: <https://www.dal.ca/faculty/agriculture/extended-learning/programs-courses/master-gardener-training.html>.

**CLUB NOTES**

The executive met on September 28 to discuss events prior to the AGM. There were suggestions on how we could integrate new members more effectively. It was decided that new members would be introduced at regular monthly meetings

Lucie Giroux has resigned from the Publicity position, Janet Herbin has resigned as Vice President and Robin Whidden has resigned as the Program Chair due to ill health. This leaves these positions to be filled before the AGM. As The treasurer and Secretary have also indicated they would like someone to take their place, we need some volunteers to step up to take their place on the Executive. Also in need of Chairs are the Plant Sale Committee and the Horticultural Show Committee. Allison Magee is Nominating Committee Chair so contact him if you are interested in any of the above.

The President is looking into when the Club will next host the NSAGC convention. He is hoping for 2020 as this requires a large amount of planning.

The Executive is looking at developing a book of Guidelines for the Club to make it easier for new Executive and Chairs to have a reference. The Communications Chair will need volunteers for input to this document.

Committee Chairs were reminded to have reports ready for the AGM.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Monday, November 13, 2017** - Valley Gardeners Annual Meeting and Banquet. Location: St. James Anglican Church, 18 Prospect Avenue in Kentville. We will be using the back entrance to the church off of Prospect Avenue where the ramp is located. For those with mobility problems there are two parking spaces on Prospect Avenue and four or five beside the ramp entrance. Others can park in the municipal lot, the hair salon lot or the Cornwallis Inn. There is also other street parking on Main Street.

We will meet at 5:30 pm for socializing and paying memberships or unpaid pre-ordered meals. Dinner will be served at 6 pm followed by Allison Magee speaking on "An antique but not a heritage rose". The last item is our Annual General Meeting with reports and hopefully some new executive members to take over from those retiring.

Members are asked to bring a small live arrangement for the tables with items from your garden or a friend's. If the weather holds (we hope!) that should be easy this year.

The banquet tickets must be pre-ordered by November 8th. Cost is \$16.00 for a turkey dinner with all the fixings and 3 kinds of pies! We hope that all our new members will try to join us in the festivities. It is a fun time to chat with new and old friends. Plus the food will be great....wear loose clothing.

**Monday, December 11, 2017** - Valley Gardeners Christmas Social. Bria Stokesbury and Kate Adams of the Courthouse Museum will speak on "Cherished Antique & Collectable Ornaments". Bring your favourite Yuletide finger foods, either sweet or savory, your appetite and your singing voice. If you have a Christmas carol book, it will be helpful.

**OLD FRIENDS**

The Valley Gardeners issues Honourary Life Memberships to those who have made a long term commitment to the club and promoted gardening.

We have lost some of our life members over the years, but those still with us are: Founding members Tim Amos and Peter Harvey. Fred & Nancy Chipman, Donna Crawford, Dot Farnsworth, Alice Goodwin, Rosaleen McDonald, Allison Magee, Shirley Marston, Ann Painter, Hector Woodin.

The Garden Club would be poorer without their work and dedication. There is much we can learn from them. Do so.

### NEW MEMBERS

We welcome new members and encourage you to make a special effort to say hello if you haven't yet met them. Those who recently joined are Janet Alsop from Kentville, Cora and Guy Breton from Wolfville, Elizabeth Johnson from Port Williams and Cynthia Morrison from Kentville.

### LEAVES

The best known of the war poems is In Flanders Fields. But there were many other memorable wartime poems, like this one by Edna St. Vincent Millay (1892–1950).

#### **“Mindful of you the sodden earth in spring”**

Sonnet III

MINDFUL of you the sodden earth in spring,  
 And all the flowers that in the springtime grow,  
 And dusty roads, and thistles, and the slow  
 Rising of the round moon, all throats that sing  
 The summer through, and each departing wing,  
 And all the nests that the bared branches show,  
 And all winds that in any weather blow,  
 And all the storms that the four seasons bring.

You go no more on your exultant feet  
 Up paths that only mist and morning knew,  
 Or watch the wind, or listen to the beat  
 Of a bird's wings too high in air to view,—  
 But you were something more than young and sweet  
 And fair,—and the long year remembers you.

### DID YOU KNOW

Of the 23 employees of Sutton's Seeds killed in WW1, four were the sons of owner Arthur Sutton. His fifth son was badly injured.

Kew Gardens lost 37 employees in WW1 and WW2.

Many great gardens suffered the loss of their horticulture staff. Heligan, once the home of many plants found by the great plant hunters, had 23 gardeners in 1914 and only 7 in 1917. Nine were killed in WW1 and the rest dispersed. Heligan was lost to the world until being rediscovered in 1990 by Tim Smit.

**NOVA SCOTIA ASSOCIATION OF GARDEN CLUBS**

Join the NSAGC Facebook Group. They now have almost 3,000 gardeners who have joined. Every member of the group may post events, pictures, questions, answers, and interesting things about gardening. Members may also invite others to join. On Facebook, go to Groups, search NSAGC on the top bar and ask to join. Questions? Contact [annjones@eastlink.ca](mailto:annjones@eastlink.ca)

**FROM THE GARDEN RECIPE BOX**

Canada in 1944 - more than 209,000 Victory Gardens were producing 57,000 tons of vegetables. Canada did not have the severe rationing of Britain, but suffered shortages all the same. Canadian wheat, canned and dehydrated goods had to not only feed the troops, but with heavy losses in supply ships, help feed the people of Britain as well. The long tradition of Victory Gardens is still alive and well as we struggle to grow vegetables in our yards and gardens. I will not impose rationing recipes on you (although I still make and enjoy a version of Woolton pie, war cake and potato floodies), but here is a recipe to use your fall harvest which could very well have done when you had to live off your produce.

**VEGETABLE STEW WITH HERB DUMPLINGS**

Nothing exotic in this vegetarian recipe, just down home goodness!

2 tbsp oil or butter  
1-2 large onion, halved, then quartered  
1 clove garlic, minced  
5 cups mixed root vegetables (carrot, parsnips, rutabaga, cabbage, etc in bite size chunks)  
2 ½ cups stock  
Dash of Worcestershire sauce  
salt & pepper  
½ cup peas  
flour or gravy powder to thicken

**Dumplings:**

1 cup all purpose flour  
2 tsp baking powder  
3 Tbsp vegetable shortening  
1 Tbsp mixed herbs  
¼ tsp salt  
½ cup milk + 2 Tbsp.

Saute onion pieces in oil or butter until translucent. Add garlic and stir into onion. Add vegetables and cover with stock. Bring to a boil, then lower heat and simmer 20 minutes.

Add peas and season to taste with salt and pepper. Mix a little flour into a little water and add to thicken. Add more if necessary.  
Rub shortening into dry ingredients until they resemble bread crumbs. Add milk and stir just enough to moisten. Drop dumplings into hot stew liquid, cover and simmer, without removing cover, for 7 minutes. Serve at once

**Note:**

Half a can of kidney, pinto or romano beans may be stirred in with the peas if you want a bit more protein.

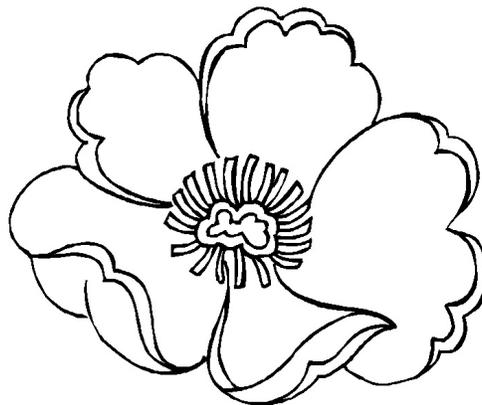
**GOT NEWS???**

Send to: Editor: Donna Crawford,  
[sparrowsong@eastlink.ca](mailto:sparrowsong@eastlink.ca).

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Valley Gardener's Club. There are purposely no pictures in the newsletters to allow for less expensive black and white printing.

**EXECUTIVE**

2017 : Pres: Philip Longmire  
Vice: Vacant  
Sec: Cinda Kaulkman  
Treasurer: Gerri Robertson  
Program: Robin Whidden  
Communications: Donna Crawford  
As of our AGM this month we require a Vice Pres., Sec., Treasurer, and Program Chair to take us into 2018.



Lest We  
Forget