



The Watering Can



Newsletter of the West Carleton Garden Club & Horticultural Society

DECEMBER 2016



NEXT MEETING

Tuesday December 13, 2016
Carp Memorial Hall
3739 Carp Road

PROGRAM

Holiday Potluck & Social

You're all invited, whether you're
Naughty or Nice, to our annual
Holiday Potluck and Social!

PLUS...

Silent Auction

Be sure to also partake in our
very popular Silent Auction, an
important fundraiser for the club!

TIME

Please arrive between
6:00 to 6:15 p.m.

Seating for dinner is at
6:30 p.m.

GREETER FOR THIS MEETING

Brenda Baird



DECEMBER MEETING...

HOLIDAY POTLUCK & SOCIAL

It's the holiday season and time to celebrate. What a great opportunity to eat amazing food, socialize with club members and unwind. Join us on **Tuesday, December 13th** for our annual **Holiday Potluck and Social**. This is your opportunity to share a favourite dish with the group.

Please bring...

- a tasty dish to share (hot or cold entrees, salads, sides, desserts)
- a serving utensil if it is needed
- your own dinner plate and cutlery
- your spouse, significant other, or a friend are also welcome



Bring your favorite dish!

Plan to arrive with your dish **between 6:00 and 6:15 p.m.** for placement on the buffet table. Seating for the buffet dinner service will be at 6:30 p.m.

Coffee, tea and Mary Reynolds' delicious punch will be provided by the club. There will be music, a slide show and lots of time to mix and mingle with fellow members and friends.

What better way to begin this festive season!

PLUS...

Silent Auction

As has been our custom at this time of year, our very popular Silent Auction will also be part of this holiday event. This is an important fundraiser for the club and we very much appreciate your contribution of a holiday floral centrepiece/arrangement. These are placed on the tables to liven up the holiday decor and then auctioned off with other donated items at the end of the evening.

So do plan on bringing a centrepiece of your own making to contribute to the cause. You might also choose to donate a garden-related item or other seasonal or home decor piece for the silent auction — **new or gently-used only please.**

Nancy Argue and Karen Buckley are running the silent auction this year and would gratefully accept help from other members who wish to

volunteer. Those donating items are asked to see Nancy or Karen upon arrival to hand over the items and get the bid sheets prepared for the auction.

This event is always a fun part of the evening, and for those of you who are newbies to the silent auction world or need a refresher on how to win at a silent auction, check out the opposite column for some classified, never-before-shared **Top-Secret Bidding Tips**.

P.S.—This is a great opportunity for you to take home a lovely centrepiece for your holiday dinner table plus pick up some very nice items for yourself or for Christmas gifts. So be sure to bring your wallets and checkbooks and get ready to start bidding! **Payment is by cash or cheque only.**

CARP CHRISTMAS PARADE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

On Saturday, December 10 the Huntley Community Association hosts their 8th Annual Christmas Parade in the village of Carp.



Our parade committee—**Nancy Argue, Brenda Baird, Donna Caldwell, and Susan Dowler**—are busy designing and decking out the club's entry for this year's parade. The theme is **"Thru the Seasons"**. The float will feature four trees decorated for each season. Thanks to Brenda for providing the trees.

Nancy, Brenda, Donna and Susan will ride on the float. Members are invited to walk alongside. Remember to wear your club apron. If you don't have one, ask us for a loaner. Come to the Diefenbunker parking lot after 10:30 a.m. to pick one up.

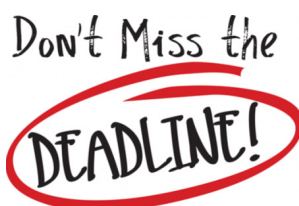
The **parade starts at noon** at the Diefenbunker, heads up Carp Road to Juanita Avenue, down Langstaff Drive to Donald B Munro Drive and then back up Carp Road to finish the loop at the Diefenbunker. Road closures are in effect during the parade.

Come on out and get into the holiday spirit!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

DEADLINE APPROACHING

The deadline for paying 2016-17 membership dues is fast approaching. The countdown is on and those members **who do not renew by December 13 will have their name removed from our mailing list**. Don't let this happen to you.



How to WIN AT A Silent Auction



TOP-SECRET BIDDING TIPS

1. Bid early and often; don't hold back! Let everyone know that you're here to win and don't let anyone outbid you!
2. Keep an eye on your items. There are people out there who will try to distract you from being the winning bidder. Here's one way they will do it, "Hey, did you see the last episode of The Real Housewives of Orange County? Those are some crazy girls!" Meanwhile, they send their spouse to outbid you. Don't let this happen! Distraction Drill: Let's just pretend the "fixed object" in this scenario is a bid sheet. Imagine someone is talking to you and you nod your head politely (as if you're listening) all while looking at the "fixed object" in the distance. If you practice this in your spare time, you'll be able to spot someone trying to outbid you. With some agility training and a quick "Gotta go!" you can race over and put down a new bid.
3. Be aware of when sections are closing, this auction has room for only one sprinter. In case you forgot, that sprinter would be me.
4. If there's something that you really want, keep bidding and stay close to the bid sheet. You may want to try this exercise that I find very useful in auction training. The "Safety Patrol Drill": Hold your arms out like a safety patrol, palms facing backwards, and slowly push back with your arms. Now pretend that people are pushing on your arms, trying to get in front of you. OK, visualize a bid sheet in front of you, keep those arms out... the section closes! You win! You may not win friends and influence people with the safety patrol strategy, but at least you'll win a sought-after package.

(Source: <http://whattheheck-littlej.blogspot.ca/2011/04/how-to-win-at-silent-auction.html>)

Please bring cash or a cheque (made out to West Carleton Garden Club) to the December potluck and see Karen Buckley or Nancy Argue at the membership desk. If you can't make it to this meeting, mail your cheque to: West Carleton Garden Club, c/o Karen Buckley, 3558 Torbolton Ridge Rd, Woodlawn ON K0A 3M0. Individual dues \$15, couple or family \$20.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We extend a big warm welcome to **Allan Wing** who joined us in November.



NOVEMBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Our November meeting was a full and busy one, starting out with our 27th annual general meeting. This was followed by a very interesting and informative presentation by master gardener Rebecca Last on "Taking Companion Planting to the Next Level". Another seed exchange also took place. In addition, a selection of member-donated gardening books, plus Christmas decor donated by Ruth Schultz who is downsizing, was available free for the taking.



In her address to the members at the AGM, **incoming president Brenda Baird** reported that 2015-16 had been a very busy and exciting year. The three major public events held—Ed Lawrence, Mark Cullen, and the garden tour—were all very successful. Monies raised have been or will be donated to the West Carleton Food Access Centre and the West Carleton War Memorial, and used for improvements to the Reading Garden at the Carp branch of the Ottawa Public Library. Our annual plant sale in May, a major fundraiser for the club, was one of the most successful in recent years, with sales over \$1,400. Membership grew to 124, with attendance at meetings averaging 60. Brenda thanked members for the very hard work they put in this past year and for making it such a success.

Outgoing treasurer Lorraine Jeffrey summarized the 2015-16 financial statements which had been distributed to the members by email. The year was an exceptionally good one with revenues from membership, yearbook advertising and the plant sale all above target, together with additional income from other fundraising and special events. At year end, August 31, the fund balances were \$13,386.88 for the Operating Fund and \$2,240.40 for the Reading Garden Reserve Fund. It was also noted that the club has outstanding commitments totalling \$2,180.85 that will be expensed in the new fiscal year. Lorraine ended her report noting that overall the club is in excellent financial shape with over \$4,300 more in assets and retained earnings compared to 2015.

The following photos were taken at the November meeting...

GARDENER'S APRONS FOR SALE

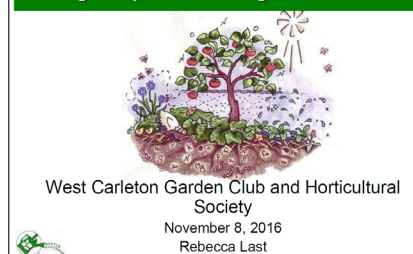


With the holiday season right around the corner, why not get a gardener's apron for someone you care about? We will have five gardener's aprons available for sale at the December meeting. The aprons are made of heavy weight, dark green, cotton-poly twill with three handy pockets to hold all your tools, while protecting your clothes. They also include an embroidery of our club flower, the *Aquilegia canadensis*, aka Columbine. **Price is \$35.** A great gift for yourself or your gardening buddy!



NOVEMBER SPEAKER'S PRESENTATION

Plant Guilds
Taking Companion Planting to the Next Level



Members who would like to view or download Rebecca's presentation will find a link on our website on the 2016-2017 Schedule of Speakers page or by copying the following link into your browser: http://www.wcgc.ca/lecturematerial/Plant%20Guilds2_revML.pdf



Top Left: Donna Christie presents the President's Pin to incoming president Brenda Baird.

Top Right: Organizer Donna Cook is all smiles with the success of the seed exchange.

Left: Brenda Baird with D2 Director Kathryn Lindsay who was present for the annual general meeting.



Leislle Alvarenga (left) and guest speaker Rebecca Last (right) were seen checking out the freebie table for gardening-related books.



While Adeline Colley (left) and Mary Reynolds (right) picked up some of the free Christmas decor donated by Ruth Schultz.

FALL CLEANUP OF GARDENS

READING GARDEN

The Fall cleanup of the Reading Garden is always a chore, and usually cold. This year was no exception, but we had a heart-warming turnout of eight members—**Adeline Colley, Brenda Baird, Donna Christie, Jill Barnicoat, Ken Sala, Leislle Alvarenga, Pam Leeks, and Ted Barnicoat**—who got the job done in double-quick time. Thanks to all.

[Contributed by Ted Barnicoat]

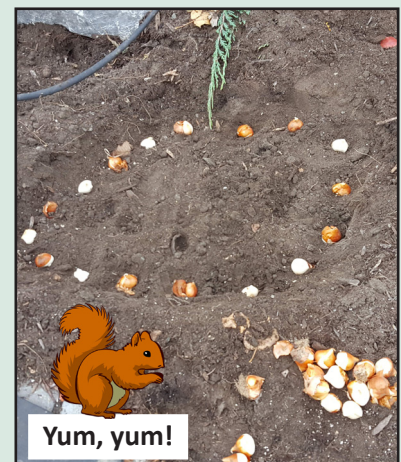
MEMORIAL HALL GARDEN

On November 1st, the annual Fall cleanup was attended by **Denise Burnham, Brenda Baird, Leislle Alvarenga, Donna Caldwell and Susan Dowler**.

Dave Creighton, who helped with the urn watering all summer, happened to be passing by so joined in for the team picture. The colossal size of the cannas this summer was helped along by fertilizer in every second watering.

Wendy Good donated a hundred of the Canada 150 tulip bulbs commemorating Canada's birthday next year. It should be a great showing in the spring if the squirrels don't get them.

[Contributed by Denise Burnham]



Yum, yum!

[More photos on page 5.]

FALL CLEANUP PHOTOS — READING GARDEN & MEMORIAL HALL GARDEN



Just...



bummin'...



around!



The windswept look is so in vogue.



Looks like they're all having a fun time... well maybe not *everyone*!



If I can't be in the group photo, then I'll take a selfie!



Where's Ken? ...



Oh, there he is!



Are we done yet?

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2016 / 2017

September 13

The Power of Pollinators

– with Dr James Coupland of FarmForest Research

Plus... Fall Vegetable, Fruit & Flower Show

September 22-25

WCGC Booth at Annual Carp Fair

October 11

It Starts With a Seed: How to collect, save and use seeds from your garden

– with Kate Green of USC Canada

Plus... Flower Seed Exchange

November 8

Taking Companion Planting to the Next Level – with Master Gardener Rebecca Last

Plus... WCGC Annual General Meeting
Plus... Seed Exchange

December 10

Float in Carp's Christmas Parade

December 13

Holiday Potluck and Social (no speaker)

Plus... Silent Auction

January 10

Creating an Edible Design – with Telsing Andrews of Aster Lane Edibles

February 14

Designing a Landscape for Large Lots

– with Welwyn Wong of Welwyn Wong Landscape Design

March 14

Child's Play: Gardening with children, fairies and more – with Master Gardener Judith Cox

April 11

Keep It Contained: Get inspired to create dazzling containers – with Master Gardener Catherine Disley

May 9

Perennial Pleasure: New varieties, favourites and how to choose and care for them – with Robert Wolodarski of Artistic Landscape Design
Plus... Mini Spring Flower Show

May - Date TBA

WCGC Plant Sale – Carp Farmers' Market

June 13

Spring Social (no speaker)

Plus... Plant & Vegetable Show

Plus... Election of 2017/2018 Executive

July & August

Summer Break - no planned events

2016 / 2017 EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT & PLANT SALE - Brenda Baird

613-839-3094

president@wcgc.ca

VICE-PRESIDENT - Kathleen Teahen

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PAST PRESIDENT - David Hinks

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NEWSLETTER - Lorraine Jeffrey

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MEMBERS AT LARGE - Leslie Alvarenga,

Donna Caldwell, Susan Dowler

ABOUT WCGC



The West Carleton Garden Club & Horticultural Society is a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association, District 2. The club was established in 1989 and joined the OHA in December 1990.



Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month (except July and August) in the Carp Memorial Hall, 3739 Carp Road at 7:30 p.m. where featured speakers share their knowledge.

Guests are always welcome to our meetings. The \$5 admission fee for guests can be applied toward an annual membership. Yearly membership fees are \$15 for an individual, and \$20 for a family and are due in September. Our membership year runs from September 1 through August 31. To inquire about membership, contact **Karen Buckley** at 613-832-2668 or **Nancy Argue** at 613-622-1122 or membership@wcgc.ca.

Visit us at WCGC.ca | Join us on Facebook

The Watering Can newsletter is published every month except in July and August.

Send your information, submissions and articles to Lorraine Jeffrey by email at newsletter@wcgc.ca.

Submission deadline for the January issue is December 28.