

# The Watering Can

West Carleton Garden Club & Horticultural Society

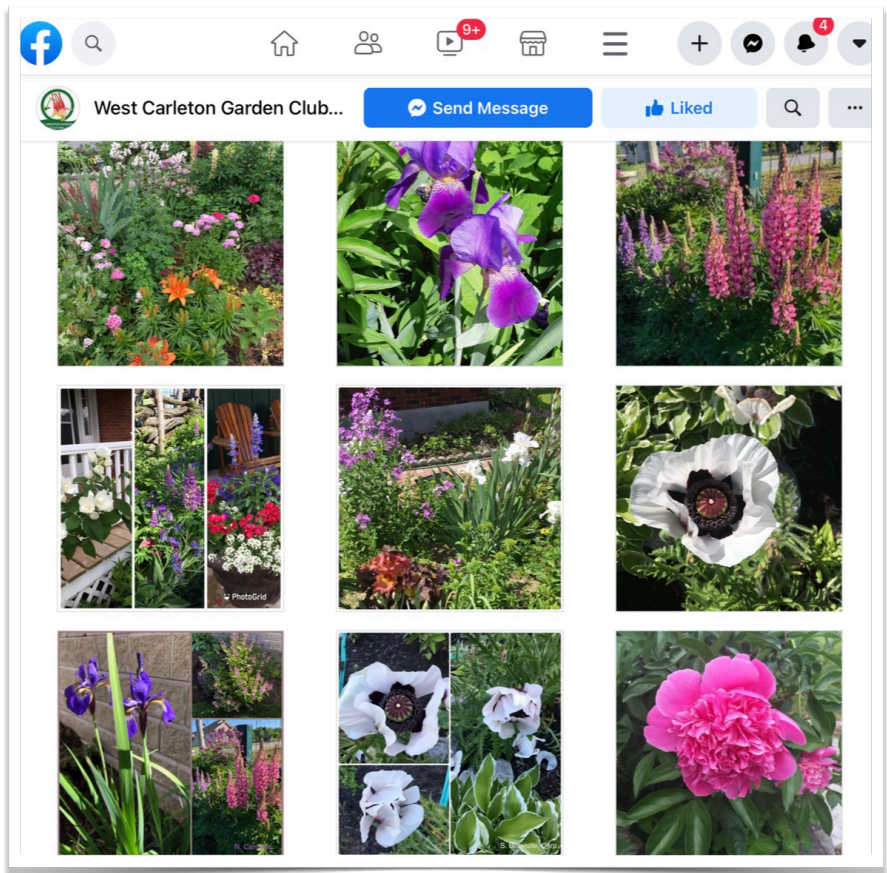
## Looking back...

Well, the pandemic and all its new protocols certainly defined 2020 for us and will likely affect us all going forward for a time, but surely that is not all that we will remember from the past year. From a gardening perspective, we had a good season despite a period of dry weather at the beginning of the summer. Gardens flourished in the end and were greatly appreciated by young and old as we once again rediscovered the joys of being outside in nature, a place of solace and comfort.

## Resolutions?

The start of the new year prompts resolutions. Topping many lists is the desire to contribute and act in an environmentally friendly way in many aspects of our lives, including to engage in green garden practices.

Green gardening requires us to align with nature's plan, to go native whenever possible, to recycle our waste into compost, to forgo harmful chemical fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides inasmuch as possible and if we are facing a real problem, to read labels and choose the most eco-friendly product we can find.



## Happy New Year!

Such a mild winter we have had so far! Not much snow cover either which delights drivers but frustrates skiers. We should get more in the coming weeks. Time to get bundled up and walking outside, after all we are intrepid gardeners and the outdoors is our playground.

We hope you are all well and in good spirits. Now is the time for garden planning and daydreaming about changes we can make to our gardens in the coming spring and seasons.

Do you recognize the pictures above and on p.2? They are from your gardens and they were posted on our Facebook and Instagram pages over the past year. Very well received...we will continue to solicit your input over the coming year.



## Planning for Spring

Now is the time to start planning for spring which will be here before we know it. Winter is a great time to cycle through our summer garden photos to find areas in our yards which need improvement, redefinition, rewilding or a complete change.

Winter is also a good time to search online or in gardening magazines for information and new inspiration. We have the time and the resources are all out there. The seed catalogues are available online - Vesey's, Richter's, William Dam Seeds, etc. as well as catalogues of diversity <http://seeds.ca/diversity/seed-catalogue-index>).

What about that new pergola, fire pit, patio or deck that we have been dreaming of putting in? This year would be good to tackle new projects, especially ones for the outside and around which we, family and friends can congregate, at a distance of course.

Your WCGC executive is working hard on trying to arrange online programming over the coming months which will help to bring us together during this continued challenging time. We will keep you posted! In the meantime, all the best to you and yours.

## 2021 WCGC PHOTO COMPETITION

Again, for 2021, photo entries will be submitted digitally. You can enter up to three photos each month. Photos must have been taken in Ontario in the last 24 months. Photos will be judged in November by an accredited Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA) judge. The merit of each photo will be based on the OHA standards as follows: horticulture value – 40%, photographic value – 40%, appearance and impact - 20%

Please send your digital pictures to Gay MacQuarrie at [gardens.gay@outlook.com](mailto:gardens.gay@outlook.com) **with the month and your name in the subject line of the digital entry**. The entries and winners will be revealed at the December meeting. (More details are available on the attachment to the covering email.)

- March – “Shapes in Nature” – a black and white photo (OHA)
- April – “He Shed She Shed” – a garden shed (OHA)
- May – “Spring Blossoms” – a close-up of tree blossoms; a single blossom or cluster (District 2)
- June – “Tears of Joy” – featuring dew or rain drops (OHA)
- July – “In Your Backyard” – a photo of your favourite perennial. Please identify variety (District 2)
- August – “The Heartland” – a rural landscape (OHA)
- September – “Garden Art” – a photo of art in the garden (District 2)
- October – “Fall Colours” – a single leaf or branch (District 2)
- November – “Frosty Morning” – your interpretation (OHA)

