



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

HORTICULTURAL HERALD

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Above: Alumni board members in the School of Horticulture greenhouse. Left to right: Karen Michaud '84, Zenia Buzanko '03, Charles Hunter '95, Andrea Weddum '13, Kyle Berwick '14 and Dylan Muileboom '12. Missing: Jon Peter '04, Kasia Zgurzynski '12, Kyra Zeldon '02, Cindy Maxwell '12 and Bailey Wilson '16.

The Annual Meeting of the Minds: Growing Toward a New Year With the Alumni

By Kasia Zgurzynski '12

It is always a pleasure to get together with the alumni and discuss progressive practices within horticulture, as well as how we can be involved in the advancement of the Association. On February 7th, the Board of Directors of the Alumni Association of the Niagara Parks Commission School of Horticulture was pleased to hold our Annual General Meeting in the Lecture Hall of the School of Horticulture.

During this gathering, we had the privilege of hearing some of the latest research on neonicotinoids (neonics) from George Scott, who is the founder of the Niagara Beeway. He discussed the extent these chemicals impact our environment and shared some of their characteristics. It was striking to hear of the residual effects. Since neonics are used in agriculture to coat seeds, their constituents remain in the soil for an extended period of time, resulting in traces of them being present in crops long afterward. This makes the use of additional neonics redundant and as more research unfurls, their general efficacy is being questioned — at least within current applications. New Ontario legislation is being unveiled that addresses this misuse.

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Past President: Charles Hunter '95
Vice President: Kasia Zgurzynski '12
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Executive Secretary

Karen Michaud '84
Alumni Association of the Niagara Parks
Commission School of Horticulture
8 Hahn Avenue,
Cambridge, ON N3C 2X9
Phone: 519-249-0381
Email: npcsha@gmail.com or
executivesec@alumninpcsoh.com

Foundation Board

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Alumni Association of the Niagara Parks
Commission School of Horticulture
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P.O. Box 263, Niagara Falls, ON L2E 6T3
Email: roundaboutthegarden@msn.com

Next Deadline: May 15, 2015

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Alumni Association 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.



From the President

By Zenia Buzanko '03

Dear Alumni,

Greetings!

Hopefully by now, wherever you may be, this issue will be a herald of Spring! Another tough winter in Ontario is finally coming to an end. As this is written the sky is white as snow, bright behind still stark-naked tree branches, but the temperature is a balmy six degrees, the eaves are dripping with snow melt, and birds are singing away. The horticultural year is definitely on the way. With clocks springing forward, Canada Blooms offering a whiff of flowers, and seed packets everywhere, I'm sure we are all ready for new beginnings.

And so we welcome nine new graduates to the Alumni, a new group of students at the School, and a new Board of Directors with new agendas all looking forward to what this year will bring. I encourage you to stay tuned, support your Alumni Association, and keep in touch. Every graduate is a part of the picture called "The Alumni." Pay your dues if you can, read your Horticultural Herald and digital media postings, attend events, and keep your info up-to-date. A little goes such a long way.

Well we tried. While there was a small turnout to the AGM, the weather once again was a challenge, and the day didn't quite go as planned, we still had a happy gathering of Alumni and students to make a day of it. We had good fellowship, good food, and lots of education. We stayed warm and cozy inside together. Thank you to attendees, to our Events Chair, Kasia Zgurzynski '12, the School of Horticulture and Student Association, Alumni Association Board of Directors, Foundation Board, and our speakers. Maybe next year we'll have better attendance.

New Board of Directors for 2015/2016

Honourary President: Bill Snowden '58, President: Zenia Buzanko '03, Past President: Charles Hunter '95, Vice President: Kasia Zgurzynski '12, Secretary: Cindy Maxwell '12, Treasurer and Executive Secretary: Karen Michaud '84, Associates: Kyra Zeldon '02, Blue Book Manager: Karen Michaud '84, Conference: Kasia Zgurzynski '12 & Kyle Berwick '14, Digital Media: Jon Peter '04, Historian: Dylan Muileboom '12, Horticultural Herald: Melissa Spearing '13, Anne Van Nest '83 & Zenia Buzanko '03, Membership: Kyra Zeldon '02, Publicity/Promotions: Andrea Weddum '13, Special Events: Kyle Berwick '14, School Liaison: Bailey Wilson '16 & Celia Le Maistre-Matthys '17.

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Graduate News

Hello From Eastern Ontario

by Matthew Barrett '08

Where does the time go? It still seems just like yesterday that I was studying for a PID test and working in the rose garden hilling up roses one last time. Since graduating I have had the pleasure of working as a landscape designer and horticulturist with The Scott Wentworth Landscape Group located in beautiful Prince Edward County, in Eastern Ontario. The experience of working alongside landscape architects, carpenters and hardscape professionals that all share a great enthusiasm and passion for the landscape industry is something I will never forget. One of the most satisfying experiences I had was being able to take an individual's ideas, spurred by their love of the outdoors, and create an outdoor living space that they have always dreamed of owning.



Above: Downes Residence designed by Matthew Barrett, The Wentworth Landscape Group.

The Wentworth Landscape Group has been in business for more than 20 years, and has been involved in many award winning community projects. These include the design and construction of Battery Park and the revitalization of Lake Ontario Park, both located in Kingston along the shores of Lake Ontario. In 2011 The Wentworth Group lead an exciting initiative that is now gaining traction throughout North America. The "Come Alive Outside" movement promotes the idea that everyone benefits from spending more time outdoors. This was the theme of the Landscape Ontario garden display that the company helped design and build for Canada Blooms in 2014.

If it wasn't for the experience and skills of working for such a professional organization I don't think I would be where I am in the industry today. But it was with a heavy heart that I left The Wentworth Landscape Group in 2012 and accepted the position of Grounds Manager at Queen's University in Kingston. This beautiful campus with its rich history, limestone buildings, English style planting beds, and large trees make it an enjoyable place for me to now hang my garden trowel. The grounds offer a diverse range of horticulture from vertical *Parthenocissus* covered walls to the more formal garden displays around the Principal's residence overlooking the arboretum. In 2013 the emerald ash borer was discovered in the Kingston area and with the University being located in the heart of the city, steps were taken to help protect the *Fraxinus* trees on campus. With approximately 130 ash trees on the University's two campuses, it was



Above: Matthew Barrett, Queen's University Grounds Manager and International Society of Arboriculture-certified arborist measures the circumference of an ash tree dating back to the 1920s.

determined that a multi-year plan of tree maintenance, TreeAzin treatments, and some removals will be necessary to protect the species. The 2015 summer season looks like another exciting and busy year with two new residence buildings being built and the addition of more outdoor green space for student use. The Grounds Department is also getting ramped up for the 175th anniversary festivities of Queen's University which will take place during the 2016-17 seasons. The annual garden beds will be transformed using Queen's University colours, with bright tulip displays, large annual displays during the summer, and the introduction of carpet bedding to the campus landscape. I encourage anyone passing by the campus to stop in for a campus tour.

Graduate News

My Old Friend Alf Savage

by Art Drysdale

It happened on Saturday, January 24, 2015. Alf Savage had been in hospital for the previous two weeks, the result of a couple of falls. He graduated from the School of Horticulture in the spring of 1952 — the same year he married his Niagara Falls girlfriend, Georgia Jean Bullock. They were a good match: she absolutely beautiful, and he strong and all muscles (which he was not above showing off at Alumni gatherings).

My own memories of Alf go back to about January 1961 when we were both attending the annual conference of the The Niagara Parks Commission School of Horticulture Alumni Association in Niagara Falls. For the next few years we would see each other at that annual conference. For ten years after graduation Alf worked (and partnered with) his father in the family business, Savage Greenhouses and Garden Centre in his native Sarnia.



Above: Alf & Georgia Savage in 1952 in front of Savage Greenhouses and Garden Centre in Sarnia, Ontario.

Around 1962, Alf decided to go into another area, specifically the public sector, joining the Sarnia Board of Education as Superintendent of Buildings, Grounds and Maintenance. It was about that time that I made my move to Sheridan Nurseries Ltd. in Toronto. About four years later while at my desk at Sheridan I received a surprise call from Alf whose immediate question was, “What the heck is the Borough of York?”

My response was lengthy as Metro Toronto, somewhat newly formed, had just amalgamated the 13 original municipalities

into six, and the second smallest was the Borough of York, which consisted of the old Township of York, and adjacent Town of Weston. Apparently Alf had applied for the new position of Commissioner of Parks and Recreation in the Borough of York and really didn’t know much about the municipality. So, after our conversation he did and he went on to get the job in 1966. Slightly later that year he was appointed to the Government of Ontario Select Committee on the Construction Sector.

During his time with the Borough of York there’s a great story about his breaking a pencil to make a point at one City Council meeting. Alf and I were out driving looking at some particular aspects of parks one day, and he said he had the entire day except that around 2 PM he needed to stop by the City Council meeting for “a few minutes.” We organized our driving to suit that. I stayed out in the car and did some work, while he went into Council. Before that, Alf told me the problem was that he wanted (not necessarily needed) a new truck for his department and he was competing with the Works Commissioner who badly needed (by Alf’s own admission) radios for their fleet of trucks (which Alf’s department already had), and Council would have to decide which department would get the money.

When Alf came back out to me he was laughing, and I said “Well obviously you were successful!” He replied, “Yes!” Then he told me how he did it. When he stood to back his request he ended by saying that if his department did not get the truck, it would “break the department just like this” and as he said that he picked up a pencil with both hands and broke it in two. The vote was taken, and Alf got his truck, and the Works Department did not get their radios. That was typical of Alf. He told us at the luncheon, when he retired, that the staff gave him a large bundle of pencils tied with a red ribbon upon his leaving the department!

The years 1968 and 1969 were significant for Alf and I as well as the Parks and Recreation Association of Canada (later CP/RA). In March 1968 I converted from part-time executive secretary of the Association, and in August in London, Ontario at the annual conference Alf was elected Ontario Director.

Shortly thereafter, Alf and I, along with John Janzen the president, began talking about my office organizing a study tour of Europe for professional parks people. We ended up

Graduate News

with 21 participants including Alf and Georgia, John and Sid Janzen and George and Winnie Dalby. We toured ten major European cities in seven countries. Alf made copious notes and developed case studies on European urban parks systems presenting his findings to urban planners from across Canada.

In 1972 Alf was appointed General Manager of the City of Edmonton Parks & Recreation Department – at the time, the largest single urban park organization in North America. In 1977 he was appointed Commissioner of Public Affairs for the City of Edmonton which included responsibility for the departments of Parks and Recreation, Fire, Police, Social Services, Health, Libraries, Planning, Real Estate, Bylaw Enforcement and Housing.

During his tenure with the City of Edmonton Alf played a lead role in the development of the North Saskatchewan River Valley Parks System, the Muttart Conservatory, Fort Edmonton Park and the John Janzen Nature Centre. He served as a Director of the 1978 Commonwealth Games Foundation, was the City representative on the board of the Edmonton Exhibition Association and served as President of the Canadian Parks/Recreation Association (CP/RA). Alf was an enthusiastic Eskimos & Drillers fan and the City's representative for professional sports organizations. He was instrumental in the development and construction of Commonwealth Stadium and the Edmonton Coliseum.

In 1981 I had another call from Alf when he was in Edmonton, to tell me that he had been down to Toronto to visit with Paul V. Godfrey, the Chairman of Metropolitan Toronto. He told me the Metro Chairman wanted him back in Toronto to run the Canadian National Exhibition. Not long after that he called me from Toronto to tell me that Paul Godfrey had changed his mind — wanting him to run the TTC instead of the CNE.

Soon, in late 1981 Alf was appointed Chief General Manager of the Toronto Transit Commission, President of the Gray Coach Lines and Senior Director of the Toronto Transit Consultants. He was a member of the City of Toronto Technical Planning Committee; a member of the Board of the Canadian National Exhibition Association and an advocate for Heritage Toronto. During his tenure the TTC experienced record ridership levels, opened the Scarborough RT line and introduced articulated streetcars to the TTC fleet.

While he was at the TTC I was broadcasting my gardening

and farm shows from the country's largest radio station, CFRB. The radio station was then located at Yonge and St. Clair in central Toronto. One day a client of mine came in to take me to lunch at a restaurant right across the road. We barely got seated when I heard a familiar voice barreling out somewhere nearby. I asked our waiter was it in fact Alf Savage I heard so loudly? Indeed it was. I sent him a note via the waiter saying "Hush, hush there are others of us in the restaurant!" A minute later Alf appeared at our table to advise that he was with the TTC Union Reps, and that he intended to settle the strike before they left that afternoon. He did! It was on that night's TV news. That was Al Savage at work.

In 1987 Alfred and Georgia took their show on the road and moved to the USA. At the behest of New York Governor Mario Cuomo (who sent a delegation to Toronto to hire him away from Toronto) Alf was appointed Executive Director of the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (NFTA) and President of Metropolitan Rail in Buffalo, New York. He lead NFTA through a period of unprecedented challenges and growth. Headquartered in Buffalo, Alf was responsible for the administration of three airports and all transit agencies in the area.



Above: School of Horticulture students including Alf Savage (middle back row) beside the residence fireplace taken during the spring of 1951.

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Above: School of Horticulture students Neil Campbell, Alf Savage (middle), and Bob Rootes around 1951.

In 1990 Alf was hired by Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley as Chief Executive Officer of the Chicago Transit Authority to stabilize and revitalize the Windy City's legendary transit system. I well remember him telling me of some of the political wars he went through, particularly as regards to hiring new senior staff. By mutual agreement Chicago bought him out of his lucrative contract and he and Georgia returned to Springbank, Alberta in 1992.

Alf then quickly assumed a prominent role with the Progressive Conservative Party of Alberta. That included weekend trips to Belt Sander Races in the U.S. with Premier Ralph Klein's "Kitchen Cabinet." All of this fitted well with Alf's approach to life. He served as the Executive Director of the Alberta School Bus Association and continued his life-long passion for horticulture as a dedicated volunteer, advocate, Director and Chairman of Olds College. In 1998, Alf was elected President of the PC Party of Alberta. His public service continued with him serving as Chairman of the Alberta Automotive Rates Insurance Board and as a member of the Alberta Municipal Government Board. Alf lectured extensively on urban transportation and planning including engagements in Peru, Bolivia, China and Poland. In 2008 Alf retired to Edmonton where he reconnected with old friends and enchanted new ones with his friendship, loyalty and wonderful presence.

Ave atque vale, Alf!

Preceding article originally published February 1, 2015 on the www.icangarden.com website. Reprinted with permission.

"We have lost an outstanding individual who accomplished a lot in his lifetime and we appreciated his joining us for the OPA and NPC 75th celebrations in 2011 and giving us his thoughts on parks systems today. Alf lived life to its fullest and enjoyed his careers as well as the outdoors. An amazing man who accomplished a lot, helped a lot of others – particularly Niagara grads and made the world a much better place. Hail and Farewell Alf." ~ Tom Clancy '61

"I first met Alf when I was trying to decide what to do after high school. He encouraged me to go to the School of Horticulture and gave me a good reference. He was a good friend for the rest of his life. After Niagara I went to Michigan State U. and while there worked two summers in Sarnia and kept in touch with Alf. After MSU I became the Grounds Supervisor at Western about the same time as Alf became the Parks and Recreation Commissioner in the Borough of York. I had only been at Western a year and a half when Alf offered me the Parks Directors job in York. We worked together for about five years when he left for Edmonton. I had a great job and a great boss. Several years later I applied for the Manager of Planning and Development in Parks and Recreation in Edmonton. I am sure Alf was responsible for my getting the job. It was obvious in Edmonton that Alf had hired quite a number of Niagara grads. We had our own Alumni Association. Alf was the leader on and off the job. We had many outings which included hiking, camping, canoeing and cross country skiing. After Alf left it was never the same. I did manage to see Alf twice while he was in Calgary. While we were a long way apart many times he was always a good friend. I owe him a lot and I will miss him knowing he is not out there conquering the world." ~ Dave DeShane '61

"Although Alf had some prestigious positions it never went to his head, he was always plain Alf." ~ Bill Browne '48

"Such sad news. Our condolences go out to all who knew him." ~ David K. Hunt '03

"Wow what a legacy Alf left, with just about everything he was involved with. He certainly led a very interesting and fulsome life." ~ Hans Loewig '68



Passing of Alf Savage '52

Excerpts from the Edmonton Journal, originally published on Friday, January 30, 2015.

Savage, Alfred H.

March 29, 1930 – January 24, 2015

Alfred was born and raised in Sarnia, Ontario. He graduated from the Niagara Parks School of Horticulture in Niagara Falls where he met and married his beloved wife, Georgia Jean Bullock in 1952.

Alf was committed to public service. He was a horticulturist, naturalist and avid outdoorsman who enjoyed fishing hunting, canoeing and hiking. From military bayonets to antique tobacco tins, orchids to rhododendrons, Alf and Georgia's collections and gardens where remarkable.

Notwithstanding his busy professional life Alf always had time for his children, his grandchildren and his friends. Road trips, fishing trips and garden parties where frequent. Alfred was generous to a fault and he cherished the special relationships that he nurtured with his colleagues and neighbors over the years.

Alfred was the son of Harry and Isabelle Savage (nee McMahon). In 2009 Alf was predeceased by his wife Georgia. He is survived by his children, Michael, Eric (Sonya), Regina (Wayne), Carrie May (Len) and LJ (Donna). He leaves behind nine grandchildren; five great-

grandchildren; brother, Bruce (Elizabeth) and many loving nieces and nephews.

A Memorial Service was held February 6 at 3:00 p.m. at the "Capital Theatre," Ft. Edmonton Park, Fox Drive. A Celebration of Alf's life followed at the Alfred H. Savage Centre, Whitemud Park.

In lieu of flower tributes, donations to the Fort Edmonton Foundation would be appreciated. <https://www.canada-helps.org/en/charities/fort-edmonton-foundation/>

To send condolences, please visit www.connelly-mckinley.com.

"I fondly remember the backpacking trip to Mt. Robson. Alf and I were in the same pup tent and we were camped near Berg Lake. I'm not sure if Alf's feet were inside the tent or outside the flap. It had rained like hell all night and in the morning, a steady stream of water was flowing through our tent. Alf had had enough. In his usual flamboyant fashion, he woke everyone else up in the camp and all were on their way shortly thereafter.

As the Commissioner of Public Affairs, he was always fair and yet firm. You knew where you stood. I will remember him for his varied interests and the fact that he was very approachable and interested in others." ~ John Morley '64

"Such sad news on the loss of a proud graduate of the NPC School Of Horticulture. I remember first meeting him one evening at the school when I was in my first year. He came to drop off boxes of books before he moved to Edmonton." ~ John Howard '75

"About a week ago, I was roused from a deep sleep thinking there was someone in the room — could have sworn there was a couple of guys telling jokes and kibitzing about. Now I realize it was Alf showing up in heaven and Neil (Campbell) giving him hell for making him wait so long! Oh I am sure there will be some mighty fine stories being told now — what a pair!" ~ Greg Kett '72

"Alf Savage certainly did lead an incredible life and brought a lot of prestige to the School with his travels and his desire to make improvements at the municipal level. He was a model for those graduates seeking to work in the public sector." ~ Bob Kennedy '73

"A loss to all things parks." ~ John Lohuis (Niagara Parks)

"He really was an outstanding man." ~ Melissa McKerlie '96

"As a young man meeting Alf for the first time some 30+ years ago he made me feel important, included and that I mattered. I'm sure he made everyone that he met and liked feel the same way." ~ Brad Thomson (W.H. Reynolds Ltd).

Alumni News



Passing of Bill Campbell, Honourary Member – Awarded 1998

Reprinted from Obitsforlife.com.

Campbell, William Lyall (Bill)

Passed peacefully, surrounded by his family on December 26, 2014 at the Stedman Community Hospice Hankinson House in his 82nd year.

Best friend and beloved husband of 59 years of Dorothy, loving father of Barbara (Richard) and Dave (Tim), cherished son of the late William and Leda Campbell. Survived by dear cousins Earl Canham, Cecil (Kay) Adams, Clarence (Barbara) Adams, John (Jennifer) Adams, Robert (Margaret) Campbell, Nelson (Pat) Campbell, Mavis (George) Gough, Muriel (Brian) Laughton and Heather (Murray) Arthur.

Bill studied soils and crops at the Ontario Agricultural College where he graduated in 1955 and completed his Masters degree in 1957. In 1958, he and a silent partner established Fairlawn Sod Nursery Limited and planted their first farm on Powerline Road near Lynden. Bill and Dorothy moved to Brantford in 1960. Bill earned his M.B.A. at McMaster a few years later.

During Bill's 42 years of involvement in turf production, he established other Canadian farms in Breslau, Tilbury, Ottawa, Montreal and Québec City. With the addition

of U.S. farms in Canfield, Ohio and Kissimmee, Florida, Fairlawn Sod became, for a time, the largest sod farming operation in North America. He was very proud of the staff who stayed with the businesses for many years.

Bill was a charter member of the Nursery Sod Growers Association of Ontario and served as president. He was honoured to be one of the first Canadian presidents of the American Sod Producers Association (now Turfgrass Producers International). In retirement, he served on the advisory board of the Guelph Turfgrass Institute.

Bill loved many things in life: family, laughter, business, reading, dancing, music, theatre, dogs, photography, travel, sunsets and beach walks in Sarasota. He cherished his volunteer involvement in a number of organizations including Rotary, Enterprise Brant, Brant Community Foundation, Samuel W. Stedman Foundation, Sanderson Centre, St. Andrew's United Church, Trillium Foundation and the Brantford General Hospital. He loved spending time with friends at the golf course, the curling rink, Probus, Rotary, Tuesday lunch group, his Friday coffee hours and especially his Thursday Think Tank group.

In his mid-seventies, Bill started a Bucket List. He rode a mule to the bottom of the Grand Canyon and stayed overnight at Phantom Ranch with Barbara and Richard, who hiked down. He attended the Masters Golf Tournament and rode in a glider. At 77, he entered the Rotary Classic 5K – his first running race since high school. He ran it twice more, each year raising thousands of dollars for Rotary. He was disappointed that he was unable to participate when he was



Above: Bill Campbell and Misty lying on Fairlawn Sod.

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80, as he had hoped to win his age group.

Bill believed strongly in helping others and giving back to his community, particularly through the Brant Community Foundation where he and Dorothy established the first Donor Advised Fund, which supports the work of Kids Can Fly including the Launch Pad at Graham Bell-Victoria School. Bill was grateful for his education at the University of Guelph where he established an annual scholarship and provided longtime financial support. He served as President of Rotary, Chair of the Board for the Brantford General Hospital, Chair of Enterprise Brant and President of Probus.

Along with Dorothy, Bill was tremendously honoured to receive the David A. Neill Philanthropy Award in 2010 and the Business Excellence Award for Outstanding Achievement from the Brantford-Brant Chamber of Commerce in 2011. Bill was proud to receive Rotary Paul Harris Fellow Awards in 1985 and 2007.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Bill's memory may be made to the Brant Community Foundation, the Kids Can Fly Imagination Library program or to any charity that touches your heart. Above all, he would have encouraged friends to reach out in acts of kindness to help others.

<http://www.obitsforlife.com/obituary/1021658/Campbell-William.php>



Above: Harold Spence (left) and Charles Simpson (middle) during surveying class in 1946 with Instructor Jack Kimmel '42 (right).

Passing of Charles Simpson '47

Reprinted from the Grand Rapids Press, February 15, 2015.

Simpson, Charles McLaughlan

Born 12/30/1922 - 2/7/2015

Charlie passed away peacefully in his 94th year at Niagara Hospice Stabler Centre, in St. Catharines, Ontario after complications from a fall. He is survived and cherished by his wife of more than 64 years, Margaret (Ashmore), and his brother, Crawford Simpson. Beloved father and hero of children Karen and Ted Konkle, and the late Jon Simpson (Marie) of Grand Rapids. Grandpa will be sadly missed by Jessica and Drew Moore, Jordan and Lori Simpson, Ashley Simpson, Amanda & Chad VanderMeulen, and Great-Grandchildren; Addison and Emmalyn, Hudson, Brynlee, and Breslyn.

Charlie was very active and enjoyed life to its fullest. He worked for Canada Department of Agriculture as a Fruit Insect Specialist for 35 years and had a passionate interest in photography and botany. Charlie was fortunate to enjoy 33 years of retirement as a snowbird with his wife and best friend, Margaret. He was an extraordinary dancer and teacher; actively involved in the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society branches located in St. Catharines, Ontario and Dunedin, Florida for over 50 years.

He is preceded in death by his brothers Robert, John, Will and parents, Robert and Martha. Cremation has taken place.

A Sharing of Memories was held at Tallman Funeral Home, 3277 King Street, Vineland, ON L0R 2C0, Canada on Saturday, February 21st. All who knew him will miss his sense of humour & kind and gentle soul. Tallman Funeral Home, Vineland, Ontario, Canada.

<http://obits.mlive.com/obituaries/grandrapids/obituary.aspx?pid=174160820>

.....
Excerpt from "Garden School Days" Class of 1947...the largest class to ever graduate [16 graduates] from the School and also perhaps the most notorious in many ways. It was largely comprised of returning veterans of the World War II with very different ideas on how a school should be operated. They had a great deal to teach the [Niagara Parks] Commission members about the new world they helped create! They deserve great credit for presenting a strong voice for all the students that followed.

Graduate News

Graduate Quoted in *The New York Times*

by Anne Van Nest

Melanie Sifton, '96 was quoted in an article by Michael Tortorello in *The New York Times* that ran on January 28, 2015. In the article, *Five Minutes to Moonflower, Planting a Clock that Tracks Hours by Flowers*, Sifton was quoted about some of the plants listed on Linnaeus' flower clock. This flower clock, or horologium florum, from the 18th century, is designed to include the few flowers that open and close at regular hours during the day.

Carl Linnaeus, in his 1751 treatise "Philosophia Botanica" described his field observations dividing flowers into three categories. The meteorici open and close with the weather. The tropici follow the changing hours of daylight. And the aequinoctiales, Linnaeus wrote, "open precisely at a certain hour of the day and generally shut up every day at a determinate hour." From this third category, the aequinoctiales, Linnaeus compiled a list of a few dozen plants to open and close with the hours, such as hawkweed, garden lettuce, marigold, and daylily.

Some of Linnaeus' choices can be seen growing at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, said Melanie Sifton, 39, the garden's vice president for horticulture. But they're not prize specimens in the collection; they're roadside weeds and volunteers. "Some Northern European wildflowers are our weeds," Ms. Sifton said. European bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*), for example, may open like the chiming of a clock at 5 a.m. But, Ms. Sifton said: "No gardener wants that weed. It has roots that go down to hell."

The entire article can be found on The New York Times website: www.nytimes.com/2015/01/29/garden/planting-a-clock-that-tracks-hours-by-flowers.html

To see some of the plants in Linnaeus' horologium florum, and to test your identification skills see the image quiz on page 27.

"April prepares her green traffic light and the world thinks Go!" ~ Christopher Morley



A New Arrival in the Ottawa Valley

Stephen Schuler '02 & Laura Schuler '03 are proud to announce the arrival of their third daughter.

Darla Jeanne was born Valentine's Day at 8:55pm weighing 6 lbs and measuring 18.5 inches. Darla is welcomed by big sisters Rory Rebecca and Leia Lynn.



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Niagara Parks News

Managing Emerald Ash Borer

by Scott Priest '86 and Corey Burant

Parks and forestry staff at Niagara Parks Commission have been monitoring and evaluating the impact of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) as it has made its way across Ontario and into the Niagara region. The arrival of Emerald Ash Borer to NPC in 2012 has resulted in significant environmental land management and public safety concerns. The presence of EAB has already begun to affect ash tree health throughout the Parks.

This non-native insect burrows into ash tree bark and removes the ability of the tree to retain the nutrients it will need to sustain its health and growth. In response, NPC has developed a proactive Emerald Ash Borer Forestry Management Plan to address the impact of this particular species, which has affected the high concentration of ash trees found at the Legends on the Niagara Golf Complex.

One strategy to be implemented in the winter of 2015 (through 2016) is low-intensity thinning to take place on a 40 hectare (100 acre) parcel of land in the northeast area of Legends on the Niagara. Also in 2015, as part of NPC's efforts to proactively managing the EAB issue, while ensuring a long-term healthy tree inventory/tree canopy along the Parkway for its residents and visitors, 40,000 new trees and seedlings will be planted across NPC properties.

What is Emerald Ash Borer?

- The Emerald Ash Borer is a non-native invasive insect that has killed millions of ash trees in southwestern Ontario and in the United States of America.
- Infested ash trees will die off within two to five years.
- EAB poses a major economic and environmental threat to urban and forested areas.
- Emerald ash borer feeds on all ash (*Fraxinus* spp.) species in Ontario, including green, red, white, black, blue, and non-native species such as European black ash.
- Native to Asia, the Emerald Ash Borer was first discovered in Ontario in Windsor, in June 2002 and in the Niagara Region in 2009. Emerald Ash Borer infestation within Niagara Parks was confirmed in 2012. Now it is found across much of southern Ontario east to Ottawa and north to Sault Ste. Marie.

- The Niagara Region has been deemed by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) as a "regulated area" which prevents the movement of any ash material and firewood of all ash species out of the Niagara Region into non-regulated areas.

Species Identification and Life Cycle

- Shiny metallic-green adults emerge in June/July and are 8.5 to 13.5 mm long.
- Adults have a flattened head, with large black compound eyes on the sides of the head, and short antennae.
- Eggs are laid one at a time in bark crevices on ash trees.
- Cream-coloured larvae, 26 to 32 mm long, flattened with a brown head and pincers.
- Larvae overwinter under the bark and pupate in April or May.



Above: Adult Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*). Bottom left: 30 mm long larvae tunneling in the ash cambium. Bottom right: "S" shaped galleries from larvae feeding.

Symptoms and Damage

- Larvae feed by chewing "S" shaped galleries under the bark. This tunneling girdles the tree, cutting off the flow of food and water; branch mortality leads to whole tree mortality.
- Adults leave "D" shaped exit holes 4 to 5mm across on the bark of infected trees. Sawdust will be evident in tunnels.
- New shoots growing on branches and trunk.

The arrival of the invasive species into Niagara Parks in 2012 has already resulted in a decline in ash tree health.

Niagara Parks News

In response, NPC has inventoried all ash trees within its jurisdiction. The number of ash tree removals by NPC Forestry staff due to declining health and safety hazards has nearly doubled from 137 in 2013 to 225 in 2014.

The Management Plan

In the first year of the EAB Management Plan, there have been a number of steps taken to assess and mitigate the impacts of this invasive species within NPC's jurisdiction. Some of the steps that have been taken include:

1. Inventory Monitoring and Assessment

During the summer 2014, a student was hired to inventory trees species within forested areas throughout Legends on the Niagara (LOTN) Golf Course property. Aside from ash trees, other significant species were inventoried to enable staff to develop reforestation plans for these ash-dominated areas based on existing species.

2. Ash Tree Removals

Parks forestry staff have removed a number of ash trees with declining health throughout Niagara Parks which pose a threat to public safety, specifically in public areas and playable areas of LOTN.

3. Treatment of Ash Trees

The current treatment for control of EAB is TreeAzin, an insecticide (bio-pesticide) which has been proven effective for protection and treatment of the larvae. The chemical is injected into the tree and distributed throughout the canopy, where it affords two years protection from EAB. In 2014, 10 trees were treated at the Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens, Queen Victoria Park, Queenston Heights Park, and Oak Hall. Another 14 ash trees will be treated in the Botanical Gardens in 2015 as part of their management plan. The use of TreeAzin will reduce over time as replanting with a variety of native tree species is the most cost effective long-range solution to managing EAB.

4. Tree Planting

Over 300 large-sized caliper trees and 2,000 potted tree saplings were planted throughout Niagara Parks in the fall of 2014 in direct response to EAB. A variety of native tree species (excluding ash) were planted to increase tree cover and replace dead or declining ash trees along the Niagara Parkway and within park lands.

Indirectly related to the EAB Management Plan, over 25,000 native tree seedlings were planted at LOTN to reforest 24 acres. In an area with high concentrations of ash trees, this planting will ensure biodiversity remains within these areas.

5. Low-Intensity Tree Thinning

NPC is in the process of facilitating a low-intensity thinning program within a 40 hectare forested parcel at LOTN.

The goal of this program is to remove and utilize existing ash and other tree species while they are still merchantable, which will open up the forest canopy to allow the growth



Top: 25,000 native tree seedlings were planted at Legends on the Niagara last fall. Bottom: Children learn about planting and the native tulip tree during a planting day last fall initiated under the Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan.

From the School

of other tree species currently present or to be planted. The program will also reduce the number of hazard trees present around playable and public areas. Under the direction of a Registered Professional Forester, only 30-40% of the forested canopy will be removed using good forestry practices. This program will take place over 2015 and 2016. Once completed, the planting of native tree seedlings will be implemented within thinned areas.

For more information on the Niagara Parks Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan visit the website:

<https://www.niagaraparks.com/files/Emerald-Ash-Borer-Information-Boards.pdf>



Welcome to Jessie Bond and Jason Leavens, two new Instructor Curators who joined the Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens and School of Horticulture staff in 2014.



Reunited with the Bur Oak

by Caleb Greisman '16

In March I had a week holiday from the School of Horticulture to do anything that I wanted. Being in the steady, encapsulating environment that is the School is very rewarding, as well as exhausting at times. A break just before beginning the third and final year of the program is a gift. While it can be hard to return after some time away, there is no denying the euphoria I felt when I stepped back into the Botanical Garden. Seeing my peers and the staff is the same as being reunited with any old friend after time apart. There are certain relationships that cannot be matched outside the “confinements” of the garden.

I’m sure staff and students, past or present, have a place in the garden that is special to them. It may be an entire area, or just one plant within a space. Some people may have many favourites. For me, there is one tree in particular that always gives me a rush to lay eyes upon. While the Old Specimen Area has many wonderful plants within it, there is a very large *Quercus macrocarpa* (bur oak) that always puts a smile on my face as I walk by or stop to wrap my arms around it. The huge trunk, with its deeply grooved bark leading up to its wide-spreading canopy, is something that has always caught my attention.

From the School



Above and previous page: The majestic Quercus macrocarpa in the Old Specimen Area is listed in the BG Base records as Accession number 940033, "Original oak on the property."

I remember being toured through the garden before starting my first year and marveling at the tree as I walked by. As I progressed through that first year at the school I became more attached to it. Walking by in summer when rays of sunlight blast through the full, green canopy is spectacular. Walking by in the dead of winter when a fresh layer of snow surrounds the tree, and its gnarly canopy is contrasted against a clear blue sky always makes me pause to absorb the intense beauty. Seeing this oak after a week away only reinforces my feelings towards it.

Size can be deceiving when relating it to the age of a tree; however, it is obvious that this specimen has lived through many years. I like to think of the other graduates that have walked by the tree and paused to acknowledge it, and the students of the future that will do so as well. To me, this bur oak is like a thread weaving together the many layers of students that make up the history of the garden, as well as those that appreciated the tree before the school opened. It is a symbol of the past, present, and the future. A well-known quote of Nelson Henderson comes to mind, "The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit." I'm thankful that this tree in particular was planted, for it has provided shade for myself, among many others.

I love this tree. I know that I'm not alone in this relationship and I don't mind sharing.

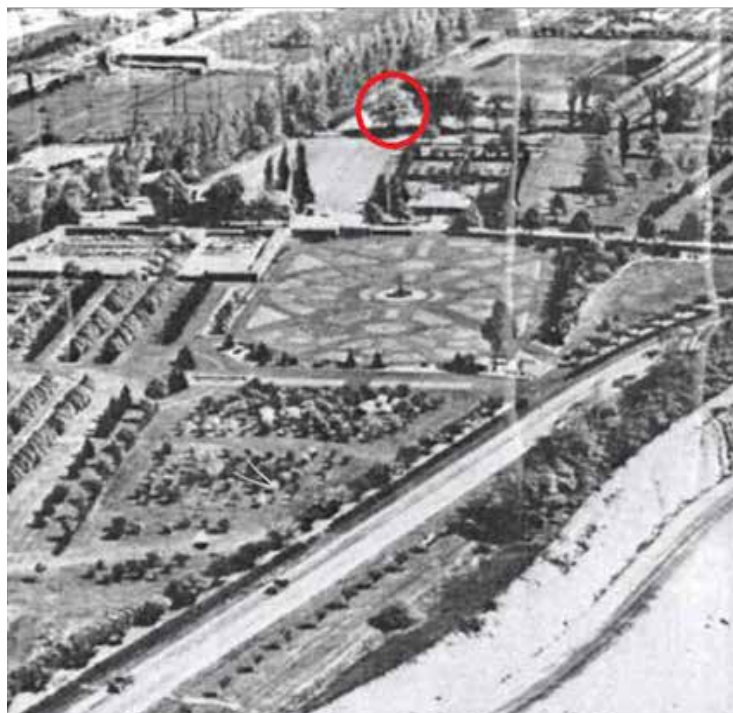
Tagging the OSA Trees

by Dennis Eveleigh

During the month of February 2015, I had a third-year student from the class of '15, Heather Skrypnyk working on the Plant Documentation winter project.

Heather told me that the one thing she really wanted to do, was to put tags on all the trees in the Old Specimen Area (OSA). This is the centre area of the botanical gardens near the stone circle on the way to the Butterfly Conservatory. She told me the reason she wanted to do this was because when students work in the OSA area they are constantly asked by the visitors what the names of the trees are, because most of them do not have a label or tag.

So as a result, Heather completed the tag inventory as well as made and placed all the missing tags on all the trees in the OSA. In her last days here before graduation, Heather told me that she was not going to leave until this task was completed. She finished this job completely on February 26, despite the very cold temperatures outside that week.



Above: The circle shows the robust size of the Quercus macrocarpa in the Old Specimen Area of the School of Horticulture in 1952.

Board Reports

From the Desk of the Secretary

By Karen Michaud '84

Get involved!

Memberships were due on March 1st. Renewal forms are attached to your Herald, and available on our website. Payment can be made by check or credit card. Please take the time to send in the contact information form, even if you are not paying your dues at this time, so we can make the changes in the Blue Book.

Contact information is missing for a number of graduates. The list is in this edition of the Herald. If you know anyone on the list, ask them to send in their current contact information.

The complete Annual Business Meeting report is available in PDF, and can be emailed to you at your request or visit the link on the Alumni website. <http://alumninpcsoh.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/2015-Annual-Business-Meeting-PDF-1.pdf>

As you know, we keep a list of employment opportunities; please let me know if you see anything out there of interest to Alumni so we can post it on our website or pass it on to interested paid up graduates.

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
Phone: 519-249-0381 Email: npcsha@gmail.com or executivesec@alumninpcsoh.com.

From the President

[continued from page 2]

Donations continue to arrive for our Legacy Prairie Garden. If you want to be included too and see your name on the list of contributors, you can still send in your gifts to the Foundation. Also this is your chance to get involved with planning. There are still projects to plan and fund and therefore a new steering committee is needed. If this is you, or someone you know, please step

forward and let me know by emailing president@alumninpcsoh.com.

Membership dues have started coming in — March is when dues are payable. If you haven't yet sent in your payment let this be a reminder. We now have fillable forms for online payment, let me know if you didn't receive one. The website feature for paying online is still forthcoming. There are expenses to running an Alumni Association, and our coffers reflect the support of our members, so if you're working please get those dues in. If you're waiting for the new season before you can pay that is fine too, we will keep sending reminders.

This year we will be planning a conference to celebrate the upcoming 80th anniversary of the School of Horticulture. So start preparing for 2016 — we'll need a conference committee and lots of support. Hope to hear from you!

Until next time, Zenia Buzanko '03.

Horticultural Herald Report

By Anne Van Nest '83

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.

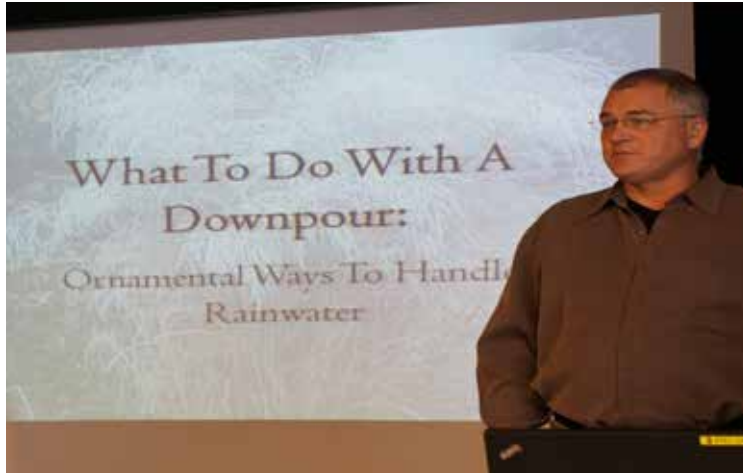
Looking forward, the 2015 editorial deadlines are May 15, August 15, and November 15. The issue is planned to be published during the month following the editorial deadline.

The wHorticultural 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!

The next deadline is: **May 15, 2015 for June printing.**

Annual General Meeting



[continued from the front cover]

Sean James, of Fern Ridge Landscaping, enlightened the audience with his experiences and studies of downpours within gardens. His creativity, ingenuity, and attention to the dynamics within a functioning garden ecosystem, made his ideas stand out as clever ways to manipulate the environment. Tying art with horticulture, by choosing plants and materials accordingly, can help us gain maximum benefit from catching the water that is so freely available to us. Sean discussed how he rigged a working outdoor rainwater sink, used chains as downspouts, the dynamics of rainwater collection and rain barrels, and much more. All of this was speckled with the good humor evident in our alumni.

After lunch, we got down to the business of the Alumni, and each Board member expressed contributions and new directions for the Board. A lively discussion was had with the Alumni present, and intentions were set for the coming year. Our new Board of Directors was created, and we are very grateful for all the participants who are engaging in making this upcoming year fruitful. A major focus for the upcoming year is to bring back the Annual Conference, so a committee is forming to get that together. We welcome your participation and feedback.

Melissa Achal of neob Lavender farm in Niagara-on-the-Lake closed off the event with a tasty lavender toffee presentation. She runs a lavender growing farm and production facility with her partner Robert, where they push the limits of the standard uses of lavender. The toffee was delicious, and somehow seemed simple enough to cook at home. Every year they hold a lavender festival at their farm.

The new spring marks a new year for so many of us in horticulture. As Zenia Buzanko '03 noted, it's a time to reassess, redefine, and set a new track. As usual, we are always welcoming participation and suggestions from our alumni, and hoping to see an increase in attendance and engagement at our upcoming events. Let's keep our connections strong, and our network enriched by the contributions of one another.



Graduates, spouses and students were informed, well fed, and entertained during the Annual General Meeting activities on February 7th at the School of Horticulture. Upper: Guest speaker Sean James '91 of Fern Ridge Landscaping. Middle: Guest speaker George Scott of Niagara Beeway. Lower (left to right): Heather Skrypnik '15, Cassandra Muileboom, Kasia Zgurzynski '12 and Sarah Fraser '08.

Annual General Meeting



Graduates and students during the Annual General Meeting on February 7th at the School of Horticulture Lecture Hall. Above: 1. Alumni Association Board during the AGM (left to right) Cindy Maxwell '12, Kasia Zgurzynski '12, Zenia Buzanko '03, Jon Peter '04, Dylan Muileboom '12, Karen Michaud '84, Melissa Spearing '13. 2. Third year students gave a presentation on their study tour trip to California. Here the class of 2015 is shown visiting Joshua Tree National Park. 3. Left to right: David Hunt '03, Lorne Fast '89 and Al Higgs '67 view the 3rd year student projects. 4. Foundation Board during the AGM (left to right) Charles Hunter '95, Randy Lidkea '67, Jay Todd '84, Russ Boles '68, Zenia Buzanko '03. 5. AGM attendees enjoying morning breakfast in the Student Residence. 6. AGM attendees enjoying lunch in the basement of the Lecture Hall.

Meet anyone famous? Send in your photo and story!

Annual Reports – 2014 Board of Directors

Historian Report

By Dylan Muileboom '12

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 honour those alumni that have passed away this past year with a moment of silence.

Special Events Report

By Kasia Zgurzynski '12

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.

Student Liasion Report

by Heather Skrypnyk '15

Highlights from the Students

- 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 *Cedrus deodara* 'Karl Fuchs' at the sign bed in his honour.
- 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 honour.
- First year study tour in Toronto. Second year study tour in New York. Third 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.



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Annual Board Reports

Have You Seen These Grads?

By Karen Michaud '84

We need your help maintaining our Blue Book. If you are listed, or are in contact with the following people, please have them contact Karen at npcsha@gmail.com to update their information.

Last name, First name, Year

Anderson, Leslie '92	Gilmore, Chris '98
Bailey, John '59	Graham, June E. '87
Bassie, Joanne '96	Grandin, Paul D. '74
Bemke, Chris '12	Griffin, Gerald '65
Blanchard, Conway '46	Griffith, Douglas W. '56
Bourgeois, Chris '13	Gross, Mark K. '77
Brickell, Phillip '13	Hamilton (Lowe), Debbie '91
Brown, Andrew '95	Henderson, Paul D. '69
Brown, Richard '40	Hendriks, Brendan '14
Buchmuller, Ben '13	Huard, Richard C. '64
Buller, Jonathan '86	Hutten, Andrew '10
Byrne, John '50	Irwin, James '66
Cachia, Eugene C. '51	Kelly, Kristine '93
Christie, Drew '14	Kuipers (Sprague), Jennifer M. '82
Church, John A. '56	Leighfield, William '72
Clarke, Justin '12	Lutes, Reginald A. '40
Coshever, Alfred '47	MacLean, John H. '98
Crawford, Maxine '98	Mangrove, Griffin '14
Crysler, Andrew '79	Marie, Telesphore '12
Davies, Maryanne '12	McCallum, James '52
Dennis, Lynn '69	McHattie, Sarah '13
Dew, Arnold '51	McQueen, Alan G. '72
Duke, Matthew '93	Mills, Eric '94
Dukeshire, Scott '88	Nichol, Noah '07
Eadie, Ken '75	Norris, E. Bruce '73
Ernst, Tim '97	Omar, Fatima '14
Galloway, Mark A. '76	Over, John '13
Gasperetti, Rick '96	Ovsenek, Peter '85
Gillie, Douglas '60	

Perras, Maurice '75
Por, Thomas '98
Pye, Brian '79
Reed, Peter '58
Reid, Robert E. '60
Robertson, D. Dean '40
Sauve, Denis '74
Scafe, Robert '86
Schmahl, Michael '90
Sebastianelli, Dena '99
Shickluna, William '40

Stickley, E. John '67
van de Ven, Leslie '13
Van Der Heyden, Jackie '12
Van Santen, Garret '12
Vanderzwet (Mann), Gerry M. '81
Winkel, Martin '90
Winkelmolen, Jeff '14
Wolowidnyk, Kara '14
Zerbes, Bryan '90

Blue Book Report

By Karen Michaud '84

The 2014 Blue Book was finished and went to print both in hard copy and CD and was distributed by the Executive Secretary. 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 send that information. We want to keep them "In the loop."

Employment Report

By Karen Michaud '84

I received 32 job opportunities in 2014. Most were forwarded from the School and the rest were direct offers from employers. The jobs were 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 that all paid up Alumni Association members have access to this service.

Annual Board Reports

2014 Membership Report

By Karen Michaud '84

Membership Trends (2004-2014) as of September

Year	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
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
Honourary Life	14	12	12	12	12	12	10	10	10	10	10
Honourary	10	9	8	10	11	10	9	9	9	10	10

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

Paid membership by graduation 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.

Associate Members Report

By Trevor Swance '04 & Rob Jacob '04

Currently there are nine 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 four 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 businesses could benefit from our Alumni's knowledge base and depth within the industry. Further development of Associate Memberships is required.

Graduates Associates and Fellowship Membership Report for 2014 (year end):

Honourary Life: 14

Honourary members: 9

Paid Alumni: 79

Class of 2014: 11

Fellowship Members: 3

Associate Members: 9



Above: We did it! Board member Kasia Zgurzynski '12 gives a big hug to Alumni Association President, Zenia Buzanko '03 during the AGM. Congratulations and thanks to everyone who contributed to, and attended, this years AGM!

Annual Board Reports

Treasurer's Report

By Karen Michaud '84

Summary of Receipts & Expenses (Dec. 2013 - Nov. 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: Rolled into GIC	\$43.99
Miscellaneous: NSF charges paid back	\$30.00
Donations to Legacy Garden:	\$1,625.00
Donations to Alumni Association:	\$230.00
Donations to Alumni Foundation: (including J. Allen donation)	\$1,055.00
Garden Books: 5 books sold (\$13.00 each)	\$65.00
Foundation Garden Book profit: (\$2 per book)	\$10.00
Garden Book Postage:	\$3.00
Expenses:	
Conference: food	\$163.44
Horticultural Herald: printing and postage	\$2,315.93
Administration: phone and postage, printing etc.	\$807.49
Executive Secretary: \$150.00 per month, \$400 Dec. bonus	\$2,200.00
Blue Book: hard copy printing and discs and mailing	\$749.97
Promotions:	\$1,413.07 watches, \$338.19 tumblers
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	\$1,000.00
Foundation Donation:	\$55.00
Garden Book Profit:	\$10.00
Insurance:	\$1,104.84
Website:	\$203.40
Board Expenses:	\$0.00
Legacy Garden: transferred to Foundation	\$1,625.00
GIC: came due at the end of November, renewed for another year	\$5,083.99
Petty Cash:	\$2.40

Expenses were over Receipts by \$3,331.88.

Net Worth at the end of the 2013-2014 year is \$9,374.66.

This is down by \$3,370.44 compared to the previous year of \$12,748.55.

Publicity and Promotions Report

By Trevor Swance '04

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, hats and shirts.

Annual Board Reports

Digital Media Report

By Jon Peter '04

Significant progress has been made in 2014 in Digital Media.

Direct Link to Facebook Page:

www.facebook.com/Alumni.Association.NPCSOH

Direct Link to Website:

www.alumninpcsoh.com

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

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 by emailing 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, the build and training. This portion of the website will only be accessible by paid members and will include:

- Bluebook data and updates
- Employment opportunities
- Horticultural Herald issues
- Membership renewal and dues payments
- Alumni Association and School digital archive?

Facebook Report:

We currently have 155 “Friends” on Facebook. 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 1,377 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 the 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, ON = 6

London, ON = 5

Victoria, BC = 5

Coming in the next issue of the Horticultural Herald ...

- *Graduation at the School of Horticulture — Class of 2015*
- *Meet the new students of the Class of 2018*

Watch for it to arrive in July

Alumni News

An Interview with DJ

By Dylan Muileboom '12

Recently I've had the opportunity to have lunch with a legend from the Niagara Parks School of Horticulture staff, Dan Johnston, also known as DJ. Lunch gave us a chance to catch up, and I was able to ask him some question about his experiences working at the school and his current and future endeavors. And that is precisely how I chose to break down this article about DJ: the past, present and future. Dan retired after 39 years working for the Parks last November.

Past

DJ started working for the Niagara Parks as a busboy at 16 years of age. At 19, his father passed away, which ultimately led DJ to return to Niagara Parks to find employment. He applied for a position as a custodian for the Niagara Parks School of Horticulture, and was successfully hired by who he refers to as "an imposing figure" named Bill Snowden.

Though shy at first, DJ swears that he kept his head down and kept to himself during the entire three-month trial period. A 1970 Grand Prix was his first major investment after securing the position long term.

Though he found the job to be a tad repetitive in the beginning, he became friends with the students. He mentions that "Their friendship inspired me to work hard and help make their short time at the school easier."

DJ not only made many friends at the school, he also met his wife through a student at the school. The matchmaker thought his future wife and he would make a good match. DJ was set up on a blind date and, though he was nervous, it obviously worked out for the best. DJ and his wife now have a son.

Present

During his tenure at the school, Dan discovered a love for gardening and working on landscapes after being mentored by one of the students, Mark McDonell '91. He had a desire to learn more about fish and plants which helped him find some work on the side, in the community helping people with their gardens and ponds. Now that he is retired, his favorite hobbies are gardening and spending some quality time with his family.

Future

DJ looks forward to travelling to different countries including: Australia, Jamaica, Hawaii and Mexico. He also hopes to take his son to Disney World one day.

DJ left me with a few messages that he dedicated to the students and staff of the NPC SOH. "The relationships that I've developed with the students and staff at the school along the years were some of the most meaningful to me. It took my time at the school from being just a job to becoming a blessed career with many lifetime friends, a beautiful wife and a son that I am very proud of."

He finishes with some words that I think many people would benefit from hearing, "People may not always be nice to you, but if you treat others how you would like to be treated, things will find a way to work out."

I would like to thank DJ for his time, and his stories, and wish him all the best with his future endeavors.



A sunny day in April showing the wide variety of plants used for overwintering textures in the Legacy Prairie Garden. This view looking toward the Butterfly Conservatory.

Alumni News



Lots of action at the Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens and School of Horticulture booth at the Landscape Ontario Congress in January.

Garden Tourism Awards

by Anne Van Nest '83

The Canadian Garden Council announced their 2015 Garden Tourism Awards in March at their conference in Toronto. These awards were presented to organizations and individuals who have distinguished themselves in the development and promotion of the garden experience as a tourism attraction.

Congratulations to all the winners (especially the visionaries and gardeners who made them flourish). Winners include:

Garden Destination of the Year – Niagara Falls, ON

Botanical Garden of the Year – MUN Botanical Garden, NL

Garden of the Year – Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens, NS

For the full list of winners visit the website <http://gardentourism.blogspot.com/2015/03/winners-of-2015-canadian-garden-tourism.html>.

Photo credits for this edition of the Horticulture Herald:

Andrea Weddum, Page 2

Anne Van Nest, Page 10 lower

Caleb Greisman, Page 13 right, 14 left

Canadian Food Information Agency, Page 11 top right, Troy Kimoto, Page 11 lower right

Dorothy Campbell, Page 8 lower

Dylan Muileboom, Page 1, 17, 20, 24, 28

Kasia Zgurzynski, Page 13 left

Michigan Department of Agriculture, Page 11 top left

Michigan State University, David Cappaert, Page 11 lower left

Niagara Parks, School of Horticulture or Alumni Archives, Page 4, 5, 6, 9, 12 14 right

Obitsforlife.com, Page 8 upper

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1. *Cichorium intybus* – common chicory – Asteraceae
2. *Taraxacum officinale* – dandelion – Asteraceae
3. *Mesembryanthemum crystallinum* – common ice plant – Aizoaceae
4. *Sonchus arvensis* – corn sow thistle – Asteraceae
5. *Papaver nudicaule* – Iceland poppy – Papaveraceae
6. *Calendula officinalis* – pot marigold – Asteraceae

Answers from the Plant ID Quiz in this issue (page 27):

Legacy Prairie Garden News

Phase One of the Legacy Prairie Garden is Complete

By Tom Clancy '61

After formerly turning the Legacy Prairie Garden over to the Niagara Parks Commission in September of last year, and with the resolution of the HST and final payments to GatemanMilloy Incorporated, we can now close the books on Phase One. 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. They 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 and a Bee Demonstration area. The Bee Demonstration area requires negotiations with local and provincial beekeepers' associations and with all the public interest in the decline of bee populations, it is timely to get this part completed.

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.

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

A huge thank you to all the donors who stepped forward and believed in the project enough so that the funds could be raised 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. Thanks for your 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 still have to raise funds to be able to finalize the concept and consider doing the projects outlined above and perhaps build the Living Wall feature that is a challenge but would be a significant feature within the garden.

Should you know donors 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, contact Zenia Buzanko (president@alumninpcsoh.com) and get involved in this excellent project.



**Alumni Association
of The Niagara Parks
Commission School
of Horticulture
Foundation**

**Post Office Box 263
Niagara Falls
Ontario, CANADA
L2E 6T3**

**Business No. 88839-6660 RR0001
Tax receipts will be issued.**

Your donation to the Foundation helps serve the purpose of horticultural education! Make your donation in memory of someone special or fondly remembered, or as challenge to your classmates and fellow Alumni.

- Legacy Prairie Garden Fund
- Knut Mattais Broman Fund
- William J. Snowden Award Fund
- Beatrice Catherine Martin Scholarship Fund
- Roland Duffy Dwarf Conifer Teaching Garden Fund
- Seymour Howard Schott Memorial Seminar Fund
- Edward J. Hill NPD '48 Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Gateman Malloy Scholarship Fund
- Educational Fund
- Florales Library Fund
- W. Garfield Weston Fund

Legacy Prairie Garden Donors

Legacy: Above \$10,000

Sharon & Tom Laviolette
Gateman-Milloy – Mike Milloy
Lezlie & Bob Murch
Niagara Parks Commission
Anonymous Land Owner near the School
Canadian Wildlife Federation/
Federation Canadienne de la Faune

Specimen Plant:

\$6,000 – \$9,999

Molok North America Ltd.
GRO-BARK
TD Evergreen Foundation
Landscape Ontario

Roots: \$3,000 – \$5,999

Niagara Parks School of Horticulture Alumni
Ontario Parks Association
W. H. Reynolds – Brad Thomson
Plantation Irrigation – Mark Hilmeyer
Anonymous

Trunk: \$1,000 – \$2,999

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Niagara Falls Horticultural Society
Hugh McCracken
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Norman E. McCollum
Ian Bruce – Bruce Tree Service
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Bruce Savage
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Mary Battaglia
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Windsor NPC Alumni Group
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Branches: \$250 – \$499

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Harold Crawford
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Madeleine & Jay Kivell
Judie & Dave DeShane
John Curtis
Paul Misner
Audrey & Frank Purkis
Lloyd Syer
Gary Moore
Maripat Thompson
In memory of Denis McQuestion
George Finnigan
Jay Todd
Richard Helmer
Zenita Buzanko
Mark Burkett
Janet Snaith
Patricia & Weldon Schmahl
Frank Schortinghuis
Anna Legatt
Michelle Goff
Robert Dingwall
Jim Beeksma
In memory of Don Schaff
In memory of Norm McKenna
In memory of Alf Savage

Test Your Plant ID



Find the answers on page 24. Submit your own puzzling botany photos to Jon Peter at: aanpcsoh@alumninpcsoh.com

Job Postings

Job Postings

Listings are provided by the Alumni Association for Alumni and Associate members. Job postings from non-Alumni or Associates may be listed under subjectivity and reciprocal agreement. For more details visit the Alumni website:

<http://alumninpcsoh.com/employment/employer/>

Position: Gardener with the Town of Oakville, in Oakville, Ontario

For more details, go to the job posting for Gardener at Town of Oakville. Closing April 20, 2015

Position: Urban Forestry Technician (9 month contract) with the City of Brantford, in Brantford, Ontario

For more details, go to the job posting for Urban Forestry Technician.

Position: Certified Horticulturist with Municipal Maintenance Inc., in Schomberg, Ontario

For more details, go to the job posting for Certified Horticulturist.

Position: Landscape Gardener/Lawn Cutting Technician, Landscape Blower Truck Assistant, and Slinger Truck Driver/Operator with CJ Landscaping, in Hamilton, Ontario

For more details, go to the job posting at CJ Blowers.

Position: Horticulturist (Arboretum), Horticulture Gardeners Arboretum (Seasonal) with Holden Arboretum, in Kirtland, Ohio

For more details, go to the job posting at Holden Arboretum.

Position: Manager of Parks with the City of Halifax, in Halifax, Nova Scotia

For more details, go to the job posting <http://alumninpcsoh.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/HRM-Manager-Parks-PDF.pdf>



Above: Alumni Associate members, Bill McKague (left), Neil McKeown (middle) and Kerri Cavell (right) of Gro-Bark.

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www.mastersturfsupply.com

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