

## Vankleek Hill & District 2022 Committee Reports



### **Presidents Report 2022**

This is the third year of my term as President and how unusual they turned out to be. We learned to meet virtually and read more emails than ever expected. We have many loyal members and new ones. Our Treasurer carefully kept us in good standing with our books. Our District Director, Susan Ramsay, has been very helpful. The committee has been supportive to me.

In February, Carol Hague gave a virtual presentation on unusual house plants and their care. Our first in person meeting was a luncheon at Nicko's Resto-Bar where we enjoyed tasty food and good company. Our April meeting at the Vankleek Hill Community Centre featured Sandra Beddigton and her partner from the Vankleek Hill Tulip Fields. They had donated many bulbs which went into the planter beds and around town.

Seeds packets were donated by us to the local library for the seed library available to all, through library membership. Our successful May plant sale was held on the Main Street in front of Scotiabank, during which Amanda Jefferys and others recruited several new members.

Dr. Russ Campbell spoke on plants toxic to pets and animals, when we met in the Archie Hardy Hall of the Knox Presbyterian Church in June.

Bonnie Brazeau persevered for our rain delayed visit to the Lavender Boutique farm in Chute-à-Blondeau. She also coordinated the photo contest for children with the Champlain Library.

We were hosted by the Macdonell-Williamson House in August, with our mini flower show and tour followed by tea and scones. In September, René Jeurond presented past family gardening experiences and modern tips. A giant puff ball was distributed. We shared beverages and Mandy Jefferys' cookies. Our District 1 Director, Susan Ramsay, joined us.

In October, at our AGM, District Director, Susan Ramsay, invested the executive and directors for the upcoming 2023 season. We also had a presentation by a local businesswoman, Peggy Macdonald, speaking about Good Food Garden.

I took part in the virtual Presidents' meeting, the District meeting and the Provincial OHA meeting in July.

We maintained the beds of Mill Street Park, the Higginson Tower Rose bed and the town sign planters at the entrances to Vankleek Hill Thanks to everyone for all the help with these projects.

Mary and I attended the funeral of Esther Bryant in South Lancaster

This presidency has been a rewarding experience.  
Respectfully, Daryl Waite

### **Report of 1st Vice President**

The role of a Vice-President is to assist and support the President, and this was a more active year. At year-end 2021, I again completed the Champlain facility usage grant application which was accepted in the New Year.

The volunteer hours for the Society were tabulated with Daryl Waite and Joan King using the information for two significant reports which they completed. In November, the Executive and Directors' meetings were held by Zoom and the agenda for the coming year was arranged.

We started to plan for speakers in part by zoom and to plan the lunch for March 17th at Nicko's Resto Bar as there was a limit on numbers.

I contacted the Cooperators for the required insurance certificate. Daryl signed the agreement with the Champlain Recreation Department in preparation for the April meeting. For our first in person, we arranged wrapped cookies from The Broken Kettle, while Daryl prepared to have the projector for the computer at the Vankleek Hill Community Hall. Joan and members put up the chairs and they were wiped down and put away after the meeting. I arranged the use of the gazebo near the playground at the Vankleek Hill Community Center with M. Lariviere for a May's Director meeting and again in August for the Executive meeting.

We arranged with Scotiabank to again have a plant sale on their forecourt. We sought a new meeting place for June as the Vankleek Community Center Hall became unavailable due to renovations. We were fortunate to have the Knox Presbyterian Church Hall for our June meeting. I took photos of planters and Mill Street Park for Garden Day.

I took advantage of virtual services for: the April District 1 meeting, the special meeting of the OHA to have the annual meeting virtually, the special talks through the OHA for Earth Day, and the full day of the provincial annual meeting. Like many others, we enjoyed Zoom meeting speakers from other societies. I also monitor two small town newspapers which record activities of other horticultural societies. I do try to finalize items for inclusion in our excellent newsletter.

In August, I encouraged Daryl to enter the horticultural section of the local fair and he did enter three categories, one of which won a ribbon. We did host our own mini show at the Macdonell-Williamson House and congratulate and thank Joan for handling the voting and awards. I enjoyed forwarding the photos of Mike Cooney to Joan for members' email and coordinated the executive visit to his garden. Daryl, Diane, and I worked as the nominating committee for our new slate of officers. With Daryl's help we emptied our cupboards at the Vankleek Hill Community Center Hall before renovations. As has Mandy, we have picked up offerings of plants for next years sale. Daryl and I tried to follow up provincial emails with Joan's help.



We were happy to have René Jeaurond speak in September. He prepares the Plant Sale signs for the town year after year. Our October speaker, Peggy McDonald, from Good Food Garden, is also a supporter of our plant sales.

Three of us will participate by zoom in the 2022 President's meeting Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The granddaughter from the south end of Mill Street Park refers to it as her favourite garden. I find this a great compliment to two generations of our Society gardeners.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Higginson

## **Beautification**

With the theme being Plant Red to celebrate the year of the garden in 2022, red annual flowers were planted in the west town sign amongst the perennials. In October, small pumpkins, squash and Halloween stick figures were used to decorate the west town sign. Only minimal weeding was required during the summer months.

No annuals were planted at the Higginson Tower rose bed. White and red roses bloomed all summer long with the red roses still blooming into October. This was the best year yet for the Canadian Shield variety and Explorer blanc de Blanche Coubert with their lush foliage and colourful blooms.

Respectively submitted, Joan King

The East bed planted by Anna and Ruedi Hauserman was picture perfect and was included in the District 1 calendar. Daryl kept the South sign showy despite the dry conditions and the red flowers in the North box did well despite more shade. Louis from Champlain Township gave it some extra attention.

After two years, we were able to work in the beds of Mill Street Park without restrictions from public health or our insurers.

A work party cleaned, pruned and edged on April 28. It made a big improvement thanks to the efforts of Joan, Carol, Bonnie, Dorli, Donna, Mandy, Daryl, Christine, Richard, Karin and Mary.

Lots of early moisture made a difference to the shrubs and perennials. Some red annuals were planted for the Year of the Garden but the dry conditions reduced them. We took some pictures on Garden Day in June.

Daryl and Mary did periodic weeding and trimming throughout the summer as did Louis Paquette.

Mary carried home several large bags of cut foliage and on the October 15th weekend we cleaned the beds and filled the trailer provided by Champlain Township. Thanks to Mandy, Bonnie, Daryl, Joan, Donna, Karin and Mary for all their hard work.



We will be planting some gold and maroon tulips supplied by Sandra Bennington in the Park. We must keep in mind that perennials and shrubs do best in these beds as they continue dry out each summer. Respectfully submitted Mary Higginson and Daryl Waite

## **Centennial Archives**

With the last year of the yearbook being printed in 2020 there wasn't an abundance of articles to be placed in the archives. A monthly newsletter was started up in May 2022 called "Petunia Post" with articles, pictures and upcoming events are now being contained in our society's archives. Respectfully submitted Joan King

## **Email Circulation**

Many more emails were circulated in 2022 compared to 2020 and 2021 with COVID being ever so present in everyone's lives. All emails were sent out in a timely fashion after being received. Respectfully submitted Joan King

## **Advertising and publicity**

Our horticultural society is tiptoeing into the digital age. In addition to our website [www.vkhhorticultural.ca](http://www.vkhhorticultural.ca) maintained by Daniel Cloutier, we have a Facebook page, and we now also have a Facebook group, *Vankleek Hill horticultural*. With a page, only the administrator can post photos or information, but in a group anyone can join and post pictures of their plants or ask for information.

Links to us appear on the GardenOntario website and I also post announcements on the Vankleek Hill/Hawkesbury/L'Orignal Community Events page.

And the Review continues to publish our ads. Let's continue to spread the word about our activities.

Respectfully submitted Diane Bourgault

## **Newsletter**

The society's new monthly newsletter, Petunia Post, has proven a welcome method of communication with our members. Evidence of its success is evident in how quickly it has grown in size. Our first edition, May 2022, was two pages. Our members expressed appreciation for the news and information and quickly began to contribute to the publications content. By October 2022, our sixth edition, the newsletter had grown to seven pages. Petunia Post has become vital to our horticultural community and has contributed to a growing interest in membership in our society. Its publication will continue throughout the winter months.

The committee is most appreciative for the technical support from our webmaster, Daniel Cloutier.

Respectfully submitted Jana Chenier

## Spring Plant Sale

Our plant sale held on a beautiful Saturday morning in May was a great success. The change from a Thursday to Saturday meant that more of our members were available to volunteer and we reached many more customers. Our location in front of Scotiabank was the perfect location and our members were so generous in what they donated. We had something for everyone houseplants, perennials, vegetable transplants, shrubs, trees, flower seeds as well as fresh rhubarb and asparagus and even gardening books. Our members gave gardening and plant care advice. Mandy Jefferys used the opportunity to recruit new members to the society. It was a most enjoyable day

Respectfully submitted Katrine Stewart



## **Children's Flower Show**

In conjunction with Alicia Heinzle (Children & Youth Librarian) and the Champlain Library we sponsored the "Little Green Thumbs" flower show.

There were 11 photos that were submitted. The categories for the photos were tallest flower, smallest flower and an insect on a flower.

First prize was \$5.00, Second prize \$4.00 and Third \$3.00 Winners were also given tulip and allium bulbs. The Broken Kettle donated cookies.

Respectfully submitted Bonnie Brazeau