

NOVA SCOTIA ASSOCIATION OF GARDEN CLUBS (INC.)

HISTORY

1973 - 1989

by

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## FOREWORD

In writing the History of the Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs (Inc.) for the period 1973 to 1989, I must first pay tribute to the work of previous historians Mrs. Marietta Silver, Mrs. Margaret Hambleton and Mrs. Freda Robb. Mrs. Silver wrote the history of the beginnings of the Association, covering the period from 1954 to 1963. Since copies of her history were no longer available, a summary of her work was included in the comprehensive history written by Mrs. Margaret Hambleton entitled The First Twenty Years, produced in 1973. A Silver Anniversary Up-Date comprising a collection of memories over the previous five years was written in 1978 by Mrs. Freda Robb, entitled Silver Celebration.

In June 1988 the 35th Anniversary Convention of the Association was held at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College campus in Bible Hill. This history will attempt to cover the interval from 1973 to 1989, to outline the Association's activities during that time as well as progress achieved. It is hoped that this record will assist us in planning for the future.

It is only possible to give the highlights of activities, conventions and programs for each year. Detailed material such as minutes, district directors' reports covering the activities of individual societies and clubs, clubs histories, newspaper clippings etc. have been taken to the Nova Scotia Archives, University Avenue, Halifax.

Please accept my apologies if I have omitted any items of interest, or have overlooked any person who should have been included. Suggestions regarding future histories should be forwarded to the Historian.

## SUCCESS

He has achieved success who has lived well, laughed often and loved much; who has gained the respect of intelligent men, the trust of pure women and the love of little children; who has filled his niche and accomplished his task; who has left the world better than when he found it, whether by an improved poppy, a perfect poem or a rescued soul; who has never lacked appreciation of earth's beauty or failed to express it; who has looked for the lost in others and given them the best he had; whose life was an inspiration; whose memory is a benediction.

- Bessie A. Stanley

HISTORY  
OF THE

NOVA SCOTIA ASSOCIATION OF GARDEN CLUBS

1973 - 1989

1973:

The President's Project in 1973 was the completion and distribution of The First Twenty Years, the history of the Association from 1954 to 1973, written by Mrs. Margaret Hambleton. Two hundred and fifty copies were available at the 1973 convention at a cost of \$2.00.

Slides of the 1973 Rose Bowl Parade were purchased for the film library.

Liability Insurance was a service provided to member clubs at a premium of \$3.00.

Some Highlights of District Reports in 1973:

- . A new Club was started at Musquodoboit Harbour.
- . Five clubs were active in the Central District, holding flower shows, sponsoring essay contests and gardens for school children.
- . Fred Fellows of Halifax worked to promote gardening among Halifax City school children, with 10 to 12 schools involved.
- . The First Halifax African Violet Society hosted the National African Violet Society Convention at Citadel Inn, Halifax.
- . Cape Breton clubs were very active, holding regular meetings, plant sales, flower shows and maintaining flower beds at various highway intersections.
- . Clubs in Northern and Valley Districts were holding flower shows and participating in community beautification.
- . Four ladies from the National Council of State Garden Clubs (U.S.A.) visited Nova Scotia in preparation for their post-convention tour of the province being planned for May 1974.
- . Garden insignia (emblems) were being made available at the Convention by Clare Ferguson at a cost of \$3.00.
- . Margaret Hambleton received 182 entries for the Slide Contest.

20th Anniversary Convention - "TWENTY BLOOMING YEARS":

The Eastern district hosted the Convention held at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College Campus, with Kaye MacLeod acting as Registrar. Despite rainy weather, 140 gardeners attended. There were many beautiful floral arrangements.

President Wilf Armstrong spoke on people's changing attitudes in all aspects of gardening in the past 20 years.

Slides of the Royal Botannical Gardens Aboretum in Hamilton were shown by Ray Halward, the special guest.

Freda Robb and Emma Lewis, speaking for the affirmative, defeated Fred Fellows and Roy Whetmore on the subject: "Resolved that Women are Better Gardeners than Men." How could it be otherwise with a hall full of women?

This Convention saw the creation of the "Order of the Green Thumb" consisting of a certificate and a green plastic thumb covering to be worn as a badge of honor.

The social hour featured a sing-song led by Mr. B. C. Silver with Mrs. Milford Jackson at the piano.

Further highlights were:

. Gordon Warren spoke of his 25 years as the "Maritime Gardener" on the C.B.C.

. President Wilf Armstrong expressed a wish for more separate gardening societies such as rose, glad, dahlia, lily etc.

. Fred Fellows, Halifax, and Olding Murray, New Glasgow, were each named Gardener of the Year.

. Richard Morton, Provincial Horticulturist, spoke of the pleasure he had working with all the Garden Clubs and urged them to continue to hold interest with good programs.

It was reported that in 1973 there were 40 Clubs in the Association divided into 8 districts as follows: Cape Breton, 6; Northern, 3; Central, 5; Eastern, 4; Western, 6; Halifax, 8; South Shore, 5; Valley, 3. Eighteen clubs participated in the Activities Contest; the James Holmes Memorial Trophy was won by The Amherst Garden Club.

Dr. Milford Jackson of North Sydney was elected President.

1974:

The new President, Dr. Milford Jackson, initiated his President's Project, the observing of Arbor Day by the Clubs through the planting of trees. Points for this would be awarded

on the Activities Contest.

The Association purchased a 16 mm movie projector and also a cassette recorder for use at Conventions and District Meetings.

Eighteen clubs were involved in the Activities Contest indicating keen interest in carrying on the work of the Association.

Arthur Hambleton resigned as Treasurer because of poor health and Dr. Jackson spoke of Arthur's dedication to the Association and the many offices he had held.

The Provincial Gardening Quiz was conducted at five district meetings.

Thirty-three travelers enjoyed an European Tour arranged and conducted by Dr. Jackson. This included visits to many outstanding gardens and the Chelsea Flower Show.

Reports from directors indicated clubs were busy planting and maintaining flower beds around monuments and public buildings; the Glace Bay Garden Club planted an underground garden at the Miners' Museum; flower shows and plant sales were held and in Halifax school children had their own flower show. All these activities continued to beautify our province and increase knowledge of gardening.

The Dartmouth Horticultural Society was revived in 1974 with a membership of over 30; they held a flower show and began holding regular meetings.

In May the First Halifax African Violet Society cooperated with other clubs in the Halifax area to host an evening reception for members of the National Council of State Garden Clubs who were in Nova Scotia on a post-convention tour. Organized through the newly-formed District Council, the visitors were entertained at St. David's Church Hall. Many expressions of appreciation were received from the visitors following their return to the United States.

21st Convention - "POTS AND PLOTS" - August 2 & 3, 1974:

Again held at the Agricultural College, 154 Members registered representing 24 clubs.

A number of interesting talks were given in connection with the theme, such as a slide-illustrated talk on window boxes by Gordon Warren and a demonstration of hanging baskets by Eileen Eaton.

Ten resolutions were considered and voted on, some of them concerning pollution and littering.

Slides of the European trip were shown by Dr. Jackson and Carl Levo.

Entries in the clubs' floral contest were numerous and beautiful. This year a tray was donated by Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Silver to be awarded annually to the person who arranged the best bouquet shown at the Convention hall. The first winner was Mrs. Donald Thompson of Amherst.

At the Awards Banquet, Kenneth Coudrey was named Gardener of the Year. The Westmount Garden Club won the James Holmes Memorial Trophy.

A life membership was awarded to Mr. Frank Jackson and presented by his son, Dr. Milford Jackson. Other life members listed in 1974 were Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Silver, Wolfville, Mr. Jud Chisholm, Great Village, Mr. Ken Beckwith (deceased), Mr. Jack Tomkinson, Trenton, Mr. Ray Halward, Hamilton, Mr. Gordon Warren, Charlottetown, Mr. Arthur Hambleton, Halifax, Mr. Nicholas V. Jankov, Mr. and Mrs. Mel Gardner, Brooklyn, Queens County, Mr. Gerald Lewis, Westmount, and Dr. J. S. Munro, North Sydney.

1975:

During this year President Milford Jackson continued his Arbor Day tree planting project which was proving to be successful.

The Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs' mailing list in 1975 consisted of 7 horticultural societies, 30 garden clubs, 1 landscape club, 1 flower club and 1 specialty society.

Executive and Board meetings began to be held at the Harlow Institute of the Agricultural College.

It was reported that clubs were making use of the Program Library and that new slide shows were being added.

At age 87 Arthur Hambleton was still active in gardening circles and was conducting a Home Gardening Course for the Halifax Recreation Department.

During the year 18 clubs held 21 flower shows.

A special trophy for the Slide Contest was donated to the Association by Mrs. Gerald Shea in memory of her husband, a keen flower photographer, who had acted as a judge for the Contest on several occasions.

22nd Convention - GARDENS 5 in '75" - August 1 & 2, 1975:

Activities began with a pork chop barbeque held in the Boulden Building. Twenty-four clubs were represented with a total registration of 160.

Resolutions debated involved such varied subjects as

spraying against the spruce bud work, removal of unsightly car wrecks, daylight saving time, garbage disposal and the provision of more picnic parks.

Topics for talks at the Convention were many and varied: for example, ideas for freezing fruits and vegetables; rock gardens; unusual vegetables and flowers; and the propagation of African violets from leaves.

In his address to the Convention, out-going President Milford Jackson expressed appreciation to members of the Board, secretary Belle Holmes, and to the Department of Agriculture for providing excellent facilities for executive meetings, board meetings and conventions. He spoke of the special rapport Provincial Horticulturist Richard Morton continued to have with garden clubs and their members.

Twenty-five clubs entered the Activities Contest, won by the Glace Bay Garden Club.

The Dartmouth Horticultural Society was the winner of the Provincial Gardening Quiz, and was awarded the James J. Holmes Memorial Trophy.

There was great interest in the slide contest: 217 slides were entered from 20 contestants. The Shea Memorial Trophy was won by Sterling Levy for his slide entitled "Poppy, Little Tancook".

Tags and seals supplied by the Association were being used by many clubs at their flower shows.

Reports from District Directors revealed clubs in all areas were busy with varied projects, each in their own area taking part in community projects which help to beautify the district.

At the Convention, Jack Harris of Bear River was elected President of the Association.

Belle Holmes resigned as Secretary, a position she had filled with much competence and enthusiasm since 1971. She continued on the Board as a director.

At the Awards Banquet, Emma Lewis of North Sydney was named Gardener of the Year, and Bronze Association medals were presented to Jean Ritcey of Riverport and Robert Mann of Halifax. The B. C. Silver award for the most artistic arrangement was won by Ruth Draper.

#### 1976:

In 1976 the Assessment List showed 1013 members from 39 clubs divided among 8 districts.

Dick Morton, editor of the Landscape News, advised that



since publishing this paper was becoming more and more costly, the number of issues would be reduced to 7 and possibly 6 per year.

Marion MacLeod assumed the office of Secretary, and Bill Prescott was acting as treasurer.

The amount of \$300 was allocated for the purchase of new slides for the Program Library.

The advantages of the Association becoming incorporated were discussed at a Board meeting.

Some highlights from reports of District Directors:

. The North Sydney Garden Club planted tulip bulbs at the Cenotaph grounds.

. The Bedford Horticultural Society held their 25th annual flower show.

. Clubs in the Central District were encouraging young gardeners by giving flower or vegetable seeds to elementary school children.

. The New Glasgow Horticultural Society celebrated its 40th Anniversary.

. Dartmouth Horticultural Society was holding three flower shows a year, and the Halifax Horticultural Society continued to stage the Provincial Rose Show.

23rd Convention - "SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE" - Aug. 6 & 7, 1976:

This year the floral displays entered for competition at the Convention were judged by "the people's choice", each person registering having a ballot.

Jack Harris read his President's Report in which he said he had made three trips around the province in the past year visiting clubs and attending district meetings. Eight district meetings were held during May.

Some of the subjects covered in talks were "Old Time Vegetables, Fruits and Flowers" by Gordon Warren; "Tips for Exhibitors" by Ken Coudrey, and "Trees and Shrubs" by Milford Jackson.

This was the largest Convention to date with a registration of 200; 150 members and 15 guests attended the Awards Banquet. The Convention was hosted by the Executive of the NSAGC.

Belle Holmes was awarded a Life Membership in recognition of her many years as Secretary and member of the Board.

Wilf Armstrong was chosen Gardener of the Year. The Bronze Medal went to Adrien DenHertog, and the National Council of State

Garden Clubs' medal to Mrs. Neil Thomson. The Sydney Mines Garden Club won the trophy for the best floral arrangement and the slide contest was won by Sterling Levy.

Charing Cross Garden Club was the winner of the Provincial Quiz. Twenty-four clubs competed in the Activities Contest, which was won by the Dartmouth Horticultural Society.

Jack Harris was re-elected President.

1977:

Checking through the minutes of executive and board meetings and of the Convention revealed a very active year for the Association:

Some items of note were:

The Great Village Garden Club celebrated its 25th Anniversary on January 24th.

Also in January, a Flower Show Judging School was begun in Dartmouth under the direction of Richard Morton.

It was decided that this year the Provincial Gardening Quiz questions were to pertain to trees in some way, in conjunction with the theme of the Convention.

Wilfred Armstrong reported that all rules had been complied with, and as soon as official word was received from the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, the Association would become an officially incorporated body.

The Association noted that a fund-raising campaign was to begin regarding the renovation of Cumming Hall at the Agricultural College, and it was recommended the NSAGC support the Alumni in this effort.

A letter of appreciation was sent to Gordon Warren on his retirement as "The Maritime Gardener".

Due to "over-loading" of the Landscape News it was decided that information re resolutions, slide contest, liability insurance, tags and seals, etc. be sent to one person by a given date to be compiled in a packet to be mailed to Clubs once a year.

A 25th Anniversary tour of the Carolinas was being organized by Yvonne Johnstone for April of 1978.

In 1977 the Association had 38 active garden clubs and horticultural societies with a total membership of 1000. Due to incorporation the Executive now became the Board of Directors, and at a meeting held at the Agriculture Canada Research Station in Kentville on June 18, 1977, much discussion took place concerning revising the By-Laws. The Incorporation Certificate was dated April 18, 1977.

In the spring of 1977, the First Halifax African Violet Society hosted the Canadian Annual Convention of the African Violet societies. A set of African violet slides was added to the Program Library.

During this year the Cape Breton Clubs were very active in beautification and the promotion of gardening. For example, the North Sydney Club began having an annual plant sale, planted annuals at the Cenotaph, the Legion and the Memorial Chapel, placed hanging baskets throughout the town and held their annual rose show.

The 24th Convention - "TREES" - Aug 5 & 6, 1977:

In his opening remarks, Professor Babcock of the Agricultural College pointed out that a full grown tree on a property added \$1,000 to the value of that property.

In keeping with the theme, Mrs. George Carmichael sang Joyce Kilmer's "Trees", accompanied by Mrs. Milford Jackson.

A number of talks on the theme were given including "The Native Trees of Nova Scotia" by Gary L. Saunders, and "Small Fruit Trees" by Charles Embree.

Bill Prescott reported that 19 clubs had participated in the Activities Contest, and that the winner was the Dartmouth Horticultural Society. Thirteen exhibitors submitted 135 eligible slides to the Slide Contest.

At the Awards Banquet, the Hon. Jack Hawkins was guest speaker. In his remarks he commended all members of the NSAGC for the fine work being done to improve the appearance of our Province and the health of its people.

The following awards were Presented: Gardener of the Year, Bill Prescott; National Council of State Garden Clubs, Mrs. Helen Beaver; James Holmes Memorial Trophy, New Glasgow Horticultural Society; Bronze Medal, Dr. Allison D. Piccett; B. C. Silver Trophy, Dartmouth Horticultural Society.

Attendance at the Convention was 136.

At the Board meeting held on August 5th, Yvonne Johnstone was elected Chairman, and Carl Levo Vice-Chairman.

1978:

This year proved to be a busy and exciting one for the Association. Eight district meetings were scheduled to be held in May where clubs participated in the Provincial Gardening Quiz.

Chairman Yvonne Johnstone emphasized that the members of the Board had to be nominated each year; the Area Representatives were elected to serve two years.

Information concerning the Slide Contest was distributed in the Information Packet, as well as rules concerning the newly-introduced Photo Contest. Other regular programs were being continued, such as the Program Library, Liability Insurance, Tags and Seals, etc. Cost of The Landscape News publication, edited by Dick Morton, was now included in the Clubs' assessment.

Some items of interest reported by Area Representatives during the year were:

The Forties Garden Club celebrated their Silver Anniversary, and the float they entered in a local parade featured a large birthday cake.

The Course for Flower Show Judges, begun in Dartmouth in 1977 with an attendance of 14 to 20, was concluded and plans were made for practice judging.

The main project of the Valley Weeders Garden Club of Upper Musquodoboit was the clearing up and rehabilitation of the old, overgrown Anglican cemetery in their community. Entered in the Rural Beautification Competition, this project won first prize for Halifax County.

On May 13th the First Halifax African Violet Society held their annual show, "The Violet Family on Parade", at St. David's Church Hall.

The Dartmouth Horticultural Society held a "Wilf Armstrong Night" to honor the founder of their society.

Westmoor Horticultural Society celebrated their 25th Anniversary with a dinner at Scotia Branch, Royal Canadian Legion, and received a plaque from the City of Halifax.

The Halifax Horticultural Society donated 250 spring bulbs to a school in the district, and seeds were sent to three grade six classrooms to help them get ready for the Children's Flower Show in May.

The Western Nova Scotia area representative, Jack Harris, reported that all clubs in his district were taking part in some form of community gardening, helping senior citizens, and assisting community organizations. They were making good use of program material provided by the Association.

Great Village Garden Club held their 17th flower show in August with 407 flower and vegetable entries.

In Cape Breton, the Westmount Garden Club, in their 19th year, planted a flower bed at the intersection of two major traffic routes. The area representative, Bill Donovan, stated that "the influence that the clubs have on beautification is more than evident in the communities that are fortunate to have garden clubs."

25th Anniversary Convention - "Silver Celebration" Aug.4-5

Held at the Agricultural College, the Silver Celebration convention was attended by approximately 200 gardeners.

Principal guest speaker Russell Gomme, of the Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food, compared the activities of the Nova Scotia and Ontario horticultural societies, and said that the programs carried out in both provinces were basically the same.

A brief memorial to the late Nicholas V. Jankov paid tribute to his inspirational work in setting up the Association.

Other program highlights included several workshops on such interesting topics as cleft grafting, growing medium, green survival, new gardening tips and equipment, terrariums, health foods and composts.

Tours of the College grounds, including the only All-American Trial Grounds east of Montreal, the nursery and vegetable gardens, were conducted by wagon and proved very popular.

Further activities included a Mini-Theatre showing slides and films, displays, contests, a sales station and a debate on an organic gardening topic. The Provincial Gardening Quiz was won by Great Village Garden Club.

Special presentations of plaques were made to Arthur Hambleton, for his outstanding contribution to horticulture in the province, and to Gordon Warren, for his many excellent programs in the "Maritime Gardener" series on radio and T.V. Mr. Hambleton also blew out the candles on the 25th Anniversary cake, baked for the occasion by Mrs. Yvonne Johnstone of North Sydney.

Four resolutions were passed at the Convention: a request for re-instatement of the gardening program on TV; a proposal that gardeners in the Maritime provinces be encouraged to retain the rivers and lakes in their natural state to preserve the environment for future generations; a suggestion that the founding members of the Association be recognized; and a plea that the major contribution made by Mr. R. S. Morton, Department of Agriculture and Marketing, to the work of the Association be acknowledged.

Yvonne Johnstone and Carl Levo were re-elected as Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

Guest speaker at the closing banquet was Hon. Jack Hawkins, Minister of Agriculture and Marketing, who congratulated the Association on its Silver Anniversary. He went on to remark upon the rapid growth of the landscaping and nursery business in the province, which in 1978 was a six million dollar industry. Tied in with this was the work of the Association, which was important to the beautification of Nova Scotia.

Awards presented during the banquet were: Gardener of the Year, Mrs. Freda Robb, Westmount; National Council of State Garden Clubs Certificate, Mrs. John Britten, Halifax; Award of Merit, Mrs. Sterling Mont, Halifax; N.S.A.G.C. Certificate, Mr. Angus Ings, Sydney Mines. Other award winners: Activities Contest, Glace Bay Garden Club; Best Floral Arrangement, North Sydney Garden Club; Best Slide, Carl Levo. A special presentation of a pair of hand-carved book-ends was made to Mr. R. S. Morton, Provincial Horticulturist with the Department of Agriculture, for his work with the Association.

1979:

At a Board meeting held on January 13th, a donation of \$1,000 was presented to Mr. Charles Douglas from the Association toward the renovations of Cumming Hall.

During June, Chairman Yvonne Johnstone and Vice-Chairman Carl Levo were the Association's official delegates to the Ontario Horticultural Association's Convention held in London, Ontario.

Copies of the Constitution were distributed to Board members, district representatives and clubs.

Jean MacDonald of New Glasgow was appointed secretary of the Board following the resignation of Marion MacLean.

Following a meeting of some Board members with the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, it was reported that the Horticultural Societies Act would not be re-written, but that further assistance would be given to assist in district meetings, for example, for the travelling expenses of Richard Morton.

This year there were 23 clubs participating in the Activities Contest and 18 scrapbooks were submitted.

It was reported that there were 41 sets of slides on hand in the Program Library.

Belle Holmes presented a trophy she donated for the Photo Contest, to be known as the Belle Holmes Trophy, and thanks were expressed to Belle for her kindness.

District reports revealed that the North Sydney Garden Club had hired some young people through a Young Canada Works Grant and with their assistance developed 8 large flower beds and sodded 1.3 acres in the passive area of Munro Park. The members also planted 3000 tulip bulbs at the Cenotaph.

The Glace Bay Garden club also planted tulip bulbs and placed hanging baskets at various places throughout the town. A drive through this town provided ample evidence of what a few can do for beautification.

26th Convention - "Backyard Basics", Aug. 3 & 4

Due to the renovating of Cumming Hall, the Convention was held in the Boulden Building, with 139 registering.

This year rosettes were given as prizes for the best display by clubs. The Photo Contest had grown to a record 53 entries in five classes.

Interesting resolutions considered were (1) regarding botanical gardens, urging that the Association support the planned Botanical Gardens at Annapolis Royal, and (2) concern regarding over-picking of wildflowers and the danger of them becoming extinct.

Special speaker at the Convention was Mr. Ray Halward from the Botanical Gardens of Hamilton, Ontario, on the subject "Outreach Program". This described special facilities for encouraging gardening by handicapped and elderly gardeners. Other items on the program were talks on such varied titles as "Barbeque Cooking", "Ways to make Compost Piles", and "Ground Covers". Entertainment on Friday night featured a square dance.

The program concluded with the Provincial Gardening Quiz and the Awards Banquet. Major awards were: Gardener of the Year, Gerry Draper; Bronze medals, Clarence Johnson and Ray Webber.

1980:

During 1980 most clubs were arranging their own programs for District Meetings, and the Provincial Gardening Quiz was brought to each meeting by either Wilfred Armstrong or Jack Harris.

A number of Board Members were planning to attend the Florales International at Montreal.

The Slide Library was popular with clubs, providing interesting program items.

A Life Membership in the Association was awarded to Ted Selig of Wilmot, in recognition of his many years of service to the Board of Directors in many capacities.

Specifications were established for the N.S.A.G.C. Quality Awards to be presented at Flower Shows in the Province for outstanding quality.

27th Convention - "Brighten Your Corner" - Aug. 1 & 2

In keeping with the theme, talks were given on "Light Gardens for Small Spaces" and "Candles in Arrangements" as part of the program at Cumming Hall.

During the business meeting Arthur Haskins was made Area Representative for the combined Central and Northern districts.

Convention dates for the next year were changed to June.

The Slide Contest, conducted by Carl Levo, attracted 155 entries. Great Village Garden Club won both the Activities Contest and the Provincial Quiz.

Special speaker at the Awards Banquet was Mr. Russell Gomme of the Ontario Horticultural Society.

Wilfred Armstrong was named Gardener of the Year. Mrs. Barbara Christie of Halifax received the National Council of State Garden Clubs' Certificate.

During the year the Canadian Rhododendron Society of Canada Atlantic Region became affiliated with the Association.

1981:

Early in 1981 Mr. Charles Embree, Director of Horticulture and Biology Services, met with the Board of the NSAGC to discuss the Horticulture Societies' Act and a committee consisting of Arthur Haskins, W. A. Prescott and Sheldon Langille was formed to look into matters regarding grants and other concerns.

All clubs were asked to report on their year's activities with costs, this to include the value of any donations of time or materials made by clubs to give a true picture of all the work being done.

28th Convention - "A Year of Beauty" - June 19 & 20

Talks at the Convention highlighted the flowers of the four seasons.

It was reported that 28 clubs were taking part in the Activities Contest.

Mr. Alan Brock of the Manitoba Horticultural Association was special speaker at the Awards Banquet, and told of the work being done with young people in his province.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Robinson of Dartmouth were named Gardeners of the Year. Yvonne Johnstone of North Sydney received the National Council of State Garden Clubs Award, and the Bronze Medal was awarded to Mr. Everett Goodall.

Freda Robb of Sydney succeeded Jean MacDonald, New Glasgow, as secretary of the Board.

Judging schools were being considered for the Cape Breton and Valley Districts.

Carl Levo was re-elected as Chairman of the Board of Directors.

The "Information Packet" was distributed to Clubs at the Convention.



1982:

This year a list of Flower Show Judges was distributed to the Clubs, included in the Information Packet.

The Photo and Colour Slide Contests were continued as well as the distribution of flower show tags and seals, and the Program Library consisted of 33 sets of slides, most with cassettes.

The History of the Champlain Garden Club of Annapolis Royal pointed out that "it seems only natural that a Garden Club in this area should perpetuate the memory of our early settlers." The Club was first organized around 1952. Meetings were well-attended until 1962, and in that year there were 32 exhibitors and 191 exhibits at their flower show. The Club held its last Flower Show "Salute to Centennial" in 1967 and then disbanded until 1972 when it became a member of the Association. A number of successful community projects were undertaken, for example the beautification of the streets of Annapolis Royal and the entrance and exit of the town. The History records that in 1982 there were 22 members with Mrs. Margaret Arthur as President.

29th Convention - "Seeds, Soil and Funtime" - June 25 & 26

During the Convention, held in the Boulden Building, Yvonne Johnstone stated that 10 of the 39 active clubs had reported to her regarding their activities, revealing that total man-hours spent on planting projects and various community projects equalled 1159, and at \$3.00 per hour this amounts to \$3,477. The clubs also reported spending a total of \$2,569.96 on projects.

The Treasurer's report for the year showed receipts of \$5,595.53 and expenditures of \$4,062.80. Notice of motion re the increase of dues to \$1.00 per member with a maximum of \$50 was given to be voted on at the 1983 Convention.

Carl Levo was given an ovation on the completion of three years as Chairman. He was succeeded by George Carmichael.

Guest speaker at the Awards Banquet was Mr. Paul Buxton of the Annapolis Royal Development Corporation. He described the planning of the Annapolis Royal Historical Garden.

Mrs. Bernice Holmes of Shelburne was chosen as Gardener of the Year. The NSAGC Bronze Medal was awarded to Mrs. Marjorie Major of Halifax for her book From the Ground.

1983:

During 1983 history up-dates were received from the North Sydney Garden Club (1978-1983) and the Lyons Brook Garden Club.

The District Meeting reports revealed very busy garden clubs involved in many projects, most of them holding annual flower shows. The Great Village Garden Club, completing its 32nd year of con-

tinuous operation, held its 26th annual show on August 13th with 528 entries.

The Wilmot Garden Club was particularly active, their long list of projects including donating 75 potted plants started by members to the Kings County Rehabilitation Centre greenhouse at Waterville, value \$100.00. Garden Club members also provided 72 hours of guide services at the Macdonald Museum greenhouse, Middleton, and also helped with watering.

The annual Provincial Rose Show staged by the Halifax Horticultural Society at the Museum of the Atlantic attracted 150 entries of good quality.

30th Convention- "Lawns, Trees, Birds and Bees" - June 24 & 25

Chairman George Carmichael reported that new clubs had been formed in Hilden, Kentville, Sydney and Antigonish, and that garden clubs were active throughout the Province with many varied projects well in hand.

Speaking at the Awards Banquet Gordon Kinsman, Director of Marketing and Economics for the Department of Agriculture, had as his topic "Merchandising Garden Clubs". He pointed out that the objective of the Association is two-fold: (a) to cooperate with and coordinate the work of the Clubs and (b) to promote general landscape beautification in Nova Scotia. He challenged the Association to find out what young people want, seek to provide it and in that way justify our existence.

Vern Fraser of Sherbrooke was named Gardener of the Year; the Association Bronze Medal was awarded to Les Blackburn of Bible Hill, and the NSAGC Award was given to Marjorie Fowler, Halifax.

Special Awards were presented to Dr. D. L. Craig for his work in horticultural research and to Capt. Richard Steele for his work in rhododendron pioneering.

1984:

The Landscape News, edited by Dick Morton and sent to all members, changed its front page in line with the new policy of the Department of Agriculture re publications and was now called Landscape and Ornamentals, and will be issued four times a year.

District Meeting reports revealed that the Champlain Garden Club had a membership of 25 and 75% attendance. This Club was closely involved in improvements in the Town of Annapolis Royal and the establishment of the Annapolis Royal Historical Garden.

The Antigonish Garden Club submitted the story of their first year, having been organized in April 1983. In July the Club entered a float in the Highland Games Parade and won the 4th prize.

Yvonne Johnstone of the North Sydney Garden Club set out 1018 plants in trial beds at her home Fairholm Farm, on request

from DEVCO, and this garden was visited by Club members in September.

31st Convention - "We've Only Just Begun" - June 22 & 23

Among those receiving "Green Thumb" awards was Mr. Frank Jackson of North Sydney and father of Milford Jackson, an excellent gardener for many years who celebrated his 100th birthday on March 16, 1984.

Registration was reported at 133 garden club members and 20 non-members for this interesting and well-planned convention.

At the Awards Buffet, Dr. Robert Morgon of the University College of Cape Breton, spoke of the challenge of gardening in Cape Breton.

Gardener of the Year was Dr. Milford Jackson, North Sydney; Jean MacDonald of New Glasgow was given the NSAGC Award in recognition of her years of service as a Board Member in various offices. MacDonald's Restaurants received the NSAGC Bronze Medal for outstanding contribution to gardening in the province.

Ann Merritt, Lower Sackville, succeeded George Carmichael as Chairman of the Board.

1985:

During this year the Advisory Committee of the NSAGC was established to consider policy, budget, future plans and any necessary items, and to provide an opportunity for past directors to keep contact with the Association.

A comprehensive account of the first year of the Mount Denson Garden Club was submitted by Ruth Draper, Secretary of the Club. Annual reports of many other societies and clubs told of their many projects and activities.

In May, 1985, Bill Prescott's resignation as Treasurer of the Association was accepted with regret. He had served in this capacity for many years.

The Dahlia Society of Nova Scotia was organized and accepted as a member of the Association. The first president was Arthur Haskins, Great Village.

A number of gardeners in the Halifax Metro area were attending a Flower Show Judging School, conducted by Richard Morton.

In November 1985 the Halifax Horticultural Society and the Westmoor Horticultural Society amalgamated to form the Halifax-Westmoor Horticultural Society.

32nd Convention - "A Gardening Potpourri" - June 21 & 22

The Convention was held for the first time in the Cox Institute. At the election of officers Marjorie Fowler was elected

Chairman and Carl Levo was appointed Treasurer.

As in many past years, the Halifax Seed Company was most generous with prizes which were presented at intervals during the program.

The Maritime Gardener of the C.B.C., Tony Van Dam, told the members in his banquet remarks that "we have been put on this earth to look after it, not to poison and destroy it."

Gardeners of the Year were Cecil and Grace Wile of Wilmot; the Bronze Medal was awarded to Pat Pelham, and the NSAGC Award went to Paul Brunnell, Dartmouth for outstanding horticultural achievement. A special trophy was presented to Bill Prescott in appreciation for all his work on behalf of the Association.

#### 1986:

In April 1986 the Guysborough and Area Garden Club was organized and became a member of the NSAGC in the Eastern District. A new Club was also formed in the Western District at Saulnierville with 65 members.

At this time a very attractive and informative Newsletter was being produced by the Rhododendron Society of Canada, Atlantic Region, a group affiliated with the Association. They held plant sales, supported Rhododendron Sunday at the Kentville Research Station, and held an annual show at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic.

As of April 1986 there were 30 garden clubs with 730 members, 6 horticultural societies with 303 members and 4 affiliated plant societies with 199 members--for a total of 40 garden groups and a total membership of 1232.

In September 1986 a "Floral Celebration" was staged by the Halifax-Westmoor Horticultural Society at Saint John's United Church, Windsor Street, Halifax. With the encouragement, assistance and expertise of Mrs. Barbara Christie, the Church was beautifully decorated by Metro club members with a total of 38 floral arrangements, including ones measuring approximately 4 feet by 4 feet on the ten 7 feet by 14 inch windowsills of the Church. A detailed description of the planning and executing of this event is available at the Nova Scotia Archives.

#### 33rd Convention - June 20 & 21

Again held at the Cox Institute, the program featured interesting talks, and the Halifax Seed Company had its usual display and sales station. There were also displays of floral arrangements and of scrapbooks compiled by the Clubs.

Over 100 gardeners attended the Awards Banquet when the guest speaker was Alex Wilson, botanist at the Nova Scotia Museum.

Gardener of the Year was Mrs. Alma Chetwynd of Shelburne. The NSAGC Award was received by Arthur Haskins, Great Village, and the Bronze Medal was presented to Alex Wilson for outstanding contribution to horticulture by a non-garden club member.

A special plaque was given to Walter Grant, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, a long-time friend of the Association, on the occasion of his retirement. Wilf Armstrong presented him with a 'cane' which was a branch of the 'contorted hazel tree' at the Annapolis Historical Garden.

1987:

During this year a new Club was established at Clementsvale bringing the total number of Clubs to 44 and membership to 1400. At the September board meeting it was reported that a new Club to be known as "Root-4 Garden Club" was being organized in the Cape Breton District at Sydney Forks.

Reports forwarded to the Historian via District Meetings indicated that many gardening-related activities were being carried on by Clubs in all districts and that Clubs were having programs on gardening at most of their meetings. These reports have been forwarded to the Nova Scotia Archives.

In May the New Glasgow Horticultural Society celebrated 50 years of gardening, beautification and sharing a common interest by holding a banquet at Trinity Church Hall. Special guest Margaret Hambleton brought greetings from her husband, Arthur, the founder of the Society, who was then in his 99th year. Guest speaker Dick Morton, provincial horticulturist, told members they were the oldest Society of gardeners in the Province. Present at the banquet was Mr. Clare Ferguson who joined the Society in its first year.

The Hillcrest Landscape Club of Bible Hill held their 40th Anniversary dinner in November at St. David's Church Hall. A comprehensive history of the Club revealed that the first president was Mr. Avarad Fisher. Members have been very active in beautification of their community in such locations as the Bible Hill Fire Hall, Bible Hill schools and "Holy Well Park".

Specialty societies active in the Province in the 80's included the First Halifax African Violet Society, the Middleton African Violet Society, the Canadian Rhododendron Society, Atlantic Region, the Orchid Society and the Dahlia Society of Nova Scotia. These were holding regular shows or displays.

It was reported that in 1987 29 flower shows including 24 regular and 5 specialty shows were held. At 13 of those shows judges were provided by the Department of Agriculture.

34th Convention - June 19 & 20

Interesting items on the program of the convention, held at the Cox Institute, included a debate on "It is more fun to grow dahlias than glads" between Arthur Haskins and Milford Jackson.

During the business meeting a suggestion was made that some thought should be given to moving the location of the Convention to various areas of the Province.

A special trophy was presented by Wilf Armstrong to Ted Selig on the occasion of his retirement from the Board, now becoming an Honorary Director.

Alex Wilson, botanist at the Nova Scotia Museum, spoke at the Awards Banquet on "The Preservation of Wild Plants in Nova Scotia." Gardeners of the Year were Frank and Rhoda Thompson of New Glasgow. A plaque for "good gardening" went to Alice Oliver of Digby, one for "contribution to gardening" to Bill Wilgenhof of Antigonish, and the Award of Merit to Yvonne Johnstone of the North Sydney Garden Club.

At the end of 1987 the NSAGC lost a good friend and very valuable member in the death of Jack Harris of Bear River. He had been a member of the Board for many years and representative for the Western District as well as being in charge of the Provincial Gardening Quiz.

#### 1988:

At the April meeting of the NSAGC Board, one of the recommendations received from the Trustee and Advisory Committee was that a "Mini Convention" should be held in the Cape Breton District in October. Plans for this proceeded and resulted in a very well-attended event held on October 15th at North Sydney, arranged by the Cape Breton District Council. The idea is for these mini conventions to be held from time to time in various locations throughout the Province.

#### 35th Annual Convention - June 17 & 18

At the business meeting it was decided that Area Representatives would now become full Board members with the title of District Director, and that the appropriate change in the By-Laws be made.

It was reported that an increase in the yearly grant received from the Department of Agriculture has brought the amount to \$1,000.

The resignation of Carl Levo from the Board was accepted with regret. Carl was Chairman of the Board for several years and acted in various capacities, notably as Treasurer.

A Jack Harris Memorial Trophy was donated by the Forties Garden Club.

Freda Robb succeeded Marjorie Fowler as Chairman, with Diane Metz acting as Secretary.

As Historian, Marjorie Fowler gave several talks at the Convention covering the History of the Association during the past 35 years.

Gardener of the Year was Bill Wilgenhof of the Antigonish Garden Club. The Bronze Medal was awarded to Warren Tregunno of Halifax.

During the year the Westmount Park Garden Club of Truro celebrated its 25th Anniversary. Each year since 1975 the Club has distributed marigold kits to Grade 2 classes in the Truro school. The marigold is Truro's official flower.

On September 12, 1988 Arthur Hambleton celebrated his 100th birthday. A native of England, Arthur emigrated to Canada in 1912, and settled in New Glasgow where he was a founder, life member and past president of the New Glasgow Horticultural Society, the first horticultural society to receive a charter. He was also considered to be the 'founding father' of the NSAGC, and served on the Board for many years. He was a prominent flower show judge, and was active in the Floriculture Section of the Atlantic Winter Fair.

His death occurred on September 22nd, 1988 in Halifax. The sympathy of the Board was extended to his wife Margaret and other members of his family.

Also a great loss to the Association in September was the death of Walter Grant, who served as Deputy Minister of Agriculture for eleven years.

The Association lost a good friend in November 1988 with the passing of Bill Prescott, who resided in Bair Verte, N.B. He was a long-time member of the Amherst Garden Club and of the Board where he served as Treasurer, Chairman of the Activities Contest and District Director for the Central and Northern clubs.

#### 1989:

At the April meeting of the Board of Directors, the name of the Advisory Committee was officially changed to the Trustee and Advisory Committee.

Dick Morton reported that the quality of the Yearbooks giving a record of clubs' yearly activities was much improved and that they would be displayed at the Convention.

It was decided to purchase a new typewriter for the use of the Association secretary. The decision was also made to purchase video tapes on gardening subjects which will be added to the Program Library. The Association was also planning the purchase of a new slide projector and screen.

#### 36th Convention - June 16 & 17

At the annual meeting the following directors were elected:  
Cape Breton: Mrs. Freda Robb, Mrs. Diane Metz\*, Mrs. Gail O'Handley;  
Central and Northern: Mr. Percy Ellis\*, Mr. Arthur Chisholm;  
Eastern: Mr. Bill Dewtie\*, Halifax: Mrs. Roma Aiken, Mr. Bob Cooke\*;  
South Shore: Mr. Tony Tattersal\*; Valley: Mrs. Mary MacMillan\*;  
Western: Mr. Arthur Henderson\*. (\* denotes District Directors).  
Freda Robb was elected Chairman and Gail O'Handley Vice-Chairman.

By delegate vote a motion was passed to increase the Association dues from \$1.00 to \$2.00 per person with no ceiling. Yvonne Johnstone explained that it is felt that Board members should be re-imbursed for some of their travel costs.

On Friday afternoon those present attended the official opening of the Gazebo at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College Alumni Gardens.

A varied program included a slide show by Alex Wilson, botanist at the Nova Scotia Museum, the Provincial Gardening Quiz and speakers on a number of interesting topics.

At the Awards Banquet official greetings from the Agricultural College were presented by David Sangster, Director of Horticulture and Biology Services, and Ralph Morehouse, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, brought greetings from his Department.

Gardener of the Year was Mrs. Kay Hulme of the Bridgewater Garden Club. Mr. Lloyd Lantz of North Sydney received a NSAGC Award.

An excellent report on the Convention was submitted at the September board meeting by Arthur Inkpen, Convention Chairman, which revealed that 135 NSAGC members had attended.

In September David Sangster met with the Trustee and Advisory Committee to discuss future plans which it is hoped will facilitate liaison with the Department of Agriculture when Richard Morton retires.

FLOWERS OF THE ATLANTIC '89: At the Spring District Meeting held in Halifax, the garden clubs in the area and the NSAGC were approached by Keith Lewis, a representative of the World Trade and Convention Centre with the suggestion that a very large flower show could be staged on the ice surface of the Metro Centre-- a first for Nova Scotia. A committee representing all the clubs in the area held regular meetings to plan this event. John Bywater, Carol Dancer and Marjorie Fowler acted as co-chairmen with Mr. Lewis. Other committees were established to provide workers at the Show, but all staging, schedules, ribbons, tags and advertising were provided by the Centre.

Exhibitors were able to drive into the Metro Centre with their entries, and this proved to be very convenient. Although most exhibitors were from the Metro area, entries also came from Cumberland, Colchester, Cape Breton, Digby and Pictou counties and the Valley. The large surface of the Metro Centre was ablaze with 1511 entries including 543 dahlias of every variety, beautiful floral arrangements, roses, glads, lilies, african violets and gesneriads, vegetables and many classes of annual and perennials.

The show opened at 2:00 p.m. on August 12th when Mrs. Mavis Buchanan, wife of the Premier of Nova Scotia, cut the ribbon. Several commercial booths (e.g. City of Halifax, T.L.C. Magazine, Gordon's Greenhouses) had space in the Metro Centre. Particularly attractive displays were staged by the Orchid Society, and by Paul



Brunelle of Dartmouth whose collection of cacti, succulents, photographs and educational material was outstanding. Several garden clubs and the Dahlia Society of Nova Scotia had attractive booths near the entrance. A small theatre was also a feature of the show.

Judges were: Wilfred Armstrong, Arlene Britten, Barbara Christie, John Bywater and Gordon Ryder.

Cash prizes were donated, some by clubs and individuals, and the NSAGC, and a picture of the Metro Centre was awarded to the "People's Choice" winner, Mrs. Joyce Boon of Dartmouth.

The cooperation of the Metro Centre staff was excellent, and although the show was not a success financially, it is hoped more people will attend if the show becomes a yearly event.

MINI-CONVENTION: The second Mini-Convention sponsored by the NSAGC was hosted by the Valley Gardeners Club of Kentville and held At the Kentville Agriculture Centre on September 16th. An excellent program was enjoyed by the many gardeners attending.

During 1989 a number of excellent video tapes were purchased by the Association for use as program material by garden clubs.

An important event during the year was the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Chester Garden Club, first organized in April 1939 for the purpose of beautifying the village and sponsored by the Women's Institute. One of their first undertakings was to plant a garden on the Parade Grounds. Since that time "the Club has done much to add to the attractiveness of the village and to promote interest in horticulture and the beauties of nature". The year-long Anniversary Program included the Annual Flower Show in August and an Anniversary Dinner in November. Further details are available at the Nova Scotia Archives.

In October Ted Selig, an honoary member of the Association who had served the Board faithfully for many years, passed away and the sympathy of the Board was extended to his wife Phyllis and other members of his family.

The first Historian of thd Association, Mrs. B. C. (Marietta) Silver also passed away. She had lived in Wolfville for many years. She was President of the Association in 1960.

This concludes the History of the Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs for the years 1973 to 1989.

In 1989 the Association consisted of 38 garden clubs, 6 horticultural societies and 2 specialty societies. During the past ten years new clubs have been established at Windsor, Sydney Forks, Coxheath, Mount Denson, New Waterford, Hilden, Kentville and Halifax (Spryfield).

Gardening seems to be increasing in popularity as a leisure-time activity, with many families growing their own vegetables, even in small city gardens, or on balconies. Talks on gardening have become part of the programs of Recreation Departments in several cities, and regular talks on gardening appear on radio and television shows.

With new emphasis on the environment, more attention is being paid to avoiding the use of pesticides and composting is being actively promoted. Gardeners can be in the forefront of this movement.

It is inevitable that changes will occur during the 90's in garden clubs and in the Association itself but with both continuing to promote knowledge of horticulture and in so doing encourage further beautification of our Province. .

NOVA SCOTIA ASSOCIATION OF GARDEN CLUBS (INC.)

GARDEN CLUBS, HORTICULTURAL SOCIETIES AND SPECIALTY SOCIETIES

1989

ANNAPOLIS COUNTY

Champlain Garden Club  
Clements Garden Club  
Wilmot Garden Club

ANTIGONISH

Antigonish Garden Club

CAPE BRETON

Coxheath Garden Club  
Dominion Garden Club  
Glace Bay Garden Club  
New Waterford Garden Club  
North Sydney Garden Club  
Root 4 Garden Club  
Sydney Garden Club  
Westmount Garden Club

COLCHESTER COUNTY

Blanche Forbes Garden Club  
Cobeguid Garden Club  
Great Village Garden Club  
Hilden Garden Club  
Hillcrest Landscape Club  
Westmount Park Garden Club

DIGBY COUNTY

Admiral Digby Horticultural Society  
Clare Garden Club  
Hill-N-Dale Garden Club  
Weymouth Garden Club

GUYSBOROUGH COUNTY

Guysborough & Area Garden Club

HALIFAX COUNTY

Bedford Horticultural Society  
Chebucto Garden Club  
Dartmouth Horticultural Society  
First Halifax African Violet Society

HALIFAX COUNTY (CONTINUED)

Halifax-Westmoor Horticultural  
Society  
Junior League Sustainers Garden Club  
Sackville Garden Club (disbanded)

HANTS COUNTY

Haliburton Garden Club (Windsor)  
Mount Denson Garden Club

KINGS COUNTY

Valley Gardeners (Kentville)

LUNENBURG COUNTY

Bridgewater Garden Club  
Charing Cross Garden Club  
Chester Garden Club  
Forties Garden Club  
Riverport Garden Club

PICTOU COUNTY

Lyond Brook Garden Club (disbanded)  
New Glasgow Horticultural Society  
Pictou Horticultural Society  
Westville and Area Gardening Club

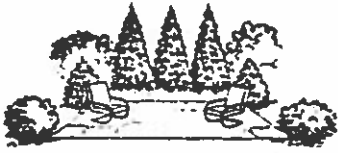
SHELBURNE COUNTY

Shelburne Garden Club

SPECIALTY PLANT SOCIETIES

Rhododendron Society of  
Canada (Nova Scotia)

Dahlia Society of Nova Scotia



# Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs

## LIST OF PRESIDENTS/CHAIRMEN - 1955 - 1989

1955	Clare C. Ferguson	1973-1974	Dr. Milford Jackson
1956	Clare C. Ferguson	1974-1975	Dr. Milford Jackson
1957	William L. Forsyth	1975-1976	Jack Harris
1958	Mrs. Muriel M. Gardner	1976-1977	Jack Harris
1959	Mrs. Muriel M. Gardner	1977-1978	Yvonne Johnstone
1960	Mrs. Marietta M. Silver	1978-1979	Yvonne Johnstone
1960-1961	Lew H. Norris	1979-1980	Carl Levo
1961-1962	Lew H. Norris	1981-1982	Carl Levo
1962-1963	Jack E. Tomkinson	1982-1983	George Carmichael
1963-1964	Jack E. Tomkinson	1983-1984	George Carmichael
1964-1965	Gerald Lewis	1984-1985	Jack Harris
1965-1966	Arthur Hambleton	1985-1986	Marjorie E. Fowler
1966-1967	Arthur Hambleton	1986-1987	Marjorie E. Fowler
1967-1968	William A. Prescott	1987-1988	Freda Robb
1968-1969	William A. Prescott	1988-1989	Freda Robb
1969-1970	Miss Jean MacDonald	1989-1990	Freda Robb
1970-1971	Miss Jean MacDonald		
1971-1972	Wilfred H. Armstrong		
1972-1973	Wilfred H. Armstrong		