

The GardenShed

SPRING/SUMMER 2018

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE APPLE COUNTRY GARDEN CLUB



Summer Beauty

Photo by Sharron MacDonald



The GardenShed

~ From the Editor

WHEW.....am I ever glad to see some relief from the humidity that we have been experiencing for the past few weeks. I am sure that I am not alone in my feelings about this! I know that some of you really enjoy the heat and truth be told, I don't mind a little warmth, but I draw the line at HUMIDITY!! It just makes me ugly and I can't afford that. I have found it very difficult to get out into my garden because of my breathing difficulties, so unfortunately, the weeds have reigned supreme! The past few days, I have managed to get out into the garden and do some much needed work, including planting the daylillies that I got on our visit to True North Daylillies on July 17th. If you haven't been there yet, you need to go and see the wonderful gardens and all the daylillies in the fields.....over 60 thousand according to Tim, the owner! We have had a busy 4 months since the last newsletter and I hope you have some time to get a "cuppa" and sit down to enjoy this missive. Since it has 4 months of activities, it is quite lengthy, but I hope that you will spend the time to find all the "goodies" enclosed.

You know, I find it hard to believe that we are coming up to August already when it just seems like we were trying to get through what we called "Spring"! The weather patterns have changed so drastically around the word and it gives us pause to wonder what we have in store for us in the future. We can never

depend on one season being the same as the year before, because in all possibility, it will be something quite different! As gardeners, I guess we just have to go "with the flow" and adapt to whatever Mother Nature decides to throw at us. As a rule, we often manage to survive the bad weather and our gardens seem to thrive, one way or another. The only problem I have is that we are on a well, as are quite a few of you. We use rain barrels to help get us through dry spells, but this year, we had hit the "bottom of the barrel" as it were. Thank goodness for the rain on Sunday, as we were able to fill 2 of our barrels! The forcast for the rest of this week is for more rain, so hopefully we can get another barrel full and then we should be good for the next time it decides to stay dry for awile. I have had to water everything every day....the tomatoes and peppers are doing well, but I'm sure they wouldn't be doing so well if I hadn't watered so much. I now plant my vegetables in containers and I have them on my deck, much easier to manage! My other containers have my flowers in them and they are doing not too badly either. Now, I just have to focus on all the weeds in the flower beds and with the rain, the weeds should be easy to pull, right?

Don't forget that we have Trash and Treasures coming up on August 11th, so please get your "treasures" together so we can make a successful day of the sale. Items can be dropped off at Jim and Valerie Detenbeck's home, 7 King Street East in the week before the sale.



Also, we have our Annual Potluck Picnic coming up on August 21st and this will also be held at Jim and Valeries starting at 5pm. The society will be providing the meat and beverages, but please bring a salad or dessert item. Don't forget to bring your dishes, utensils and a lawn chair. Hope to see you all there! Anyway, as we head into Fall, we can look forward to cooler temps (hopefully) and we have lot's to look forward to at our meetings. The elections will be coming up in November, so perhaps some of you might like to think about taking on a position on the Board or nominating someone for a position.

~ SHARRON



A couple of beautiful Dahlias
Apple Country Garden Club 2018 Flower of the Year

~Vice- President's Message

Spring it was probably said by some romantic poet "comes in

like a fair maiden anxious to greet her summer blooming"

Yeah right...

This year it was more like a reeling sailor just back from shore leave after 8 months at sea.

But as all good things, spring did arrive albeit later, colder and wetter than usual.

The yearly rush to get gardens ready for planting is now over and the fruits of our labour are beginning to show.

It has been a very busy spring for the Garden Club. In April we participated in the first annual Cramahe/Brighton Home and Garden Show at the Keeler Centre. The day was very successful for both the show and the club. We had a lot of interest from people about the club and actually signed up a number of new members. A sampling of the plants that we had at our Apple



Blossom weekend plant sale were also offered for sale. We had activities set up for the Children of show goers including seed planting, lilac branch blossoms, and coloring. It was noted that more than a few weary adult attendees also took part.

During the March break our club held a successful craft day at the Library in Colborne and Castleton.

As well as the hanging baskets in Victoria Park, we have been asked by the township to look after the small gardens under the signs at the borders of Colborne and Castleton. It entails planting and tending the gardens that are already there. We will be looking for volunteers to handle this task, one which I am told we did in days gone by. A good start would be for someone to volunteer as a convenor to organize the work. ANY TAKERS?

The spring plant sale was a huge success. I want to thank Lorelyn and her army of volunteers who dug, potted, setup the sale, and spent a sunny hot Saturday in the park selling to the public. The following 2 week-ends, some of our members also sold plants in the park and did very well. While I don't have the exact total at this writing I do know that we beat our record set just last year. CONGRATULATIONS to one and all.

As many of you already know our home was once owned by a dedicated gardener Elya Chestnut who laid out and planted the bones of the current gardens 1981-1987

Part of her legacy, left by succeeding owners, was a collection of her notes and letters regarding the gardens and gardening.



So, courtesy of Mrs. C., these are the tasks that have to be done in April, May and June so that you will be able to sit back and enjoy your handiwork in summer (“except for the occasional hose drag” per Mrs. Chestnut)

April

- Remove all fall leaves from beds
- Rake lawns to remove thatch
- Go after dandelions and nasty perennial weeds and burdock in beds, dig don't pull
- Cultivate front garden edges at least a foot wide
- Fertilize trees
- Put out bird baths

May

- Hope you got everything done in April because in May everything happens at once
- Get out your box plants

- Weed and cultivate around all spring bulbs now up
- Weed weed weed weed
- Water trees and shrubs
- Fertilize perennial beds with manure and mulch
- Rototill the compost pile
- Dead head tulips and daffodils as required

June

- Prune evergreen hedges and junipers (after fertilizing)
- Stake tall perennials (do not use old nylons for god's sake buy garden twine - direct quote from Mrs. Chestnut)
- Weed weed weed
- Peat moss to evergreens
- Cultivate around spring bulbs and remove old leaves and stems
- Water water water
- Mow grass and rake to compost



July:

Time to sit under the apple tree
and have a good look around
your garden and bask in your
handiwork

One must remember at the time
of writing Mrs. Chestnut was 76
and the gardens extended over
 $\frac{3}{4}$ acre. (She did have the help of
her grandson, occasionally a high
school summer student and a
cleaning lady, as she spent all
day, every day, in her beloved
gardens... her words)

So you can follow her advice or
not and as always, good
gardening and May the sun
always be on your back and the
rain out of your garden shoes.
Bye for now.

~~~ *Jim* ~~~



**~~ April Presentation ~~**  
**April 17<sup>th</sup> , True North Daylillies**  
**With Tim Hobbs**

*"Southern faces in Northern Places" is the credo of True North Daylilies.*

*The two acre plot in Warkworth, belonging to Tim Hobbs and Donna Pass, is governed by references to pollen parents...and kids, unripened seed pods; and diploid and tetraploid (say what !?). There is a whole new vocabulary to describe daylilies - teeth, frilly or ruffled edge, big eyes or watermark; fancy faces; and about 300 other unique words of this business. Because this is a business, one that allows those who practice to experiment, create and wallow in the extraordinary beauty of the hybridized daylily.*

*Such is the life of a hybridizer, who by definition, combines two beautiful things to create a third, arguably, more beautiful thing. We all understand the art of hybridizing - it is the process of interbreeding between individuals of different species (interspecific hybridization) or genetically divergent individuals from the same species (intraspecific hybridization). Offspring produced by hybridization may be fertile, partially fertile or sterile. Hybridization occurs due to animal and insect pollinators (see January 2016 article in Gardenshed) or human intervention. The latter*



is an extremely demanding process. Behind the obvious physical challenges working with thousands of plants, in all sorts of weather, fighting off pests and disease and culling as necessary, a practitioner must have an encyclopedic knowledge of plant husbandry. Daunting!

The art of hybridization appeals to the artist but also relies on a deep understanding of what combinations of what elements will perhaps result in a beautiful flower that will appeal to a buyer. Colour, hardiness, delicacy, design and recognition of what features are desirable, is critical and the results rely on a great deal of talent, skill and patience, something Tim Hobbs has in abundance.

Further complicating this process, is the categorization of "evergreen, semi-evergreen and dormant". These terms are often misinterpreted as they relate to daylilies. The term lets us know what plants will do in the winter months, it is not a measure of hardiness. The evergreen retains its colour throughout the winter months. Dormant indicates that the plant dies off completely each year. A daylily can be a particular cultivar and category, but it will behave differently depending on the growing zone. Generally speaking, those that are hardy in zone 5 look dead during the winter months but will rise like the phoenix come spring. Tim has slowly introduced "southern or evergreen" plants into our growing zone, which





*enhances the ability to hybridize bigger, better, more beautiful daylilies with unique features (hence the credo).*

*These "introductions", of course are the "premium" cost daylilies, but there are plenty of beautiful specimens at market prices. There is so much more that could be said about True North Daylilies, but time and space do not permit. So ideally, you and a group of gardeners will make the trek to 59 Hutchison Road in Warkworth to see not only the daylilies but also the other lovely features of Tim and Donna's garden. Available dates are filling up fast so don't procrastinate. I'll leave you with some pictures of the True North gardens.*













*~ Robin Young ~~*



## ~~~ *From One Gardener to Another* ~~~

June 28 As I sit on my veranda writing for this newsletter, I'm struck by the amount of what looks like "snow" falling again today. Just kidding!! It's actually the fluff from the many willow trees in my area. It's been going on about 2 weeks now. It's especially abundant this year – for what reason I don't know. Where it gathers on the deck of the veranda, I've been sweeping it away. When I water the hanging baskets, I'm picking it off the plants. It's a bit sticky too and last week while preparing specimens for the flower show, I was using an old soft toothbrush to clean it off the stems and leaves I was showing. And if I'm not careful, bits go in my mouth while I'm talking to someone in the yard. Hope it stops soon!

I've had a couple of bird surprises this year. Catbirds are nesting here again and I see them every day. The surprise is that they ate all the old, shrivelled, dried up bayberries from the shrub near the front steps. Normally, the leftovers of last years berries just fall to the ground. Who knew?

The other surprise was the cedar waxwings eating the caterpillars of the viburnum beetles that had stripped all the foliage from my highbush cranberry in the front yard. I thought they just ate seeds and fruit. I had decided to remove the shrub but hadn't got around to it yet. Then one day about 3 weeks ago, I noticed the flock of waxwings in the bush and realized what they were doing -- eating the larvae of the beetles. Now I see the bush is beginning to leaf out again. Maybe I'll leave it. And by the way, I have another highbush cranberry in the backyard that the bugs did not find!

One of our club members had the same infestation on a snowball bush (viburnum) and did remove it. She replaced it with something else that so far doesn't seem to have any troubles.





The first round of “bird babies” have now fledged. Mama Oriole brought 3 young ones to the feeder I have. One baby caught on how to use the feeder immediately, the other 2 just watched.

Several Rose-breasted Grosbeak babies are coming to the sunflower seeds. The adult males often come with them. I have 2, so likely 2 females and 2 nests. The males have to be one of the most gorgeous creatures on planet earth!

I had been edging around the Magnolia on the front lawn, but had not finished, so left a wooden handled shovel standing there. Baby Downy Woodpecker landed on it and was pecking away, moving up and down. As far as I know, there are no insects inside the handle!! Mama called him over to the Redbud tree to teach him about a real tree and how to eat seeds at the feeder. Very interesting and amusing to me. I never tire of watching my birds. I feel so grateful to Mother Nature for giving me all these gifts.

VINES: I have a confession to make. I have never been very good at growing large, flowered clematis. So I don't know for sure what has happened this year. They are all doing very well. It's not by my doing. One that had never bloomed, did so early and first, with lovely white flowers on the white obelisk by my side stairs. Behind the garage, all flowered or will. The multi-blue one has bloomed before, but this year many more flowers.

At the front of the house, a pretty purple one is going crazy along the veranda railings and up under the table. Loaded with blooms and buds and I can't remember the name of it! I know the one beside it is Bees Jubilee. It is still in bud. My theory is that the weather conditions are more to their liking this year OR they have just matured and are bigger and better.

Honeysuckle vines always bloom well for me and this year is no exception. Something new I've done is plant 2 “Harlequin” Honeysuckle beside my “Ann” Magnolia. I'm hoping they get enough sun and climb up through. “Harlequin” has green and white variegated leaves and pink flowers. However, I believe it is not quite as vigorous as some other varieties. In my old “Terese Bugnet” rose I



have a yellow Tanquitica clematis and another purple mystery one and they work well together.

And then my favourite vine! Adlumia Fungosa – I just love to say the Latin name. Common name is Allegheny Fleece vine or climbing fumitory. Yes, it's a native plant – New Brunswick to Ontario and Michigan, south to North Carolina and Tennessee. It will never compete with clematis for the WOW factor. Its beauty is in its delicate refinement. Exquisite pale pink flowers that resemble bleeding hearts, without the blood! It has thin twining stems that can grow 10' to 12' in a single season. I grew it from seeds several years ago and put it in the woodland garden as I understood it wants partial shade and does poorly in full sun. It needs to climb through other plants and shrubs as it can't stand on its own. Well it grew there many years and self seeded itself around. OK with me! Now it has worked its way to the front of my house, which faces south. Lot's of sun there! It's now on both sides of my front stairs, mixing with clematis at the front and trying to take over the railings on the west side. I wish you could see it!! Oh, you could. If interested, come on over. That's all for now.

~ Peg Howden ~

## ~~~ *MUSINGS FROM BARRIE WOOD* ~~~

There's nothing like a trip to your local garden centre to give you a good feeling about your relationship with the Earth, the Weather, Plants and Life. Hundreds of square metres of luxuriant plant life, displayed to show off the colour and form of all the thousands of

possibilities that are available to us in this most fortunate of countries.

So. When I was feeling a little beaten down by events on the international scene, as well as the national and local ones, I thought a trip to fill an empty space in a corner garden would be a therapeutic move.



I wandered among the aisles for some time, watching staff with snappy green t-shirts rushing hither and yon, watering, pinching, moving pots. One eventually asked me if I could use some help. I said I could, in fact, and off we went.

SGTS (Snappy Green T-Shirt): What was it you were looking for, sir?

Me: Well, I've got an open space in my garden and I want something to fill it.

SGTS: Great! What did you have in mind?

Me: A plant.

SGTS: Oookay. What kind were you thinking of?

Me: One that will flower. And be easy to grow.

SGTS: Fine, now we can narrow a bit. Any colour preference?

Me: Not really. But **easy to grow is a must.**

SGTS: Sure. I'm going to show you something that might interest you. It's over here, doesn't grow too tall, has a lovely purple flower that will bloom through much of the summer. It's a *fensacardean proligulum sceteratis calciferonimus*. Common name Paul's Bunions.

ME: You don't say. Wow, looks lovely. Easy to grow?

SGTS: Oh yes. And only \$10.98 for each 10 inch pot. How many will you need?

Me: Mmmm. Four I think.

SGTS: I'll get you a cart. Oh. Just a thought – acid or alkaline soil?

Me: Mmmm?

SGTS: Acid or alkaline soil where these plants will go?

Me: Ah. Well, not really sure, likely somewhere in the middle. Is that a problem?

SGTS: No I guess not. What kind of microclimate?

Me: Oh we have a pretty BIG climate at our place.

SGTS: I meant special considerations that might make your location warmer or colder, windier, exposed, that sort of thing.

Me: Ah yes, well, There's a fence 2 metres away. And a lilac bush around the corner.

SGTS: Sun?

Me: No, just daughters, but they're very willing to help out . . .

SGTS: (strained smile) Hehe . Shade or sun where you plan to put these Bunions?

Me: Yes, of course. Pretty mixed I'd say.

SGTS: What do you enrich with?

Me: Well, I, uh, that is, it's all, uh well, I'm not entirely sure-

SGTS: This plant requires frequent feeding of a 9 to 5 solution of Boron/calcite in a mild titration of sodium pentathol, which as you know is truth serum, so this plant will never be able to fool you – a nice touch in a plant, no?

Me: Uuuhhh, yes, I suppose so. Is there something else about this **easy to grow** plant that I should know?

SGTS: No, I don't think so. Unless you don't have the underground heating cables -



Me: Wait, what?

SGTS: -with digital thermostatic controls. This little guy needs a constant, very warm temperature when it first goes in the ground, gradually cooling as it adapts to your, uh, middling acidic soil with mixed sun. Oh, and the pruning is pretty crucial -

Me: Somehow I'm not surprised.

SGTS: -when the plant attains 14 inches of growth, the bottom two rounds of leaves need to be removed.

Me: Ok.

SGTS: UnLESS the top tiers of leaves are showing an orangy deposit right up at the stem. This indicates that your "every 36 hour watering regimen" has been a bit iffy, and you need to be more accurate with your timers.

Me: AAhh, I think I hear my mother calling me – which is alarming because she passed away a few years ago, and I –

SGTS: Wait, there are just a few more things, and will that be cash, credit, or debit?

Me: That will be when my microclimate freezes over, and you learn to re-label your sections as Hard to Grow, Ridiculous to Grow, and You've Got to be Kidding! Now I'm going to relax by reading about the latest Trump tweet and the odds of nuclear war overtaking global warming as the main threat to human existence on this planet. Thanks for your help! HEELLPP!

SGTS: Anytime. (shrugs)

~ *Barrie* ~



## *JUNE FLOWER SHOW*

*Given the poor Spring and hot summer we have had so far, I was very pleased to see how many exhibits we had for our June Flower Show. I was sure that there would be very little in peoples' gardens with which to put together an entry, never mind putting in a decorative item. Just goes to show you that you can't keep a good gardener down and they will always find a way to get around Mother Nature!! Congratulations to all our entrants and to those of you who were successful in getting a ribbon!*

*~~ Sharron ~~*



*Our 3 top winners!*



*Enjoying the entries.*



*Some more of the Flower Show entries.*



*July Trip to True North  
Daylillies*



*Lillies of the Field and a few  
gardeners!*



*Tim Hobbs, our Host.*



*What to pick, what to pick!!*



**~~The Apple Country  
Garden Club~~  
May 15th, 2018 presentation  
Anna Mizyn of Anna's  
Gardens  
“Winter Hardy cacti and  
succulents”**

Once again the Apple Country Garden Club welcomed a speaker for whom one element of gardening has become a passion. Anna Mizyn was born in Poland and emigrated to Canada in 1989. After two years at Horticultural College, she worked in orchards, nurseries and coops to hone her trade. She began selling her own plants in a small garden in 1994 and has graduated today to a 96 acre property near Lindsay Ontario, which includes low maintenance mixed beds, a shade garden which will become a woodland garden in time, and several large, well drained, raised beds, containing mostly succulents . Although Anna's gardens are many and varied, she brought her love of cacti and succulents to our meeting. A self described “mad gardener”, Anna likes to push the limits with new and unique plants; growing from seed and trying things other people consider hopeless.

But first, a primer on this species of plant. Cacti are succulents that can store moisture, but they are placed in a separate category (*Cactaceae*). All cacti are succulents, but not all succulents are cacti. In order to be a cacti, the plant must have “areoles” or the bumps one associates with a cactus and out of which grow the spines. Next, there are two main species of cacti native to Canada: 1. *Escobaria* or pin cushion cactus and 2. *Opuntia Fragilis* or brittle prickly pear cactus. Cacti can be found in Canada primarily in BC, southwest Ontario and the southern prairies. The climate in these areas represents the outside limit that will support cacti in Canada. Growers hybridize to create more hardy plants but it must be said, this species prefers the warmer climes. Other fun facts: there are 2,000 plus species of cacti and succulents; they need a well drained growing medium but they tolerate very poor soil and will grow even in gravel and sand; they need very little water; they thrive on neglect; there are 60 species of *Crassulaceae* (stone crop); the category also encompasses *Sempervivum tectorum* (hens and chicks); they can be found from



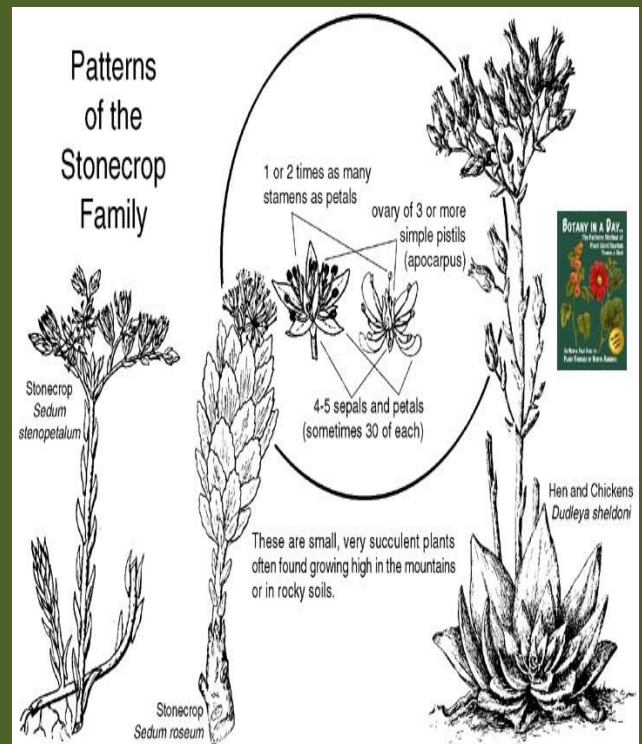


Morocco to Iran, throughout the Alps,  
Carpathians  
and Caucasus, and in the Sahara Desert.  
Finally,  
there are 35,000 name varieties.  
Following are a few pictures representing  
the  
cacti/succulent species to give you an idea of  
their  
variety and beauty. For a complete  
inventory,  
Google “Anna’s Perennials” and scroll  
through the  
“plant” section. I couldn’t possibly do  
justice to  
this vast species with the unpronounceable  
five  
syllable names, but you can browse to your  
heart’s  
content on Anna’s website.  
If a visit to Anna’s gardens is in your future,  
she can be found at 63 Shoreview Road,  
Lindsay,  
ON Phone 705 799-0062,



*~ Robin Young ~*





## ~~~ *Over the Garden Fence* ~~~

*(Neighbouring Horticultural Societies)*

**Brighton Horticulture** meets at King Edward Community Centre, 81 Elizabeth St. 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm. Upcoming Meetings: Aug. 11, **Annual Flower and Vegetable Show**, **September 15, Plant Sale – 9am – 11:30am** **Curling Club Parking Lot**

**Cobourg Horticulture** meets at Cobourg Columbus Community Centre, 232 Spencer Street East (D'Arcy), 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm. Upcoming Meetings: September 5, Ornamental Grasses, John Stratham.

**Grafton Horticulture** meets at St. Andrews United Church, 137 Old Danforth Rd., 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm. Upcoming meetings: September 11, "Mushrooms", Jan Thornhill, Summer Flower Show

**Omemee Blooms Garden Club** meets at Trinity United Church, 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month, 7:30 p.m. Upcoming meetings: September 17, Fossilized Plants Still in Existence Today, Erin Muscutt

**Peterborough Horticulture** meets at the Lions' Centre, 347 Burnham St., Peterborough, 4th Wednesday of the month, 7:00 p.m. Upcoming meetings: September 26, Andrew McIlmoyle, "Mushrooms: All the Dirt".

**Port Hope & District Horticulture** meets at the Ruth Clarke Centre, 81 Mill St. S., 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the Month at 7:00 pm. Upcoming Meetings: September 17, Create a lovely Thanksgiving Centrepiece, Judy Rivers and Tracey Smyth, Durham Mater Gardeners.

**Plant Sales:** *Please stay tuned for next years plant sales!!*





## *Our adventures in Gardening!*



Some of the gang that helped plant the hanging baskets for town!



**The baskets waiting to be taken up town to be hung.**





**The chairs ready to be placed around town.**



**Four of the members that attended the June Celebration in Peterborough in June. From the left, Denise Rozanski, Sharron MacDonald, Valerie Detenbeck and Jim Detenbeck.**

*~~ Please Join Us ~~*

... on *facebook* or online at [cramahehort.ca](http://cramahehort.ca)

... or at a meeting - on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Keeler Centre in Colborne.



**Upcoming:**

**August 21<sup>st</sup> – 5pm**

*Annual Potluck Picnic  
Jim and Valerie Detenbeck's  
7 King Street East  
Colborne*

**September 18<sup>th</sup> – 7pm**

*Vegetable and Decorative Flower Show  
Kerry Hacket – Medical Herbalist  
Nominations for Officers for 2019*

**October 16<sup>th</sup> – 7pm**

*Photography Show  
Decorative Workshop and Winterscaping  
Planting Demo  
Nominations for Officers for 2019*

**November 20 – 6pm**

*CHS Annual General Meeting  
Potluck and Awards  
Election and Installation of Officers  
For 2019*

**CRAMAHE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

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***Growing our  
community ....  
one garden at a time.***

