In This Issue:
3  Alumni News
10 Graduate News
14 From the Board
15 Alumni News
16 AGM News
24 Foundation Report
25 Industry News
27 Legacy Prairie Garden Donors
28 Plant ID Quiz
29 Events
29 Associate Members

 Coming Events
64th Educational Conference
Rooted in the Garden
80th Anniversary
NPC School of Horticulture
Saturday, September 10th, 2016

Above:  During a break in the Alumni Association AGM, graduates, students, instructors, honourary members — Plac Iammarino (middle right) and Dan Johnston (middle left) enjoy time to catch up on news on the lower level of the School of Horticulture Lecture Hall. Photo by Dylan Mulleboom ’12.

Reviews, Views and News at the AGM
By Anne Van Nest ’83

A full day of business, education and fellowship events were scheduled on Saturday, February 6th at the Alumni Association of the Niagara Parks Commission School of Horticulture’s 69th Annual General Meeting (AGM).

After registration in the Lecture Hall, alumni and students helped themselves to coffee, perused the student independent study project displays, and stopped to see the clothing that the Students’ Association had set out for sale.

Charles Hunter NPD ’95, Superintendent NPC School of Horticulture, Botanical Gardens, and Butterfly Conservatory was the first up to the podium and started by surveying the audience and recognizing the various graduate and student years – from the early 1950s to 2018. He said there have been 75 classes and 657 graduates since the first graduates in 1939. Charles continued on with a discussion of highlights from the past year and the exciting plans for 2016.

In 2015 Charles had an opportunity to be part of a panel of delegates that represented the six botanical gardens that operate schools of horticulture. The panel, which included delegates from Kew, RBG Edinburgh, Longwood Gardens,
Alumni Association Mission Statement

The Alumni Association is a diverse team of graduates and friends who celebrate their affiliation with the Niagara Parks Commission School of Horticulture through a variety of programs and services designed to support its members, the School and the highest professional standards of horticulture.

From the President

By Zenia Buzanko ’03

Dear Alumni,

Are you ready to Spring forward? Any minute now this year will be full speed ahead! And there’s a lot ahead in 2016. The first thing to do is mark your calendars for September 10, 2016!

September 10, 2016 is the official party date for celebrating the School of Horticulture’s 80th birthday and includes our own Alumni Association Conference. There will be many activities happening and it promises to be a memorable event. You don’t want to miss it!

The second thing for us all to do next is pay our annual dues. March 1st is the traditional dues date, so pay as soon as you can. Your contribution is always needed, welcome and shows your support for this Association of graduates from the NPC School of Horticulture – especially important during this celebratory year.

Membership forms are packaged with the Blue Book information update forms. If you are reading this newsletter then we have your contact information, thank you for keeping in touch. If you know someone who is not receiving Heralds or any other information from the Alumni Association, we might have the wrong email address and not know it. We aim to reach everyone regardless of if they have paid dues or not. Help us make sure no one is being left out.

What’s next? If you attended the Annual General Meeting on February 6th, thank you for participating and I hope you enjoyed the lovely day of fellowship and presentations. We always have a good time when we get together; if only more grads could join us, especially the ones who live close enough to travel. If you were unable to attend, you can read more about the day, including the Board reports in this issue. Thank you to the School for hosting once again, and to the Class of 2016, Kyle Berwick’14, and Andrea Weddum’13 for your presentations. And an especially big thank you to the Board of Directors for all your hard work and contributions in 2015! It was a pleasure.

[continued on page 14]
[continued from the front cover]

Missouri Botanical Gardens, New York Botanical Gardens and Niagara Parks, was part of the Botanical Gardens Conservation International conference held at Missouri Botanical Gardens in April. Charles commented that it was a valuable opportunity to share challenges and successes with the handful of like institutions from around the world.

Also cause for congratulations was the fact that the School of Horticulture celebrates 10 years of participation in the Niagara Falls Schools in Bloom program this year. As part of this program, School of Horticulture students are mentors for high school and elementary school student-initiated horticulture projects.

A new interpretive option for the Botanical Gardens was unveiled in 2015 – a Botanical Gardens App. There are now 10 stations throughout the grounds where Android smart phone users that have downloaded the free app can see garden images, read along and hear Ken Beattie’s voiceover (NPD ’75) on a guided walking tour. This project, in partnership with Niagara College, is a start at helping to guide visitors through the gardens and interpret the designs and plantings. Free WIFI is available throughout most of the grounds (except for a few dead zones in the Arboretum).

The annual bedding for the Botanical Gardens this year will celebrate a bold, Carnival theme to celebrate the upcoming Olympics in Brazil.

The Legacy Garden showed great maturation last year and had the best flowering from June through October. The circular bench project will be initiated in 2016. Dean McClelland, a professional stone mason will be on site the 3rd week in April to start construction on the bench. In September the School of Horticulture students will further their education in stone masonry by attending a Dry Stone Festival.

A team of 12-15 students will have the opportunity to participate in the NALP (National Association of Landscape Professional) Annual National Collegiate Landscape Competition. Held at Mississippi State University in March, the competition will see how School of Horticulture students’ skills and knowledge stack up against the best in the United States. Around 850 students from 65 colleges will compete in 28 horticulture and landscaping events.

Charles finished his presentation by announcing exciting news about the events that will be occurring on September 10th during the School's 80th anniversary celebration. In addition to the Educational Conference presented by the Alumni Association for graduates and students, several community groups will be participating in the event which will also open up the celebrations to the public. More details to come.

The AGMs for the Alumni Association of the Niagara Parks School of Horticulture and the Foundation followed with a very thorough reporting of the activities for the past year. More details are included in the reports in this issue of the Horticulture Herald.

After a very delicious lunch prepared by Kevin Battista and Vinnie Armstrong, School of Horticulture Chefs, five members of the Class of 2015 and Darrell Bley, Instructor shared pictures and memories from the third year study tour through the beautiful natural landscapes of Alberta and British Columbia.

A preview of the upcoming Alumni Association Educational Conference in September was given by Kyle Berwick ’14. He is well underway with planning for this event and welcomes input of speaker suggestions.

Preliminary sample sketches of traditional, modern and alternative versions of the Alumni Association logo (above)
were provided by Sarah Burt ’14. The audience was asked for input and a survey of preferences was taken to determine which style was preferred. More details will be announced in future Horticultural Heralds.

The finale of the day was an inspiring presentation by Andrea Weddum ’13 of award-winning landscape designs that she had created for Gelderman Landscaping. Andrea also discussed her transition from hand-rendered drawings (which she loved doing as a student) to computer-aided designs and the benefits of 3D programs.
Catching Up with Ben & Public Garden Leadership at Cornell

By Ben Stormes ’09

During the fall of 2014, I made the difficult decision to leave my position of Instructor and Curator at the Niagara Parks Botanical Garden and School of Horticulture to pursue a graduate degree in Public Garden Leadership in the Horticulture Section of Cornell University’s School of Integrative Plant Sciences. I was attracted to the unique fellowship structure, funded by Cornell Plantations, that blends traditional academic coursework, independent research, and applied public horticulture experience that provides strong leadership within the public horticulture field. Since commencing this program, I have been fortunate to work alongside top minds in the plant sciences across a broad array of disciplines, as well as integrate with the student body comprised of tomorrow’s leaders in horticulture, plant breeding, plant biology, and related fields.

Situated in the Finger Lakes region of upstate New York, Cornell University seems to dominate the relatively small city of Ithaca, NY. The city is bustling with a high-energy populace keenly engaged not only in their studies, but also in their local community as well. The city has a population of just over 30,000 with an additional complement of 20,000 students. This demographic results in a lively, energetic, and culturally rich social environment. Local foods, arts, sport, and natural beauty contribute to the essence of what it is to be in Ithaca. There is a saying in the town that Ithaca is “10 square miles surrounded by reality.” I couldn’t agree more, as my time spent here has been pretty unreal! The natural gorges, for which the area is known for, alone could be enough to inspire the most stoic of poets and painters. Add to that the serenity of Cayuga Lake and you’ve got a recipe for some pleasant times, indeed.

However, as a graduate student, my life is not all nature hikes, dining excursions, and inspirational moments. There is a serious workload associated with my current degree, and as such I’ve been keeping tremendously busy. I’ve been fortunate that many of my studies and project work have been collaborative in nature, involving other dedicated individuals in the public garden field. Recently, I had the privilege of working alongside Laura Caddy, NPD ’11, who is the Supervisor of Horticulture, Curator, and Plant Records Manager at The University of Alberta Devonian Botanic Gardens. I was involved in a curatorial review of the garden’s Primula holdings, including voucher collections, nomenclatural review, data records updates, and verification of accession identity. It was a real treat to sink my teeth into this project, and I thank Laura for helping to move the project forward.

Additional highlights from my time here have been working with fellows in the Longwood Graduate Program and the University of Delaware in conjunction with The American Public Garden Association on collaborative project work focused on the curation and management of living botanic collections. One of the most rewarding aspects of a career in public horticulture is how engaged, motivated, and supportive the members of this community are.

As I enter my final semester of graduate school, I turn my focus to the completion of a major research project, dubbed an “action project” in the Master of Professional Studies degree tract. Currently I am researching the status of identity verification in the living collections of North American public gardens. This is a topic that is near-and-dear to my own heart, and has been both challenging and rewarding in its development and current
execution. Through this project I hope to not only assess the current status of verification of identity, but also to identify key attributes of verification programs at diverse gardens in an effort to distill a set of scalable protocols that can be used by gardens wishing to advance these programs in their own collections. Lofty goals? Yes. But important work that is not currently being addressed? Certainly. And with that, I’ll conclude my update here. The stacks of resources for my literature review are staring me down, as if to show me they feel neglected........

Above: Ben Stormes’ current reading list! Photo by Ben Stormes ’09. Right Top: Dan Johnston catches up with Lorne Fast ’89. Right: New Student Association Taylor Parks, Class of 2017 surveys the lunch feast with Celia Le Maistre-Matthys, Class of 2017. Photos by Dylan Muileboom ’12. Below: Prunus ‘Marion Jarvie’ has a mysterious past. Around 1997, a well known Toronto gardener, Marion Jarvie, obtained a small rooted cutting from Japan. The cutting grew into a fine specimen tree which produced a very unusual flower display. The colour is very bright and the petals are narrow, more like a Magnolia ‘Royal Star’. It became the highlight in Marion’s spring garden. Marion Jarvie is a speaker on September 10th at the upcoming Alumni Educational Conference. Photo by Marion Jarvie.
Above (Clockwise left to right): Bailey Wilson '16 and Jay Cetnar '16 discuss the 3rd year field trip. Russ Boles '68, Plac Iammarino, Chris Green '17, Sara Wiens '02 and Zenia Buzanko '03 in the Lecture Hall basement during break. Caleb Greisman '16 and Andrew Guay '16 discussing their field trip to BC. Sarah Burt '14 explains ideas for an updated Alumni Association logo. Graduating third year student, Andrew Guay’s independent study project on organic ornamentals. Michelle Goff '89 and David Hunt '03. Photos by Dylan Muileboom '12.
Save the Date:

64th Annual Educational Conference

“Rooted in the Garden”

Saturday, September 10th, 2016

Featuring:

Marion Jarvie, Erin Schulz, and Steven Biggs

At the Niagara Parks Commission School of Horticulture

2565 Niagara Parkway,
Niagara Falls, ON L2E 2S7

More details in this issue!

Marion Jarvie is a passionate plantswoman who has been gardening in Thornhill for over forty years. She loves plants and invites any and all to her garden.

Steven Biggs, an award-winning journalist, author and speaker from Toronto will be delivering an enthusiastic and fun presentation revolving around “Rooted in the Garden.”
Alumni News

Educational Conference Update

By Kyle Berwick '14

I would like to start off by thanking everyone that made it to this year’s Annual General Meeting (AGM) in February. Your support is greatly appreciated by both the Alumni Foundation and Alumni Association. For those who could not make the AGM this year the Alumni Association board has some fantastic news ... We are bringing back the Educational Conference this year to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the School of Horticulture!

The 64th Educational Conference is going to be a one-day event held at the School of Horticulture Lecture Hall on Saturday September the 10th, 2016. The theme of the conference is “Rooted in the Garden.” The day will start off with a light breakfast followed by four fantastic speakers and will be capped off with dinner and cocktails in the garden.

Our first speaker of the day will be Erin Schulz of the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA). She will be delivering an informative workshop titled, “Greening Your Grounds: A Homeowners Guide to Stormwater Landscaping Projects.” This workshop involves participants working their way step-by-step through the process of assessing, implementing and maintaining various water retention systems within residential landscapes.

The second speaker of the day is Marion Jarvie, an enthusiastic garden photographer and educator from Thornhill, Ontario. Marion will be presenting an engaging presentation called “True Diversity in Small Gardens.”

After lunch Steven Biggs, an award-winning journalist, author and speaker from Toronto will be delivering an enthusiastic and fun presentation revolving around this year’s theme of “Rooted in the Garden.”

In addition to the Alumni Association conference there will be events running throughout the day in the gardens presented by local organizations that promote synergy between like communities and showcase the horticultural industry. These events include: an art display prepared by the Parkway Artist Guild accompanied by a flora display prepared by the Garden Club of Niagara, a plant sale hosted by the Master Gardeners of Niagara, a landscape trades demonstration presented by Landscape Ontario, and more!

Conference registration information will be available soon through the Horticultural Herald, Alumni Association Facebook page and the Alumni Association Website.

See you in September!

A Message About Harold Chase

Pat Chase, wife of Harold Chase ’50 says that Harold, now 92 years old, is in the Veterans Hospital in Ottawa. He has good and bad days and the staff are keeping him comfortable.

Looking for Maurice Chapman ’52

Bill Snowden ’58 writes ... A friend of mine, Patsy Chowins has asked me to enquire about the whereabouts of Maurice Chapman in the class of 52. Patsy’s husband Christopher {deceased} was an exchange student from England and in Maurice’s year. His last known address is on Biscay Road in London, Ontario. Please contact Zenia Buzanko at president@alumninpcsoh.com if you have any more recent contact information.
A Message of Thanks

By Norman E. McCollum ’69

On January 12th, 2016 the Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association presented Norman McCollum with an Honourary Membership. Norm shared his acceptance speech with the Alumni below.

I first of all want to express my thanks to the individuals that submitted my name for consideration to receive an Honourary membership in your association. This recognition becomes even more meaningful to me because it was submitted by my peers. I am humbled and grateful to the OGSA Board of Directors by the recognition you have given to me today, thank you most kindly.

Many of our achievements in Research & Education would not have been possible without the unwavering support of the Ontario Golf Superintendents’ Association and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture & Food.

It has been said that one’s success is achieved by riding on the shoulders of others. Nothing could be more applicable than in my case.

I would like to recognize three individuals that played a large part in my success. First, my long time friend and mentor, Dr. Clayton Switzer, former Dean of the Ontario Agricultural College and Deputy Minister, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

Second, my supervisor, colleague and friend the late Dr. Jack L. Eggens, Professor Emeritus, Department of Plant Agriculture. Jack and I had an incredible career together and I think of him often. How can we but not forget the bellowing of laughter echoing down the hallways by Dr. Eggens during his lectures in various buildings on campus — including his office.

These two individuals spent their careers raising the profile of Ontario’s Golf Superintendents and for that alone we are extremely grateful.

Third, the final group of individuals I would like to recognize is you — the Ontario Golf Superintendents Association and its members.

I always looked forward to those OGSA Research Field Days and was grateful to my staff who wholeheartedly supported me in getting ready for those events. In retrospect I don’t know how we did it with one machine operator, two summer students and myself.

You, the OGSA inspired me. I expected professionalism in the establishment of the research plots that you in part had entrusted me to manage. You motivated me and I am grateful to you for your confidence and support. Your support was unwavering from those 1st beginnings at the Cambridge Research Station in March of 1969 and later on at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute on Victoria Road.

I could not have done it without you. The Ontario Golf Superintendents’ Association has been indeed most kind to me and this was most evident when at my retirement from the University of Guelph which was held at the Victoria Golf Club on October 25th, 2005, David DeCorso announced that the OGSA Board of Directors wished to commit $1,000 a year toward the “Norman E. McCollum Turfgrass Diploma Entrance Scholarship” at the University of Guelph. This most generous donation continues to this day and I am informed that this commitment has been renewed by your Board of Directors for the next five years. Words cannot express my thanks and gratitude for this gesture. I am most proud to share this legacy in partnership between you, myself and the Ontario Agricultural College Alumni Foundation University of Guelph.
Promoting Pollinators
By Ken Beattie ’75

Pollinator programs will abound across the country in 2016 with the Canadian Wildlife Federation (CWF) solidly leading the entire nation. CWF and the NPC have formed a partnership effectively linking the “Green Industry” with educators, schools and institutes of higher learning in Canada. Such linkage affords both organizations a huge advantage not only in awareness and the obvious business rewards but in a sustainable reach out to youth emphasizing the crucial importance of plants and pollinators. Adjunct partnerships with food security agencies, agricultural stakeholders, industry and academic notables is nothing short of a recipe for success. The power of affiliates nationwide in tandem with CWF’s extraordinary reputation, abilities and capacity for results will doubtless strike and imposing stride on Canada’s business and conservation fronts.

What can you do?
1. Certify your commercial properties as “Wildlife Friendly Habitats” Walk the Talk as it were, demonstrate to the public what they can do and provide the plants for them to do it themselves. http://cwf-fcf.org/en/do-something/challenges-projects/get-certified/
3. Become a destination for CWF’s L’il Green Sprouts or participate with young ones in your family. Launching in March 2016.

Above: Janice Thomson, NPC Chair signs a Memorandum of Understanding with Ken Beattie representing the Canadian Wildlife Federation at the School of Horticulture in 2014. Both pledge to support and enhance stewardship and conservation practices, as well as public outreach and educational programming. Photo by Canadian Wildlife Federation. Reprinted with permission.

The Canadian Wildlife Federation says ... Pollination is one of the most important ecological processes on this planet. We depend on pollinators every day for our production of everything from apples to squash, to even chocolate. However, many of our pollinators are under threat. While bees are likely the best known pollinators, hummingbirds, butterflies, moths, flies and beetles are also crucial to the pollination process.


Tell us about your travelling adventures!
Congratulations to Rick MacKinnon '85

On February 23, 2016 Rick MacKinnon, '85 was presented his Silver Acorn award for especially distinguished service to Scouts Canada. Rick is the Leader of the 1st Mount Brydges group near London, Ontario.

Above: Rick MacKinnon receives his Silver Acorn award from Peter Abel (right).

Below: Celebrating the presentation are (left to right) Bernie Avery, Jane M. Johnston, Tri-Shores D.C.C. Rick MacKinnon, and Peter Abel, Sydenham Area Commissioner. Photos by John Sing, Fanshawe College.

New Phone Extensions at the Botanical Gardens

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School of Horticulture</th>
<th>905-356-8554</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>NEW Phone Extensions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carolyn Paterson</td>
<td>6201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marcia Sparkman</td>
<td>6202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Hunter</td>
<td>6203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jason Leavons</td>
<td>6204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lorne Fast</td>
<td>6205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruth Stoner</td>
<td>6207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dennis Eveleigh</td>
<td>6210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessica Bond</td>
<td>6213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sue Clarke</td>
<td>6214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darrell Bley</td>
<td>6215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kitchen</td>
<td>6216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residence Front Door</td>
<td>6217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plac's Shop</td>
<td>6220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Café</td>
<td>6233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manager's Office</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Conservatory</td>
<td>6239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Manager's Office</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpreters</td>
<td>6240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheryl Tyndall</td>
<td>6243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suzette McDonnell</td>
<td>6244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenhouse</td>
<td>6245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cedric Olah</td>
<td>6250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parking Lot</td>
<td>6259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parking Lot Booth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In Memory of Keith Overbaugh ’57

Keith Winston Overbaugh passed away peacefully at the Norfolk Hospital Nursing Home, Simcoe on Tuesday, June 2, 2015. Keith Overbaugh of Port Rowan passed away in his 80th year. Beloved husband of Peggy whom he married September 21, 1957. Loving father of Scott & Judy of St. Williams, Paul & Stephanie of Irvine, California and Lisa Phoenix of Fort Erie. Cherished grandfather of Cienna, Aysia, Malcolm, Kathleen and Alex. Dear brother of Gord & Carol of Langton, Janice Jukes & husband Bill of Port Dover and brother-in-law to Dr. Edward Dundas of London. Predeceased by his sister Barbara Dundas. Memorial Service was conducted from St. John’s Anglican Church, 49 Front Street, Port Rowan on Monday, June 15, 2015 at 2:00p.m. Rev. Tony Bouwmeester officiating. Inurnment was in Brampton Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations to the St. John’s Anglican Church would be appreciated by the family. Originally published at www.yourlifemoments.ca.

Above: Students in front of the residence in 1954. Keith Overbaugh ’57 is on the right. Photo courtesy the National Film Board of Canada. Photo from the School Archives.

Above: Has it really been 13 years? Students and staff pose for a School picture in the Butterfly Conservatory in 2003. Photo courtesy of Zeniua Buzanko ’03 (first row, second from the left) and originally taken by Nerses Photo Studio.
From the Board

From the Desk of the Secretary
By Karen Michaud ’84

The Blue Book is now available in PDF format. Those who have paid their membership fees have been emailed, or mailed their copy. If you are a paid member, and have your own business, send me your logo to include in the Blue Book. It will look great and may increase your business! Make your business stand out by sending in a logo; do it today.

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

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

If you have had a change in your life; a new job, a move, a new baby, or perhaps you know of a fellow graduate who is celebrating an exciting honour, please contact me and I will direct the information to the appropriate board member. As well, don’t forget our friends who are ill.

Karen Michaud ’84 Executive Secretary
8 Hahn Avenue, Cambridge ON, N3C 2X9
Phone: 519-249-0381 Email: npcsha@gmail.com or executivesec@alumnipcsoh.com.

Horticultural Herald Report
By Anne Van Nest ’83

This issue of the Hort Herald is full of exciting news of past, present and future Alumni Association activities. During the plentiful break and lunch opportunities, the Annual General Meeting day was an excellent chance for renewing acquaintances and to meet new graduates through a common bond of shared experiences. Socializing aside, there was plenty of Alumni Association business, Niagara Parks, Botanical Gardens, School of Horticulture updates shared and even an inspiring and educational presentation by Andrea Weddum ’13 about her transition from hand drawn landscape plans to computer-aided drafting and other computer presentation programs.

Thanks are extended to Ben Stormes ’09 and Jenny Kurri ’15 for their articles and images in this issue.

Please remember to share your news and views; the Horticultural Herald is a vital link holding our Alumni together. Let’s keep it strong!

The next deadline is: May 15, 2016 for June printing.

Send your submissions to hortherald@alumnipcsoh.com

Now Available!

Energize your Blue Book listing with your Business Logo

Available to all paid Alumni members. Email your business logo today so you don’t miss being included in the next Blue Book update.

Send your logo to Karen Michaud at executivesec@alumnipcsoh.com

Sample:

Muileboom, Dylan NPD 12 B
Hummingbird Landscapes
8711 Roosevelt Avenue, Niagara Falls, ON L2G 7A3
P: 905-941-1151
E: dylanmuileboom@hotmail.com

Look for the next issue of the Horticultural Herald ...

Graduation, News of the upcoming 80th Anniversary celebrations and more all to arrive in June

Photo credits for this edition of the Horticulture Herald:

Jon Peter, Page 23
Steven Biggs, Page 8 (left)
Marion Jarvie, Page 8 (right)
Dylan Muileboom, Page 3 (right), Page 28 (left)
Zenia Buzanko, Page 2, Page 28 (right)

Renew your Membership today. Fellowship awaits.
**New Board Members for 2016-2017**

Welcome to the newest members of the Alumni Association Board:
1. Art Coles ’71 (A hearty welcome back!)
2. Dean Ruhnke ’15
And upon Graduation:
3. Andrew Guay ’16
4. Bailey Wilson ’16

Huge thanks to outgoing Board Members: Kasia Zgurzynski ’12 and Kyra Zeldon ’02 for all your dedicated work on behalf of the alumni.

[continued from page 2]

**News from the AGM:**

This year’s new Board of Directors

President: Zenia Buzanko ’03
Vice President: Kyle Berwick ’14
Secretary: Cindy Maxwell ’12
Treasurer: Karen Michaud ’84

Officers of the Board: Charles Hunter ’95, Jon Peter ’04, Dylan Muileboom ’12, Andrea Weddum ’13, Melissa Spearing ’13, Anne Marie Van Nest ’83, Art Coles ’71, Dean Ruhnke ’15, and upon graduation: Bailey Wilson ’16, Andrew Guay ’16. Positions to be determined at our next meeting in March.

Leaving the Board are Kasia Zgurzynski ’12, Kyra Zeldon ’02, and Celia Le Maistre-Matthys Class of 2017, thanks for all you have done. We will miss you.

A new Student Association council has been voted in, congratulations to those elected and we look forward to working with you this year.

President: Taylor Parks, Class of 2017
Vice President: Ryan Van Balkom Class of 2018

Happy reading!
Zenia Buzanko ’03
President's Report

By Zenia Buzanko '03

This was a relatively quiet year for the Alumni Association, but we can still look back on quite a few accomplishments.

We started the year off with an exciting AGM last February that included somewhat of a mini conference — one day of speakers and a delicious lunch shared by grads, students and staff of the School of Horticulture. We all met again at our annual Alumni/Student BBQ in September, where, despite the extreme rain, we enjoyed a magical feast and the usual merriment of fellowship.

This past year we were growing the Board, everyone was relatively new and learning their roles and finding out what and how they could contribute. There were some personal heartbreaks making it an especially difficult year, but we have soldiered on and look forward to a joyful year ahead.

We moved forward with our experiments in rebranding including a new/improved logo, exciting emails, face book postings, and promotional items.

The Legacy Prairie Garden continued to provide an opportunity for Alumni to contribute and be part of the Legacy. Donations are still coming in, and there is still work to be done to complete the design. The stone council bench is soon to be a reality this coming year. We didn’t get too much done in the way of forming a new steering committee but we are committed to doing just that once we figure out what it should look like and do exactly. In the meantime the staff and students at the School of Horticulture and Botanical Gardens have taken excellent care of this feature garden and it continues to provide amazement, inspiration, and education to visitors and students.

I am overwhelmingly happy to say our Horticultural Herald came out in splendid form this year without any hitches thanks to our determined, fearless editor Anne Marie Van Nest ’83, we are so fortunate to have her expertise and dedication. We would surely be up the creek without her. Please thank her at every opportunity and also, thanks to everyone who contributed articles and photos, and everyone behind the scenes who facilitated last year’s editions.

Once again our perennial problem — Alumni support by way of attendance and payment of dues. As usual we would like to see some vitality in this area! Something is not working and we are determined to figure out what that is. Please feel free to give your opinions. Lots of them! There are many ways to support the Association so don’t worry that it is just about money. Stay connected! Make sure your info is up to date so we can invite you to things that are fun, and basically keep you informed of what everyone is up to. And if you are up to something, let us know! We’ll spread the word. Fees? Well, we do need them to do good things for Grads and the School of Horticulture, so pay if and when you can. If you miss the March 1st due date don’t worry, you are still good for a year from your payment. We are continuing to look to our website as an option for updating and paying for all kinds of things but we have hit a bit of a snag and it is not happening as quickly as we would like it. Jon will figure it out for us. Thank goodness for Jon Peter and his work with digital media keeping us all connected and entertained.

More details on last year’s activities will be found in the following director’s reports. On that note, thanks to the Board of Directors of the Alumni Association. These, your fellow grads, volunteer precious time and energy because they know — the Alumni Association is a good thing, full of the grooviest people, and they believe in and enjoy that unique connection with other grads and the School of Horticulture’s staff and students. It’s been said before, we are a kind of family, continuously extended. Two members are leaving the Board at the end of this year — Kasia Zgurzynski ’12 and Kyra Zeldon ’02. Thank you so much for your time on the Board. Your contributions have been greatly appreciated and will be missed. Good luck in your future ventures ladies! The student participation on the board was exemplary this past year with Student Association reps President Bailey Wilson Class of 2016 and Vice President Celia Le Maistre-Matthys. They came out to all the meetings and were endlessly supportive and of immense assistance during our events. We all enjoyed your presence immensely.

I have been extremely lucky in my Past-president these past two years, since Charles Hunter’95 happens to be Superintendent of the NPC School of Horticulture, Botanical Gardens, and Butterfly Conservatory. Need I say more? He is the gateway to all our successes in recent years, Alumni Association + Charles = good times (and successful events). His dedication to serving graduates of this School is unabashed and unwavering! He is one proud graduate and ushers each new grad into the fold with pride every year at graduation. Thank you Mr. Hunter.

Next stop, September 2016!! Happy 80th birthday Niagara Parks Commission School of Horticulture, best wishes from all your graduates.
AGM News

Student Liaison Report
By Celia Le Maistre-Matthys, Class of 2017

Study Tours:
- 1st Year Study Tour – Burlington area, Royal Botanical Gardens
- 2nd Year Study Tour – New York City area
- 3rd Year Study Tour – British Columbia area

3rd Year Internships:
- Group 1
  - Miriam Elsworthy – Northway Gardeners, Muskoka ON
  - Caleb Greisman – Windhorse Farm, New Germany NS
  - Andrew Guay – Groundcovers Unlimited, Bethany ON
- Group 2
  - Jay Cetnar – Winklemolen Nurseries, Linden ON
  - Micheal Smeja – Planting Fields Arboretum, Oyster Bay NY
  - Willem Salomons – DeSignia, Charlotte NC
  - Bailey Wilson – UBC Botanical Gardens, Vancouver BC

Other Important Dates:
- March 16th, First Years Arrive
- July 4th, Plant Sale
- September 12th, Alumni BBQ
- November 21st, Staff appreciation
- December 10th, Christmas Party

In other news:
- Ennio D’Aiuto and Placido Iammarino have retired
- Jason Leavons has taken the position of Assistant Superintendent

Digital Media Report
By Jon L. Peter ’04

Direct Link to Facebook Page:
www.facebook.com/Alumni.Association.NPCSoh

Direct Link to Website:

Please refer to the above links for more details of what has been happening online in our Alumni world.

I have been distracted from my Alumni responsibilities for the past nine months dealing with various tragedies in my family. I apologize that not everything was completed that I had promised to complete at the February 2015 AGM.

That being said, I believe this was the biggest year thus far in the digital media world as you will see in the reports below:

Website Report:
Employment opportunities have been posted regularly to the website. There were 56 employment opportunities posted during 2015.

There were 2,221 visits to the website with 1,830 of them being unique visits.

Horticultural Heralds have been made available on the website going back to the December 2010 issue.

Overall organization and content of the website has improved. There is always a need for content to continue progression. Please share your content to aanpcsoh@alumninpcsoh.com.

Phase 2 of the website development is to build and manage a password protected portion of the website which will cost approximately $400.00 for software plugins, build & training. This portion of the website will only be accessible by paid members and will include:

- Bluebook data & updates
- Employment opportunities
- Horticultural Herald issues
- Membership renewal and dues payments
- Alumni Association and School digital archive?
- Any other items that should be included, please share your thoughts!

Left: Alumni Association Board Members and classmates, Cindy Maxwell ’12 (left) and Kasia Zgrzyzynski ’12 (right) at the AGM.
Photo by Dylan Mulleboom ’12.
I have been trying to get a hold of Chris Steingart of QT Webdesigns since February 2015 via email, through their website and numerous phone calls. He had started to work on the Phase 2 (behind the scenes) of the website and communicated a quote for the work to be completed but shortly after that, I have not been able to get in touch with him. I believe that this company is only Chris and I am uncertain whether the company is still in existence. The QT website is still functioning but the QT Facebook page has not shown any posts in some time.

**Facebook Report:**

We currently have 167 "Friends" on Facebook. An increase of 12 followers since year-end 2014. An increase of 74 followers since year-end 2012.

Numerous "Posts" have been made to Facebook throughout 2015. On June 29th, 2015 one post reached a total of 1524 people. This popular post was a photo of the new class of 2018.

Thank you to those that participate with our page and share our postings, it definitely helps get the word around. Please continue to share our page with interested people and especially Alumni who are not currently involved.

**Posting Statistics:**

- Total Posts in 2015 = 135 up from 86 in 2014
- Total Job Opportunities Posted = 50 up from 35 in 2014

**Friends Gender Breakdown:**

- 49% Female
- 48% Male

**Friends Country of Origin Breakdown:**

- Canada = 141
- United States = 14
- France = 4
- Japan = 2
- Five countries tied = 1

**Friends City of Origin Breakdown:**

- St. Catharines, ON = 14
- Toronto, ON = 11
- Niagara Falls, ON = 8
- Burlington, ON = 6
- Victoria, BC = 6
- London, ON = 5
- Waterloo, ON = 4

**Action Items and Goals for 2016:**

- Create email addresses for remaining board members
- Figure out the deal with QT WebDesigns
- Figure out how to get Phase 2 of website development completed
- Obtain archive photos for posting
- Try to increase user submitted content
- Promote Conference 2016

**Publicity and Promotions**

*By Andrea Weddum '13*

As a new member of the Alumni board this year, much time was spent learning the operations and goals of the Alumni board as well as past, present and future goals to be achieved for Promotions and Fundraising. The following lists are the goals set by alumni to be achieved by Promotions:

- Update Alumni Logo in digital format, once completed update the following documents:
- Honourary Life Award template
- Awards of Recognition
- Alumni Decal Sticker
- NPC Alumni Clothing

As of December 2015, Sarah Burt ’14 has agreed to create a new logo for the Alumni, this is to be completed in 2016.
Other items requested include:

- Embosser & Stamp from McGee Markings, St. Catharines

As of November 2015, Zenia Buzanko '03 went to McGee’s and obtained catalogues for us so we can choose items to order (once the logo has been updated). We were informed that samples of our embosser and stamps must be brought in if we want more made.

- School rings
- Paper bookmarks with seeds to promote the School and Alumni with Legacy Garden seeds

I have also been working with Kyle Berwick '14 to organize our upcoming conference in September 2016. Once we start finalizing speakers and events, promotions will be required to advertise the event. Here are the promotional items we want to have made for the conference:

- Mugs with logo
- Bags with logo
- Pens
- Pads of paper
- Magnets

Horticultural Herald Report

By Anne Van Nest '83

Four issues of the Horticultural Herald Volume 43 were published in 2015 during January, April, July and September. Each issue was between 24 and 32 pages in length. Two editions of each issue were produced. A digital edition was produced that was in full colour for the website and email distribution and a print edition for mailing purposes. The print edition was created with black and white images in the interior. For budget reasons the printed version has colour only on the first two and last two pages and is limited to 24 pages. The Horticultural Herald continues to be enhanced, through the use of integrated email and website links for those that receive the digital version. For archival and indexing purposes, future digital and print editions will be identified on the masthead at the top of the first page.

Major activities covered in the 2015 Horticultural Heralds included the Legacy Prairie Garden grand opening, the graduation of the Class of 2015, the retirement of Dan Johnston from Niagara Parks, and an introduction to: the Class of 2018, Mark Dykstra, NPC Senior Director of Parks, Jessica Bond and Jason Leavons – both new instructors.

Articles were also published on seed conservation techniques at Kew, Emerald Ash Borer management at NPC, the Alumni Association AGM, the International Forum on Landscape Planning and Horticulture, Japan Flora 15 years later, China and Japan with the G. H. Hamilton Traveling Scholarship, giant hogweed, landscape trends, news about the Vineland Research and Innovation Centre, the Million Pollinator Garden challenge, the titan arum blooming at the Floral Showhouse, Lyme Disease, and the historic Niagara Falls oak that suffered damage.

The Horticultural Herald also reported on the passing of Don Schaaf '61, Norm McKenna '59, Alf Savage '52, Bill Campbell, Charles Simpson '47, Fred Williams '66, and Ernie Epp. As well, each issue covered Board news, Foundation news, Legacy Prairie Garden donors, job postings, and recognition of Associate members.

Looking forward, the 2016 editorial deadlines are February 15, May 15, August 15, and November 15. The issue is planned to be published during the month following the editorial deadline.

Historian Report

By Dylan Muileboom '12

- Pictures found for the Horticultural Herald of Keith Overbaugh '57 and Charles Simpson '47
- Created an inventory of the contents in the boxes kept as the Alumni Archives
- Looked into the Epp Oak article but could not find anything in our archives

To Do

- Organize alumni archives
- Go to library for further information on Epp oak article
AGM News

Graduates Associates and Fellowship Membership Report

Karen Michaud '84
Honourary Life: 13
Honourary members: 9
Paid Alumni: 89
Class of 2015: 19
Fellowship Members: 2
Associate Members: 9
Alumni Membership was up 12% over last year.

Paid membership by Membership years includes Honourary Life Members:


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership Trends (2004-2015) as of September</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alumni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fellowship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honourary Life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honourary</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Above: The annual bedding highlights pinks and maroon colours last August in the rose garden at the Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens and School of Horticulture. Photo by Anne Van Nest ’83.

Like the NPC Alumni Association on Facebook
Blue Book Report

By Karen Michaud ’84

The 2015 Blue Book was finished and went to print both in hard copy and PDF. The hard copies are expensive to print and ship and we ask members requesting this format to pay an extra amount to pay some of the mailing cost.

For paid members with their own business, we offered to insert their business logo with their contact information. So far, only one graduate has taken advantage of this extra publicity.

Each year before the graduating class graduates, the new Alumni members should send in their contact information. Privacy legislation prevents the School of Horticulture from giving the Alumni Association their contact information. When they have a change of address or new job, they should please send in the information. We want to keep them “In the loop”.

The executive strives to keep the Blue Book current and are always looking for updated information on our “lost” graduates. We can only communicate with each other if your contact information is current.

Special Events Report

By Kyle Berwick ’14

Serving my first term on the SOH Alumni Board of Directors has been a great experience. It took a while to get into the groove of things, but it wasn’t long before we were able to get right down to business.

I spent the first part of the term learning the ropes and preparing for the Alumni BBQ that was held on September 12th. The BBQ was a great success despite the rain. We were able to continue, keep the food dry and have some great times. We are horticulturalists after all... when has a little rain ever stopped us?

The second half of the term I have been focusing my efforts on planning for the School of Horticulture Alumni Association Educational Conference that is going to be held on September 10th, 2016 at the School of Horticulture. Alongside a dedicated sub-committee comprised of SOH Alumni Association members we have been making the necessary arrangements to bring back the coveted conference in 2016.

In the year to come the focus is going to continue to be on finalizing the conference and developing more events to bring Alumni and current SOH students together to promote networking and education to keep us all moving forward.

Employment Report

By Karen Michaud ’84

I received many job opportunities in 2014. Most are forwarded from the School and the rest are direct offers from employers. The jobs are forwarded to appropriate graduates, and/or forwarded to Digital Media (Jon Peter ’04) and posted on our website. Occasionally I have special employment offers that I sent out to Graduates that I think may be interested. We welcome job postings from Alumni and Associate members.

A reminder: Paid up Alumni Association members have access to this service.

Alumni Association of the Niagara Parks Commission School of Horticulture

It’s 2016 Membership Renewal Time

Please Support your Alumni by Renewing your Annual Dues today!

Graduate $75
Fellowship $85
Associate $100

(Special discounts for those renewing for two years or for married Graduates)

Let us know your Blue Book membership directory preference. Available in a Digital CD version, included with your membership or printed version (for a small fee).

Don’t forget to update your Blue Book information. The form is online at the Alumni website.

To renew your Alumni membership contact Karen Michaud, Executive Secretary at npcshea@gmail.com or executivesec@alumninpcsoh.com.
**Treasurers Report**

*By Karen Michaud ’84*

**Summary of Receipts & Expenses (December 2014 to November 30, 2015)**

**Receipts:**
- Membership: Graduate membership has increased from last year. Fellowship and Associate membership has decreased (see membership report)
  - Conference: lunch receipts: $400.00
  - Horticultural Herald Ads: $0.00
  - Special Events/raffle: $0.00
  - Promotions: 4 tumblers sold: $40.00
  - Interest: Rolled into GIC: $43.99
  - Miscellaneous: $0.00
  - Donations to Legacy Garden: $1,250.00
  - Donations to Alumni Association: $984.25
  - Donations to Alumni Foundation (including J. Allen donation): $2,910.00
  - Garden Books: 0 books sold ($13.00 each): $0.00
  - Foundation Garden Book profit: ($2 per book): $0.00
  - Garden Book Postage: $0.00

**Expenses:**
- Conference: speaker fee and supplies: $256.89
- Horticultural Herald: printing and postage: $1,936.00
- Administration: phone and postage, printing etc: $717.63
- Executive Secretary: $150.00 per month, $400 Dec. bonus: $2,200.00
- Blue Book: hard copy printing and discs and mailing: $349.80
- Promotions: $0.00
- Gifts and Awards: GH Travelling Scholarship: $200.00
- Special Events: supplies: $66.03
- Visa Charges: total for year: $716.55
- Mastercard Charges: total for year: $63.00
- Bank Charges: $4.95 per month (plus NSF charges): $59.40
- Memorials to Foundation: 8 total: $800.00
- Transferred to Foundation: J. Allen Donation: $1,500.00
- Foundation Donation: $1410.00
- Garden Book Profit: $0.00
- Insurance: $1,134.00
- Website: $0.00
- Board Expenses: $0.00
- Legacy Garden: transferred to Foundation: $1,250.00
- GIC: came due at the end of November, renewed for another year ($5083.99 + $37.30 interest reinvested for 18 months): $5,121.29
- Petty Cash: $0.00

**Opening Balance:** $4,291.72

**Receipts over Expenses:** $2490.78

**Closing Balance:** $6,782.50

**Net Worth at the end of the 2014-2015 year is:** $11,866.49

**Associate Members Report**

*By Karen Michaud ’84*

Currently there are nine paid Associate members. These are: Connon Nurseries – Neil Vanderkruk Holdings, G.C. Duke Equipment Ltd, Fast Forest, Gro Bark Ltd, Grower’s Choice, JVK Ltd, Landscape Ontario, Master’s Turf Supply Ltd., M. K. Rittenhouse. Unfortunately we were unable to increase our Associate Membership base in 2015. Further development of Associate Memberships is required.
Executive Secretary's Report

By Karen Michaud ’84

As Executive Secretary, I am kept busy with correspondence, mostly by email on a daily basis.

Alumni changes entered into database and Blue Book, email changes to Zenia Buzanko.

Presented a new group of graduates with Alumni watches and Alumni Membership for a year.

Forward employment opportunities to Jon Peter to post on our website and facebook page.

Send out condolence cards, get well cards, and new baby welcome cards.

When a member of our Alumni family passes away, a $50.00 donation in their name, is made to the Alumni Foundation. Sadly this year: Norm McKenna ’59, Alf Savage ’52, Bill Campbell (Honourary), Charles Simpson ’47, Fred Williams ’66, Wilfred Wallace, ’63, George Ellis ’47, John Hutton ’63

Forward G.H. Travelling Scholarship information to students. Tracy Qiu, and Heather Skrypnyk applied for, and were granted, the Scholarship this year. $200.00 awarded after their reports were published in the Horticultural Herald.

Forwarded donations for the Legacy Garden to the Alumni Foundation.

The drop in paid memberships is an ongoing problem. At the 2009 Annual Business Meeting a motion was made “ to send out all further issues of Horticultural Herald to all graduates as long as there was no fee to the Association” I think that this is a good idea, but since that time the paid membership numbers have continued to drop. I think that if graduates receive their Heralds by email, they may forget that they have not paid their membership dues.

My Suggestion: a) Hard Copy “mailed version” to paid up members who request delivery by mail.

b) Emailed “Email Version” to paid up members who request delivery by email.

c) Emailed “Email Version – a special edition with cover and upcoming events” to non-paid up members with a membership schedule attached.

Alumni Association Travel Mug!

Show the world your proud affiliation while enjoying your morning coffee. For the graduate on the go or those that want to enjoy their drinks longer, our stainless steel travel mug is 20 cm tall, bears the Alumni Association logo, and is insulated to keep beverages hot or cold.

Help support your Alumni Association by ordering yours today.
Email Karen Michaud at executesec@alumninpcsoh.com.
Makes a great gift too.
$10 each.

Consider a memorial donation to the Foundation for the Legacy Garden such as ...

In memory of Dave Gower
In memory of C. H. Henning
In memory of Norm McKenna
In memory of Denis McQuestion
In memory of Keith Overbaugh
In memory of Alf Savage
In memory of Don Schaff
In memory of Charles Simpson

... or start your own memorial tribute

Email Karen Michaud at executesec@alumninpcsoh.com for details.
Foundation Report

Foundation President’s Report

By Jay Todd ’84

The Foundation Board of Directors meets up to 6 times per year to manage, administer and distribute funds donated and held in trust for the various awards. In 2015 there were three Board meetings. The Foundation has the honour to present awards to deserving students at the graduation ceremonies in the spring and at the undergraduate awards ceremony in the fall at the Niagara Parks Commission School of Horticulture.

The Foundation manages 10 different funds, mostly related to monetary awards to the students and graduating students. Through the generous support of the Alumni and friends of the Alumni we have been successful in issuing funds for scholarships, projects and also donations to the School of Horticulture library resource fund. We are grateful to the contributors who supported the Foundation and in 2015 there were over $10,000 in donations that supported the various activities that the Foundation administers each year.

Over the past year the Foundation worked in concert with the Alumni to address some significant issues such as engagement, networking and promotion. Moving forward the Foundation Board will continue to work in concert with the Alumni but is also taking a critical look at how we operate, our functionality, our fundraising, and the composition of the board. It is time to develop a Strategic Plan for the Foundation. The expectation is that we will hold 2-3 charrettes with the Alumni, other Foundations, financial groups, and other stakeholders. This will help us to develop new objectives, to create a diverse Board and to establish a clear direction for the next 5-10 years.

I would like to thank our Foundation Board for their continuing commitment: Russ Boles ’68, Randy Lidkea ’67, Jay Thatcher ’92, Zenia Buzanko ’03 and Charles Hunter ’95. I would especially like to thank Jay Thatcher for his years of support on the Foundation Board. Jay will be leaving the Board this year.

Remember we are a registered charity and your giving can be in the form of a donation, planned life giving, or by supporting the Alumni and Foundation programs and events.

Respectfully submitted.

A Little Greener on the Other Side

By Jenny Kuri ’15

It’s not a common topic amongst horticulture buffs, and it is a bit taboo in most conversations, but the topic is one nonetheless that is important and fresh – I’m speaking of cemetery gardens.

When land is designated a cemetery it cannot be used for other purposes for all eternity. This is why you see small cemeteries in between highway overpasses. Preserving these sacred spaces is really important. But how can we continue to partner our conservation efforts, when there’s such a lack of funding and potential loss of greenspace, with our use of land for cemeteries? The answer is already happening, and it’s happening around the world – including in North America, with Natural Burial cemeteries.

In horticulture, we are taking our gardens off chemicals and it’s happening in the cemetery industry as well, particularly with Natural Burial cemeteries. Why are we putting chemicals into our bodies after we die only to have those chemicals leach into the ground? More often in western culture we don’t give our bodies a chance to touch the ground because there’s a sealed concrete vault separating us from a natural process, perhaps we are just too toxic? We are changing the way we treat our soils, and doesn’t it make sense that we start reclaiming the natural resources that we put into the ground as well.

In 2014 the Home Funeral Alliance reported that in the United States every year we bury: 4.3 million gallons of embalming fluid (827,060 gal. of which is formaldehyde), 64,500 tons of steel, 20 million board feet of hardwood for caskets and 1.6 million tons of concrete.

With natural burials, metal screws are not used in the plain, untreated wood coffins. When coffins aren’t used, biodegradable shrouds or biodegradable urns (sometimes containing tree seeds) are used.

In Ontario there is only one service provider so far, Dufferin Meadows Cemetery, who offers a zero emissions cremation facility. The Natural Burial Association in 2015 reports that the cremation industry is responsible for producing...
and emitting 0.2% of global dioxin and furan emissions into the atmosphere along with carbon monoxide, mercury, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, hydrogen fluoride, hydrogen chloride, non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOCs), as well as other heavy metals when we cremate our deceased.

Looking for alternatives, now people are requesting natural burials, where 100% biodegradable and chemical-free products are used and bodies are placed in a designated area only for natural burials. These areas are never to be mown and designed to be left as a meadow to grow and contribute to the flora and fauna biodiversity.

There is also a push in Canada toward building woodland cemeteries, following the positive impact of places in the United States, such as Ramsey Creek Preserve in Westminster, South Carolina, where they have conserved forested areas by turning them into cemeteries. The only visible signs of a cemetery are the little plaques in the ground along the walking paths through the forest. The Ramsey Creek Preserve provides a place where people actually want to spend leisure time and makes a connection to the circle of life in a more positive and impactful way.

There are currently four cemeteries that offer natural burial sections in Canada: Royal Oak Burial Park, Victoria, B.C., Union Cemetery, Cobourg, Ontario, Meadowvale Cemetery, Brampton, Ontario and Dufferin Meadows Cemetery, Pickering, Ontario.

What interested me the most about the natural burials topic was not only to have the opportunity to utilize spaces that will be designated and preserved landscapes forever, but also it was a chance to bring ornamental horticulture to the public. Few people want to spend time in a cemetery, although many would love to take a walk in a botanical garden – especially if it’s free. Well it’s not exactly free, because municipal tax payers are usually paying for some of the upkeep of cemeteries, so why not develop a cemetery where more people will make more use of it. In Germany, for example, they make great use of their cemeteries. They have design competitions based on the burial plots that create unique carpet bedding designs using perennials, or cut greens and dried plant materials.

What if we took this one step further? What would cemeteries be like if tombstones were replaced with rows and rows of flower beds? Of course you could have a tiny metal indicator showing where certain plots are located which can be found using GPS coordinates so that only the bereaved know the location as is done in the Dufferin Meadows Cemetery Natural Burial section in Pickering, Ontario. The possibility of having cemeteries become a destination for leisure among the general public and especially among avid garden lovers is not too far ahead of us. This could also make the idea of death a little easier to digest knowing that we could be laid to rest in places that provide joy at the same time as solace. It’s definitely nice to know that there are options out there to be a little greener even after we die. The age old saying, “the grass is always greener on the other side,” is finally true with natural burial.
Legacy Prairie Garden Donors

Legacy: Above $10,000
Sharon & Tom Laviolette
Gateman-Milloy – Mike Milloy
Lezlie & Bob Murch
Niagara Parks Commission
Anonymous Landowner near the School

Specimen Plant:
$6,000 – $9,999
Molok North America Ltd.
GRO-BARK
TD Evergreen Foundation
Landscape Ontario

Roots: $3,000 – $5,999
Niagara Parks School of Horticulture Alumni
Ontario Parks Association
W. H. Reynolds – Brad Thomson
Plantation Irrigation – Mark Hilmeyer
Anonymous
Canadian Wildlife Federation/
Fédération Canadienne de la Faune

Trunk: $1,000 – $2,999
John Lohuis

Main Branches/Limbs:
$500 – $999
Stan Kochanoff
William Snowden
City of Brampton
City of Cambridge
City of Guelph
City of Niagara Falls
Melvin H. Dell
Norman E. McCollum
Ian Bruce – Bruce Tree Service
In memory of Dave Gower
Bruce Savage
Susan & Al Higgs
NPC Class of 1965
Mary Battaglia
Bill Browne
Gary Henderson
Scott & Melanie Haight
Ella & Buddy Andres
NPC Class of 2003
Windsor NPC Alumni Group
Clanmore Montessori School
Stephen & Linda Bouw

Branches: $250 – $499
Peter Higgins
Dave Handysides

Leaves: $99 – $249
Amy Doan
Niagara Saw
John Russell
Alana & Ian Tapper
Cornelius Unger
Carrie Zimmerman
John Morley
Kaarina & Martin Moore
Anonymous
Anne & John Hannah
Blair Abraham Delazzer
Russ Boles & Kim Modesitt
Madeleine & Jay Kivell
Judie & Dave DeShane
John Curtis
Paul Misner
Audrey & Frank Purkis
Lloyd Syer
Gary Moore
Maripat Thompson
In memory of Denis McQuestion
George Finnigan
Jay Todd
Richard Helmer
Zenia Buzanko
Mark Burkett
Janet Snaith
Patricia & Weldon Schmahl
Frank Schortinghuis
Anna Legatt
Michelle Goff
Robert Dingwall
Jim Beeksma
In memory of Don Schaff
In memory of Norm McKenna
In memory of Alf Savage
Melissa Spearing
Les Van Dongen
Gary Robinson
In memory of Charles Simpson
In memory of Keith Overbaugh

It's never too late to donate. For info, npcssha@gmail.com
Tell us about your travelling adventures!

Join our Facebook group for more Plant IDs

Find the answers on page 9. Submit your own puzzling plant id photos to: hortherald@alumninpcsoh.com

Join our Facebook group for more Plant IDs
Upcoming Events

March 11-20, 2016 Canada Blooms, Direct Energy Centre, Exhibition Place, Toronto, Ontario, Canada (www.canadablooms.com)

Jobs

Position: Assistant Grower (Permanent Full-time), Valleybrook Gardens, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario

Position: Design, Construction, Maintenance Team and Yard Staff, Oriole Landscaping Ltd, Toronto, Ontario

Position: Crew Chief and Crew Members, Landscape Maintenance and Garden Installations, Suburban Gardeners, Burlington/Oakville, Ontario

Position: Landscape Construction Skilled Trades, Rob Enter Landscapes, St. Ann's Ontario

Position: Horticulturist (Full-time), Seasonal Gardener (Arboretum), The Holden Arboretum, Kirtland, Ohio
For more details, go to job posting http://www.holdenarb.org/workwithus/

Position: Seasonal Gardener, The Toronto Botanical Garden, Toronto, Ontario
For more details, go to job posting http://torontobotanicalgarden.ca/about/job-postings/

Position: Greenhouse Grower, Boekestyn Greenhouses Inc., Jordan, Ontario

Position: Nursery Team Lead, Stevensville Garden Gallery, Stevensville, Ontario

Position: Landscape Enhancement Crew Leader (Full-time), Gelderman Landscape Services, Waterdown, Ontario
For more details, go to job posting http://gelderman.com/careers

Position: Head Gardener/Horticulturist, Private Estate, Long Island, NY

Associate Members of the Alumni Association

All Treat Farms
Rod Kidnie, Arthur, ON
www.alltreat.com

Connon Nurseries (NVK)
Neil Vanderkruk, Waterdown, ON
www.connonnurseries.com

Fast Forest Incorporated
Phil Dickie, Kitchener, ON
www.fastforest.ca

G.C. Duke Equipment Limited
Jason Brooker, Burlington, ON
www.gcduke.com

Gro-Bark (Ontario) Ltd
Bill McKague, Waterloo, ON
www.grobark.com

Grower’s Choice
Jody Leis, Kitchener, ON
www.growerschoice.ca

Jack Van Klaveren Limited
Robert Murch, St. Catharines, ON
www.jvk.net

Landscape Ontario
Tony DiGiovanni, Milton, ON
www.landscapeontario.com

Master’s Turf Supply Ltd.
Everett Nieuwkoop, Harriston, ON
www.mastersturfsupply.com

M.K. Rittenhouse & Sons Ltd.
B. Zimmerman, St. Catharines, ON
www.rittenhouse.ca

Submit job postings and events: aanpcsoh@alumninpcsoh.com