



Great Village Garden Club Members Linda Giddens and Eileen Eaton admire Carol Dexter's dahlias.

Great Village Garden Club News

By Linda Shears

On the evening of September 22nd, the Great Village Garden Club members toured the garden of fellow member, Carol Dexter. Carol and her husband Cecil have been growing dahlias since 1977, the year after they bought their home here. She started with her father's old tubers, which had been handed down in the family over the generations. As the Dexters worked in their new garden, they were puzzled by one particular car which often drove very slowly past their garden. One day the driver stopped and came in to introduce himself. It turned out to be a kindred gardener and admirer of gladiolas and dahlias — Arthur Haskins. After meeting Arthur, the Dexters began cultivating the new varieties of dahlias.

About 15 years ago, Carol started collecting her own seeds from selected plants. She currently has several new seedlings being developed. She has to grow them for 4 years to make sure they keep their form and colour. In the meantime, she exhibits them at various flower shows and exhibitions, attempting to win first place or a higher award.

Cobequid Daphne is one seedling which has won many awards. At the American Dahlia Society Seedling bench, it won the Rosetta Award. To obtain entry into a classification book, which is the highest achievement in flower competitions, a bloom must get 85 points or more. Carol has two of her seedlings in the classification book now: Cobequid Frosty and

Cobequid Daphne.

After thanking Carol for sharing her lovely garden with us, we moved on to Faith Baptist Church for our business meeting. This year's 4-H prize donated by our Garden Club was won by senior 4-H member, Alicia Cox. Members Wilfred Miller and Sybil Flemming were thanked for keeping the welcome sign beds in good order this summer.

It was noted that people have harvested some apples from the Community Orchard.

Members brought in samples of the calendula flowers which were grown from the seeds given out in the spring. Calendula had been chosen as the test perennial for the year. Everyone was pleased with the results.

If you have an interest in gardening, you are welcome to join us at our monthly meetings. Our next meeting is on October 27th.



Carol Dexter proudly shows Fronz Miller one of her prize-winning blooms, Cobequid Daphne.

Bass River Fire Brigade Notes

By Peter Christensen

Anna MacFarlane and Ian MacFarlane. Names to stand tall for. These young junior fire fighters were in the thick of things this Thanksgiving Sat. Anna came to the Hall and diligently stood by her job site all day. Her brother Ian helped gather up donations and stayed dry on Sat morning, then helped out at the Hall all day, just like his sibling Anna. With up and coming fire brigade members such as these I believe we should be in great shape.

The auction was another huge success. With the weather definitely not co-operating, the day was wet, especially for the hunter and gathers who were out at the houses in the morning. A special thanks to all of the folks in our community and surrounding places who donated items to our auction. The day

was still wet outside but inside things were starting to heat up. Greg Muise, fire chief of the Onslow - Belmont, was our auctioneer again this year. Greg brought all the great bidders to the fore front and they did not disappoint.

Thanks Greg.

I did see a lot of busy people shaking hands at the hall but I don't think I saw a baby at the hall, lucky kid. Must be something in the air again. And there was the guy with that big camera, I wonder if he got any pics of all those happy buyers?

The auction took in approximately four thousand dollars, which will help the cause for more newer apparatus for the fire brigade.

Well our next fund raiser is our Horse Trail Ride, which because of this rain has been postponed to Oct 25. Hopefully the sun will help us

SMALL BUSINESS PROFILE

Alpha Computers

Alpha Computer
trains small business

By Linda Harrington

Alpha Computer Training, is run by sole proprietor Jeff Brown. He will bring his knowledge and expertise into any workplace or home and has often put on group training workshops at the Truro Library, GEMS Computer Labs and CoRDA. "No business is too small," says Jeff. "If a business has a computer and/or employees, they need my services." Since the business began in 2007, Alpha Computer Training has delivered several workplace education programs in the Truro Area, Amherst, Parrsboro and Halifax.

Many businesses require specific guidance with Office software, especially when new editions of individual programs are released. Jeff says these businesses also require essential computer skills training, since this is one area that usually gets missed or overlooked.

The latest and greatest new gadgets are only as good as the ability an employee has to put them to use. "I am going to offer Blackberry training in the near future. These new smart phones are great but there is lots to learn, in order to use them properly," he says.

Social networking has become a popular method of business communication and Jeff says helping businesses keep up is what Alpha Computer does. "Lately I have been helping businesses use social networking services such as Twitter and Facebook. Using these services correctly can be big plus for a business. Using them wrong can be a real waste of energy."

Jeff sees many businesses taking a wait and see approach to new technology and social media. He says they want to see if there is a ROI (return on investment) for their efforts, which he can understand, but there is also a

lot of opportunity for the business if they will embrace these new ways of doing business.

Alpha Computers has had many repeat clients and businesses, such as CoRDA, and has facilitated several workshops and Lunch & Learn programs for business.

"Once people and businesses come to respect what you can do for them, there's always room for more training," says Jeff. "The need for my services is only getting greater as technology becomes a greater part of our daily lives."

Terry Hearn of CoRDA says, "Jeff Brown has present-



Truro Chamber of Commerce President Jim Lorraine with Jeff Brown of Alpha Computer.



"Here's my card!"



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