

# Great Village Garden Club Turns 60



Great Village Garden Club President Patti Sharpe presents Charter Member Helen McLaughlin with a plant for being a Club member for the greatest number of years. (Harrington Photo)



Tony and Gerrie van den Hoek enjoyed looking over some of the photo albums during the 60th Anniversary Celebration for the Great Village Garden Club. (Harrington Photo)

By Linda Harrington

The first meeting of the Great Village Garden Club was held on January 24th, 1952 at the High School (now Great Village Elementary School) and sixty years later the club is still going strong. The Club celebrated their 60th Anniversary at Faith Baptist Church on April 24th.

Present at the first meeting in 1952 were Jud Chisholm, Marion Giddens, Helen McLaughlin, Bernice Kennedy, Stella Leask, Percy Boyd, Tina Boyd and Cilda Forbes. Percy Boyd was elected as the first President, with Stella Leask as Secretary. Later meetings were held in member's houses.

Helen McLaughlin, the only remaining Charter member, held many meetings at her home over the years. Helen and her daughter Sandra were present for the Anniversary celebration and Sandra says she could pick out many photos in the memory books taken in their living room. Helen was presented with a beautiful potted flower by current President Patti Sharpe.

Meredith Layton's father was the first President of the Club and she and husband Robert have enjoyed many good times with the Garden Club over the years. Robert was a former President, Layton's store used to provide bottles for the flower show and they recalled being part of the committee to get rid of a dump in the Village.

Lois Bray was a member for 11 years, often holding meetings at her house and even operating a tree farm. "Club members were great people and it is nice to see some of the familiar faces here," she said.

June Chisholm recalls attending her first meeting at Helen MacLaughlin's and shortly after offered to host a meeting at her own home. "We had just moved here and did not have much furniture, but I thought oh well, there won't be very many people," she laughs, "But on the night of the meeting people kept coming and coming and I had to go and find more chairs." She says she hopes the club con-

Arthur Haskins, who says he came from the city back in 1975 into this small population, and it was nice to be accepted as a member.

Arthur showed slides of photos taken over the years and gave a historical account at the Club's activities. Some of the first projects involved looking after the Monument Grounds and cleaning up the dump in the Village, both very ambitious projects. Later projects included a Wild Flower Contest in the school, mapping of 1979 Dutch Elm disease, Holland Glory Bulb Fundraiser, a tree nursery, community Christmas Tree, garden tours, annual flower shows and many more. Flower shows were held from 1958 to 1998 and in its hey day it was the largest in the Province.

The first "welcome" signs were installed in 1972 and have undergone a few changes over the years. Current signs are made of recycled plastic and seem to be better at standing up to the elements.

The first plant sale was held in 1973 outside the Fire Hall, with \$30 raised. The annual event has continued to grow and grow, moving first to the Masonic Hall and then to the Great Village School gymnasium. "Club members often refer to the rush of crazed plant buyers as "the wave", laughs Arthur Haskins. "We always sell out within an hour and now make over \$1000 each year."

The Great Village Garden Club has tried to "educate themselves" with guest speakers at their meetings and simply talking gardening among the members.

Past and present members enjoyed looking at the collection of photo albums while reminiscing about good times.

A magnolia tree will be planted at the cenotaph in recognition of the Club's Charter members. A magnolia tree was planted there for the 50th Anniversary and it has been had gorgeous blooms the last few years.



Helen McLaughlin cuts the 60th Anniversary Cake for the Great Village Garden Club. (Harrington Photo)



Sybil Flemming gives Patti Wyllie some planting information at the Great Village Garden Club's annual Plant Sale on May 5th. (Harrington Photo)



Buyers are ready with boxes in hand, as they await the signal to start shopping at the Great Village Garden Club's annual Plant Sale on May 5th. (Harrington Photo)

## A Celebration for MOTHER'S DAY IN WENTWORTH

By Hope Bridgewater

Families spend Mother's Day in different ways. Ella Patriquin of West Wentworth was very surprised on a day before Mother's Day when her four daughters, Karen, Marie, Connie and Narda arrived unannounced at her home and proceeded to spring-clean her house. Although busy with their families and jobs and living in different places other than Wentworth which included Pugwash, Moncton, and Londonderry, the daughters planned by phone and e-mail a surprise gift for their mother. Ella's son Barry knew about the surprise visit and made sure his mother was at home when his sisters arrived. Barry came to live with his mother two years ago when she fell and broke her hip, and he works at Aquashell Holdings in Wallace. His sisters work at various jobs: Narda Madore at a Pugwash Pharmacy, Marie Purdy at her Pugwash home as a seamstress, Connie Murphy at a nursing home in the Londonderry area, and Karen D'Allaire as a nurse in Moncton.

On Mothers Day itself on Sunday, the daughters and son made sure their mother received other gifts in addition to the previous spring-cleaning gift, such as lobster from Barry's place of work in Wallace, flowers, gift cards, etc. At the United Church on Sunday, Ella attended and was accompanied by her daughter Karen, her son-in law, Louie D'Allaire, and her grand-

daughter, Jacqueline Steeves, while her son Barry sang in the United Church choir. Her other daughters visited during that same Sunday.

Ella, born a Blair in Wallace, taught school while raising five children. Sometimes she was a substitute teacher and other times a full-time teacher at Lower Wentworth, Folly Lake, and West Wentworth, for a total of 16 teaching years. She is now a member of the Wentworth United Church, of the Wentworth United Church Women, of the Wentworth Pioneer Club, of the UCW Quilters, and of the Wentworth Volunteers who work many hours each month at community events.

It was when Ella was a teacher in West Wentworth that she met and married Roy Patriquin who was the first Fire Chief in the Wentworth Volunteer Fire Department and was a member of this Fire Department for 31 years. As well, the late Roy Patriquin worked at many jobs such as "work in the woods," and work with R. K. Chappell (building contractor). Later, Roy owned and operated for many years a service station which combined a gas station, a garage, a restaurant and three double tourist cabins in West Wentworth.

As her children showed her so much caring and love, Ella remembers this particular 2012 Mother's Day with gratitude and happiness.



On Mother's Day, the family of Ella Patriquin gathered together to celebrate. Shown are Marie Patriquin, Barry Patriquin, Narda Madore (back row), Connie Patriquin, Ella Patriquin (holding a photo of her husband Roy and herself), and Karen Dailaire. (Submitted)

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