

GARDENS & OUTDOOR LIVING



A Snowy Owl was observed by the Cooper family along the dykeland in Great Village for a few weeks last month. It began acting strange, like perhaps it was injured, so a call was made to Hope for Wildlife and they sent a volunteer to assist Taylor Stewart, of Balamore Farm, with the rescue. It was taken to the rehab centre. Hope for Wildlife was contacted for an update but due to the large number of wildlife and birds that come into their care, they do not have information available about individual patient outcomes. (Submitted)

Great Village Garden Club UPDATE

By Sybil Flemming

The seasons are flying past us; gardeners are enjoying the spring and coming summer months. Arthur Chisholm told members of the GVC at the regular March 27th meeting that he had crocuses in bloom. School children in Bass River also picked some early dandelions on March 6. Tools and equipment are being readied for the grand workout coming soon.

With a wide variety of informative programs and support from experienced gardeners, we can all benefit from attending a Garden Club. Our first meeting of the year was in January; we had a presentation by Michael van den Hoek about his expanded work at Lowland Gardens. No stranger to the greenhouse operation, Michael has taken on some of the management and introduced new uses for technology in the operation. In explaining his work and the continuing roles of his parents, we gained insights into the changing face of our local garden center, with father Toni interjecting his ever-valuable wit and knowledge.

In February, our program committee, consisting of Carole Fisher (chair), Cathy Mazur and Mary-Ann Jay, lead us through a discussion of the care and propagation of houseplants including succulents. Members shared their ideas and some established plants which, interestingly, came from stock of a former member, Eileen Eaton.

At the March meeting, the

program was presented by Heather Prescott of Red Mountain Farm in Montrose. Heather explained the joys and trials of market gardening, the roles of all family members in this mixed farming operation, as well as how the family combines efforts to participate in three farmers' markets on weekends. This was very eye-opening to many of us who see her smiling face at the Truro Farmers' Market every week.

On April 24, a talk by Brenna Koneczny of Vista Bella Farm, Malagash will help us better understand planting and caring for fruit trees, especially apples. She has been very successful with her orchard, selecting varieties suited to our area, as well as having interests in cider and apiculture.

The annual plant sale, Great Village School Gym was held on May 26th. This is our club's major fund raiser for the year.

Great Village Garden Club Herb Planter workshop will be held on June 7 at 38 Station Rd, Great Village. Please bring planter to hold 4 small herbs, open to non-club members first. The Great Village Herb Planter workshop is planned in recognition of Provincial Gardening week. It is a chance to make a planter of herbs to enjoy all summer, plants and soil included in the \$10 fee. Community members are given priority for the twenty spots available. Children welcome but will need to be accompanied by a responsible adult. For more information or

to register, call 902-668-2373 or email pflemming@east-link.ca

Regular meetings are held at Faith Baptist Church, Station Road, at 7 pm on the fourth Tuesday of each month January to June, September to November. Community projects include signs welcoming travellers to the Village, flower beds on the monument grounds, and the Village Christmas tree at the former St. James church grounds.

Several outings are planned each year, and club members are informed about NSAGC events and promotions. Visitors and new members always welcome. For information call 902-668-2373 or contact any of the 37 club members.

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