



Tour guide Linda Giddens chats with Merle Chisholm during the sustainable vegetable garden tour held at her farm in Little Dyke. (Harrington Photo)



Hazel Reader pumps some fresh water for Carol Richardson to wash her hands. They had just completed a lovely tour of the sustainable vegetable garden at the Giddens farm in Little Dyke. (Harrington Photo)



Quite and impressive collection. Murray and Linda Giddens welcomed guests for a tour of their farm on July 27th. There was plenty to catch the eye from the antique tractors and other farm equipment, to the beautiful flowers and bountiful vegetable garden. (Harrington Photo)



Mile Rushton takes in a lovely view of the sustainable vegetable garden at the farm of Linda and Murray Giddens. The public was invited to tour the farm located at Little Dyke on July 27th. (Harrington Photo)

# GREAT VILLAGE Garden Club Notes

By Linda Shears

The regular season of the Garden Club concluded on June 22 with a visit to the gardens of Scott and Erin Veitch in Brookfield. There is a relatively new garden, established within the last five years. Scott and Erin grow cut flowers for sale at the Truro Farmers' Market. They have extensive perennials, located in raised beds to alleviate drainage problems. Their gardening skills have also been challenged by deer but they seem to be outwitting them with a special fence. Since it was a very warm, sunny day, we were appreciative of their offerings of cold drinks and home-made treats. The trip concluded with a social time at the Palliser Restaurant.

On July 27 we toured the gardens of two of our club members. We started at Eileen Eaton's garden. She has been gardening on her land since 1962, when she and her husband bought the property. Her soil is a very heavy clay with which she has been working hard to improve, using compost from her brick compost bin. Two trees planted by her children when they were small boys have grown to large healthy specimens which cast an unwelcome shade on her vegetable garden. Nonetheless, with hours of hard work and the assistance of her new roto tiller, she supplies her table at the

Great Village Farmers' Market with such produce as: peas, beans, parsley, zucchini, cucumber, kohlrabi, lettuce, spinach and red currant jelly.

Our next stop was at Lakeside Farm, owned by Linda and Murray Giddens. Their yard and gardens were bustling with visitors since Linda had also invited the congregations of all the United Churches in the Truro Presbytery to view her gardens. To provide information to all visitors, Linda had posted sheets of information at each site of interest, making it a self-guided tour. The farm has been passed down from generation to generation for 250 years. One of the most unusual features of the farm is the large working windmill and water tower which provide water for the gardens when needed. There were four polished and spotless antique tractors on display. Linda's antique garden tractors earn their keep by plowing, cultivating, mowing and hauling equipment as needed. Linda's garden provides a variety of vegetables for sale at the Great Village Farmers' Market. We saw the trees and shrubs which produce the elderberries and currants for her bottled juice concentrate, which she sells under the title, "Dad's Choice (Good for what ails you!)". The soil in Linda's garden is quite different from Eileen's, with a good share of ancient beach rocks which make Glenholme famous for its gravel pits.

Our evening concluded with a social time at the lovely historic home of Sybil and Pat Flemming.



Eileen Eaton (centre) provides some gardening tips to Great Village Garden Club members Angus Chisholm and Linda Hurst. (Shears Photo)



Scott Veitch shows his gardens to Patti Sharpe, Garry Shears, Linda Giddens and Margie Ross during the Garden Club tour. (Shears Photo)



Linda Hurst and Eileen Eaton hear Linda Giddens share some secrets of successful vegetable gardening during the tour of Lakeside Farm. (Shears Photo)

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