



~ West Kildonan Horticultural Society ~

Rooted in the Past, Growing Now, Flowering in the Future

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Here is some general information about our club to help you navigate through our meetings and activities. We hope this will help you feel comfortable, welcome and knowledgeable about what we do at the West Kildonan Horticultural Society (WKHS)! We are all about gardening for all and welcome your ideas and suggestions.

WKHS has been around for many years and has had a storied history in our community. We are a member of the Manitoba Horticultural Association and contribute to them on a yearly basis, monetarily and anecdotally. Each year the MHA holds their Annual General Meeting over the last weekend of January which is hosted by one of the member clubs. WKHS last hosted in conjunction with several other Winnipeg clubs five years ago. WKHS sends 1 or 2 delegates to MHA's AGM.

WKHS is also a member of the Native Orchid Conservancy; this gives our members the opportunity to participate in the programs that they offer. Some extra costs may be required for speciality field trips, etc. There is a link on our website wkhorticultural.ca to the MHA's site. Speaking of our website, you will find many items of interest there, so check it out.

Our meetings are held the first Tuesday of Feb, March, April, May, June, Sept and Oct. Most meetings follow a similar agenda: Business portion at 7 pm followed by a refreshment break (silver collection) and then an activity that may be a speaker, videos, or other special events. We try to incorporate a short question and answer period if time allows. The evening usually concludes around 9 pm; chairs and tables must be stacked and stored before we leave the community centre.

Of special note:

- Feb meeting- optional seed exchange.
- Sept meeting- optional perennial exchange:
 - Trade a perennial from your garden with one from another member's yard.
- Oct meeting- indoor plant sale and Annual Tea Cup Challenge-
 - Present your flower arrangement in a teacup and win the coveted Gold teacup trophy inscribed with your name!

Periodically, special events such as Field Trips may be held. These might include checking out local garden centres (buying plants!) touring gardens, etc. In the past, we have taken bus tours to the Tall Grass Prairie Reserve and the International Peace Garden for example. Periodically members have had their gardens featured in our own and area Garden Tours.



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Fundraisers:

Our spring fundraiser is plants offered by the Glen Lea Nursery Gardens. Deadline for orders is at the April meeting with plants available for pickup in late May/early June at a location TBA.

Our biggest fundraiser of the year happens the first Saturday in June at the Seven Oaks Arboretum (a city property on Partridge and Powers St. that WKHS helps maintain.) Our "Fiesta Day Plant Sale," an event for the community that includes plants of all descriptions, garden-related yard sale items, and baking. Many club members are required to make this a success, so we hope you will participate by volunteering your time! Each club member is asked to provide at least six plants to help make the sale a success. Of course, holding the sale in the park means work each spring to spruce it up, so work dates are held to accomplish this. Once again, our members help in this is crucial!

In 2017, a Dedication Ceremony was held at the Seven Oaks Arboretum to celebrate the opening of our Memorial Garden honouring those members of the club that have passed on. The bed features roses and an inscribed boulder that pays homage to the club and its members. Also in 2017, we were honoured to be a recipient of a Vimy Ridge Oak tree; one of only ten saplings that were available through the Federal Government in celebration of Canada's 150. We were thrilled to be chosen!

A ceremonial planting included dignitaries and a Legion Honour Guard and Band. The oak was given a place of prominence in the Arboretum. We hope that it will grow and prosper for many years and be an important reminder to all in the Community.

Annual General Meeting (AGM): Our annual meeting and catered windup are held the 3rd Tuesday in November. Cost is approximately \$25 per member. Here we enjoy good food, conversation with other members, hearing about the Club's business, video presentations of members' gardens and events such as Fiesta Day, great door prizes and more! The AGM is an opportunity to celebrate the end of the gardening season and to make plans for WKHS in the new year. Elections for the Board of Directors are held, and we encourage you to stand for an open position! Directors meet eight times per year to discuss and make plans and decisions for the club, and new voices are always appreciated. We have lots of fun!

We hope this handout will be of some value to you! Feedback and questions, suggestions always welcomed!

Thanks! Directors of WKHS