



# Alberta Horticultural Association

The Official Quarterly Newsletter of the AHA

Spring 2017

## President's Message – May 2017 Newsletter

The past few months have been busy, in many ways and on many levels. As an executive, we've been busy working on a number of projects and tasks. A few of us have been working on plans for our joint AHA/Communities in Bloom Alberta conference, which is slated for September 22-23, 2017 in Lacombe, AB. We've got a facility booked, and we have a nice looking program roughed out for the 2 days. If you are at all familiar with either AHA or CIB annual conferences/meetings, it will look and feel fairly comfortably homey, with the educational structure of the AHA conference (including tours), combined with the networking and awards banquet of the CIB Annual Awards. Overall, it should be a very fun, educationally-enriching experience, well worth attending. In order to meet our legal requirements as an organization, we'll be having our Annual General Meeting via conference call on May 17<sup>th</sup>. I hope everyone will take the time to call in and participate. It is a bit of a different way of doing things, but we know of several other groups that do it smoothly and without major fuss, so we are confident that it can be done.

Other than that, we have made a lot of progress getting the website functional and populated. It'll continue to evolve over time, but we are happy with the direction it is going. The Zone Reps will be in touch with the affiliates in the coming months to gather a bit of info to put up on the website and to let you know of different options for expanding its use. This past weekend (29-30 April), several executive members staffed a booth at the Calgary Spring Garden Show, which was an enjoyable experience for us all. It was nice to get into the gardening spirit (or at least prime the engines) and interact with other horticulture-minded folks.

I hope that you all have an enjoyable spring and summer and I look forward to speaking with some of you in a couple of weeks on the AGM call and seeing many at the conference in September. Take care.

## Meet the Board Members, Treasurer

This is the next in our ongoing series "Meet the Board Members. We hope you have been enjoying meeting our amazing volunteers

In 2001, my husband, Max, and I retired from teaching. We found a mature garden complete with house in Wetaskiwin. We stayed in this retirement home for fourteen years, enjoying the garden and the community. Previously, our gardening had changed to fit the limitations of our particular living spaces. As the three grandsons came along, we found ourselves travelling from Wetaskiwin to Calgary more and more. We decided to "down size" and moved into a condo in Calgary, so it's back to houseplants, containers on the balcony and a community garden plot.

Over the years my involvement with other societies and non-profit groups, such as Wetaskiwin Community Literacy Program and the Wetaskiwin and Calgary Horticultural Societies, has proved valuable experience with up-dating computer skills, bookkeeping and filing government documents. This has helped greatly in doing the treasurer's job for the AHA. I can be reach at 403-375-8780 or [jabortnik2003@yahoo.ca](mailto:jabortnik2003@yahoo.ca).

### A new idea for community Gardens

Many of our clubs are involved with community gardens. When one of our members brought this new service to my attention I asked him to send me a bit of information that I could share. There are no doubt other new products and services out there that would interest our members as well but, this idea intrigued me so I decided to pass it along. – Ed.

Fantastic community gardens are popping up all over on brownfields, laneways and rooftops. There is no limit to the possibilities for a successful and sustainable urban garden other than perhaps a reliable water supply.

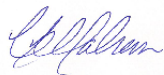
**Ion Irrigation Management Inc.** recognizes the challenge a reliable and convenient water supply presents for urban gardeners so will be launching in fall 2017 a line of 2-3 high-quality enclosures that will make access to water easy, tidy and code-compliant. We have all sorts of ideas, based on our landscape architecture and irrigation consulting experience across Western Canada that we believe gardeners will appreciate and soon find essential.

The product line is designed and manufactured in Alberta. The standard enclosure is constructed of aluminum with a mechanical access panel, water meter and backflow preventer. Hose management by way of convenient attachments and storage is also standard. Options include an internal tool closet, internal hose racks, solar power, Wi-fi hotspot, keyless locks, a weather station, custom graffiti-resistant vinyl artwork and an integrated wash basin.

The unit sits on a concrete pad and there are several ways to configure a deep or shallow line depending on the source whether directly from a street, a rainwater harvesting system or a building.

We invite any inquiries about your access to water issues and an integral, secure and cost-effective solution to your specific needs. We can assist you with permits or approvals that may be required in your community. If your project is an applicant under the **Canada150** or any other grant program, we can deliver units within your project schedule.

Contact Chad Placsko, Product Manager, at (587) 585-5766 to discuss your project  
Thank you so much for your assistance and input. We truly appreciate it. Have a great 2017 garden season!



Casey Mahan, Principal  
LEED® AP, LAT, CID, CLWM

### Save the Day

Our joint CiB /AHA 2017 conference will be held September 22 and 23 in Lacombe Alberta. Our next newsletter will feature registration information and more particulars. Take this time to encourage your garden club members to plan a trip to Lacombe and area for this unique opportunity to combine a fall getaway with lots of information from a gardener's perspective.

## News from our members

### **Calgary Rose Society**

45th Annual Rose Show

North Hill Centre

16th Avenue at 14th Street N.W.

Friday July 21, 2017 - Submission of Rose Entries and Judging

Saturday July 22, 2017 - Show Results and Public Display

Visit our redesigned website for full details

[www.calgaryrosesociety.ca](http://www.calgaryrosesociety.ca)

This information comes to us from **the Rimbey Horticultural Group**

Our group has taken on a community plot garden in Rimbey, to celebrate 150 B-day, we plan to have all red white flowers to fill the plot. Our bench show is on August 18 & 19 at the Rimbey Drop in. The show is open to the public Saturday Aug 19 10:00am until 3pm our awards are given shortly after 3pm. Apple day -- At Paska-poo Park September 9, we sell anything apples, we have recipe books for sale, Rhubarb and Apple lots of great recipes. There is also a apple pie contest open to all public, let your apple pie be judged--- prizes will be awarded!! Contact Donna Heilemann [heilemann@xplornet.ca](mailto:heilemann@xplornet.ca)

### **Wetaskiwin Horticultural Society**

Wetaskiwin Flower Show

At The Wetaskiwin Seniors Centre, 5216-54 Street on Saturday, July 29<sup>th</sup>. Any hobby gardener is welcome to enter. Bring entries to the centre between 9 and 10:30 AM. To get a copy of the Flower Show Prize list, e-mail [doreen.broska@gmail.com](mailto:doreen.broska@gmail.com). Open to the public at 2:00 PM.

### **Rumsey Red Deer River Garden Club**

73 Annual Garden Show

Wednesday, August 30, 2017, at the Rumsey Agriplex. Open to the public at 4:00 PM.

Bearspaw & District Fair

Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017, at the Cochrane Agricultural Grounds.

The Alberta Dahlia and Glad Society will hold their annual show in Red Deer on August 26 & 27, 2017. For information about entering go to their web-site.

### **Executive & committees 2017/18 Term**

*Please retain for your records*

#### **President**

Robert Spencer

(Hm) 403-742-4142

(Wk) 403-742-7563

Postal bag 600

Stettler, AB, T0C 2L0

[Robert.spencer@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Robert.spencer@gov.ab.ca)

#### **Past president:**

Lorna McIlroy

Ph. (780) 814-7946

9018-117 Avenue

Grande Prairie, AB, T8X 1K1

[lorna.mcilroy@gmail.com](mailto:lorna.mcilroy@gmail.com)

**Secretary:**

Doreen Broska  
Ph. (403) 783-2296  
RR #5, Wetaskiwin, AB, T9A 1X2  
doreen.broska@gmail.com

**Treasurer:**

Judy Bortnik  
Ph. (403) 375-8780  
Unit 323  
223 Tuscany Springs BLVD NW  
Calgary, AB, T3L 2M2  
[Jabortnik2003@yahoo.ca](mailto:Jabortnik2003@yahoo.ca)

**Zone Representatives**

**Zone 1:** This position is currently vacant.  
Contact any member of the AHA executive for information on your zone. If you feel this would be an interesting volunteer position for you, please contact any member of the AHA executive for information.

**Zone 2:**

Nelda Lyczewski, (403) 947-2145  
Box 93, Beiseker, AB, T0M 0G0  
[flycz@efirehose.net](mailto:flycz@efirehose.net)

**Zone 3:**

Joan Dixon  
Ph. (403) 638-2589  
B4, 5214-50 Street  
Olds, AB, T4H 1N

[Gardenlady1940@hotmail.com](mailto:Gardenlady1940@hotmail.com)

**Zone 4:**

Karen Berglund  
Ph. (780) 963-6575  
Box 2446, Stony Plain, AB, T7Z 1Y3  
[bbank@telus.net](mailto:bbank@telus.net)

**Zone 5:**

Lorraine Taylor  
Ph. (780) 892-2967  
Box 919, Darwell, AB, T0E 0L0  
[lgbeta@gmail.com](mailto:lgbeta@gmail.com)

**Zone 6:**

Sandra Murray  
Ph. (780) 539-0615 Ph. (780) 518-5926  
9406-70 Ave., Grande Prairie, AB, T8V 5W8  
[Sandramurray9@yahoo.ca](mailto:Sandramurray9@yahoo.ca)

**Committee Chairpersons****Judges & Judging Schools Coordinator:**

Ann Owens, (780) 963-7489  
#1, 50410 Range Rd 275  
Stony Plain, AB, T7Z 1Z8

**Education Program:**

Call any executive member for information

**Show Tags:**

Marilyn McArthur  
Ph. (403) 346-4902

**Volunteer opportunities**

**Please contact any executive member for information on these interesting volunteer positions. Open to any AHA individual member**

**Zone 1 Representative (southern Alberta)**

**Education Chairman**