

April 4, 2017

April 2017 Presidents Report

This past month with the Saskatoon Horticultural Society (SHS) has been a busy one. We have lots on the go as we continue to build on last year's success. Here are some things to mention:

- The membership committee is in the full-swing of things and is processing this year's forms. We have a good variety of businesses offering discounts. We raised the price on the basic membership from \$10 to \$15. It appears that this has not hindered sales, while providing much needed funds. Our PayPal is being utilized more. Also, the SHS corporate membership initiative is being developed and will hopefully attract some business sponsors in the upcoming month.
- We are trying out a new meeting style to streamline the reports. We are utilizing committees to organize and plan the various events. My hope is to get non-directors involved in these committees. It is my hope we are able to build a community where members are engaged. There will be bumps along the way, but we are working to resolve any issues that arise. Currently we are without a treasurer and a publicity coordinator. I am aiming to have these positions filled in the upcoming weeks.
- Gardenscape was last month. Our Gardenscape committee under the direction of Nancy H. has been busy. I heard it was a success and I look forward to hearing the report on how we did! We had lots of volunteers engaged which was nice to see.
- The Document and Policy Committee under Don G. guidance will be meeting regularly in the upcoming months to finalize the Roles & Responsibility and Policy documents. These will help make ambiguous situations clearer as policies are drafted to provide guidance. Currently we are testing out our new constitution that was passed last year. It is nice to have an effective document for guiding our organization.
- Our communication tools have been receiving lots of attention. Our Facebook page continues to grow and we are getting information on our programs and services out to the public. In addition, our email account is receiving more inquiries from the public and various organizations. Our newsletter continues to be popular with the guidance Jennifer O. I would like to develop a mailing list to various businesses in Saskatoon so that more people can enjoy the SHS newsletter.
- The website is being updated on a weekly basis and has improved with Harvey H. leadership. We will be looking into the possibility of having an online platform where directors can store and

access documents to effectively achieve their task. In addition, this online platform would serve as an archive of information so that it does not get lost in the future.

- This year we have expanded our program offerings. The Spring Plant and Garage Sale Committee is currently in the planning phase for this fun-filled event. They are looking to build on next year's event and continue to get more members involved. In addition, we have two workshops for the month of April. One being a Stained Glass Glazing Ball Workshop by Angie Skiba and another on Tree/Shrub Pruning by Robin Adair. We will be having two Passports Tours this year. Lastly, we will be looking into the possibility of developing extra categories in our SHS Home Grounds Award Competition. Perhaps a category to include subjects such as vegetable gardening. Stay Tuned!
- The 1st Butterfield Scholarship deadline is April 30th and we have not received any applicants. I have sent an email to Vanessa Young at the University of Saskatchewan to remind students in the Master Gardener Program to take advantage of this scholarship. As well, I have sent an email to the School of Horticulture. If you know of anyone, please forward them the information.

The SHS is an organization on the move. I want to thank all the directors for their hard work behind the scenes. It is much appreciated!

Until next time, happy gardening!

Chris Zerebeski

President

Saskatoon Horticultural Society