

## Presidents Report

Business at the Saskatoon Horticultural Society (SHS) is beginning to pick-up. Everyone is getting anxious for spring and to get outside. Here are some things that the Board of Directors are working on for our members:

- The Board of Directors has approved an increase for membership fees. Please see my notice in this newsletter for more information. Currently we are busy securing businesses for our membership discount program. By purchasing a membership you get access to many discounts to help you with your gardening ambitions. In addition, you become part of our community! We now have a Paypal or credit card option online that speeds up the transaction. You can also visit our booth at Gardenscape and sign up in person. Or you can fill out the membership form and mail us a cheque.
- The SHS is looking to develop a Corporate Membership package for the upcoming year. This will give business an opportunity to reach their target markets, while helping us generate additional funds for our programming and scholarship/bursaries. The package is being finalized and will be available in the upcoming month.
- Our Facebook page hit 400 likes! It was developed two years ago and continues to be an effective tool for engaging the public and generating awareness. I encourage you to follow our page for up-to-date information on our various program offerings.
- As mentioned above, Gardenscape is fast approaching. This is a fun event in which the SHS has a booth to showcase different aspects of the organization. Our Gardenscape Committee is hard at work on developing a theme for our booth. We hope to see you there!
- We held a Board Orientation meeting in January and we were able to have an informal discussion on the SHS. At this meeting, we established the Calendar of Events for 2017, which you can now view on our website.
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- Last year the Document and Policy Committee completed the enormous task of revising our constitution. The new constitution was finalized and approved at last year's Annual General Meeting held in November. This will help the SHS govern more effectively. This year the committee will be finalizing the Roles and Responsibility document for the various positions on the Board. Also, the committee will be reviewing and developing new policies to act as a guideline for our Board of Directors.

- As a member you can now get involved on any of our committees without becoming a director. Help us plan one of our many events that we hold throughout the year. A great way to meet like-minded people without a huge commitment. Or you can simply volunteer at the event. Either way, we would like to have you on board! If you are interested, please send me an email at [Saskatoonhortsociety@sasktel.net](mailto:Saskatoonhortsociety@sasktel.net) or call me at (306) 281-8921. I look forward to hearing from you!
- Are you thinking of becoming or are currently a student in the Prairie Horticulture Certificate or Master Gardener Program at the University of Saskatchewan? The SHS has scholarships to help assist you in your endeavors. This includes:
  - One Prairie Horticulture Certificate Scholarship - \$1,000
  - Two Butterfield Master Gardener Scholarships - \$600 each

In addition, we have a bursary via the University of Saskatchewan to a student in Horticulture for \$1,500. Please visit our website for more information on each of our offerings. As well, can email us at [Saskatoonhortsociety@sasktel.net](mailto:Saskatoonhortsociety@sasktel.net) for more information.

That is it for now! Happy Gardening!

Chris Zerebeski

President