

The History of Fundy Gardeners

1995

On a cold January morning in 1995, Maureen Bourque, Marilyn Fox, and Judy Whalen met to discuss the possibility of establishing a garden club for the Saint John region. A meeting was scheduled for the end of February. Gardening friends were called and invited to this meeting. Twenty gardeners attended and Fundy Gardeners was born.

The first official meeting was held in March at Kings Chapel Funeral Home, forty-three enthusiastic gardeners attended and installed a slate of officers.

President	Bill Whalen
Vice Presidents	Tzigane Caddell, Peter Kinsella
Secretary	Edna Steeves
Treasurer	Duncan Kelbaugh

April saw the establishment of committees, a new constitution, plans for a plant sale in May (headed by Tzigane Caddell), plans for garden tours of members' gardens throughout the season, (organized by Maureen Bourque) and a list of programs (thanks to Peter Kinsella) for the rest of the year. Sixty-five people attended this meeting.

May was abuzz with plant sale plans, anticipated garden tours, and discussions on creation of a display garden (under Duncan Kelbaugh's direction) on the front slope of the Funeral Home. Eighty-three people were in attendance at the May meeting.

June started a new phase in our development, our first member's perennial exchange. Reports were given on garden tours, the plant sale, and the display garden. One hundred and eight people attended the meeting. We were off and running; from where were all the gardeners coming?

We continued to support activities of gardeners by adding a "question and answer" period and a "show and tell" segment to all meetings, moderated by Peter Kinsella and Judy Whalen. The programs were superb, something for everyone, (a complete list follows). The garden tours were an exceptional treat (a list is also included). Committees were competent in carrying on their assigned duties to ensure the smooth operation of Fundy Gardeners; a trend was set.

We soon became a clearing house for announcements about gardening for gardeners whether the topic involved commercial operations, other garden groups, or private individuals. Seed catalogues were ordered for the members through Fundy Gardeners. A library for members was established, chaired by Ann Andrews, and a new portable cabinet to contain the collection was built by members. A discount certificate program, under Duncan Kelbaugh's direction was instituted; members could claim a discount for plant material, seeds, and garden supplies from participating merchants. The press was notified, by publicity chair, Lynn Kinsella, of all meetings and this of course resulted in the explosion in membership, by September we had one hundred and fifty-seven members.

A fall perennial exchange was held and a seed exchange was planned for the new year. A Fundy Gardeners' photo album was started for posterity. The display garden was treated to many bulbs for spring bloom.

The annual meeting and party were held in December, a tastefully decorated spread of favorite finger food and punch was prepared by May Sweet, social and refreshment committee chair, and her elves. Merv Cormier, photography chair, reviewed the year in slides which captured everyone's attention and memories. Door prizes were many. Discount certificates were awarded. Garden tour gifts, a Merv Cormier photograph, were given to those who had worked so hard to receive the anxious multitudes who decended upon their garden during the gardening season. The slate of officers for 1996 as presented by nominating committee chair Duncan Kelbaugh was approved.

President	Bill Whalen
Vice Presidents	Tzigan Caddell, Peter Kinsella
Secretary	Jean Banham
Treasurer	Dick Chiswell

1996

A storm in January, 1996 prevented many people from attending the meeting but the few brave souls who made it had a wonderful time exchanging seeds, stories, and garden lore. February proved to be much nicer and members returned in numbers. Committees were established and on we forged. Peter Kinsella ensured that we had a year of programs, the list is enclosed. A gift and honorarium for program speakers was approved. A planting workshop was planned for March at Brunswick Nurseries co-chaired by Bob Smith, seed catalogue chair, and Tzigane Caddell. Members gave instructions on planting seeds, caring for seedlings, and slipping houseplants. Seed catalogues were ordered and upon arrival were quickly picked up by members.

We acquired rights to reproduce Duncan Kelbaugh's garden series, *Learn about Gardening*, on videotape from Fundy Cable. Bruce Brittain spent many hours copying these tapes for our library. We now have fifteen tapes with four one-half hour programs per tape for loan to members. The library continued to expand and Ann Andrews cataloged all materials and kept track of our treasures. Bill Sutton took over the operation of the discount plan and we obtained discounts at ten establishments.

Tzigane Caddell moved the plant sale to her Renforth neighborhood but still sold out in one hour. We couldn't hide it. Duncan Kelbaugh looked after the display garden again but this year increased the bulb planting to get more bloom next spring. Ross Harris chaired the garden tour committee and provided tours including small to huge, pretty to beautiful, and interesting to quaint, (see list).

Judy Whalen moderated the "question and answer" period which often utilized the evening speaker as a major contributor to answer members' questions. We purchased a new slide projector which made the programs and "show and tell" run smoothly and clearly.

By August we had one hundred and ninety-two members mainly due to Lynn Kinsella, publicity chair, keeping the Fundy Gardeners' name in the news. Curtis Maxwell volunteered to be our auditor and provided some advice on better accounting practices. The constitution was ammended to more clearly reflect the needs of the membership after almost two years of operation. We completed an upgrading of the gardens at the Oncology Department at the Saint John Regional Hospital and the Quispamsis Elementary School. Carol Graves, telephone committee chair, ensured that an able crew was on hand.

Eighty of our two hundred and sixteen paid members attended the annual meeting in December. May Sweet, social and refreshment chair, and helpers provided a spread to behold, thoroughly savored by one and all. Merv Cormier, photography chair, showed a quality review of the year through slides. Halifax Seed gave a packet of bulbs to each member present and provided four door prizes. Other door prizes were donated by members. Discount certificates were handed out to delighted members. Garden tour hosts received a gift, a Fundy Gardeners' mug. Duncan Kelbaugh gave the nominating committee report and the new executive was approved.

President	Tzigane Caddell
Vice Presidents	Judy Whalen, Merv Cormier
Secretary	Jean Banham
Treasurer	Dick Chiswell
Past President	Bill Whalen

1995 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

April	What's new in plants and materials for '95 NORA HEELIS, Mayfield Greenhouses, St. Stephen.
May	Roses, dwarf conifers and old apples BOB OSBORNE, Cornhill Nurseries Cornhill.
June	Vermicomposting TZIGANE CADDELL, Fundy Gardener.
July	Native shrubs and trees JEFF RITCHIE, Forester, Fredericton.
August	Rock Gardening JAMES ELLISON, Springvale Nurseries, N.S.
September	Potpourri, herb vinegars and herb oils DONNA SAVAGE, Strawflower Ridge Dried Flower Farm, Darlings Island.
October	Leaf composting DICK CHISWELL, Fundy Gardener. Dividing perennials LLOYD FOSTER, Fundy Gardener.
November	Hammond River Park Development DUNCAN KELBAUGH, Fundy Gardener.

1995 GARDEN TOUR HOSTS

Peter and Lynn Kinsella	Renforth	Merv Cormier	Saint John
Maureen Bourque	Saint John	Judy and Bill Whalen	Gondola Point
Bruce Brittain	Saint John	Elga Garnett	Saint John
Maxine Young	Saint John	Tzigane Caddell	Renforth
Ann Scholten	Rothesay	Berta Curran	Quispansis
Frank Graham	Saint John	Graham and Sandy Webb	East Riverside
Dick Chiswell	Renforth	Lloyd Foster	Saint John
Lynn Brett	Renforth	Mary Lanteigne	Quispansis
Marion McDonnell	Rothesay	Gerry and Marie St. Amand	Quispansis
Duncan Kelbaugh	Renforth	Ann Andrews	Saint John

1996 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

February	New Brunswick's soil structure and why trees grow where Mother Nature tells them to BRUCE MATSON, Extention Forester, Hampton
March	Gardening Boo Boos and what to do about them BARB TELFORD, Woodsmoke Perennials, Upper Gagetown
April	Oh, my aching back BARB KEIR, Workers' Rehabilitation centre, Grand Bay
May	Tired of the old look of your garden? -make a new plan JACKALYN MURRAY, Fundy Gardener
June	Rhododendrons and flowering shrubs GARTH NICKERSON, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Fredericton
July	Collection, storage and propagation of seeds BRUCE FRASER, Old Ridge Nursery, St. Stephen
August	Vegetables - growing and showing BOB PERRY, Fundy Gardener
September	A reading of an exchange of letters about gardening JUDY MADDOCKS, Fundy Gardener
October	Native shrubs and trees and grapes BOB OSBORNE, Cornhill Nurseries, Cornhill
November	Garden Photography DORIS MOWRY, Shampers Bluff

1996 GARDEN TOUR HOSTS

Tzigane Caddell	Renforth	Elga Garnett	Saint John
Lynn and Peter Kinsella	Renforth	Ross Harris	Saint John
Bruce Brittain	Saint John	Betty Kennett	Hampton
Maxine Young	Saint John	Florence Norris	Renforth
Bill and Judy Whalen	Midland	Lloyd Poster	St. George
Jean MacLeod	Saint John	Roy Morris	Saint John
Bonnie and Roland Wilson	Saint John	Merv Cormier	Saint John
Eileen and Melvin Wilson	Saint John	Mary Lanteigne	Quispansis
Faye Galbraith	Saint John	Ann Andrews	Saint John
Roger and JC Savoie	Saint John	Edna Steeves	Gorhams Bluff
Ann Barbour	Gorhams Bluff	Maureen Bourque	Saint John
Frances McKinney	Westfield	Duncan Kelbaugh	Renforth
Judy and Bill Whalen	Gondola Point		