



**WELCOME TO VOLUME 3 OF
THE ANTIGONISH GARDEN
CLUB NEWSLETTER**

**There will be summer memories,
philosophical musings, and some
Christmas pursuits.**

Thank-you to our contributors

Leona English

"I started gardening in 2020 in the midst of working from home due to COVID. I was so happy to have my yard as a distraction when the days turned into weeks and then months.

My garden rewarded me for all the attention, providing me with lots of flowers blooming at the same time, well into October.

The dahlias were my only disappointment, but I remind myself that there is always next year. Til then!"



Bed with salvia and grasses which replaced a section of lawn

During the summer when we didn't get to do all the normal things, I did have some garden visits from Garden Club members. I was delighted to have Mary McInnis, Clare Smith and Bonnie Gillis come to visit my garden, plus a number of other people who dropped in on their way to the river path near White Rock. I loved every visitor and, truth be told, I lured in a few passersby just to have a look.



Arrangements from My Garden



A few years ago, I realized I had a lot of photos of flowers and arrangements on my computer, but there was neither rhyme nor reason to them. A friend suggested that I set them up in a free FLICKR account on Yahoo, so that I could have a free storage space and have some order to my collection.



I divided my photos into a number of albums on Flickr, with one of them being summer flower arrangements. I often bring the flower vases to friends when I go to visit or have a meal with them. I like to decorate them with ribbon and to use some food colouring in the water.

Leona English

I have made them in pumpkins, china cups, and frogs—you likely have ideas of your own (Martha Stewart has some information on frogs here: [\(at this link\)](#)) Please have a look at my Arrangement Album at the [following link](#)





Isabelle Rochas “Garden Helper”

This year as a garden helper I was given a new challenge. Steinhart Distillery has a 60 feet long flowerbed that was neglected for some years, and perennial native plants like Horsetail, vetch, sorrel and the like were prosperous. In the previous fall I dug the bed, leaving only the tall background perennials, and I made the suggestion that in order to keep ahead on weeding next season they could plant annuals in the front and in between the perennials that were left.

When spring arrived I was put in charge of doing so... If you happen to know me from hiring me, you'll feel my anxiety of receiving such a task... let say I am a little self-depreciative when it comes to gardening tasks that require horticultural literacy.

Some of my people say that my intuitive horticultural talent provides the same service and I should not be balked by my poor verbalizing skill. Still, even if I know this to be true and I live a life that is a witness of that perception, I struggle with it because my mind was and still is shaped by the contemporary hypothesis that only knowledge licensed by an educational entity is a passport to professional definition.



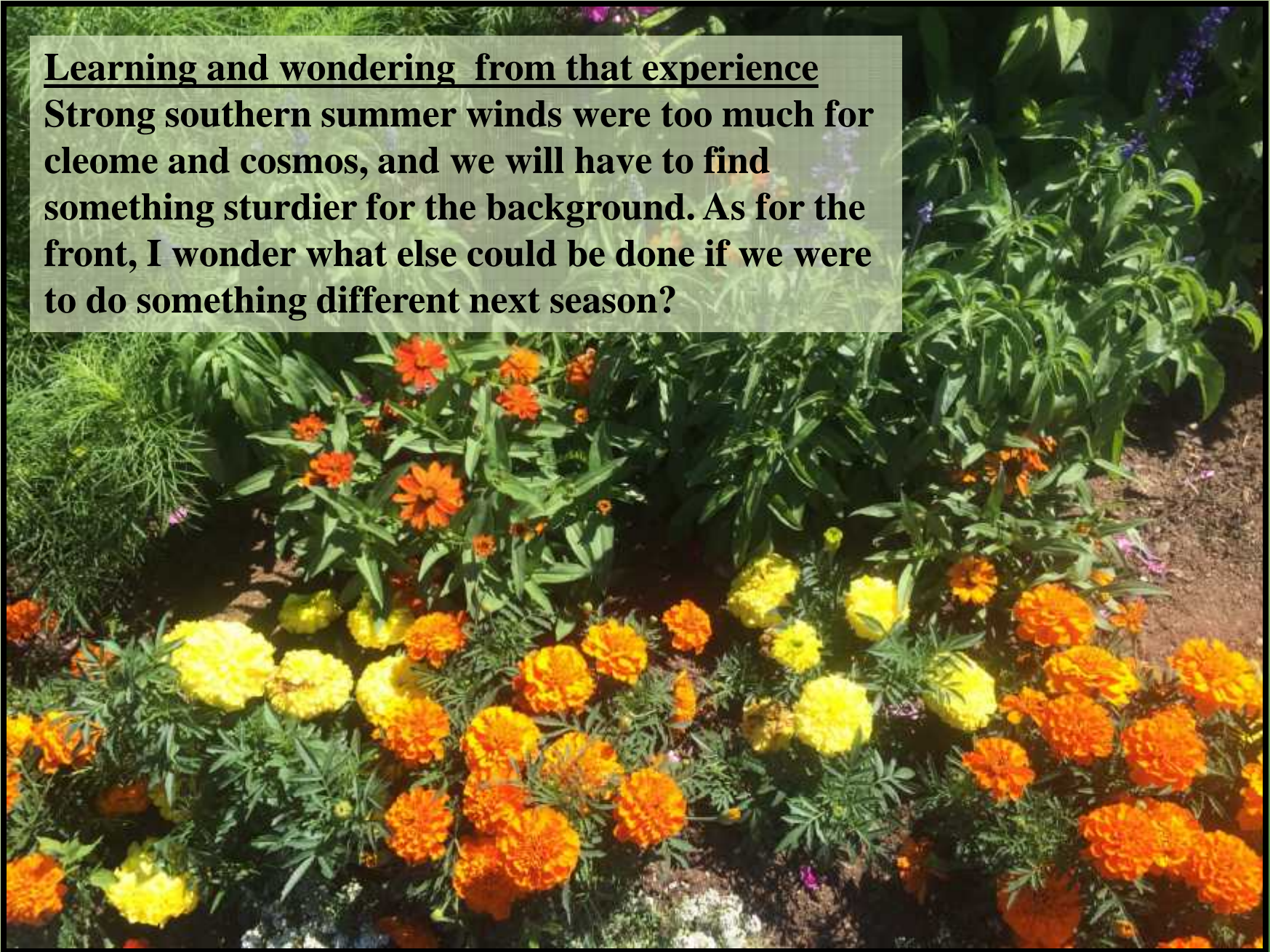
Anyhow, what I do have, particularly in spring, is the taste for adventure, so I took the task with that hat on, and I went to Gray's Nursery. I want to express my gratitude to Steve Gray. He is a busy person in spring and yet he has given his time to help me out—and not just on that project. His nursery and his generosity to share his savvy are a blessing to the community.

The resulting planting provided a very colourful flowerbed well into mid October: background with cleome and cosmos among well-established Asiatic daylilies and phlox. In the middle, islands planting with Blue Salvia, gazania, calibrachoa, canna lily, and the front, perhaps a bit too “in line” (?) Marigold, Alyssum, and Ageratum.



Learning and wondering from that experience

Strong southern summer winds were too much for cleome and cosmos, and we will have to find something sturdier for the background. As for the front, I wonder what else could be done if we were to do something different next season?



Liz Leighton

This story has some gardening elements in it.

Sometimes the interests one has do not quite mesh. Mine, as I grow older and we all grow more isolated, have become gardening and dogs. The dogs have been part of my life for 50 years, and the gardening is something I have always enjoyed but now have more time to work at.

When the two come together, sometimes there is more to do as a result. In late August, I got a call from the veterinary clinic in Antigonish; they had a doggie who had been presented some time before to a local "rescue" place, but, probably because of his age (11 - not really that old, especially as that would be my age, in doggie years), and "type" - advertised as a Rotti cross - and elderly difficulties - arthritis was suspected - he was not really "rescue" material, and found himself at the vet's on a one-way trip.

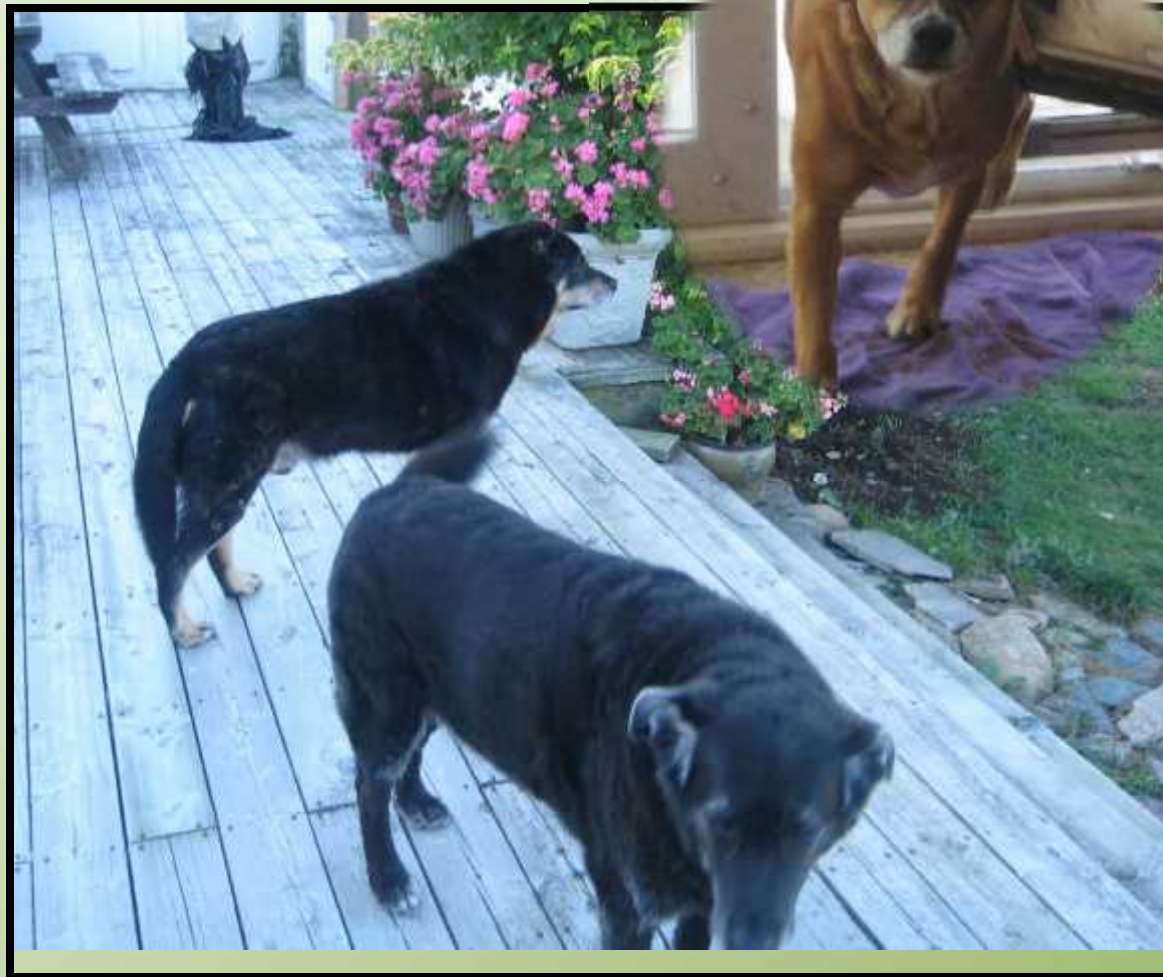
One of the receptionists suggested, as an alternative, that they phone Liz Leighton. A short call resulted in my attendance and rescue of this four-legged someone who had never been in a house before, had never gone for a real walk, and was, apparently, very docile. I think perhaps that latter description had something to do with his consciousness of his perilous position.

Spike, in the backyard.



What has this to do with gardening?

The backyard has/had numerous beds of plants which, when rolled on by a 90 pound fellow who now has two walks a day, and is in the house for most of the rest of the day, mooching snacks and table scraps and is therefore, although still docile and sweet, happy to do his lying down on those flower beds. They are now looking for a spring removal to somewhere else - outside the fenced in yard where that rolling and snoozing takes place.



There will be work to do come springtime. Here is a pic of our other elder dogs - Harley, a puggle rescue from ElderDog Canada, and also 11, and Sam, probably coming up to 14, who simply arrived at the house about 12 years ago, and, because his owner was found after many months but was no longer interested, has stayed to be the Head Dog of this pack.

Cheers to all - in our isolation, plans for spring and daily walking (especially with such loving companions) to give us the physical ability to carry out those plans are two ways to live happily in these weird times.

A festive outdoor decoration featuring a large red bow, greenery, and red berries in a basket. The decoration is placed on a white ledge in front of a window. The greenery includes various types of evergreen branches, some with red berries and gold-colored ornaments. The red bow is large and prominent, tied around the center of the arrangement. The basket is lined with straw or hay.

Yvonne Maas

**I took advantage of the nice weather and got my outdoor
decorating done.**

**Come February I dismantle all greenery and cover
any perennials that need covering.**

Hope everyone has a great Christmas

This was my first attempt at making a grapevine wreath. We cut all this year's vine growth after the leaves were off. You then decide the size of wreath you want. You pretty much start winding the vine around itself once you have made the initial circle tucking ends in here and there, it is surprising how much vine was used. I did tie the first group with a wire but you really don't need any wire at all the twisting keeps everything together.





A You Tube video is a great guide on how to make this and tips on how to decorate it.

I just went simple as it was quite a large wreath in the end.

**Note from Sharon:
If anyone would like
grapevine trimmings I have
a vine**

**We dug a little
spruce tree out roots
and all and have a
little bird tree for
the grandchildren.
My hope is to
replant it in the
spring.**





**In my evergreen
wreath I used
euonymus,
[barrenwort](#),
cedar, hemlock,
pine, fir and
even some
lavender and
oregano.**

**Note:
Click link for info on Barrenwort**



**We should all
have a
Christmas
bouquet to
cheer us**



**This will wrap up the
Vol 3 Newsletter**

**I would invite members to submit some
Christmas related items in the next
while and I will compile another pre-
Christmas volume.**

**It would be great to see some of your
decorative touches, a favourite
Christmas recipe(YUM!), anything that
will bring cheer to us in the dark days
of December.**

**“Doing this Newsletter brings me
cheer!”**