



# **Antigonish Garden Club**

## **Fall 2020 Newsletter - Vol 2 Member Submissions**

**The 2020 gardening season is almost at an end. This Newsletter will be a continuation of our member's memories, observations and maybe a few more questions. Many thanks are extended to the members who took the time to submit a "story".**

**Just email [sbryson@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:sbryson@ns.sympatico.ca)**

**Your suggestions and feedback are welcome.**

# Ann van de Reep

A monarch butterfly with black and white wings is perched on a pink flower. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting a garden setting.

**Note:** Ann resides in Calgary, but spends her summers here in N.S. near Arisaig. She is a very experienced Gardener.

**Last year we did a major reno & addition to the cottage. We had to dig out all the plants that were growing around the cottage in the spring and stuff them into the vegetable garden and any other spots we could find.**

**I thought we would be able to replant last fall, but the renos weren't finished until December. This year we weren't able to get to Nova Scotia until July, by which time I felt it was too hot and dry to move plants. Plus we had a *just* a bit of weeding to do!**

**Our plan was to replant in the fall, but we had to go back to Calgary early in September.**

**So it sits with empty beds around the cottage all ready for plants (which I'm sure the weeds will appreciate) and the vegetable garden full of perennials. But next year will be better - the gardener's perennial hope!**



**The 'vegetable garden'. Surprisingly, I still managed to find a few spots to plant some vegetables.**




One of my favourite combinations this year - *Echinacea* 'PowWow Wild Berry' and *Liatris spicata* (which I was fortunate to get at a garden club meeting - thank you to whoever donated it!).



Another favourite combination - *Veronica* 'Sunny Border Blue' and an unknown *Rudbeckia*.



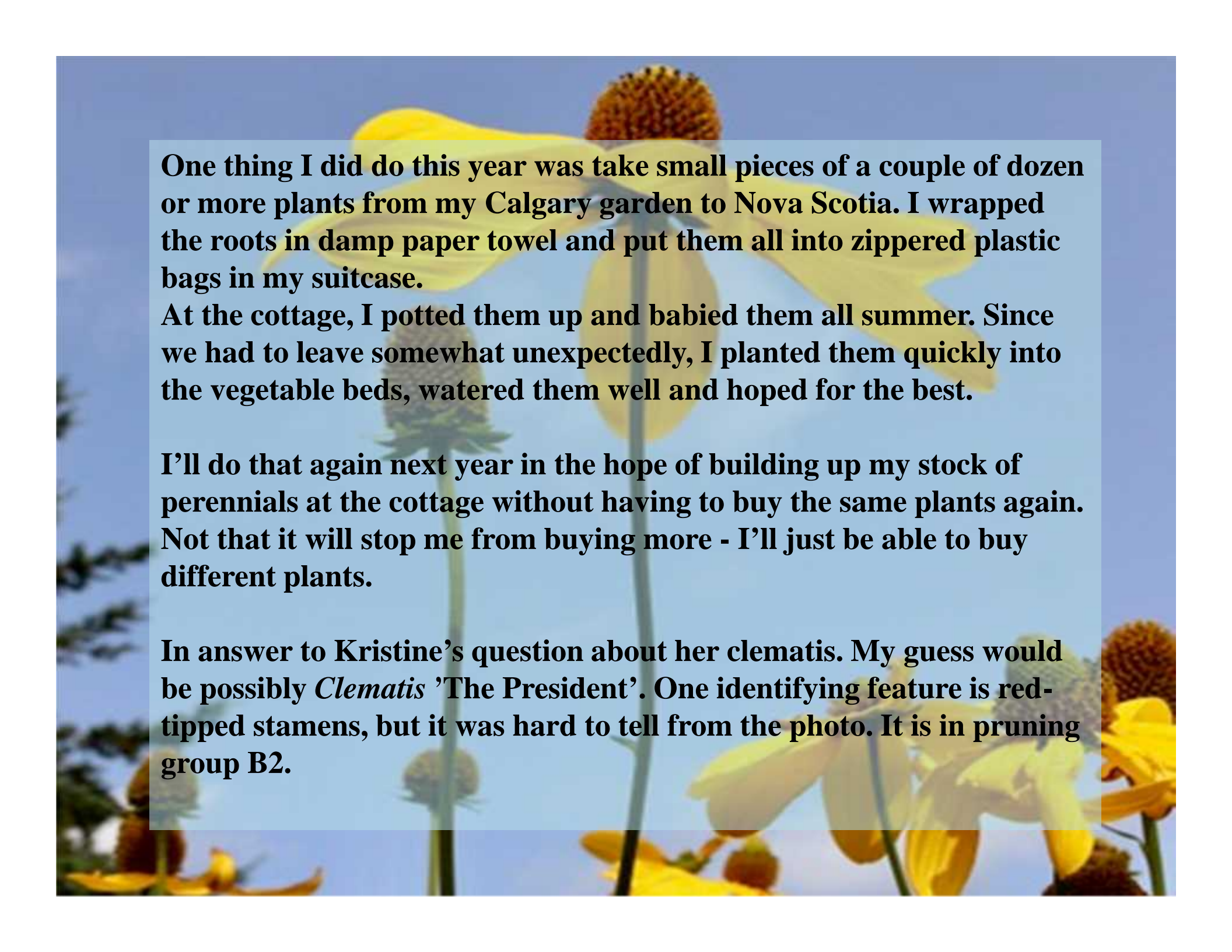


**The garden beds around the shed were the only ones to escape relatively unscathed during the reno.**

***Rudbeckia* 'Herbstsonne' grew to over six feet tall, despite being transplanted and neglected for the past couple of years.**



**I was very happy to find *Allium* 'Millenium' at the Co-op Country Store a couple of years ago. It's a clump-forming allium that blooms in mid-summer and was named 2018 Perennial Plant of the Year by the Perennial Plant Association.**




**One thing I did do this year was take small pieces of a couple of dozen or more plants from my Calgary garden to Nova Scotia. I wrapped the roots in damp paper towel and put them all into zippered plastic bags in my suitcase.**

**At the cottage, I potted them up and babied them all summer. Since we had to leave somewhat unexpectedly, I planted them quickly into the vegetable beds, watered them well and hoped for the best.**

**I'll do that again next year in the hope of building up my stock of perennials at the cottage without having to buy the same plants again. Not that it will stop me from buying more - I'll just be able to buy different plants.**

**In answer to Kristine's question about her clematis. My guess would be possibly *Clematis* 'The President'. One identifying feature is red-tipped stamens, but it was hard to tell from the photo. It is in pruning group B2.**

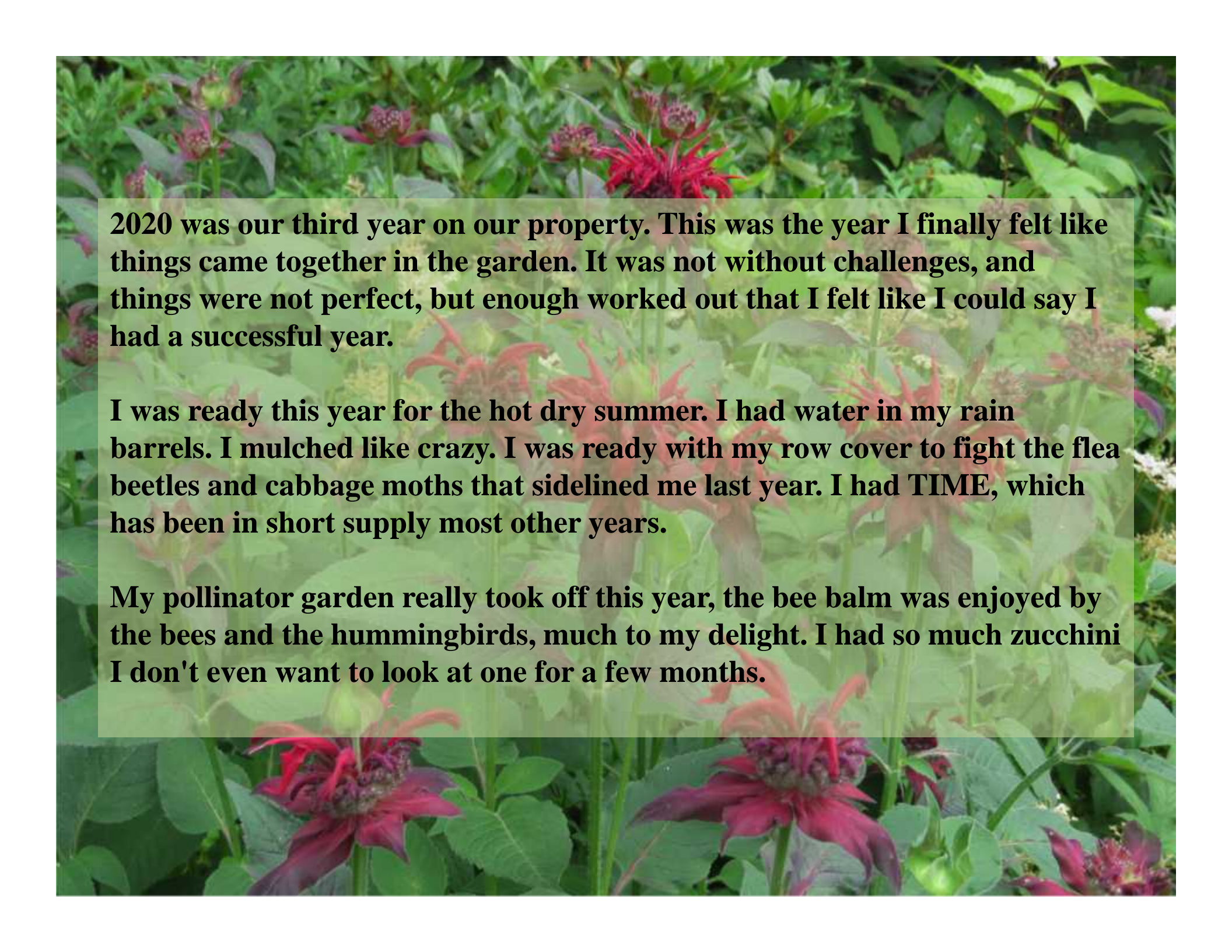


**Arlynnne  
McGrath**

**Me in my new and totally awesome gardening hat, enjoying the peak tomato season. This was one of those moments where I felt so happy in the garden I thought I should capture the moment.**

Arlynnne gardens in Dunmore on quite a large property





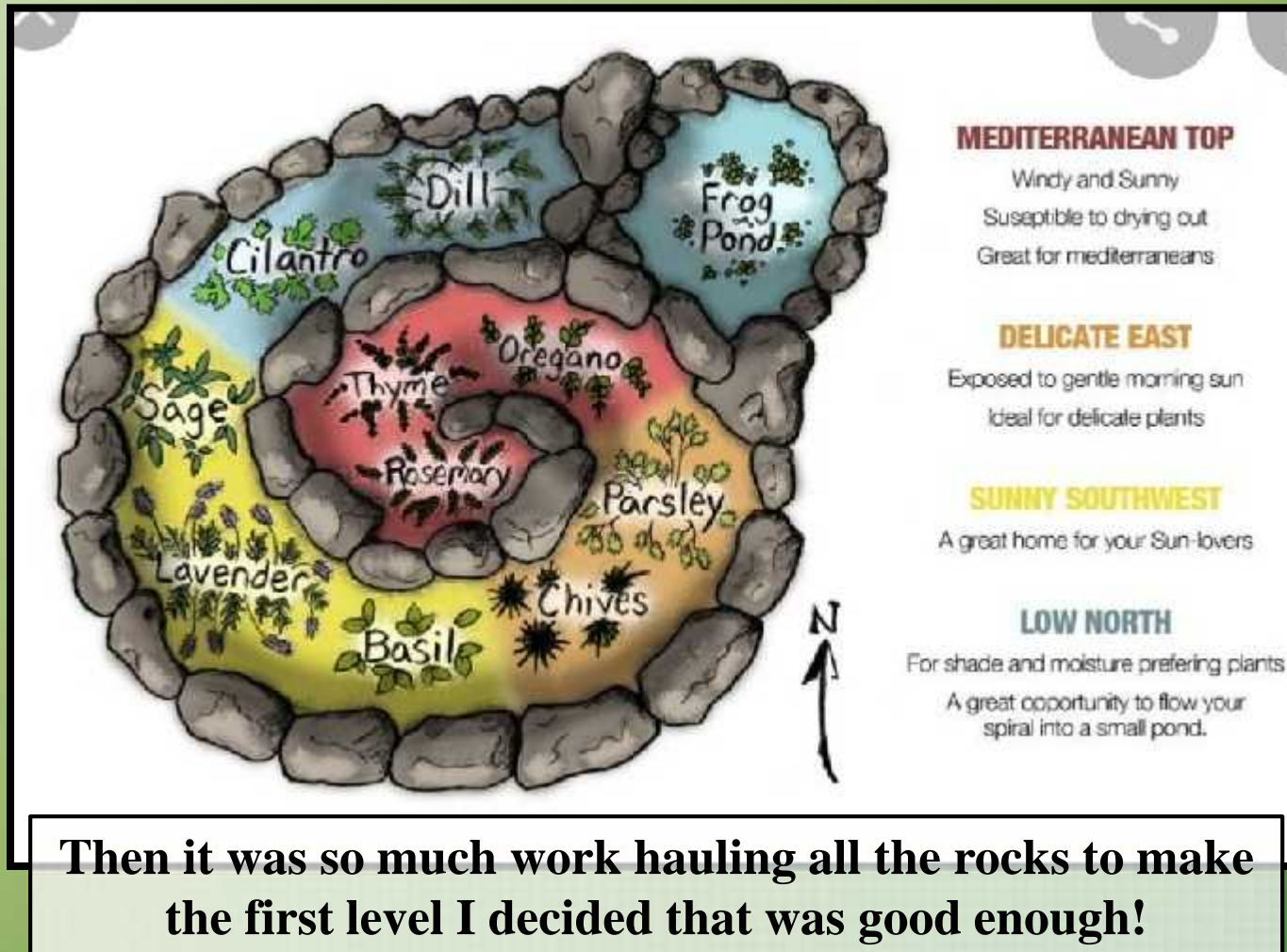
**2020 was our third year on our property. This was the year I finally felt like things came together in the garden. It was not without challenges, and things were not perfect, but enough worked out that I felt like I could say I had a successful year.**

**I was ready this year for the hot dry summer. I had water in my rain barrels. I mulched like crazy. I was ready with my row cover to fight the flea beetles and cabbage moths that sidelined me last year. I had TIME, which has been in short supply most other years.**

**My pollinator garden really took off this year, the bee balm was enjoyed by the bees and the hummingbirds, much to my delight. I had so much zucchini I don't even want to look at one for a few months.**

## Original Plan for a Herb Circle

Originally, I had planned to create a permaculture herb spiral, the idea being that each herb has different needs and you can address it with this design.




Then it was so much work hauling all the rocks to make the first level I decided that was good enough!

**Herb Circle is from early in the year, so things were just getting going.**



**The herbs took off this year so I will move those flowers .**



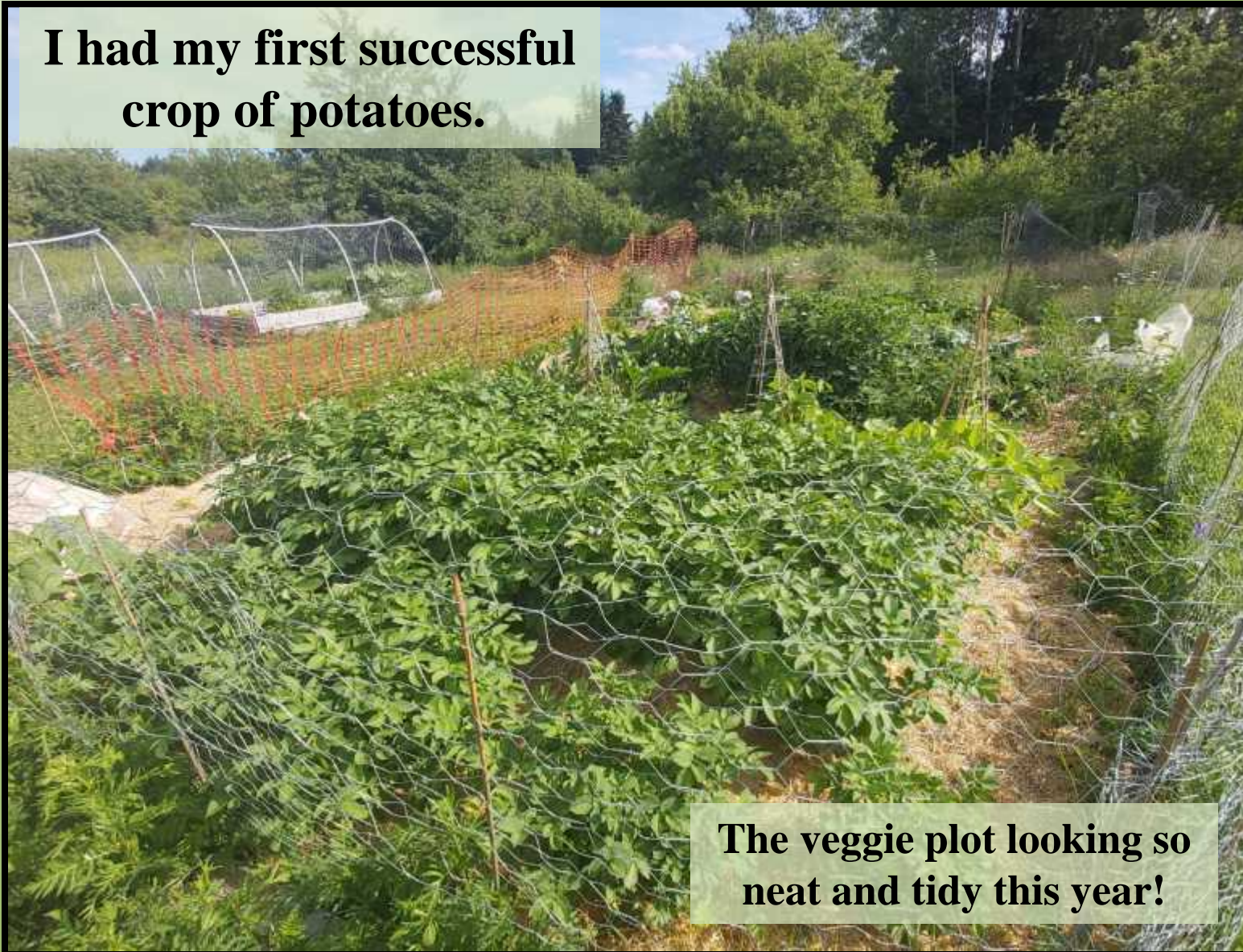
**In the bed I have thyme, oregano, mint, lavender, sage and rosemary (planted each year).**

**There were chives but they died out, not sure if they will make a return. I try to create borders out of rocks because it is the one thing we have no shortage of!**

**Our soil in this area is quite sandy and rocky, different from the clay so many people have.**



**I had my first successful  
crop of potatoes.**



**The veggie plot looking so  
neat and tidy this year!**

## **Arlynnne had a problem or two**

**The heavy mulch kept the soil moist and almost eliminated weeding, but it created some new issues. I don't know if it was mice or voles, but something was eating the potatoes. I don't mind sharing with other creatures, but why do they have to take one bite out of every potato? Why can't they just take what they need and eat the entire thing?**

**The other issue caused by mulching is the slugs. I put my chickens on the garden bed for a few weeks once I harvested everything so I hope they found and ate most of the slug eggs and next year will be better.**

**I am trying my first fall garden this year growing spinach and kale, so fingers crossed that it grows enough to enjoy some fresh greens before they are under the snow.**



**I finally convinced my daughter to help me plant this year. She enjoyed planting potatoes. She also enjoys eating them!**

**I also had some ten foot tall sunflowers that brought me great joy and they are now bringing the birds great joy as they eat the seeds.**



**My daughter posing for her first day of school with our 'Kong' sunflowers. Last year Dorian took them out, but this year we got to enjoy them.**



**We also bought an apple press this year and began harvesting our apples in August to make juice. We pressed weekly, and it was interesting to see how the juice changed as the season went on.**



**Pressing apples with the family on Thanksgiving. We were lucky to be able to gather in our family bubbles for Thanksgiving this year!**

## **Sharon, a bit of an ode to leaves**

**As fall was winding down this year , I decided I need to get a bit proactive and get some leaf mold going. For years, Bill used to use the mower to windrow leaves, then collect them in the wagon and deposit them in a bin away in the back garden. There, with magic of time, they would turn into lovely black leaf mold.**

**I didn't want to gather leaves from the yard, so I just ran over the areas with the mower and dispersed them . Many get blown into some of the beds where they ultimately add to the soil. That left me with the option of picking up leaves from town where many people have lots of bagged leaves.**

**I borrowed my neighbor's truck and made two leaf runs. I probably picked up 40 or so bags. There is a metal bin of sorts near the compost/manure area of the yard, so that is where they will lie and do their thing. Shredded leaves break down faster than those left intact, so I took my whipper snipper and as I emptied each bag gave them a bit of a ruffling. I wasn't too careful that all got shredded, but many were.**

**New leaf area, 2020**



**Leaves in these paper bags may be left to overwinter as they are**



**Bill back in  
the day  
gathering  
leaves**

**Wagon load to  
get dumped**





**Just an old leaf pile**

# Joan Corsten

We moved to Mount Cameron Circle in December 2018, so this was our second summer here. The perennials we moved from our house on Macken Road are settling in, especially the ones in back, where there is southern exposure. True to form, there are several lovely roses growing in beds behind the house. Two favourites are a Canadian grown type, the peachy one is called Chinook Sunrise, the red one is Canadian Shield. We got them through Costco, but Gray's had them last year too.



In this front bed there are two Rainbow Knock Out shrub roses (from Gray's Greenhouses,). Annuals are spreading verbena and wave petunias from Duykers Greenhouses in Afton.

**It was a lovely summer, the plants bloomed happily, a pleasure in this Covid year.**



**The previous picture was taken in early July, just before I found one of the verbena plants broken and the ground mucked up around it. We wondered what type of animal could have been there, but fixed it up and forgot about it.**



**Rainbow Knock Out Rose**



**Forward to October, on a lovely fall day.** We had cut and gathered up bunches of colourful branches for Thanksgiving and Halloween display. Pulled them out of the van, on the driveway, ready to share with neighbours, when we saw what first looked like a rock, but it moved! And there was another, and another over further??. **Little turtles?**

We could not believe our eyes!

**We picked up 10 baby snapping turtles,** from all over the front yard, such small, determined little things, heading towards water.

We found a basket to put them in, took pictures, because this was pretty amazing! Then while admiring them, discovered 2 more babies just crawling out of the little flower bed, all dirt covered!

What to do with them? To save them what would be a long trip for those little creatures, we gave them a ride to the river by the Landing Walking Trail just below our house. **We tucked them under some protective foliage, wished them well, and hope they all grow and prosper!**





**Since we are unable to have our usual Christmas gathering, a quick look back at 2018 & 2019**



**These two lovely ladies were the  
hostesses for our 2018 and 2019  
Christmas gatherings.  
Thanks Betty and Cordis**





**Memories  
of  
Christmas  
Past**

**2018**

**Memories  
of  
Christmas  
Past  
2018**





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**This ends Volume 2 of this Garden Club Newsletter. It would be nice to receive more of your garden stories, which could contribute to Vol. 3. With Christmas approaching, it would be nice to have some seasonal items.**

**As you have seen, it is not very difficult to share some of your garden experiences. I welcome submissions, more from those who have already done so, and especially from those who have not.**