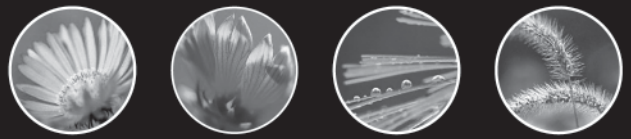


Spring 2008

The newsletter for members and associates
of Landscape Nova Scotia



**Landscape
Nova Scotia**

greenNScene

Landscape Nova Scotia Horticultural Trades Association

Highlights

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p 11 - Horticultural Therapy Program... Hear how an Award of Excellence winner brought recognition to a wonderful Horticultural Therapy Program in Sydney, Nova Scotia.

Sandy Roberton Presented with CNLA President's Award



CNLA President (L), Michael Murray, presents Sandy Roberton with this distinguished Award

Industry recognized one of their own by awarding the Canadian Nursery Landscape Award (CNLA) President's Award to Sandy Roberton of EarthCraft Landscaping in Bedford, Nova Scotia during the National Awards of Landscape Excellence held in February in Saint John, New Brunswick. The CNLA President's Award is given to a volunteer who has shown excellence in volunteerism over a long period of time with the association and industry.

Anyone who knows Sandy will agree that his volunteer contributions have been profoundly influential and selfless, and that he has gone above and beyond what anyone could have imagined to help move industry issues and professionalism forward.

Sandy hails from an agricultural background, the son of a farmer in both Scotland and the Isle of Man. He holds a Diploma in Animal Husbandry and Farm Management. After serving

~ continued on page 2



HortEast
Conference
& TRADESHOW

November 24-26, 2008
Cunard Center: Halifax, NS

For more information contact
Rebecca at 1-866-383-4711



Presidential Corner

LNS' New Governance Model Streamlines Committee Functions

~ by Robin Godfrey, President, LNS

As many of you know, Landscape Nova Scotia has been working for some time on revising our By-Laws and governance process. This initiative began two years ago with a session facilitated by Maureen Reid of BoardWorks. Through this process it became evident that amendments to the Bylaws would provide an opportunity to make some modifications to the Association's Organizational Chart and our committee structure.

A key piece to these changes is the development of the Governance Document which will reflect the new Organizational Chart. While many committees will still remain, the reporting structure will involve the active involvement of the 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents. There are many committees that are in need of both chairs and participants and I encourage our members to volunteer on one or more of these committees. This is a great chance to come in at the ground level and set some goals, objectives and new Terms of Reference.

Under the new structure there are three basic groupings of committees and they are as follows:

- **Marketing and Membership Management**
- **Professionalism**
- **Commodity Groups/Liaisons**

Within each of these categories fall a variety of volunteer opportunities. We hope that you will consider volunteering for a chair or participation on one of these committees. Your talent, experiences and direction will be warmly welcomed.

We were happy to put the ByLaw revisions to bed, having received unanimous approval of them at our November 2007 Annual General Meeting. This document will continue to guide the Association, but at its core are the volunteers who give of their time and their expertise. Make time for your industry and consider giving a few hours of your time. Your time will not be wasted and will help to move our industry initiatives forward.



LNS Needs You!

If you are interested in volunteering on one of the following committees, or becoming a commodity rep., contact LNS at (902) 463-0519.

Marketing and Membership Management:

- Membership Recruitment and Retention
- HortEast, Garden & Patio Show

Professionalism

- Education, Standards, Environment
- Atlantic Region Certification Committee

Commodity Group and Affiliations - liaison representatives needed

- APALA
- NSHBA
- CANS
- NS Environmental Industry Association
- Atlantic Provinces Ready Mixed Concrete Association

CNLA President's Award Bestowed upon Sandy Robertson

~ continued from front page

with the British army in Europe, Cyprus, Malaya and Borneo, he moved to Canada in 1984 and incorporated Earth-Craft Landscape.

Sandy's list of roles in the association began as being a member of Landscape Nova Scotia in 1986 and he soon became President of LNS from 1990 through 1993. The next year he became a CNLA Director, and since has held the position of Regional Certification Chair, National Certification Chair, CNLA Treasurer and Vice President. To his many accomplishments is the successful negotiation on behalf of the CNLA to develop the terms and

conditions for the revision of the Certified Landscape Professional Program. He was also instrumental in helping raise technical standards by establishing the Certified Horticultural Technician program for Canada. Always an ardent advocate for improved standards and a steadfast supporter of education and training for all facets of our industry his mark has surely been left for many generations of landscapers to come.

Even through personal times of loss and difficulty he always found time to do what was right for industry, even when it meant stepping aside when other responsibilities

would not allow him to contribute the time for a position.

Current CNLA President Michael Murray of Murray's Horticultural Services in St. John's, Newfoundland presented Sandy with a plaque recognizing his contribution along with a honorary CNLA President's ring and a CNLA leather jacket. These are small tokens in comparison to all he has given to industry now and for generations to come.

Atlantic Canada's First Certification Trifecta!

~ by Julia Ricottone, Atlantic Certification Coordinator



*Doug Conrad, CLP, CHT, CLD
Clintar Groundskeeping Services/Creative Light
and Landscape Services*

Landscape Nova Scotia and the Canadian Nursery Landscape Association (CNLA) would like to extend their congratulations to Doug Conrad, CHT, CLD, CLP, on his achievement of all three of CNLA's certification designations. Doug was recently presented his Certified Landscape Designer (CLD) at the CNLA board meeting in Saint John, NB, giving him a third horticultural designation. He is the first person in Atlantic Canada, and the second person across Canada to be awarded all three designations.

Each certification designation proves one's dedication to their profession. CNLA's certification programs are internationally recognized and nationally supported. Doug took his first step toward the Trifecta in 1996 when he achieved his Certified Horticultural Technician (CHT) in Landscape Installation by passing both a written and practical evaluation. It is designed to verify a candidate's day-to-day skills.

After owning his own business for many years, Doug decided it would be beneficial for him to become a Certified Landscape Professional (CLP), which focuses on the essential skills for any business owner or manager to have in order to run a successful business.

The CLD program requires a minimum seven years industry experience, the completion of a written exam, and successful evaluation of a portfolio of three projects. Now, after obtaining his CHT, CLD, and CLP, Doug is recognized as a true leader who is always looking to improve his skills, and is raising the standard of professionalism for our industry. Congratulations Doug!

Are you interested in getting certified? Contact Julia Ricottone at the CNLA office for more information: 888-446-3499, julia@canadanursery.com.

Skills Career Fair Promotes Industry Opportunities

Skills Canada~Nova Scotia hosted its 11th Annual Nova Scotia Skills Competition & Career Showcase on March 19 at the Memorial Composite High School in Sydney. Apprentices, secondary, and post-secondary students competed in a variety of skilled trade and technology competitions including heavy duty equipment repair, IT software applications, welding, and plumbing. In addition to visiting the competitions, students were invited from across the province to explore their career options in the highly interactive career showcases.

Christene LeVatte of Highland Landscapes for Lifestyle, hosted the Landscape Nova Scotia booth. With the support of Atlantic CAT, students were able to see and hear first hand the career opportunities available to those who enter into the landscape and horticultural industry.

It was appropriate to have this Career Fair at Memorial Composite High School, as Memorial is one of the very few Canadian institutions that offer students an option to combine academic courses with trades course; qualifying them for University admission as well as apprenticeship.

Christene says, "The Skills staff are amazing and energetic and they were thrilled to have the landscape trade participating at the Fair." She says that she was glad to have had the opportunity to see first hand, a bit of how Skills works and adds, "I walked through the competition

areas. It reminded me so much of our Certification tests."

She is optimistic about our industry partnership with Skills and says, "Apprenticeship – Certification – Skills Canada; hand - glove!"



LNS General Membership Meeting Speakers Punctuate Professionalism

~ by Ashley Langille



Kirk Fletcher, LNS Education Chair, introduces guest speakers Eldon MacKeigan and Jerry White



Eldon MacKeigan, Sandler Sales Institute spoke about Time and Sales Management



Jerry White, Rudder Business Advisory Services, reinforced the importance of Financial Management

On March 6, 2008 over 35 members of Landscape Nova Scotia gathered at the Citadel Hotel in Halifax for their winter General Membership Meeting. The morning Business Meeting provided the members with an overview of the Association's activity since their November AGM and outlined some of the goals and objectives the Committees and the Board hope to achieve in the upcoming months.

Following the adjournment of the meeting Eldon MacKeigan, from Sandler Sales Institute, joined us to share his knowledge on Time and Sales Management. Eldon broke the ice by having everyone participate in a group session that helped them identify the challenges they face in their business operations. From closing the sale to underpricing, many of the issues highlighted were common to many present.

These problems were collected and discussed and examined individually. Eldon noted that customers initially buy services and products using emotion and then later justify their purchases intellectually. He punctuated the need to sell on emotion and noted that the art of listening is critical when trying to close the sales loop. Many of the tips shared by Eldon circle back to the need to manage your time effectively. The *Pay Time* and *No Pay Time* concept demonstrated in a very real way how time can be managed to increase the sales and financial health of your company. Valuable information and time was shared and we thank Eldon so much for taking time to join us.

After lunch Kirk Fletcher, LNS Education Chair, welcomed Jerry White of Rudder Business Advisory Services. Jerry has presented to LNS in the past and highlighted this presentation on Financial Management. He discussed the steps required to build and improve upon the financial health within any business and highlighted some key tools that can be

used to improve this process. Again, Jerry's interactive style embraced the kinds of issues that our industry faces and invoked many personal experiences and solutions. Key to any successful business is a healthy financial management structure and we thank Jerry for helping us understand this more fully.



2008 Atlantic Directory Ad Correction Notice - We apologize for the contact information errors noted in the East Coast Irrigation ad:

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Halifax, N.S.

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Fax: (902)446-3235

ecamos@eastlink.ca



Membership Profile

Barrios Concrete's Drive for Success

~ by Rebecca Wetselaar, Atlantic Region Membership Coordinator



For almost 30 years, Barrios Concrete Ornaments (2004) Ltd., now located in Lower Sackville, had been a landmark on the Bedford Highway. This family business, founded by Fred Barrios and currently owned and operated by Nina Barrios, is a manufacturer and retailer of concrete ornaments and patio stones. Continuing the family tradition, products are made by hand on-site to ensure the greatest quality products possible.

Nina's father Fred got into the business by working at *Edmonds Brothers*, a landscaping company that also sold small

shrubs and concrete ornaments. Fred soon purchased a business and started a manufacturing company for concrete ornaments out of their home. All products are made on site including bird baths, fountains, statues, benches, bigger stones for patios, small stepping stones, retaining wall stones and bumper curbs.

At age 13, Nina started helping her Dad with the business. "I really enjoyed doing it," Nina says. "I spent a lot of time helping out my Dad." In 2004, when Fred passed away, Nina decided to take over the business. Upon doing so, Nina moved the business to a new location in Lower Sackville to accommodate space for increased production and more pieces of equipment to create their unique products.

Nina admits that the move has been a challenge after being known as the "little concrete ornament place on the Bedford Highway" for 30 years. She is confident that once customers are aware of their new location that the business will continue to grow and prosper in what is a very unique merchandising niche.

To increase their business exposure, Nina exhibits year after year in the Garden and

Patio Show. Through her membership with Landscape Nova Scotia, Barrios Concrete Ornaments are able to save a substantial amount on their booth space. "This show has really helped us to promote our name and products," says Nina. "We have been exhibiting in the same booth for many years and each show helps to kick off our Spring season. The Garden and Patio Show offers great value to us," she adds. Nina adds that membership with Landscape Nova Scotia helps provide networking opportunities with many of her current and potential clients.

She invites all members of Landscape Nova Scotia to come visit her at their new location at 295 Cobequid Road in Lower Sackville. Barrios will be open this spring and summer and will feature new products for the upcoming year including their popular Royal Urns and new Eagle Statues.

Landscape Nova Scotia wishes Nina and all the staff at Barrios Concrete Ornaments continued success and prosperity.

Be a Professional - Get Certified

~ by Julia Ricottone, Atlantic Region Certification Coordinator

The opportunity is here for you to become a Certified Horticultural Technician (CHT). The Atlantic Region Certification Committee will be holding a CHT Installation and Maintenance evaluation on April 18-19, 2008, at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College (NSAC).

The CHT designation is offered throughout Canada and is recognized across North America. It is designed for individuals in the horticulture industry who want to verify their knowledge and skill sets. CHT can provide you with a professional designation that is associated with a high level of competence in the tasks typically required within the horticulture industry.

To obtain your CHT designation, you must successfully complete a written

and practical exam. CHT is currently divided into four specialties: Landscape Installation, Landscape Maintenance, Retail Garden Centre, and Interior Landscaping.

New this year:

After a review of the current test, it was decided that three stations will no longer be required to complete the CHT program. Candidates will no longer be tested on Plant Sensitivity, Truck and Trailer, or Pesticides.

Installation and maintenance candidates can take the written exam on April 18th, and the practical exam on April 19th at the NSAC. A retail garden centre test will soon be scheduled for July.



How can you prepare?

Study materials are available for each specialty. Training sessions are being held at the NSAC, and through Landscape New Brunswick. You can also watch videos of the practical stations at www.youtube.com/user/CNLA to get a better idea of what to expect on test day.

If you are interested in any of these exam opportunities, please contact Julia Ricottone, Atlantic Region Certification Coordinator, at 1-888-446-3499, or julia@canadanursery.com.

Halifax to Host HortEast 2008!



Atlantic Canada's premiere horticulture trade show and conference, HortEast, is back and promises exciting changes for the upcoming show. HortEast is scheduled for November 24-26th, 2008 at the Cunard Centre in Halifax, NS.

This venue, located on the Halifax waterfront just behind the Westin Nova Scotian Hotel, will be the ideal location for this event with over 53,000 square feet of space to accommodate our regular exhibitors, informative speakers, and great networking events.

Horticulture related businesses, municipalities, and educational institutions from the Atlantic Region and across Canada rely on HortEast as their source for the newest industry information, education, and networking opportunity. We would like to extend our thanks to those who have been on the HortEast committee in the past and have established HortEast as such a success, with special thanks to Nigel Bayliss, past Committee Chair, for his dedication and positive energy in organizing the show in previous years.

A new HortEast Committee has been formed with representatives from Landscape New Brunswick and Landscape Nova Scotia. Doug Conrad with Clintar Groundskeeping Service in Dartmouth, NS Chairs the Committee which includes Scott Mosher with Terra Nova Landscaping Inc. in NS, Darrell Nameth with Lawn Rangers Landscaping in NB, and Kevin Nauss with Price Landscaping Services in NB. The committee will also be assisted by the Landscape New Brunswick and Landscape Nova Scotia offices and Rebecca Wetselaar, Atlantic Region Coordinator, will be working as the coordinator for the show. Landscape Newfoundland and Labrador

will also be working with the committee and promoting the show ensuring that this is truly an Atlantic event.

Current show plans include offering industry tours, bringing in cutting-edge speakers that will appeal to landscapers, nurseries and garden centres, certification opportunities, and a great party on the second night of the show. Members of LNS, LNB and LNL should note that they will receive special rates when participating as exhibitors or delegates in the show which provides an additional benefit of membership.

As the new committee chair, Doug is excited to be working on the upcoming show and he knows that the Cunard Centre will be a great location for this event. Doug says, "The new committee anticipates that this will be another great

show and hopes to see more exhibitors and delegates in attendance." He adds, "We'll build upon the successful formula that has been established by the previous HortEast committee, and will be bringing some relevant educational and social events to the 2008 Program." He recognizes the contributions made by the former Committee members and thanks them for their past efforts. "HortEast is a well established Industry Show and we can only grow from all the good work done by those who have led the Show in past years."

For more information on HortEast including sponsorship opportunities and exhibit space rental visit www.horteast.ns.ca or contact Rebecca Wetselaar, Atlantic Region Coordinator at 1-866-383-4711, or email rebecca@canadanursery.com.



WHAT'S NEW?

WELCOME NEW LNSHTA MEMBERS!

Welcome to our newest members: Cannor Nurseries LTD., Chilliwack, British Columbia; Pro-Power Canada, Meaford, Ontario; Cedar Landscaping & Excavation, Halifax, NS; Mainly Maintenance Inc., Porters Lake, NS; and LIVE Landscaping, Halifax, NS. We look forward to learning more about your company and meeting you, your family and staff at an upcoming Association function.

JOB OPPORTUNITY: Highland Landscapes for Lifestyle, a full service award winning landscape / design build firm, is looking for the following talented, motivated and experienced team players: a Residential Landscape Designer / Client Sales and a Hard Landscape Construction Foreman. Interested persons are asked to forward their Resume outlining specific industry experience, qualifications and references to: 2365 Kings Road, Sydney, NS, B1L 1C1, or email highland@syd.eastlink.ca

PROPOSED LAND USE BYLAW- The Soil Committee has been working to address the issues around a proposed Landuse Bylaw ammendment in the HRM. Alan Streach, Chair, has worked with fellow committee members to develop a position statement regarding these changes. The committee has met with members of the HRM to gain an understanding of any proposed changes to our industry and has shared our Association's concerns regarding changes that might impact our industry. For a copy of our Position Statement, call the LNS office.

WEBSITE UPDATES AND IMPROVEMENTS: The LNS office is working on providing members with a MemberZone on the website. We are working with our Webmaster to have forums and all PDF files uploaded on the LNS website by the end of April. If you have any suggestions please forward them on to the office!

NSCC KINGSTEC SKILLS COMPETITION: The NSCC Kingstec Campus has been working on an open house/skills day which will run from 9 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. on April 17. They are hosting Skills Nova Scotia on site with Carpentry, Electrical Construction, Machining and of course Landscape Gardening all being profiled. Industry members are invited to attend and are asked to bring along job descriptions so employment needs can be matched with students. If there are any members who would like to set up a small display booth exhibiting new products please let Tim Amos know as soon as possible. Their students will be ready for work experience placements April 23, so it would be a good opportunity to arrange placements on that day. Call Tim at (902) 679-7354 to confirm your attendance.

SKILL CAREER FAIR TO RUN AT IW AKERLEY CAMPUS IN DARTMOUTH:

Approximately 800 junior and senior high school students are expected to visit the NSCC Akerley Campus event which will happen on April 25 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Skills Canada~Nova Scotia has offered LNS a space to coordinate an interactive display at the Career Showcase and we are looking for volunteers to host our booth and to meet with students to discuss the opportunities available to those wanted to enter into our industry. **Please call the office if you have some time to give – (902) 463-0519.**



Congratulations to Planters Equipment who recently opened their new John Deere store in Bayer's Lake. Planters celebrated with refreshments and cake at the grand opening which took place on March 7, 2008. Best wishes in the future!

DID YOU KNOW POP QUIZ Certified Horticultural Knowledge Installation

1. Positive drainage from an aggregate base used for landscape construction is achieved by what?
2. Sand used for the bedding layer:
 - a) Should be coarse and sharp
 - b) Can be natural or manufactured
 - c) Must conform to standards
 - d) All of the above
3. Natural stone in order from softest to hardest
 - a) Sedimentary, metamorphic, igneous
 - b) Igneous, metamorphic, sedimentary
 - c) Metamorphic, igneous, sedimentary
4. Shear capacity in a segmental retaining wall is achieved by what?
 - a) Friction
 - b) Compacted columns of aggregate
 - c) Keys, clips or pins holding the stone

Answers

1. Providing a path for excess water to travel away from the aggregate base
2. d, All of the Above
3. a, Sedimentary, metamorphic, igneous
4. d, All of the above

Many thanks to Tracey MacKenzie, NSAC, for contributing to this Pop Quiz segment!

Status Change for Japanese Beetle in NS and NB



~ Jeff Morton, LNS Growers' Chair

The Japanese Beetle, *Popillia japonica*, is a pest regulated in Canada by the Plant Health Policy Directive D-96-15 Phytosanitary (Requirements to Prevent the Spread of Japanese Beetle, *Popillia japonica* in Canada and the United States).

Annual Trapping surveys conducted by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) over the past two years in the maritime provinces have suggested a need to modify the regulation. Due to significant trap catches outside the currently regulated zone the CFIA has changed the directive to designate Nova Scotia and New Brunswick as category 3 (fully infested).

These changes remove some barriers as well as create some new restrictions on the movement of plants. Product can freely move between category 3 designated areas with regard to the Japanese Beetle. In essence this barrier free zone includes Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Previously enforced domestic movement certificates will no longer be required to move within this zone however, they now will apply for product moving from NS and NB to Prince Edward Island or Newfoundland.

This new barrier to movement will impact and local nurseries shipping to PEI or NL or the Magdeline Islands. The movement of plants and/or soil from the regulated area to a non-regulated area is prohibited

unless authorized in writing by a CFIA plant protection inspector. This requires a domestic movement certificate to be issued for each shipment by the CFIA to the exporting nursery.

The initial proposal had been to add several counties in NS and NB which may have resulted in significant barriers being erected with regard to local trade. This regulation approach would require large resources from both industry and government to adapt, while operations outside these areas would enjoy the benefit of not needing to comply with regulations to ship their product.

One of the challenges with the wide scale designation is that CFIA would not be enforcing these regulations within the region and thus there may be a potential to import more of the pest from other areas in eastern Canada to non-infested areas of Atlantic Canada. That is regions such as Ontario, which have high pest populations, would not be required to practice currently regulated practices for pest control when shipping to Atlantic Canada.

It appears that climatic considerations would encourage the spread of the Japanese Beetle throughout southern Nova Scotia and indicate it would be a pest of lesser significance in Northern Nova Scotia. These movements would most likely be expected to occur with or without a regulation system in the

province. The historic evidence is that the regulations cannot prevent the spread of this type of insect for any significant length of time. Landscape Nova Scotia would encourage Industry in areas of known incidence to position their companies to voluntarily comply with approaches to pest management that will prevent the sale of infested material.

LNS concurs with the Canadian Nursery Landscape Association's comments that by regulating the entire Atlantic Provinces as a Category 3 it will be of benefit to CFIA in that the Agency will no longer be required to maintain a costly trapping and surveying program in those provinces. We also expect that CFIA work closely with all companies impacted by the regulation. There will be some companies who are not able to comply with certification protocols due to the time of year, and we would encourage the CFIA to assist them so that adverse economic impacts are mitigated.



Green Design Increasing in Importance

~ by Jennifer Smith, Article originally ran in the February 2008 issue of the Atlantic Construction and Transportation Journal

Carol Goodwin, Chair of Landscape Nova Scotia's Awards of Excellence Committee, says some companies are way ahead in the environmental assessment game and some are farther behind. It was encouraging, she says, to see a number of Construction Association members attend this year's awards, and the quality of the projects submitted to the Landscape Awards was better this year than any other. Landscape Nova Scotia's Horticultural Trades Association announced its 2007 Awards of Excellence on November 29, 2007.

The Landscape awards are based on written submissions and photography. Judges for the awards look at both design and instillation – and one of the things they're looking for on both sides is environmental awareness, says Goodwin.

"There are people out there with green interests," says Goodwin. "The industry is paying attention, learning what they need to know and applying it – it's coming along quickly." It's not always simple; proper root zones for vegetation, runoff considerations and saving the natural landscape all need to be considered. Material choices matter too – although Goodwin says they aren't part of the judging criteria just yet. Goodwin hopes the Landscape Awards raises awareness of environmental issues and sets the bar for other companies.

"Right now there's a low recognition of the importance of green spaces to the quality of life you have where you live. Green spaces remove pollutants from the air, provide shade and provide storm water mitigation, for example.

All of this should be part of a well-designed landscape." One way to make this happen, says Goodwin, is to bring landscapers in at earlier stages of the project. Often the whole landscape has already been destroyed by the time they get there.

One landscape designer who did get in on the ground level is Clinton Pinks of CBCL, winner of the 2007 Garden Design Specialty Award for his work on the Salter's Gate project, better known as the new Courtyard Marriott Hotel on Lower Water Street. Pinks worked with installers at Clintar (winners of the Commercial Instillation Over \$25,000 award for the same project) right from the start of the project. Pinks is also a member of the board of Directors for Landscape Nova Scotia.

Pinks is careful not to call the Marriott courtyard a "green" design, but did incorporate some environmental elements into his plans. Some of the original trees on the site were saved and shrubs, ivy and flowers were planted to give the space more vegetation. Ultimately though, says Pinks, it's about creating the best design possible for the space, considering its uses and location. The original design called for a red brick plaza and grassy hills, similar to a golf course. This evolved into unit pavers and raised planters, using cleaner lines and creating a far more urban design than originally intended.

"The idea behind the design was to bring people in off the sidewalk and make it seem like an inviting, traditional public space. The sidewalk opens up into the centre plaza and invites users into the space," says Pinks. "There's great deal of informal seating inside along the walls, which encourages people to stop and spend time there."

Though Pinks is curious to see how the vegetation fills out, he says he wouldn't change anything. "It has a heritage look, but stands on its own," says Pinks. "It's a very functional design for downtown." For a complete list of the 2007 Awards of Excellence winners, visit <http://www.landscapenovascotia.ca/awards>.



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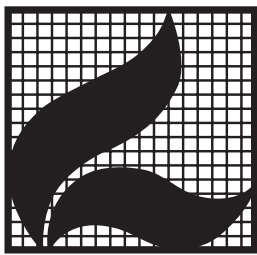
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Award for Unique Horticultural Therapy Program

~ by Christene LeVatte, Highland Landscapes for Lifestyle

Article originally ran in the February 2008 issue of the Atlantic Construction and Transportation Journal



This past November, Highland Landscapes for Lifestyle was the recipient of the Landscape Nova Scotia 2007 Landscape Award of Excellence for Community Involvement. Typically, this award is given to community-based landscape projects such as children's playgrounds, park features and the like. Highland's award winning submission showcased a unique program – specifically the Horticulture Therapy program at Sydney's Harbourstone Enhanced Care Facility, a Shannex Inc. property.

Horticulture Therapy is defined as: "the use of plants and gardening activities as vehicles in professionally conducted programs in therapy and rehabilitation." The fact of the matter is there are few formal horticulture therapy programs in Atlantic Canada and there are several reasons for this. What our industry terms as 'Horticulture Therapy' is typically carried out by other health care professionals of varying positions within a staffed facility and this involvement is quite often directly proportional to their personal interest in gardening. Health Care facility management sometimes associates indoor horticulture

activity as a potential maintenance liability or they simply don't have the appropriate space, either indoors or outdoors. The evolution of the program at Harbourstone started simply. Highland, facility grounds maintenance contractor since 2002, was approached by Bill Chiasson in October 2006 to see if we could pull together some kind of gardening activity during the winter months for the residents of the facility. With Amanda MacInnis, BAHK, BSc. Rec, C.T.R.S. – the Recreational Therapist on staff at Harbourstone Enhanced Care Facility – as our staff contact, Highland's lead gardener Susan English modestly began what has become an expanding year-round Horticulture Therapy Program.

Because there are both indoor and outdoor spaces assigned, Harbourstone is able to offer residents diverse and engaging seasonal horticulture activities and – more importantly – maintain the momentum and consistency needed to really deliver benefits to the residents who call Harbourstone home.

Harbourstone has two enclosed gardens

for resident use. These gardens once stood idle, used only by the occasional smoker. Now, the gardens are used in the spirit that Gordon Ratcliffe, the original site landscaper, had intended.

As a horticulturist and landscape designer, it's especially gratifying to see landscape horticulture contribute in such an intimate way to a person's wellness. It's especially satisfying professionally to work with the facility management team in Sydney who appreciates the grounds and, furthermore, enables active programmed use of the grounds by the residents.

Sydney's Harbourstone is a state-of-the-art enhanced care facility for the aged, who benefit from an original landscape plan that includes dedicated resident green space via the east and west enclosed gardens. We've been privileged to work with MacInnis, who agreed to wade in and expand the definition of therapy with her full support and enthusiasm. This program is about landscape horticulture for sure, but more importantly it's about delivering a level of care, engaging and exciting people, and providing tangible yet intangible 'green' benefits – not only to the diverse group of residents that join in twice weekly, but also to the property grounds, balconies, great rooms and residents rooms.

Essentially, Highland accepted the Landscape Nova Scotia 2007 Landscape Award of Excellence for Community Involvement on behalf of Shannex Inc.; Gordon Ratcliffe, LA; Amanda MacInnis; and Susan English. We thank you. Christene LeVatte, CLP is a landscape designer for Highland Landscapes for Lifestyle of Sydney, Cape Breton.

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2008 LNSHTA IMPORTANT DATES

- **LNS Board of Directors' Meeting, Atlantic CAT**
April 7, 2008
- **NSCC Skills Competiton, NSCC Kingstec**
April 17, 2008
- **LNS Participation in Skill Career Fair**
April 25, 2008
- **LNS Education Committee Meeting**
May 9, 2008
- **Grant Mosher Memorial Golf Tournament**
August 2008
- **2008 Rodeo**
September 13, 2008
- **Hort East**
November 24-26, 2008
Cunard Center, Halifax, Nova Scotia
- **LNS Awards of Excellence Gala**
November 24, 2008 - 6 pm - 10 pm
Cunard Center, Halifax, Nova Scotia
- **LNS Annual General Meeting**
November 25, 2008
Cunard Center, Halifax, Nova Scotia