

# **Canadian Prairie Lily Society**

## **Newsletter**

December 2008

Number 122

### ***President's Message***

Saskatoon is now covered in a blanket of snow yet temperatures are still reasonable. This is good! Now is the time to check through your garden lists and maps to see what can be added to or changed in your 2009 garden. There is always room for one more lily! The Thompson & Morgan Seed catalogue has arrived and there are some interesting seeds both flowering annuals and tempting vegetables to consider for starting in early spring. I keep checking the mailbox for catalogues with lilies – again looking for just one or two more! This winter take some time to sort through your photos of lilies taken last summer and get them ready for the Show in July 2009. This is an easy way of showing your lilies.

CPLS had a busy successful year. The success of the society depends on the volunteers who make the activities possible. I would like to extend a special thanks to the committee chairpersons – Jim Sullivan (Gardenscape'08), Barbara Adams- Eichendorf (Annual Lily Show'08), Stan Dunville, Art Delahey, Ted Markus (Lily Plots'08), Ted Markus (Bulb Sales'08), Ed Driver (Website'08 & Newsletter'08), Leona Domshy (Volunteer Organizer'08) and Natalie Threlfall (Historian'08) for taking on these activities and making them successful. Also a special thank you to all the members who gave their time to manage our sales, show, and information tables; digging bulbs, packaging bulbs and printing labels for the bulb bags and countless other jobs that need to be done to make our events successful.

CPLS is looking forward to another eventful year in 2009 – Gardenscape'09 (March), Annual General Meeting (April), Annual Lily Show (July) and Bulb Sales (September). There will be more information regarding these events in upcoming newsletters. If you can spare sometime to help out with our activities it would be greatly appreciated.

***Best wishes to you all this Festive Season. Great Gardening in 2009! MED.***



### **Edward Austin McRae**

**1932 – 2008**

Edward A. McRae was born October 25, 1932, in Echt, Aberdeenshire, Scotland. After an apprenticeship at Fyvie Castle Gardens, he served in the Royal Air Force as a weather telegrapher in the Suez Canal. He then completed studies at the Edinburgh Royal Botanic Garden, Remaining as botanical foreman for four years. In 1961 he joined Jan de Graaf's Oregon Bulb Farms, in Sandy, Oregon, where he hybridized lilies for over 25 years. In 1988 he began hybridizing lilies at Van der Salm Bulb Farms, in Woodland, Washington. Upon retirement in 1995 Ed founded the Species Lily Preservation Group, centered at Lava Nurseries in Parkland,

Oregon. During his career, he authored numerous articles on lilies and the book *Lilies: A Guide for Collectors and Growers*.

Ed was a founder of the Pacific Northwest Lily Society. Ed was a very active member of the North American Lily Society and served the society in many capacities.

A memorial service for Edward A. McRae was held at 11:00am, on Saturday November 25, at Vancouver First United Methodist Church, Vancouver, Washington.

## ***Canadian Prairie Lily Society - Scholarships 2008***

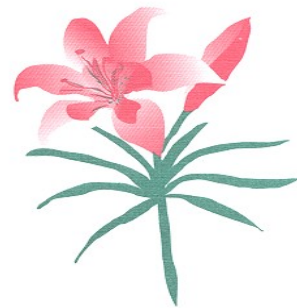
The Canadian Prairie Lily Society awards yearly two scholarships and two bursaries valued at one thousand dollars each. Two scholarships one in memory of Andy Dingwall and one in memory of John Bond are given to the University of Saskatchewan, Department of Horticulture, Saskatoon Saskatchewan. Two bursaries are given to the Olds Agriculture College, Olds, Alberta one bursary is The Canadian Prairie Lily Society Bursary and the second bursary is given in the memory of Milt Bell. These scholarships/Bursaries are used to aid the education of worthy students in the area of horticulture.

In 2008 the Andy Dingwall and John Bond Scholarships, University of Saskatchewan were awarded to Breanne Wilson, Tugaske, Saskatchewan. The CPLS Award was given to Chelsea Sutherland and The Milt Bell Award was given to Daniel Wirsch, a student at Olds CAgriculture College.

All the recipients have sent thank you cards to the membership to let us know how much the awards are appreciated as well as our hard work that goes towards making these awards possible.

Note: money raised by our bulbs sales is the primary

source of funding for these awards. So thank you for purchasing bulbs from our sales and for all your time spent weeding the lily plots to provide bulbs, working to get the bulbs ready for sale and the selling the bulbs. The time and effort is well spent. [MED]



## ***Lilies Tried and True!***

As I was updating my garden plant list for 2008 I noticed some lily varieties that have been in the garden for a number of years. I checked my past records and thought it would be interesting to see which lilies have performed well in this garden for at least five or more years. I was pleasantly surprised that 55 lily varieties made the list. Asiatics dominated the list (not unusual since I grow predominately Asiatics) but martagons and many interdivisional lilies also appeared in the list.

The original flower beds were planted in 2001 our first summer in the yard and since that time they have been enlarged and new ones have been created. I keep a list of what has been planted, when it was planted and where it was planted. Keeping track of the 'where' part (location) is tricky because many of my plants earn '*frequent flyer points*', that is they tend to be moved about regularly especially if they multiply quickly or don't look happy in there original location.

For the most part the flower beds are exposed to the sun for a good part of the day, however, some areas do get some shade at various times of the day. The shadier areas are planted with martagons although they seem to tolerate the sun if water is available.

The soil in the beds varies from good (well- drained loamy) to not so good (heavy to almost 'Red River gumbo'). In the heavy soil areas coarse peat moss has been added to amend the soil and in the fall I do add a chopped-up leaf mulch ( Ed uses the lawn mower to clean up the leaves and this provides the mulch). It was too much work to dig up the existing beds and replace the soil with the 'perfect' mix so we amended the soil as much as possible. Then found plants that will grow in what you have! New beds have coarse peat moss, coarse (clay-free) sand/crusher dust added to the existing soil it seems to work really well. Fertile well drained soil in sunny locations does provide the best sites for lilies but it is amazing how tolerant lilies. With a bit of care lilies can b e grown almost any where. Don't be afraid to hand out "frequent flyer points" to those lilies that are not happy in their original location!

I add new lilies to the garden each year but will list

only those that have done well for more than five years

The following lilies have been in the yard since 2001 and are doing well in 2008:

ASIATICS (I): 'AB-Hot Pink', 'Blackbird', 'Honeybunch', 'Honey Pink', 'Jewel Pixie', 'Minuette', 'Lime Ice' 'Misty', Morden Butterfly', 'Night Flyer', 'Northern Lights', 'Petit', 'Pink Pixie', 'Polar Bear', 'Skydancer', 'Super Nova', 'Tiger Babies'.

MARTAGONS: 'Brocade', 'Dalhansonii', 'Guinea Gold', 'Ivory Gem', 'Maroon King', 'Moonyeen'.

INTERDIVISIONALS (VIII): 'Royal Fantasy (LA)

SPECIES (IX): *Lilium henryi*

The following lilies have been in the garden since 2002 and did well in 2008:

ASIATICS (I): 'Buff Pixie', 'Connecticut King', 'Dusky Belles', 'Edith', 'Embarrassment', 'Geneve', 'Gran Cru', 'Granny', 'Helios', 'June Bride', 'Mirabella', 'Moon Pixie', 'New Wave', 'Peach Pixie', 'Port Alberni Tiger', 'Red Ticklers', 'River Rouge', 'Suntan', 'Tropical Delight', 'Tropical Dream', 'White Babies'.

MARTAGONS (II): 'Juanita', 'Orange Marmalade', 'Paisley Hybrid'.

INTERDIVISIONALS (VIII): 'Coral Fashion' (LA), 'Royal Victory' (LA), 'Easter Charm' & 'Easter Morn' (Trumpet-*Longiflorum*).

The following lilies have been in the garden since 2003 and are doing well in 2008:

ASIATICS (I): 'Petit Pink', 'Prairie Pink', 'Red Strap', 'Roma'.

There are a few other comments I would like to make on lilies I have planted and are no longer in the garden or may not make it in 2009:

Several of the Interdivisional VIII – LA (Longiflorum-Asiatics) have been removed from the garden because they developed ‘Colour-breaking Virus (CBV) - ‘Fangio’, ‘Manhattan’ and ‘Twilight Life’ were in the garden for several years and did very well until CBV appeared. The colour in the blossom breaks- up that is appears streaky. This virus can be easily transmitted to other lilies via aphids so the best thing to do when it appears in one of your lilies is to remove the lily from the garden and throw it in the garbage. This can be difficult to do because the lilies can still appear very robust but they should be REMOVED to prevent the further transfer of virus. There is not much else you can do at the present time. Some lilies due to poor breeding are more susceptible to CBV than others. In my case it seems the dark red-purple LAs were most susceptible so I have avoided them for now. I hope with more careful breeding that this problem can eventually be overcome.

Other Interdivisional VIII lilies I have tried and still have growing are the Asiapets (Aurelian x Asiatic), ‘Fiery Belles’ and ‘Silky Belles’ have done well for me for at least 3-4 years and based on their performance this year should do well for more years to come. The Longipets (Trumpet x Longiflorum) – ‘Eastern Morn’ and ‘Easter Charm’ are doing very well at present. They did not like the first site I planted them in and nearly rotted.. I moved them to an open site minimum winter protection but lots of sun and they are doing very well. The blossoms are large and showy and open a bit later in the season (late July – August)

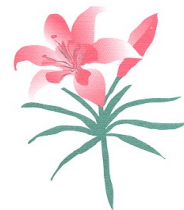
In the spring of 2005 I got a collection of Interdivisional VIII lilies that included ‘Fancy Crown’ (Oriental-Asiatic), ‘Albany’ (Oriental-Trumpet), and ‘American Spirit’ (Oriental-Trumpet), ‘Triumphator’ (Longiflorum-Oriental), ‘Queen’s Promise’ (Longiflorum-Oriental) and ‘Boogie Woogie’ (Oriental-Trumpet). I planted them in pots (because I didn’t know where to put them in the garden that spring!). They all came up and were spectacular. In the fall I found places in the garden and planted them. The best performers from this group are ‘Boogie Woogie’ and ‘Albany’ they did very well each year including this year (2008). The others ‘Queen’s Promise’, ‘Fancy Crown’, and ‘American Spirit’ did well in the garden in 2006, less well in 2007 and in spring 2008 I removed and replanted the bulbs into pots. The bulbs did not look great, results in the summer were poor so they hit the compost bin this fall. I kept ‘Triumphator’ in the ground but will see what happens in spring 2009 there may be a pleasant surprise! The success was spotty

with this group but it was worthwhile. I look forward to the appearance of ‘Boogie Woogie’, ‘Albany’ and ‘Triumphator’ this coming spring. I think I may check the catalogues this winter for a couple of new lilies in this division to pot up in spring.

I also have tried a variety of Oriental Lilies (VII) in the garden. I usually buy a bulb or so in spring and plant it in a pot, the results are pretty spectacular that first year. In the fall I put the bulb in the ground and it will appear the next year and do well but after the third it is less than wonderful! The bulbs are not expensive and you get a wonderful show the first year and a bonus if it lasts two more years. The flowers are large, showy and fragrant and are well worth the money. Orientals that have done ‘well’ for me are ‘Casablanca’ (3years), Visa Versa (2years) and ‘Oriana’ (3years++).

I hope this gives you some ideas for adding to your lily collection. Try one or two “iffys” and there are lots of “tried, true, & toughies”. Have a good winter looking through the catalogues and come out to Gardenscape’09 to find a few new treasures!

**Margaret Driver**



## ***CPLS Membership Renewal***

For all members whose memberships expire December 31, 2008, and are not renewed, the last issue of the newsletter will be the December 2008.

Don't forget to include your email address if you have one.

If your mailing label is **HIGHLIGHTED** it is time to renew! To renew of your membership please use the renewal form included in your newsletter.

## ***NALS Membership Renewal***

### **NALS Membership.**

**Stephanie Sims** is now the NALS Executive secretary. She will be handling all of the memberships which include the Canadian renewals and new memberships. All memberships are to be paid in \$US funds. This does give Canadians the option of paying by credit card, money order, or check, for those having \$US accounts. There is also the option of using the NALS web Site [www.lilies.org](http://www.lilies.org) as a means of paying

membership with "pay pal". Individual or Family memberships for one year are \$20 US funds and \$55 US funds for three years.

**Contact:** Mrs. Stephanie Sims – P.O. Box W, Bonners Ferry, ID 83805. 208-267-7257 or [Stephanie@lilies.org](mailto:Stephanie@lilies.org)

## ***Newsletter Editor's Desk***

Once again your editors of this newsletter are requesting articles, letters etc, from the membership to help make the newsletter an informative one. We know that many of you have a good deal of knowledge to share with your fellow lily growers about growing, showing and/or hybridizing lilies. The one fast and easy way to share this knowledge is through this newsletter. So get your thoughts on paper or send them flying through cyberspace so we can share and enjoy your experiences with lilies.

If you have any questions regarding lilies you would like answered please send them. We will do our best to help you out.

We would also appreciate hearing from you about what you would like to see/read in your newsletter. All articles, letters, etc., will be considered for publication. Please include your name and complete address with your article. Newsletter **DEADLINES** are February 15, May 15, August 15 and November 15.

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## ***CPLS 2008 Show Report -additions***

**Editor:** Due to a technical problem the last part of Barbara's show report was not in the September newsletter. Here is the remainder of the report that was missed.

In the Decorative Section of the show, there were 10 entries from 2 exhibitors, down from 17 entries last year. The Judge for the Decorative Classes was Bonny Lundberg, and the clerk for the Decorative Classes was Luella Gatzke.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Photography Contest was held this year in conjunction with the Lily Show. The Judge for the Photography contest was Glen Grambo. There had been requests from the exhibitors for comments from the judge of the photography section, so this year Glen did a written comment for each photograph that he judged. After the show, a copy of the judge's comments was distributed to each of the exhibitors in the photography contest. For those of us who exhibited photos, the judge's comments are a very helpful in pointing out where improvements could be made. There were 24 entries from 4 exhibitors in the photography contest this year. It still seems to be difficult to convince people to cast their ballots for the People's Choice Award. I guess we will continue to work on this and see if we can come up with a way to persuade more people to vote.

Once again our show was enhanced by a great display of lily stems and promotional material from Honeywood Heritage Nursery. The display was set up by Judy Harley, the Manager of Honeywood.

I must say thank you to the Management at the Mall at Lawson Heights. They have been very good to work with over the years that we have held our show there. Once again, they provided us with the use of a vacant rental space immediately adjacent to where the show tables were set up. This makes setting up the show and staging the lilies so convenient. It

gives the exhibitors a quiet area to clean and prepare their lily stems for show, and keeps the mess confined to a small area. The best part, from my point of view, though, is that it makes for less running around for the Show chairperson, which is very much appreciated.

As always, the show can only happen with the help of many willing volunteers. Thanks to Leona Domshy for scheduling people to work at the Information table and a big "Thank you" to everyone who helped out at the Information table. Thanks to Ed Driver and Sharon Newton, who acted as photographers for the show.

My thanks to all of the Judges and Clerks. It takes time and knowledge and thoughtfulness to judge a show, and it requires a lot of patience from the clerks to wait while the decisions are being made, and then record the results.

A big thank you to the set-up and clean-up crews, As usual, set-up and clean-up were done by a few dedicated people. This year's set-up and clean-up crews were: Natalie and Gerry Threlfall, Luella and Irwin Gatzke, Sharon Newton, Art and Liz Delahey, Jim Sullivan, Margaret Driver, Stan Dunville, Gil Joanis.

I appreciate the time and effort that it takes to prepare and transport material to the show. A special thank you to everyone who took the time to bring stems photographs and decorative arrangements for entry in the show. I hope in saying thanks that I have not forgotten or overlooked anyone. The show goes by in a blur, and sometimes it's difficult to keep track of everything that's happening. My thanks to each one of you who contributed in whatever way you could to the show this year. The show continues because of your efforts!

**Barbara Adams Eichendorf, Show**