



Manitoba Lily Connection

Manitoba Regional Lily Society Newsletter
www.manitobalilies.ca

Volume 20, Issue 2

Affiliated with the North American Lily Society

June 2003

President's Message

When I was elected president, I had given no thought to the "President's Message" that appears in every MRLS newsletter. I was reminded and now its due, so here goes

Greetings to all lily growers. I hope that all your lilies have survived this past fall and winter. I keep hearing of losses among the various perennials that we grow. Hopefully, any losses were minimal.

Thankfully, this spring has been early and nice (very few mosquitoes). My lilies are up and growing, but so are the weeds! There were a few frost warnings, so I just had to cover my martagon lilies. Even though they are hardy, I didn't want to lose any flower buds.

This year, the July show is set, the planning for the fall bulbs sale has started a few months ago, and the organizing of the NALS Show and Convention in 2005 continues.

I encourage all of you to bring some stems or arrangements to the July Lily show, to visit the Neepawa Lily Festival, and visit Dr Reg Gallop's garden. I also encourage you to get to know your fellow Lily friends and share your experiences in growing your favorite plant.

Happy Gardening and
I look forward to seeing you among the lilies!

Lily Questions?

If you have a question or thought on lilies just contact me, 'the editor' and I will publish it on a question and answer spot in the newsletters.

Let me know what else you would like to see published in your newsletter

E-mail: strohman@mb.sympatico.ca or Phone: 476-2536
Mail: Nigel Strohman, Box 846, Neepawa, MB R0J 1H0

Question & Answer

Q: Is it possible to have fragrance in the asiatics?

A: Yes, although it is rare it is possible. Two of the asiatic species have a pungent odor. *L. pumilum* and *L. amabile* and their offspring sometimes have a bit of fragrance. A number of years ago, Doli Kolli had a lovely seedling that had a spicy scent. It was registered, 'Carlie' and was a deep raspberry pink with a white flare. It was a cross of 'Pirate' x 'Juliana'. If you like to hybridize and have a chance to have an asiatic lily with perfume, then try this cross again. I know I will this year.

Footnote: Jean Ericksen recently received a letter from Doli Kolli who lives in Cape Cod. She enclosed a picture of 'Carlie' and a note that due to the devastation that the lily beetle has wrecked in the area that her lilies have really taking a beating.

Thanks Jean for sharing this letter and picture with us. At your request I will try this cross as I have both Pirate and Juliana. Anyone wishing pollen of these two lilies please let me know. Barrie Strohman at 476-3225

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**Lily Breeding:
Pilot turns Pollinator
Alex J. Burnett - Vermilion, Alberta**

Alex Burnett was born in 1922 in the rural municipality of East Kildonan, Manitoba. That area, has since progressed from mud roads and wooden sidewalks to become a city on the northeast outskirts of Winnipeg. Alex enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) in July 1942, gained his pilot's wings and became a flying instructor during World War II. After the war, he remustered to Aerial Camera Operator engaged in aerial photographic research and when the Korean conflict started in 1951, he received his commission as an Air Traffic Control Officer. After 21 years as an RCAF Traffic Controller, he was ready to enjoy the peace and tranquility of rural life on 22 acres, 5 miles south of Vermilion, Alberta.

Alex became mesmerized with *Lilium* on a visit to the lily fields of Fred Fellner in July of 1985. As Alex puts it:

"It is impossible to describe the beauty and calmness of being surrounded by two acres of lilies in full bloom on a hot, calm, July afternoon under blue Alberta skies. The only noise was caused by hummingbirds and butterflies enjoying the voluptuous beauty of the masses of lilies."

When Alex returned from the lily fields, Fred Fellner was busy in the greenhouse pollinating the select lilies that he was growing in large tubs. Watching Fred dab pollen on the stigmas of his prize lilies, Alex began asking numerous questions. Fred said, "You can do this. Why don't we go to the field, dig up and pot some lilies for you?". Six clumps of lilies were dug and placed in tubs, driven 20 miles in the back of a half-ton truck and placed in the greenhouse at Burnett's acreage.

Virginia Howie's booklet *LET'S GROW LILIES* became an invaluable introduction to lily culture and a constant early source of reference. Alex's first efforts at hybridizing were successful and considerable seed was obtained by November. He reported that the rest of that long winter was spent in browsing books from the NALS library to find out as much as possible about lily breeding. Besides the books and studying, he offered a list of lily enthusiasts to thank for their help and guidance. Alex's story continues in his own words from this point forward:

"Fred Fellner receives my warmest appreciation for his continuous guidance and encouragement over the years and for his complete generosity in permitting me to select and dig up some of his botrytis-resistant lilies so as to follow Fred Tarlton's dictum "Breed the best to the rest". Fred Fellner introduced me to NALS and purchased my first membership. Dick Thomas, now of Grand Forks, British Columbia, was an amazing source of help in hybridizing and growing lilies. He is to be commended not only for sharing his vast hybridizing knowledge especially with polyploids, but also for his unselfish sharing of lily seeds and bulbs over many years. One of Dick's most helpful suggestions has been to hybridize lilies when it is HOT and DRY. He recommends that both the pollen parent and the pod parent be subjected to several days of heat (100°F or 450°C) before pollination and for several days after the pollen has been placed on the stigma. Another lily breeder that has been most helpful is Eckart Schmitzer of Pinsberg, Germany, for his monumental work in listing the available polyploid lilies in the September 1991 NALS Quarterly Bulletin. I am especially indebted for his listing of the pod and pollen fertility of the various lilies. That information saved me many years of frustration on unlikely

crosses.

Breeding lilies seems to breed lily friendships. I am most grateful to the many friends that shared seeds and pollen. I am particularly impressed with Terry Willoughby's TW 90-1 where he crossed 'Montreux' with pollen I had given him from 'The Orchid', an unregistered breeder lily. In 1988, I spotted a short (10" - 25cm) lily among some short lilies that Fred Fellner had hybridized for growing in pots. I admired the color of the flower, lilac mauve with dark purple spotting, and immediately thought of an orchid. It was not an attractive plant, short, side-facing flowers tight to the stem on very short pedicels. Fred did not want the lily, but I had visions of an upfacing lily which would echo 'The Orchids' colors on a long racemous stem. For the past seven years, I have been hybridizing with 'The Orchid' and have obtained some lovely lilies, but not the "perfect" lily that all hybridizers hope to produce.

In 1987, I purchased some Asiatic lilies from Basil Hayler of Australia as I wanted to bring different genes into my lily hybridizing. Some of the Australian lilies were 'Beau Geste', 'Black Satin', 'Condamine', 'Fireaway', 'Mainstay', 'Queen of Sheba', etc. 'Condamine' has proven to be a very strong lily both as a pod parent and as a pollen parent. Then in 1988, I purchased several polyploid lilies from Frau Ewald of Germany to try my hand at polyploid breeding. 'Puchanta', 'Pumenta', and 'Pumivetta' were obtained from Peter Schenk of Holland to enhance the polyploid gene pool. In the following years, the greenhouse was full of young lily seedlings in the spring and then in July pots of lilies were dug up and transported to the greenhouse. In northern Alberta, it is more reliable to hybridize in the greenhouse as it is possible to obtain high temperatures for pollination and the pods can mature by November when the full fury of Alberta winters hits outside.

During the 1995 NALS visit to my lily fields, several knowledgeable lily enthusiasts wondered why I had not registered and introduced some of my

lilies. As a result of their prodding, I registered two black red lilies with the Royal Horticultural Society. 'High Flight' is a la dark red from 'Rhodos' x Fellner la black red seedling (possibly 'Kimberley Ann'). And 'Night Flyer', my AB89-161 'Condamine' x 'Summer Night', lb/c black red flowers, dark buds and black stems. As you can gather from the names, it reflects my 30 years in the Royal Canadian Air Force as I decided to go with the "air force" theme. Dr. Gene Fox liked some of my lilies naming two, 'Wing Commander' and 'Night Squadron' which he will register and introduce for me. There were 319 plants as of AB89-161 as the 'Condamine' x 'Summer Night' cross provided a large amount of seed which grew into very vigorous seedlings. Of my 319 lilies, 318 were la upright black red flowers with greenish black stems and only one lily was lb/c side to downfacing with black red flowers, very dark buds and black stems. I selected this distinctive lily as 'Night Flyer'.

Irmgaard Jurke, a lily grower in Lloydminster sent Fred Fellner some bulbs of a strong lily she had grown. Fred gave me a bulb to prevent the possibility of a total loss. The lily 'Irmgaard Jurke' has grown into a very strong spotted pink, I crossed it with pollen from a lily grown from seed from Dick Thomas ('Discovery' x 'Pink Tiger') x 1a white spotless tetra. When crossed with 'Irmgaard Jurke', it produced a striking lb white with a necklace of spots. It is very thick and sturdy so I think I have the "granddaughter" of the spotless tetra from Dick Thomas. The 'Discovery' x 'Pink Tiger' seedling Dick used was from work by Baker of England.

The theme runs through this article is that lily hybridizers enjoy the unselfish sharing of bulbs, seeds, and pollen from many sources. It should be the ultimate goal of any lily hybridizer to produce the finest lily for the enjoyment of all flower lovers in the world. Excuse me now, as I must move 59 pots of scaled lilies from the solarium to greenhouse. Then I must plan some crosses to be done in the greenhouse next summer and what pod parents to dig up. "A hybridizer's 'work' is never done!"

Novice Niche

LILY STRUCTURE - *Lilium* Bulbs

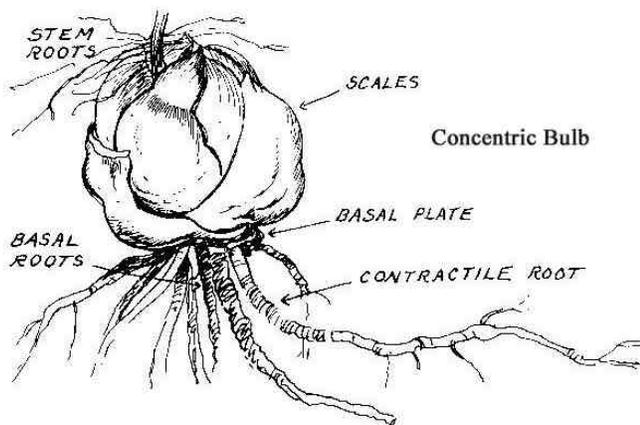
Source: NALS Judging Handbook, Let's Grow Lilies
Artwork: Virginia Howie

Starting from below the surface of the soil the lowest organs are the roots. Two types of roots are recognized, basal roots and stem roots. The large basal roots serve the dual purpose of absorbing water and nutrients and also of anchoring the bulb deeper into the ground. The stem roots arise on the stem between the bulb and the surface of the soil and serve primarily to absorb water and nutrients. They, of course, die with the stem each fall. Not all species, e.g. *Lilium candidum*, produce stem roots.

Next comes the bulb which morphologically is a fleshy underground bud, the scales being the modified bases of leaves, much shortened and thickened, which function as storage organs for food to start off the season's growth. The center of the bulb is called the axis and it is from this structure that the roots and scales arise. When growth starts, the axis develops upward to form the stem.

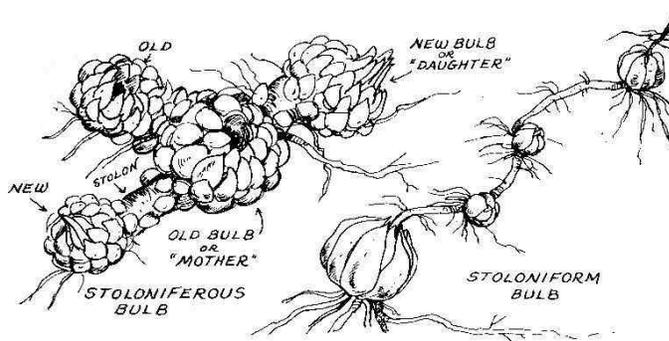
Three types of bulbs are found among lily species: **concentric**, **rhizomatous**, and **stoloniferous**. In the concentric type, the bulb is essentially globular in shape and the scales are arranged on the base of the axis, called the basal plate.

Bulbs of the concentric type vary greatly among species and hybrids. In some, the scales are large and loose and are easily broken off in handling. Others are more firm with the scales held tightly together. The general shape also varies widely. The color of the bulb scales also varies from white to dark purple depending upon the variety.



CONCENTRIC (Bulb) . . . Having a common center . . . In this type, new bulbs form within the parent bulb. (Examp. *L. tigrinum*, *L. regale*.)

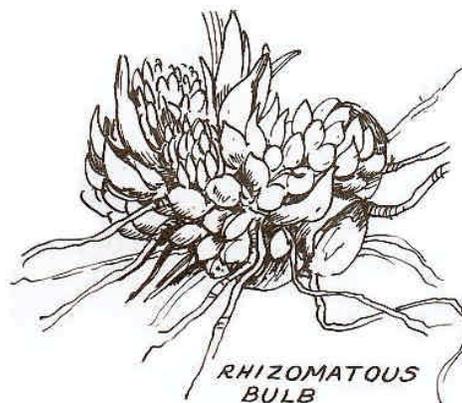
The stoloniferous bulb is common in several American species. Instead of daughter bulbs developing close to the mother bulb, they are produced on stolons or runner-like structures from the axis, often several inches from the mother bulb. In general, the stoloniferous bulbs have small, tight scales giving a feeling of firmness.



STOLONIFEROUS (Bulbs) Bulbs which produce new bulbs at the ends of **STOLONS**. The old bulb eventually dies, while the stolon is left to nourish the new bulb. *L. canadense*, *L. superbum*, *L. grayi*, and *L. michiganense* are examples.

STOLONIFORM . . . Applied to lilies whose stems creep underground before emerging. Sometimes one or more smaller (or full size) bulbs will be added before the stem finally emerges. (Examp. *L. maximowiczii*, *L. nepalense*.)

The rhizomatous type of bulb is, in general, intermediate between the concentric type and the stoloniferous. The stolons or runner-like structures are much shorter so that the daughter bulbs more or less form a clump around the mother bulb.



RHIZOMATOUS (BULBS) . . . Perennial, stout, horizontal branching root stock; new bulbs produced as extensions of this rootstalk. (Examp. *L. pardalinum*, Bellingham Hybrids.)

Planting / Moving Martagons

By: Dr Reg A. Gallop

Martagons in green growth, can be moved any-time, with minimal root disturbance, in a ball of soil, into a prepared planting hole elsewhere, with little risk of any setback; including the induction of the "sulking" phenomenon, that may delay their emergence for up to 2 years later. Sleeping creatures resent interference, especially wake-up calls!

Just after flowering, minus the flowering head, is probably the best time, as the plants are then not heavily burdened with reproductive stresses, after one has enjoyed their beauty. If one wants some seeds from them, then one should wait till this demanding function is about complete, in Fall, before moving them; after taking the seed head off for maturation in Floralite, 50% 7-Up, or equivalent.

Most Martagons that have been rendered virtually dormant, minus spent tops, with about dead roots, and over-wintered outside the soil in commercial cool-storages, and even in the ground, are likely to sulk, for a least a season, (like kids that have been forced to accept a room-change), before coming up for air and light, to renew their spent fuel supplies. Getting used to the unique specifics of a new home, especially if very different from their past one, takes time, for all creatures.

Stored bulbs by Spring are likely to be more exhausted, than freshly-dug, semi-dormant Fall bulbs, when promptly re-planted, with some viable roots left, to help acclimatize them to their new home-site, before Winter may put heavy demands upon them, especially in climates like ours. Hence, Fall planting of fresh bulbs, is usually better than Spring planting of old, stored ones.

One can dig Martagons just as they wake up in Spring, and move them again, in a soil-ball, without

much risk; other than of breaking a shoot or two, while trying to find them, underground. Careful staking, tagging and giving their likely centre of residence, a wide berth when digging the soil-ball out, with a small round shovel, not a fork, usually suffices, to save them from harm. They rarely wander laterally.

Lilies do not grow a replacement bud, for broken shoots; as these are each the expression of the condensation of the tops-stems of the plant from each bulb / bulblet, from the last season's growth. Losing such a shoot, robs them of the chance to rebuild well, via a good top, in the coming season. Such a shock, will normally trigger vegetative reproduction, per scaling underground; with often the parent bulb, becoming exhausted and dying; to be found next Spring as a shriveled shell, filled with bulblets. The damaged, topless bulbs, will have to survive, on what ever nutrient/fuel reserves, that they may have left, by the following Spring, when a new, poor shoot may emerge. They will need 2-3 years of help, to regain their health, and vigour, back into a normal, timed, growth cycle.

The actual response of any bulb, to being moved / replanted, will express in summary, the degrees of the various stresses, that may have been imposed upon it earlier; compounded by the likely effects of whatever conditions are imposed upon it, by such a move. Like us, once asleep, they resent being wakened too soon, or too fast. And when asleep, all creatures are in greatest danger; with most of their defenses then "unarmed". The night predators capitalize on this.

And each one has its own internal clock, to further complicate our simplistic human hopes of trying to closely control these complex natural phenomena, as groups. There are "sleepy-heads", "early risers" (like me, for most Summer days now by 4.30 am.!), with my heaviest work of each day beginning at sunrise), and "couch-potatoes", dopey-lazy buggers, everywhere.

Notices:

Robert Mackay Erskine

1914-2003

Robert was born in Calgary, Alberta April 19, 1914. He passed away peacefully April 14, 2003 in Rocky Mt House, Alberta.

As a boy growing up, his family homesteaded in the Oyen, Alberta area. Due to poor farming years, and his fathers ill health, the family moved into the town of Oyen where they kept a grocery store, and bakery. His father was the baker.

Bobs school education was not long, but he was better educated than most. He was a wealth of information on almost any subject and was fortunate to have been blessed with an exceptional memory and the ability read and learn from books. As the eldest child in the family, it was necessary for him to help provided for the family, consisting of a younger brother Bill and sisters, Jessie, Hanna, and Rosina. As a boy and young man Bob worked for various ranchers and farmers, on thrashing crews or where ever he could find work. In 1934 Bob moved his family north of Leslieville, and he purchased land as it became available.

Bobs main passions in life was horticulture. Bob said that for many years, it was hard enough to make a living let alone buy trees and plants to experiment with. Any gardening that was done was to grow food for the family. His interest in raising plants dates back into his early childhood. He spent most of his life theorizing and anticipating the possibilities in making various crosses of countless plant species. Over the years, when time permitted among the usual ranch work, he has managed to establish some of the Hybrids he believed to have potential. He has developed more than 20 different varieties of hardy roses, and has raised many new hybrid Asiatic and martagon Lilies, as well as apples and raspberries. Through the years Bob has encouraged many people in their gardening interest. Not only by sharing his plants, but also information about them. Bob is not easily discouraged, if he was he would have given up long ago. Livestock and wild life of various kinds reeked havoc on his garden on numerous occasions. But he always said, he would keep trying as long as he was able. His eyes would sparkle as he envisioned the possibilities.

Bob had a wide variety of interests and infinite wisdom on almost any subject, from cattle, horses, and plants to politics, current events and history. Bob always enjoyed animals. He enjoyed their companionship as well as the opportunity to observe and analyze them, always noting the individual differences and potential within different breeds.

MRLS Field Day, at Reg Gallop's cottage and gardens, Saturday July 12, 2003

Reg wrote, "My Martagons and other early lilies look great, a few hundred stems of them now, 2-3 ' high, most with fat bud clusters just beginning to unfurl as they will go up about 50% higher, at least. My "Martagon lawn" patches, from broadcasting seed wastes outside in Fall, are looking good, too. One two year old patch is a few inches high, often with multiple leaves, and should be ready to line out his Fall, to grow to maturity. That sure is the easy, cheap, old natural way, used by all the pioneer breeders, like Jean, Dan, Fred and Ed, to get hundreds of new seedlings without trouble, effort, or significant losses. Spring Frost is not a problem here, because; (a) of the huge heat-capacity of the Lake that absorbs or gives up energy, as required, to balance air temps; and (b) because there is usually a breeze, that denies the frost the still-air that it needs, for ice deposition. On the Lakeshore, I have maximal such protection; while in my backlot, there may be frosts.

I have become addicted to another species now, Clematis Vines. I now have over 30 different ones climbing over trellises, wires, shrubs and trees here. They should provide some lovely effects, without demanding much effort from me, in the years ahead. I am designing down my workload gradually, to concentration what I have, rather than on new lilies etc.

The traditional MRLS Feast that is a highlight of this event, involves barbecued chicken supplied by Reg; while the participants bring the rest, including home-baking. Those planning to come should contact Dr. Gallop at 476-4144 or 756-3788, to advise him of the number of potential attendees, and of what kind of meal items that they plan to bring. Parking is limited in the street, and so car-pooling should be carried out as much as possible among those attending. If anyone needs a ride, then please advise Susan, who will find a place in a vehicle for you.

To get to Reg's cottage at Sandy Bay, RMVB, proceed from where you are, to Highway 59N, and continue till Victoria Beach; but do NOT turn in there. Keep going straight ahead on Highway 504 till McCawley Rd, first on the Left, then proceed to McCord Drive, turn left, and look for # 23 GALLOP, on the lakeside. Please come early, as there is much to see. Lunch will be ready about 1:00 p.m. Bring your camera equipment, too. I look forward to seeing many of you at this enjoyable event.

Reg Gallop

Coming Events:

Manitoba Regional Lily Society

19th Annual Lily Show 2003

Date: July 25 & 26
Place: St. Vital Center, Winnipeg, MB.
Info: See show schedule insert for more details

Reg Gallop's Cottage Garden Tour

Date: Saturday, July 12th
Place: Sandy Bay, on the Eastern Shore of Lake Winnipeg.
Info: See page 6 for Details

Neepawa & Area Lily Festival

Neepawa, MB
Lily Capital of the World
July 17 - 20, 2003

For Full festival details see enclosed Boucher.
To pre-book tours and events, please call us at (204) 476-8811 or toll-free 1-877-633-7292
Web Site: www.town.neepawa.mb.ca/lily

MRLS Fall Bulb Sales

Location 1

Assiniboine Park
Conservatory Lobby
September 27th & 28th, 2003
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
2355 Corydon Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
(Located in the Assiniboine Park)

Location 2

Town Centre Mall
Brandon, Manitoba
October 4th, 2003
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Location 3

Dauphin Marketplace Mall
Dauphin, Manitoba
October 11th, 2003
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The North American Lily Society

56th Annual Show

Hosted by the North Star Lily Society & Wisconsin Regional Lily Society

Date: July 2 to July 6
Place: The Ramada Inn Thunderbird Hotel
2201 East 78th Street
Bloomington, Minnesota
Info: Duane and Pattie Renolds
(763) 537-6512
Details can be found www.lilies.org

Canadian Prairie Lily Society Show

Date: July 11 & 12
Place: Lawson Heights Mall, Saskatoon, SK
Info: Barbara Adams-Eichendorf (306) 947-2830

South Saskatchewan Lily Society

11th Annual Show

Date: July 24 - 26
Place: Victoria Square Mall, Regina, SK.
Info: Phyllis Mueller (306) 545-1762

Alberta Regional Lily Society

7th Annual Martagon Lily Show

Date: July 12 & 13
Place: Devonian Botanical Gardens, west on the Yellowhead, then south on Hwy #60. Devon, AB
Info: Lil McLean (780) 467-2660

A.R.L.S. 18th Annual Lily Show

Date: July 19 & 20
Place: Bonnie Doon Shopping Center, Main Con course on 83 St. and 82 Ave. Edmonton, AB

N.A.L.S. 58th Lily Show

Hosted by Manitoba Regional Lily Society
July 2005 Winnipeg, MB

We need YOU!! If you are interested in volunteering or helping out contact John Rempel at 204-895-2212

Lily Fields to Visit this Summer

HILLCREST HARMONY FLOWERS

(Denis and Diann Putland), Open on May and July 15–August 10, Tuesdays - Saturday 9–6, Sundays 2–5. To book a tour (or visit on another day), please contact them several days ahead. Roses, perennials, lilies, picnic facilities, sales. Box 24 Chuchbridge, Saskatchewan, SOA OMO, email: putld@sk.sympatico.ca or visit www.hillcrestharmony.com Ph: (306) 896–2992

THE LILY NOOK (The Strohman's)

Open July 1–August 15 to view over 2000 lily cultivars and browse through their canteen and gift shop. Potted lilies available. 4 km south of Neepawa, MB on highway 5. For group tours please phone in advance for booking. email: info@lilynook.mb.ca or visit www.lilynook.mb.ca Ph: (204) 476–3225

PARKLAND LILIES (Fred Fellner)

East on Highway 16, 7 miles east of Mannville, 9 miles north on Claysmore Road, Vermilion, AB. Watch for two lilies at the entrance and a lily on the mailbox. Thousands of lilies to view. You can order mixed, unnamed bulbs in large lots while you are there. (780) 853–2355

Estate Perennials (formerly Hollandia Flowers and Bulbs) (Marvin Joslin and Kevin Frey), Spruce Grove, phone/fax (780) 963–7307, phone (780) 963–8153, 4 miles (6 km) south of Zender Ford in Spruce Grove on Golden Spike Road, half mile (1 km) west on Township Road 522, first road on right, first property on right. Open every Wednesday from May to August.

Thank you to all the commercial growers for opening up the fields for our viewing pleasures.

Thank You!

To Doris Timberg for donating martagon bulbs and to all who donated Lily Bulbs for last Fall Bulb Sales. Helping making our bulbs sales a success!!

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 2003

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- John Rempel - 590 Municipal Road, Winnipeg R3R 1J2
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- Dr. Wilbert Ronald - Box 402, Portage la Prairie, MB R1N 3B7
- Lynn Collicutt

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- Gwen Jamieson - 21 Bowhill Lane, Winnipeg, MB R3R 0J4

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- Lynn Collicutt
- Louis Lenz
- Sandra Venton - 203 Vernon Road, Winnipeg, MB R3J 2W1