



Ontario Horticultural Association – District 6

Lynden Horticultural Society Newsletter

Established 1928

June 2022 – 23rd issue.

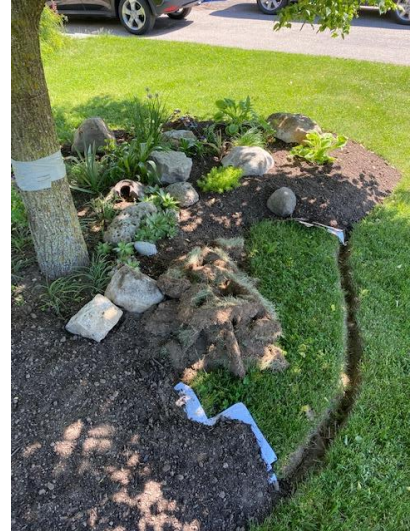
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Message from the President

Another crazy year except this time I am referring to the grass!!! I swear I cut it and turn around and it needs cutting again! It feels a little like we missed spring and jumped right into summer, for those of you who love summer this is great however for those of us who prefer the cooler weather I would have liked to ease into summer I'm just not ready for the heat yet. Plus, I can't keep up with the planting and weeding!!!

Why is it easier to create a new garden as opposed to weeding and dividing plants in an old one!?!? I would rather create a new garden than dig and weed the old one, maybe it's because the weeds slowly become more aggressive and threaten to take over as they creep into all your nice flowers forcing you to dig them up and deal with them! Sometimes weeding feels so futile, it seems like they are going to win anyways, sigh! So rather than carrying on digging my garden I expanded one under my tree in front with Tracey's method of cardboard or paper first then throw the dirt on top, sooo much less work!! Lol!!! I used the few plants that I had divided before it got too hot and popped them in. It looks great and I have already had some compliments and I'm not finished!! Lol!



With that said I am trying to keep up with my gardening as well as everything else (busy time of year for me) and the newsletter is cutting into that time, so I might take a break for next month. If your lucky I might craft out a small one!

***Siberian Iris purchased from Northland Nursery last year - supposed to be 'Charming Billy' but doesn't look like the description, still very pretty!!

'Keep Calm and Garden on'



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June Meeting

Is our 'Summer Social in the Park' under the pavilion on **Sunday, June 12, 2022, from 2 -4pm. Please note the time change!!!**

Come join us for gourmet cupcakes from Sweet Bakery with tops decorated like flowers (there will be Gluten free options for those who are GF.), strawberries and whip cream, cold drinks (sorry no alcohol, we don't have license), conversations with friends, old and new, and draw prizes. This will be our first in person meeting where we can chat before the summer starts, after this we won't get together again until our tour of William Dam's in September!!!

*****Please wear you name tags, not everyone knows who you are!**

*****We could use some bodies to help mostly with set up and tear down (not as many needed).**



Canada Day Booth – July 1, at the Lion's Park.



Looking for volunteers to help man this booth, just for an hour or 2. Set up will be at 1 pm and we usually run the booth to about 6 pm. We will be having an activity for the kids to do like plant a seed, watch it grow as well as hand out information, collect new members, sell raffle tickets and anything else we can think of!!! Lol!!!



Annual Plant Sale

What a great day!!! It was so nice to see so many people come out, so many people from the community as well as members! Lots and lots of plants!! We had fantastic weather too, so much sun and wind that we had to water some plants this was probably the first year it wasn't cold or raining, ha ha. Yes, we did make it home before the torrential downpour happened, what luck!! On the plus side with the power outage afterwards I had time to plant all my plants!

A huge shout out to all the volunteers who helped and donated to this day, especially to Cindy Blair for organizing it and Jeff Winklemolen



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(Winklemolen Nurseries) for all those trees!! They were a big hit, it's great to see so many trees will be planted in the community and surrounding area!

Special thanks to: Winklemolen Nurseries, Erkelens Nursery, Josmar Acres, Paterno Nursery, Walter's Greenhouse, Scharringa Nursery, Lot's a Hosta, Terra, Hortico, Dutch Mill, for their donations and making our plant sale a huge success, we couldn't have done it without you!!

Any plants we had left over are being used on the gardens at the Lion's Park which we will be looking to have help in planting. Our free seed table went over very well, lots of seeds packets were picked up and some harvested seeds were taken too.

New ideas!



Thanks to our member Barbra S. who suggested we try a 'Seed Library' in town!! What is a seed library? It is just like the little libraries that have sprung up all over communities except it's for seeds!!! It can contain new seed packets, harvested seeds from gardens, some even offer books. We can put in what ever we want, some informational pamphlets all free to share with the community. The picture shown is just an example not necessarily what we might do. If you want to know more or have a look at one, there are 3 in Dundas, one is in the Dundas Driving Park.

This would be a seasonal thing, so the plan is to have it ready for next spring. Deciding on a location that is willing to host it and is accessible to all. So, start thinking about collecting seeds in the fall so we can fill it! Remember to label and give as much info, like height, soil, light, color etc for those who don't know.

Trivia:

1. How long does it take to produce asparagus the first time you plant it?
 2. How can gardeners control snails effectively?
 3. Where did the Dahlia originate from?
 4. What is xeriscaping?
 5. What is the common name for the antirrhinum flower?
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New ideas for old things!



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Yes, I'm at it again! My husband got me a nice new/used stainless steel laundry tub so of course the old one had to go. The idea of sending it to the landfill really irked me, I mean it was a pretty crappy tub covered in paint and all scuffed up, but it still worked. Then I had idea, why not give it new life, and paint it to use outside!

Using leftover spray-paint I painted it green on the outside but didn't have enough for the inside, so I chose another color. To make it look less like a laundry tub I built a little box frame with no bottom out of pallet wood that I attached to the back shelf and filled with succulents, the shelf already has holes from the tap making drainage not an issue and because I overlapped the board into the sink making it look deeper, any excess water will drain into the tub. I got an 'S' hook from the dollar store to hang a scrub brush and voila this tub has a multitude of uses now!!!

I can use it as an outside sink to wash my pots and collect the water in a bucket underneath to reuse on the garden, collect rainwater, fill with soil to mix for planters or use it to plant in. It's also lightweight so I can move it wherever I want! Genius!!! Lol!



Container Gardening

I had the opportunity to watch a Paul Zammit webinar last year thanks to a friend of mine and one of our new members. After watching it I began to look at container planting in a whole new light, I have never given it much thought before, stick a couple plants in and there you have it! With Paul's pointers I began experimenting! He gave a whole new insight that there are no limitations to what you can put in a container, and I find that my planters have gone from looking good to amazing!!!

There are many things to consider when planting from the size of container, type of container to the type of plants you put in, do they require the same kind of care, ie water, soil type, nutrients. You also don't need to limit your self to just annuals, you can plant perennials, herbs, vegetables, mix them all together. Other things to consider are, complimentary colors, textures, leaf shapes, where and when the sun hits and it doesn't have to be just flowers!



There are 3 things you want when planting in your container:

A Thriller – Something tall, big or bold. It doesn't have to be a grass or spike! It can be anything tall and vertical. It can be a grass, canna lily, dill, fennel. Depending on the size of the pot depends on the height, the bigger or taller the pot the greater the height needed. Placing an obelisk is also an option or birch branches.

A Spiller – is anything that will hang or spill down the sides of the container. Again, size of the container is key. Some plants trail more than others so if you have a tall planter you want something that really grows: sweet potato vine, creeping jenny, ivy geraniums, dichondra silver falls, nasturtiums, ivy, parrots beak to name a few.

A Filler – is as it says, it fills the space in the top of the planter. It can be flowers and or something leafy, a mix of both has more interest. Paul also has some plants he just likes the leaves and removes the flowers to keep the look he wants.

How you arrange your containers is another consideration, tiering and grouping planters to create vignettes. Place them on stands or upside-down planters, old chairs, benches the list goes on, be creative. Not everything has to be in a traditional planter either, however drainage is a must, **adding rocks is not drainage**. Place containers in dead spots under trees on concrete pads or alleyways to create an instant garden.



Invest in beautiful containers that act as pieces of art, one that will last a long time.

You can put anything in a container, annual's, perennials, herbs, vegetables, Hosta's, sedum, don't be afraid to experiment! I had a leftover sedum that I popped in and it filled out the planter with its nice round shape, it looked great. Another favorite was chives, because they spread, I was able to keep them contained and close to the house, and when it flowered it added some interest when I placed it in amongst the other planters. Hosta's also create nice interest in a container as they fill out, if you don't want a big one you can plant a smaller variety like the mouse ears Hosta.

I have even planted a tree in a container and over wintered it for several years now. I have a spiral cedar in a large container where columbines have self seeded in the base. I also have a corkscrew willow in a container because I did not want it in the garden in case it got too big. I have both on my patio for height and shade, arranged with smaller containers around for interest among the seating.

When you arrange your planters in a grouping you can fill out a corner and by using various sizes of containers make it seem larger, all containers do not need to be huge to make the space feel big. By tiering



them you can create height and volume. That little potted flower suddenly becomes more interesting when put in a group or with objects. What ever you place your container on can be hidden as the plants grow or part of the picture. **This is a picture of the front of Paul Zammit's driveway as you can see he has various sizes and shapes of containers but all visible ones are closely the same color. The plants also have similar colors but different leaves and textures**

which is cohesive, it all ties in together to create a garden on a concrete pad (which he finds boring).

Over Winter:

Some plants will over winter in a container, my chives, sedum and mint have survived several winters now in my shed as well as a creeping jenny to my surprise.

Paul Zammit says throw a Hosta in a container to fill a space and after they freeze remove the plastic insert from the clay pot place it in an unheated garage for deep freeze but don't let it dry out, to keep moist place snow on top. In February/March bring it out and let thaw then pot up for spring.

If you want a bulb spring planter the best time to plant is in between late September to late November then bury the pot in the ground, chisel it out when ready to put it in your container. You can fill the container with daffodils, hyacinth, grape hyacinth, narcissus, crocus.



Myths

Some beliefs that have been around for several generations can waste both time and money, and if you're not careful actually hurt your plants. Not so is the case for this: putting rhubarb leaves in your compost bin will make the compost toxic.

Not true. We only consume the stalk which has less oxalic acid than the leaf, when the rhubarb decomposes the oxalic acid quickly breaks down into water,



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carbon and oxygen, not dangerous. The finished compost contains no trace of oxalic acid. You can put almost any poisonous leaf in the compost bin as most natural poisons decompose rapidly. However, the exception is poison ivy and its relatives because the toxic substance that coats them is urushiol which does not break down readily.



Ant Tip I intend to try!

Most ant mound killing solutions involve chemicals which when you have a dog is not always a good idea. I came across this – Club Soda. Apparently, it works because the carbon dioxide from the carbonation displaces the oxygen in the colony suffocating the queen, which will eventually kill the

whole colony. Half a liter of club soda for medium mounds, 1 liter for large, poured directly on the mound. It takes about 2 full days for all to die. For very large mounds you may need an extra dose. This is according to ‘Farmer’s Way’ who has tried it. A month later he says the grass has grown back. Other methods such as boiling water and vinegar tend to burn the ground and it takes longer for anything to grow back. I’ve tried those 2, a bottle of club soda is cheap enough and worth a shot in my books!!!

Dundas Garden Tour

If you’re looking for a garden tour the Carnegie Gallery in Dundas is hosting a “Secret Garden’s Tour” on Sunday, June 12th from 10:00 – 4:00, rain or shine

Tickets are \$20.00

Please contact the Carnegie Gallery at 905-627-4265 for further information.

I know this is the same day as the social, but you can see this first and then come on by for cake and drinks!!

Lastly a smile for you!

You know that tingly feeling you get when you enter a garden center? It’s common sense leaving your body.



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Trivia Answers:

1. Two to three years.
 2. To use snail pellets. It's a myth that placing a bowl of beer will attract slugs and they will fall in and drown in it, instead they are attracted to the smell of malt and feed on it.
 3. Mexico, mainly in the high plains of Mexico although some species are found in Ecuador and Honduras. It came to Europe from Mexico some 200 years ago appearing in the Botanical Gardens in Madrid towards the end of the 18th century. It is named in honour of Andreas Dahl, Swedish scientist and environmentalist.
 4. Landscaping and gardening that reduces the need for water from irrigation. This can be as extreme as building a landscape or garden that relies just on natural rainfall or implementing a garden to use slightly less water than average.
 5. Snapdragon.
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