

# Flamborough Horticultural Society

## *April 2026 Newsletter*



### **President's Message**

Greetings FHS Members and welcome new member Dianne Thompson!

We had a good discussion after welcoming members back at the March meeting. Sharing your garden questions is a great way for everyone to learn. "It takes a village" is true. We all have something different to contribute in answering the questions. As a Society, we are as strong as everyone sharing what they have learned so thank you for bringing your garden questions to the meeting and for those who were actively involved in the conversation.

If you are like me, you are chomping at the bit to get out in the garden; but not quite yet. I have included an attachment about the 50 Degree F Myth. While some of this is related to leaving the leaves in our garden beds, there is additional information on the nesting site needs of our native bees. Don't do too much spring cleanup!

The District 6 AGM and speaker presentation is fast approaching so let's help Paris celebrate it's 40th anniversary.

In addition, on April 18-19 from 10:00- 3 PM in Paris is the Everything Home and Garden Expo. Workshops, vendors, plant and pottery pop up event too. Our District Booth will be set up to promote gardening and societies. Check out this [Paris web site](#).

In this Newsletter, Liz has shared details of April garden tasks and information about our Carolinian Zone. Liz includes details about the May 9 event cleaning and preparing the Village for summer. To avoid duplication of a sign up, please pledge your support on their registration site at this Direct link for volunteers at <https://signup.com/go/NWZJhbu>

Even if you can only direct or team lead, many hands make light work. Bring your rakes, shovels, spades and hand trowels. Other items will be supplied. Eight team leaders are needed for the gardens and other team leaders for the debris clean up. Our windy winter blew a lot of items out of Blue boxes!

Donations to the OHA are down this year. Your donation supports OHA grants for trees and community beautification projects throughout Ontario or programs in the areas of conservation and the environment, youth and horticulture. FHS also donates in honour of a member who has died.

For more information, please contact the OHA Treasurer at [treasurer@gardenontario.org](mailto:treasurer@gardenontario.org) or by visiting <https://gardenontario.org/donate/>

Best Wishes

Susan MacMillan

## Upcoming Events

### Flamborough Horticultural Society Meeting

**Date:** Wednesday, April 15

**Time:** 7:30 pm (refreshments at 7:00pm)

**Speaker:** Duane Hewitt

**Topic:** Health Benefits of Growing and Consuming Mushrooms

#### May

Note that there will be no meeting in May. The annual Plant Sale will be held in May on the opening day of the Waterdown Farmer's Market - May 23rd, 8am-1pm. Members will be busy potting up and organizing this event.

### 2026 OHA Convention

ONTARIO HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION  
2026 ANNUAL MEETING & CONVENTION  
Hosts: Districts 4 & 17



**"Gardening for Life"**  
**2026 OHA Convention & Annual Meeting**  
hosted by Districts 4 and 17

**Dates:** July 24-26, 2026

**Location:** Durham College

[OHA Convention](#)

### Waterdown CommUNITY Renewal Event

#### From the BIA:

“Spring into action as part of the 'Clean-up' crew, picking up litter and winter debris. Or dig in as part of our Green Thumb crew, preparing Village garden beds for summer blooms. No gardening experience necessary - just a willingness to play in the dirt and learn from our expert volunteers from our partners at the Flamborough Horticultural Society.”

**Date:** Sat., May 9

**Raindate:** Sun., May 24

**More details here:** [Renewal Event](#)

### Reading Corner

**Award winning:**

**Ontario Nature Magazine**

<https://onnaturemagazine.com>

**Trellis: Magazine of the Toronto Botanical Garden**

[Spring Edition](#)

### Where Has Spring Gone?

An interesting and informative article, along with beautiful photography (of the plants and colours we are longing to see in our own gardens)!

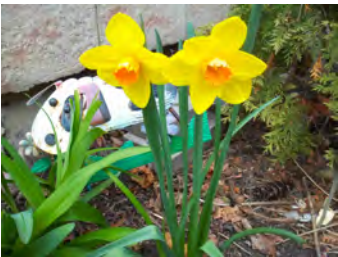
[Laidback Gardener](#)

### April Garden Tasks

- The urge to get the rake and clean-up our lawns is great, but wait! Allow the ground to defrost and dry up before cleaning up
- If your compost pile has thawed by the beginning of the month, give it a good stirring. At the end of the month, if the garden is dry enough to work in, add a 1-2 inch layer of well composted material (sweet smelling, crumbly and dark brown) to your garden beds and work it in lightly.

- As you plan your vegetable garden, include some flowering herbs and annuals in it to encourage the beneficial insects to visit your garden. This is especially important if you plan to grow vegetables such as zucchini and cucumbers which have both male and female flowers and require visits from bees and other pollinators.
- To prevent soil compaction and damage to plant roots, wait until the soil is dry enough to crumble in your hand before walking and working in your garden. If you must step into the garden for some reason (to prune, for example), put down some planks and step on them in order to distribute your weight across a wider surface.
- Vegetables such as spinach, lettuce, beets, peas and radishes all enjoy cool soil and can usually be planted starting in mid to late April – check the long range forecast before planting in case some very cold weather is forecasted.

## How to Transplant Flowering Bulbs



The best time to transplant is when the plant is dormant - long before or long after flowering! It's best NOT to move bulbs immediately after flowering- wait until the foliage has dried. If they must be moved during this period, then water well and dig deeply with a spade so as to not disturb the roots. When transplanting potted plants, remove bulbs from pots carefully so as to not disturb roots if they are not dormant. Blooms are later this year than in previous years. In my garden notes, a few years ago I had most of my daffodils blooming mid March, now they are just

emerging at the end of March. Transplanting will be quite late this year!

## Carolinian Zone



The Carolinian zone is a unique ecosystem zone found in Southern Ontario. It is called 'Carolinian' due to its similarity to the forests found in North and South Carolina in the Southern United States. The Carolinian Zone in Southern Ontario has great biodiversity, with more species of rare plants and animals than anywhere else in Canada.

Southern-type deciduous forests are the main feature of this unique Canadian ecosystem. The region contains one-third of the rare, threatened and endangered species found in all of Canada. Sixty-five percent of Ontario's rare plants are found in the region, and 40% are restricted to the Carolinian zone.

The most common species of trees are Sugar Maple, Beech, Oak, Basswood, and Ash. However, these forests also include rare and lesser common trees such as Tulip Tree, Sassafras, Flowering Dogwood, Sweet Chestnut, Sycamore, Red Mulberry, Black Gum, Pawpaw, and Kentucky Coffee Tree.

Less commonly known shrubs such as Yellow Mandarin, Swamp Rose Tree, Burning Bush and the Rough-Leaved Dogwood are also part of this zone. There is even a cactus in this zone: the Eastern Prickly Pear. If planting trees this season, consider one from the list below..

[Explore Carolinian Canada](#)

## Northland Nursery :

Family run nursery in Millgrove Ontario (722 Concession 5 W Northland Let them know you are an FHS member of our Society. We receive a year-end rebate for any online orders. **(Opens late April, weather depending)** Check out their end of March Hellebores event.

**Wild Birds Unlimited** offers a 10% discount when you mention that you are a Horticultural Society member.

[Wild Birds Unlimited](#)

**How to Reach Us:** Please email your comments, suggestions, corrections or submissions. If you wish to submit an article questions or tips, contact:

[flamhort@hotmail.com](mailto:flamhort@hotmail.com)

PO Box 902 Waterdown L0R 2H0

## Join Facebook

[Flamborough Horticultural Society Group](#)

[Garden Ontario Group District Six](#)

We respect your right to not receive this newsletter. In the subject line, please type “unsubscribe me from the newsletter” if you wish to be removed from the mailing list.

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## MISSION

*The mission of the Flamborough Horticultural Society is to encourage interest and involvement in horticulture through civic improvement, preservation, exhibitions, the distribution of plant materials and regular instruction pertaining to the theory and practice of horticulture.*

## Directors for 2025/26

President – Susan MacMillan  
Past Co-President - Trudy Bliedung  
Vice President - Open  
Treasurer - Trudy Bliedung  
Recording Secretary - Tessa Morris Publicity  
- Shared by VP and President  
Facebook Admin. - Liz Visentin  
Newsletter Editor - Liz Visentin  
Flower Show - Ann Cochren  
Director at large - Christine Rowe  
Director at large - Verna Scovell  
Director at large - Sharon Hall  
Director at large - Harbir Hundal

## Committee Chairpersons

Caring - Susan MacMillan  
Nominating Committee - Trudy Bliedung  
Civic Improvement – Jan Bignell  
Communications Copywriter – Jennifer Godyn  
Garden Walk – Open  
Meeting Hospitality Verna Scovell & Mary Blake  
Director of Membership – Harbir Hundal  
OHA Website Monitor – Phil Longstaff  
Spring Plant Sale Co-chairs – Connie Godyn and Sharon Hall  
Speakers and Programs – Connie Godyn & Roxanne Riley

Our Society is one of now 22 Societies/ Clubs that make up District 6 of the Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA). Each society has a representative in the District (Assistant District Director who represents the District Director), The ADD attends the Society AGM, installs officers and brings news from the OHA and the District. The ADD (or District Secretary) is also the contact between the District and the Society for questions that may arise: [Events Link](#)