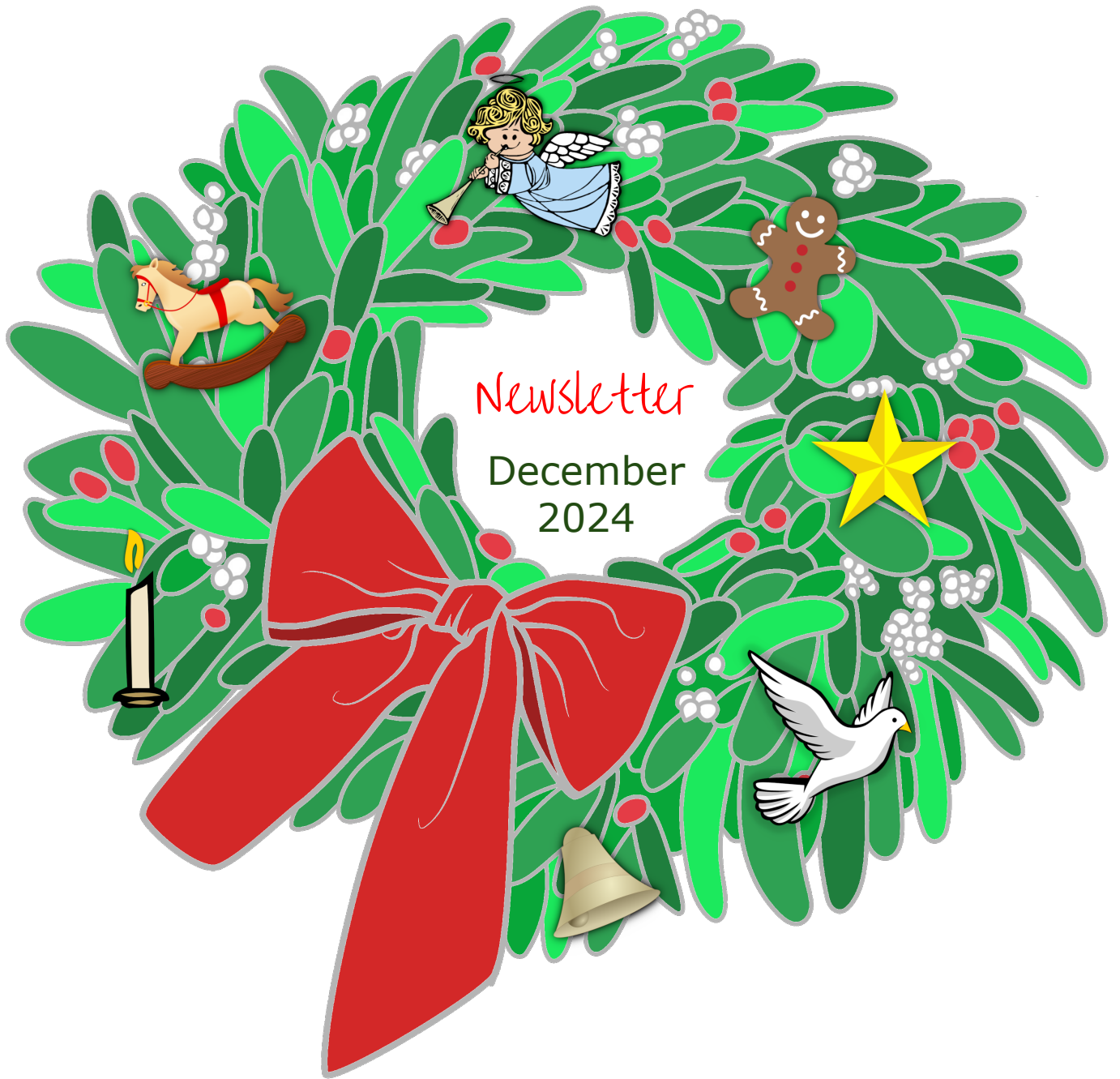


WINONA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



Newsletter

December
2024

A silent night, a star above, a blessed gift of hope and love.

Merry Christmas to you and your plants!

from the WHS Board of Directors

Notices and Events

ROYAL BOTANICAL GARDENS

680 Plains Road, Burlington

Winter Wonders – until January 5 Thursdays to Sundays

Still time to experience this magical event, as Hendrie Park transforms into a winter wonderland, featuring dazzling lights, festive installations, and enchanting displays. Time-ticketed event requiring pre-registration.

<https://www.rbg.ca/things-to-do/by-season/winter-wonders/?on=2024-12-05>

Wild Immersion VR – until January 5 10am to 3pm

Embark on a journey around the globe and explore some of its rarest and most iconic species through [Wild Immersion](#) 360° productions. With virtual reality (VR), you'll experience complete immersion, fostering empathy as you feel you can reach out and touch the animals before you. Wild Immersion transports you so close to nature that you will never forget it. Drop in-experience, located at RBG Centre. Included as part of your Garden Admission or RBG Membership!

Alice in Bloomland – February 1 to March 30, 2025 Tuesdays to Sundays (some exceptions)

Tumble down the rabbit hole into "Alice in Bloomland," a wondrous botanical experience at Royal Botanical Gardens where reality bends and blossoms into a world of curiosity. Inspired by the pages of Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, this floral showcase weaves together the magic of horticulture, the whimsy of floral design, and the marvel of visual arts to create an experience straight out of a dream. From February 1 to March 30, 2025, 25,000 blooms will unfold during this awe-inspiring exhibit. This is a time-ticketed event, requiring pre-registration. Time of use rates apply.

RBG offers a great lineup of fun, and educational programs for all ages. Call 905 527-1158 or visit their website www.rbg.ca To borrow the WHS member's passes contact H el ene or Krys.

HOLIDAY CLOSURES include December 25, 26 and January 1

VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS – until January 5

Dundurn National Historic Site, 610 York Boulevard, Hamilton

Enjoy the beauty of a mid-19th century family Christmas celebration at Dundurn Castle. See the historic home decorated in Victorian splendor with cedar boughs, ribbons and dried flowers by The Garden Club of Hamilton.

<https://www.hamilton.ca/things-to-do/hamilton-civic-museums/dundurn-national-historic-site>

WINTER PASTIMES – until January 5

Battlefield House Museum and Park, 77 King Street West, Stoney Creek

Step back in time with a walk through Battlefield Park, then experience the warmth, welcome and simplicity of an early 19th century home in wintertime. The Gage Family home comes alive at this special time of year with evergreen boughs on the mantles and enticing aromas in the air.

<https://tourismhamilton.com/event/winter-past-times/>

WINTER FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS – until January 5

Niagara Falls, ON

Canada's largest FREE outdoor light festival, "Sparkling Winter Lights" has been produced for Niagara Falls Tourism by the Niagara Falls Illumination Board. The display features the subtle and sometimes harsh movements inspired by winter in the north. Five-minute lighting displays play through on the hour, at 6:00 pm, 7:00 pm and 8:00 pm each evening.

Hot Chocolate Trail Warm up this winter season with a hot beverage while exploring the Niagara Falls Winter Festival of Lights. This new self-guided trail will lead you to delicious stops of chocolatey confections created by chocolatiers, chefs and mixologists at some of the area's best restaurants and bake shops across Niagara Falls. More at <https://wfol.com/> and <https://www.niagarafallstourism.com/events/wfol-2024/>

2025 TERRA WINTER MARKET – Saturdays, January 11 to March 15 10am to 3pm

Hamilton (340 RR 20 RR 1, Hamilton, ON L0R 1P0) or Waterdown (8 Concession 5 Rd. E., Waterdown)

The 2025 TERRA Winter Market returns to Hamilton and now at the Waterdown location.

Shop Saturdays and experience local vendors amongst the beautiful TERRA plants and people.

WHS NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, January 15, 2025 7:30 pm

St. John's Anglican Church Hall, Winona

Our Annual General Meeting is a review of the events and activities of 2024: what we did, how much it cost, and what were the rewards.

WHS BOARD MEETING – Wednesday, January 22, 2025 7pm

At Anne's.

Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful.



(Norman Vincent Peale)



Christmas Wreath – a Timeless Tradition

When we think of the holiday season, certain images immediately come to mind: twinkling lights, decorated trees, and, of course, the Christmas wreath. This iconic circle of greenery has graced front doors, mantels, and holiday tables for centuries, symbolizing warmth, welcome, and festivity.

The wreath's roots go back to ancient civilizations, long before the first Christmas was celebrated. In ancient Greece and Rome, wreaths were made of laurel or olive branches and worn as crowns to signify victory, honor, and eternal life. Similarly, ancient Germanic and Celtic peoples created evergreen wreaths during the winter solstice as a sign of hope and perseverance through the darkest days of the year.

Early Christians adopted the tradition of the Advent wreath. Made of evergreen boughs and adorned with candles, these wreaths symbolized the coming of Christ and the light of hope during the Advent season. In the 19th century, Victorians embraced the wreath as a festive decoration.

Mistletoe was used to make wreaths like the one on the cover, and was thought to be a bringer of fertility, protector of crops (very horticultural) and something that kept away witches. Long ago, a double ring of mistletoe was the centerpiece of many homes' decorations, under which couples could kiss, removing the jewel-like berries with each peck.

The Christmas wreath's enduring appeal lies in its simplicity and profound symbolism. It's a reminder of life's cycles, the resilience of nature, and the spirit of the holidays—a tradition that connects us to our past while bringing joy to our present.

<https://barnowlgarden.com/post/history-of-the-christmas-wreath/>

Landscape Ontario Plant Symposium 2025

Tuesday, February 4, 2025 9am to 4pm
Fanshawe Innovation Village,
1001 Fanshawe College Blvd, London
In-Person, Virtual, Recorded

Over the past decade, Landscape Ontario's annual Plant Symposium has provided a platform for industry leaders from around the globe to share their insights and innovations to the broader horticultural community.

Organizers are excited to share a three-part video series leading up to the 2025 Symposium that explores how ecological referencing influences professional practices, the origins of a passion for native plants, and the importance of the "right plant, right place" philosophy.

Watch the three-part video series at <https://landscapeontario.com/plant-symposium-2025> and save the date for the 2025 Plant Symposium, on February 4.

Part 1 explores foundational aspects shaping professional practices, and the passion behind native plants. (23 minutes)

Part 2 supports the "right plant, right place" philosophy, and shares some inspiring ways to generate excitement about sustainable horticulture. (30 minutes)

Part 3 shares some valuable resources for further learning, essential in fostering a more sustainable and informed horticultural community. (44 minutes)

Videos are free to watch. Register for symposium by January 12. Various rates apply.

The Next Four ...

Mark your calendars for WinHort meetings in the new year. (Programs subject to change)

January 15, 2025

Our AGM. A review of the past year, with reports from President and Treasurer.

February 19, 2025

Topic and speaker to be announced.

March 19, 2025

Guest speaker, Heather Farmer, will give a Kombucha demonstration and workshop. Should be tasty!

April 16, 2025

Speaker for April is WHS member, Maggie Martin, with a power point presentation of Monet's garden. We love Maggie's photos!

Cover art by Joy and Ryan; additional resources from mondaymandala.com and publicdomainvectors.org

December 18, 2024

Members' Corner

As always, we welcome your comments and suggestions. Who would you like to have as future speakers? What kind of topics or activities interest you? Share gardening tips or pictures of your yard or garden. Please, drop us a line, send an e-mail or talk to one of the Board members. This is the 2025 Board:

Hélène Brûlé-Besner - Co-President
905 977-9329 hebrulebesner@gmail.com

Greta Carpenter – Co-President

Mark Shufflebottom - Vice-president
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Secretary – position open

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